Ministry Specific - 2022

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Title: **Early Childhood Education**

Issue: **Expansion of Early Childhood Education programs**

Key Messages and Background:

- **Budget 2022 continues Government's investment in the expansion of ECE training programs at public post-secondary institutions (PSIs).**
  - Supports B.C.'s 10-year Child Care B.C. Plan and the Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy.
  - For this 5th year of the plan, government is investing $1.3 million to support an additional 130 ECE seats.
  - Since 2018, Government has invested almost $10 million over four years expanding Early Childhood Education programs at 14 public PSIs, funding 1,150 seats. See Appendix 1.
  - Last year, for the 4th year of the plan, we funded $1.3 million at eight public PSIs, creating just under 150 additional seats.
  - There has been a steady increase in ECE program demand. Current year enrollment is strong with projections of 93% utilization of ECE seats.
  - We direct funding to regions with the highest demand for ECE workers, including rural and remote communities.

- **To help address the ongoing shortage of qualified ECEs, AEST continues to support the delivery of alternative educational pathways for ECE students like Work Integrated Learning.**
  - This year, with $1.7 million from the Federal-Provincial Early Learning and Childcare Agreement, we are expediting delivery of more Work Integrated Learning (WIL) options.
    - Overall funding for additional ECE WIL delivery options was announced Feb 18, 2022, Advice/Recommentations
    Advice/Recommentations
  - In 2018, AEST invested $628,000 to fund 6 ECE WIL pilots for 76 students.
  - WIL enables current childcare workers to obtain ECE credentials while remaining employed, and includes prior learning assessments, work-based field assessments, and online ECE program delivery.
  - WIL reduces cost and time barriers for childcare workers and helps recruitment and retention.

- **My Ministry is providing $3.1 million in funding from 2018-2024 from the Sector Labour Market Partnerships program.**
  - Partnership with Early Childhood Educators of BC (ECEBC) for a sector-led impact assessment of the Provincial Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy. Recently the project was extended to 2024 to allow for two additional years of data collection and evaluation.

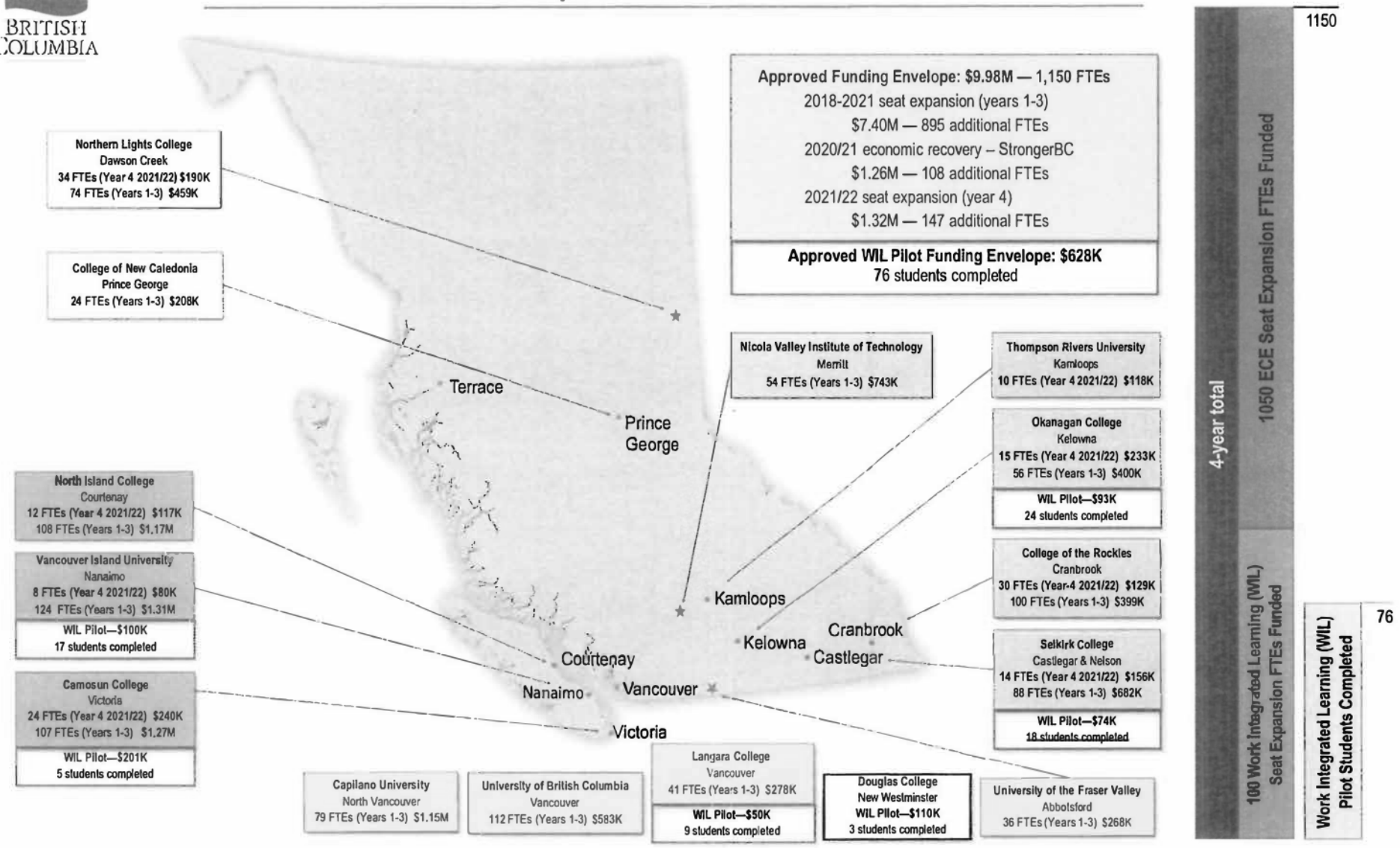
COVID-19 Impact Summary:

- My Ministry is working closely with public PSIs and the ECE Registry to ensure ECE students are able to continue their course work through alternate delivery methods, where possible.
- This includes implementing new technology-enabled teaching methods and flexible delivery options such as online, hybrid, staggered start dates and offerings in new geographic areas, in particular rural and remote communities.
- These positive effects on recruitment and retention enable success for a wider range of students and helps reduce barriers and impacts to equity and inclusion.
- Extensions to temporary adjustments of ECE Registry practicum requirements means that public PSIs have been able to develop and continue flexible and creative solutions for students, ensuring students are able to complete their ECE training and enter the workforce.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

ECE Seat Expansion 2018/19 - 2021/2022

Updated Feb.22 2022



MINISTRY OF ADVANCED EDUCATION AND SKILLS TRAINING

Title: **Health Education Programs**

Issue: **Training to meet health workforce needs**

Key Messages and Background:

- **In response to priority health workforce demands and to support the Ministry of Health's mandate to expand training in all fields of health care, the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training has been working with MoH and Post-Secondary Institutions to help identify and address health education and training needs in BC.**
  - This work aligns with the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services' (SSFGS) *Health Human Resources* recommendation to expand post-secondary training capacity in BC, including rural and remote access to training programs.
- **Substantial government investments since 2017 have resulted in health education program growth. These investments include:**

1. **Budget 2019 and additional investments by Ministry of Health and Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training added $16.3M in annual targeted health program funding.**

   Allied Health:
   - Highlights include new seats and regional distributions for Physiotherapy in the North and the Fraser Valley, Occupational Therapy in the Lower Mainland and the North, Sonography in the North and on the Island, and increased seats for Perfusionists. *See Appendix*

   Nursing:
   - The University of Northern BC's Northern Baccalaureate Nursing Program in Fort St. John began August 30, 2021, after a one-year program delay due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
   - Nurse Practitioner program expansions at UBC, UVic and UNBC added 35 seats across the province.

2. **Budget 2021 announced $96M over 3 years to support training in health sector human resources (Table 1, attached).**
   - In addition to $30.2 million for training as part of the Health Career Access Program (HCAP), this includes $65.8M in new health program funding over 3 years.
   - Program expansions are already underway, with several nursing and allied expansions implemented for September 2021 and January 2022.

   Nursing
   - Nursing expansions are underway across the province for programs leading to Registered Nursing, Licensed Practical Nursing, Nurse Practitioner, and nursing leadership roles.

- Budget 2021 included funding for over 500 new seats in post-secondary institutions to meet the growing demand for nurses – building on the approximately 2,000 seats in nursing programs at public-post secondary institutions today.
- AEST is currently working with PSIs to increase and expand nursing seats across a variety of programs - more announcements are coming soon.

Allied Health:

- Announced expansions include additional seats for Thompson Rivers University's Anesthesia Assistant and Respiratory Therapist programs that started in the Fall of 2021.
- AEST is currently working with PSIs to increase seats in several high priority allied health programs including laboratory, diagnostic and rehabilitation programs, with new and expanded programs starting in May 2022 through to September 2023 and beyond. Final details are being negotiated with PSI partners and further announcements are pending.

Health Career Access Program (HCAP)

- Budget 2021 included $30.2 million to train 2,400 health care assistants (HCAs) as part of the Health Care Assistant Program (HCAP); AEST was also allocated funding for 600 training seats in 2020/21 by way of Contingencies access.
- HCAP is a fully funded training program launched in fall 2020 to address shortages of health care assistants (HCAs) in long-term care, assisted living, and home health settings.
- Led by MoH, HCAP was funded to hire and train 3,000 Health Care Support Workers through to March 31, 2022.
- Health Care Support Workers work in non-patient care roles while completing HCA training at partner PSIs.
- As of January 31, 2022, there have been 82 HCA-PP cohort starts (up to 2,166 seats); 18 cohorts have completed the training (up to 473 seats); and 11 additional cohorts are expected to start by March 31, 2022 (up to 292 seats).
- All 17 public PSIs in BC with recognized HCA programs and four private PSIs have been funded to deliver HCA-PP training seats.

3. **Budget 2022 includes $6.9M to continue to deliver on health program expansions committed through Budget 2021, along with a further $25M for an additional 2,000 Health Career Access Program training seats.**

4. **The Ministry will continue to work with MoH and PSIs to make sure health education needs are aligned with current and future health workforce needs in BC.**
    - The Ministry will continue to work with MoH to develop and support implementation of health education and training strategies contained within *British Columbia's Health Human Resources Plan* (currently in development and pending approvals).

COVID-19 Impact Summary:

5. The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically impacted the health care workforce in BC, including health education and training program delivery.

Positive Outcomes:

- The imperative for post-secondary institutions to pivot quickly to online learning for the theory component of health programs has increased student access and spurred ongoing program innovation.

Advice/Recommentations

Table 1: Budget 2021 Health Education Expansion Planned Seats – February 2022

Priority occupation	Strategies and geography	New grads
Nursing		
Registered Nurse • BSN • LPN2BSN • Nurse Refresher • Faculty	• Add seats system-wide, including direct-entry, career laddering and faculty development • Increase Indigenous student access and supports • Seats province-wide, with a focus on areas of population growth	382
Registered Psychiatric Nurse	• Add to existing programs • Fraser region	40
Specialty Nurse	• Add 300 ongoing for full support of 1,000 seats	300
Nurse Practitioner	• New 15-seat program in at TRU (TBC) • 5 seats in a new post-Master's stream (UVic)	20
Nurse Anesthetist	• New 20-seat program at UBC	20
Practical Nurse • PN • Access to PN (post-HCA)	• Add new seats system-wide, including direct-entry and career laddering seats • Increase Indigenous student access and supports • Province-wide	180
Midwife	• Add 20 seats including domestic and internationally educated bridge • Micro-distribution, based at UBC Vancouver or Fraser	20
Allied Health		
Anaesthesia Assistant	• New 10-seat cohort-based program • Rotating annually to different HAs	10
Genetic Counsellor	• Add 2 seats to program (+33%) at UBC	2
Medical Device Reprocessing	• Distribute clinical placements to meet regional demand (smaller centres)	Advice/Re commentat
Medical Laboratory Assistant	• Advice/Recommentations • Victoria, Vancouver, Kamloops (distributed)	Advice/Recommen tations
Medical Laboratory Technologist	• Add new seats system-wide	28
MRI Technologist	• Add 12 seats in a new first-discipline program (BCIT)	12
Occupational Therapy	• New 16-seat program in Surrey • New 16-seat program in Victoria or Kelowna	32
Pharmacy Technician	• Program expansion and distribution (Interior, Island, North)	41
Physiotherapy	• New 20-seat program in Kelowna • New 20-seat program in Victoria	40

Priority occupation	Strategies and geography	New grads
Registered Dietician	• New 15-seat alternate pathway MND program at UBC (no new funding)	15
Rehabilitation Assistant	• New 20-seat Island program in partnership with CAP • Add 20 seats to existing program (CAP)	40
Respiratory Therapist	• Add 20 fast-track seats (TRU)	20
Social Worker (MSW)	• Add 20 seats in health-sector focused MSW	20
Speech Language Pathologist	• Add 8 seats to current program • UBC, exploring possibility of distribution	8
Advanced Care Paramedic	• New demand-driven internationally educated bridge	20
	TOTAL	**1,326**

Title: **Second Medical School**

Issue: **Mandate commitment to launch B.C.'s second medical school**

Key Messages and Background:

- **AEST is working in partnership with the Ministry of Health on the mandate commitment regarding B.C.'s second medical school.**
  - The Minister's mandate letter states: "With support from the Minister of Health, lead work to launch B.C.'s second medical school to expand our healthcare workforce".
  - During the 2020 election period, the BC NDP announced a commitment to a second medical school at Simon Fraser University (SFU), with a central facility at the Surrey campus and learning centres distributed across the Fraser Health Authority.
- **AEST works with the Ministry of Health to ensure funding for health education is aligned with health sector human resource needs and the provincial post-secondary education system.**
  - Government funds health education programs at public post-secondary institutions based on priorities established by the Ministry of Health as outlined in the Provincial Health Workforce Plan.
  - The Province's interdisciplinary team-based approach to care means that many different types of health professionals – doctors, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, physiotherapists, social workers, pharmacists, and more – are all part of meeting the primary care needs of British Columbians.
- **Establishment of a second medical school is a multi-year commitment that will require time, consultation, and careful planning to accomplish successfully.**
  - The new medical school will need to align with the Provincial Health Workforce Plan. This will ensure the right supply, mix, and distribution of providers to meet service needs across B.C.

Advice/Recommentations

Con't/2

- **Supporting students to train for high demand health careers is one of our top priorities to ensure all British Columbians can access the care they need.**
  - Government remains committed to its significant annual investment into medical education to meet demand in communities across the province.
  - Each year, 288 students begin their undergraduate medical education at one of the four regional campuses: 192 students in the Vancouver Fraser Medical Program, and 32 students each in the Island, Northern and Southern Medical Programs.
- **Staff from AEST and the Ministry of Health are in the early stages of identifying next steps forward.**
  - Cabinet Confidences
  - Government's contribution to a second medical school's operating costs and capital funding are to be determined.
  - Consultation, planning, and program development continue to take place at SFU.

COVID-19 Impact Summary:

- The health workforce has been significantly impacted by COVID-19, amplifying pre-existing workforce challenges for many health occupations.

Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) – Non-Adhering Residential Use Applications by Fiscal Year

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **A "non-adhering residential use" application is required for:**
  - **A principal residence larger than 500 m² total floor area**
  - **An additional residence**
  - **Tourist accommodation that exceeds the criteria in the ALR Use Regulation**
- **The ALC Act specifies that the ALC must not approve an additional residence unless it is necessary for farm use.**
- **Between April 1, 2021 and February 9, 2022, the ALC approved 79% (61 of 77) of non-adhering residential use applications.**
- **Between April 1, 2021 – February 9, 2022, the ALC approved 79% (54 of 68) of Additional Residence applications:**
  - **93% of applications for Temporary Farm Worker Housing were approved.**
  - **73% of applications for full-time farm use were approved.**
  - **84% of applications for landowners to reside in their existing residence while constructing a new one residence were approved.**
- **The ALC created a streamlined process for Temporary Foreign Worker Housing registered in the Canadian Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program. On average, these decisions are released within 16 days.**
- **Between April 1, 2021 – February 9, 2022 the ALC approved 78% (7 of 9) Principal residence larger than 500 m² applications.**
- **On December 31, 2021, the ALR Use Regulation was amended to allow landowners to construct an additional residence if:**
  - **The principal residence is not greater than 500 m² total floor area; and**
  - **There is only one residence on the property; and**
  - **The additional residence is 90 m² or less if the parcel is 40 ha or less, or**
  - **The additional residence is 186 m² or less if the parcel is more than 40 ha**
- **It is too soon to known the impact these changes will have on the number of non-adhering residential use applications received by the Commission.**

BACKGROUND:

Bill 52

- On February 22, 2019, Bill 52 amended the ALC Act to restrict the size and number of residences on an ALR property. The change to the ALC Act and ALR Use Regulation imposed a maximum residence size of 500 m^2, removed the authority for local governments to approve additional residences and requires all non-adhering residential uses (additional residences and Principal residences larger than 500m^2) to be approved by the ALC prior to construction.
- Section 25(1.1)(b) of the ALC Act states that the ALC must not grant permission for a non-adhering residential use unless the additional residence is necessary for farm use.

Residential Flexibility

- The ALR Use Regulation was amended by OIC 438/2021(July 12, 2021), effective December 31, 2021, to permit the construction of one additional residence per parcel, subject to specific criteria, and to end the prior permission under the ALR Use Regulation for manufactured homes for family members.
- The total floor area of an additional residence constructed after December 31, 2021 must be 90 m^2 or less if the parcel is 40 ha or less, and 186 m^2 or less if the parcel is more than 40 ha, in order to comply with the ALR Use Regulation, though a local government or First Nation Government may prohibit or further restrict total floor area under its bylaws: ALR Use Regulation, s. 34.3.
- Prior to December 31, 2021, the regulations contained provisions facilitating the construction of manufactured homes for immediate family members. These provisions are no longer provided for in ALR Use Regulation, with the exception of some grandfathering protection for pre-existing structures of these kinds.

Additional Residences

- 54 of 68 Additional Residence Applications were approved between April 1, 2021 and February 9, 2022.
    - 13 of 14 of applications for Temporary Farm Worker Housing were approved.
    - 24 of 33 of applications for full-time farm use were approved.
    - 16 of 19 of applications for landowners to reside in their existing residence while constructing a new one residence were approved.
    - No applications (0 of 1) for non-farm related additional residences were approved.
    - One application (1 of 1) for minor deviation from the regulation was approved.
        - The proposal was for retaining the manufactured home which was the existing principal residence while constructing the new principal

residence. This application was required due to the issue of order of placement.

2021/2022 NARU STATISTICS (APRIL 1, 2021 – FEBRUARY 9, 2022):

Regional NARU Decisions April 1, 2021 – February 9, 2022				
	Approved	**Refused**	**Total Decisions**	**% of NARU Applications Approved**
Interior	6	1	7	86%
Island	5	1	6	83%
Kootenay	6	0	6	100%
North	3	1	4	75%
Okanagan	8	4	12	67%
South Coast	33	9	42	79%
Total	**61**	**16**	**77**	**79%**

- The South Coast and Okanagan received the most non-adhering residential use applications.

PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR: 2020/2021 NARU STATISTICS (APRIL 1, 2020 TO MARCH 31, 2021):

Regional NARU Decisions Previous Fiscal Year 2020/2021 (April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021)				
	Approved	**Refused**	**Total Decisions**	**% of NARU Applications Approved**
Interior	6	0	6	100%
Island	4	6	10	40%
Kootenay	5	1	6	83%
North	3	0	3	100%
Okanagan	30	6	36	83%
South Coast	35	15	50	70%
Total	**83**	**28**	**111**	**75%**

- In 2020/2021 Fiscal year, the ALC decided on 111 non-adhering residential use applications
  - 75% of all non-adhering residential use applications were approved
  - Non-adhering residential use applications decided by the ALC by type:
    - Additional residences: 82% approved (90 total)
    - Principal residence larger than 500m^2: 39% approved (18 total)
    - Tourist accommodation: 67% approved (3 total)

Confidential Advice to Minister

Approved by: Kim Grout	**Prepared by:** Zeyaad Omar	**Alternate Contact:** Liz Sariolgu
Date approved: Feb-10-22	Branch: ALC	Branch: ALC
Phone: 236-468-3265	Phone: 236-478-1590	Phone: 236-468-3260
Cell: Government Financial Information		Cell: Government Financial Information

Land Included into, and Excluded from, the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) by Fiscal Year

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **As of February 2022, the area of the ALR is 4,612,527 ha.**
- **The ALR has decreased by a net of 343 ha April 1, 2021 to February 2022.**
- **Since 2012, the ALR has decreased by 10,762 ha resulting from:**
  - **Exclusion decisions of the Commission**
  - **Permanent or temporary exclusion by Cabinet for Site C**
  - **First Nations treaty settlements (Tla'amin Final Agreement).**
- **Non-application related boundary changes such as cabinet exclusion, boundary reviews, and First Nation treaty settlements represent 66% of the total land excluded from the ALR since 2012.**
- **The majority of the lands, both excluded from and included to the ALR since 2001, were mixed & secondary agriculture capability (Class 4, 5, 6).**
- **Changes to the ALR boundary this fiscal to date (April 1, 2021 – February 7, 2022) by Administrative Region:**
  - **Interior: 10 hectares included, 43 hectares excluded**
  - **Island: 1 hectare included, 34 hectares excluded**
  - **Kootenay: 126 hectares excluded**
  - **North: 20 hectares included, 110 hectares excluded**
  - **Okanagan: 3 hectares include, 16 hectares excluded**
  - **South Coast: 4 hectares included, 54 hectares excluded**

- **As of September 30, 2020, only the Province, local governments, First Nation governments, and other prescribed bodies who own the land or have jurisdiction over the lands may apply for exclusion.**

- **Since September 30, 2020, the ALC has received 13 exclusion applications under the new exclusion legislation. Exclusion applications were received from the Okanagan, Kootenay, Island, North, and South Coast Regions.**

BACKGROUND:

Fiscal Year	Inclusions** (ha)	Exclusions** (ha)	Net Change** (ha)	Current Total ALR (ha)
April 1, 2012				4,623,289
2012/13	238	1,709	- 1,471	4,621,818
2013/14	1,296	1,958	- 662	4,621,156
2014/15	792	1,090	- 298	4,620,858
2015/16	79	4,283	- 4,204	4,616,654
2016/17	198	943	- 745	4,615,909
2017/18	223	2,970	- 2,747	4,613,162
2018/19	65	212	- 147	4,613,015
2019/20	127	238	- 111	4,612,904
2020/21	103	137	-34	4,612,870
2021/22*	39	382	-343	4,612,527
Total	**3,160**	**13,922**	**-10,762**	**4,612,527**

**these figures are as of February 7, 2022.*
***these figures report the year a change takes effect; NOT the year a decision is made.*

- These figures reflect data from the ALC GIS database and include changes in the ALR as a result of exclusion and inclusion application decisions of the Commission, ALR boundary changes made by Government and other changes due to mapping errors.
- The ALR area at designation was calculated using manual methods (Dot Matrix or Electronic Planimeter). Starting April 1, 2012, the ALR stats were mapped and calculated using GIS. The change in how the ALR is mapped resulted in a 136,649 ha decrease in the ALR effective the change to GIS, as noted below:
    - ALR reported as of March 31, 2012 was 4,759,938 ha (OATS figures).

- ALR reported as of April 1, 2012 was 4,623,289 ha (GIS figures).

Non-application related changes in the ALR of note:

- In 2013/14, the ALC initiated a block exclusion in the Regional District of East Kootenay that included 684 ha and excluded 1545 ha from the ALR, for a net change of -861 ha.
- In April 2015, Order in Council No. 148 permanently excluded 2,775 ha and temporarily excluded an additional 941 ha of land from the ALR for Site C Dam.
- In April 2016, the Tla'amin Final Agreement Act directed exclusion of 935.8 ha of ALR land.
- In 2017/18, the ALC initiated two block exclusions in the Regional District of East Kootenay that excluded a total of 2,865 ha from the ALR.
- In February 2022, Order-in-Council No. 53 temporarily excluded 101.5 ha of land from the ALR for development (gravel extraction and road) associated with the Site C Dam.

Applications received under new exclusion legislation since September 30, 2020:

- The ALC has received six (6) exclusion applications from the Regional District of East Kootenay
- The ALC has received one (1) exclusion application from each of the following local governments:
  - Village of Nakusp
  - City of Kelowna
  - City of Salmon Arm
  - Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
  - District of North Cowichan
  - Bulkley-Nechako Regional District
  - Metro Vancouver

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Agri-Tech Vertical Farming in the ALR

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The ALR Use Reglation has been amended, effective August 31, 2022, to clarify that vertical farming of crops in controlled environment structures is a permitted farm use in the ALR should local governments wish to permit.**
- **Local governments will be able to prohibit the construction of controlled environment structures in the ALR, if they chose to do so.**
- **All farm structures, including controlled environment structures, in the ALR that require soil to be removed from, or fill to be placed on, an area greater than 1,000m^2 require approval from the Commission.**
- **Approval to remove soil or place fill in the ALR is done by Notice of Intent or Soil and Fill Use Application depending on the scale and impact of the proposal on the ALR.**
- **This fiscal, the ALC received one (1) Soil and Fill Use application and one (1) Notice of Intent to place fill for a controlled environment vertical farming structure in the ALR. Both were located in the lower mainland and both were approved.**
- **The ALC will consider the specific characteristics of a parcel when considering fill placement for a vertical farm structure including the size, siting, and arability of that land.**

Confidential Advice to Minister

BACKGROUND:

- Vertical farming of crops is a permitted farm use in the ALR.
- Up to 1,000 m^2 of fill may be placed to construct a farm structure in the ALR. If more fill is required, the landowner is required to submit either a Notice of Intent or an application for placement of fill.
- Controlled environment structures that require more than a 1,000 m^2 area of fill for their construction, including structural fill and aggregate will require the approval of the ALC
- This year the ALC received 1 Soil and Fill Use application and 1 Notice of Intent to place fill for the construction of a controlled environment structure.

Advice/Recommentations

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Confidential Advice to Minister

ALR –Site C and EcoWaste

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

Site C

- Advice/Recommentations

- This exclusion was made at the request of BC Hydro for 91 hectares that includes "Area E" and Ice Bridge Road, to allow BC Hydro to extract gravel to continue construction on Site C's earthfill dam.
- In accordance with the Mines Act and as set out in the Order in Council, BC Hydro will reclaim the Area E quarry before it is returned to the ALR on December 31,2025 and the reclamation plan will be developed in consultation and cooperation with Treaty 8 First Nations.

Advice/Recommentations

BACKGROUND:

General

- B.C.'s ALR was established in 1973. Ontario and Quebec have similar farmland protection zones.
- The ALR is managed by an independent Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) with a clear mandate: to preserve agricultural land and encourage farming and ranching.

Advice/Recommentations

Site C

- Site C's Environmental Assessment Certificate authorizes Area E as a contingency source of material for road construction on the south bank for construction of the earthfill dam.

- The area is identified within the Peace River Regional District's North Peace Fringe Official Community Plan as "sand and gravel deposits suitable for gravel extraction," a permitted use under the regional district's zoning bylaw.
- In 2015, much, but not all of Site C's footprint was removed from the ALR by Orders in Council under the ELUA.
- These permanently excluded lands required for the dam site and reservoir, and temporarily excluded land required for construction purposes, including material sources for the dam site.
- Area E and Ice Bridge Road were not included in those 2015 Orders because Area E was only identified as a contingency source of granular material at that time.

Advice/Recommentations

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- In Ontario, the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 sets out the procedures for excluding agricultural land from protections. It is issued by the Ontario provincial Cabinet and can be amended by the same.
- Planning authorities can exclude land from prime agricultural areas if the lands do not comprise specialty crop areas; alternative locations have been evaluated; there are no reasonable alternatives which avoid prime agricultural areas; and there are no reasonable alternatives on lower priority agricultural lands in prime agricultural areas.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION:

- N/A

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Confidential Advice to Minister

B.C. SALMON RESTORATION AND INNOVATION FUND

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The protection of wild salmon is critically important to B.C.'s environment, history, economy and way of life.**
- **On March 15, 2019, the Province of British Columbia and the Federal Government announced a joint commitment of $142.85 million dollars over the next five years to protect wild salmon.**
- **Our government's $42.85 million investment in the B.C. Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF) was the largest provincial financial commitment to protect wild salmon in the past 20 years.**
- **We are committed to helping restore abundant wild salmon stocks, while we develop sustainable wild fisheries and support communities around B.C. and on our coast.**
- **The B.C Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund is providing support for many wild salmon initiatives in B.C. with focus on high impact areas including:**
    - **Habitat protection and restoration for rivers and streams that are crucial for salmon reproduction;**
    - **Maintenance of healthy and diverse salmon populations; and,**
    - **Supporting lasting and meaningful reconciliation.**
- **These priorities align with the report from the B.C. Wild Salmon Advisory Council, the province's work with First Nations, industry, and the federal government; as well as our new Wild Salmon Strategy and Action Plan that is currently being developed by the Province.**
- **To date, over 90 projects have received support from BCSRIF totaling over $126M of funding. The projects are very diverse in terms of location, scale, and proponent, but all contribute to protecting and restoring wild salmon stocks and creating a more sustainable future for local communities and workers.**
- **The program is also having significant co-benefits including over 450 people being employed through BCSRIF projects, over a 100 of which are in rural communities, and over 330 people being trained.**
- **Building on the program's success and continued need for such a funding mechanism, our government has made the commitment to work towards doubling BCSRIF to ensure strong, healthy wild salmon stocks are available for future generations of British Columbians.**

BACKGROUND:

Wild Salmon: Wild Pacific salmon are of great social and economic importance to B.C., sustaining communities coast-wide and generating a wholesale value of $235.8 million in 2018. Many Pacific salmon stocks have suffered disastrous declines leading to equivalent declines in the ecosystems and economies that rely on them.

Wild Salmon Advisory Council (WSAC): On June 15, 2018, B.C. launched the Wild Salmon Advisory Council (WSAC), a multi-stakeholder advisory council that contributed to the development of a strategy to support restoring healthy and abundant wild salmon stocks in B.C. The initial report from the WSAC formed the basis of public consultations and was followed by the release of the final report on March 8th, 2019, that outlined 13 recommendations.

B.C. Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF): In 2019 B.C. Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund was launched. This fund is a federal-provincial collaboration that helps to restore the habitat of our wild fish stocks in B.C. and protect our vulnerable wild Pacific salmon species. Canada is investing $100 million over five years, and B.C. is investing $42.85 million over five years.

AFF has a role in the administration of BCSRIF and the agreement identifies DFO as the implementing party for the fund. DFO is assigned activities including:

- financial administration of federal and provincial funding;
- project information collection and reporting;
- development and management of project funding agreements with proponents; and,
- secretariat for the associated federal-provincial committees.

AFF's role in BCSRIF is focused on:

- strategic oversight of the initiative, such as annual priority-setting, in partnership with DFO;
- cross-Ministry collaboration to represent provincial interests in BCSRIF;
- sector and industry engagement on provincial priorities and project concept development, in cooperation with DFO; and,
- collaboration with DFO in the adjudication of project applications.

To date, BCSRIF has funded over 90 projects from a wide range of applicants including: Indigenous groups, conservation groups, commercial organizations in the wild fisheries and industry sectors, recreational fisheries, as well as non-commercial organizations such as universities and academia, industry associations and research institutions. The fund supports projects that leverage local knowledge such as local Indigenous monitoring and guardianship programs and community-led habitat restoration, among other innovative projects aimed at protecting and restoring wild fish stocks.

BCSRIF had 192 submissions for its first in take of "Expression of Interest" (EOI) in 2019 requesting nearly $300M in funding, and 126 EOI applications requesting $197.1M in 2020, demonstrating the popularity of the fund. Working to doubling the size of BCSRIF is included in both Minister Popham and Parliamentary Secretary Donnelly's 2020 Mandate Letters. The Government of Canada has already committed an additional investment of $100 million in the Federal Budget 2021 to expand the program. Announcements regarding 19 of the most recently funded projects are anticipated in Winter 2022.

DFO and AFF staff are currently reviewing the application process based on feedback received from applicants including during a series of roundtables held in Summer 2021 by Parliamentary Secretary Donnelly with support from Robert Chamberlin. Currently it is a two-stage joint review process involving DFO and provincial subject matter experts which has been praised for its professionalism but criticized for being arduous and lengthy.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

All jurisdictions managing fisheries are experiencing challenges related to extreme environmental variability and uncertainty with respect to stock abundance.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE):

Implementation of WSAC recommendations and the B.C. Wild Salmon Strategy and Action Plan is expected to require funding to implement.

BCSRIF is valued federally at $105M over five years, including a $5M grant to the Pacific Salmon Foundation Endowment Fund in 2018/19. The provincial contribution is $42.85M over five years beginning in 2019/20, plus an additional matching $5M one-time grant to the Pacific Salmon Foundation in 2018/19.

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BC Food Hub Network

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- Through the BC Food Hub Network program (Network), the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Ministry) fosters growth and innovation in B.C.'s food and beverage processing sector with improved industry access to facilities, equipment, technology, technical services and business supports.
- The Network is developed in collaboration with industry, communities, and post-secondary institutions while also serving the regional and sector diversity of the province.
- Food hubs are shared-use food and beverage processing facilities that offer food, agriculture, and seafood businesses access to commercial processing space, specialized equipment, expertise, and resources.
- The approach of integrating the BC Food Hub Network into the broader regional and business ecosystem supports rural economic development, regional partnerships, and increased connectivity across regions. Food hubs help stimulate local economies through job creation, attraction and retention, and the provision of infrastructure and services to improve food processers' business readiness and capacity to grow. The BC Food Hub Network supports a diverse group of entrepreneurs to be ready to access markets.
- In the 2021/22 fiscal year, the Ministry continued to support the development and next-stage growth of the twelve Ministry-funded food hubs and worked to strengthen the BC Food Hub Network through the following initiatives:
    - The UBC Endowed Food and Beverage Innovation Research Professorship, which will provide leadership for the Food and Beverage Innovation Centre, currently in development.
    - Funding for the Kootenay Farms Food Hub in Creston (through the StrongerBC Economic Recovery Plan) and the Comox Valley Food Hub Business Plan, which was a continuation of commitments made in the previous fiscal year.
    - Support for the Sprout Kitchen Food Hub's growth to a full-scale food hub. The hub, located in Quesnel, was previously funded as a small-scale hub.
    - Print material and videos were created to educate producers and the public about the BC Food Hub Network, the food hubs, and their clients.
    - The development of a governance model framework and stakeholder engagement strategy designed to establish a shared vision and direction for the BC Food Hub network.
    - The Ministry also funds additional activities to support the expansion of the Network, including but not limited to a BC Seed Hub Feasibility Study and the development of Network-wide support tools, including customizable standard operating materials and training.

- The BC Food Hub Network provides important support for rural economic development and food security by creating new opportunities for producers and food processors while connecting more British Columbians to local food.

BACKGROUND:

- The Network supports the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries' Mandate Letter Commitment to "expand the Grow BC, Feed BC and Buy BC programs to encourage greater food security and local business growth."
- The Network is comprised of twelve regional food hubs and an Endowed Food and Beverage Innovation Professorship, currently held by Dr. Anubhav Pratap Singh, at the University of British Columbia Vancouver campus.
- The Endowed Food and Beverage Innovation Professor leads academic and applied industry research in food and beverage processing and develops partnerships with other post-secondary institutions.
- The Network program will bring together services and technology that improve support to the agriculture, seafood, and food processing industry and advance innovation in the province's processing sector.
- Through the BC Food Hub Network, five hubs have been awarded funding through the Ministry's base budget in the following communities.
    - One Pilot and Demonstration food hub in Vancouver ($750k) that launched in early 2019.
    - Two food hubs in Surrey ($750k) and Port Alberni ($750k) that launched in summer 2020.
    - One food hub in Salmon Arm ($565k) that launched in late fall 2021.
    - One food hub in Quesnel ($500k) that is operational and has plans to expand to a full-scale food and processing and innovation hub in 2022.
- Seven hubs received funding through the StrongerBC Economic Recovery Plan in the following communities. This includes $50k each to implement technology platforms.
    - Cowichan Valley ($800k) is under development and is anticipated to open in late 2022.
    - Kamloops ($800k) has two operational facilities, including the Gardengate Training Centre and the Kweseltken Mobile Food Processing Unit. Their 3RD HACCP facility is under development and anticipated to open in Summer 2022.
    - Victoria ($800k), which is under development and is anticipated to open in Spring 2022.
    - Abbotsford ($800k) which is anticipated to open in Spring 2022.
    - Rock Creek ($800k) is under development and is anticipated to open before Spring 2023 (location change from Rock Creek and Greenwood not publicly announced).
    - Bowser ($550k), which officially opened in Fall 2021.
    - Creston ($550k), which officially opened in Fall 2021.

- Additionally, $715k was awarded to fund further activities for expanding the Network, as follows:
    - Funding technology service and/or platform supports for regional food hubs ($400k) to pilot and demonstrate Commissary Connect's proprietary integrated technology platform at three regional Food Hubs (The Dock+ in Port Alberni, Sprout Kitchen in Quesnel, and Plenty & Grace in Surrey).
    - Initial planning and implementation activities for an Upper Skeena regional food hub ($165k contract executed, no public announcement to date).
    - Feasibility study assessing how regional food hubs can support seed processing and storage activities, and the acquisition of seed processing equipment for regional food hubs ($46k contract executed in 2021/22).
    - A Network needs assessment ($100k contract executed in Summer 2021).
    - A Comox Valley food hub business plan ($50k contract executed, not publicly announced).

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- B.C. is a leader in food and beverage processing innovation, and the Network is an innovative model that is new to Canada, encompassing an Endowed Professorship leading academic and applied industry research in food and beverage innovation and food processing and innovation hubs ('food hubs') across the province that are tailored to the regions in which they are developed.
- Currently, B.C. is the only province in Canada that funded the expansion of a Food Hub Network as part of its COVID-related economic recovery initiatives.
- The governance model framework includes a jurisdictional scan of existing food hub network models in North America and/or other regions to identify best practices.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION:

- Through the BC Food Hub Network Budget, the Ministry allocated $1.03M during 2021/22.

Endowed Food and Beverage Innovation Research Professorship	$490,000
Kootenay Farms Food Hub Development	$250,000
Comox Valley Feasibility Study	$20,000
Sprout Kitchen Food Hub Development	$92,000
Food Hub Partner Materials	$70,000
B.C Seed Hub Feasibility Study	$46,000
Network-Wide Support Tools and Training	$50,000
Governance Model Framework	$15,000
Total	**$1,033,000**

Confidential Advice to Minister

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Greenhouse Carbon Rebate Tax Program

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- The Greenhouse Carbon Tax Relief Grant (GCTRGP) is a program that rebates 80 percent of carbon tax on eligible fuel purchases and focuses on commercial vegetable, floriculture, wholesale, and forest seedling nursery greenhouse operations.
- This program provides relief to our greenhouse and floriculture growers and helps them to remain competitive with other Canadian and international jurisdictions, who have either similar rebate programs or lower carbon taxes. The British Columbia (B.C.) greenhouse and floriculture industry employs about 5,000 British Columbians.
- The program is fully expended annually, with demand from commercial vegetable and horticulture growers using all the available budget.
- Cannabis production has not been covered by the program because they have not faced the same ongoing competitive disadvantages that B.C.'s greenhouse vegetable and horticulture producers have experienced with growers in other jurisdictions.

BACKGROUND:

- The GCTRGP began as a pilot in 2012, and was made permanent in 2013, to help offset carbon tax costs.
- As part of the initial supports in response to the COVID-19 pandemic the planned carbon tax rate increase for April 1, 2020, to $45 per tonne was delayed until April 1, 2021. Annual $5 per tonne increases have resumed since.

Year	Carbon tax rate
2017	$30/ tonne
April 1, 2018	$35/ tonne
April 1, 2019	$40/ tonne
April 1, 2021	$45/ tonne
April 1, 2022, onwards	$50/ tonne

- The Program supports the Province's commercial greenhouse industry, which requires carbon dioxide and purposefully produces it for plant growth. The program enables B.C. producers to remain competitive with producers in other jurisdictions, who are not subject to a carbon tax, and encourages the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- The GCTRGP provides eligible B.C. commercial greenhouse operators with a grant of 80 per cent of the carbon tax paid (in the previous calendar year) on natural gas and propane used for heating and carbon dioxide production.

- The GCTRGP benefits over 190 B.C. commercial greenhouse vegetable, floriculture, wholesale landscape nurseries, and forest seedling operations. Cannabis is not an eligible crop at any phase of production, including propagation.
- To qualify for a grant, an applicant must be an eligible British Columbia commercial greenhouse operator during the current production year, submit a completed application form and submit required documentation to the AFF. Applicants must also have had sales exceeding $20,000 in the previous calendar year; used natural gas or propane to heat their greenhouses or produce carbon dioxide; and had a production area greater than 455 square metres.
- The 2022 program intake is anticipated to be open for applications by May 2022.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON:

- The federal government implemented a carbon tax and rebate program for provinces and territories that did not previously have carbon pricing schemes that met federal requirements (i.e., Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Yukon, Nunavut).
- Greenhouse operators in these specific provinces can apply to Canada Revenue Agency for a Fuel Charge Exemption Certificate, under Section 36 of the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act, to receive an 80 per cent relief from the fuel charge on natural gas and propane for growing plants.
- This is aligned with, but does not duplicate, B.C.'s program. As such, the Program ensures B.C. greenhouse growers equally benefit from grant reliefs that are applicable across Canada.

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE / REVENUE IMPLICATION:

- The Program is fully expended each year. In 2021, the budget was $7.55 million. The GCTRGP returned approximately $11 million to commercial greenhouse operators in 2021/22.
- Advice/Recommentations; Government Financial Information

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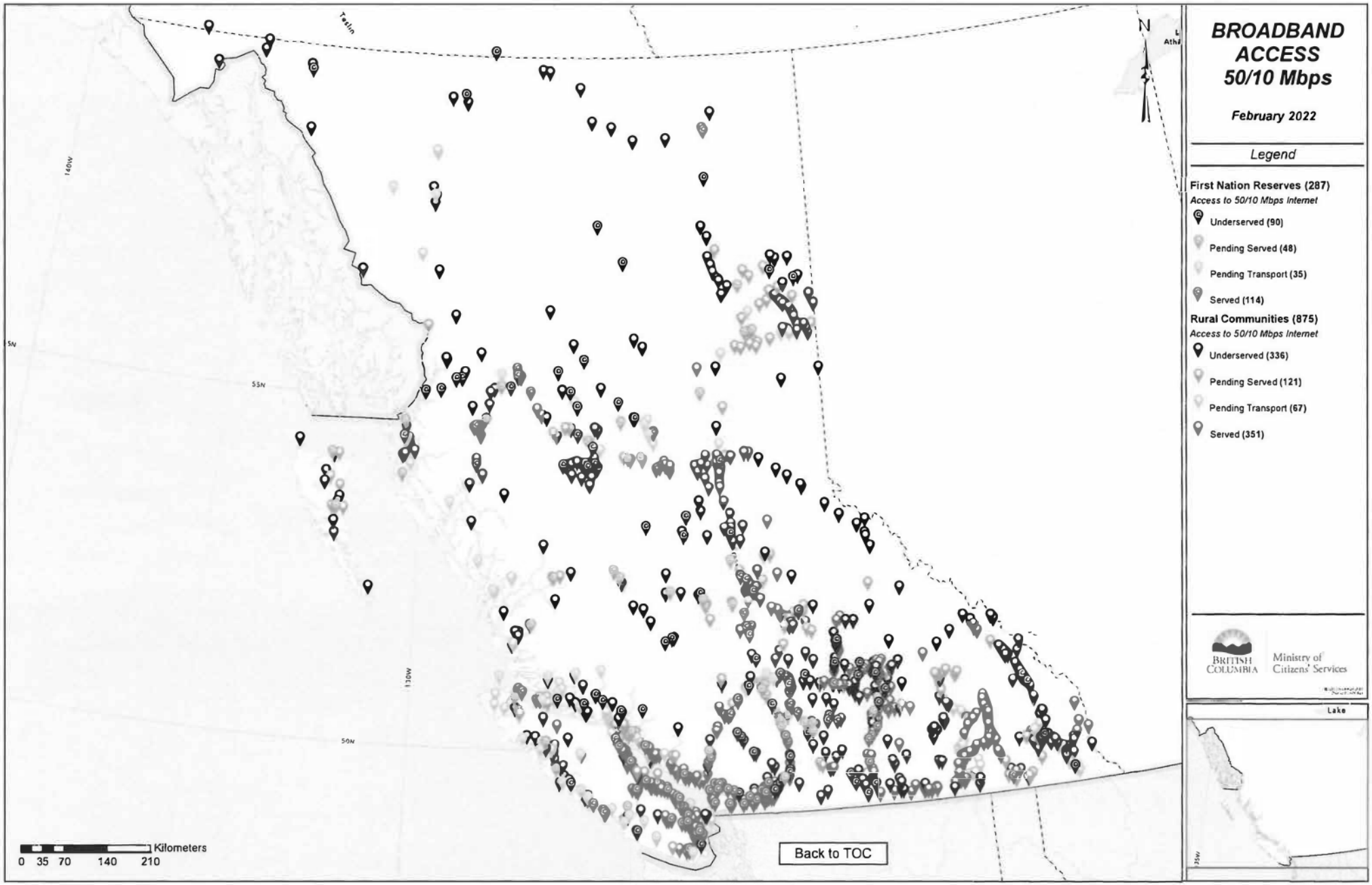
BROADBAND ACCESS 50/10 Mbps
February 2022
Legend
First Nation Reserves (287)
Access to 50/10 Mbps Internet
Underserved (90)
Pending Served (48)
Pending Transport (35)
Served (114)
Rural Communities (875)
Access to 50/10 Mbps Internet
Underserved (336)
Pending Served (121)
Pending Transport (67)
Served (351)
BRITISH COLUMBIA
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Lake
Kilometers
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2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Citizens' Services
Minister Responsible: Hon. Lisa Beare

Title: Facts and Figures (Connectivity)

Revised: Date of last revision, March 3, 2022

- There are 2,211,694 households in B.C. per the 2021 National Census.
- There are 1,242 "named" communities in B.C. per the Federal Government.
  - Definition of community: Refers to rural and remote communities, including named places such as districts, Indigenous communities, municipalities, towns, villages as well as incorporated areas and strategic landing sites required for a network to operate.

Status of Connectivity in B.C.

By Household: CRTC 2020 Communications Monitoring Report

- 94% of all households in British Columbia have access (are able to subscribe to services of) at least 50/10 megabits per second internet service.
- 62.5% of rural households in B.C. have access to 50/10.
- 68.3% of households on First Nations reserves have access to 50/10.

By Community: Province of B.C. analysis

- 100% of 84 urban communities are connected where all households have access to 50/10.
- 40% of 875 rural communities are fully connected.
- 40% of 283 rural First Nation reserves are fully connected.

Ministry: **Ministry of Citizens' Services**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Lisa Beare**

Highways: Province of B.C. analysis

- 15,000 kms of primary and secondary highways.
  - 4,600 kms with no cellular coverage.
  - 3,200 kms or 70% do not have access to electricity needed to operate cell towers.
- 100% of 84 urban communities are connected where all households have access to 50/10.
- 40% of 875 rural communities are fully connected.
- 40% of 283 rural First Nation primary and secondary reserves are fully connected.

Program Performance Since 2017 (as of Dec 31, 2021)

- $190 million in funding since 2017.
  - More than $340 million leveraged from other sources (federal/private sector); Achieving an almost 2:1 ratio over the life of the program.
  - Less than $2 million remaining as of March 1, 2022.
  - Included $15 million to highway cellular.
- Approved and funding 170 projects.
  - 83 complete.
  - 87 and progress.
    - 35 projects to be completed by March 31, 2023.
- 68,823 households benefiting from improved internet access.

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Citizens' Services**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Lisa Beare**

- The Ministry has met its Service Plan target benefiting 527 communities and anticipates meeting its next target to benefit 570 communities next year.
    - Transport projects provide benefits to communities but do not have household counts (e.g., Connected Coast)
    - 222 communities including 101 Indigenous communities will benefit from the StrongerBC funding.
- 429 highway kilometres of cellular coverage.
- 30 rest areas connected with WiFi or cellular services.

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Citizens' Services
Minister Responsible: Hon. Lisa Beare

Title: Connectivity Expansion in B.C.

Revised: Date of last revision, March 1, 2022

Key Messages:

- People need high-speed internet to work, learn and stay in touch with friends and loved ones.
- The high cost of connectivity infrastructure in rural and remote areas is one of the key barriers to expanding internet services in B.C.
- Our StrongerBC plan includes record investments in connectivity infrastructure for rural and Indigenous communities.
- And Budget 2021 brought stable funding to connectivity for the first time, ensuring these important investments will continue.
- When current provincial, federal and privately funded projects are complete, 60% of rural and Indigenous communities throughout B.C. will have access to high-speed internet.
- Almost $90 million has been committed to new connectivity projects throughout B.C. since October 2020 as part of the Connecting British Columbia program's economic recovery intake.
- These investments will ensure that communities and businesses have the connectivity they need to succeed in a post-pandemic economy.

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Citizens' Services**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Lisa Beare**

Questions and Answers:

1) **How many projects have been approved since 2017 and how many under StrongerBC funding?**

- The $190 million in provincial funding put in place since 2017 has 170 projects in progress (in-flight) and 83 projects completed that will bring additional network capacity to new parts of the Province last mile projects and expansion of highway cellular.

- This includes the $90-million expansion of the Connecting British Columbia program as part of StrongerBC.

2) **How many households will benefit when projects are complete?**

- This benefits 68,823 total households: 50,656 households (in progress) and 18,167 households completed.

3) **How much money is remaining?**

- As of December 31, 2021, the program administrator, Northern Development Initiative Trust, has approved 170 projects, allocating $173 million or 96% of available funds.

4) **Why has the program extended the completion date for some projects?**

- Some projects funded under StrongerBC had timelines extended from October 31, 2021, to October 31, 2022, to leverage funding from the federal Universal Broadband Fund:
    - Example: Completing cellular coverage along Highway 16 between Smithers and Prince Rupert.

- Many recently approved projects have also been impacted by supply chain issues affecting availability of network equipment and labour shortages.

Ministry: Ministry of Citizens' Services
Minister Responsible: Hon. Lisa Beare

5) How is the Economic Recovery Intake performing against its targets?

- Connectivity projects funded as part of the StrongerBC recovery plan will improve the speed and reliability of internet access for people in 222 communities, 101 of which are Indigenous.
- This exceeds our original target for 200 communities.
- These grants have also helped fund projects to expand the availability of cellular service along 429 km of B.C. highways, which is more than triple our original target.

6) Why is the Province taking so long to announce projects funded by the program?

- Projects funded by the Connecting British Columbia program are ongoing and more to come.
- Many projects requested co-funding with the Connecting British Columbia program and the federal Universal Broadband Fund. Announcements for co-funded projects under the Universal Broadband Fund will be led by the federal government after federal due diligence is complete.

7) What is the federal government contribution to B.C. projects?

- Connectivity is a national challenge. We have been working closely with the federal government to expand broadband throughout British Columbia.
- The federal government has been matching contributions for B.C. projects through the $750-million Canadian Radio-telecommunication Commission Broadband fund, the $2.75-billion Universal Broadband fund and the Connect to Innovate Program.

- Other examples of support from our federal partners include:
    - $34 million federal contribution to the $45.4-million Connected Coast Network project.
    - $11.4 million federal contribution for Shaw's work building transport fibre between Whistler and Cache Creek, and from Prince George to Dawson Creek. (Total value: $24.9 million).
    - $3.1 million federal contribution (CRTC) for Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation's work building transport fibre along Highways 3B/3 and 6 between Trail and Nelson. (Total value: $4.9 million).
    - $1.7 million federal contribution (CRTC) for Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation work building transport fibre along Highway 95/95A between Kimberley and Wasa. (Total value: $2.6 million).
    - $4.5 million towards the $11.6-million cost of installing cellular infrastructure in the remaining are 252 kms of weak signal strength between Prince Rupert and Smithers on Highway 16 (the Highway of Tears).

Contact:

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2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Citizens' Services
Minister Responsible: Hon. Lisa Beare

Title: Connected Communities Program

Revised: Date of last revision, March 3, 2022

Key Messages:

- It is important to note the distinction between the branch of Citizens' Services and the newly launched program Connecting Communities B.C., which was announced in March 2022.
- Communities across the Province need access to reliable, high-speed internet and cellular connectivity to work remotely, grow their businesses, and access health care and education.
- The Connected Communities team helps rural, remote communities and Indigenous communities plan for connectivity projects.
- The program staff helps communities navigate the various funding programs, technologies and service providers needed to increase internet speeds for their residents, visitors, and businesses.
- To ensure community readiness, the Province, Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) and Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) launched a study in summer 2021 to understand possible differences between internet speeds reported on the federal broadband map and the performance people are experiencing in some communities in their homes and businesses.
- The study helped understand the possible magnitude of speed discrepancies experienced in some communities and some factors that may be causing slower speeds.
- We also launched the Community Information Tool in January 2022 that helps businesses and local governments access important community data for planning and investment purposes.

Ministry: Ministry of Citizens' Services
Minister Responsible: Hon. Lisa Beare

- **We will continue to work with other ministries and our local government partners to support community planning and readiness for increased connectivity.**

Questions and Answers:

1) **How does the Ministry support communities and local governments expand their connectivity?**
   - The Connected Communities team helps rural, remote, and Indigenous communities plan for connectivity projects.
   - Staff help communities navigate the various funding programs, technologies and service providers needed to increase internet speeds for their residents, visitors, and businesses.
   - Connected Communities works to provide education, resources, and tools to assist in connectivity planning focused on community benefits and well-being outcomes.

2) **What about issues that have been raised with the broadband speed map that defines communities' eligibility for connectivity funding?**
   - Following an update to the federal government's National Broadband Internet Speed Availability Map (the map) in January 2021, communities across British Columbia voiced concerns that federal data on broadband internet speeds, which is used to determine eligibility for connectivity funding programs, may not accurately reflect the speeds experienced in homes, businesses, and other locations at the community level.
   - Connected Communities, UBCM, and Northern Development Initiative Trust are responding collaboratively to these concerns with an independent study of potential differences between the internet speeds experienced in some B.C. communities, and the 50/10 megabits per second (Mbps) speed identified on the map.

- The study found that in some areas there may be discrepancies and that there are multiple reasons for why a discrepancy might be experienced by community residents.

- The report will be released in early 2022 and insights from the report will inform next steps to mitigate issues identified.

3) How is the Province helping First Nations with connectivity planning and investments?

- Bridging the digital divide is a critical part of British Columbia's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and our commitment to reconciliation and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

- Connectivity is represented directly in the Declaration Act Action Plan and indirectly supports many actions in the plan, including Indigenous language revitalization, education and training, healthcare, and economic development.

- The Ministry supports First Nations communities through hands-on support for connectivity planning so they can build capacity to benefit from digital infrastructure investments.

- Connected Communities works with communities to advance digital priorities through efforts such as the Coastal First Nations BC/CFN MoU, 7 Generations Partnership Gathering, Ministries of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation's Joint Office priorities related to the DRIPA Action Plan.

- The Ministry, through Connected Communities, provides ongoing support to regional district-led connectivity collaboration through the Regional Connectivity Knowledge Network (RCKN). This network enables capacity building through peer-to-peer knowledge-sharing, training, mentoring, and relationship building and collaboration, with an emphasis on inclusive relationships with Indigenous connectivity leads.

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Ministry: **Ministry of Citizens' Services**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Lisa Beare**

Contacts:

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2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Citizens' Services**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Lisa Beare**

Title: **Facts and Figures**

Revised: Date of last revision, March 17, 2022

Overall web analytics on the main government website gov.bc.ca

In 2020:

- Content on gov.bc.ca was viewed 146 million times.
- Traffic peaked in December, with 20.7 million views as traffic on COVID-19 related content increased significantly.
- Despite launching in March 2020, pages in the COVID-19 theme were viewed more often compared to all other themes that year.
- Non-mobile (desktop) devices accounted for the most government page views every month.

In 2021

- Traffic on the main government site increased to 222.9 million views.
- Traffic was highest in April with 27.7 million views, driven by the third COVID-19 wave.
- COVID-19 related content was the busiest throughout the year, except during wildfire season in July and August, when Public Safety and Emergency Services content was viewed more.
- In July, August, September, and December, pages were viewed more on mobile devices than on non-mobile devices. September 2021 saw the month with the largest share of pages viewed on mobile devices.

Top on-site search terms

- In 2020 there were 5.2 million searches made on gov.bc.ca.

- The 2020 Top 5 Search Terms made on government pages, by term and search count:
  - "special needs": 19,000
  - "behaviour consultant": 17,000
  - "FOI": 14,000
  - "current job postings": 13,000
  - "covid": 9,000
- In 2021 there were 5.9 million searches made on Government sites.
- The 2021 Top 5 Search Terms made on Government pages, by term and search count:
  - "behaviour consultant": 21,000
  - "special needs": 21,000
  - "FOI": 14,000
  - "current job postings": 12,000
  - "covid": 9,000

COVID-19 related content

- In 2020 COVID-19 related content was viewed 34 million times.
  - The busiest month was December 2020 with 12.2 million views.
- In 2021 COVID-19 related content was viewed 84.5 million times.
  - The busiest month was April 2021 with 16.5 million views.

Translated COVID-19 content

- The project to translate COVID-19 content began in February 2021.

- In 2021, there were 2.6 million page views on COVID-19 translated content, peaking in September 2021 with 404,000 page views that month.

- In 2021, the top 5 languages by page views in that language were:
  - Simplified Chinese: 610,000
  - Traditional Chinese: 512,000
  - Hindi: 510,000
  - Korean: 224,000
  - French: 171,000

Flood response related content

A new section of the site was created for the response to the floods in November 2021:

- Page views for flood response pages totaled 407,000 page views in 2021.
  - November 2021: 147,000
  - December 2021: 260,000

- Translated content for the flood response pages totaled 2,800 page views in 2021.
  - November 2021: 1,700
  - December 2021: 1,100

Google Search results on www2.gov.bc.ca

We track click-throughs from Google searches to the main government website.

In 2020:

- Google searches resulted in 15.4 million click-throughs to government pages.

- The section of the site that received the most Google searches was "Employment, business and economic development" theme, with 2.4 million click-throughs.
- In 2020, the top 5 search terms from Google by clicks were:
  - "bc government jobs": 156,000
  - "bc government": 148,000
  - "bc emergency benefit for workers": 148,000
  - "gov.bc.ca/spectax": 139,000
  - "msp": 137,000

In 2021:

- Clicks from Google Searches rose to 36 million in 2021.
- In 2021, COVID-19 content received by far the most Google search traffic through most of the year, totaling 14.9 million clicks.
- July and August were the only months when COVID-19 content was not the most searched. In the summer, public safety searches related to wildfires were highest.
- In 2021, the top 5 search terms from Google by clicks were:
  - "bc wildfire map": 528,000
  - "bc vaccine card": 502,000
  - "bc vaccine passport": 479,000
  - "bc covid restrictions": 428,000
  - "vaccine passport bc": 339,000

Ministry: **Ministry of Citizens' Services**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Lisa Beare**

Overall web analytics for Engage.gov.bc.ca

In 2020:

- Content on the site was viewed 648,000 times
- Traffic was highest in December with 106,000 page views.

In 2021:

- Content on the site was viewed 625,000 times
- Traffic was highest in September with 120,000 views and October with 116,000 views.

Chatbot

- In June 2020, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, GDX launched the COVID-19 Chatbot.
- In 2020, the chatbot answered 368,000 questions.
- In 2021, the chatbot answered 1.7 million questions.
- Overall, the top categories of COVID-19 answers given were:
  - Vaccines: 883,000 answers
  - Travel: 147,000 answers
  - Government Services: 119,000 answers
  - Health and Care: 95,000 answers
  - About COVID-19: 69,000 answers

Cyber Security

Security Awareness

- In 2021, OCIO Information Security refreshed the Corporate Supply Arrangement for Security Services to help all 2,400 public sector organizations access skilled security resources.

- OCIO Security continues to onboard public sector organizations to our external security services, including more than 110 public sector organizations as of December 2020.

- Over $25 million annually is spent directly on IT security across government every year and OCIO enhances security posture with updated technical controls each year.

- The B.C. government faced a near tenfold increase in unauthorized access attempts in 2020 over 2015, with 372 million per day or 4,300 per second

Modernization of digital and data services for people in BC

BC Data Catalogue expands

- A newly designed version of the BC Data Catalogue was launched in fall 2021 with 3,000 datasets discoverable to public and government users.

- New gender and race standards for how data is collected and published are now included in the BC Data Catalogue.

- The BC Data Catalogue provides access to open data from 20 ministries and more than 27 public bodies.

Data-informed decision making to support better service delivery

- A recent study found an increase in mental health and substance abuse services use by individuals affected by flooding and wildfires in post-disaster communities. This research will inform the Province's preparedness response during future climate change events.

- 18 integrated data projects were initiated in the Data Innovation Program (DIP) seeking insights and trends into complex issues such as homelessness, climate change, public safety, mental and physical health outcomes for children and youth and COVID-19.

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Driving innovation and economic recovery

Better access to data and digital business opportunities

- 22 opportunities though Code and Sprint with Us programs fed almost $5 million to small businesses across B.C.

Increasing digital and data knowledge, skills, and capacity

- 540 people from 18 organizations participated in the Data Science Community of Practice and Training.
- 127 leaders and executives were provided with the knowledge and skills required to lead a modern digital and data driven government.
- Three Data Science Fellows provided ministries with advanced integrated data analytics capacity.
- 41 datasets from eight ministries and four public bodies are integrated and made available to support research across government and academia.
- Nine workshops for 300 employees focused on human-centered agile approaches.
- 11 teams across government were supported to deliver and sustain faster, adaptive, user-centred, and inclusive digital service.

Digital Transformation and Pandemic Response

- Public Cloud technology, including platforms provided by commercial cloud providers, represents the next great shift in supporting government to deliver better services to people in British Columbia.
- 12 applications that are using commercial cloud platforms through the federal government's Cloud Brokering Service, including the redesigned day pass system for BC Parks.

- Business areas can develop new digital services in seven days using cloud-native technology in the Kamloops and Calgary data centers.

- Government's critical cloud applications for Emergency and Pandemic response include the BC Health Gateway and Proof of Vaccination, Wildfire Predictive Services, and Emergency Support Services.

Attracting and retaining digital talent

Improving hiring services and practices and investing in retention strategies

- MOU#40 of the BCGEU agreement is being used for the first time in a Cross-Ministry recruitment pilot program enabling eligibility lists to be shared across ministries.

- Competitions have yielded resources for multiple ministries and have been successful in recruiting hard to attract external talent.

Managing government's technology investments

Digital Investment Portfolio

- This portfolio has grown from $30 million in 2012/13 to $110 million today and has funded 240 projects.

- These investments help support many of government's essential services, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, investments in the Mental Health and Substance Use Virtual Care project are helping youth across the province access mental health services digitally during the pandemic.

Creating safe, secure, and reliable digital and data services

Public and Private Cloud services

- The Ministry's Cloud platforms leverage industry leading security toolsets, frameworks and best practices that enable the Province to protect data and applications.

- Business areas are supported to build and launch applications using commercial cloud services with the necessary due diligence.

- Commercial cloud services ordered through the federal government have been vetted for compliance with British Columbia's legislation and policy.

Service Plan Measurement

- Objective 2.2: Improve the use, management, sharing and protection of data for all British Columbians.

- Performance Measure 2.2: Number of datasets in B.C. Data Catalogue.

Fiscal	Forecast or Target	Actual
2021/2022	3,000	3,161
2022/2023	3,050	TBD
2023/2024	3,100	TBD

Contacts:

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Gary Perkins	Executive Director	Information Security Branch	250-387-7590
Hayden Lansdell	Assistant Deputy Minister	Digital Platforms and Data Division	250-415-0118
Brittany Decker	A/Executive Director	Corporate Performance	250-508-7287

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Citizens' Services
Minister Responsible: Hon. Lisa Beare

Title: Anti-Racism Initiatives - Policy and Guidance on Data Use for Race-Based Analysis

Revised: Date of last revision, March 28, 2022

Key Messages:

- Government has a moral and ethical responsibility to tackle systemic racism in all its forms in the province.
- We know policy gaps exist that disproportionately impact Indigenous and racialized people.
- Currently, most ministries don't collect information on race or other related identity factors, so systemic racism and inequalities are impossible to measure.
- We know we need to collect, manage and use the data in a way that protects Indigenous and racialized people from further discrimination, respects B.C.'s privacy laws and embodies world-leading best practices for privacy and security.
- This work requires careful consideration so that we protect peoples' privacy, collect only what is necessary and ensure analysis is done in a way that communities trust.
- We are putting forward legislation which will allow for the collection and use of race-based data and other identity information in a safe and appropriate way, including fully engaging and consulting with Indigenous leaders and those most impacted by racial discrimination and inequities.
- Through a new anti-racism data act, we will be able to collect, use and disclose demographic data to identify where systemic racism is taking place and improve government services for racialized communities.

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Ministry: Ministry of Citizens' Services
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If asked about the urgent need to collect data now:

- The nature of this data means there are widely differing viewpoints on what is necessary, helpful, and even categories of race.
- This range of views is reflected the responses that we are seeing in public consultation and community engagement.
- Indigenous people and racialized communities don't trust government to collect and use data in a safe way.
- We are working quickly but cautiously in partnership with Indigenous leaders and community groups to co-develop solutions.
- This is just one of the ways government is taking action against racism.

If asked about how we are consulting Indigenous communities:

- Through B.C.'s Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, we are committed to ensuring that Indigenous Peoples are partners in our approach to collecting and using race-based data.
- We have been consulting with both Indigenous leaders and Indigenous communities on appropriate ways to ensure we have agreement on how government can collect and use this data.

Questions and Answers:

1) What is race-based data?

- This is information about an individual's racial identity. The categories of racial identity tend to shift and change over time.

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Is government already collecting any race-based data?

- A ministry may be collecting demographic data that directly relates to delivering a program or service to an individual.
- For example, the Ministry of Health collects and reports on Indigenous health.
- However, the B.C. government does not collect race-based and other demographic data on the population as a whole, deferring primarily to Statistics Canada.

2) Why is government planning to collect race-based data?

- The demand for race-based data has been recently heightened by the pandemic. Government has been challenged to identify how different racialized groups have fared in terms of both health and employment. Government must ensure these inequities are addressed as B.C. moves towards economic recovery.
- B.C.'s Multicultural Advisory Council, the BC Human Rights Commissioner and the BC Representative for Children and Youth have all called for disaggregated demographic data to better understand racism and inequity in B.C.

3) Why has government not yet started collecting race-based data, as recommended by the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner?

- Collecting this data isn't straightforward. The nature of this data means there are differing perspectives on what identity markers should be collected and differing levels of comfort across communities in providing this data.
- Work is underway to introduce new anti-racism data legislation for British Columbia, that will allow collection of race-based and other demographic data to identify inequity.

- The Human Rights Commissioner has called for the meaningful involvement of marginalized communities and inclusive, equitable consultation on anti-racism data legislation and province-wide engagement has been underway since early fall 2021.
- Under the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, the Province is drafting new laws in consultation and cooperation with the Indigenous Peoples of British Columbia.
- We need a comprehensive framework to ensure that when new personal data is collected from British Columbians, we have agreement on how the data will be used, how it will be kept safe and secure, how we will protect people's privacy and who will be able to access the data, under what circumstances.
- We are developing this framework in consultation with Indigenous leaders and racialized communities, with the Information and Privacy Commissioner and the Human Rights Commissioner, and more broadly with the public.

4) The BC Human Rights Commissioner recommended aligning with principles from the Data Innovation Program. What is this program?

- The Data Innovation Program is managed by the Ministry of Citizens' Services. It is a data integration and analytics program, meaning it can link data from different ministries across government, de-identify this data and make it available in a secure environment for population-level research projects.
- The program is based on the Five Safes, world-leading best practices for managing safe access to confidential or sensitive data.

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LEGISLATION

5) Is new legislation necessary to collect race-based data?

- New legislation would set a government-wide expectation for consistent collection of race-based data for the purpose of measuring and reducing systemic racism.
- Currently, government's collection, management and use of personal information is guided by statutes like the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Statistics Act*.
- Ministries and other public bodies are asking for clarity and guidance on how to collect and use data to identify and address systemic racism.

6) Will government collect any race-based data BEFORE introducing legislation [as recommended by the OHRC]?

- Before government can collect new race-based data, there are several important questions that must be answered regarding the intended use, collection, housing and storage of data.
- New legislation on race-based data in 2022 will be the first step of many, and government will not collect new race-based data before it is introduced.
- There is ongoing work within government to determine whether programs perpetuate inequality, and we will be working to incorporate race into these analyses.

RACE-BASED DATA USE

7) Who will have access to race-based data?

- First and foremost, we need to consult with Indigenous leaders and racialized communities, and more broadly with the public, to hear their perspectives and priorities and to achieve agreement on this question.

Ministry: **Ministry of Citizens' Services**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Lisa Beare**

8) How will racialized communities be protected from harm?

- We know that collecting race-based data must be done with great care to avoid further discrimination and bias, while maximizing the power of data to drive much-needed systemic change.
- That's why we are consulting with Indigenous leaders and racialized communities, as well as the BC Human Rights Commissioner and Information and Privacy Commissioner, to identify and address any potential for harm at every stage of research, including collection.

Contact:

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2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Citizens' Services
Minister Responsible: Hon. Lisa Beare

Title: Cyber Security

Revised: Date of last revision, March 17, 2022

Key Messages:

- **Protection of government data and networks is a top priority for this government, especially where it concerns British Columbians' personal information.**
- **Governments must take steps to protect themselves from online attacks no matter the source or the strategy.**
- **Effective cyber security requires ongoing vigilance and maintaining up-to-date technology.**
- **In 2020, we completed a significant modernization project that improved the protection and reliability of our security systems and we continue to invest in improving security controls.**
- **In British Columbia, we have the Office of the Chief Information Officer, which provides government with strategy and leadership in IT security and 24/7 network protection.**
- **It is important for us to be vigilant, as government records hold sensitive information, including people's personal information.**
- **While this ministry works hard to protect this information, all British Columbians should be just as careful and aware of cyber threats and protect their online information.**
- **We continue to work on awareness and training in the area of cyber security and information protection for all employees.**
- **By working together, we can help reduce cyber crime throughout the province.**

This material will be proactively released.

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Ministry: **Ministry of Citizens' Services**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Lisa Beare**

Questions and Answers:

1) **How long has it been since the province experienced a cyber-attack?**

- Government has people, processes, and technology in place to prevent, detect, and respond to cyberattacks.
- No organization globally is immune to attack.
- For example, on April 20, 2021, the OCIO Security team responded to alerts that employee's accounts were compromised.
- The attacker used these accounts to send malicious emails to a large number of external recipients.
- The OCIO Security team identified and protected the affected accounts.
- OCIO Security contained the issue and notified all recipients that they received email that is illegitimate and should be ignored.
- Government continues to invest and upgrade our cybersecurity tools to prevent, detect, and respond to cyber attacks.

2) **Public and private sector bodies are targeted with increasing scams and cyber-attacks. What is government doing to prevent cyber-attacks?**

- Government has a dedicated team of professionals to combat cyberattacks.
- Each year the government invests and upgrades our cybersecurity tools to prevent, detect, and respond to cyberattacks.

This material will be proactively released.

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3) What support is government providing to assist the public sector and protect British Columbian's data?

- Government shares significant tools and resources to assist other organizations and individuals, so they know what to do to prevent cybercrime.
- Government published the "Defensible Security" framework in 2017 to help organizations know what to do and how to do it.
- In addition, government holds conferences, publishes information and videos on the government website.
- Over $25 million is spent directly on IT security across government every year.

4) We have heard of other organizations in the province being subject to cybersecurity attacks. Is the Province at risk?

- Government has a dedicated team of professionals to combat cyberattacks.
- Each year the government invests and upgrades our cybersecurity tools to prevent, detect, and respond to cyberattacks.
- Government has people, processes, and technology in place to prevent, detect, and respond to cyberattacks.

Contact:

Gary Perkins	Executive Director	Information Security	250 387-7590

This material will be proactively released.

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Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Citizens' Services
Minister Responsible: Hon. Lisa Beare

Title: BC Bid Replacement

Revised: Date of last revision, April 1, 2022

Key Messages:

- As part of our strategy to transform procurement we are creating a new BC Bid system.
- Replacing a 25-year-old system has been a large, complex task that involves many partners and stakeholders.
- It's critical that we get this right. We've needed to take time to test it with those who use it and adjust it to meet their needs.
- I'm happy to say the work is progressing well.
    - With a great deal of work behind us, we have entered an exciting phase of preparing the production environment
    - We have trained government buyers on using the new tool
    - We are hosting information sessions for suppliers and the broader public sector
    - We are preparing for buyer and supplier registration and onboarding
- In a few weeks time we will be conducting an assessment to ensure that we are ready to start onboarding users.
- The new BC Bid will make it much easier for people and businesses to work with government on a variety of projects.
    - A new public portal will improve navigation and make it easier to find and keep track of opportunities.
    - It will also be more secure, reliable, and will provide more transparency on opportunities.

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- **The BC Government spends nearly $7 billion a year on a wide range of goods and services, supporting the delivery of high-quality programs that people count on.**
- **More people will have the opportunity to share in the economic benefits from over 420 BC public sector organizations posting opportunities through BC Bid each year.**

Questions and Answers

1. When will the new BC Bid application go live?

- Our top priority has been to ensure our users are ready for the new system. As the project team continued to work through numerous complexities, and made improvements to our training program, our go-live date was adjusted.
- BC Bid is used by hundreds of publicly funded organizations, such as Crown corporations, health authorities and municipalities – it is important that we get this right.
- We have approximately 9,000 directly impacted users of BC Bid to consider in our approach to go-live, as well as a variety of policy and decision-makers throughout government, broader public sector and supplier communities.
- We chose to pace the project to ensure that those users will be ready when the system goes live and that all the supports are in place to make go-live a success.
- I'm happy to say that work is progressing well, and we have entered an exciting phase of preparing our production environment and, after thorough testing, we will determine when we can start onboarding users.
- Once the project team has advised that user onboarding can commence then I would be happy to provide a precise go-live date.

- Ultimately, we will be launching a new product that is reliable and better supports procurement in B.C.

2. It was announced last year that the system would go live by the end of the year, why did that not happen?

- At this time last year all indications were that we would go-live in November 2021.
- However, in Summer 2021, through a greater level of governance and executive oversight on this project, which was implemented based on the recommendations from the project review in 2020, it was determined that there would be a significant amount of risk with delivering the product by that date.
- Improved reporting and risk mitigation discussions indicated that:
  - Project resources were at maximum capacity;
  - Contingency built into the timeline had been fully utilized;
  - Clients were signalling that they were not at the level of readiness they needed to be; and,
  - COVID-19 continued to impact the project due to competing priorities.
- In Fall 2021, we made a thoughtful shift to move forward with an iterative release approach that allows users to become familiar with the new system, as we introduce new features.
- This is a substantial change for all users, and this revised approach provides opportunity for feedback and ongoing improvements.
- As well, this shift provides time for our ministry partners to ensure they get the training they need and understand the impact on their business operations and processes, while they deal with their own critical priorities and business cycles.
- Our next steps are progressing well.

- We've successfully tested the initial release of the application for user satisfaction, prepared buyers and suppliers for registration and onboarding, and trained 700 government buyers to use the new tool.
- We recently moved the application into the production environment and the team is currently doing a thorough test to determine when we will start onboarding users.
- On March 28th and 29th we hosted information sessions for suppliers to ensure they are familiar with the new system before we go live. Suppliers have shown great interest and we had over 1,100 suppliers in attendance.
- In April we will be hosting similar sessions for broader public sector clients and we currently have 550 clients registered.

- We are doing the hard work and ultimately, we will be launching the new application when we have a product that is reliable and better supports procurement in B.C.

3. What is the value of the contract with CGI?

- The value of the contract awarded to CGI in 2018 was $8.9 million for three years.
- We have recently concluded negotiations with CGI for a two-year extension (ending December 2023) at a value of $7.4 million.
- The total contract value over the five-year term is $16.3 million

4. What are some of the benefits with the new BC Bid?

- People are now going to be able to access an open, transparent system and share in those economic benefits from hundreds of public sector organizations posting opportunities through BC Bid each year.
- The new application will improve the user experience for both buyers and suppliers. At go-live, we are getting a product that delivers the key benefits we targeted including:

- A reliable, modern experience for public, buyers and suppliers.
- Updated security.
- New dashboards for suppliers to better manage and track opportunities.
- Improved navigation and search features helping the public to find opportunities.
- Discussion forums for procurement teams and suppliers to communicate within the application.
- Consistency in the way opportunities from government and broader public sector are posted.

- Although the initial scope of delivery for go-live does not include all the components identified in the contract, we made a thoughtful decision to release functions over a period of time to allow users to gain experience with this significant change and provide opportunity for feedback and ongoing improvements.

5. How does the new system support the Service Plan goal of increasing the number of suppliers registered with BC Bid?

- The new system will include many features that will make it easier for suppliers to do business with government, including:
  - Easier navigation and improved search functionality to find opportunities that fit their business.
  - Online, self-serve access to subscribe to and renew eBidding accounts and opportunity subscriptions.
  - The ability to submit eBids for certain opportunities, directly within the system.
  - A dashboard to manage contracting opportunities and communicate with government buyers.

Ministry: **Ministry of Citizens' Services**
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- Prior to the go-live, all current registered suppliers are going to get an invitation and instructions to on-board to the new application, so that work will be done.
- As we approach the go-live, we're going to work to ensure that vendors, industry and business associations across B.C. are aware of the benefits and are encouraged to use the system.

Contact:

Leila Ball	Executive Director	Procurement Transformation Office	250-217-0849

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Citizens' Services**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Lisa Beare**

Title: **Freedom of Information Facts and Figures**

Revised: **Date of last revision, March 18, 2022**

Access to Information

FOI Volumes

- In a typical year, the Province receives approximately 10,000 - 12,000 Freedom of Information (FOI) requests.
- Definition of "general request": A request that is for general government information such as briefing notes, contracts, or meeting notes have continued to be the highest level of request types being received by government.
- Definition of "personal request": A request related to an individual's own personal information. Personal requests include information such as RoadSafetyBC records, child protection records and income assistance records.

Number of FOI Request Received			
Fiscal	General Requests	Personal Requests	Total
2016/17	4,905	4,405	9,310
2017/18	5,501	4,970	10,471
2018/19	7,622	4,633	12,255
2019/20	8,147	4,908	13,055
2020/21	6,467	3,798	10,265

- B.C. has an active and informed stakeholder community that makes more requests per capita than in the three western Canadian provinces (AB, SK, MB) combined.

Service Plan: Provide greater public accountability by improving access to government information, while ensuring the protection of privacy

- Objective to enhance public access to government records.

- Measured through the percentage of on-time responses to Freedom of Information (FOI) requests.

- Definition of "on time": A request is considered on time if the applicant receives a response within the legislated time limit for responding. All requests must be responded to within 30 days unless a time extension is permitted. For more information, see *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* s.7 and s.10.

Percent of on-time Freedom of Information Requests		
Fiscal	Forecast	Actual
2016/17 Baseline	80%	80%
2019/20	85%	83%
2020/21	85%	85%
2021/22	85%	TBD

Privacy Protection

Privacy Breach Reporting

- A privacy breach is an information incident involving personal information about people, such as names, birthdates, social insurance numbers or client information. Information incidents occur when unwanted or unexpected events threaten privacy or information security. They can be accidental or deliberate and include the theft, loss, alteration or destruction of information.

Actual or Suspected Privacy Breaches and Complaints Reported to Investigators	
Fiscal	Incidents Reported
2016/17	1,671
2017/18	1,803
2018/19	2,013
2019/20	2,234
2020/21	1,977

Ministry: **Ministry of Citizens' Services**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Lisa Beare**

Privacy Impact Assessments

- Privacy impact assessments are used by public bodies to review the level of privacy risk to a system, project, program or activity. This step-by-step review process ensures government protects the personal information collected or used in accordance with the privacy requirements outlined in FOIPPA.

- Conducting a PIA helps protect privacy and builds public trust by being clear about what information government is collecting, who has access to it, and where and how it's stored.

Privacy Impact Assessments (PIAs) Conducted	
Fiscal	PIAs Conducted
2016/17	654
2017/18	648
2018/19	896
2019/20	1,171
2020/21	972

Budget Summary

- Administration of access to information and privacy protection are centralized through the Corporate Information and Records Management Office (CIRMO).
- CIRMO is the central agency responsible for developing corporate information management (IM) strategies, legislation, policies, and standards; and for delivering IM operations, training and compliance reviews.

Fiscal	CIRMO Budget
2016/17	$15.307M
2017/18	$18.951M
2018/19	$21.451M
2019/20	$22.268M
2020/21	$21.862M
2021/22	$22.146M
2022/23	$22.146M

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Citizens' Services**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Lisa Beare**

- In January of 2021, the Ministry of Citizens' Services committed $5.3M to modernize the freedom of information process.

Contacts:

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Rhianna Begley	ED	Information Access Operations	778-698-5851
Kris Ghag	Senior Director	Information Access Operations	250-216-0538

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Citizens' Services
Minister Responsible: Hon. Lisa Beare

Title: Improving Access to Information Rules

Revised: Date of last revision, March 23, 2022

Key Messages:

- **One of the Ministry of Citizens' Services' top priorities is to make the FOI system work better for British Columbians.**
- **British Columbians need to know that the information they require from government – often their own personal records – can be obtained in a timely manner.**
- **In addition to the legislative amendments, many other improvements have been made to FOI rules to make government more accountable.**
- **For example, we brought the *Information Management Act* into force, enshrining in law the duty public servants have to document their key business decisions.**
- **We recently refreshed information management training for all government employees that includes materials to ensure staff understand their 'duty to assist' applicants and emphasizes our commitment to transparency and openness.**
- **We proactively disclose over 5,000 information releases per year and this government has increased proactive release directives by 75%.**
- **To further demonstrate our commitment to transparency, we recently added monthly summaries of ministerial briefing notes to the growing list of records our government makes available proactively.**
- **The Estimates Binders prepared for each Minister would be one example of the type of high-value information disclosed without the need for an FOI request.**

Ministry: Ministry of Citizens' Services
Minister Responsible: Hon. Lisa Beare

- **People throughout B.C. depend on the FOI system to do their jobs – from media and political parties, to researchers, lawyers, businesses, and private citizens.**
- **We also must consider that the legislation impacts the operations of more than 2,900 public bodies in B.C.**
- **The *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA) impacts thousands of public-sector entities around the Province, including health authorities, Crown corporations, school boards and local governments.**
- **We need to take a whole-of-government approach to ensure that citizens can access information in a timely, consistent manner.**

Questions and Answers:

1) What is government doing to improve the access to information rules?

- Improving access to information rules is a priority for this government.This includes not just recent amendments to FOIPPA but also improvements in both policy and process changes that drive greater transparency and accountability.Several process changes have been made that make it easier for people to access important records from government.
- For example, we've created a new online form, so people have a more streamlined process for submitting personal or general FOI requests.
- The BC Services card was integrated with the online request form so people could use their mobile BC Services Card to file an FOI request.

- This year, government began a multi-year project to modernize services, with the goal of simplifying processes and improving response times.

- Government continues to consider ways to improve its access to information rules.

2) What is government doing to make it easier for people to obtain government information?

- Government's Open Information program was expanded to more data sets, including the corporate transition binder, ministry transition binders and ministry estimates notes.

- This means these records will now be public by default without the need for an FOI request.

- Overall, government has now established 14 proactive disclosure categories, resulting in over 5,000 information releases per year.

- These 14 categories include:
  - Minister's travel expenses
  - Ministers' and deputy minsters' calendars
  - Summaries of information about directly-awarded contracts
  - Summaries of open and closed FOI requests
  - Records released in response to FOI requests
  - Summaries of information about contracts with values over $10,000
  - Summaries of information about alternative service delivery contracts
  - Gaming grants paid to community organizations
  - Purchasing card and business transaction account expenditures
  - Deputy ministers' travel expense summaries

Ministry: **Ministry of Citizens' Services**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Lisa Beare**

- Ministers' transition binders
- Corporate transition binder
- Estimates notes
- Summaries of ministerial briefing notes

- These are disclosures that would normally be routed through the FOI process.
- Despite that, demand for services continues to increase and we will continue to explore other categories of records that provide public value.

Contact:

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Rhianna Begley	ED	Information Access Operations	778 698-5851

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Citizens' Services
Minister Responsible: Hon. Lisa Beare

Title: Improving Response and Processing Time for Freedom of Information Requests

Revised: Date of last revision, March 18, 2022

Key Messages:

- This government is committed to improving response and processing times for Freedom of Information (FOI) requests.
- People need to know that they can receive information from government – often their own personal records – in a timely manner.
- Government has been hard at work to improve the system and help people get their records faster.
- However, there are some challenges:
    - British Columbia receives a high volume of FOI requests – more than Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba combined.
    - These requests continue to grow in number, size and complexity.
    - Request volumes have increased by more than 40% over a two-year period and reached an all-time high of over 13,000 requests in 2019/20.
- Citizens' Services is working to improve service delivery by:
    - Conducting a 2021 refresh for all government employees to take FOI training that includes materials to ensure staff understand their 'duty to assist' applicants and that emphasizes transparency and openness;
    - Working with ministries to consider ways to make more records available to the public without an FOI request;

- **For example, examining the use of new technologies to make responding to FOI requests more efficient and secure and to help with large-volume requests, including developing a new, streamlined request management system to reduce administrative processes and increase response timeliness;**

  - **Implementing new technologies to make responding to FOI requests more efficient and secure, including introducing BC Services Card verification to improve security; Secure File Transfer to more efficiently deliver records; automated removal of duplicate records within FOI packages; automation to support records organization and file conversion.**

Questions and Answers:

1) **What steps have you taken to improve timeliness of FOI responses?**

- Government has been hard at work to improve the system and help people get their records faster.
- The Province saw a more than 40% increase in request volumes over a two-year period and reached an all time high of over 13,000 requests received in 2019/20 alone.
- Despite these increases, government has been able to maintain high rates of compliance.
- Processing times this fiscal year have been impacted as these requests continue to grow in size and complexity.
- Despite challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been able to provide excellent service to citizens.
- Information Access Operations is exploring new technologies to make responding to FOI requests more efficient and secure.

Ministry: **Ministry of Citizens' Services**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Lisa Beare**

2) What were the processing fees last year?

- Our government is committed to transparency and openness with regards to government records.
- Processing fees are collected on less than 2% of FOI requests.
- Some of the FOI requests government receives can be large, complex, and time-consuming for staff to process.
- FOIPPA allows for fees to be charged for the time it takes to prepare records for disclosure and when there is more than three hours of search time. These fees are distinct from the new application fee.

Contact:

Matt Reed	A/Assistant Deputy Minister	CIRMO	778 698-5855

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Citizens' Services
Minister Responsible: Hon. Lisa Beare

Title: Digital Archives

Revised: Date of last revision, March 18, 2022

Key Messages:

- The *Information Management Act* (IMA) establishes a digital archive to preserve and make available government's digital records of permanent value.
- The digital archives will complement and coordinate with the Royal BC Museum's archives, which will continue to hold and make available the permanent physical archival records of the Government of British Columbia.
- Digital archives holdings will be available to people and researchers across B.C. and around the world over the Internet.
- The digital archives are a key component of our work to digitize government services, making them more efficient and accessible.
- A digital archive will also help prevent electronic degradation, hardware and software obsolescence and the risk of natural and human-caused disaster.
- It will ensure that our heritage is preserved and made available to the public, in an accessible format, far into the future.
- Once created, this project will make British Columbia a leading jurisdiction in preserving and providing access to its digital heritage.
- We have developed expertise and gathered information on the requirements for a successful digital archive.

This material will be proactively released.

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2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Citizens' Services**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Lisa Beare**

- **Starting in 2017 through to 2021, Ministry employees consulted with digital archives experts in other leading jurisdictions, including the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Australia, the United States, and other Canadian provinces.**

- **Additional consultations have occurred with internal stakeholders, including the Royal BC Museum.**

- **A Request for Information was posted in January 2022 to explore the current technology market for digital archives.**

Questions and Answers:

1) When will the Digital Archives be operational?

- CIRMO has done considerable research on modern approaches, standards and technology for creating a successful "trusted digital repository," and has completed key planning and requirements documentation.

2) What is happening to these historically important records now?

- Digital records of permanent historical value remain in the custody of ministries at this time.
- Government's records management policies and practices direct that these records be fully retained (not destroyed).
- Physical records of permanent historical value continue to be transferred to BC Archives (part of Royal BC Museum).

Contact:

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This material will be proactively released.

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2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Citizens' Services
Minister Responsible: Hon. Lisa Beare

Title: Personal Information Protection Act

Revised: Date of last revision, March 17, 2022

Key Messages:

- **Protecting the privacy rights of British Columbians is a top priority.**
- **It is important that people know there are rules and guidelines that protect their personal information.**
- **The *Personal Information Protection Act* (PIPA) governs the way businesses, non-profits, political parties and other organizations operating in B.C. use personal information.**
- **If someone has a complaint about how an organization has handled their personal information, they can contact the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner.**

If asked about legislative updates:

- **We are always working to stay apprised of how new technology and changing social expectations align with PIPA's privacy protections.**
- **The Special Committee to review PIPA completed its review and published its report on December 6, 2021.**
- **Government will carefully review their recommendations as we consider improvements and modernization of the legislation.**

If asked about federal changes:

- **While the previous Bill C-11 did not pass, the Federal Minister's most recent mandate letter commits to introduce legislation that strengthens privacy protections for consumers.**
- **B.C. will be keenly watching how this develops at the federal level and how this may impact B.C.**

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Citizens' Services**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Lisa Beare**

Questions and Answers:

1) What is the purpose of the Personal Information Protection Act?

- It recognizes and aims to balance the right of individuals to protect their personal information, and the need of organizations to collect, use, or disclose personal information for appropriate purposes.

2) When was the Personal Information Protection Act last updated?

- Government has not made substantial changes to the Act since it was first implemented in 2004.

3) Does PIPA need to remain substantially similar to the federal act?

- The federal Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA) sets national requirements for privacy in the private sector.
- The federal government has deemed PIPA to be substantially similar to PIPEDA, meaning that PIPEDA does not apply to personal information collected, used, and disclosed entirely within British Columbia.

4) Recent and previous Special Committees of the Legislative Assembly reviewing PIPA have made a number of recommendations. What have you done to address these recommendations?

- Previous Special Committees reviewed PIPA in 2008, 2015 and most recently in 2021.
- The 2021 Special Committee made 34 recommendations.
- Government is currently conducting an in-depth review of these recommendations.

Contact:

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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE
INFORMATION BRIEFING NOTE

DATE: May 17, 2022
CLIFF: 281229

PREPARED FOR: Premier John Horgan – **FOR INFORMATION**

SUBJECT: Summary of new child care spaces funded since 2018/19

PURPOSE: In preparation for the Premier's estimates debates, below is a summary of new child care spaces funded in BC since 2018/19.

BACKGROUND:
Estimates for the Ministry of Education and Child Care occurred from May 3-5, 2022. Advice/Recommentations
Advice/Recommentations

The following overview of child care spaces in British Columbia is based on data from the Ministry of Education and Child Care and can be used to respond to questions regarding the Province's supply licensed child care spaces and its progress towards funding new spaces since 2018/19.

DISCUSSION:
***The Number of Funded, Licensed Child Care Spaces for Children birth to 12*:**

1. How many total licenced child care spaces receive our operating funding?
    - A total of **132,077** licenced child care spaces received provincial operating funding per month, as of March 2022.

2. What has been the growth in total operational spaces been since 2018?
    - The average number of child care spaces available to parents in B.C. has increased by **21,077** (from 111,000 in 2017/18 to 132,077 in 2021/22, as of March 2022).
    - This represents a 19% increase driven by provincial and federal capital investments and market generated growth.

[1] Both the Child Care Operating Funding Program (CCOF) and the $10 a Day ChildcareBC Centre program.

Composition of Licensed Child Care Providers:

1. What is the composition of all licenced child care providers that receive provincial funding?
    - As of March 2022, child care providers receiving provincial funding were split between:
        - 59% for-profit providers (comprised of 49% group-centre providers + 10% family providers)
        - 41% not-for-profit providers

The Number of New Child Care Spaces Funded and Operational through Capital (New Space Fund) Investments:

1. How many new licensed child care spaces have been funded through provincial and federal capital investments since 2018/19?
    - A total of **30,594** new licensed child care spaces, as of March 2022.

2. Of these 30,594 spaces, how many are operational?
    - A total of **9,979** spaces are operational, as of March 2022.

3. How many more spaces will become operational by December 2022?
    - It is estimated that between **5,200 – 7,350** spaces will become operational by December 31, 2022.
    - By December 2022, the total number of operational spaces is estimated to be between **15,200 – 17,300** (which is between 50-56% of all new spaces funded through new capital investments since 2018/19).

KEY MESSAGES:

- Since 2018, through provincial and federal capital investments, BC has funded almost 31,000 new licensed child care spaces – surpassing its original three-year goal by 8,594.
- This represents the largest and fastest-ever investment in the creation of new child care spaces in BC's history.
- Looking ahead, the Province, with support from the Government of Canada, under the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, is committed its goal of creating nearly 70,000 new licensed child care spaces by 2027/28.

Appendices:

- New Child Care Space Creation Data Tables

Program ADM/Branch: Kevena Hall, ADM, Child Care Division
Program Contact (for content): Jonathan Barry, Executive Director
Date: May 17, 2022

Appendix: New Child Care Space Creation Data Tables

Table 1: The number of new licensed child care spaces funded through provincial and federal capital investments since 2018/19

Organization Auspice Organization Type	Spaces To Be Created	% of Total Spaces
For-Profit	**11,035**	**36%**
Corporation/Limited Company	10,596	35%
Partnership	46	0%
Sole Proprietor	393	1%
Non-Profit	**3,668**	**12%**
Indigenous Non-Profit Society	250	1%
Registered Not-For-Profit	3,418	11%
Public Sector and Indigenous Government	**15,891**	**52%**
Health Authority	198	1%
Indigenous Government	1,802	6%
Local Government/Municipality	5,100	17%
Public Post-Secondary Institution	635	2%
School District	8,156	27%
Grand Total	**30,594**	**100%**

Data as of March 31, 2022

Alternative Table 1

Table 1: The number of new licensed child care spaces funded through provincial and federal capital investments since 2018/19

Provider Type	Spaces	Percent
For Profit		
Group	10,642	35%
Family	393	1%
Total For Profit	11,035	36%
Not for Profit	19,559	64%
Total	**30,594**	**100%**

Data as of 31 Mar 2022

Table 2: The number of new licensed child care spaces funded by provincial and federal capital investments that are now operational

Organization Auspice Organization Type	In-Progress Spaces	Operational Spaces	% of Total Operational	Grand Total
For-Profit	**3,195**	**7,840**	**79%**	**11,035**
Corporation/Limited Company	3,169	7,427	74%	10,596
Partnership		46	0%	46
Sole Proprietor	26	367	4%	393
Non-Profit	**2,908**	**760**	**8%**	**3,668**
Indigenous Non-Profit Society	250		0%	250
Registered Not-For-Profit	2,658	760	8%	3,418
Public Sector and Indigenous Government	**14,512**	**1,379**	**14%**	**15,891**
Health Authority	198		0%	198
Indigenous Government	1,786	16	0%	1,802
Local Government/Municipality	4,858	242	2%	5,100
Public Post-Secondary Institution	500	135	1%	635
School District	7,170	986	10%	8,156
Grand Total	**20,615**	**9,979**	**100%**	**30,594**

Data as of March 31, 2022

Alternative Table 2

Table 2: The number of new licensed child care spaces funded by provincial and federal capital investments that are now operational

Provider Type	Spaces	Percent
For Profit		
Group	7,473	75%
Family	367	4%
Total For Profit	7,840	79%
Not for Profit	2,139	21%
Total	**9,979**	100%

Data as of 31 Mar 2022

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
Minister Responsible: Honourable Bruce Ralston

Title: Zero-Emission Vehicles Act / Regulation

Drafted/Revised: March 18, 2022

Issue: **The *Zero-Emission Vehicles Act* / Regulation (ZEV Act) requires automakers to increase their supply of zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) to British Columbia (BC)**

Response:

- BC's ZEV Act delivers on the Province's CleanBC plan commitment to make ZEVs more affordable and accessible to British Columbians.
- The ZEV Act requires automakers to meet an escalating annual percentage of new light-duty ZEV sales, reaching 10% by 2025, 30% by 2030, and 100% by 2040, which will ensure greater supply and availability of ZEVs.
- The CleanBC Roadmap to 2030, released in 2021, included commitments to increase the ZEV Act targets to 26% of light-duty vehicle sales to be ZEV by 2026, 90% by 2030, and 100% by 2035, and to implement medium- and heavy-duty regulations.
- The ZEV Act provides flexible pathways (through sales, trading of compliance units, initiative agreements for sales of used and medium/heavy duty ZEVs, or purchase agreements), for suppliers to achieve compliance while ensuring that the Province meets its ZEV and GHG targets.
- The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (Ministry) has developed an online ZEV Reporting System which regulated parties use to demonstrate their compliance with the ZEV Act. Eighteen automakers are actively using the system and submitted their first compliance reports in October 2021.
- BC joined Quebec and 12 US states in having a ZEV standard, as well more than 20 countries worldwide who have now either announced a future ban on the sale of new gasoline and diesel cars, or targeted 100% of vehicle sales to be ZEVs.
- The ZEV Act is part of a coordinated, and expanding, program of activities under the Province's highly successful CleanBC Go Electric Program that aims to: reduce market barriers; encourage the adoption of ZEVs by British Columbians; leverage private, municipal and federal investment in ZEVs and infrastructure in BC; and support new ZEV sector economic opportunities.
- Budget 2022 includes an additional $120,000 per year to enable development and ongoing operation of online regulatory reporting tools for both the ZEV Act and Low Carbon Fuel Standard.

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Honourable Bruce Ralston**

Background/Status:

- The ZEV Act passed on May 30, 2019, and the ZEV Act Regulation on July 30, 2020, to ensure that more ZEVs are available for purchase in BC.
- The ZEV Act was informed by engagement and consultation with the auto industry, local governments, and environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOs).
- The ZEV Act initially focuses on light-duty vehicles (cars and light-trucks) but enables Government to set future targets for other vehicle classes, such as buses and heavy-duty trucks.
- In the Roadmap to 2030, Government announced that the light-duty ZEV targets will be increased, and targets will be developed for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles.
- The ZEV Act sets phased-in annual targets and other compliance requirements, ensuring automakers increase ZEV availability to meet demand.
- A technical review of the ZEV Act will be held at regular intervals to review market trends, receive input from stakeholders, and allow for any necessary adjustments. The first technical review is anticipated to start in Spring 2022, as part of the plan to implement the Roadmap 2030.
- A ZEV Advisory Council will be established to provide input into the Ministry's ZEV programming and policies including the ZEV Act. The ZEV Advisory Council will be comprised of industry, ENGOs, local governments, Indigenous organizations, infrastructure providers, and academics.
- In 2021, BC continued to have the highest uptake in North America. New ZEV sales averaged 13% of light-duty vehicle sales over the year despite the pandemic.
- The ZEV Act is based on legislation already in place in Quebec, California, and 11 other U.S. states, with adjustments for BC. BC's ZEV Act was the first in the world to include a 100% ZEV target.
- In 2021, the Government of Canada announced a mandatory target for all new light-duty cars and passenger trucks sales to be zero-emission by 2035, accelerating Canada's previous goal of 100 percent sales by 2040, but has not yet confirmed a national ZEV mandate.

Cross Reference: 01 - CleanBC Go Electric Programs
05 - Clean Transportation Action Plan

Contact:

Les MacLaren	ADM	Electricity and Alternative Energy Division	778-698-7183

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Honourable Bruce Ralston**

Title: Low Carbon Fuel Standard

Drafted: **March 16, 2022**

Issue: **Repeal and replace the legislation governing the BC Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS)**

Response:

- Proposed legislation will repeal the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Renewable and Low Carbon Fuel Requirements) Act* (Existing Act) and replace it with the *Low Carbon Fuels Act* (New Act) that broadens its scope and makes it easier to understand, administer, and enforce.
- The effectiveness of the New Act is increased by implementing a number of policy improvements which extends the authority to include new fuel categories, recognize new technologies, and ensure funding/support for low carbon fuel projects that also support other objectives of CleanBC.

Background/Status:

- The LCFS was implemented in 2010. It sets annual carbon intensity reduction targets using a lifecycle analysis encompassing all stages of a fuel product's life from raw material to final use.
- A fuel supplier's annual compliance with the LCFS is calculated in terms of compliance units, a positive number (credits) for low carbon fuels and a negative number (debits) for high carbon fuels.
- At the end of each compliance period, suppliers must have a balance of zero or positive compliance units to avoid non-compliance penalties.
- As annual carbon intensity targets become more stringent, fuel suppliers will be challenged to meet their obligations, and will require access to more credits or alternative options for compliance with the LCFS.
- Amendments to the Regulation in July 2020:
    - extended the LCFS from a 10% reduction in carbon intensity in 2020 to a 20% reduction by 2030.
    - reduced the exemption threshold from 75 million litres in 2020 to 25 million litres in 2021, and 200,000 litres in 2022 and thereafter. The exemption was reduced to: strengthen the overall effectiveness of the LCFS; advance market transformation; and address an unfair competitive advantage (i.e., removing the exemption will result in price balancing between previously exempt suppliers and those complying with the LCFS).

- Amendments to the Regulation in June 2021:
    - corrected an error omitting authorization for the Minister to publish names and circumstances for fuel suppliers who fail to comply with the low carbon fuel requirement;
    - recognized renewable naphtha as a fuel in the gasoline category to enable a new compliance pathway for fuel suppliers; and
    - clarified the point of compliance for electricity to enable those making investments in electricity supply infrastructure to be recognized as suppliers and to monetize earned credits to offset the costs of their investments.

The LCFS contribution to CleanBC:

- The LCFS is the single largest contributor to meeting the greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets set out under CleanBC and is an integral part of BC's GHG reduction policies in general.
- Between 2010 and 2020, actions taken to comply with the LCFS have avoided over 13 million tonnes of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- At a 20% reduction in 2030, the LCFS is expected to directly deliver 4.3 million tonnes of GHG reductions in 2030, which represents 16% of the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 (Roadmap) provincial reduction target, and to contribute an additional 6% indirectly by supporting the *Zero-Emission Vehicle Act* (ZEVA).
- At a 30% reduction in 2030, as contemplated in the Roadmap, the LCFS is expected to deliver an additional 2.4 million tonnes of reductions for a total of 6.7 million tonnes of reductions in GHG emissions in 2030, which represents 25% of CleanBC's current 2030 target (with indirect support for an additional 6% from ZEVA).

Investment in Clean Fuel through the Part 3 Agreement Program

- In 2020, the Province entered into Agreements to support 22 projects with potential new investments exceeding $2.19 billion over the next five years. Upon completion, the projects are expected to supply fuel that will reduce lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 4.0 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent globally per year.
- If successful, seven projects supported by Part 3 Agreements will lead to the annual production of over 800 million litres of low carbon renewable fuel in BC by 2026, representing 62% of the new Roadmap target of 1.3 billion litres of renewable fuel production in BC by 2030.

Policy improvements:

- More than a decade of experience developing and administering the LCFS has identified that the Existing Act, as structured, is inadequate for robust administration through 2030 and beyond.

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Honourable Bruce Ralston**

- Proposed legislation will repeal the Existing Act and replace it with a New Act that broadens its scope and makes it easier to understand, administer, and enforce.
- The intention of the New Act remains the same while improving overall clarity for regulated industry, closing compliance and enforcement gaps, and incorporating policy changes announced in the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030.
- Policy changes in the New Act that are supported by the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 include:
    - Recognizing jet fuel as a new category of fuel, and enabling regulations to create other fuel categories, such as marine fuels.
    - Providing compliance credits for direct air capture with permanent sequestration of eligible greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide.
    - Expanding the scope of Part 3 Agreements to increase the supply of low carbon fuels in BC by enabling support for new proponents and new business opportunities.
- The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation has prepared a Bill that is ready for introduction in the House in 2022.

Fuel Pricing:

- The British Columbia Utilities Commission inquiry into fuel pricing identified the LCFS cost impact on gasoline prices to be three and a half cents per litre in 2018.
- Ministry officials estimate that the price impact increased to about 11.6 cents per litre in 2022.
- As the carbon intensity reduction targets become more rigorous, the cost of high carbon fuels can be expected to increase, while the cost of low carbon fuels is expected to decrease.
- Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations

Cross Reference:
04 Increasing Renewable Low Carbon Fuel Production in BC

Contact:

Les MacLaren	ADM	Electricity and Alternative Energy Division	778 698-7183

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Honourable Bruce Ralston**

Title: Renewable and Low Carbon Fuel Production in British Columbia.

Drafted: **March 16, 2022**

Issue: **CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 committed to increasing the production of renewable fuel in B.C. by 1.3 billion litres per year by 2030.**

Response:

- Under the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030, the BC Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) is expected to deliver about 6.7 million tonnes of reductions in British Columbia (BC)'s greenhouse gas emissions in 2030.
- The CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 committed to enhancing the LCFS by considering increasing stringency of carbon intensity reduction targets to 30% by 2030.
- In order the meet the increased demand for cleaner fuels, CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 committed that the Province will work to ramp up new production of 1.3 billion litres of renewable fuels by 2030.
- Refining our own renewable fuels with BC materials and BC workers will lead to job growth and reduce the need to import fossil fuels and renewable fuel and feedstocks from other jurisdictions.
- BC does not produce enough "conventional" feedstocks, such as canola, to meet the long-term demands for meeting the 1.3 billion litre goal. To utilize BC feedstocks, new technologies must be commercialized to convert the feedstocks into finished fuels. Potential new feedstocks include wood waste, tall oil, municipal solid waste, sewage sludge, and carbon from direct air capture of CO_2.
- Part 3 Agreements currently support projects that could result in the production of 800 million litres of low carbon renewable fuel by 2025. The Ministry will continue to work to ensure that these projects are successful, while working with industry to achieve the 1.3 billion litre production goal for 2030.
- The Ministry is currently reviewing the approach to Part 3 Agreements to consider continuous intake of proposals and more effective development of agreements, including integration with BC government funding mechanisms and co-ordination with other federal and provincial programs.

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Honourable Bruce Ralston**

Background/Status:

- Transportation accounts for 39% of BC's GHG emissions, with more than half being emitted from medium- and heavy-duty transportation vehicles.
- Currently, BC imports virtually most of its renewable fuels. Making these fuels in the province will lead to job growth and regional economic development.
- The LCFS, including Part 3 Agreements, is a strong tool for attracting investment in renewable and low carbon fuel production.
- Part 3 Agreements between a fuel supplier and the statutory director are for actions that increase the use of Part 3 fuels sooner than would have occurred otherwise.
- In 2020, Part 3 Agreements were signed to support 22 projects with potential new investments exceeding $2.19 billion over five years. Upon completion, the projects are expected to supply fuel that will reduce lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 4.0 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent globally per year.
- In 2021 the impact of COVID reduced the credits available for Part 3 Agreements, so there were no new agreements signed. The capacity for new agreements in 2022 has yet to be determined.
- The Parkland Refinery in Burnaby and the Tidewater Midstream Refinery in Prince George are both making the transition to co-processing, beginning with used cooking oil, tallow and canola blended with fossil crude oil as inputs to their refineries. Both refineries have been receiving support through Part 3 Agreements.
- For several conversion technologies, the resulting product may not be completely suitable as a fuel but can be further refined by mixing the product with crude oil for processing at existing fossil fuel refineries. This enables existing refineries to transition to the production of significant quantities of renewable fuels.
- Most processes that create renewable diesel fuel can be modified to produce jet fuel. Inclusion of jet fuel in the LCFS could provide significant support for this emerging opportunity.
- The Ministry continues to engage with companies who are considering the production of low carbon fuel in B.C., including: Arbios, Suncor, Tidewater Renewables, Enerkem, Ensyn, Highbury, and Carbon Engineering.

Cross Reference: #3 Low Carbon Fuel Standard

Contact:

Les MacLaren	ADM	Electricity and Alternative Energy Division	778 698-7183

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Honourable Bruce Ralston**

Title: Clean Transportation Action Plan

Drafted/Revised: **March 16, 2022**

Issue: **Clean Transportation Action Plan**

Response:

- CleanBC's Roadmap to 2030 (Roadmap) committed to developing a Clean Transportation Action Plan (CTAP) to be released in 2023.
- The CTAP is part of a comprehensive approach, as outlined in the Roadmap, to meet British Columbia's (B.C.) transportation sector GHG reduction target of 27-32% below 2007 levels by 2030.
- The Province has already taken significant actions to reduce transportation GHG emissions, including through programs, policies and regulation that support zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) adoption. Examples include: the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation's (Ministry's) suite of Go Electric programs and the *Zero Emission Vehicle Act* which sets sales targets for new light-duty zero-emission vehicles.
- Building off this and other Provincial transportation work, the purpose of the CTAP is to identify the next set of concrete actions across five foundational areas - vehicle kilometres travelled (VKT) reductions; mode shift to efficient modes; vehicle efficiency; ZEVs; and fuel efficiency - to ensure B.C. meets its legislated and Roadmap transportation targets.
- CTAP will be a public, technical document that acts as a unifying, single point of reference for clean transportation actions.
- The CTAP will take a long-term view in order to realize the GHG benefits of all potential actions, such as compact, complete communities that take longer to yield results but provide significant benefits.
- The CTAP is being co-led by the Ministry and the Ministry of Transportation, with participation from multiple ministries on policy and action development, and engagement with key stakeholders, Indigenous communities as well as broader stakeholders.
- Decarbonizing B.C.'s transportation sector and making it more energy efficient helps achieve government priorities such as supporting clean jobs and ensuring affordability, all while stimulating province-wide economic activity.

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Honourable Bruce Ralston**

Background/Status:

- The Ministry plays a leading role in developing policies, programs and standards that improve the energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the transportation sector.
- The transport sector accounts for approximately 39% of B.C.'s GHG emissions (approximately 14% from light-duty vehicles, 14% from medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, and 11% from marine vessels, rail, aircraft, off-road equipment).
- In 2019, transport emissions had risen 22% in B.C. since 2007, largely due to increasing emissions from heavy-duty vehicles, rising vehicle populations, and increasing fuel consumption.
- In addition to the sector targets identified above, the *Climate Change Accountability Act* requires B.C. to reduce its GHG emissions 40% below 2007 levels by 2030, 60% by 2040, and 80% by 2050.
- CleanBC and the recently released CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 (Roadmap), identify additional transportation targets including:
    - ZEV targets:
        - accelerated *Zero Emission Vehicle Act* targets - 26% of new light-duty vehicles by 2026, 90% by 2030, 100% by 2035; and
        - new ZEV targets for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles aligned with California or leading jurisdictions.
    - VKT reduction targets: reduce light-duty VKT by 25% by 2030, compared to 2020.
    - Mode share targets: increase share of trips (e.g., commuting for work and personal activities) made by walking, cycling, transit to 30% by 2030, 40% by 2040, and 50% by 2050.
    - Energy intensity targets for personal and commercial transportation: reduce the energy intensity of goods movement (tonne-kilometres) by at least 10% by 2030, 30% by 2040, and 50% by 2050, relative to 2020.
- CTAP project work is underway to be able to deliver the CTAP for 2023.

Cross Reference:
01 - CleanBC Go Electric Programs
02 - Zero-Emission Vehicles Act & Regulation

Contact:

Les MacLaren	ADM	Electricity and Alternative Energy Division	778 698-7183

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Honourable Bruce Ralston**

Title: Clean Buildings Strategy

Drafted/Revised: **March 18, 2022**

Issue: **Efforts to decarbonize buildings through energy efficiency and fuel switching**

Response:

- The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (Ministry) plays a leading role in developing policies, programs and standards that improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in buildings.
- Making British Columbia's (B.C.'s) built environment more energy efficient and lower carbon helps achieve government priorities such as supporting clean jobs and ensuring affordability, all while stimulating province-wide economic activity.
- The Ministry has been implementing a multi-faceted Clean Buildings Strategy as part of CleanBC to support B.C. in transitioning to low-carbon buildings by 2030.
- The strategy is the basis of the Buildings Pathway commitments in the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030.
- The objective of the strategy is to drive energy efficient and low carbon solutions to a tipping point of availability, acceptability, and affordability through targeted interventions in the marketplace, followed by progressively more stringent codes and standards that backstop progress.
- The Clean Buildings Strategy includes five streams of action to drive market transformation in the sector:
    - **Research, development and demonstration** to bring B.C.-made energy efficient and low-carbon solutions to the market;
    - **Energy information** tools to help British Columbians identify retrofit opportunities and inform investment decisions;
    - **Industry training** to support workforce readiness for programs, codes and standards;
    - **Targeted incentives and financing** to drive adoption of low carbon heating systems and energy efficiency improvements; and

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Honourable Bruce Ralston**

- **Progressively more stringent energy codes and standards** to eliminate the most polluting and least efficient products and practices from the market.

Background/Status:

- Buildings accounts for 10% of B.C.'s GHG emissions (not including emissions from waste and deforestation). The Province has a target to reduce emissions from the built environment by 59%-64% by 2030.
- Achieving the Province's legislated 2030 and 2050 GHG reduction targets will require a shift towards low-carbon heating options and the highest performing buildings.
- In addition to reducing emissions, making B.C.'s buildings more efficient will help achieve government priorities such as advancing innovative technology development, promoting clean jobs, and ensuring affordability of housing by reducing energy costs, all while stimulating province-wide economic activity.
- Every $1 million invested in energy efficiency is estimated to create between 30 and 57 job years and $4-8 million of gross domestic product.
- Between 2007 and 2018, energy use per m^2 of floorspace was reduced by 28% in residential buildings and 14% in commercial buildings. GHG emissions[1] per m^2 of floorspace reduced 29% in residential buildings and 21% in commercial buildings.
- Between 2007 and 2020, the percentage of households using heat pumps for primary or secondary heating increased by 180%.
- Efficiency Canada's Provincial Energy Efficiency Policy Scorecard awarded B.C. the top ranking in Canada in 2019, 2020, and 2021. BC leads in both the 'Enabling Policies' and 'Buildings' categories and was praised in particular for its Energy Step code, heating electrification programs and long-term policy approach, outlined below.
- The Province's built environment initiatives are grounded in a market transformation approach that covers both existing buildings and new construction. This approach consists of five streams of action, listed below along with key initiatives:

Research, Development and Demonstration

- The Building Innovation Fund provides support for research, commercialization and demonstration of advanced building designs and construction methods,

[1] This NRCan statistic excludes emissions from electricity, which in BC are very small.

and ultra-efficient building components in order to increase the availability and affordability of low-carbon buildings solutions made in B.C. To date, the program has held three intakes, distributing $14.65 million in support to 41 projects across the province. A fourth intake in being planned for 2022/23, and will distribute a further $5 million in funding.

Energy Efficiency Information

- Better Homes and Better Buildings provides free energy coaching to British Columbians to help them identify opportunities for energy savings and emission reductions in their homes and businesses.
- The Province will be requiring realtors to provide energy efficiency ratings on listed homes to make it easier for buyers and renters to factor energy costs and GHG emissions into their decisions. The Ministry is developing a virtual home energy assessment tool to generate this rating and help homeowners connect with Better Homes program resources.

Industry Training

- The Ministry has worked with BC Hydro, FortisBC, and the Home Performance Stakeholder Council to develop best practice installation guidelines and training curriculum for heating systems and envelope improvements, and is now subsidizing the cost of this training for those becoming registered members of the Home Performance Contractor Network (HPCN). CleanBC Better Homes is transitioning to requiring use of an HPCN member in order to access incentives. This will help foster quality workmanship and maximize energy efficiency and emission reductions.

Financial Incentives

- The CleanBC Better Homes and Better Buildings program provides financial incentives and low-interest financing to help households and businesses save energy and reduce GHG emissions through heating equipment replacement and building envelope improvements. The program is funded through 2024/25.
- Budget 2022 included a PST exemption on heat pumps, paired with an increase to the PST on fossil fuel alternatives to 12 per cent. It also included a new temporary tax credit - the Clean Buildings Tax Credit - for retrofits that improve the energy efficiency of eligible multi-unit residential buildings and commercial buildings.
- Last year, BC Hydro, FortisBC Gas and FortisBC Electric spent a combined $116 million on energy efficiency programs[2], enabled through a supportive regulatory framework. The Province is working on amendments that will carry

[2] Based on BC Hydro results for 2020/21 and FortisBC results for 2020

out the CleanBC Roadmap commitment to transition utility DSM away from conventional combustion gas equipment and towards building-envelope improvements and heat pumps.

- Local governments have requested the legislative authority to offer Property Assessed Clean Energy financing programs to support building energy retrofits. The Province is currently assessing options and timing.

Regulated Codes and Standards

- Efficiency standards are implemented as point-of-sale regulations (through the *Energy Efficiency Act*) or in the BC Building Code (by the Minister Responsible for Housing).
- CleanBC commits to setting a requirement that, after 2030, all space and water heating equipment sold and installed in BC will be at least 100% efficiency, significantly reducing GHG emissions. The Ministry is working with the Office of Housing and Construction Standards on an implementation plan that utilizes both the *Energy Efficiency Act* and the BC Building Code. Budget 2022 funds will support technical, market and regulatory analysis to inform the development of options.
- The Province has built off its success with the Energy Step Code, by committing to adopt a "net-zero energy ready" base code for new buildings by 2032, with incremental improvements in 2022 and 2027. The base code will be incorporating carbon pollution standards that support a transition to zero-carbon new buildings by 2030.
- A building retrofit code is also being developed that will align with a federal retrofit code, due to be completed in 2024. The retrofit code will focus on raising existing building performance to today's code level.
- The Roadmap to 2030 also commits to a new regulatory tool--placing a cap on emissions for natural gas utilities and enabling a variety of pathways to achieve it. This will drive utility investment in energy efficiency, renewable gas, and other decarbonization actions.

Cross Reference: 07 - Better Homes and Better Buildings Program
08 - Utility Demand-Side Management
21 - CleanBC
22 - Decarbonising BC's gas grid

Contact:

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2021/22 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
Minister Responsible: Hon. Bruce Ralston

Title: Site C Project Update

Revised: March 17, 2022

Issue: Site C Project

- In February 2021, government confirmed its decision to continue with Site C at a revised cost estimate of $16 billion and with a one-year delay to its in-service date. The Project is currently on schedule and on budget.
- In March 2022, BC Hydro achieved a significant milestone by energizing the 2nd 500 kilovolt transmission line from Site C to Peace Canyon ahead of schedule.
- Work on the Right Bank Foundation Enhancements is currently underway. About half of the required piles (concrete filled steel tubes) that will extend the foundation deeper into the rock are installed and the remaining work is on schedule. International experts continue to confirm that BC Hydro's solution for the right bank foundation issues will result in a safe and reliable facility.
- Construction on the Project has progressed on all fronts. The earthfill dam is completed to approximately 34% of the total required volume.
- In October 2021 the Project's roller-compacted-concrete program was completed. A total of 1.7 million cubic metres of roller-compacted concrete was placed in three large buttresses, or foundations, that support the powerhouse, spillways and the dam abutment. Combined, the buttresses measure approximately 800 metres long and up to 70 metres wide.
- COVID-19 has remained a challenge to the Project. An outbreak occurred between August and October 2021. In January 2022, BC Hydro began on site screening of Site C workers. Over 10,000 rapid screen tests were administered in the first 60 days of 2022, and with about 700 positive cases requiring isolation there was some impact to contractors but this has not translated into delays to the Project schedule. The mandatory vaccination policy for Site C contractors came into force in January 2022. As of March 18, 2022, there were 3 active COVID-19 cases.

2021/22 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Bruce Ralston**

- In January 2022, Government approved the temporary exclusion of Area E and Ice Bridge Road from the Agricultural Land Reserve. Area E, which was identified and consulted on as part of the Site C Project's Environmental Assessment Certificate, is required to provide aggregate for the continued construction of the earthfill dam. Reclamation of Area E will be completed by December 31, 2025, and will include consultation with impacted Treaty 8 Nations.

Background/Status:

Overview:

- Site C will be the third dam and hydroelectric generating station on the Peace River and is designed to provide 5,100 gigawatt hours of electricity each year and 1,100 megawatts of capacity, which is enough power for 450,000 homes.
- Construction began on July 27, 2015. Completion is scheduled for December 2025.

Right Bank Foundation Enhancements

- During construction of the powerhouse and spillway buttresses, sensitive instruments monitored the bedrock foundation below and behind the buttresses for movements. BC Hydro identified small movements (millimetres) along a thin bedding plane located below the bottom of the concrete buttress shear key.
- One of the project's design objectives is to avoid movements of the buttresses, as the concrete structures built on top of them (and the generating equipment that will eventually be installed in the powerhouse) cannot accommodate even small movements without damage.
- BC Hydro identified a two-part solution to improve the stability of the right bank structures: extend the foundation deeper into the rock; and reduce water pressure that can build up in the bedrock foundation.
- The first part of the solution is to improve the strength of the concrete buttresses beneath the right bank structures by anchoring the buttresses deeper into the rock below using vertical piles (large steel pipes filled with concrete).
- The second part of the solution is to improve the water tightness of the approach channel. The approach channel directs water around the earthfill dam and into the generating station. BC Hydro will enhance the approach channel with a manufactured geomembrane liner, and improve drainage to prevent water from seeping into the foundation.

- Many large hydroelectric dam projects have encountered geotechnical challenges during construction and have modified their design to suit the conditions.
- One example in British Columbia is the Revelstoke Dam, which was completed in 1984. Adverse bedrock geology discovered during construction led to major design changes. Changes in the concrete dam included additional excavation of weak rock, placement of backfill concrete to provide a more stable foundation, provision of additional drainage.
- The cost of the right bank foundation enhancement work is included within the current $16 billion cost estimate. BC Hydro expects to complete this work by the end of 2023.
- The right bank foundation enhancement work continues to be reviewed by internationally recognized dam experts appointed by the Project Assurance Board: John France and Dr. Kaare Höeg.

Construction Progress:

- Construction on Site C began in July 2015 and is over 50% complete.
- Construction activities are underway in all project areas including at the dam site, reservoir, transmission line corridor, and segments of Highway 29.

COVID-19

- The Project experienced two outbreaks of COVID-19. The first in between April and June 2021 and the second between August and October 2021. A substantial majority of the cases associated with the second outbreak occurred in unvaccinated workers.
- To manage the Omicron variant risk with the large numbers of workers returning in January 2022, BC Hydro expanded the rapid testing program to pre-access rapid tests for all returning workers. From January 2022 to end of February 2022, the Project administered over 10,000 screening tests and identified about 700 positive workers, many of which were asymptomatic but still isolated for five days. There have been no worker hospitalizations.
- Based on the BC Centre for Disease Control's transmission rate, the Project may have avoided up to 1,200 additional cases in January 2022 due to this rapid testing program. In January 2022, BC Hydro's mandatory vaccination policy for consultants and employees of contractors and subcontractors came into force.

Indigenous Relations

- Since the start of the Project, aggregate supply was identified as a risk. The use of Area E was identified, assessed, consulted on, and approved as part of the Site C Environmental Assessment Certificate

- Area E and most of Ice Bridge Road are within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and the activities proposed by BC Hydro for these areas (i.e., granular material extraction from Area E and upgrading Ice Bridge Road to handle the necessary haul traffic) are not permitted uses for lands within the ALR. BC Hydro requested that Government exclude these two areas from the ALR so that it could prepare the site and undertake road upgrades this winter in advance of the mid-April bird nesting and spring freshet, which would otherwise preclude these activities.

- In late January 2022, Cabinet approved the Order-in-Council (OIC) that temporarily excluded Area E and Ice Bridge Road from the ALR and has allowed this work to proceed and mobilize. Area E and Ice Bridge Road will be placed back into the ALR at the end of December 31, 2025, at which point the areas would have been remediated in consultation with the impacted Treaty 8 Nations.

- All required permit applications under the *Land Act*, *Forest Act*, *Mines Act*, and *Water Sustainability Act* to undertake activities at Area E and to upgrade Ice Bridge Road to accommodate transport of granular materials have been approved by government.

Earthfill dam construction

- Two cofferdams are required to seal off the main channel of the river. These structures were completed in March 2021, ahead of schedule. The main earthfill dam is currently under construction and approximately 30% complete.

- The main earthfill dam will be 60 metres tall, about 500 metres wide at its base and span more than one kilometre across the river valley.

Generating station and spillways work

- Generating station and spillways work on the right bank of the Peace River includes the Site C powerhouse, penstocks, spillways, turbines and generators.

- The six penstocks, which will channel the water from the reservoir into the turbines and generators, are more than 90% complete. Penstocks are large steel pipes, which are 10 metres in diameter and 80 metres long.

- All six turbine runners have been transported to BC from Brazil. The last two runners (the rotating part of a turbine) will be transported to site this summer.

Substation and transmission lines

- The Site C substation was completed in October 2020, and the two 500 kilovolt transmission lines are now energized ahead of schedule.

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Bruce Ralston**

Highway 29 construction

- BC Hydro is partnering with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to realign six segments of Highway 29, which connects Hudson's Hope to Fort St. John.
- Construction is underway for all 30 kilometres of the highway that need to be realigned to accommodate the future reservoir.
- In October 2021, the Farrell Creek East highway segment was opened to traffic.

Reservoir clearing

- BC Hydro is removing trees and vegetation from the future Site C reservoir area.
- Clearing of the 87-kilometre-long reservoir area is about 75 per cent complete.

Construction activities for 2022:

This year, the Project activities include:

- Progression of earthworks at the dam site
- Ongoing construction of the powerhouse and spillways, including the continued installation of steel piles as part of the right bank foundation enhancement work.
- Construction of approach channel.
- Transmission line maintenance and reclamation.
- Highway 29 realignments at Cache Creek, Halfway River, Farrell Creek East, Farrell Creek, Dry Creek and Lynx Creek.
- Clearing and road construction activities to access aggregate sources on the south bank (Area E and Area 24).

Site C employment

- The latest employment statistics show that there were 3,991 total workers on the Site C project in January 2022.
  - Of the total workers, 2,140 or 66% were from British Columbia.
  - There were 775 workers on site from the Peace River Regional District — that's 24% of the construction and non-construction contractor's workforce.
  - There were 399 women working for Site C construction and non-construction contractors.
- Peak employment was reached on the project in October 2020, with a total project workforce of 5,181 people.

2021/22 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Bruce Ralston**

Indigenous relations

- BC Hydro has reached benefit agreements with the majority of the Treaty 8 First Nations impacted by the project.
- About $530 million in Site C procurement opportunities have been awarded to Indigenous designated businesses, including pre-construction contracts.
- There are about 300 Indigenous people currently working on the project, and several hundred more have received training.

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2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Honourable Bruce Ralston**

Title: Industrial Electrification and CleanBC Industrial Electrification Rates

Drafted/Revised: **March 18, 2022**

Issue: **Government is working with BC Hydro to electrify new and existing facilities by reducing the capital and operating costs of connecting to the grid**

Response:

- Electrification is one of the pathways identified in the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 leading to reduced or avoided emissions in the industrial sector.
- The Province is encouraging existing and new BC Hydro industrial customers to electrify their operations, through CleanBC Industrial Electrification Rates.
- In addition to the GHG benefits, incenting industrial electrification helps keep rates affordable for everyone, while supporting economic development.
- Following from Phase 2 of the BC Hydro Review, government announced the CleanBC Industrial Electrification Rates comprised of two categories – clean industry / innovation, and fuel switching.
- The rates provide a 7-year discount from BC Hydro's standard industrial electricity rate: 20% for the first 5 years; 13% in year 6; and 7% in year 7.
- The Phase 2 Review also recommended that BC Hydro consider flattening its default industrial rate to encourage electrification. BC Hydro is continuing to work with industry on potential rate designs.
- Government also announced that it directed $84.4 million from the Government of Canada's Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) to create the CleanBC Facilities Electrification Fund.
- The Fund helps reduce the capital costs of connecting to the electricity grid or upgrade existing connections in order to use more electricity and reduce or avoid greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- BC Hydro's Electrification Plan, released in September 2021, has a significant industrial electrification focus with an expectation of adding 2,800 gigawatt-hours of incremental load from the industrial sector alone.
- In addition to the CleanBC Industrial Rates and the CleanBC Facilities Electrification Fund, through its Electrification Plan BC Hydro will provide:
    - Over $60 million in incentives for industrial fuel switching;

- Up to $25 million in incentives and study funding for new customers; and
- Up to $20 million in incentives and study funding to support the production of hydrogen.

- The BC Hydro Electrification Plan will be reviewed by the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) as part of its revenue requirement application for fiscal years 2022/23 through 2024/25.
- With support from the federal government, BC Hydro is working to expand its transmission infrastructure to ensure that it has sufficient capacity to serve industrial facilities. For example:
  - The Peace Region Electricity Supply Project came into service in May 2021 with a capital contribution from the federal government under ICIP.
  - The North Montney Region Electrification Project is a proposed new transmission line in the northeast that was identified as a priority under the 2019 federal-provincial Memorandum of Understanding on Electrification. Work to advance this project is on pause as the Province completes its negotiations with the Blueberry River First Nation.

Background/Status:

- BC's industrial sector accounts for 40% of British Columbia (B.C.) GHG emissions, mostly due to compressors in the natural gas sector, diesel engines in mining and forestry, and process heat in the forest products industry. Industry represents the largest electrification opportunity to reduce emissions in B.C.
- However, even at $50/tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent, the use of BC Hydro's electricity for many industrial processes is not economic when compared to the current price of natural gas.
- To assist industry in transitioning to the use of clean electricity:
  - BC Hydro is offering CleanBC Industrial Electrification Rates and is also considering moving to a flat energy charge instead of the current default industrial two-tier rate;
  - Funding is available through the CleanBC Facilities Electrification Fund to help customers with the costs of connecting to BC Hydro; and
  - BC Hydro is planning to spend up to $105 million through its Electrification Plan to provide incentives.

CleanBC Industrial Electrification Rates

- The CleanBC Industrial Electrification Rates are intended to help existing and new industrial customers connect to BC Hydro's grid by offering discounted rates to encourage the use of clean electricity.

- There are two categories of rates available to BC Hydro's transmission service customers: the Clean Industry and Innovation Rate (Rate Schedule 1894); and the Fuel Switching Rate (Rate Schedule 1895). At present there are no customers on these rates; however, BC Hydro has applications that are under review.
- These rates are available to customers until March 31, 2030. The rates will expire on March 31, 2037, at which time, customers will be moved to the standard transmission service rate.
- The Clean Industry and Innovation Rate is available to two types of new customers:
  - Clean industry customer: A new customer plant that uses a process to remove GHGs from the atmosphere or produces a renewable or low carbon fuel. This could include: the production of hydrogen via electrolysis; the production of synthetic fuels from hydrogen, carbon dioxide or biomass; or the capture and/or storage of carbon dioxide.
  - Innovation customer: A new customer plant that is a data centre composed of networked computers and data storage used to organize, process, store and disseminate large amounts of data.
- The Fuel Switching Rate is designed to encourage existing and new industrial customers to electrify their operations by connecting into BC Hydro's grid, instead of relying on fossil fuels. The rate is available to a broad range of customers, including new customers who can demonstrate that connecting to the grid will reduce GHG emissions.
- The rate is also available to existing customers that modify or expand their plant to take additional electricity supplied by BC Hydro, thereby eliminating, or reducing fossil fuel use for their energy needs. Oil pipelines, oil refineries, methanol production, and LNG facilities are not eligible for the fuel switching rate.
- There is an energy cap of 5,000 gigawatt hours (GWh) a year for all customers under these rates, of which 1,500 GWh/year is allocated to customers under the Clean Industry and Innovation Rate and 3,500 GWh/year to customers under the Fuel Switching Rate. BC Hydro may assess and adjust the energy participation cap and allocation, as needed.

Flattening the Default Industrial Rate

- As part of the BC Hydro Review Phase 2, it was recommended that BC Hydro should consider moving to a flat energy charge for industrial customers instead of the current two-tier rate.
- Under the current industrial rate structure (Rate Schedule 1823), any increase in electricity use is subject to a higher rate. A flattened rate will help reduce the disincentive to grow or electrify more of industrial customers' operations.

- BC Hydro is working with industry stakeholders to explore potential rate designs to support increased electrification while minimizing costs to existing customers.

CleanBC Facilities Electrification Fund

- As part of a MOU between the federal government and the province on electrification, the province allocated $84 million of federal green infrastructure funding to create a CleanBC Facilities Electrification Fund in January 2021.
- The fund supports customers connecting to the BC Hydro grid who are proposing to fuel-switch existing or planned operations from carbon-based fuels. The fund is open to all customers including upstream oil and gas customers.
- Projects may receive funding to cover up to 50% of eligible costs to a maximum of $15 million per project and must be completed by spring 2027. Projects must support public infrastructure, so ownership of customer connections must be transferred to BC Hydro. The fund is open to both industrial and commercial BC Hydro customers.

BC Hydro Electrification Plan

- To assist in transitioning industry to cleaner forms of energy, BC Hydro released its $260 million Electrification Plan in September 2021.
- Of the additional 3,100 gigawatt-hours of load growth that is expected to result from the Electrification Plan, 2,800 gigawatt hours incremental load is anticipated in the industrial sector alone.
- The plan includes for industrial customers:
  - Over $60 million in incentives for fuel switching.
  - Up to $25 million in incentives and study funding for new customers.
  - Up to $20 million in incentives and study funding to support the production of hydrogen.
- BC Hydro is continuing to implement the plan, and is in the process of having it considered as part of its revenue requirement application to the BCUC for fiscal years 2022/23 through 2024/25.

MOU on the Electrification of Natural Gas and Liquefied Natural Gas Sectors

- In 2019, the Canada and the Province signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the Electrification of the Natural Gas and Liquefied Natural Gas Sectors.
- One of the projects identified by the two governments is the North Montney Region Electrification Project, a 100 – 200 kilometer transmission line in northeast B.C.
- Ministry and BC Hydro staff are working with the federal government, including the Canada Infrastructure Bank to advance the financial modelling, however, that work is currently on hold as the Province continues its negotiations with the Blueberry

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
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River First Nations and other Treaty 8 Nations following the June 2021 Yahey decision.

Contact:

Les MacLaren	Assistant Deputy Minister	Electricity and Alternative Energy Division	778-698-7183

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Honourable Bruce Ralston**

Title: Rates and Rate Design

Drafted: **March 18, 2022**

Issue: **BC Hydro is planning to make a submission to the BCUC for an update to its residential rate design.**

Response:

- Tiered electricity rates in British Columbia (BC) were designed to encourage electricity conservation, and they have accomplished that objective.
- As electricity prices increased, tiered rates have further increased the cost of electric heat and may discourage adoption of electric vehicles (EVs).
- Changes to rate structures are made through public processes before the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC), to ensure that all ratepayers' interests are considered.

Advice/Recommentations

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Background/Status:

- Both BC Hydro and FortisBC currently have two-tiered rates for residential customers based on electricity consumption, although FortisBC is currently in the process of transitioning to a single tiered flat rate.
- Customers are charged one rate for electricity up to a certain threshold in each billing period, and a higher rate for all electricity use beyond that threshold. This "tiered" rate was designed to reflect approximate long-term costs of new supply to encourage conservation, although in recent years the tiers have become significantly more expensive than the cost of new supply.
- Charges for FortisBC's Residential Conservation Rate (RCR) residential rates are as follows:
  - Customer Charge $39.64 based on 60-day billing period;
  - First 1,600 kilowatt hours (kWh) are billed at 12.365¢ per kWh; and

- Additional kWh are billed at 13.713¢ per kWh.

- This is similar in design and intent to BC Hydro's Residential Inclining Block (RIB) rate. BC Hydro's RIB rate is lower and is currently:
  - Customer basic charge of 20.77¢ per day (~$12.67 per 2-month billing period);
  - Step 1 is 9.39¢ per kWh for the first 1,350 kWh in an average two-month billing period (22 kWh per day); and
  - Step 2 is 14.08¢ per kWh over the 1,350 kWh Step 1 threshold.

  BC Hydro's rates increased by 1.16% on April 1, 2021 after a 1.62% rate decrease for Fiscal 2021.

- Single-family homes, those using electricity for space and water heating, and those with pools, hot tubs, EV service equipment, poor insulation, multigenerational families, and secondary suites are among the types of residences that are likely to use more power and experience higher electricity bills under tiered rates than under the flat rate charged by New Westminster's municipal utility.

- Natural gas utilities, such as FortisBC, advertise a cost comparison between natural gas and the second-tier electric rate to pursuade customers to switch to natural gas for space and water heating.

- Some customers believe they are being penalized if they have consumption in the higher second tier. Customers can have considerable annual consumption at the higher Tier 2 rate (about 40%) and still be better off than under the former flat rate. Customers with a Tier 2 consumption greater than 40% of annual consumption are worse off.

- In its decision on FortisBC's 2017 Rate Design Application, and with the support of most of FortisBC's customer groups, the BCUC approved FortisBC's plan to phase out the RCR over five years resulting in a single flat rate by 2023.

<u>Alternative Rate Designs:</u>

- While the RCR and RIB rates are meeting their conservation objectives, evidence suggests that they are working against electrification by increasing the cost of high-efficiency electric heat in single-family homes and EV charging, thereby increasing a perception of a higher price for electricity relative to natural gas and other fuels.

- GeoExchange BC, an organization advocating for ground sourced heat pumps, has advocated for a flat rate in order to compete with natural gas space and water heating. Feedback on incentives through the Better Homes program also suggests that the RIB rate is a barrier to uptake of its keystone measure, incentives for high-efficiency air source heat pumps.

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Honourable Bruce Ralston**

- The underlying conservation objectives and the design of the RIB and RCR rates, which were put in place in the early 2010s, were based on anticipated high load growth, cheap "heritage" electricity, and expensive new supply.
- With higher electricity prices, lower cost of new supply, and an emphasis on efficient electrification to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, a high second tier no longer reflects the cost of new supply or Provincial energy policy. Furthermore, the effect of the RIB and RCR rates on conservation have largely been achieved with a limited ability to encourage more and on-going conservation.
- In its decision on BC Hydro's Fiscal 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 Revenue Requirements Application, the BCUC noted it shared customer groups' concerns that BC Hydro's current rate design may be out of date and may no longer achieve the objectives that it was meant to achieve.
- As part of the second phase of the Comprehensive Review of BC Hydro (Phase 2), the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, BC Hydro, and energy industry experts looked at rate designs that could support GHG emission reductions.
- Phase 2 found the two-tier rate structure made sense when BC Hydro was in deficit and cost of additional electricity supply was much higher than it is today.
- It also noted that optional rates, such as an optional time of use rate, an interruptible rate allowing BC Hydro to manage hot water heating, or a discounted rate for heat pumps, could provide customers with more choice, make electricity more affordable, and reduce emissions.
- Advice/Recommentations

- Mandatory time of use rates will not be brought forward.
- It is ultimately a BCUC decision, informed by evidence and arguments, whether to approve BC Hydro's rate design proposals.
- However, to maintain affordability and support CleanBC, Government is considering a direction to:
  - Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations

Impacts of Tiered Rates at Different Household Incomes:

- While energy use is not strongly associated with income in BC, customers with higher energy use pay more under inclining block rates.
- The BCUC's 2017 Residential Inclining Block Rate report (RIB Report) found that most customers paid lower rates under the RCR in every income bracket, although a somewhat higher proportion of households with at least $80,000 in household income paid higher bills under tiered rates.
- The same report found some correlation between income and electricity consumption across most income groups for BC Hydro.
- BC Hydro customers with household income of less than $20,000 were likely to have lower than average consumption and households with income of $120,000 or more were likely to have higher than average consumption; however, some customers in each income bracket consumed in the highest use bands.
- Overall, BC Hydro's input to the RIB Report found that nearly 90% of its low-income customers paid lower bills under the RIB rate, 7% paid higher bills, and 1% had bills more than 10% higher as a result of the RIB rate.
- However, the smaller group of BC Hydro customers with low incomes and high energy consumption are particularly impacted by the RIB rate. In BC Hydro's evaluation report for the first year of the Customer Crisis Fund (CCF), submitted to the BCUC in 2019, it noted that the average CCF applicant used over 15,000 kWh per year. For BC Hydro's customers, the average consumption was under 10,000 kWh per year.
- The majority of CCF applicants were among the highest-consumption quartile of BC Hydro customers while only 4% of applicants were among the lowest-quartile.
- When FortisBC applied to the BCUC to flatten its tiered rate structure in 2017, the BC Old Age Pensioners Association and other anti-poverty groups supported the proposal.
- In its decision to phase out FortisBC's tiered rate, the BCUC found that the bill impacts of moving to a flat rate were adequately addressed by FortisBC's proposed five-year transition plan.
- BC Hydro and FortisBC each have energy efficiency programs to help with low-income affordability.
- Both utilities offer free energy savings kits to help low-income homes reduce their energy use, as well as an Energy Conservation Assistance Program to provide advice on saving energy and free installation of energy-saving products.

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Honourable Bruce Ralston**

- BC Hydro's CCF provides grants to qualifying customers experiencing a temporary financial crisis, such as loss of employment or benefit income, unanticipated medical expenses, or a death in the family and who have fallen behind on their BC Hydro bills.

Cross Reference: 9 – Affordability and BC Hydro Rates

Contact:

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2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
Minister Responsible: Honourable Bruce Ralston

Title: Enabling LNG Marine Bunkering at the Port of Vancouver

Revised: March 21, 2022

Issue: Advice/Recommentations

Response:

- LNG marine bunkering in British Columbia (BC) has the potential to bring broad economic benefits, increase the competitiveness at the Port of Vancouver, and improve the economic strength of the broader marine and natural gas sectors.
- Demand is estimated to be up to almost 1 million tonnes of LNG per year in 2030, with the Container and Tanker segments offering the biggest opportunity, potentially taking more than 50% of the FortisBC's' planned Phase 1B capacity expansion of its Tilbury facility. FortisBC is also working to develop its export and shipping container market segments.
- The Port of Vancouver is well-positioned to establish a ship-to-ship LNG marine bunkering (fuelling) service, one of the first of its kind on the west coast of North America.
- LNG-fuelled ships are able to meet new international emission guidelines and this initiative would give BC and Canada a head-start on a competitive service that will have a positive environmental impact and provide significant benefits to the provincial economy.
- Work on the necessary components is underway: plans for the expansion of FortisBC's existing Tilbury LNG facility in Delta, including a fuelling jetty, are in the environmental assessment process; and support from an incentive available under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Clean Energy) Regulation (GGRR) has allowed Seaspan to order three LNG fueling vessels.

Background/Status:

- The International Maritime Organization's January 1, 2020 Sulphur Cap bans ships trading inside Sulphur Emission Control Areas (those areas following coast lines and including ports) from using marine fuels with a sulphur content higher than 0.5%. The global impact of this cap makes switching to a low-sulphur fuel like LNG attractive to ship owners.
- Advice/Recommentations

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Honourable Bruce Ralston**

- Under the previous government, directions were made to the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) to support FortisBC in expanding its LNG facilities near the port to strengthen energy system resiliency and position BC for activities in LNG bunkering.

- For example, under Direction Number 5 to the BCUC (Direction 5), the Province has required the BCUC to allow FortisBC to spend:

    - up to $425 million to expand its existing LNG liquefaction and storage facilities at Tilbury (Phase 1A). The direction also established a liquefaction tariff; and
    - an additional $400 million to further expand Tilbury (referred to as Phase 1B), and

  to recover these costs from its ratepayers.

- In addition to Direction 5, the previous government enabled FortisBC to spend up to another $120 million to promote LNG for the marine sector under the GGRR, with up to $50 million for a dedicated LNG powered marine bunkering vessel to kick start the LNG bunkering market.

- Exempting utilities from BCUC regulatory approvals has benefits:
    - Eases costly and time-consuming regulatory hurdles for utilities when making Final Investment Decisions (FID), and
    - Ensures Government objectives, such as GHG reduction, are at the forefront of the decision-making process.

- Advice/Recommentations

- Advancing the Phase 1B expansion is contingent on two separate elements:
Business Information; Advice/Recommentations

- The Tilbury Marine Jetty includes the berthing and transferring of LNG via pipeline from the adjacent FortisBC Tilbury LNG Plant to marine barges and carriers for delivery to local fuel markets and offshore export markets. The

project will require the removal of existing abandoned marine infrastructure, the construction of a new marine jetty, the construction of LNG infrastructure to receive processed LNG for transfer to marine vessels, and safety and process control systems.

- Business Information; Advice/Recommentations

- FortisBC also intends to build a further expansion, Phase 2, under a non-regulated entity and submitted its application to the Environmental Assessment Office in March 2020 for the required environmental certificates. The application is now in the public comment phase.
- Concerns about the cumulative effects on the environment and Indigenous rights have been raised by Tsawwassen, Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations in the environmental assessment processes for the marine jetty and Phase 2 respecting the Tilbury expansion.
- A number of municipalities are opposed to the Phase 2 expansion of the Tilbury LNG facility in Delta. A 2021 Union of BC Municipalities resolution (NR32) called for an inter-agency, Fraser River Estuary Management planning process and collaboration with federal, provincial, municipal and Indigenous levels of government.

Attachments: Proposed Tilbury LNG Facility (see next page)

Cross Reference: n/a

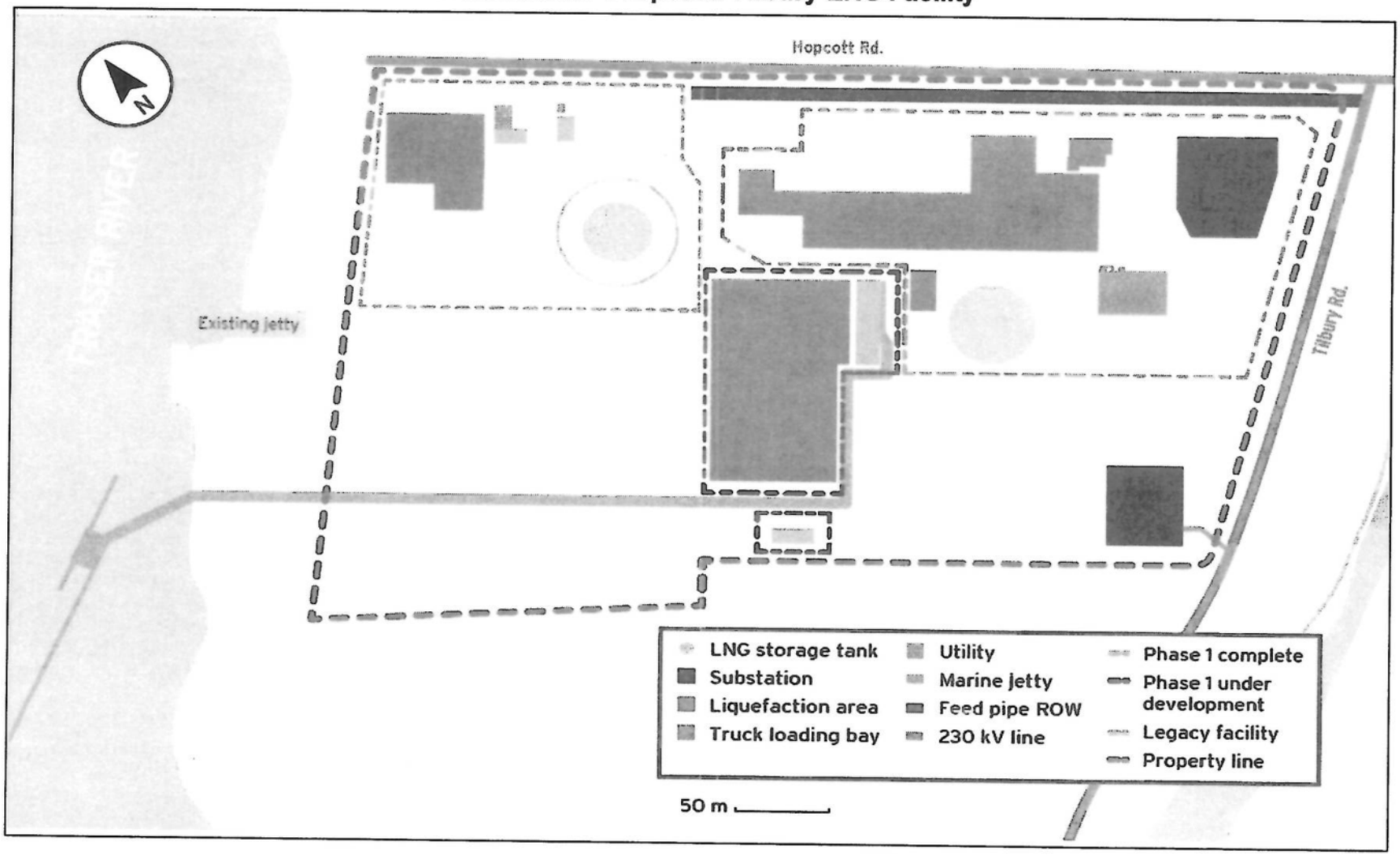
Contact:

Les MacLaren	Assistant Deputy Minister	Electricity and Alternative Energy Division	778 698-7183

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
Minister Responsible: Honourable Bruce Ralston

Attachment: Proposed Tilbury LNG Facility



2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
Minister Responsible: Honourable Bruce Ralston

Title: B.C. Hydrogen Strategy

Drafted/Revised: March 21, 2022

Issue: B.C. Hydrogen Strategy

Response:

- CleanBC committed the Province to develop a hydrogen strategy (Strategy).
- Hydrogen will be required if the Province is to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050, as hydrogen is one of the only practical replacements for fossil fuels in the hardest-to-abate sectors.
- The Strategy highlights British Columbia's (B.C.) leadership in hydrogen and fuel cells and hydrogen's role in decarbonizing transportation, natural gas, and industry while creating clean jobs and economic opportunities across the Province.
- The B.C. Hydrogen Strategy includes 63 policy actions that support and promote the production, use and export of hydrogen in B.C. over the next 10 years, and beyond. The five initial priorities for 2022/23 are: Committing $5 million to a $15 million hydrogen blending study, establishing a declining carbon intensity threshold, planning hydrogen hubs, performing regulatory mapping, and developing a carbon dioxide storage atlas for Northeastern B.C.
- B.C. has proposed the establishment of a joint Federal-Provincial Inter-Agency Hydrogen Table to develop hydrogen projects in the Province.

Background:

B.C. Hydrogen Strategy Implementation:

- The Strategy builds upon B.C.'s globally recognized hydrogen and fuel cell leadership, and its abundant clean energy resources.
- The Strategy includes 63 policy actions that clarify how the Province will support and promote the production, use and export of hydrogen in B.C. over the next 10 years and beyond.
- Currently, B.C. is progressing five initial priorities that have been identified as key to growing B.C.'s hydrogen sector.

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Honourable Bruce Ralston**

- These initial priorities are:
    - Committing $5 million to a $15 million hydrogen blending study jointly led by Enbridge, FortisBC and Pacific Northern Gas to examine the technical, economic, and regulatory requirements to introduce hydrogen into B.C.'s natural gas pipeline transmission and distribution network;
    - Establishing a declining carbon intensity threshold for low-carbon hydrogen production to align with our net-zero by 2050 target;
    - Developing Hydrogen Investment Blueprints to promote hydrogen commercialization in regional hydrogen hubs;
    - Identifying legislative and regulatory gaps for project development; and,
    - Developing a carbon dioxide storage atlas to quantify the geological storage capacity of Northeastern B.C. and enable the development of low-carbon hydrogen from natural gas.
- EMLI has signed a Trusted Partnership with the B.C Centre for Innovation and Clean Energy (Centre) to collaborate in areas that support the Province's clean energy objectives and more specifically, in areas that align with the initial implementation priorities of the Strategy.
- This partnership will enable the Province to leverage the Centre's ability to act with more autonomy and flexibility than the government to rapidly progress shared climate objectives, and the Centre to build its brand as a key contributor to decarbonization.
- The Centre is a member-based non-profit that became operational in October 2021.
- The Centre is funded by $35 million from B.C., $35 million from the federal government, and $35 million from Shell for a total of $105 million to support the growth of clean, innovative technologies, including hydrogen.
- A streamlined and harmonized regulatory framework is required to attract new investments and enable timely and successful development of hydrogen projects in B.C. To achieve this, the Province has proposed to Canada the establishment of a joint Federal-Provincial Inter-Agency Hydrogen Table with representatives of both government levels to:
    - Collaborate on investor/stakeholder relations for large, complex hydrogen projects;
    - Coordinate on the initial screening of projects to identify key projects with high domestic strategic value warranting Federal and Provincial support; and,
    - Advance an efficient regulatory and permitting framework.

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Honourable Bruce Ralston**

Cross Reference: 25 - British Columbia Centre for Innovation and Clean Energy

Contact:

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202/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low-Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Honourable Bruce Ralston**

Title: British Columbia Centre for Innovation and Clean Energy

Revised: March 21, 2022

Issue: Supporting innovation and the commercialization of clean energy projects to meet CleanBC targets

Response:

- In September 2021, as part of StrongerBC, the British Columbia Centre for Innovation and Clean Energy (CICE or Centre) was announced and became operational on October 25, 2021.
- CICE is funded by $35 million from B.C., $35 million from the federal government, and $35 million from Shell, for a total of $105 million.
- CICE's focus will initiate new technology pathways that accelerate larger reductions on the path to net-zero emissions by 2050.
- In February 2022, CICE and the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI) established a five-year Trusted Partnership and Shared Cost Arrangement (SCA) to collaborate on implementation of the B.C. Hydrogen Strategy (Strategy).
- To achieve four objectives as part of the initial Strategy implementation, EMLI's financial contribution will support the development of the following four studies:
  1. Hydrogen Production Carbon Intensity Threshold Study;
  2. Hydrogen Investment Blueprint – Metro Vancouver Region "Hubs";
  3. Regulatory Mapping Study; and,
  4. Northeast B.C. Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Atlas.
- EMLI has transfered $998,000 to CICE for the purpose of hiring external consultants to complete the four deliverables on EMLI's behalf.

Background/Status:

- CICE is a member-based, non-profit corporation designed to support the development and global scaling of B.C. based energy technologies, including hydrogen, with the primary focus on commercialization.
- CICE provides early-stage opportunities in the following areas prioritized for funding and project delivery; the production, use and distribution of low carbon hydrogen, carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS); biofuels and synthetic fuels (including marine and aviation fuels); renewable natural gas; and battery technology, storage and energy management systems.

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Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low-Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Honourable Bruce Ralston**

- CICE's intent is to attract a wide range of companies and partners that share a common focus on low-carbon innovation and scaling up B.C.-based clean-energy technology.
- By design, CICE's mandate and priorities are very closely aligned with EMLI's work on decarbonization and energy system transformation, as well as the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 objectives to build B.C.'s low carbon economy.
- EMLI and CICE officials agree that maintaining a consistent and open line of communication, such as that permitted through a Trusted Partnership agreement, will optimize progress towards shared priorities.

Cross Reference: 24 - BC Hydrogen Strategy

Contact:

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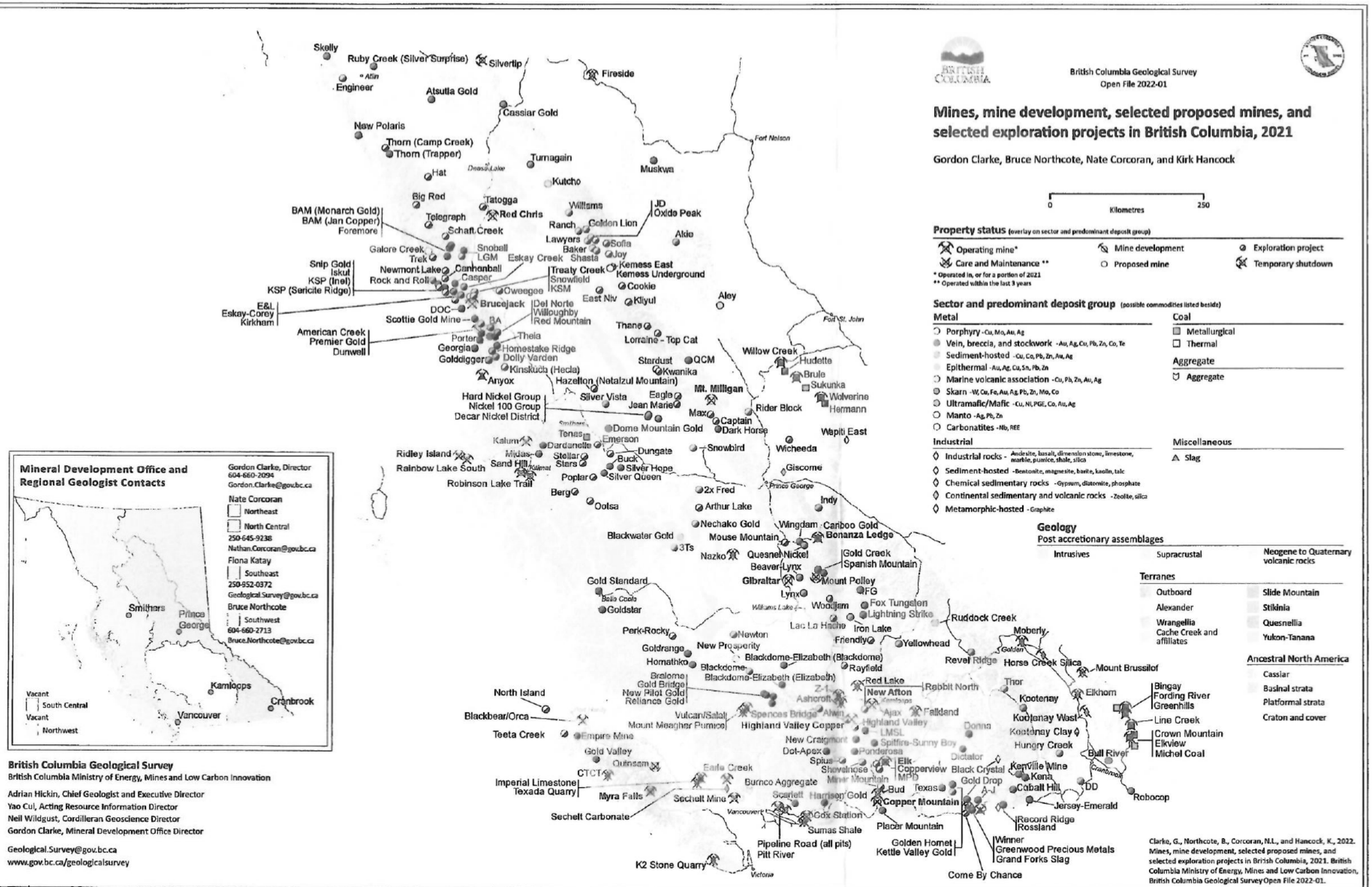
British Columbia Geological Survey
Open File 2022-01
Mines, mine development, selected proposed mines, and selected exploration projects in British Columbia, 2021
Gordon Clarke, Bruce Northcote, Nate Corcoran, and Kirk Hancock
0
Kilometres
250
Property status (overlay on sector and predominant deposit group)
Operating mine*
Care and Maintenance **
Mine development
Proposed mine
Exploration project
Temporary shutdown
* Operated in, or for a portion of 2021
** Operated within the last 3 years
Sector and predominant deposit group (possible commodities listed beside)
Metal
Porphyry -Cu, Mo, Au, Ag
Vein, breccia, and stockwork -Au, Ag, Cu, Pb, Zn, Co, Te
Sediment-hosted -Cu, Co, Pb, Zn, Au, Ag
Epithermal -Au, Ag, Cu, Sn, Pb, Zn
Marine volcanic association -Cu, Pb, Zn, Au, Ag
Skarn -W, Cu, Fe, Au, Ag, Pb, Zn, Mo, Co
Ultramafic/Mafic -Cu, Ni, PGE, Co, Au, Ag
Manto -Ag, Pb, Zn
Carbonatites -Nb, REE
Industrial
Industrial rocks - Andesite, basalt, dimension stone, limestone, marble, pumice, shale, silica
Sediment-hosted -Bentonite, magnesite, barite, kaolin, talc
Chemical sedimentary rocks -Gypsum, diatomite, phosphate
Continental sedimentary and volcanic rocks -Zeolite, silica
Metamorphic-hosted -Graphite
Coal
Metallurgical
Thermal
Aggregate
Aggregate
Miscellaneous
Slag
Geology
Post accretionary assemblages
Intrusives
Supracrustal
Neogene to Quaternary volcanic rocks
Terranes
Outboard
Alexander
Wrangellia
Cache Creek and affiliates
Slide Mountain
Stikinia
Quesnellia
Yukon-Tanana
Ancestral North America
Cassiar
Basinal strata
Platformal strata
Craton and cover
Skelly
Ruby Creek (Silver Surprise)
Silvertip
Atlin
Engineer
Atsutla Gold
Cassiar Gold
Fireside
New Polaris
Thorn (Camp Creek)
Thorn (Trapper)
Turnagain
Fort Nelson
Dease Lake
Hat
Muskwa
Kutcho
Big Red
Tatogga
Williams
JD
Oxide Peak
BAM (Monarch Gold)
BAM (Jan Copper)
Foremore
Telegraph
Red Chris
Ranch
Golden Lion
Schaft Creek
Lawyers
Sofia
Akie
Galore Creek
Trek
Snoball
LGM
Eskay Creek
Baker
Shasta
Joy
Snip Gold
Iskut
KSP (Inel)
KSP (Sericite Ridge)
Newmont Lake
Rock and Roll
Canhanball
Casper
Treaty Creek
Snowfield
KSM
Kemess East
Kemess Underground
Cookie
Oweegee
East Niv
Kliyul
Aley
Fort St. John
E&L
Eskay-Corey
Kirkham
DOC
Brucejack
Del Norte
Willoughby
Red Mountain
Scottie Gold Mine
BA
Thane
Lorraine - Top Cat
American Creek
Premier Gold
Dunwell
Porter
Theia
Georgia
Homestake Ridge
Golddigger
Dolly Varden
Kinskuch (Hecla)
Willow Creek
Hudette
Brule
Sukunka
Wolverine
Hermann
Stardust
QCM
Kwanika
Anyox
Hazelton (Netalzul Mountain)
Mt. Milligan
Rider Block
Hard Nickel Group
Nickel 100 Group
Decar Nickel District
Silver Vista
Eagle
Jean Marie
Max
Captain
Dark Horse
Wapiti East
Smithers
Dome Mountain Gold
Tenas
Kalum
Dardanelle
Emerson
Wicheeda
Ridley Island
Rainbow Lake South
Midas
Sand Hill
Stellar
Stars
Dungate
Buck
Silver Hope
Snowbird
Giscome
Robinson Lake Trail
Poplar
Silver Queen
Prince George
Berg
2x Fred
Ootsa
Arthur Lake
Indy
Nechako Gold
Wingdam
Caribou Gold
Bonanza Ledge
Blackwater Gold
Mouse Mountain
3Ts
Nazko
Quesnel Nickel
Gold Creek
Spanish Mountain
Beaver-Lynx
Gibraltar
Mount Polley
FG
Lynx
Gold Standard
Baja Cooks
Goldstar
Williams Lake
Woodjam
Fox Tungsten
Lightning Strike
Ruddock Creek
Lac La Hache
Iron Lake
Perk-Rocky
Newton
Friendly
Yellowhead
Moberly
Golden
Goldrange
New Prosperity
Revel Ridge
Horse Creek Silica
Mount Brussilof
Homathko
Blackdome-Elizabeth (Blackdome)
Rayfield
Blackdome
Blackdome-Elizabeth (Elizabeth)
Bralorne
Gold Bridge
New Pilot Gold
Reliance Gold
Red Lake
Rabbit North
Thor
Elkhorn
Bingay
Fording River
Greenhills
Line Creek
Crown Mountain
Elkview
Michel Coal
North Island
Blackbear/Orca
Vulcan/Salal
Mount Meagher Pumice
Spences Bridge
Alwin
Highland Valley Copper
Ajax
Falkland
Donna
Highland Valley
LMSL
Teeta Creek
Empire Mine
New Craigmont
Spitfire-Sunny Boy
Dot-Apex
Ponderosa
Dictator
Gold Valley
Quinsam
Spius
Elk
Copperview
MPD
Shovelnose
Minor Mountain
Black Crystal
Gold Drop
A-J
Kootenay
Kootenay West
Kootenay Clay
Hungry Creek
Bull River
Cranbrook
Kenville Mine
Kena
Cobalt Hill
DD
Robocop
Jersey-Emerald
Record Ridge
Rossland
CTCT
Imperial Limestone
Texada Quarry
Myra Falls
Sechelt Mine
Earle Creek
Burnco Aggregate
Scarlett
Harrison Gold
Bud
Texas
Copper Mountain
Sechelt Carbonate
Vancouver
Cox Station
Sumas Shale
Placer Mountain
Pipeline Road (all pits)
Pitt River
Golden Hornet
Kettle Valley Gold
Winner
Greenwood Precious Metals
Grand Forks Slag
Come By Chance
K2 Stone Quarry
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South Central
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Smithers
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Kamloops
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Vancouver
British Columbia Geological Survey
British Columbia Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
Adrian Hickin, Chief Geologist and Executive Director
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2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
Minister Responsible: Bruce Ralston

Title: Mining Exploration Tax Incentive Programs

Revised: March 15, 2022

Issue: **British Columbia's mining exploration tax incentive programs include the BC Mining Flow Through Share Tax Credit and the BC Mining Exploration Tax Credit. Both programs encourage exploration - a critical part of discovering sites for new mines.**

Response:

- British Columbia's (BC) mineral exploration incentive programs include the BC Mining Flow-Through Share Tax Credit (MFTS) and the BC Mining Exploration Tax Credit (METC).
- Both programs encourage investment in mineral exploration, which is a critical part of discovering new mineral deposits which can lead to the development of new mines throughout the Province.
- The MFTS and the METC programs are highly competitive nationally and were made permanent in 2019 as recommended by the Mining Jobs Task Force (MJTF).
- At the beginning of September 2020, the eligibility period for flow-through share purchases was extended from 24 months to 36 months as a COVID-19 provincial support measure.
- Government will continue to evaluate the MJTF recommendation to increase the MFTS and METC.

Background/Status:

Provincial Exploration Tax Incentives

- The MFTS provides a 20 percent non-refundable tax credit to individuals who invest in flow-through shares associated with BC flow-through mining expenditures. The MFTS is completely harmonized with the federal Mineral Exploration Tax Credit for flow-through shares making the after-tax cost of qualifying flow-through share-financed grassroots exploration expenditures in BC among the lowest in Canada.
- The METC is a refundable tax credit equal to 20 percent of non-flow-through funded, eligible BC grassroots mineral exploration expenditures incurred after July 31, 1998. In Mountain Pine Beetle-affected areas, the METC has been increased by 10 percent to 30 percent for eligible exploration.

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Bruce Ralston**

- The MFTS and METC were made permanent as part of BC's 2019 budget. The credits had previously been renewed on an annual basis.
- At the beginning of September 2020, the eligibility period for flow-through share purchases was extended from 24 months to 36 months as a COVID-19 provincial support measure. This aligns with the Federal extension announced in July 2020. Extending the eligibility period provided exploration companies additional time to incur and renounce expenditures associated with flow-through share purchases made by investors in 2019 and 2020.
- Over the past five years (FY16/17 to 20/21), the METC and MFTS have been estimated to cost the Province $32 million annually.
- BC had the third highest mineral exploration and deposit appraisal expenditures in Canada in 2021 at $813 milion. Ontario ($878) and Quebec ($965) are the only two provinces ranking higher than BC. Preliminary spending estimates published by NRCan project BC to surpass Quebec in expenditures in 2022.
- Both Quebec and Ontario have tax incentives for flow-through share investors while Quebec offers an additional tax incentive program similar to BC's METC program (Appendix 1).
- Advice/Recommentations

<u>Federal Exploration Tax Incentives</u>

- The federal Flow-Through Shares program allows companies to flow qualifying Canadian Exploration Expenses through to investors who can then deduct those expenses from otherwise taxable income. This encourages exploration by reducing the amount of funds the investor has at risk. Companies issuing the shares and their investors typically share any gains associated with exploration.
- The federal Mineral Exploration Tax Credit is a non-refundable, 15 percent tax credit for grassroots exploration expenses pursuant to a Flow-Through Share Agreement. The federal government announced in November 2018 that it would extend its METC credit for five years to 2024. The credit had previously been renewed on an annual basis.

Attachments: Appendix 1 – Exploration Tax Incentives in Canada
Appendix 2 – Exploration and Deposit Appraisal Expenditures

Contact:

Peter Robb	ADM	MCAD	Government Financial Information

Ministry: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
Minister Responsible: Bruce Ralston

Appendix 1 – Exploration Tax Incentives in Canada

Jurisdiction	Incentive	Rate
BC	Mining Flow-Through Share Tax Credit (non-refundable)	20 percent (Mining Jobs Task Force proposed increase to 35 percent for 3-year trial)
	BC Mining Exploration Tax Credit (refundable)	20 percent to 30 percent (Mountain Pine Beetle-affected areas) (MJTF proposed increase to 30 percent for 3-year trial)
Ontario	Focused Flow-Through Share Tax Credit (refundable)	5 percent
	Ontario Focused Flow-Through Share Tax Credit (non-refundable)	5 percent
Alberta	Mineral Exploration Tax Credit	15 percent on eligible expenses
Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan Mineral Exploration Tax Credit (non-refundable)	10 percent
Manitoba	Manitoba Mineral Exploration Tax Credit	Progressive rates; 17 percent when total operator's profit is over $105 million
Quebec	Tax Credit Relating to Resources (operators) (refundable)	12 percent 18.75 percent (Near and Far North)
	Tax Credit Relating to Resources (explorers) (refundable)	28 percent 38.75 percent (Near and Far North)
	Flow-Through Share deductions	Up to 20 percent
Yukon	Mineral Exploration Program – Hardrock (Total Program funding is approximately $2.5 million)	100 percent up to $15,000 (prospecting in new areas) 75 percent up to $25,000 (under-explored areas) 50 percent up to $40,000 (to develop project to advanced exploration stage, including placer)

Ministry: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
Minister Responsible: Bruce Ralston

Appendix 2 – Exploration and Deposit Appraisal Expenditures in Canada, 2018-2022, $M

Jurisdiction	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (estimate)
BC	427.9	388.7	513.5	813	851.9
Quebec	564.8	503.2	534.0	964.5	806.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	47.1	50.3	74.3	145.6	188.8
Nova Scotia	40.4	37.9	26.3	50.2	40.4
New Brunswick	25.6	12.7	14.1	21.1	27.4
Ontario	591.4	523.2	566.2	877.8	911.9
Manitoba	49.7	77.5	61.7	120.3	154.6
Saskatchewan	261.9	277.5	158.5	269.2	362.8
Alberta	26.6	53.2	46.6	25.9	26.4
Yukon	182.3	166.2	83.6	135.1	157.9
Northwest Territories	112	79.8	41.9	68.1	69.4
Nunavut	155.6	116.4	70.7	149.2	143.2

Source: Natural Resources Canada, from the federal-provincial/territorial Survey of Mineral Exploration, Deposit Appraisal and Mine Complex Development Expenditures
Quebec data are compiled by l'Institut de la statistique du Quebec

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
Minister Responsible: Bruce Ralston

Title: Royalty Review – Progress and Outcomes

Drafted/Revised: March 17, 2022

Issue: Progress of the Oil and Natural Gas Royalty review and outcomes

Response:

- The Mandate letter included direction to review oil and natural gas royalty credits to ensure they meet the Province's goals for economic development, a fair return on our resources, and environmental protection.
- The royalty framework was established 30 years ago at a time when technologies and market conditions were very different than they are today.
- The system has become complex due to overlapping changes and incentive programs intended to address issues at the time they occur to maintain a competitive industry in the province.
- An Independent Assessment of the current framework recommended a complete reform and highlighted issues with overlapping and inefficient incentive programs
- During the review, the Ministry undertook extensive consultation with affected First Nations and a public engagement which resulted in a significant amount of feedback from the public.
- The recommended framework is based on feedback and seeks to balance the goals of the review
- I expect to announce the results of the review later this spring.

Background/Status:

- The current oil and natural gas royalty framework was created almost 30 years ago when technologies and market conditions were very different from today.
- The royalty review began with an Independent Assessment which was completed by two academics. They identified several issues with the current system resulting from overlapping changes and recommended a comprehensive reform.
- The Ministry released the Independent Assessment and a discussion paper for public consultation through govTogetherBC from November 10 to December 10, 2021. Feedback was received from members of the public, Indigenous peoples, civil society groups, oil and natural gas producers, industry associations and interest groups.
- A subsequent review was undertaken with the help of independent consultants with expertise in market valuation, competitiveness, economic modelling and emission modelling across the oil and gas sector.

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Minister Responsible: **Bruce Ralston**

- The Ministry has also undertaken extensive consultation with First Nations directly impacted by oil and natural gas activities in northeast British Columbia (BC).
- Feedback from First Nations is closely aligned to public feedback where the goal of environmental protection should be prioritized due to the cumulative impacts of oil and natural gas development in northeast BC.
- First Nations have also expressed support for maintaining a competitive investment regime that provides First Nations a greater share of economic benefits.
- First Nations and public feedback also indicated a preference for an immediate end to incentive programs that inadvertently result in negative impacts to the environment. These include incentive programs that can promote development of inefficient and emissions-intensive wells which could be reclaimed sooner.

Based on the recommendations, analysis and feedback, the Ministry has developed options for a revised royalty policy framework with an expected announcement later this spring.

Cross Reference: Royalty Programs
Royalty Review – Consultation Process and Comments Received
Deep Well Royalty Credit

Contact:

Nathaniel Amann-Blake	ADM	Oil and Gas Division	250-889-1990

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
Minister Responsible: Bruce Ralston

Title: Royalty Review – Consultation Process and Comments Received

Drafted/Revised: Drafted March 10, 2022

Issue: Public feedback on Royalty Policy options

Response:

- The oil and gas royalty review included a public engagement initiative that invited feedback from the public as well as industry and non-government organizations.
- There was a strong participation in the engagement, with many citizens, interest groups, academics, and industry providing comments about potential royalty policy options.
- Results of the engagement show that most respondents are in favour of updating the royalty regime to reflect government's current goals.
- There was a strong focus from the public to eliminate inefficient royalty programs and a focus on environmental protection.
- Directly affected First Nations were consulted in a parallel process and identified their priority as environmental protection followed by a fair return shared with communities most affected by oil and gas development.

Background:

- The British Columbia (BC) Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation has undertaken a review of its oil and gas royalty system to ensure it achieves government's objectives of economic development, fair return on resources, and environmental protection.
- A public engagement was arranged through a public website (govTogetherBC) that enabled citizens, interest groups and industry to provide comment on a range of policy options.
- In total, 938 completed surveys were received during the engagement, as well as 4,632 emails and 98 formal written submissions.
- Overall, the general public and various non-profit organizations are in favour of updating the royalty regime, and to use it as a tool for Government to pursue its net-zero emissions goals laid out in the Roadmap to 2030 plan.
- First Nations most affected by current and anticipated oil and gas development are in northeast BC and were consulted directly through a process in parallel with the public consultation.

- First Nations were supportive of updating the royalty framework in a manner that meets government's commitments to reconciliation.
- First Nations identified environmental protection as their main priority and indicated it should be expanded beyond emissions reduction.
- First Nations also indicated the royalty framework should collect more in revenue and revenue should be shared fairly with impacted communities.

- Industry submissions emphasized that:
  - Economic development and competitiveness should be a top priority for a new royalty framework,
  - A revenue-minus-cost model in a new royalty framework,
  - Government should honour already-earned credits, and largely retain current systems of royalty credits.

Attachments: Table 1: Survey Respondents, by Region
Figure 1: Survey Respondents, by Interest Group
Table 2: Written Submissions Received, by Interest Group

Cross Reference: Royalty Review, Oil and Gas Subsidies

Contact:

Nathaniel Amann-Blake	ADM	Oil and Gas Division	250-889-1990

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

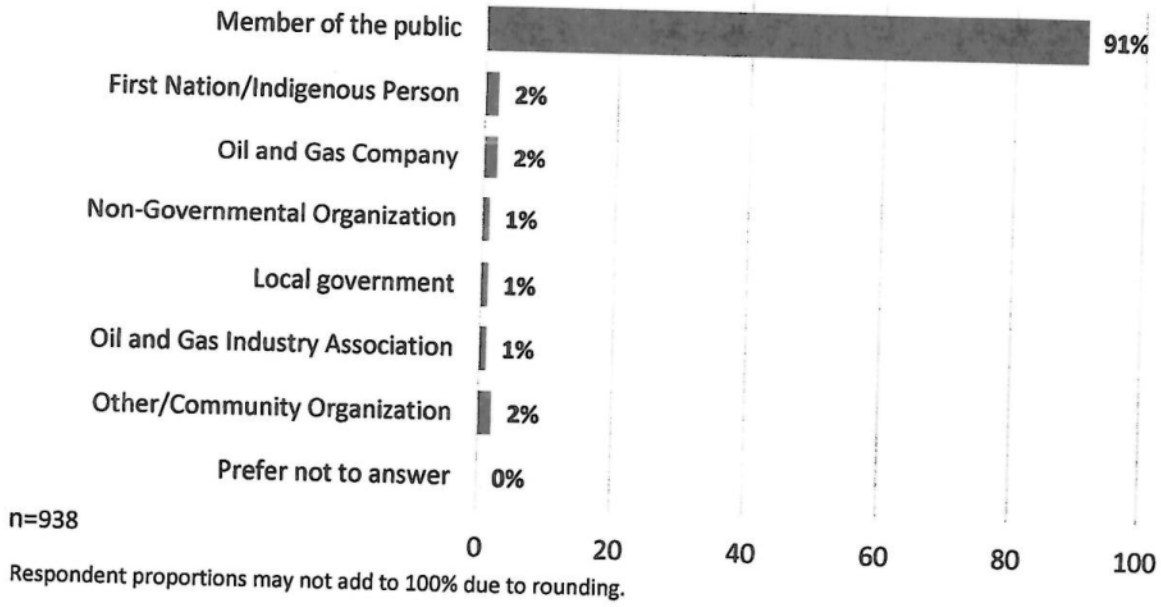
Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Bruce Ralston**

Table 1: Survey Respondents, by Region

Region	Respondent *n*	Respondent Proportion	Population Proportion*
Mainland/Southwest	337	36%	61%
Vancouver Island/Coast	344	37%	17%
Thompson-Okanagan	67	7%	12%
Kootenay	58	6%	3%
North Coast & Nechako	22	2%	2%
Northeast	46	5%	1%
Cariboo	26	3%	3%
Outside of B.C.	37	4%	-
Prefer not to answer	1	0%	-
Total	938	100%	-

Respondent proportions may not add to 100% due to rounding.
* Population proportions based on economic regions data from 2016 Census.

Figure 1: Survey Respondents, by Interest Group



Respondent proportions may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Table 2: Written Submissions Received, by Interest Group

Interest Group	Submissions Received
Academics and Post-Secondary Institutions	2
Indigenous Organizations	1
Industry and Trade Associations	6
Local Governments	1
NGOs	24
Producers and Supporting Industries	17
Public	85

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Bruce Ralston**

Title: Royalty Revenues - Confidentiality of Royalty Information

Revised:

Issue: **Release of oil and natural gas royalty information is restricted by confidentiality provisions in the Petroleum and Natural Gas Act.**

Response:

- Information related to royalty payments and administration in the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation's (EMLI's) custody is treated as confidential and cannot be disclosed to any other third party, including other federal or provincial departments, ministries, or agencies unless authorized by law.
- Public disclosure of aggregate royalty revenue and credit information is available in the public accounts following each fiscal year. Public disclosure of royalty program information is provided in an annual Performance Measures Report conducted by EMLI.
- Broader public disclosure of aggregate royalty revenue and credit information has supported an independent assessment of the royalty system and the release of a publicly available discussion paper on royalty system modernization in late 2021.
- The issue of public transparency of oil and gas royalties is being considered through the ongoing oil and gas royalty review.
- For any detailed questions about the confidentiality of royalty data, I refer you to the Minister of Finance.

Background/Status:

- Parts 10 and 11 of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Act (PNGA) and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Royalty and Freehold Production Tax Regulation ("Royalty Regulation") establish the rules for royalties and freehold production taxes on oil and natural gas production in British Columbia.
- Producers of oil and gas and processing facility operators are required to provide information to the Ministry of Finance (FIN) and EMLI as prescribed under the Royalty Regulation. EMLI uses the information to calculate natural gas reference prices that underpin the Province's royalty system and FIN uses the information to calculate royalties and taxes owed to the province.
- Section 122.1(a) of the PNGA permits FIN to use and disclose PNGA Information to EMLI for the purposes of administrating or enforcing the PNGA or its

regulations, another royalty or taxation enactment or to the BC Oil and Gas Commission for the Oil and Gas Activities Act. Information sharing agreements are in place in accordance with government policy.

- The Government is bound by confidentiality provisions in the PNGA. As specified by Law, it must not disclose the information or records to any other person except in situations authorized in Section 122.1 of the PNGA.
- In previous Estimates debates, past Ministers of Finance and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation have stated that royalty information is treated like personal tax information.

Contact:

Nathaniel Amann-Blake	ADM	Oil and Gas Division	250-889-1990

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Bruce Ralston**

Title: Gasoline Prices

Drafted: **March 22, 2022**

Issue: **An update on gasoline prices in British Columbia.**

Response:

- British Columbia (BC) has experienced a significant increase in fuel prices over the past several months and according to the BC Utilities Commission – in their role as the Administrator of the Fuel Price Transparency Act – the most recent increases correlate to changes in crude prices, which is being driven by world energy markets that are currently impacted by the conflict in Ukraine.
- In response to high gasoline prices observed in 2019 the Province enacted the Fuel Price Transparency Act, a tool that supports a competitive market for gasoline and diesel by collecting information from companies selling fuel in the province and publishing information to support competitiveness.
- It supports transparency and allows the identification of egregious behavior and unjustified mark ups.
- In addition to gathering data directly from retailers and wholesalers, the BCUC has initiated data collection projects in response to public requests about fuel prices in select BC cities. Each of these projects can be found on the gaspricesbc.ca website.

Background/Status:

- According to the BC Utilities Commission (in their role as the Administrator of the Fuel Price Transparency Act) gasoline prices across British Columbia reached a new peak on March 10, 2022. Vancouver recorded the highest prices in the province at $2.14 per litre, with Victoria ($2.08/litre) and Abbotsford ($2.07/litre) also eclipsing $2/litre.
- Gasoline's retail price at the pump consists of the following major components:
    - Crude oil price: according to data published by the BC Utilities Commission (data originally collected and published by Kalibrate), crude oil accounted for nearly 70 cents/litre of the price at the pump in February (see Table 1 below).
    - Refining Margin: This is the cost associated with processing the crude oil into gasoline. This also includes the cost to transport the crude oil to refineries. In February, the refining portion of regular gasoline in Vancouver averaged 44 cents/litre.
    - Marketing Margin: This is the cost associated with selling the gasoline to consumers at the local station. This also includes the cost to transport

gasoline from refineries to gas stations. In February the refining portion of regular gasoline in Vancouver averaged 8.2 cents/litre.

- Taxes: These are paid to provincial, federal, and sometimes municipal governments. These are either fixed taxes (such as an excise tax or provincial fuel taxes) or sales taxes. In British Columbia, Vancouver and Victoria have lower provincial fuel taxes compared to the rest of the province but have a special levy to fund transit. In February the taxes portion of regular gasoline in Vancouver averaged 55.4 cents/litre.

- According to the BCUC's website (gaspricesbc.ca), British Columbia has had some of the highest gasoline prices to date in 2022.

Table 1 - Average Gasoline Prices in Canada by City (2022)

City / Area	Crude Price	Wholesale Margin	Retail Margin	Taxes	Total Price
Canada (avg)	73.2	28.3	8.5	49.7	159.3
Halifax	77.9	19.2	10.9	45.6	154.0
Charlottetown	77.9	21.3	10.3	45.3	154.9
Quebec City	77.9	28.0	7.8	50.6	164.3
Montreal	77.9	28.0	6.8	53.9	166.6
Ottawa	72.4	24.6	6.8	51.4	155.3
Toronto	72.4	25.2	7.6	51.6	156.9
Winnipeg	68.4	30.1	10.3	39.9	148.6
Regina	68.4	28.1	10.5	40.9	147.8
Edmonton	68.2	26.4	9.6	38.6	142.9
Calgary	68.2	28.9	11.0	38.8	146.8
Yellowknife	68.2	26.4	26.8	37.1	158.4
Whitehorse	68.2	48.0	15.0	32.9	164.1
Fort St. John	68.2	41.9	0.8	41.8	152.6
Prince George	68.2	41.9	7.7	42.1	159.8
Kamloops	68.2	43.6	8.4	42.2	162.3
Kelowna	68.2	43.6	8.0	42.2	161.9
Abbotsford	68.2	48.0	10.1	42.5	168.8
Vancouver	68.2	48.0	8.1	55.5	179.8
Victoria	68.2	49.8	8.2	48.3	174.5

- Final prices at the pump are set by either a retail fuel marketer (an individual or company that sells or consigns fuel to individual retail stations) or are established

by the franchisee or independent retailer who has purchased the fuel from a retail fuel marketer. BC's retail fuel market is comprised of roughly 54% marketer-controlled and 46% dealer-controlled retail stations.

Fuel Price Transparency Act (FPTA):

- The Final Report of the BCUC Inquiry into Gasoline and Diesel Prices in BC included findings that there was an oligopoly in the wholesale fuel market that displayed characteristics of a natural monopoly. The report also identified a price premium of approximately $0.13 per litre on gasoline sold in southern BC that the BCUC could not explain based on the information available.
- In response to this report, the FPTA was enacted in November 2019 to enable the collection of information that could be used to inform future policy decisions, to improve competition in the market, and to increase transparency - thereby promoting competition in the market and public confidence in the competitiveness of the market.
- The FPTA was brought into force on March 9, 2020. On that date, the BCUC was designated to administer the FPTA. As the Administrator, the BCUC is responsible for the collection and publication of information under the FPTA.

Government of Alberta's Response to High Fuel Prices:

- On March 7, 2022, the Province of Alberta announced that they will stop the collection of the provincial fuel tax. Currently, Albertans pay 13 cents per litre in fuel tax, and starting April 1 this will be reduced to zero. As Goods and Services Tax (GST) is also paid on provincial fuel taxes, the 13-cent reduction will also reduce the GST paid by 0.65 cents per litre.
- The government of Alberta will review the collection of the fuel tax on a quarterly basis and, if required consider reinstating collection in stages, based on the average price of oil over several weeks.
- To date, no other province has announced any similar changes to motor fuel taxes.

Taxes Paid at the Pump

- Gasoline and diesel prices have increased across Canada and have put an increased focus on the amount of taxes paid at the pump.

Table 2 - Gasoline Taxes Paid at the Pump by Province (cents per litre)

	Excise Tax	Fuel Taxes	Carbon Levies	Total Pre-Sales Tax	Sales Tax(s)
Newfoundland and Labrador	10.00	14.50	6.63	31.13	15%
Prince Edward Island	10.00	8.47	6.63	25.10	14%

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Bruce Ralston**

	Excise Tax	Fuel Taxes	Carbon Levies	Total Pre-Sales Tax	Sales Tax(s)
Nova Scotia	10.00	15.50	1.10[1]	26.60	15%
New Brunswick	10.00	10.87	8.84	29.71	15%
Quebec – Montreal	10.00	22.20	5.66[2]	37.86	14.975%
Quebec – RAGIM[3]	10.00	15.55	5.66[2]	31.21	14.975%
Quebec – Rest of province	10.00	19.20	5.66[2]	34.86	14.975%
Ontario	10.00	14.70	8.84	33.54	13%
Manitoba	10.00	14.00	8.84	32.84	0%[4]
Saskatchewan	10.00	15.00	8.84	33.84	5%
Alberta	10.00	13.00	8.84	31.84	5%
Alberta (Starting April 1, 2022)	10.00	0	8.84	18.84	5%
British Columbia – Vancouver	10.00	27.00	9.96	46.96	5%
British Columbia – Victoria Area	10.00	20.00	9.96	39.96	5%
British Columbia – Rest of province	10.00	14.50	9.96	34.46	5%
Yukon	10.00	6.20	8.84	25.04	5%
Northwest Territories	10.00	10.70[5]	9.40	30.10	5%
Nunavut	10.00	6.40	8.84	25.24	5%

1 Nova Scotia has a cap-and-trade system in place. The figure in the table is a modeled estimate by the Government of Nova Scotia.

2 Quebec has a cap-and-trade system in place. The figure in the table is an estimated costs based solely on the sale price of emission units from the previous year. Many factors can influence the carbon cost of Quebec fuels, including changes in the market price of units and the timing of the purchase of emission units.

3 Quebec provides reduced rates in designated regions bordering on Ontario or New Brunswick.

4 Manitoba's PST does not apply to gasoline or diesel fuel

5 In the NWT, gasoline is taxed at 6.4 cents per litre in communities not served by a highway system

Cross Reference: Fuel Price Transparency Act Implementation Progress

Contact:

Nathaniel Amann-Blake	ADM	Oil and Gas Division	250-889-1990

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Bruce Ralston**

Title: Global Oil Prices

Revised: March 22, 2022

Issue: Global oil prices; current status, projections, and impact on royalty revenues.

Response:

- While BC primarily produces natural gas, natural gas by-products are also an important source of government revenue . These by-products have benefited significantly from high oil prices, with prices for many of these by-products rising by more than 100 percent in 2021.
- The average global oil prices jumped by 83 percent in 2021 as global oil demand recovered faster than global production
- In recent weeks oil prices have been further boosted by the geopolitical crisis in Europe, with supply disruptions from Russia affecting the entire global oil supply chain.
- Many market analysts predict that global oil prices will stay elevated as global production recovers slowly and as geopolitical risks remain high.
- Provincial natural gas royalties (including natural gas by-products royalties) have increased alongside commodity prices, and will continue to benefit from high oil prices.
- Global oil prices, which are responsible for the volatility to gasoline and diesel prices, are negatively impacting BC residents pushing prices in BC at the pumps to historic highs.

Background/Status:

- Global oil prices have jumped significantly over the last year. According to Sproule energy consultancy, the benchmark North American price index WTI surged to average nearly $110.0 per barrel in February 2022, up from about $60 at the same period in 2021 - an 83 percent increase year over year.
- The rise in oil prices has been driven by global demand and supply imbalances. While global demand has been recovering strongly following the loosening of many COVID 19 restrictions, including travel restrictions, global supply was slow to respond. According to a February 2022 report from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the average global oil demand rose to 96.7 million barrels a day (mbd) in 2021, from 91.0 mbd in 2020. Meanwhile, global oil supply increased to only 95.0 mbd in 2021, from 93.7 mbd in 2020. In recent months global oil demand has climbed to pre-pandemic levels of nearly 100.0 mbd. Yet,

global production led by OPEC+ countries (including Russia) still remains below the 2019 levels.

- Non-OPEC producers, including American and Canada, also have been slow to boost their production, following massive cuts in output capacity and investment in previous years, in response to low oil prices and uncertainties about future demand.
- In recent weeks oil prices have been further boosted by the geopolitical crisis related to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. According to the Financial Times, the price of WTI oil surged to more than $120 a barrel in March 2022, which is the highest level recorded since 2012. Market participants have been quoted as stating that the suite of sanctions applied against Russia may disrupt the entire global oil supply chain as Russia is the second largest oil exporter in the world.
- Given the ongoing geopolitical crisis and the slow pace of production recovery (major OPEC producers have indicated that they are not keen (and potentially not able) to boost production much above the previously agreed levels in response to the current geopolitical crisis), many market analysts expect that global oil prices will remain elevated at least for the remainder of this year.
- High global oil prices will continue to benefit BC natural gas producers, as many natural gas companies rely on revenue from natural gas by-products, which are linked to the price of oil. According to Sproule energy consultancy, in 2021 the average price of natural gas by-products, such as propane (up 166 percent), butane (up 136 percent) and condensate (up 72 percent), recorded significant price increases relative to 2020. These by-products are now at their eight-year highs and are expected to continue in line with elevated oil prices.
- BC will continue to be impacted by high oil prices, not only in terms of increased royalty revenues, and also potential industry activity levels. The prospect of stronger oil and natural gas by-products prices may also stimulate capital investment in western Canada, in anticipation of higher cash flows from oil and gas activities in the region.
- High global oil prices, however, have negatively impacted BC residents through the rapid rise in gasoline and diesel prices in BC. With prices throughout British Columbia cresting $2.00 per litre for gasoline and diesel recently, roughly 50 cents higher than when the year started, this is costing consumers nearly $10 million more per day to fill up their tanks.

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Bruce Ralston**

Cross Reference: Royalty Revenues, Gasoline Prices, Fuel Price Tranparancy Act Implementation

Contact:

Nathaniel Amann-Blake	ADM	Oil and Gas Division	250-889-1990

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
Minister Responsible: Bruce Ralston

Title: CleanBC Roadmap to 2030

Drafted/Revised: March 22, 2022

Issue: Climate action and the oil and gas sector

Response:

- In October last year, our government released the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 – our detailed plan to fully meet B.C.'s climate targets and set the province on the path to net-zero emissions by 2050.
- The Roadmap builds on actions already underway through CleanBC by doing more, faster, to create a vibrant resilient low carbon future and build a cleaner, stronger economy for everyone.
- The Roadmap includes commitments to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions produced by the oil and gas industry in line with its sectoral target of 33-38 percent reductions from 2007 levels by 2030.
- Roadmap commitments and actions, that support reducing oil and gas sector emissions, include:
  - Strengthened methane emissions targets – a 75 percent reduction target from 2014 levels by 2030 and near elimination of methane by 2035;
  - Requiring all new oil and gas facilities (including LNG facilities) to be net zero emissions by 2050;
  - Increasing the carbon tax to $170/tonne by 2030 and promoting the electrification of upstream oil and gas production;
  - Creating an appropriate enabling environment to support key emissions reduction strategies such as carbon capture, use and storage and the production of low carbon hydrogen from natural gas; and
  - Establishing declining carbon intensity thresholds, over time, for hydrogen produced from natural gas to ensure that B.C. achieves its net zero emissions, by 2050, target.

Background/Status:

- On October 25, 2021, the Government released the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 (Roadmap), which is a detailed plan that outlines how B.C. will meet its provincial and sector-specific emissions targets.
- The expanded climate actions in the Roadmap, accelerate the transition to a net-zero future, and ensure that B.C. meets its legislated GHG target of 40 percent below 2007 levels by 2030.
- The Roadmap includes several commitments aimed at reducing carbon and methane emissions produced by the upstream oil and gas industry.

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Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Bruce Ralston**

Reduction and Elimination of Methane Emissions

- The Roadmap commits to a 75 percent emissions reduction target, from 2014 levels, by 2030 and near elimination by 2035. An emissions reduction target of 45 percent was established in the Province's precursor climate strategy, released in 2018.
- Given methane's high, short-term global warming potential, reducing and then eliminating methane provides the most expeditious opportunity to slow the rate of global warming, while B.C. works to decarbonize its energy systems.
- The methane emission regulations, a key policy instrument for achieving methane reductions came into force on January 1, 2020. Total expected reductions from these regulations are estimated to be 10.9 megatonnes of CO_2 equivalent over 10 years, which is akin to taking 390,000 cars off the road annually.
- A review of the provincial methane regulations is underway and is aimed at evaluating their effectiveness and efficiency as well as assessing whether any new knowledge or technological developments should be incorporated to ensure that they are world leading.

Increasing the Carbon Price and Promoting Electrification:

- Beginning in 2023, B.C.'s carbon tax will meet or exceed federal carbon price requirements, meaning that the tax rate will increase year over year until it reaches $170/tonne by 2030. The current tax rate is $45/tonne.
- A carbon pricing review is underway to assess the optimal tax design, which best supports provincial climate goals while minimizing impacts to household affordability and competitiveness.
- Work is also being advanced to reduce emissions in the oil and gas sector through the electrification of upstream oil and gas production.

Net-zero Industrial Facilities by 2050

- The Roadmap commits B.C. to a net zero future, which will be backed by legislation.
- As a result of its net zero pledge, the Province will be instituting a new requirement for all new industrial facilities, including oil and gas facilities, to have enforceable plans to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.
- In addition to actions related to methane management and the promotion of electrification, the Province is also working to support other key emissions reduction strategies such as carbon capture, use and sequestration and low carbon hydrogen production from natural gas.
- To ensure that it achieves its net-zero goal, B.C. will establish declining carbon intensity thresholds, over time, for hydrogen produced from natural gas.

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2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Bruce Ralston**

Title: Trans Mountain Expansion Project

Revised: **March 22, 2022**

Issue: **Trans Mountain Expansion Project overview and permitting.**

Response:

- The Trans Mountain Expansion Project (TMEP) is an interprovincial, federally regulated pipeline project under the jurisdiction of the Canada Energy Regulator (CER), (formerly the National Energy Board [NEB]).
- The Government of Canada purchased the Trans Mountain Pipeline and TMEP from Kinder Morgan in August 2018.
- TMEP requires approximately 1600 provincial permits, all of which require consultation with Indigenous groups. Approximately 1515 provincial permits have been issued to date.
- The Province continues to accept permit applications from the proponent and has an administrative obligation to review the applications it receives.
- TMEP's projected cost has been revised from $12.6 billion to $21.4 billion.
- The Province requires TMEP to follow all applicable regulations, health orders and guidelines, to ensure that workers, Indigenous communities and all British Columbians are protected from COVID-19.

Background/Status:

- TMEP falls under CER's jurisdiction as it crosses provincial borders.
- TMEP is organized into 7 spreads. Spreads 1 and 2 are in Alberta, and Spreads 3 to 7 are in British Columbia (B.C.). Spreads 6 and 7 are in the Lower Mainland. Spread 7 includes the Burnaby Terminal, Burnaby Mountain Tunnel and Westridge Marine Terminal. It begins near Edmonton, Alberta and terminates on the B.C. coast. (See Appendix 1 – Map)
- TMEP will twin Trans Mountain Corporation's (Trans Mountain) existing 1150-kilometre pipeline within the existing right-of way, where possible, from Edmonton to Vancouver.
- The existing pipeline has a sustainable capacity of 300,000 barrels per day (bbl/d) and the new pipeline will add a sustainable capacity of 590,000 bbl/d.
- On April 6, 2017, B.C. signed an agreement with Kinder Morgan that provides for revenue sharing of up to $1 billion over 20 years that is to go towards initiatives and projects that protect the environment and benefit communities. The

agreement also commits B.C. to establish a project office to facilitate a timely and efficient regulatory and decision-making process for all provincial regulatory matters related to TMEP or the existing pipeline system.
    - The Federal government agreed to honour that commitment when it purchased Trans Mountain.
- Provincial permitting agencies reviewing TMEP permit applications include:
    - Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development;
    - Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (including BC Parks);
    - Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure;
    - the BC Oil and Gas Commission; and
    - the Agricultural Land Commission.
- On February 18, 2022 TMC announced the retirement of Ian Anderson from his position as President and CEO of TMC and his departure from the Board, effective April 1, 2022. TMC has initiated a process to find a replacement President and CEO.
- On February 18, 2022 TMC also announced that the mechanical completion date of the project was extended from Q4 2022 to Q3 2023.
- Construction is over 50 percent complete, and the B.C. portion of the project has so far provided employment for 7025 workers; 12 percent of these workers were Indigenous. Trans Mountain advises the project will be at peak construction in 2022.
- Trans Mountain has so far committed over $4.5 billion to provincial procurement opportunities with 30 percent to Indigenous companies.
- All forms of construction are taking place in all spreads, construction yards, terminals and pump stations in B.C.
- Appendix 2 details the current status of provincial permitting.
- Federal and provincial regulatory and court activity related to TMEP has been in progress since 2010. Appendix 3 contains a detailed account of these activities.

Attachments: Appendix 1 – Map
Appendix 2 – Permit Status Overview
Appendix 3 – Regulatory and Legal Timeline

Contact:

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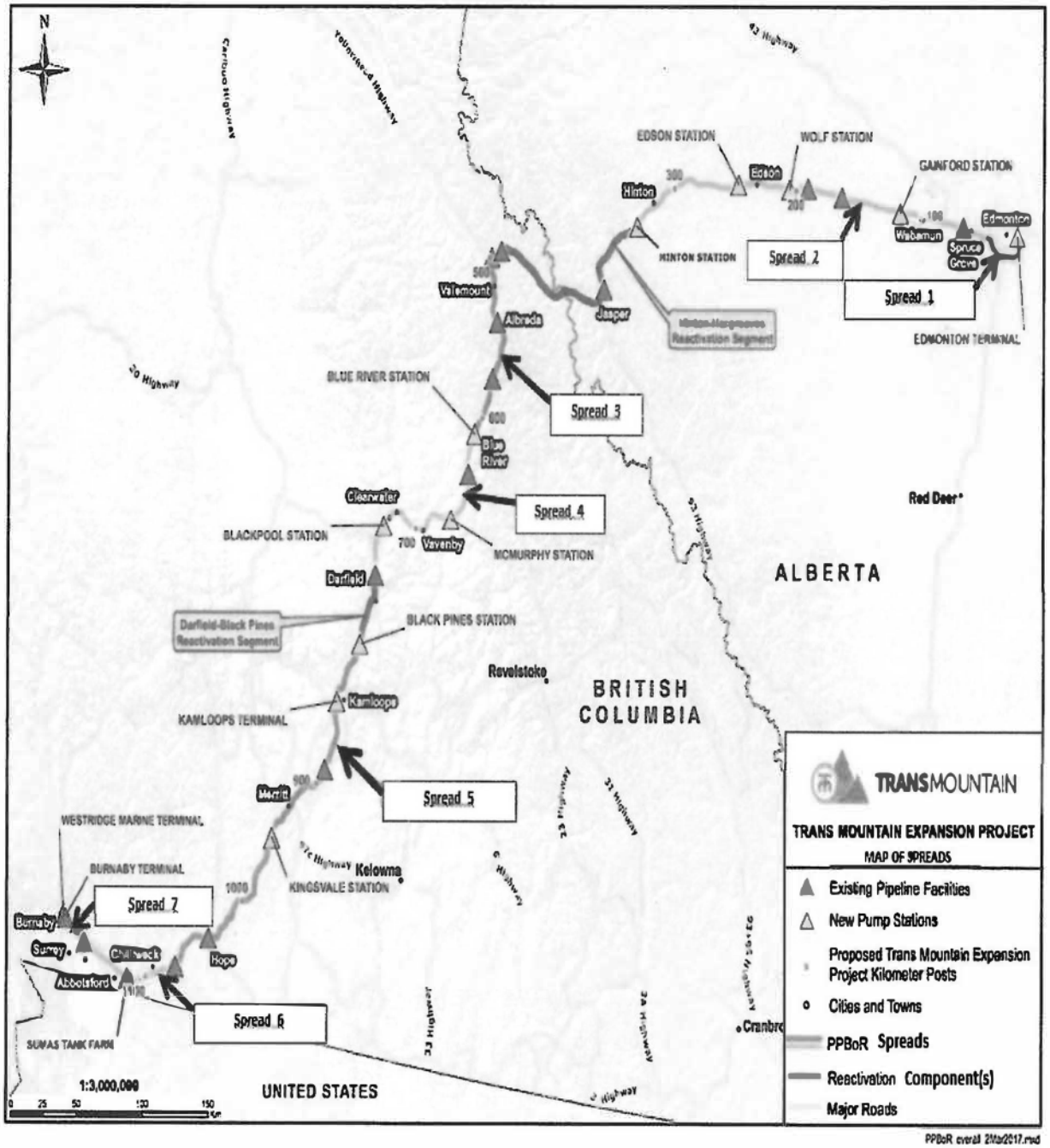
2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
Minister Responsible: Hon. Bruce Ralston

APPENDIX 1 – MAP OF TRANS MOUNTAIN EXPANSION PROJECT



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Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Bruce Ralston**

Contact:

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2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
Minister Responsible: Hon. Bruce Ralston

Title: Trans Mountain Expansion Project – Overview and Permitting Appendix 2: Permit Status for the Period Ending March 7, 2022

Revised: March 7, 2022

AGENCY & PERMIT TYPE	TOTAL NOT YET SUBMITTED	TOTAL IN TECHNICAL REVIEW	TOTAL APPROVED PERMIT APPLICATIONS	GRAND TOTAL
BC Oil and Gas Commission	12	3	172	187
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development	0	10	153	163
BC Parks	0	1	6	7
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy	3	0	3	6
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure	46	23	1176	1245
Agricultural Land Commission	0	0	5	5
Grand Total	**61**	**37**	**1515**	**1613**

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2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Bruce Ralston**

Title: Trans Mountain Expansion Project Overview and Permitting – Appendix 3: Regulatory and Legal Timeline

Revised: March 22, 2022

- **June 21, 2010** an Environmental Assessment (EA) Equivalency Agreement signed by the Canada Energy Board (CER) and British Columbia (B.C.) Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) on June 21, 2010 allowed the EAO to accept a CER-led review and recommendations as equivalent to a provincial environmental assessment. As a result, the EAO did not require an EA for the Trans Mountain Expansion Project (TMEP) under the *B.C. Environmental Assessment Act*.
- **January 13, 2016** B.C. Supreme Court (BCSC) issued a decision on *Coastal First Nations v. British Columbia* (Environment) 2016 BCSC on the Northern Gateway Project, and by extension TMEP, that required the Province to render a decision on whether to issue an Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC).
- **May 19, 2016** CER (then National Energy Board [NEB]) released its report to Governor in Council (GIC) supporting TMEP subject to 157 conditions.
- **November 29, 2016** the federal government approved TMEP subject to CER's 157 conditions.
- **December 1, 2016** CER issued the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to Trans Mountain.
- **January 10, 2017** B.C announced that an EAC with an additional 37 conditions had been issued for TMEP to respond to concerns raised by Indigenous groups and address key areas of provincial jurisdiction and interest.
- **April 12, 2017** the City of Vancouver commenced a judicial review in the BCSC to seek a declaration that the EAC is invalid.
- **April 20, 2017** the Squamish Nation commenced a judicial review in the BCSC of the decision of the Province to issue an EAC for TMEP asserting that it was issued without adequate consultation and that the Crown owed them a duty to consult concerning the Equivalency Agreement between B.C. and Canada.
- **May 24, 2018** the BCSC dismissed Squamish Nation and City of Vancouver challenges to the EAC. The parties shortly thereafter appealed the BCSC decision to the B.C. Court of Appeal (BCCA).
- **May 29, 2018** the Government of Canada announced its intention to purchase the Trans Mountain Pipeline and TMEP from Kinder Morgan for $4.5B.
- **August 30, 2018** the Federal Court of Appeal (FCA decision *Tsleil-Waututh et al. v Attorney General of Canada et al.*), quashed federal approval citing inadequate consultation by Canada with Indigenous peoples and failure by CER to fully consider marine impacts.
- **August 31, 2018** purchase of Trans Mountain by Canada was completed.

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- **August 31, 2018** Trans Mountain was ordered to cease construction of TMEP and initiate the safe shut down of construction activity. B.C.'s EAC remained valid allowing Trans Mountain to apply for provincial permits.
- **September 20, 2018** the Government of Canada, by order in council (OIC), directed CER to undertake a reconsideration of the effects of project-related marine shipping and to produce a Reconsideration Report by February 22, 2019.
- **February 22, 2019** CER issued its Reconsideration Report and recommended that TMEP be approved, subject to 156 conditions and 16 new recommendations for federal initiatives which should accompany approval of the project.
- **May 6-8, 2019** the BCCA considered whether there are implications for the EAC arising from the "new" NEB report created in support of the second CPCN.
- **June 2019** Canada released its Crown Consultation and Accommodation Report (CCAR) which builds on the previous Joint Federal/Provincial Consultation and Accommodation Report for the TMEP released in November 2016.
- **June 18, 2019** the GIC issued a positive decision on TMEP, noting it was in the national interest and directed CER to issue a new CPCN, based on the CCAR and CER's Reconsideration Report.
- **June 21, 2019** CER issued CPCN to Trans Mountain.
- **September 17, 2019** the BCCA decision agreed with the BCSC decision of May 24, 2018 that the Province had fulfilled its duty to consult and accommodate but allowed the appeal to the limited extent of remitting the conditions in the EAC to the Ministers for reconsideration and consequent adjustment in light of the changes to the original CER report as set out in its Reconsideration Report. Consideration is ongoing and the EAC remains in place.
- **February 4, 2020** the FCA[1] rejected the applications from four Indigenous groups who sought judicial review of the June 18, 2019 GIC decision to issue the CPCN for TMEP concluding that Canada's decision was reasonable and that federal approvals for TMEP continue to be valid.
- **April 6-7, 2020** the Coldwater Indian Band, Squamish Indian Band, Tlseil-Waututh Nation, and the Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribes (Aitchelitz, Skowkale, Tzeachten, Squiala First Nation, Yakweakwioose, Shxwá:y and Soowhalie) have all filed applications seeking leave to appeal the FCA's February 4, 2020 decision to the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC).
- **April 16, 2020** the SCC received notice that Ts'elxwéyeqw have discontinued their application for leave to appeal to the SCC.
- **July 19, 2021** CER issued positive decision regarding the Coldwater West Alternative Route.

[1] *Coldwater et al v. Canada (Attorney General),* 2020 FCA 34

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Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
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- **October 27, 2021** EAC amendment for Coldwater West Alternative Route issued.
- **February 24, 2022** EAC Reconsideration Decision issued.

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2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Bruce Ralston**

Title: LNG and LPG Projects

Drafted:

Issue: **British Columbia (BC) has a number of LNG and LPG projects at various stages of development, from those newly proposed and under construction to ones operating and sending cargoes to global markets.**

Response:

- British Columbia's natural gas industry is operated by the private sector. The development of an LNG export facility is based on the commercial viability of each project and takes many years before operations can commence.
- Global demand for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) products, such as propane, continued to expand in 2021 and looking ahead these energy products are expected to continue to play a significant role around the world.
- British Columbia's natural gas and propane export projects have continued to evolve with three projects having already shipped cargoes to global markets.
- One project (LNG Canada) is currently under construction and others have signaled that they could commence construction in 2022 and 2023.
- The Province will ensure that British Columbians benefit from LNG projects by requiring they meet our four stated conditions:
  - Proposals must include express guarantees of jobs and training opportunities for British Columbians;
  - Proposals must provide a fair return on our resource;
  - Proposals must respect and make partners of First Nations; and
  - Proposals must protect our air, land and water, including living up to our climate commitments.

Background/Status:

Tilbury LNG:

- The Tilbury LNG facility has been operating since 1971, contributing to the security of supply of BC's natural gas distribution system in the lower mainland. The facility is owned and operated by FortisBC.
- The Phase 1A expansion has been completed and is part of a two-phase, $4.5 billion build out plan for the facility. The $425 million Phase 1A involved a new liquefaction train and storage tank being brought into commercial service in 2018.

- The FortisBC plan to further develop the facility over the next 5 years would see additional liquefaction and ancillary infrastructure to support LNG marine bunkering (Phase 1B) developed, followed by additional storage and processing capacity for LNG export (Phase 2) being developed.
- At present the facility has the ability to produce 0.25 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of LNG. At full capacity (inclusive of Phase 2) the facility would be capable of producing nearly 2.5 MTPA.
- Fortis' Tilbury facility can play a key role in meeting the growing demand for LNG by the marine sector within the Port of Vancouver, the Port of Prince Rupert, and other major ports on the west coast of North America.
- FortisBC has also entered into a partnership with Seaspan to develop the Tilbury Marine Jetty, which is currently under consideration for its Environmental Assessment Certificate.

LNG Canada:

- The LNG Canada Project is a 28 MTPA facility that is located near Kitimat. In 2018 the project announced a positive Final Investment Decision on the first phase of development and is currently constructing the first two trains that would produce and export 14 MTPA.
- Please refer to the *LNG Canada Project Profile* note for further detail.

Woodfibre LNG:

- The Woodfibre LNG Project is a proposed 2.1 MTPA facility that is located near Squamish BC.
- Please refer to the *Status Update on Woodfibre LNG Project* note for further detail.

Cedar LNG:

- The Cedar LNG Project is a proposed floating liquefied natural gas (FLNG) facility in Kitimat, British Columbia, Canada, within the traditional territory of the Haisla Nation. The project is being proposed by the Haisla Nation and Pembina Pipelines and would export 3 MTPA of LNG.
- The project would receive its natural gas from the Coastal GasLink pipeline, the same pipeline that is providing feedstock to LNG Canada.
- The project submitted its application for an Environmental Assessment certificate early in 2022 and is currently in the 180-day Application Review period.

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Bruce Ralston**

Kitimat LNG:

- Kitimat LNG is BC's longest standing proposed LNG facility that would be located in Bish Cove, near Kitimat. Both the project and its associated pipeline (Pacific Trails Pipeline) have Environmental Assessment certificates as well as substantial start decisions from the BC Environmental Assessment Office.
- In December 2019, Chevron announced its plan to divest its 50 percent interest in the project and early in 2021 announced that it would no longer be funding the project. Woodside has also announced their plan to divest in its 50 percent interest in the project.
- In January 2022, it was reported that Enbridge had acquired the Pacific Trails Pipeline project – the deal did not include any portion of the Kitimat LNG project.

Skeena & Totem LNG (Top Speed Energy):

- Skeena LNG is proposing to develop a small-scale, 0.15 MTPA LNG export facility that will utilize ISO-containers and ship through the Port of Prince Rupert.
- The facility does not trigger an Environmental Assessment and has received an LNG Facilities Permit from the BC Oil and Gas Commission
- Totem LNG is proposing to develop a small-scale, 0.075 MTPA LNG export facility that will utilize ISO-containers and ship through the Port of Prince Rupert.
- Following the passing of the company's owner in 2021, it was decided that Top Speed Energy would no longer develop Skeena LNG nor Totem LNG and has been engaged in commercial discussions with potential new owners since.

Port Edward LNG:

- Port Edward LNG is proposing to develop a small-scale, 0.3 MTPA LNG export facility that will utilize ISO-containers and ship through the Port of Prince Rupert.
- The project has entered into an agreement with the Municipality of Port Edward for the land as well as Pacific Northern Gas Pipeline for its feedstock.
- The facility does not trigger an Environmental Assessment and has received an LNG Facilities Permit from the BC Oil and Gas Commission
- Early works have commenced on the site and construction could commence in 2022.

Ksi Lisims LNG:

- On March 12, 2021, the Nisga'a Nation announced that it had entered into a Collaborative Endeavors Agreement with Western LNG and Rockies LNG Partners for the assessment and development of an LNG facility in the Nass Area.

- The project envisions exporting upwards of 12 MTPA of LNG and is exploring the use of a floating Liquefied Natural Gas facility.
- The project submitted its initial project description with the Environmental Assessment Office in the summer of 2021 and is expected to come forward with a detailed project description early in 2022.

Ridley Island Propane Export Terminal:

- AltaGas' Ridley Island Propane Export Terminal (RIPET) was Canada's first propane export facility and is capable of moving 40,000 barrels per day and storing 600,000 barrels or 1.2 million tonnes of propane per year. The terminal offloads approximately 50 to 60 rail cars of liquid propane from BC and Alberta each day, which is then delivered to global markets through approximately 20 to 30 marine shipments per year.
- Since commencing operations in 2018, RIPET now accounts for approximately 10 per cent of the propane imported into Japan, who imported over $1 billion worth propane from Canada in 2021.

Prince Rupert Terminal:

- Pembina's Prince Rupert Terminal is a propane export terminal located on Watson Island in the vicinity of Prince Rupert. The terminal can handle an average of 20,000 barrels per day with a capacity maximum of 25,000 barrels per day.
- On April 9, 2021, Pembina began loading propane onto vessels destined for international markets with some of the initial cargos destined for Hawaii and the majority of their 2021 cargoes landing in South Korea.

Vopak Pacific Canada:

- Vopak Development Canada Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Royal Vopak, is investigating the opportunity to construct, own and operate a new bulk liquids storage facility on port lands in Price Rupert.
- The project is expected to store liquefied petroleum gas' such as propane and butane, clean petroleum products as well as methanol. All products will be transported to the facility (from both BC and Alberta) via the existing CN Railway line before being exported to predominantly Asian markets.
- The project has applied for an Environmental Assessment Certification from the BC Environmental Assessment Office and is awaiting a decision by the Province.
- The project has also applied for an Environmental Assessment Certification from the federal government. As the project is situated on federal port lands, the decision on the Certification lies within the federal Ministry of Transportation – with inputs from the federal Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. At

present the federal government is signaling that a decision may not be made until late spring / early summer.

Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Pipeline:

- The Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Project (PRGT) is a proposed (TC Energy) 900-kilometre natural gas pipeline that would run from Hudson's Hope to Lelu Island near Prince Rupert.
- PRGT's Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) is set to expire on November 25, 2024 unless the pipeline is substantially started before that date.

Westcoast Connector Gas Transmission:

- The Westcoast Connector Gas Transmission (WCGT) is a proposed (Enbridge) 850-kilometre natural gas pipeline from the Cypress area in northeast BC to Ridley Island, near Prince Rupert.
- Similar to PRGT, WCGT's EAC is also set to expire on November 25, 2024.

Cross Reference: LNG Canada Project Profile
Status Update on Woodfibre LNG Project
Government's Four Conditions for LNG

Contact:

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2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Bruce Ralston**

Title: LNG Marine Bunkering

Drafted: **March 22, 2022**

Issue: **Update on LNG marine bunkering in British Columbia**

Response:

- The use of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) as a marine fuel (LNG bunkering) to power and decarbonize the world's ocean-going vessels is expanding, and British Columbia (BC) is well positioned to benefit from this growth.
- Projects such as LNG bunkering in the Port of Vancouver have the potential to bring economic benefits and improve air quality in the Lower Mainland, Fraser River basin and coastal communities while improving the economic strength of the broader marine and natural gas sectors.
- Both BC Ferries and Seaspan have been powering vessels using LNG since 2016 and the joint venture between Haisla Nation and Seaspan announced that the LNG Canada tugs will also be partly powered by LNG.
- According to BC Ferries using LNG on the Spirit-class ferries means that carbon dioxide emissions will be cut by 12,500 tonnes every year – the equivalent to taking 2,500 cars off of the road. BC Ferries is also realizing lower operating costs by switching from diesel to LNG.
- The Province is supportive of the LNG marine bunkering initiative, as it displaces conventional bunker fuel oil with clean natural gas produced in BC and enhances economic activity at the Port of Vancouver.

Background/Status:

- On January 1, 2020, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) introduced a global 0.5% Sulphur cap and targets to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 40% by 2030 and 70% by 2050 when compared to 2008 levels.
- LNG as a marine fuel is an attractive option to meet the IMO 2020 regulations, benefiting from lower Sulphur, Nitrogen and Carbon emissions than oil-based fuels.
- Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from maritime transport are estimated to account for 3% of the total human-induced GHG emissions. LNG bunker fuel from BC, where GHG intensity and methane emissions are reduced during production, are a part of the pathway to reducing maritime related GHG emissions.

- According to Wood Mackenzie's latest outlook global LNG bunkering demand is estimated to grow to 12 million tonnes by 2025, expand to nearly 30 million tonnes by 2030, 68 million tonnes by 2040 and 90 million tonnes by 2050.
- As part of its Clean Futures Plan, BC Ferries aims to meet the Clean BC 2030 climate targets by reducing the GHG intensity of their operations, including transitioning the fuel sources from non-renewable diesel to LNG and renewable diesel. In the future, BC Ferries plans to use renewable LNG and electricity to power its fleet.
    - BC Ferries has displaced nearly a quarter of total diesel fuel consumption with cleaner LNG produced in BC. The reduction in GHG emissions is the equivalent of taking nearly 2,000 cars off the road annually.
    - BC Ferries currently operates 5 LNG dual-fueled ferries, with its sixth starting service by the middle of 2022.
- LNG bunker fuel is produced at FortisBC's Tilbury LNG facility, which currently has a 46,000 cubic meter storage tank and liquefaction capacity of 0.25 million tonnes per annum (mtpa). FortisBC is looking to expand their facility (Phase 1B) to meet the rising demand for LNG as a marine fuel.
- The Tilbury LNG facility uses electricity as a power source in the liquefaction process, making its LNG among the lowest carbon intensity of LNG produced available.
- Seaspan, an association of Canadian companies primarily involved in coastal marine transportation and shipbuilding services in the Pacific Northwest, offers commercial ferry, shipyard and bunkering services through its affiliate companies.
    - On February 28, 2022, it was reported that Seaspan had confirmed the order for 2 LNG bunker vessels, with the option to buy a third. The first two are scheduled to be delivered in 2024 costing approximately $40 million each. The vessels are to be constructed in China by CIMC Sinopacific Offshore and Engineering.
    - Seaspan has been operating 2 LNG dual-fueled ferries since 2016 with another 2 set to be delivered in 2021.
- Cryopeak LNG, a BC based company, is moving forward with its plans for an LNG bunker articulated tug barge unit for Canada's west coast. Cryopeak LNG also has a Memorandum of Understanding with Sumitomo to jointly develop an LNG bunker fuels supply chain in Canada's west coast ports.
- HaiSea Marine, a partnership formed between the Haisla Nation and Seaspan, will provide ship-assist and escort services to LNG carriers navigating Douglas Channel and approaches to LNG Canada. The escort and harbor tugs are being designed by Robert Allan Ltd. (RAL) and will feature leading edge technology.

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Bruce Ralston**

The harbor tugs will be battery electric powered, while the larger escort tugs will be LNG dual-fueled.

- LNG powered car carriers started to call on the Port of Vancouver in 2022, and with the number of LNG powered carrier vessels and cruise ships increasing, the local demand is expected to start increasing.
- Increased tanker traffic resulting from the Trans Mountain Expansion Project presents an opportunity for increased LNG bunkering demand.

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2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
Minister Responsible: Bruce Ralston

Title: LNG Canada Project Profile

Date: Update April 20, 2022

Issue: LNG Canada Project Overview

Response:

- LNG Canada is creating new, significant economic opportunities for British Columbia. The project is currently in its fourth year of construction.
- LNG Canada continues to hit critical construction milestones and it's around 60% complete. The project is on track to export LNG around mid-decade.
- At $40 billion, LNG Canada is the largest private sector investment in Canadian history. The project is expected to generate approximately $23 billion in public revenue over 40 years - funds to invest in health care, schools, childcare and other key public services in B.C.
- To date, the LNG Canada project has awarded over $3.6 billion in contracts to businesses in B.C. and Canada. That includes around $2.9 billion to Indigenous-owned and local area businesses.
- LNG Canada has also spent $4 million, to date, on workforce development, and more than $10 million so far in social investments.
- The project has had a workforce around 4,500 people over the last few months.
- Government is working closely with First Nations, local communities and industry to ensure benefits are being realized and that proponents continue to meet the conditions in their Environmental Assessment Certificate and permits.

Background/Status:

- The LNG Canada project is a joint venture comprised of Shell Canada (40%), PETRONAS (25%), PetroChina (15%), Mitsubishi Corporation (15%) and KOGAS (5%).

Project Description:

- On October 1, 2018, LNG Canada made a positive Final Investment Decision (FID) to construct a liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facility in Kitimat, B.C. It is the largest private sector investment in Canadian history.
- The project received a provincial Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) and federal approval through a substituted environmental assessment process (single process covering both the Province and Canada) in June 2015. Federal export approval was obtained from the National Energy Board in January 2016.

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Bruce Ralston**

- LNG Canada has all the major permits in place from the BC Oil and Gas Commission (OGC), including B.C.'s first LNG facility permit. Other permits/authorizations from provincial and federal regulators are still in process.
- LNG Canada requires that the Coastal GasLink (CGL) pipeline be built as it will supply natural gas for the export facility (Phase 1 capacity is 2.1 billion cubic feet per day {bcf/d}). Phase 2 of LNG Canada would require two more trains on site and an expansion of CGL's capacity (to 5 bcf/d) through the addition of up to seven compressor stations (for a total of eight). A final decision on whether to pursue Phase 2 has not been made.

Construction Update:

- The export facility is now in its fourth year of construction. LNG Canada and their engineering procurement and construction contractor, JGC Fluor BC LNG JV (JFJV), continue to hit critical construction milestones and the project is on track to export LNG around mid-decade.
- Most of the site preparation is complete as LNG Canada transitions into the "building up" phase of the project, with modules, tanks and substations arriving this spring.
- The project had an approximate workforce of 4,500 over last three months (up to February 2022). The most recent details provided directly from LNG Canada identifies the total workforce as 4,524.

Benefits:

- Jobs and training: LNG Canada has invested over $4 million since 2015 in trades workforce development programs. LNG Canada has prioritized local hiring first, followed by workers from within B.C. and Canada. LNG Canada has spent $4 million to date on workforce development.
- Economic: LNG Canada will generate approximately $23 billion in public revenue over 40 years. Of note as well, LNG Canada has spent over $10 million to date on social investments.
- Indigenous Nations: LNG Canada has entered into agreements with all affected First Nations. To date, over $2.4 billion has been awarded in contracts and procurement for Haisla Nation, and other Indigenous Nations (around $2.9 billion including local).
- Environment/climate: LNG Canada is expected to have the lowest GHG emissions intensity of any LNG facility of its kind in the world.

Cross Reference: Coastal GasLink Project Overview

Contact:

Deborah Bowman	Assistant Deputy Minister	LNG Canada Implementation Secretariat	Government Financial Information

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
Minister Responsible: Bruce Ralston

Title: Coastal GasLink Pipeline Project Profile

Date: Update April 20, 2022

Issue: Coastal GasLink Project Overview

Response:

- The Coastal GasLink project remains on schedule to support LNG Canada's in-service target date around mid-decade.
- The project is permitted and approved for the work that is underway. Provincial agencies are coordinated, working directly with Treaty 8 First Nations on any permitting priorities in their territory.
- The pipeline project is just over 60% complete, including all engineering, procurement and construction activities. Construction progress, which encompasses clearing, grading and pipe installation, is over 50% done. Coastal GasLink expects to complete peak construction this year.
- Thousands of people are working on the project. Based on the most recent data, the current workforce is around 4,900 people.
- Economic benefits continue to increase. Over $1.25 billion has been awarded to local B.C. businesses to date. Of this total, over $1 billion has been awarded to Indigenous businesses.
- The pipeline project is supported by Indigenous communities along the entire pipeline route, including the majority of Wet'suwet'en elected councils.
- Government is working closely with First Nations, local communities and industry to ensure benefits are being realized and that proponents continue to meet the conditions in their Environmental Assessment Certificate and permits.
- Provincial regulators oversee Coastal GasLink's work to ensure it remains in compliance with their permits and provisions under legislation.

Background/Status:

- Coastal GasLink (CGL) is a project of TC Energy and 65% equity holders KKR and the Alberta Investment Management Corporation. The CGL project is a 670-kilometre pipeline that will deliver natural gas from northeastern B.C. to the LNG Canada facility in Kitimat. Once complete, the pipeline will have a capacity of 2.1 billion cubic feet per day (bcf/d) using two compressor stations.
- The project received its B.C. Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) in October 2014. Most of the permits required from provincial agencies for construction activities are in place, or in process (amendments and new permits are also expected during construction).

- The project's EAC covers a Phase 2 pipeline expansion of up to 5 billion cubic feet per day (bcf/d), which would require up to eight compressor stations. This expansion is dependent on LNG Canada's decision to increase capacity at its export facility in Kitimat. LNG Canada's EAC also covers this expansion, but it has not made a final decision on it.
- In addition to creating thousands of construction jobs, the pipeline project is projected to create up to 35 permanent field positions during operation and maintenance (2023 onwards). Should Phase 2 (of the LNG Canada project) proceed, further permanent field positions will be required.

Construction Update:

- Preliminary work commenced in early 2019, with final stages of construction to be completed at the end of 2022. The primary focus is now on critical scopes including erosion and sediment control, site maintenance and asset protection in advance of spring melt, pipe installation, moving into reclamation.
- The project is 61.6% complete (including all engineering, procurement and construction activities), with the construction progress at 52.2% complete (includes clearing, grading and pipe installation). Based on recent data there were 4,943 workers across the project in February 2022.
- CGL's most recent project update (current to the end of March 2022) indicates that permits are well in order. For environmental permits: of the 6,921 permits, approvals, authorizations or agreements required, there were 6,870 approved and 51 in progress – so only about 1% are outstanding. Land government agency permits: of the 497 required, only 3 are outstanding (494 obtained). Provincial agencies are working with Treaty 8 First Nations on permitting priorities within the Blueberry River First Nations claim area.

First Nations:

- To date, over $1.25 billion has been awarded to local B.C. businesses by CGL. Of this total, over $1 billion has been awarded to Indigenous owned businesses or joint venture partnerships.
- CGL has signed agreements with all twenty elected First Nations along the right-of-way. The province has signed pipeline benefits agreements (PBAs) with 17/20 First Nations along the pipeline right-of-way. Each mutually exclusive (provincial) agreement provides Indigenous Nations with financial support to address their priorities, such as training and education, contracting and employment, etc.
- On March 9th, 2022, 16 (of 20) First Nations communities signed option agreements to purchase an equity stake in the Coastal GasLink Pipeline Limited Partnership.

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Bruce Ralston**

Government Oversight:

- The BC Oil and Gas Commission, other ministries and the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) have statutory responsibility to ensure CGL is compliant with all legislation and requirements, including conditions outlined in the EAC.CGL also has required plans to manage socio-economic effects directly associated with the project.
- The EAO has conducted over 40 inspections on the CGL project since construction started. There have been non-compliances with respect to erosion and sediment control (ESC) found. From December 2020 to November 2021, there were three orders related to ESC issued to the company. After the EAO considered CGL response to the non-compliances, an administrative penalty of $72,500 was issued. This administrative penalty is the first issued by the EAO against a certificate holder. As a result of EAO inspections in the fall of 2021, a second administrative penalty is possible in the near future.

Cross Reference: LNG Canada Project Overview

Contact:

Deborah Bowman	Assistant Deputy Minister	LNG Canada Implementation Secretariat	Government Financial Information

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Bruce Ralston**

Title: Coastal GasLink and the Morice River area

Date: **March 15, 2022**

Issue: **A court-ordered injunction confirms Coastal GasLink is legally authorized to conduct their work in the Morice River area.**

Response:

- The Coastal GasLink project is permitted and approved for the construction activities underway. The Supreme Court of British Columbia have reaffirmed that fact.
- Construction in Section 7, the portion that encompasses the Morice River area, is over 97% cleared - with significant works anticipated in 2022.
- British Columbia continues to engage with both the hereditary and elected Wet'suwet'en leadership in recognizing and implementing their rights, title, laws, and governance in their territory.
- Open, transparent, and timely communication with First Nations, including the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs, has been the guiding principle of government.
- The Coastal GasLink project is supported by Indigenous communities along the entire pipeline route, including the majority of Wet'suwet'en elected councils.
- Details about the enforcement of a court-ordered injunction are best addressed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The police operate at an arms-length from government.

Background/Status:

2021-2022 Key Events

- In September 2021 "Coyote Camp" was established by the Gidimt'en Clan on the Coastal GasLink (CGL) drill pad where the micro tunnel for the Morice River crossing will happen.
    - CGL contractors were unable to work at the site for over two months.
- On November 18th and 19th, 2021, the RCMP enforced the Injunction, clearing blockades established on the Morice Forest Service Road and Coyote Camp.
    - Obstructions created by blockades had cut off safe access, support and security for more than 500 CGL workers in CGL camps.
    - Twenty nine people were arrested, including two journalists who were released with an agreement to respect the peace and attend court at a future date. One individual was released with conditions.
    - On March 12th, 2022 CGL dropped charges for four more individuals.

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Bruce Ralston**

Security Concern

Court injunction

- On December 31, 2019, the Supreme Court of British Columbia granted CGL's application for an interlocutory injunction. The focal point is along the Morice River Forest Service Road (approximately 70 kilometres south of Houston) in Grizzly House territory, which is a member of the Gidimt'en Clan.
- As part of its reasons for decision, the court noted CGL has acquired the permits and authorizations to lawfully conduct work in the area and that the law does not condone remedies such as blockades. The court's decision also included enforcement provisions for the RCMP.
- Enforcement of the injunction is the responsibility of the RCMP.
- Following arrests in November 2021, there are matters currently before the Supreme Court of BC with the next hearing scheduled for March 21, 2022.

CGL Activities

- Peak construction will occur this year in Wet'suwet'en traditional territory, after initial delays caused by COVID 19 and continued impacts caused by opposition and protestor activities.
- CGL continues to engage provincial regulatory authorities and the some Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs on mitigation measures around construction impacts. CGL continues to seek further opportunities to engage the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs on matters such as safety and access.

Wet'suwet'en

- Wet'suwet'en Nation membership is comprised of five hereditary clans – Gil seyhu (Big Frog), Laksilyu (Small Frog), Gidimt'en (Wolf/Bear), Laksamshu (Fireweed) and the Tsayu (Beaver Clan), which are divided into 13 houses.
- A hereditary house chief leads each house. Some hereditary chiefs have stated opposition to pipeline development.
- Five *elected* Wet'suwet'en band councils - Witset First Nation, Skin Tyee Nation, the Nee Tahi Buhn Band, Ts'il Kaz Koh First Nation (Burns Lake Band) and the

Wet'suwet'en First Nation - have supported CGL and have Pipeline Benefit Agreements with the province, and Project Agreements with the company. The Hagwilget Nation is also an elected Wet'suwet'en council - they have not entered into negotiations.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

- Since 2020, the province has been actively working with the Wet'suwet'en Nation on dialogue related to the CGL project. Separately, the Province and the Office of the Wet'suwet'en (OW) have been working on a reconciliation dialogue through the 2020 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- Consultation and engagement have been ongoing since CGL was first submitted for provincial review in December 2012, and dialogue has continued throughout the construction period. The OGC started consulting with the OW about CGL in 2013. The EAO has been engaged with the OW since the initial environmental assessment process in 2012.
- The province recognizes Wet'suwet'en rights and title and has been actively working to facilitate positive reconciliation dialogue with the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs. The MOU was signed in May 2020 between ten Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs and the provincial and federal governments. The MOU is an agreement to engage on affirming and implementing Wet'suwet'en rights and title on the Yintah.
- The MOU is at the foundation of positive, long-term focused discussions with the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs to achieve reconciliation, and is separate from the CGL project.
- The Province and the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs reached an agreement in March 2021 that provided $7.22 million to support work to implement Wet'suwet'en rights and title. This was a deliverable identified under the MOU. These funds are intended to support immediate opportunities to advance reunification and enhance the relationship between the Wet'suwet'en and the Province. The funds included capacity for further work on Wet'suwet'en priorities, such as eco-system monitoring and landscape-level planning.

Contact:

Deborah Bowman	Assistant Deputy Minister	LNG Canada Implementation Secretariat	Government Financial Information

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
Minister Responsible: Hon. Bruce Ralston

Title: Status Update on Woodfibre LNG Project

Revised: April 20, 2022

Issue: Woodfibre LNG

Response:

- Woodfibre LNG is proposing a 2.1 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) facility that will utilize electrically driven liquefied natural gas (LNG) trains situated on privately-owned upland.
- The company recently announced the approval of more than $600 million CAD in spending with the intent to start pre-construction work in 2022.
- The project represents $1.6 billion in new investment and hundreds of jobs.
- Woodfibre LNG accounced a Notice to proceed on April 14, 2022 with contrctuion expected to commence in 2023.
- Several significant commercial agreements have been completed.
- Woodfibre LNG, FortisBC and the Province have concluded impact benefit agreements with Squamish First Nation.

Background/Status:

Woodfibre LNG has achieved significant milestones in working towards a final Notice to Proceed:

- Received environmental approvals from the BC Environmental Assessment Office, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, and a Squamish Nation Environmental Assessment Agreement;
- Woodfibre was granted an extension to its Environmental Assessment Certificate for 5 additional years;
- Received its facilities permit from the BC Oil and Gas Commission;
- Pacific Oil and Gas completed the acquisition of Canbriam Energy, representing one of the largest investments in BC's upstream sector since 2014.
- Fully permitted on major Federal permits, permit plan in place for the issuance of supporting provincial and federal permits;
- In process of concluding commercial agreements with BC Hydro and FortisBC;
- Concluded Impact Benefit Agreements with Squamish Nation and is in negotiations with remaining impacted nations;
- Woodfibre commercial offtake agreements have the project's LNG capacity near fully committed;
- Underway with decommissioning, pre-construction work onsite;

Ministry: **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Bruce Ralston**

- Local consultations regarding this project (over 320 community sessions) and the LNG industry in general have taken place over the past several years; and
- On June 9, 2017 the National Energy Board issued Woodfibre LNG a 40-year export licence.

PROJECT TABLE

Proponent	Pacific Oil and Gas / Royal Golden Eagle
Location	Squamish area (former Woodfibre pulp mill site)
Proposed Size	2.1 MTPA
Export Licence	40-year licence issued
Environmental Assessment	Federal and Provincial approvals completed
Pipeline	Eagle Mountain – Woodfibre Gas Pipeline
Estimated Investment	$1.6 billion
Jobs	Construction: 650 Operations: 100

Contact:

Suzanne Manahan	Executive Lead	Woodfibre Implementation Group	Government Financial Information

ESTIMATES NOTE (2022) **Confidential** Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy **April 2022**	**CleanBC Program for Industry**

KEY FACTS

Industrial Emissions

- Annual greenhouse gas (GHG) reporting for industrial operations emitting 10,000 tonnes of GHG or higher is a requirement of the Greenhouse Gas Emission Reporting Regulation under the *Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act*.
- Operations that emit 25,000 tonnes or more of GHGs must have their annual reports verified by an accredited verification body by the May 31st deadline to ensure accuracy and consistency in the data across industries and over time.
- Posting of reported GHG emissions provides open and transparent information to industry and the public and is in keeping with commitments to open government.
- In 2020, 566 facilities, represented by 116 reporting operations, submitted their emissions reports, not including three electricity import operations/facilities.
- Greenhouse gas emissions from these reporting operations totalled 17.4 Mt CO_2e (not including emissions from electricity imports or biomass), which is approximately 7% lower than reported emissions in 2019 (18.7 Mt CO2e).
- The top five emitters and their emissions during 2020 were
  - Teck Coal Limited 1.7 Mt CO2e,
  - NorthRiver Midstream Inc. 1.7 Mt CO2e,
  - Canadian Natural Resources Limited (CNRL) 1.0 Mt CO2e,
  - Spectra Energy Transmission 1.0 Mt CO2e, and
  - Rio Tinto Alcan Inc. 0.8 Mt CO2e.

CleanBC Program for Industry:

- This program is designed to support large industrial facilities to transition to cleaner, lower-emitting operations through two initiatives:
  - CleanBC Industry Fund invests directly into emission-reduction projects.
  - CleanBC Industrial Incentive Program rewards operators based on how their emissions intensities compare to leading emissions benchmarks.
- CleanBC Program for Industry leverages industry investments in clean technology to substantially cut pollution and support jobs in the clean economy.
- The Program funds are also supporting industries outside of fossil fuel sector, including pulp and paper, mining, cement, greenhouses, and other sectors.

- Carbon leakage (the movement of production and their associated emissions to jurisdictions without a significant price on carbon) affects the economy and does not reduce global GHG emissions.
- The Program is open to most[1] industrial reporters that emit over 10,000 carbon equivalent tonnes per year (tCO_2e/year) and pay carbon tax.
- Funded by the incremental carbon tax large industrial facilities pay over $30 per tonne carbon dioxide equivalent (t/CO_2e).
- CleanBC modelling estimates the program, along with other industrial mitigation efforts, could reduce emissions by 2.6 million tCO_2e/year by 2030.
- 2019 was a transition year for the CleanBC incentive Program, to provide time to establish benchmarks and systems. 2020 was an additional transition year, in which program has been adjusted to address current economic situation. A minimum incentive payment of 75% was paid to eligible reporters who provided Emissions Reduction Plans.
    - CIIP in 2021 was operated as designed resulting in lower CIIP payments overall.
- Budget during 2021/22 was $119.9 million (based on the estimated revenues received from industry due to the increase in carbon tax to $40 per tonne):
    - Administrative costs will be funded from Program budget.
    - Amount available to the Fund determined after Incentive payments. Expected minimum 59% going to Incentive program this year.

Program spending matched the allocated budget in the 2020/21 fiscal year. Consistent with the Minister's mandate letter, Budget 2022 enhanced the CleanBC Industry Fund by providing an additional $110M in 2024/25.

($Millions)	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Base Budget	142.919	190.555	326.991
Contingencies	28.372	38.045	12.991
Total Budget	171.291	228.600	339.982

- Engagement with industry is expected in spring and summer 2022 to ensure programs and policies that make up the Roadmap consider business competitiveness impacts and provide a credible path for cleaner production from industry while supporting the achievement of BC's greenhouse gas reduction targets.

CleanBC Industry Fund (CIF):

- This fund supports industry's transition to cleaner operations by investing carbon tax revenues directly into eligible emission-reduction projects.
- Employs a competitive process to assess project proposals wherein projects are assessed and ranked according to evaluation criteria; highest ranked projects are

[1] Sectors that are not eligible for the CleanBC Incentive Program include natural gas distribution, waste treatment and disposal and sewage treatment, fossil fuel and hydro electricity generation and electricity transmission.

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selected for funding.

- Successful proponents are required to enter into funding agreements with the Province.
- The CIF added two additional funding streams in 2021: Innovation Accelerator call for pilot and pre-commercial demonstration projects; and Project Feasibility Studies call supporting preliminary studies for potential projects intended for the Emissions Performance and Innovation Accelerator streams.
- In 19/20, the CIF resulted in approximately $9.6million in carbon tax revenue to be re-invested in projects across the province. The 20/21 funding year saw an additional investment of roughly $35.4 million over three years ($18.9 million in 20/21 fiscal year) in new emission reduction projects. The 21/22 funding year is anticipated to commit $109.1 million over three years ($42.3 million in 21/22 fiscal year) across the CIF's three funding streams. See the Appendices for emission-reducing projects have been approved and are at various stages of development.
- In 21/22, roughly 80 percent of funding will be allocated to projects through the Emissions Performance stream. Roughly $2.5 million will be allocated to Feasibility Studies stream projects and the remainder will fund projects through the Innovation Accelerator stream.
- Funding provided through the CIF in 21/22 is anticipated to be allocated to projects in all regions of the Province. The largest of spending (roughly 40%) is anticipated to take place in the Northeast region, though significant spending is anticipated in the North Coast, Thompson-Okanagan and Vancouver Island regions as well.
- As a temporary measure for the 2021 call for the Emissions Performance stream, Provincial support for successful projects has been increased from 50% to 90% of eligible project expenses, and the per-project funding cap has been raised to $25 million. These measures are intended to incentivize the largest possible participation rate in the program by industry and have been implemented alongside additional data submission requirements for applicants which will inform the Province regarding the return on investment to B.C. through CIF. This meant that the CIF was heavily oversubscribed for the 21/22 funding year, with $391 million requested through the Emissions Performance stream alone. The 2022 Emissions Performance call will use the historical standard of 50 percent Provincial support.
- The CIF is added two additional funding streams in 2021: Innovation Accelerator call for pilot and pre-commercial demonstration projects; and Project Feasibility Studies call supporting preliminary studies for potential projects intended for the Emissions Performance and Innovation Accelerator streams.
- 2022 call for Innovation Accelerator has been simplified to a one-phase application process, as opposed to the two-phased process used in the 2021 call. Both the Innovation Accelerator and Emissions Performance streams will launch in Spring.
- 2022 call for the Project Feasibility Studies call opened April 1, 2022. This call will be administered by the financial consulting firm MNP on behalf of the CIF program.

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CleanBC Industrial Incentive Initiative (CIIP):

- This initiative rewards operators based on how their facilities' emissions intensity compares to emissions benchmarks.
- Industrial operations are expected to pay a higher average carbon price than comparable operations in other jurisdictions, despite any incentive payments they may receive through this program.
- In 2021/22 the CIIP program received 459 applications represented by 75 reporting operations and $65.5M in payments were made.
    - CIIP payments were 2019: $33.4M in 2019 and $81.7M in 2020.
- During 2021/22, the Incentive payments to the operators were calculated according to their emissions performance compared to published benchmarks and eligibility thresholds for different industrial sectors.

Contact: Jeremy Hewitt, Assistant Deputy Minister
Climate Action Secretariat, (250) 387-1134

ESTIMATES NOTE (2022) **Confidential** Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat **April 2022**	**CleanBC Roadmap to 2030**

KEY FACTS

2030 Legislated Target:

- CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 – our detailed plan to fully meet B.C.'s climate targets and set the province on the path to net-zero emissions by 2050, was released on October 25, 2021
- The Roadmap is projected to get us to 100% of our 2030 legislated target based on economic modelling of the actions committed to in the Roadmap
- The Roadmap includes actions across eight pathways that consider the state of the market in each sector and how readily available and affordable low-carbon solutions are

Implementation of the Roadmap:

- The Roadmap includes a wide range of accelerated and expanded actions that will be implemented in this mandate to reduce pollution and build a cleaner, stronger economy for everyone, including:
    - accelerated ZEV Standard targets, a strengthened Low Carbon Fuel Standard, and a new emissions cap for natural gas utilities
    - a revised carbon pricing system to meet or exceed the federal benchmark, with supports for people and businesses
    - requirements for new industry projects to have enforceable plans to reach net-zero emissions by 2050
    - near elimination of methane emissions by 2035 in oil and gas, mining, industrial wood waste and other sectors
    - a new program to support local government climate and resiliency goals with predictable funding
- A new evaluation and reporting unit will ensure the Roadmap is implemented as effectively and transparently as possible
- The Roadmap seeks to support reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and First Nations governments through being ambitious on climate, supporting economic opportunity for Indigenous peoples, and proposing Indigenous community-focused policy elements.
- The Roadmap was informed by advice from the Climate Solutions Council (see Note 9)

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Economic Impacts:

- In today's economy, citizens, businesses and the global financial community are insisting that governments and companies have credible, long-term plans to reduce climate pollution – making this Roadmap an economic necessity.
- We conservatively expect the Roadmap to lead to GDP increases of 19% by 2030 and job growth of 7% by 2030. The economic benefits could be greater if, for example, new clean technologies turn out to cost less than we expect, or more jurisdictions act rapidly on climate change.
- Public investment in Roadmap initiatives (e.g. projects such transit infrastructure, EV charging equipment, and electric power generation) is expected to generate approximately 18,000 direct and spinoff jobs.

Contact: Jeremy Hewitt, Assistant Deputy Minister
Climate Action Secretariat, (250) 387-1134

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ESTIMATES NOTE (2022) **Confidential** Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Protection Division **March 21 2022**	**Contaminated Sites Services - Applications in the Backlog**

KEY FACTS

Applications for Contaminated Sites Services

- A strong real estate market makes contaminated site remediation more economically feasible than ever before.
  - As demand for land continues and land values increase, developers are now buying contaminated lands that was previously too expensive to clean-up.
  - In the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island, 75% of development projects are on contaminated sites that need a series of approvals under EMA.

- The *Local Government Act* and *Environmental Management Act* (EMA) are closely linked, which ensures municipal permits are only issued once the ministry confirms contaminated sites are safe for people and the environment.
- There are over 30 legislated services for contaminated sites – all services result in statutory decisions or approvals under EMA.
- The majority of contaminated sites services are for sites that have completed remediation and are seeking certification, but the types of incoming applications reflect the lifecycle of a contaminated site:
  - 20% - site identification/site investigation required
  - 22% - remediation planning
  - 51% - completion of remediation
  - 7% - long-term management phase
- A typical urban site has 3-4 applications in its lifetime of ~5 – 7 years. However, some complex contaminated sites will be under ministry oversight for decades and 1 application per year is to be expected for those sites.

Backlog in Applications

- At current resource levels, the section can receive and process 350 applications per year.
- Due to the increase in incoming applications, the queue for receiving a response on applications is longer. The Land Remediation Section has been working with clients, municipalities, Indigenous Nations and stakeholders to ensure that current timelines are incorporated to development project planning.

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- **The Land Remediation Section has completed implementation of the recommendations from a business improvement project, an educational learning event for clients, updates to existing software, and is in the process of improving website information to streamline the application process.**
    - The program is pursuing opportunities to increase capacity to manage the increase in applications.
- The ministry is receiving feedback from clients about how applications in the queue are adversely impacting site owners. The ministry is working closely with site owners to ensure that applications are of excellent quality and complete at the time of submission, so they can move through the process as smoothly as possible.
- If the ministry is able to add capacity to the team providing Contaminated Site Services, recruitment and training will take some time. The ministry will continue to work with clients navigate the challenges of an increased demand for services.
-

Contact: Kevin Butterworth, Executive Director
Environmental Protection Division, Phone #778 698-9890

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ESTIMATES NOTE (2022) **Confidential** Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Protection Division **March 2022**	**Atmospheric River Event– Flooding Debris Management**

KEY FACTS

Background

- **ENV is currently addressing debris in watercourses that are a high-risk to public health and safety, and critical infrastructure.**
- In response to the declaration of a provincial state of emergency due to severe flooding in November 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) deployed staff to the Environmental Branch in the Emergency Management BC (EMBC) Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) and Provincial Regional Operations Centres (PREOC).
- The unprecedented extent of environmental damage required ENV to activate the Department Operations Centre (DOC) to support field staff and implement a response and recovery framework to address five priority areas for the protection of public health and safety, and infrastructure: 1) flood impact monitoring; 2) debris management; 3) waste management; 4) structures threatened by watercourses, and 5) community outreach.
- ENV is leading a cross-ministry team to address the environmental impacts of the Atmospheric River Event through the ENV DOC.
- Debris removal operations are likely to extend into 2024.
- The flood event produced an unprecedented volume of debris and waste. Authority over recycling and disposal of waste rests with ENV administering the *Environmental Management Act* (EMA).
- ENV has contracted the services of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)[1] to assist with project scoping, management, and execution.
- Approximately 25% of the flood-impacted area has been assessed for debris issues, while the remaining 75% is yet to be assessed due to snow cover and remote location.
- **The Province is committed to protecting people and communities from climate-related disasters with $1.5 billion to respond to flooding events and build back better**
    - **Includes $400 million in 2022/23 for Emergency Management BC to support people and communities**
- ENV has received 7 requests to expand private and public landfills. ROB is currently reviewing these requests.

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Debris response actions

- **ENV response actions have included engaging with impacted First Nations, local governments and community members, onsite assessments of impacted areas, developing debris action plans for over 100 separate items, and conducting removal and disposal activities.**
- **Debris action plans have been developed for five geographic regions: Nicola River (Highway 8; Spences Bridge to Merritt); Coldwater River (Highway 5); Tulameen River; Similkameen River; and Fraser Valley and Coquihalla Rivers.**
- **ENV has developed a Flood Response webpage[3] with a debris reporting tool that enables the public to report flood-related debris in and around waterways and upload photos.**

Government Financial Information

Finance

- ENV submits its emergency response costs to EMBC's Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre for approval. Eligible expenses are funded through the province's consolidated revenue fund as outlined in section 16 of the *Emergency Program Act*.
- **The majority of ENV's debris management costs are expected to be reimbursed by the Government of Canada through the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) program.**
- **ENV has established capacity funding agreements to hire First Nation members for cultural, heritage and archaeological artifact assessments.**
- **ENV has contracted two not-for-profit societies, Coast Restoration Society and Ocean Legacy Foundation, to hire and train First Nations and community members to conduct small and medium sized debris removal and cleanup. This training and experience will build long-term community resiliency, capability and capacity for responding to and recovering from future flood events.**

Contact: Greg Bauch, Senior Emergency Planning Analyst
Environmental Protection Division, Phone 778-698-4907

[3] https://flood-debris-assessment-explorer-bcgov03.hub.arcgis.com/

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Guidance:

Internal Consultation

- ENV, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRO), and Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (AFF) are leading waste and debris management. The Ministry of Health (HLTH) and the Office of the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) are also active partners, ensuring linkages are being made between environmental impacts and human health.
- ENV has consulted with a variety of other ministries and governments on debris related issues:

Topic	Organization
Community assessments and engagement	EMBC, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Indigenous Services Canada
Debris removal and structures threatened by watercourse	FLNRO, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Water quality/monitoring, drinking water	HLTH, BC Centre for Disease Control, PHO
Waste, manure and pesticide management	ENV (Regional Operations Branch), AFF, US Customs and Border Patrol
Contaminated sites	ENV (Environmental Emergencies and Land Remediation Branch)
Debris and sediment deposits on agricultural land	AFF
Disposal of animal mortalities	AFF, ENV (ROB)
Communications plan	Government Communications and Public Engagement
Funding options, cost recovery, cost sharing and reimbursement procedures	Ministry of Finance, EMBC, Public Safety Canada, Alberta Ministry of Environment

COASTAL GASLINK PIPELINE PROJECT
Compliance and Enforcement

Key Messages:

- As recent compliance and enforcement orders show, the Environmental Assessment Office continues to actively monitor the conditions of the environmental assessment certificate for the construction of the Coastal Gaslink pipeline project on an ongoing basis.

- More than 40 inspections have been carried out since the project began construction and I can assure you that the EAO takes any matters of noncompliance very seriously.

- Following inspections last spring, an administrative penalty was issued by the Environmental Assessment Office following non-compliance with orders to protect waterways that were issued following inspections.

- One of the conditions of the environmental assessment certificate is to develop and implement an Environmental Management Plan that includes protecting sensitive wetlands and waterways from sediment caused by erosion, which can negatively impact fish habitat.

- Following a review of the information gathered during inspections and further response provided by CGL, a fine of $72, 500 was issued on February 16th, 2021.

- The statutory decision-maker considers a variety of factors to determine the appropriate penalty value.

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- The reasons for decision and additional documentation regarding the administrative penalty process are available on the EAO's Project Information Centre.

- A subsequent inspection conducted in October 2021 confirmed ongoing noncompliance related to erosion. The potential for additional penalties is currently under consideration by the statutory decision-maker at the Environmental Assessment Office.

If asked about oil spill at Hirsch Creek in Feb. 2022:

- The matter of the fuel spill is under the authority of the Oil and Gas Commission.

- EAO Compliance and Enforcement Officers conducted an inspection at Hirsch Creek in February related to ongoing compliance monitoring for erosion and sediment controls.

- An order to remedy non-compliance for erosion and sediment control was issued on Feb. 19, 2022. This was unrelated to the fuel spill.

- The inspection record from the Compliance and Enforcement Officer is currently being finalized and will be made public shortly.

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Background:

- The Coastal GasLink Pipeline Project (CGL) Environmental Assessment Certificate includes 33 legally binding conditions. EAO Compliance and Enforcement (EAO C&E) regularly inspects the pipeline construction to monitor compliance with the certificate requirements.

- EAO C&E has conducted 42 inspections of the project to date. In response to non-compliance identified by those inspections, the EAO has issued 37 warnings and 12 orders to address the non-compliance, which is related requirements for erosion and sediment control in areas with sensitive wetlands or waterways that may affect fish habitat.

- EAO C&E works closely with compliance and enforcement staff from the Oil and Gas Commission to conduct oversight.

Recent Enforcement Action

Erosion and Sediment Control:

- In December 2020, EAO C&E issued Order EN2020-011 based on noncompliance with Condition 26. The order requires CGL to:
    - Plan and implement erosion and sediment control measures before, during, and after completing works; and,
    - Retain an independent auditor to report to EAO C&E on compliance with the Order and broader requirements specific to control soil erosion and sediment transport.

Inspection Record 2021-014

- Following an inspection of the entire line in May 2021, EAO C&E posted an Inspection Record (IR2021-014) on EPIC in late September 2021 which found continued noncompliance with both Condition 26 and Order EN2020-011. Subsequent orders were then issued to place signage to identify sensitive environmental features, and to report quarterly on the maintenance of the signage. In addition, C&E made a recommendation for an Administrative Penalty (AP).

- The EAO's Executive Director responsible for C&E informed CGL on December 30th that the EAO intended to levy an AP. Per their procedural rights, CGL submitted additional information to the decision maker for consideration.

- If the penalty proposed by the decision-maker is over $25,000, they may also request an additional review by the Chief Environmental Assessment Officer, which was not done in this case.

- A final notice of determination was delivered to the certificate holder on February 16th, 2022, with an Administrative Penalty of $72,500.

- The notice of determination was posted publicly on EPIC seven days following delivery to the certificate-holder, on February 23rd.

- Administrative penalties (fines) are determined based on a range of factors:
    - The decision maker references a matrix to determine the appropriate penalty value, which considers a variety of factors: Nature of contravention, actual or potential adverse effects, compliance history, whether contravention was repeated or continuous, whether contravention was deliberate, economic benefit derived by the holder from the contravention, due diligence to

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prevent the contravention, efforts to correct and prevent reoccurrence, and other relevant factors.

- The maximum penalty for failing to comply with an order issued under the Environmental Assessment Act is $100,000. This may be multiplied by the number of days of non-compliance, within the factors considered for the appropriate penalty value matrix.
- The maximum AP value is defined by the Administrative Penalties Regulation and varies based on the section of the Act with which the certificate holder fails to comply – ranging from $2,000 to $750,000.

Inspection Record 2021-027

- In October 2021, EAO C&E conducted an inspection and confirmed continued noncompliance with both Condition 26 and Order EN2020-011.

- On November 9, 2021, two Orders to Remedy (for two separate geographic locations) were issued requiring CGL to implement erosion and/or sediment control to prevent sediment laden water from entering watercourses and wetlands at specific locations and provide confirmation to EAO C&E that measures have been implemented to meet the requirements by November 19, 2021.

- The orders noted above were posted to EPIC on November 16th, one week after they were issued to CGL.

- The locations for the orders are Section 2 (generally north of Prince George) and Section 8 (generally south of Smithers).

- The order for Section 8 is in the general vicinity of previous and ongoing direct-action activities opposing the pipeline, but not where direct action has occurred or is occurring.

- The Inspection Record documenting the observations and evidence gathered during the October 2021 inspection was posted on EPIC on December 6th and recommend an Administrative Penalty in response to repeated noncompliance with the erosion and sediment control requirements (in addition to the AP already issued).
  - The AP package has been prepared by EAO C&E and delivered to the Statutory Decision maker, who provided initial notice of determination of an administrative penalty to the certificate holder March 10, 2022. It is expected that the certificate holder will provide a response to this notice for consideration by the decision maker on or before March 28, 2022.

- Emergency enforcement orders were issued prior to the finalization of the Inspection Record specific to the October 2021 inspection because EAO C&E was confident that CGL was not compliant with the requirements referenced above, that this was repeated noncompliance, and that timely enforcement was necessary to remedy adverse effects to watercourses, wetlands, and wildlife.

- In response:
  - Coastal GasLink provided responses to EAO C&E within the timelines required by the orders.
  - EAO C&E is currently reviewing the responses and planning further steps to verify compliance with orders EN2021-003 and EN2021-004. Verification of compliance at those sites will require ongoing evaluation and follow-up, including site inspections.

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Inspection Record 2022-07

- Between February 16 – 18, 2022 EAO C&E conducted an inspection and confirmed continued noncompliance with both Condition 26 and Order EN2020-011.

- On February 19, 2022, an Order to Remedy was issued requiring CGL to implement erosion and/or sediment control to prevent sediment laden water from entering watercourses and wetlands at specific locations and provide confirmation to EAO C&E that measures have been implemented to meet the requirements by February 24, 2022.
- CGL provided EAO information that they had complied with this specific order by the February 24 deadline.

- The Enforcement order was issued prior to the finalization of the Inspection Record inspection because EAO C&E was confident that CGL was not compliant with the requirements referenced above, that this was repeated noncompliance, and that timely enforcement was necessary to remedy adverse effects to watercourses, wetlands, and wildlife.

- The Order to Remedy was posted to EPIC on February 25, 2022.

- The Inspection Record is currently in draft pending a review of CGL's response to the record. It will be posted to EPIC when finalized.

- EAO C&E is planning further steps to verify and ensure compliance with the erosion and sediment control Orders and Certificate Conditions throughout the project.

Wildlife Attractant Management:

- Condition 9 of EAC #E14-03 requires CGL to develop and implement a Human Wildlife Conflict Management Plan as part of the Environmental Management Plan, required by Condition 26.

- During inspections in 2019, EAO C&E confirmed noncompliance with Conditions 9 and 26 (requirement to store food wastes in bear-proof containers).

- In response, Order EN2019-003 was issued on June 17, 2019, requiring CGL to secure, dispose of, remove, or otherwise manage all wildlife attractants in a manner that prevents the attraction of wildlife and/or access to attractants by wildlife, to the satisfaction of EAO C&E.

- In October 2021, EAO C&E conducted an inspection and confirmed noncompliance with Order EN2019-003, resulting in an additional Order (EN2021-002) to CGL on November 9th to advise all staff and contractors that wildlife attractants must not be stored in vehicles in a manner that is accessible to wildlife, and to remove all wildlife attractants at specific locations identified by EAO C&E, and provide evidence to EAO C&E that wildlife attractants have been removed by November 17, 2021.

- In Response, Coastal GasLink has provided information that demonstrates compliance with EN2021-002.

Access:

- EAO completed an inspection into a complaint received in March 2021 regarding limiting the access of Indigenous individuals to their territory outside of an active work area. That inspection concluded that CGL was not compliant with the requirements and a warning was issued.

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROJECTS

Key Messages:

- Currently there are 36 projects at various stages of the environmental assessment (EA) process: 20 are actively undergoing EA, and the remaining projects have varying degrees of activity.
- The 20 active projects represent an estimated $29 billion in potential capital investment.
- Of the 20 active projects: five are metal mining, five are coal mining, three are transportation, five are energy, one is industrial, and one is waste management.
- Of the remaining projects, there are approximately 12 projects seeking amendments and/or approvals to activities associated with meeting the conditions of their Environmental Assessment certificates.
- In addition we have three projects for which third parties have submitted applications for Minister's Designation under Section 6 of the EA Act to determine if the project should be reviewable.
- Since 2021, two projects have been referred for Environmental Assessment Certificate decision (Vopak Pacific Canada and Morrison Copper/Gold.
    - Vopak Pacific Canada is awaiting ministers' decision and the Morrison Cooper/Gold EA Certificate was refused on February 7, 2022.
    - Both projects are under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (2002).

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Background:

In addition to the 36 projects at various stages of the EA process EAO staff are currently reviewing three potential new EA projects (Hackney Hills Wind, Yellowhead Mine and Fraser River Tunnel Project) which be assessed under the revitalized Environmental Assessment Act (2018). No public announcements have been made on these projects to date.

Below is a brief description of some of the projects currently in the latter stages of the environmental assessment (EA).

Vopak Pacific Canada

- Vopak Development Canada Inc. (Vopak) proposes to construct and operate a bulk liquids storage facility, including an offshore jetty, for propane, gasoline, light diesel and methanol on Ridley Island at the Port of Prince Rupert. Vopak estimates that it would take two years to construct and would operate for a minimum of 50 years.
- The marine terminal at Vopak Pacific Canada (VPC) Project would involve two berths, and a jetty up to 1.2 km long. An average of 170 vessels per year could be loaded at the terminal, with product arriving to the facility by rail.
- The VPC Project is proposed to be constructed and operated on federal lands and is subject to an environmental effects determination under Section 67 of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act 2012*, coordinated by the Prince Rupert Port Authority and Transport Canada. Environment and Climate Change Canada is also reviewing the *Species at Risk Act* Permit under Section 82 of the *Impact Assessment Act*, 2019.
- The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) conducted the provincial EA from July 2018 to September 2021, in close coordination with federal authorities.
- The EAO referred the VPC Project to ministers on September 22, 2021. The 45-day decision period ended on November 8, 2021.
- Prior to and following referral, separate submissions were received from the following Indigenous nations: Gitga'at, Lax Kw'alaams and Metlakatla First Nations and Gitxsan Wilps Gwinninitxw and Luutkudziiwus, raising various concerns with the VPC Project including the potential for marine spills, cumulative effects and increased rail activity.
- Ministers indicated they required additional time to fulsomely consider all relevant details and make a sound decision and will be retroactively extending the 45-day deadline under section 24(4) of the Environmental Assessment Act (2002) to make a decision.

Sukunka Coal Mine Project

- Glencore PLC (Glencore) proposes to develop and operate an open pit metallurgical coal mining operation and produce approximately three million tonnes per year of saleable coal. The Sukunka Coal Mine Project (Project) is located approximately 55 km south of Chetwynd and about 40 km west of Tumbler Ridge. The anticipated capital cost is approximately $443.7 million.
- The Application Review phase began August 10, 2015. The EA timeline was suspended on January 21, 2016, to allow sufficient time for Glencore to address outstanding issues related to water quality and caribou. In August 2018, the EAO determined that Glencore

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had provided adequate water quality information, but the timeline suspension was continued to allow for further discussions regarding the provincial and federal governments' initiatives regarding recovery of caribou and caribou habitat and how those may inform the effects of the Project on caribou.

- Glencore has proposed major changes to its proposed project design since the original application as well as additional mitigation measures to address issues raised in the technical review. This has resulted in the need for a significant amount of additional information and additional time for the review.
- Glencore submitted a caribou report to the EAO in mid-December, which is a required document to initiate the process for lifting the suspension. Advice/Recommentations; Intergovernmental Advice/Recommentations; Intergovernmental Communications

- The EAO anticipates reinitiating the process to lift the suspension in March. Once restarted, there are up to 136 days until the assessment report and conditions must be completed, at which point there will be a public comment period.
- The anticipated referral to ministers is September 2022.

Tilbury Marine Jetty

- Tilbury Jetty Limited Partnership (TJLP) (formerly WesPac Midstream—Vancouver LLC) proposes to develop a liquefied natural gas (LNG) marine jetty on the Fraser River, adjacent to FortisBC's existing Tilbury LNG Plant.
- The Tilbury Marine Jetty Project (TMJ) would include a dock and loading platform with a berth for docking a single barge or carrier for LNG loading. TMJ would provide LNG for both the local bunkering market, and for overseas export.
- On July 20, 2015, the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change approved the substitution of the EA process to the Province of British Columbia (B.C). The substituted process must meet the EA requirements of *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*.
- The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) accepted the Application for review on March 15, 2019, and the Application Review period began on March 20, 2019.
- The initial scope of TMJ considered potential impacts from the proposed marine jetty at Tilbury Island to the marine pilot's station at Sand Heads, at the mouth of the Fraser River. On July 9, 2019, the federal Minister of the Environment and Climate Change issued a decision to expand the scope of the Project to include marine shipping extended to the 12 nautical-mile limit of Canada's territorial sea.
- On August 6, 2019, at the request of TJLP, the EAO paused the 180-day Application Review to allow additional time for TJLP to conduct supplemental analysis on marine shipping to consider potential project-related effects with respect to the expanded scope. The EAO also issued a Section 13 Order to vary the procedural Order for the TMJ to reflect the scope change and additional Indigenous groups to be consulted with (including Pacheedaht First Nation).

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- On November 23, 2021, TJLP proposed additional analysis and consultation to address the potential for additional local bunkering traffic associated with TMJ compared to what was assessed in the Application.
- On December 2, 2021, the EAO issued a Section 24(4) order to extend the 180-day Application Review time limit to July 5, 2022.
- The EAO anticipates referral to provincial ministers for decision in summer 2022.

Roberts Bank Terminal 2

- The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA) proposes to develop a three-berth marine container terminal at Roberts Bank in Delta, B.C.
- The Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project (RBT2) would involve widening and creating additional land area at the seaward end of the existing Roberts Bank Terminal causeway.
- On January 7, 2014, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) announced that the EA for the RBT2 would be conducted by an independent federal review panel.
- On December 19, 2014, the B.C. Minister of Environment issued a Section 14 Order, which directs the EAO to principally rely on the federal review panel for the information needed for the provincial EA of the RBT2.
- The federal review panel held public hearings on the RBT2 from May 14, 2019, to June 24, 2019. Closing remarks were due on August 26, 2019, after which the public record was closed to submissions.
- The panel submitted its EA report on March 27, 2020, to the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change. On April 3, 2020, the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change approved a 90-day timeline extension and on August 24, 2020, issued an information request to the VFPA that pauses the federal decision timeline.
- The VFPA provided the additional information September 24, 2021.
- The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) is holding a public comment period on draft federal project conditions and the VFPA's additional information until March 15, 2022.
- The federal EA decision must be made within 89 days of the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change accepting the VFPA's additional information. After the federal EA decision, the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) has 30 days to refer its assessment to the provincial ministers for a decision.
- The EAO is developing referral materials for decision that include a summary assessment report, potential provincial EA certificate conditions, and a proposed Certified Project Description.

Cariboo Gold

- Osisko Development Corporation (Osisko), formerly Barkerville Gold Mines (BGM), proposes to develop Cariboo Gold Mine (Cariboo Gold), an underground gold mine with a production capacity of 4,750 tonnes per day, on the outskirts of the town of Wells. Cariboo Gold would use the mine site and waste rock storage facility at Bonanza Ledge, and the ore would be processed at the nearby QR Mill.

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- Cariboo Gold is estimated to produce 25 million tonnes of ore with an operating mine life of 16 years, in addition to construction (2 years) and site decommissioning and reclamation (2 years) at a capital cost of $900 million.
- Cariboo Gold does not trigger a federal EA.
- The Cariboo Gold Environmental Assessment (EA) process began under the 2018 EA Act on May 14, 2020, and a Readiness Decision occurred on December 18, 2020. A Process Order was issued on April 16, 2021. Cariboo Gold is currently in the Application Development and Review phase of the EA.
- The following key concerns were raised during review of Application and are being discussed between Osisko and the technical advisory committee:
    - Waste rock and water management and overlap with existing permits;
    - Impacts to human health (air quality, noise, groundwater quality changes) in Wells;
    - Impacts to tourism, employment, and health services in Wells;
    - Impacts to caribou habitat along transmission line;
    - Impacts to visual quality in Wells from Mine Site infrastructure; and
    - Responsibility of cleanup of historical contamination in Mine Site area.
- Consensus has been achieved with all three participating Indigenous nations (Lhtako Dene Nation, Xat'sull First Nation, and Williams Lake First Nation) at all stages of the EA process to date.
- Osisko anticipates submitting the Revised Application in June.
- 2022. This will initiate the Effects Assessment phase of the EA.
- The Referral timing for a decision whether to issue an Environmental Assessment Certificate by the minister is anticipated in late 2022.

Cedar LNG

- Cedar LNG Partners LP (Cedar), a Haisla majority-owned partnership, proposes to develop, construct, and operate the Cedar LNG Project, a floating liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility and marine export terminal on Haisla Nation-owned land in Kitimat, B.C.
- Cedar LNG is subject to review under the provincial *Environmental Assessment Act* (2002) and the federal *Impact Assessment Act* (2019).
- On January 24, 2020, the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change approved the substitution of the environmental assessment (EA) process to the Province. The substituted process must meet both the provincial and federal EA requirements.
- The Application Information Requirements (AIR) for Cedar LNG were finalized by the EAO on November 15, 2021.
- On January 14, 2022, the EAO informed Cedar that the Application met the requirements of the AIR. The 180-day Application Review period began on February 4, 2022.
- A 45-day public comment period on the Application began on February 28, 2022 and will close on April 14, 2022.

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- The EAO is engaging with the following Indigenous nations via direct consultation and as members of the technical Working Group:
    - Gitga'at First Nation
    - Gitxaala Nation
    - Haisla Nation
    - Kitselas First Nation
    - Kitsumkalum First Nation
    - Lax Kw'alaam Band
    - Metlakatla First Nation
- The EAO is also engaging with the following Indigenous nations, as a condition of substitution:
    - Council of Haida Nation pertaining to Project-related marine shipping
    - Metis Nation of British Columbia (on behalf of the Government of Canada)
- It is anticipated that Cedar will be referred for a decision in September 2022, following a public comment period on draft referral materials.

Wonowon Landfill Project

- SECURE Energy Services Inc. (SECURE) proposes to construct and operate a hazardous waste landfill, defined as a secure landfill under the Hazardous Waste Regulation (B.C. Reg. 63/88).
- The Wonowon Landfill Project (Wonowon Landfill) would handle approximately 200,000 tonnes of waste annually and would be located approximately nine kilometres southeast of Wonowon, British Columbia (northeast BC).
- The service life of the facility would depend on the demand for disposal services and is expected to range between 25 and 75 years.
- In October 2017, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) confirmed that Wonowon Landfill is not subject to the requirements of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (2012).
- In addition to the Environmental Assessment Certificate, Wonowon Landfill is subject to other authorizations including an *Environmental Management Act* Hazardous Waste Approval from the Ministry of Environment.
- Wonowon Landfill is being assessed under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (2002) (the former Act) and must be referred to ministers for decision by December 16, 2022, or transition to the *Environmental Assessment Act 2018*.
- The Application Information Requirements (AIR) for Wonowon was finalized by the EAO on November 13, 2020.
- SECURE submitted the Application for the 30-day evaluation on February 9, 2021.
- On March 17, 2021, the EAO issued the decision to not accept the Application for review. SECURE will be required to provide additional information in the Application and resubmit for a second round of screening.
- On March 1, 2022, SECURE submitted the revised Wonowon Application for the 30-day screening period.

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- The 30-day screening period was extended by three weeks due to an incomplete Application package from SECURE and a request from Blueberry River First Nations for additional review time due to capacity challenges.
- Working Group members have until April 1, 2022, to submit screening comments. The EAO must issue its screening decision by April25, 2022.

List of the Projects that received Environmental Assessment Certificates since 2017

Project	Sector	Region	EAC Issuance Date
1. Blackwater Gold	Mines (Mineral)	Omineca	June 21, 2019
2. Burnco Aggregate	Mines (Gravel)	Lower Mainland	March 18, 2018
3. George Massey Tunnel Replacement	Transport (Highway)	Lower Mainland	February 8, 2017 (EAC expired February 2022)
4. Kemess Underground	Mines (Mineral)	Omineca	March 13, 2017
5. Kootenay West Mine	Mines (Stone/Quarry)	Kootenay	January 24, 2018
6. North Montney Mainline Pipeline	Energy (Pipeline)	Peace	January 18, 2017
7. Pattullo Bridge Replacement	Water (Shoreline)	Lower Mainland	May 2, 2019
8. Red Mountain Underground Gold	Mines (Mineral)	Skeena	October 5, 2018
9. Revelstoke Generating Station Unit 6	Energy (Power Plant)	Kootenay	November 27, 2018
10. Towerbirch Expansion	Energy (Pipeline)	Peace	February 23, 2017
11. Trans Mountain Expansion	Energy (Pipeline)	Lower Mainland	January 10, 2017

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List of Active Projects

EA Project	Proponent	Sector
1. Cariboo Gold Project	Osisko Development Corporation	Metal Mining
2. Cedar LNG	Cedar LNG Partners LP	Energy
3. Crown Mountain Coking Coal	NWP Coal Canada Limited	Coal Mining
4. Delta Grinding Facility	Lehigh Hanson Materials Limited	Industrial
5. Eskay Creek Revitalization	Skeena Resources Limited	Metal Mining
6. Fording River Extension Project (Castle)	Teck Coal Limited	Coal Mining
7. Deltaport Expansion - Berth Four	GCT Canada Limited Partnership	Transportation
8. Highland Valley Copper - 2040	Teck Highland Valley Copper Partnership	Metal Mining
9. Ksi Lisms LNG	Nisga'a Nation, Rockies LNG Limited Partnership and Western LNG LLC	Energy
10. Kutcho	Kutcho Copper Corporation	Metal Mining
11. Michel Coal	North Coal Limited	Coal Mining
12. Pacific Northern Gas Looping	Pacific Northern Gas Limited	Energy
13. Roberts Bank Terminal 2	Vancouver Fraser Port Authority	Transportation
14. Spanish Mountain Gold	Spanish Mountain Gold Inc	Metal Mining
15. Sukunka Coal Mine	Glencore PLC	Coal Mining
16. Tenas	Telkwa Coal Limited	Coal Mining
17. Tilbury Marine Jetty	Tilbury Jetty LP	Transportation
18. Tilbury Phase 2 LNG Expansion	FortisBC	Energy
19. Vopak Pacific Canada	Vopak Development Canada Incorporated	Energy
20. Wonowon Landfill	SECURE Energy Services Incorporated	Waste

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List of Active Amendments

EA Project	Proponent	Sector
1. Basal Aquifer Dewatering (Highland Valley Copper)	Highland Valley Copper Corporation	Metal Mining
2. Brucejack Mine	Pretium Resources Inc.	Metal Mining
3. Eagle Mountain-Woodfibre Pipeline	FortisBC	Energy
4. LNG Canada Export Terminal	LNG Canada Development Incorporated	Energy
5. Line Creek Operations Phase II	Teck Coal Limited	Coal Mining
6. Orca Sand and Gravel	Orca Sand and Gravel Limited	Gravel Mining
7. Peejay Secure Landfill	Canada Natural Resources Limited	Waste
8. Red Chris Poryphry Copper-Gold Mine	Newcrest Red Chris Mining Limited	Metal Mining
9. Site C	BC Hydro and Power Authority	Energy
10. Westcoast Connector Gas Transmission	Westcoast Connector Gas Transmission Limited	Energy
11. Woodfibre LNG	Woodfibre LNG Ltd.	Energy

List of Active Project at other stages:

EA Project	Request Type	Proponent	Sector
1. West Coast Olefins Natural Gas Liquids Project	Minister's Designation Request	West Coast Olefins Ltd.	Energy
2. Big White Ski Resort	Minister's Designation Request	Big White Ski Resort Ltd.	Resorts
3. Bull River Mine	Minister's Designation Request	Braveheart Resources Inc.	Coal Mining

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Environmental Assessment Office – April 22, 2022

COASTAL GASLINK PIPELINE PROJECT
Compliance and Enforcement

Key Messages:

- As recent compliance and enforcement orders show, the Environmental Assessment Office continues to actively monitor the conditions of the environmental assessment certificate for construction of the Coastal Gaslink pipeline project on an ongoing basis.
- More than 40 inspections have been carried out since the project began construction and I can assure you that the EAO takes any matters of noncompliance very seriously.
- As a result of inspections last spring, the Environmental Assessment Office issued an administrative penalty with a fine of $72,500 for non-compliance with orders to protect waterways issued following inspections of pipeline construction.
- One of the conditions of the environmental assessment certificate is an Environmental Management Plan that includes protecting sensitive wetlands and waterways from sediment caused by erosion, which can negatively impact fish habitat.
- The statutory decision-maker considers a variety of factors to determine the appropriate penalty value, and their reasons for decision are posted to the EAO project information website
- Several subsequent inspections that took place between October 2021 and April 2022 in various locations along the construction right-of-way found ongoing non-compliance related to erosion and sediment control.
- A number of orders to remedy the issues were made as a result.
- As some of these relate to earlier orders where non-compliance is still evident, the potential for additional penalties is currently under consideration.

If asked about oil spill at Hirsch Creek in Feb. 2022:

- The matter of the fuel spill is under the authority of the Oil and Gas Commission.
- EAO Compliance and Enforcement Officers conducted an inspection at Hirsch Creek in February related to ongoing compliance monitoring for erosion and sediment controls.
- An order to remedy non-compliance for erosion and sediment control was issued on Feb. 19, 2022. This was unrelated to the fuel spill.
- The inspection record from the Compliance and Enforcement Officer is currently being finalized and will be made public shortly.

Background:

- The Coastal GasLink Pipeline Project (CGL) Environmental Assessment Certificate, granted in 2014, includes 33 legally binding conditions. EAO Compliance and Enforcement (EAO C&E) regularly inspects pipeline construction to monitor compliance with the certificate requirements.
- EAO C&E has conducted 42 inspections of the project to date. In response to non-compliance identified by those inspections, the EAO has issued 37 warnings and 12 orders to address the non-compliance. These have been related to requirements for erosion and sediment control in areas with sensitive wetlands or waterways and fish habitat, as well as wildlife attractant management.
- EAO C&E works closely with compliance and enforcement staff from the Oil and Gas Commission to conduct oversight.

Recent Enforcement Action

Erosion and Sediment Control:

- In December 2020, EAO C&E issued Order EN2020-011 based on noncompliance with Condition 26 (to develop an Environmental Management Plan). The order requires CGL to:
  - Plan and implement erosion and sediment control measures before, during, and after completing works; and,
  - Retain an independent auditor to report to EAO C&E on compliance with the Order and broader requirements specific to control soil erosion and sediment transport.
- Inspections in 2021 and 2022 (detailed below) have shown continued non-compliance with erosion and sediment control requirements.
- Several orders and an administrative penalty were issued as a result. Additional administrative penalties have been recommended and are under review by the statutory decision-maker.
- EAO C&E is planning further steps to verify and ensure compliance with the erosion and sediment control Orders and Certificate Conditions throughout the project. This includes ongoing evaluation and follow-up, site inspections and consideration of escalating enforcement measures.

Inspection Record 2021-014

- Following an inspection of the entire line in May 2021, EAO C&E posted an Inspection Record (IR2021-014) on EPIC in late September 2021 which identified continued noncompliance with both Condition 26 and Order EN2020-011. Subsequent orders were then issued to place signage to identify sensitive environmental features, and to report quarterly on the maintenance of the signage. In addition, C&E made a recommendation for an Administrative Penalty (a fine).
- CGL was informed on Dec. 30, 2021 that the EAO intended to levy an administrative penalty. Per their procedural rights, CGL submitted additional information for consideration which was reviewed by the statutory decision-maker.
- CGL was notified on February 16th, 2022 of an Administrative Penalty of $72,500.
- Administrative penalties are determined based on a range of factors:
  - Nature of contravention, actual or potential adverse effects, compliance history, whether contravention was repeated or continuous, whether contravention was deliberate, economic benefit derived by the holder from the contravention, due diligence to prevent the contravention, efforts to correct and prevent reoccurrence, and other relevant factors.
  - The maximum penalty for failing to comply with an order issued under the Environmental Assessment Act is $100,000. This may be multiplied by the number of days of non-compliance, within the factors considered for the appropriate penalty value matrix.
  - The maximum administrative penalty value is defined by the Administrative Penalties Regulation and varies based on the section of the Act with which the certificate holder fails to comply – ranging from $2,000 to $750,000.

Inspection Record 2021-027

- In October 2021, EAO C&E conducted an inspection and confirmed continued noncompliance with both Condition 26 and Order EN2020-011.
- On November 9, 2021, two Orders to Remedy (for two separate geographic locations) were issued requiring CGL to implement erosion and/or sediment control to prevent sediment laden water from entering watercourses and wetlands at specific locations and provide confirmation to EAO that measures have been implemented to meet the requirements by November 19, 2021.
- The locations for the orders are Section 2 (generally north of Prince George) and Section 8 (generally south of Smithers).
- The order for Section 8 is in the general vicinity of previous and ongoing direct-action activities opposing the pipeline, but not where direct action has occurred or is occurring.
- The Inspection Record documenting the observations and evidence gathered during the 2021 inspection was posted on EPIC on Dec. 6. A second Administrative Penalty was recommended in response to repeated noncompliance with erosion and sediment control requirements.
  - The administrative penalty package is with the statutory decision-maker for decision.
  - Initial notice of determination of an administrative penalty was provided to the certificate holder March 10, 2022. EAO C&E is currently reviewing their responses and planning further steps to verify compliance with orders EN2021-003 and EN2021-004. This will require ongoing evaluation and follow-up, including site inspections.
- Emergency enforcement orders were issued immediately, prior to finalizing the Inspection Record, because CGL was clearly not in compliance, it was repeated noncompliance, and timely enforcement was necessary to remedy adverse effects to watercourses, wetlands and wildlife.

Inspection Record 2022-07

- Between February 16 and 18, 2022 EAO C&E conducted an inspection and confirmed continued noncompliance with both Condition 26 and Order EN2020-011. This resulted in an order to remedy and recommendation for another administrative penalty.
- On February 19, 2022, an Order to Remedy was issued requiring CGL to implement erosion and/or sediment control to prevent sediment-laden water from entering watercourses and wetlands at specific locations and provide confirmation to EAO C&E that measures have been implemented to meet the requirements by February 24, 2022.
- CGL provided EAO information that they had complied with this specific order by the deadline.
- The Enforcement order was issued immediately, prior to finalizing the Inspection Record, for the same reasons as above (2021-027).
- The Order to Remedy was posted to EPIC on February 25, 2022. The Inspection Record is currently in draft pending a review of CGL's response to the record and will be posted to EPIC when finalized.

Inspection Record 2022-016

- Between April 4 and 8, 2022 EAO C&E conducted a fifth site inspection related to erosion and sediment control and documented continued non-compliance.
- During the inspection the following observations were made:
    - Repeated contraventions at locations previously identified and subject to enforcement.
    - Ongoing contravention at locations previously identified and subject to enforcement.
    - Contraventions that have led to chronic long-term (months-long) and regular inputs to sensitive areas.
    - Newly identified contraventions of Condition 26 and EN2020-011.
    - Limited awareness of CGL staff in responding to ongoing contraventions with continuing impacts to the environment.
- EAO C&E issued two orders on under Section 53 on April 14, 2022, which will be posted to EPIC on April 21, 2022:
    - CGL must immediately cease pumping sediment-laden water from Project works, including but not limited to trenches and sumps, in a manner that allows it to enter environmentally sensitive watercourses.
    - By April 22, 2022, CGL must provide confirmation to EAO C&E that the measures have been implemented.

Wildlife Attractant Management:

- Condition 9 of EAC #E14-03 requires CGL to develop and implement a Human Wildlife Conflict Management Plan as part of the Environmental Management Plan, required by Condition 26.
- During inspections in 2019, EAO C&E confirmed noncompliance with Conditions 9 and 26 (requirement to store food wastes in bear-proof containers).
- In response, Order EN2019-003 was issued on June 17, 2019, requiring CGL to secure, dispose of, remove, or otherwise manage all wildlife attractants in a manner that prevents the attraction of wildlife and/or access to attractants by wildlife, to the satisfaction of EAO C&E.
- In October 2021, EAO C&E conducted an inspection and confirmed noncompliance with Order EN2019-003, resulting in an additional Order (EN2021-002) to CGL on Nov. 9 to advise all staff and contractors that wildlife attractants must not be stored in vehicles in a manner that is

accessible to wildlife, and to remove all wildlife attractants at specific locations identified by EAO C&E, and provide evidence that wildlife attractants have been removed by Nov. 17, 2021.
- In response, CGL has provided information that demonstrates compliance with EN2021-002.

Access:

- EAO completed an inspection into a complaint received in March 2021 regarding limiting the access of Indigenous individuals to their territory outside of an active work area. That inspection concluded that CGL was not compliant with the requirements and a warning was issued.

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Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, March 25, 2022

Deltaport Expansion, Berth Four Project

Key Messages:

- Global Container Terminals (GCT) Canada Limited Partnership is proposing to expand its existing GCT Deltaport Container Terminal, a container storage and handling facility located in Roberts Bank - Delta, British Columbia, which requires both provincial and federal environmental assessments.
- As proposed, the expansion would add a fourth berth on the east side of the Roberts Bank Causeway, include an expansion of the intermodal rail yard along the causeway, capacity for an additional two million 20-foot equivalent unit containers per year, and dredging to provide safe access for ships.
- The federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change referred the federal assessment to an independent review panel. The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) plans to principally rely on the panel process and report to inform provincial decision materials.
- The EAO and Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (Agency) are developing joint documents that identify the information required to be assessed.
- The joint documents are expected to be finalized in Spring 2022. Following this, the EAO and the Agency will co-draft the panel's terms of reference.
- At the end of the assessment process, Provincial Ministers will make an independent decision on whether or not the project should receive an environmental assessment certificate.

Background:

- Global Container Terminals (GCT) proposes to expand its existing marine shipping facility on Roberts Bank in Delta, British Columbia.
- The additional land-based container storage and handling facilities would provide capacity for an additional two million 20-foot equivalent unit (TEU) containers per year through the existing terminal.
- The expansion also includes the existing terminals container storage and handling area, addition of a fourth berth on the southeast side of the Roberts Bank Causeway, and expansion of the existing intermodal rail yard.
- The project proposes a 44-hectare (ha) expansion of the terminal for container handling and storage, a 560-metres berth extension, a 12-ha expansion of the existing intermodal rail yard, and a barge berth to accommodate future potential demand for short sea shipping capability.
- Based on the proposed design, the Deltaport Expansion, Berth Four Project (DP4) constitutes a reviewable project under Part 7 of the Reviewable Projects Regulation of the *Environmental Assessment Act* (2018).
- DP4 triggers the *Impact Assessment Act,* and the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) is working with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) based on the Impact Assessment Cooperation Agreement.
- GCT filed an Initial Project Description (IPD) and Engagement Plan (EP) on September 18, 2020, that proposes the DP4 project.
- These documents were approved by the Chief Executive Assessment Officer on September 28, 2020, which initiated the Early Engagement phase of the environmental assessment. The Agency also accepted the IPD on September 28, 2020.
- The EAO and the Agency completed a Joint Summary of Issues and Engagement on December 23, 2020.
- GCT submitted a Detailed Project Description in July 2021.
- The EAO made a readiness decision to proceed to an environmental assessment (EA) on October 28, 2021. The Agency determined that an impact assessment is required.
- The federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change referred the federal assessment to an independent review panel. The EAO plans to principally rely on the panel process and report to inform provincial decision materials.
- The EA process is currently in the Process Planning phase and the EAO and Agency are developing joint documents (i.e., joint guidelines) that identify the information required for the Impact Statement and describe the joint assessment process (i.e., joint assessment plan).
- The joint documents are expected to be finalized in Spring 2022. Following this, the panel's terms of reference will be drafted by the Agency with input from the EAO. The panel will be formed before the Impact Statement (i.e., Application) is submitted.

- Following the Process Planning phase, the EAO and Agency will develop a project specific ministerial agreement that will provide more detail than the joint assessment plan to describe how the EAO and Agency will work together throughout the assessment process.

Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Context:

- As proposed, GCT's Deltaport Expansion, Berth Four project is in direct competition with an existing proposal in the same space, the Robert's Bank Terminal 2 project (RBT2), proposed by the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA), which is expected to be referred to Ministers in 2022.
- Even though both projects cannot be built (as currently designed) it is the role of the EAO to assess proposed projects according to the regulations under the Environmental Assessment Act. Each project will receive a fair and thorough assessment.
- Both projects are proposed on lands owned by the VFPA and GCT is the operator of the port.
- VFPA is also a permitting agency for some projects that require federal assessment. VFPA rejected GCT's proposal for the Deltaport Expansion in 2019, and GCT is seeking a judicial review of this decision.

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Environmental Assessment Office, April 25, 2022

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROJECTS

Key Messages:

- Currently there are 36 projects at various stages of the environmental assessment (EA) process: 20 are actively undergoing EA, and the remaining projects have varying degrees of activity.
- The 20 active projects represent an estimated $29 billion in potential capital investment.
- Of the 20 active projects: five are metal mining, five are coal mining, three are transportation, five are energy, one is industrial, and one is waste management.
- Of the remaining projects, there are approximately 12 projects seeking amendments and/or approvals to activities associated with meeting the conditions of their Environmental Assessment certificates.
- In addition we have three projects for which third parties have submitted applications for Minister's Designation under Section 6 of the EA Act to determine if the project should be reviewable.
- Since 2021, two projects have been referred for Environmental Assessment Certificate decision (Vopak Pacific Canada and Morrison Copper/Gold.
    - Vopak Pacific Canada EA Certificate was approved by ministers on April 20, 2022 and the Morrison Cooper/Gold EA Certificate was refused on February 7, 2022.
    - Both projects are under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (2002).

Background:

In addition to the 36 projects at various stages of the EA process EAO staff are currently reviewing two potential new EA projects (Hackney Hills Wind and Yellowhead Mine) which be assessed under the revitalized Environmental Assessment Act (2018). No public announcements have been made on these projects to date.

Below is a brief description of some of the projects currently in the latter stages of the environmental assessment (EA).

Sukunka Coal Mine Project

- Glencore PLC (Glencore) proposes to develop and operate an open pit metallurgical coal mining operation and produce approximately three million tonnes per year of saleable coal. The Sukunka Coal Mine Project (Project) is located approximately 55 km south of Chetwynd and about 40 km west of Tumbler Ridge. The anticipated capital cost is approximately $443.7 million.
- The Application Review phase began August 10, 2015. The EA timeline was suspended on January 21, 2016, to allow sufficient time for Glencore to address outstanding issues related to water quality and caribou. In August 2018, the EAO determined that Glencore had provided adequate water quality information, but the timeline suspension was continued to allow for further discussions regarding the provincial and federal governments' initiatives regarding recovery of caribou and caribou habitat and how those may inform the effects of the Project on caribou.
- Glencore has proposed major changes to its proposed project design since the original application as well as additional mitigation measures to address issues raised in the technical review. This has resulted in the need for a significant amount of additional information and additional time for the review.
- Glencore submitted a caribou report to the EAO in mid-December, which is a required document to initiate the process for lifting the suspension.

Advice/Recommentations; Intergovernmental Communications

- The EAO reinitiated the process to lift the suspension in March, and the suspension will formally lift in July. Once restarted, there are up to 136 days until the assessment report and conditions must be completed, at which point there will be a public comment period.
- The anticipated referral to ministers is September 2022.

Tilbury Marine Jetty

- Tilbury Jetty Limited Partnership (TJLP) (formerly WesPac Midstream—Vancouver LLC) proposes to develop a liquefied natural gas (LNG) marine jetty on the Fraser River, adjacent to FortisBC's existing Tilbury LNG Plant.

- The Tilbury Marine Jetty Project (TMJ) would include a dock and loading platform with a berth for docking a single barge or carrier for LNG loading. TMJ would provide LNG for both the local bunkering market, and for overseas export.
- On July 20, 2015, the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change approved the substitution of the EA process to the Province of British Columbia (B.C). The substituted process must meet the EA requirements of *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*.
- The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) accepted the Application for review on March 15, 2019, and the Application Review period began on March 20, 2019.
- The initial scope of TMJ considered potential impacts from the proposed marine jetty at Tilbury Island to the marine pilot's station at Sand Heads, at the mouth of the Fraser River. On July 9, 2019, the federal Minister of the Environment and Climate Change issued a decision to expand the scope of the Project to include marine shipping extended to the 12 nautical-mile limit of Canada's territorial sea.
- On August 6, 2019, at the request of TJLP, the EAO paused the 180-day Application Review to allow additional time for TJLP to conduct supplemental analysis on marine shipping to consider potential project-related effects with respect to the expanded scope. The EAO also issued a Section 13 Order to vary the procedural Order for the TMJ to reflect the scope change and additional Indigenous groups to be consulted with (including Pacheedaht First Nation).
- On November 23, 2021, TJLP proposed additional analysis and consultation to address the potential for additional local bunkering traffic associated with TMJ compared to what was assessed in the Application.
- On December 2, 2021, the EAO issued a Section 24(4) order to extend the 180-day Application Review time limit to July 5, 2022.
- The EAO anticipates referral to provincial ministers for decision in summer 2022.

Roberts Bank Terminal 2

- The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA) proposes to develop a three-berth marine container terminal at Roberts Bank in Delta, B.C.
- The Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project (RBT2) would involve widening and creating additional land area at the seaward end of the existing Roberts Bank Terminal causeway.
- On January 7, 2014, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) announced that the EA for the RBT2 would be conducted by an independent federal review panel.
- On December 19, 2014, the B.C. Minister of Environment issued a Section 14 Order, which directs the EAO to principally rely on the federal review panel for the information needed for the provincial EA of the RBT2.
- The federal review panel held public hearings on the RBT2 from May 14, 2019, to June 24, 2019. Closing remarks were due on August 26, 2019, after which the public record was closed to submissions.

- The panel submitted its EA report on March 27, 2020, to the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change. On April 3, 2020, the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change approved a 90-day timeline extension and on August 24, 2020, issued an information request to the VFPA that pauses the federal decision timeline.
- The VFPA provided the additional information September 24, 2021.
- The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) is holding a public comment period on draft federal project conditions and the VFPA's additional information until March 15, 2022.
- The federal EA decision must be made within 89 days of the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change accepting the VFPA's additional information. After the federal EA decision, the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) has 30 days to refer its assessment to the provincial ministers for a decision.
- The EAO is developing referral materials for decision that include a summary assessment report, potential provincial EA certificate conditions, and a proposed Certified Project Description.

Cariboo Gold

- Osisko Development Corporation (Osisko), formerly Barkerville Gold Mines (BGM), proposes to develop Cariboo Gold Mine (Cariboo Gold), an underground gold mine with a production capacity of 4,750 tonnes per day, on the outskirts of the town of Wells. Cariboo Gold would use the mine site and waste rock storage facility at Bonanza Ledge, and the ore would be processed at the nearby QR Mill.
- Cariboo Gold is estimated to produce 25 million tonnes of ore with an operating mine life of 16 years, in addition to construction (2 years) and site decommissioning and reclamation (2 years) at a capital cost of $900 million.
- Cariboo Gold does not trigger a federal EA.
- The Cariboo Gold Environmental Assessment (EA) process began under the 2018 EA Act on May 14, 2020, and a Readiness Decision occurred on December 18, 2020. A Process Order was issued on April 16, 2021. Cariboo Gold is currently in the Application Development and Review phase of the EA.
- The following key concerns were raised during review of Application and are being discussed between Osisko and the technical advisory committee:
    - Waste rock and water management and overlap with existing permits;
    - Impacts to human health (air quality, noise, groundwater quality changes) in Wells;
    - Impacts to tourism, employment, and health services in Wells;
    - Impacts to caribou habitat along transmission line;
    - Impacts to visual quality in Wells from Mine Site infrastructure; and
    - Responsibility of cleanup of historical contamination in Mine Site area.
- Consensus has been achieved with all three participating Indigenous nations (Lhtako Dene Nation, Xat'sull First Nation, and Williams Lake First Nation) at all stages of the EA process to date.

- Osisko anticipates submitting the Revised Application in June, 2022. This will initiate the Effects Assessment phase of the EA.
- The Referral timing for a decision whether to issue an Environmental Assessment Certificate by the minister is anticipated in late 2022.

Cedar LNG

- Cedar LNG Partners LP (Cedar), a Haisla majority-owned partnership, proposes to develop, construct, and operate the Cedar LNG Project, a floating liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility and marine export terminal on Haisla Nation-owned land in Kitimat, B.C.
- Cedar LNG is subject to review under the provincial *Environmental Assessment Act* (2002) and the federal *Impact Assessment Act* (2019).
- On January 24, 2020, the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change approved the substitution of the environmental assessment (EA) process to the Province. The substituted process must meet both the provincial and federal EA requirements.
- The Application Information Requirements (AIR) for Cedar LNG were finalized by the EAO on November 15, 2021.
- On January 14, 2022, the EAO informed Cedar that the Application met the requirements of the AIR. The 180-day Application Review period began on February 4, 2022.
- A 45-day public comment period on the Application began on February 28, 2022 and closed on April 14, 2022.
- The EAO is engaging with the following Indigenous nations via direct consultation and as members of the technical Working Group:
    - Gitga'at First Nation
    - Gitxaala Nation
    - Haisla Nation
    - Kitselas First Nation
    - Kitsumkalum First Nation
    - Lax Kw'alaam Band
    - Metlakatla First Nation
- The EAO is also engaging with the following Indigenous nations, as a condition of substitution:
    - Council of Haida Nation pertaining to Project-related marine shipping
    - Metis Nation of British Columbia (on behalf of the Government of Canada)
- It is anticipated that Cedar will be referred for a decision in September 2022, following a public comment period on draft referral materials.

Wonowon Landfill Project

- SECURE Energy Services Inc. (SECURE) proposes to construct and operate a hazardous waste landfill, defined as a secure landfill under the Hazardous Waste Regulation (B.C. Reg. 63/88).
- The Wonowon Landfill Project (Wonowon Landfill) would handle approximately 200,000 tonnes of waste annually and would be located approximately nine kilometres southeast of Wonowon, British Columbia (northeast BC).
- The service life of the facility would depend on the demand for disposal services and is expected to range between 25 and 75 years.
- In October 2017, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) confirmed that Wonowon Landfill is not subject to the requirements of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (2012).
- In addition to the Environmental Assessment Certificate, Wonowon Landfill is subject to other authorizations including an *Environmental Management Act* Hazardous Waste Approval from the Ministry of Environment.
- Wonowon Landfill is being assessed under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (2002) (the former Act) and must be referred to ministers for decision by December 16, 2022, or transition to the *Environmental Assessment Act 2018*.
- The Application Information Requirements (AIR) for Wonowon was finalized by the EAO on November 13, 2020.
- SECURE submitted the Application for the 30-day evaluation on February 9, 2021.
- On March 17, 2021, the EAO issued the decision to not accept the Application for review. SECURE will be required to provide additional information in the Application and resubmit for a second round of screening.
- On March 1, 2022, SECURE submitted the revised Wonowon Application for the 30-day screening period.
- The 30-day screening period was extended by three weeks due to an incomplete Application package from SECURE and a request from Blueberry River First Nations for additional review time due to capacity challenges.
- Working Group members have until April 29, 2022, to submit screening comments. The EAO must issue its screening decision by May 3, 2022.

List of the Projects that received Environmental Assessment Certificates since 2017

Project	Sector	Region	EAC Issuance Date
1. Blackwater Gold	Mines (Mineral)	Omineca	June 21, 2019
2. Burnco Aggregate	Mines (Gravel)	Lower Mainland	March 18, 2018

3. George Massey Tunnel Replacement	Transport (Highway)	Lower Mainland	February 8, 2017 (EAC expired February 2022)
4. Kemess Underground	Mines (Mineral)	Omineca	March 13, 2017
5. Kootenay West Mine	Mines (Stone/Quarry)	Kootenay	January 24, 2018
6. North Montney Mainline Pipeline	Energy (Pipeline)	Peace	January 18, 2017
7. Pattullo Bridge Replacement	Water (Shoreline)	Lower Mainland	May 2, 2019
8. Red Mountain Underground Gold	Mines (Mineral)	Skeena	October 5, 2018
9. Revelstoke Generating Station Unit 6	Energy (Power Plant)	Kootenay	November 27, 2018
10. Towerbirch Expansion	Energy (Pipeline)	Peace	February 23, 2017
11. Trans Mountain Expansion	Energy (Pipeline)	Lower Mainland	January 10, 2017
12. Vopak Pacific Canada	Energy (Storage Facility)	Skeena	April 20, 2022

List of Active Projects

EA Project	Proponent	Sector
1. Cariboo Gold Project	Osisko Development Corporation	Metal Mining
2. Cedar LNG	Cedar LNG Partners LP	Energy
3. Crown Mountain Coking Coal	NWP Coal Canada Limited	Coal Mining
4. Delta Grinding Facility	Lehigh Hanson Materials Limited	Industrial
5. Eskay Creek Revitalization	Skeena Resources Limited	Metal Mining
6. Fording River Extension Project (Castle)	Teck Coal Limited	Coal Mining
7. Fraser River Tunnel	Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure	Transportation
8. Deltaport Expansion - Berth Four	GCT Canada Limited Partnership	Transportation
9. Highland Valley Copper - 2040	Teck Highland Valley Copper Partnership	Metal Mining
10. Ksi Lisms LNG	Nisga'a Nation, Rockies LNG Limited Partnership and Western LNG LLC	Energy
11. Kutcho	Kutcho Copper Corporation	Metal Mining
12. Michel Coal	North Coal Limited	Coal Mining
13. Pacific Northern Gas Looping	Pacific Northern Gas Limited	Energy

14. Roberts Bank Terminal 2	Vancouver Fraser Port Authority	Transportation
15. Spanish Mountain Gold	Spanish Mountain Gold Inc	Metal Mining
16. Sukunka Coal Mine	Glencore PLC	Coal Mining
17. Tenas	Telkwa Coal Limited	Coal Mining
18. Tilbury Marine Jetty	Tilbury Jetty LP	Transportation
19. Tilbury Phase 2 LNG Expansion	FortisBC	Energy
20. Wonowon Landfill	SECURE Energy Services Incorporated	Waste

List of Active Amendments

EA Project	Proponent	Sector
1. Basal Aquifer Dewatering (Highland Valley Copper)	Highland Valley Copper Corporation	Metal Mining
2. Brucejack Mine	Pretium Resources Inc.	Metal Mining
3. Eagle Mountain-Woodfibre Pipeline	FortisBC	Energy
4. LNG Canada Export Terminal	LNG Canada Development Incorporated	Energy
5. Line Creek Operations Phase II	Teck Coal Limited	Coal Mining
6. Orca Sand and Gravel	Orca Sand and Gravel Limited	Gravel Mining
7. Peejay Secure Landfill	Canada Natural Resources Limited	Waste
8. Red Chris Poryphry Copper-Gold Mine	Newcrest Red Chris Mining Limited	Metal Mining
9. Site C	BC Hydro and Power Authority	Energy
10. Westcoast Connector Gas Transmission	Westcoast Connector Gas Transmission Limited	Energy
11. Woodfibre LNG	Woodfibre LNG Ltd.	Energy

List of Active Project at other stages:

EA Project	Request Type	Proponent	Sector
1. West Coast Olefins Natural Gas Liquids Project	Minister's Designation Request	West Coast Olefins Ltd.	Energy
2. Big White Ski Resort	Minister's Designation Request	Big White Ski Resort Ltd.	Resorts
3. Bull River Mine	Minister's Designation Request	Braveheart Resources Inc.	Coal Mining

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Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, April 22, 2022

FRASER RIVER TUNNEL PROJECT

Key Messages:

- On August 18, 2021, the Province announced a toll-free immersed tube tunnel (ITT) would replace the George Massey Tunnel on Highway 99 for the transportation connection across the Fraser River. Two of the eight lanes will be dedicated to bus rapid transit and there will be separated pathways for cyclists and pedestrians.

- On April 11, 2022, the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) accepted the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's (MoTI) Initial Project Description and Engagement Plan starting the Early Engagement Phase.

- A 45-day public comment period will start on April 25, 2022. Two in-person open houses will be held in the Lower Mainland and two information sessions will be held virtually.

- The Fraser River Tunnel Project Environmental Assessment (EA) process will include opportunities for engagement with Indigenous nations, provincial and local government agencies, and the public.

- If an Environmental Assessment Certificate and permits are issued, construction is proposed to begin in 2025, with the new ITT crossing in operation by 2030.

GCPE ENV – CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Background:

- Fraser River Tunnel (FRT) Project is a proposed toll-free eight-lane immersed tube tunnel that will replace the George Massey Tunnel on Highway 99. Two of the eight lanes will be dedicated to bus rapid transit and there will be separated pathways for cyclists and pedestrians.

- Subject to regulatory approvals, construction would begin in 2025 and is anticipated to be completed in 2030.

- The FRT Project will be led by the Transportation Investment Corporation on behalf of Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI). The FRT Project is located on the traditional territories of several Indigenous nations and on Crown land within the Highway 99 right-of-way under the South Arm of the Fraser River and is located within the City of Richmond and the City of Delta.

- In September 2021, the MoTI began their engagement with Indigenous nations and key parties on the proposed FRT Project.
- MoTI filed an Initial Project Description (IPD) and Engagement Plan (EP) on April 7, 2022, that proposes the Fraser River Tunnel Project.
- These documents were accepted by the Chief Executive Assessment Officer on April 11, 2022, which initiated the 90-day Early Engagement phase.

- The EAO will run a public comment period for 45 days from April 25 to June 9, 2022. During this time the EAO will be hosting two in-person open houses in the lower mainland and two virtual information sessions.

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CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Environmental Assessment Office, March 25, 2022

LITIGATION BEFORE THE COURT

Key Messages:

- For matters that are still before the courts it would be inappropriate to comment further.

Matters before the courts (FOR REFERENCE)

Raven Coal Mine -

Legal Information

Site C Clean Energy Project -

Legal Information

Background:

Compliance Coal - Raven Coal Mine Project

- Legal Information

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Site C Clean Energy Project

- Legal Information

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Environmental Assessment Office, April 25, 2022

LNG Projects

Key Messages:

- There are currently two Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) projects, LNG Canada Export Terminal and Woodfibre LNG, that have received an Environmental Assessment Certificate and are under or nearing construction.

- Kitimat LNG has received an Environmental Assessment Certificate; however, the certificate holder intends to divest from the project before operations and is in the process of decommissioning the site.

- There are two new proposed LNG projects, Cedar LNG Project and Ksi Lisims LNG, currently undergoing an environmental assessment.

- There is one proposed expansion to an existing facility, Tilbury LNG, that is currently undergoing an environmental assessment.

Project (Proponent)	Pipeline	EA Phase	Description
LNG Canada Export Terminal (LNG Canada)	Coastal GasLink: 670-kilometre pipeline from northeastern B.C. to Kitimat. Construction is underway and completion expected in 2023.	• Provincial Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) and federal decision were issued on June 17, 2015. • The project was substantially started on June 17, 2020. • Phase one (two of the four LNG processing units) currently under construction, anticipated to be completed in 2025. • LNG Canada submitted an application to amend the EAC in April 2022. If approved, the amendment would allow LNG Canada to convert an existing jetty to accommodate tugboats.	• An LNG plant and associated marine terminal facilities for the export of LNG to Asian markets. • LNG Canada would produce an estimated 26 million tonnes of LNG per year at full build out. • At $40 billion, the project represents the largest private sector investment in Canadian history. It is expected to generate approximately $23 billion in public revenue over 40 years.
Tilbury Phase 2 LNG Expansion (FortisBC)	Existing FortisBC gas lines	• The Tilbury LNG project is one of the first projects being reviewed under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (2018). • The federal government granted substitution of the assessment to the EAO on January 20, 2022, whereby the EAO administers the environmental assessment to meet both provincial and federal requirements. • After receiving FortisBC's Detailed Project Description for the proposed project and having reviewed the Readiness Decision Report, the Chief Executive Assessment Officer of the EAO decided on January 13th, 2022, that Tilbury LNG will proceed to the	• A proposed expansion of an existing LNG facility on Tilbury Island, in Delta, B.C., to increase storage capacity up to an additional 150,813 m3 (3.7 petajoules) and increase the LNG production capacity of the facility by up to an additional 7,700 tonnes per day through the construction of a storage tank, liquefaction trains and supporting infrastructure.

Project (Proponent)	Pipeline	EA Phase	Description
		process planning phase of an environmental assessment. • The 120-day Process Planning phase to determine the assessment scope, methods and information requirements will end on May 12, 2022.	• Tilbury Phase 2 LNG Expansion would utilize the Tilbury Marine Jetty for LNG bunkering and export.
Woodfibre LNG (Woodfibre LNG Limited)	Eagle Mountain Pipeline: 47-kilometre long pipeline, generally paralleling (or looping) a portion of FortisBC's existing pipeline, from the area north of the Coquitlam Watershed in Metro Vancouver to the Woodfibre LNG facility	• EAC issued on October 26, 2015. • On October 26, 2020, the EAO granted a five-year extension to the duration of the EAC. • Woodfibre LNG Limited requested an amendment to the EAC (Amendment #3) on October 28, 2019, to propose worker accommodation, including a floating camp. The review of the amendment has been paused since April 2021. On February 19, 2022, Woodfibre indicated they have made engineering changes and will provide additional information and studies to re-start the amendment review in June 2022. • The EAO is coordinating its review of Amendment #3 with Squamish Nation and the Agency. In June 2020, the EAO, Squamish Nation and the Agency signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU), reflecting this commitment to coordinate.	• A small-scale LNG processing and export facility on the former Western Forest Products pulp mill site located near Squamish, B.C. • The facility would have a storage capacity of 250,000 m3 and would produce up to 2.1 million tonnes / year of LNG.

Project (Proponent)	Pipeline	EA Phase	Description
Kitimat LNG Project (KM LNG Operating General Partnership)	Pacific Trails Pipelines: 470-kilometre long pipeline between Summit Lake and Kitimat. The proposal has not secured overseas buyers or reached a final investment decision.	• Provincial EAC issued on June 1, 2006. • On December 21, 2016, the EAO determined the project was substantially started. • KM LNG is made up of a partnership between Chevron and Woodside with each holding 50 percent interest in the project. On March 17, 2021, Chevron announced its intent to cease Chevron-funded feasibility work for the Kitimat LNG Project. In May 2021, Woodside announced its decision to exit its interest in Kitimat LNG, but would ensure all obligations are met during their exit.	• LNG regasification or liquefaction processing facility, with a send-out capacity of up to one billion standard cubic feet per day (1 Bscfd) with an initial capacity of 610 million standard cubic feet per day (MMscfd), and marine terminal at Bish Cove, near Kitimat.
Cedar LNG Project (Cedar LNG Partners LP)	Coastal Gas Link There will be a separate pipeline from the Coastal Gas Link metering station to the Cedar LNG Project.	• On January 24, 2020, Canada accepted the EAO's request for substitution of the federal EA for the EAO's EA. The use of one assessment for both levels of government will eliminate the duplication of having two assessments for a single project, while fulfilling the requirements of both the federal *Impact Assessment Act* and B.C.'s *Environmental Assessment Act* (2002). • The EAO's working group, including Indigenous nations, is currently reviewing Cedar's Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate and a public comment	• A floating LNG facility, with the capacity to process 400 million standard cubic feet per day (11.3 million cubic metres) of natural gas into approximately 3 to 4 million tonnes per annum of LNG for export to international markets, and a marine export terminal, including related infrastructure, in Kitimat. • Cedar is owned by the Haisla Nation; however, Cedar has entered a partnership with Pembina Pipeline Corporation

Project (Proponent)	Pipeline	EA Phase	Description
		period was held from February 28th to April 14, 2022. • The 180-day Application Review ends on August 3, 2022; however, a time limit extension is anticipated to allow for a public comment period on the draft referral materials.	and this partner will be responsible for working with Cedar on designing and constructing the Cedar LNG Project.
Ksi Lisims LNG (Nisga'a Nation, Rockies LNG Limited Partnership and Western LNG LLC)	Either: TC Energy's Prince Rupert Gas Transmission (PRGT) or Enbridge's Westcoast Connector Gas Transmission (WCGT). A final decision has yet to be made by the proponent.	• The project is currently in the Early Engagement phase under the 2018 EA Act. • The proponents expect to submit the Detailed Project Description (DPD) initiating the Readiness Decision phase April 27, 2022. • The EAO has requested to conduct a substituted EA on behalf of the federal government.	• A floating LNG facility and marine export terminal located at Pearse Island. Ksi Lisims is anticipated to receive between 1.7 and 2 billion cubic feet per day (i.e., 48.1 and 56.6 million m^3 per day) of pipeline grade natural gas and produce up to 12 million tonnes per annum of LNG for export to international markets. The land-based infrastructure would be situated on lands owned in fee simple by Nisga'a Nation. • Both pipeline options hold valid EACs that have each been given a one-time, 5-year extension. Either pipeline option would require an amendment to adjust the western part of the route to connect to the Ksi Lisims site. The date by which either PRGT or WCGT

E. . – CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Project (Proponent)	Pipeline	EA Phase	Description
			would need to be substantially started is November 2024.

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Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, March 25, 2022

ROBERTS BANK TERMINAL 2

Key Messages:

- The federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change appointed a panel to conduct the Environmental Assessment (EA) of Vancouver Fraser Port Authority's (VFPA) proposed Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project (RBT2) in 2016.
- Both federal and provincial EA processes are required, and each will make a separate decision. B.C. will principally rely on the Panel Report and federal process for the provincial EA.
- Areas of provincial interest were included in the terms of reference for the panel and B.C. participated in the review to ensure that provincial interests were assessed.
- The panel submitted its EA Report on March 27, 2020, to the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change.
- On August 24, 2020, the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change requested that the VFPA provide additional information. The VFPA provided the additional information September 24, 2021.
- The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) is holding a public comment period on draft federal project conditions and the VFPA's additional information until March 15, 2022.
- The federal timeline within which a decision must be made will resume once the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change determines the information provided by the VFPA satisfies the federal information request.
- The federal EA decision must be made within 89 days of the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change accepting the VFPA's additional information. After the federal EA decision, the

Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) has 30 days to refer its assessment to provincial ministers for a decision.

- The EAO is engaging with Indigenous nations, a cross-ministry provincial review team, local government, and federal agencies in the development of a decision package for provincial ministers.

Background:

- The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA) is proposing to build a new, three-berth marine container terminal at Roberts Bank in Delta, British Columbia (B.C.), that would provide additional capacity of 2.4 million, twenty-foot equivalent units of containers per year. The Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project (RBT2) would widen and create additional land area at the north seaward end of the existing causeway.
- The RBT2 triggers both federal and provincial EA processes (provincially, the trigger is a new marine terminal that involves dredging of more than two hectares of submerged land).
- Consistent with our commitment to "one project, one assessment", B.C. will rely principally on the independent federal review panel for the EA for the RBT2 given that most aspects of the RBT2 fall within federal jurisdiction. This approach was formalized through a provincial Ministerial Section 14 Order of the *Environmental Assessment Act* (2002) (the former Act) on December 19, 2014.
- The panel terms of reference include provisions that the EA must consider:
    1) Environmental effects of marine shipping beyond the care and control of the VFPA; and,
    2) The potential economic, social, heritage and health effects of the RBT2, including cumulative effects.
- Key issues include impacts to fish and fish habitat from the construction of the terminal, impacts on marine mammals, and effects related to increases in road, ship and rail transport.

Review Federal Panel Report and Federal Process

- The panel submitted its report on March 27, 2020, to the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change. The federal government has 150 days to make an EA decision.
- On April 3, 2020, the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change approved a 90-day timeline extension.
- The EAO created a cross-ministry Provincial Review Team that includes provincial ministries and local governments. They provided the EAO with feedback on the Panel Report's recommendations and conclusions that relate to their mandates and provided input on suggested potential provincial Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) conditions.
- The EAO has reviewed the Panel's Report, with the help of a Provincial Review Team, to ensure provincial interests are adequately assessed and requested additional information from the VFPA, including information about human health and road and rail traffic.
- The VFPA has provided additional information based on the EAO's request except for road and rail traffic. The VFPA has stated they believe that road and rail traffic is outside the scope of the Environmental Assessment.
- On August 24, 2020, the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change requested that the VFPA provide additional information. This request paused the federal decision timeline with 89 days remaining.

- The additional information requested includes fish habitat offsetting, effects to Southern Resident Killer Whale, effects to biofilm and migratory birds, and effects to Indigenous peoples.
- On September 24, 2021, the VFPA submitted their final response to the federal information request to the IAAC for review.
- The IAAC is holding a public comment period on draft federal project conditions and the VFPA's additional information from December 15, 2021 until March 15, 2022.
- The federal timeline within which a decision must be made will resume once the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change determines the information provided by the VFPA satisfies the federal information request.

Provincial Next Steps

- The EAO is working with the VFPA, IAAC, Indigenous nations, local government, and provincial and federal agencies to develop provincial project conditions, as needed, and to review provincial referral materials.
- The EAO will continue consulting Indigenous nations with the IAAC to co-draft a consultation and accommodation report that identifies potential impacts to Aboriginal rights.
- The EAO will prepare draft referral materials including an EA report, provincial project conditions, and the consultation and accommodation report for a public comment period.
- The Chief Executive Assessment Officer must provide final referral materials to the provincial ministers within 30 days of the federal decision on the RBT2.
- Provincial ministers must make a decision on the RBT2 within 45 days of receiving the Chief Executive Assessment Officer's referral materials.

Gateway Transportation Collaboration Forum

- The provincial EA process also allows the Chief Executive Assessment Officer to consider relevant information created by the Gateway Transportation Collaboration Forum (GTCF).
- The GTCF is a forum established by the Port of Vancouver to collaboratively identify potential operational and/or infrastructure improvements necessary to support the growth of all commodities in the Lower Mainland and to address impacts to host communities. The GTCF includes representatives from Transport Canada, the B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, TransLink, and the Greater Vancouver Gateway Council.

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Environmental Assessment Office, March 25, 2022

TILBURY MARINE JETTY

Key Messages:

- Tilbury Jetty Limited Partnership (TJLP) proposes to develop a liquid natural gas (LNG) marine jetty, the Tilbury Marine Jetty Project (TMJ), on the Fraser River, adjacent to FortisBC's existing Tilbury LNG Plant.
- TMJ would allow for local bunkering and overseas export of LNG.
- The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) is leading a substituted Environmental Assessment (EA) on behalf of the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, including leading engagement and consultation with Indigenous groups.
- The EAO conducted a public comment period on the draft referral materials from August 5 to September 7, 2021.
- On November 23, 2021, TJLP proposed additional analysis and consultation to address a change in their business model and the potential for additional bunker vessel traffic associated with the Project, compared to what was assessed in the Application.
- As a result, the EAO extended the environmental assessment by 250 days to July 5, 2022, to allow for the additional work to be completed.
- An additional public comment period will be held on the revised draft referral materials once the additional analysis is complete.

Background:

- Tilbury Jetty Limited Partnership (TJLP) (formerly WesPac Midstream—Vancouver LLC) proposes to develop a liquid natural gas (LNG) marine jetty on the Fraser River, adjacent to FortisBC's existing Tilbury LNG Plant. The Tilbury Marine Jetty Project (the Project) would provide LNG for both the local bunkering market, and for overseas export. The Project would include a dock and loading platform with a berth for docking a single barge or carrier for LNG loading.
- On July 20, 2015, the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change approved the substitution of the environmental assessment (EA) process to the Province of British Columbia. The substituted process must meet the EA requirements of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, (2012) (CEAA 2012).
- The Application Information Requirements (AIR) for the Project was finalized by the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) in November 2016.
- On March 15, 2019, the EAO informed the proponent that the Application met the requirements of the AIR. The 180-day Application Review period began on March 20, 2019.
- A 45-day public comment period on the Application began on April 2, 2019 and closed on May 17, 2019. The EAO received 506 comments. Public open houses were held in Delta, B.C. on April 9, 2019, and in Richmond, B.C. on April 10, 2019.
- The initial scope of the Project considered potential impacts from the proposed marine jetty at Tilbury Island to the marine pilot's station at Sand Heads, at the mouth of the Fraser River.
- On July 9, 2019, the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change issued a decision to expand the scope of the Project to include consideration of marine shipping extended to the 12-nautial mile limit of Canada's territorial sea.
- On August 6, 2019, at the request of WesPac (now TJLP), the EAO paused the 180-day Application Review to allow additional time for WesPac to conduct supplemental analysis on marine shipping to consider potential Project-related effects with respect to the expanded scope.
- WesPac (now TJLP) provided the supplemental analysis on marine shipping for the expanded scope area. The EAO consulted with the Working Group, including Indigenous groups, to determine the adequacy of the supplemental analysis.
- The EAO sent its draft referral materials for an initial review to the Working Group and Indigenous groups on April 17, 2020 (draft assessment report and conditions) and early June 2020 (draft assessment of impacts to rights and title).
- On June 11, 2020, WesPac notified the EAO that Tilbury Jetty Limited Partnership replaced it as the proponent. Partnership units of Tilbury Jetty Limited Partnership are held by affiliates of Fortis and Seaspan. At the same time, the name of the Project was changed from WesPac Tilbury Marine Jetty to Tilbury Marine Jetty Project.
- A 30-day public comment period on the draft referral materials began on August 5, 2021 and closed on September 7, 2021. The EAO received 1,816 comments.

- On September 17, 2021, the EAO lifted the suspension on the 180-day Application Review time limit.
- On November 23, 2021, TJLP proposed additional analysis and consultation to address the potential for additional bunker vessel traffic associated with the Project compared to what was assessed in the Application. TJLP indicated a shift in their business model that would see the potential for multiple, smaller bunkering vessels to serve local markets (i.e., the potential for one LNG bunker vessel calling every day compared to one LNG export vessel calling every 2-3 days, as assessed in the Application).
- On December 2, 2021, the EAO issued a Section 24(4) order to extend the 180-day Application Review time limit to July 5, 2022, to allow for TJLP to prepare and submit the additional analysis for the EAO and Working Group to conduct the review, for the EAO to update the draft referral materials, and to conduct a 30-day public comment period on the updates to the draft referral materials.
- The EAO anticipates referral to provincial Ministers for decision in 2022.

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MINISTRY OF FINANCE
BCLC
FACT SHEET

NAME: BRITISH COLUMBIA LOTTERY CORPORATION (BCLC) OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND:

- BCLC's mandate is to conduct and manage commercial gambling (casino, lottery, bingo and sports betting) and it does so in a socially responsible manner for the benefit of British Columbians.
- BCLC reports to the Ministry of Finance and is governed by B.C.'s *Gaming Control Act*. The Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch (GPEB), which has regulatory oversight of BCLC, reports to the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.
- Government uses gambling revenue generated through BCLC to benefit British Columbians with investments in areas such as healthcare, education and community programs.
- Revenue from casinos and community gaming centres (CGCs) also directly supports local governments, which receive 10% of the province's net income from gambling facilities operating in their community, in accordance with the Host Financial Assistance Agreement between the province and each host local government.
- Government also shares gambling revenue with First Nations, which receive seven per cent of the province's net income from BCLC as part of the BC First Nations Gaming Revenue Sharing Agreement.

CROWN OVERVIEW:

- In FY 2022/23, BCLC forecasts its net income to be $1.452B, resulting in $1.441B revenue to the Province of B.C. and $11M to the federal government. Year over year, this represents an increase from the $1.214B to the Province of B.C. that BCLC is forecasted to deliver in FY 2021/22.
- BCLC's net-income forecast is based on its assumption that B.C. casinos and CGCs will continue to remain open at full capacity – in line with the February 2022 repeal of public-health restrictions related to capacity limits.
- B.C. casinos and CGCs re-opened with reduced capacity on July 1, 2021, following a mandated 16-month temporary closure to slow the spread of COVID-19. Changes to public health guidelines enabled facilities to resume regular capacity in February 2022.

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Division: BCLC

File Name: EN – BCLC_Budget FTE and Projected Net Income to Government

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
BCLC
FACT SHEET

- In FY 2021/22, BCLC's online gambling website, PlayNow.com, drove majority of BCLC's revenue growth through the period of casino closures and continues to grow due to strategic investments being made by BCLC.
- In FY 2021/22, lottery revenue is projected to exceed the prior year's performance, primarily driven by favourable jackpot roll patterns[1].
- Beginning in 2022/23, BCLC forecasts that net income will exceed its pre-pandemic record net income of $1.415B (delivered in FY 2018/19).

BUDGET[1]:

$ Millions	FY 2020/21 Actual	FY 2021/22 Forecast[2]	FY 2022/23 Budget	FY 2023/24 Budget	FY 2024/25 Budget
Revenue	**966**	**2,272**	**2,761**	**2,961**	**2,991**
Direct Costs	177	634	825	894	900
Gaming Support Costs	54	54	65	65	66
Operating Costs	183	213	244	246	251
Amortization and Other	80	80	94	101	109
Total Costs	**494**	**981**	**1,228**	**1,306**	**1,326**
Net Income Before Taxes	472	1,291	1,533	1,655	1,665
Taxes	42	66	81	85	87
Net Income	**430**	**1,225**	**1,452**	**1,570**	**1,578**
Liabilities	**531**	**602**	**631**	**554**	**534**
Accumulated Deficit	(25)	(25)	(25)	(25)	(25)
Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss	(24)	(24)	(24)	(24)	(24)
Total Deficit	**(49)**	**(49)**	**(49)**	**(49)**	**(49)**
Capital Expenditures	**73**	**83**	**120**	**103**	**90**

[1] Lottery revenue can fluctuate from year to year based on the size of jackpots and how often they are won. In FY 2021/22, lottery revenue was higher than budget due to a higher than projected number of unwon consecutive high jackpots.
[2] As per BCLC's 2022/23 – 2024/25 Service Plan, published February 2022.

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MINISTRY OF FINANCE
BCLC
FACT SHEET

NAME: BUDGET, FTEs AND PROJECTED NET INCOME TO GOVERNMENT

DESCRIPTION:

- In FY 2021/22, BCLC forecasts net income of $1.225B resulting in $1.214B revenue for the Province of B.C. and $11M to the federal government.
- Forecasted net income for FY 2021/22 is $795M more than FY 2020/21 ($430M net income), primarily due to the reopening of casinos and community gaming centres (CGCs) in July 2021 and continued growth from PlayNow.com.
- In 2022/23, BCLC forecasts net income of $1.452B to deliver $1.441B in revenue to the Province of B.C. and $11M to the federal government. This is a net income increase of $227M from the FY 2021/22 forecast of $1.225B, and an increase of $1.022B from the FY 2020/21 actual net income of $430M.
- The number of BCLC's full-time equivalent (FTE) employees grew modestly from FY 2020/21 (1,004 FTEs) to FY 2021/22 (1,076 FTEs) to support the development and growth of strategic initiatives related to player experience, player health, PlayNow.com and sports betting.

Casino/CGC

- BCLC projects $1.751B in revenue from casinos and CGCs in FY 2022/23, up from expected revenues of $1.252B in FY 2021/22.
- In FY 2022/23, BCLC forecasts that casino and CGC revenue will return to slightly lower revenue levels than pre-pandemic, with the assumption that the Provincial Health Officer will continue to allow gambling facilities to operate at full capacity.
- Casino revenue is assumed to return to slightly less than pre-pandemic levels due to the uncertainty at this time about post-pandemic conditions; BCLC will continue to monitor and update its quarterly projections to Government accordingly.

Online Gambling

- In FY 2022/23, BCLC projects $473M in online gambling revenue, up from an expected $441M in FY 2021/22, with continued growth anticipated in FY 2024/25.

Lottery

- BCLC projects the lottery to generate $537M in revenue in FY 2022/23, down from $579M expected in FY 2021/22.
- Lottery revenue can fluctuate from year to year based on the size of jackpots and how often they are won. In FY 2021/22, lottery revenue was higher than budget due to a higher than projected number of unwon consecutive high jackpots.

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File Name:	EN – BCLC_Budget FTE and Projected Net Income to Government		

- BCLC projects that lottery revenue for FY 2022/23 will decrease from FY 2021/22 with the normalization of jackpot patterns, partially offset by anticipated incremental growth in Lotto 6/49 due to a recent product enhancement.

Net Income Distribution

- Government uses gambling revenue generated through BCLC to benefit British Columbians with investments in areas such as education, healthcare and community programs.
- The Province of B.C. shares seven per cent of BCLC's net income (net of payments to the federal government) with First Nations through the BC First Nations Gaming Revenue Sharing Limited Partnership.
- Revenue from casinos and CGCs also directly supports local governments, which receive 10% of the income from gambling facilities operating in their community.

Capital investments

- BCLC is replacing end-of-life lottery terminals at its 3,500 lottery-retail locations throughout the province. This modernization project is expected to be substantially complete by the end of FY 2022/23, with terminals being delivered to retailers in 2023/24. The project has a total capital budget of $43M, with approximately $33M in capital costs incurred since project inception (FY 2019/20) to the third quarter of 2021/22.
- BCLC has no major capital projects of more than $50M budgeted in 2022/23.

DATA TABLE:

	2019/20 Actuals	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Forecast	Anticipated Trends 2022/23	Anticipated Trends 2023/24	Anticipated Trends 2024/25
Net Income Budget ($ millions)	1,347	430	1,225	1,452	1,570	1,578
FTEs	988	1,004	1,076 (actual)	1,128 (forecast)	Unknown	Unknown

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
BCLC
FACT SHEET

NAME: BCLC ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING UPDATE

DESCRIPTION:

- BCLC's anti-money laundering (AML) unit plays a critical role in safeguarding B.C. casinos from illicit activity. This role includes identifying and reporting suspicious transactions to the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC), cooperating with law enforcement which has the power to investigate and seek charges, and ensuring BCLC and its casino service providers meet all requirements set out by the *Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act* (PCMLTFA).
- BCLC continues to improve its AML program, with a number of actions taken or planned both as the reporting entity and in cooperation with the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch (GPEB) and the RCMP.
- BCLC is compliant with all requirements under the *Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act* (PCMLTFA). As the designated reporting entity, BCLC has specific obligations to fulfill, including requirements to maintain a compliance program to know its players, report transactions and keep records.
- In FY 2020/21, BCLC became a principal partner in the Counter Illicit Finance Alliance of British Columbia (CIFA-BC), which works to improve collaboration around Canada's approach to financial information sharing. BCLC also continues to participate in the Gaming Integrity Group alongside GPEB.
- BCLC maintains an ongoing Information Sharing Agreement with RCMP. As a result, BCLC has proactively banned more than 500 individuals from casino and community gaming facilities, including those suspected of criminal activity, a public safety risk or members of organized crime groups.
- BCLC also supports law enforcement and the BC Civil Forfeiture Office by providing information as required.
- FINTRAC conducts biennial examinations of BCLC's AML program and BCLC engages an independent accounting firm to conduct an assessment in alternate years. COVID-19 has had an impact on FINTRAC's schedule of examinations and BCLC expects to be notified in FY 2022/23 of the next examination.
- In March 2021, Deloitte concluded an assessment of BCLC's AML program on PlayNow.com and identified 11 observations for operational improvements regarding BCLC's documentation and record-keeping obligations.
- BCLC addressed all 11 observations from Deloitte's assessment by completing an action plan in response, as part of its commitment to continuous improvement.

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File Name: EN – BCLC_AML Update

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
BCLC
FACT SHEET

Suspicious Transaction Reports

- BCLC reports suspicious transaction reports (STRs) to FINTRAC based on reasonable grounds to suspect the transaction(s) are related to a money-laundering-related offences, including proceeds of crime offences and fraud.
- While STRs can assist in the detection, prevention and deterrence of money laundering, an STR does not mean that a money-laundering offense has occurred.
- Provincial and federal law-enforcement agencies are responsible for investigating suspected money-laundering offences and providing evidence needed for the prosecution of criminal charges.
- The value and count of STRs fluctuate depending on the month; STRs remain low across land-based casinos and PlayNow.com. The value of STRs in B.C. casinos has declined by 99% since 2015.
- In July 2021, casinos and community gaming centres reopened following a 16-month closure due to COVID-19. As of March 31, 2022, BCLC reported 199 STRs in FY 2021/22 with a total value of $2.134M. In FY 2019/20, the most recent full fiscal year that casinos were open, BCLC reported 227 STRs with a total value of approximately $3.75M.
- As of March 31, 2022, BCLC reported 283 PlayNow.com-related STRs in FY 2021/22 with a total value of approximately $1.91M; in FY 2020/21 there were 150 STRs, with a total value of approximately $812,000. STRs for PlayNow.com are generally related to suspected fraud.

Source of Funds

- Every casino customer who tries to buy-in with $10,000 or more in cash must prove where the funds came from before they can do so. Casinos also have the discretion to ask any customer to provide the source of their funds, regardless of amount.
- Casinos are also required to verify the identity of individuals for all buy-ins of $3,000 or more in a single transaction. BCLC implemented this policy in 2021 in response to regulatory amendments under the PCMLTFA.

New Transaction-Monitoring System Solution

- In collaboration with service providers, BCLC continues to work towards the implemenation of a scalable transaction-monitoring system to streamline processes; provide an enterprise view of the player transactions to further BCLC's capabilities to detect and report suspicious transactions; and integrate with existing BCLC systems to meet current and future FINTRAC requirements.

- Government Financial Information

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
LIQUOR DISTRIBUTION BRANCH
ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

Liquor Distribution Branch

BACKGROUND:

- The Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB) is one of two branches of government that provide oversight of the beverage alcohol and non-medical cannabis industries; the other is the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB). The LDB is responsible for the wholesale distribution and retail sale of beverage alcohol and non-medical cannabis.
- The *Liquor Distribution Act* (LDA) gives the LDB the sole right to purchase beverage alcohol both within B.C. and from outside the province, in accordance with the federal *Importation of Intoxicating Liquors Act*. The LCRB licenses private liquor stores, restaurants, pubs and manufacturers and enforces regulations under the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*.
- The *Cannabis Distribution Act* (CDA) establishes a government wholesale distribution model for non-medical cannabis, public cannabis retail stores and a public-run e-commerce retail channel. The LDB's General Manager has been appointed as the administrator of the CDA. The LCRB licenses private cannabis stores and enforces some aspects of the regulations under the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act*.

LIQUOR DISTRIBUTION BRANCH OVERVIEW:

- Employs approximately 5,150 full- and part-time staff (~4,300 FTEs).
- Oversees a province-wide mixed public-private retail and public wholesale beverage alcohol and non-medical cannabis business model.
- Operates 198 BCLIQOUR stores (BCL) and 33 BC Cannabis Stores (BCCS).
- Provides online ordering systems for wholesale customers of beverage alcohol and non-medical cannabis.
- Operates an e-commerce retail channel for non-medical cannabis under the BCCS brand.
- Distributes liquor products through two distribution centres located in Delta and Kamloops, and non-medical cannabis products through a distribution centre located in Richmond.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
LIQUOR DISTRIBUTION BRANCH
ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

Financial impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on BCL

- In July 2020, the LDB implemented a wholesale pricing model for hospitality licensees purchasing liquor from the LDB. This policy resulted in an estimated reduction of $55M in net income for fiscal year (FY) 2021/22, and a projected annual impact of $71M, once hospitality customers return to their pre-COVID-19 purchase levels.
- FY 2020/21 highlighted a significant departure from usual consumer purchasing habits, particularly amongst liquor consumers, including increased buying for home consumption, which resulted in an unexpected BCL retail sales increase of $95.2M compared to FY 2019/20.
    - This increase partially offset the decreased sales to hospitality customers who closed or operated at reduced capacity due to COVID-19 restrictions.
    - Due to the ongoing pandemic in FY 2021/22, the hospitality sector continued to operate under public health order restrictions, although with fewer restrictions compared to the prior year. This, coupled with increased retail customer sales, resulted in BCL sales being higher than historical pre-COVID-19 levels.
- With COVID-19 continuing into FY 2021/22, supply chain disruptions and inflation have caused product costs to increase resulting in higher prices to consumers.

BUDGET:

Budget (millions)	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Forecast[1]	2022/23 Estimates	2023/24 Plan	2024/25 Plan
Sales	4,135	4,328	4,561	4,700	4,802
Gross Margin	1,635	1,686	1,735	1,775	1,808
Operating Expenses	487	546	584	592	598
Other Income	13	13	15	15	15
Net Income	**1,161**	**1,153**	**1,166**	**1,198**	**1,225**
Capital	**22**	**32**	**40**	**31**	**25**

[1] Actuals for 2021/22 will become available alongside the release of the 2021/22 Public Accounts and the LDB's Annual Service Plan Report.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
LIQUOR DISTRIBUTION BRANCH
ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

PROGRAM SUMMARY:

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22 Projection	Anticipated 2022/23 *based on Service Plan	Anticipated Trends 2023/24 to 2024/25
Revenue ($ millions)	3,841	4,135	4,328	4,561	4,802 in 2024/25
Net Income ($ millions)	1,107	1,161	1,153	1,166	1,225 in 2024/25
FTEs	3,700	4,059	4,253	4,510	4,576 in 2024/25
Sales Data by Category (Combined Wholesale and Retail)					
Spirits	947	999	1,044	1,097	1,134
Wine	1,272	1,272	1,287	1,302	1,328
Refreshment Beverages	321	421	450	493	555
Beer	1,165	1,116	1,116	1,160	1,164
Cannabis	136	327	431	509	621
Liquor					
Number of Manufacturers					
Land-based wineries	333	339	356	n/a	n/a
Commercial wineries	63	76	98	n/a	n/a
Craft distilleries	67	75	83	n/a	n/a
Commercial distilleries	28	34	44	n/a	n/a
Brewpubs	30	31	46	n/a	n/a
Brewery < 350,000 HL	176	197	239	n/a	n/a
Brewery > 350,000 HL	5	5	6	n/a	n/a
Wholesale Customers					
Hospitality customers	8,312	8,139	7,954	n/a	n/a
Licensee Retail Stores and Independent Wine Store	684	682	689	n/a	n/a
BC Liquor Stores	197	198	198	198	198
Rural Agency Stores	227	225	225	n/a	n/a
Manufacturer On-site Stores	686	745	746	n/a	n/a
Duty Free Stores	11	11	11	n/a	n/a
BC Liquor Stores Retail Customers	37,037,287	35,564,493	38,106,000	n/a	n/a
Cannabis					
Licensed Producers	52	79	150	n/a	n/a
Accessory Vendors	10	18	25	n/a	n/a
Number of BC Cannabis Stores	15	25	33	40	45
Number of Private Cannabis Stores	178	295	381	n/a	n/a
Retail Customers					
BC Cannabis Stores	534,705	1,030,245	1,552,400	n/a	n/a
Online Store	98,010	105,546	63,900	n/a	n/a

Contact: Blain Lawson, General Manager & CEO
Division: Liquor Distribution Branch
File Name: LDB Organization Overview

Phone: 604 252-7411

Issue: BC Wildfire Service Budget Uplift

Recommend Response:

- The BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) is responsible for managing wildfires (response, recovery, prevention and mitigation) and providing emergency response (boots on the ground) to all other natural hazards, such as floods.

- B.C.'s approach to wildfire continues the shift to a proactive approach to fire management that encompasses all four pillars of emergency management (prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery).

- In Budget 2022, the Fire Management Vote increases to $194.285M in 2022/23 and to $199.535M for 2023/24 and ongoing. This equals a total investment of $184.425M over the three-year fiscal plan.

Fire Management Vote ($M)	**2022/23**	**2023/24**	**2024/25**
Budget 2021	136.310	Government Financial Information	
Budget 2022 Increase			
- Wildfire Risk Reduction	20.000		
- Internal Resourcing (staffing, training and other tools)	37.975		
Budget 2022 Total	**194.285**		

The substantial investment will enable:

- Improve wildfire risk reduction on Crown Land by investing over $60M over three years.
- Increasing Prescribed Fire and Cultural Burning Program.
- To add staff capacity

- Improve training and modernize firefighting equipment,
- Respond to all natural hazards 12 months of the year,
- Develop innovative tools and technologies to provide decision-makers with the best information to make quick decisions and to provide the public with the most update to date information (e.g., public mobile app).
- Establish a community fire fighting model and support rural and indigenous communities to build capacity.
- Improve road access and egress in remote and indigenous communities
- The additional funding will assist B.C. in its continued objective to support its proactive approach to fire management and government will continue to manage wildfires on the land base.

Key Facts:

- Ten-year average costs are $357M annually, however costs have ranged from $134M in 2011 to $712 M forecast for 2021.

- The severity and cost of wildfire seasons is unpredictable, as the level of activity and costs related to wildfire activities depend on weather conditions, the number of fires and where they burn.

- The Fire Management Vote includes statutory appropriation to spend what is required to fight wildfires. In the past, the impact of statutory wildfire suppression spending on government's fiscal plan has been offset by the forecast allowance in the budget, program savings by other areas of government, and/or higher than budgeted revenue.

- Funding for Fire Management Vote in the Estimates is a base amount, due to the significant variability in spending year-to-year. It is unnecessary to increase the budget "just in case" we have a bad fire season and potentially strand funds that could otherwise be available for other priorities.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:
Name: Ian Meier Phone: 250 643-0078

Alternate Contact for Issue:
Name: Mary Myers Phone: 778 974-5707

Issue: BC Wildfire Year End Payments

Recommend Response:

- At the end of last fiscal (March 2022), $90M was granted to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) to support wildfire community capacity and response programming for the wildfire risk reduction program.

- Objectives of the program include:
  - Decreasing wildfire risk through continued partnerships with local governments and First Nations through UBCM,
  - Increasing community wildfire resiliency, and
  - Improving critical infrastructure to increase wildfire resiliency.

- This funding will ensure the program is sustainable over the next five to six years.

- UBCM, First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS) and the province through BC FireSmart committee will work directly with the communities through implementing all seven disciplines of FireSmart including emergency planning, vegetation management, and training.

Key Facts:

- Since 2017, the government has invested over $135M in wildfire risk reduction and wildfire resiliency programs. Through programs such as the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI), supported by BC Wildfire Service's Prevention program and administered through UBCM and FNESS, there has been a focus in community wildfire resiliency. The three core principles in wildfire resiliency are to maintain and enhance:

  - **community resiliency**, by mitigating the adverse impacts of wildfires to lives, property, critical infrastructure, and well-being;

- **ecological resiliency**, by sustaining and enhancing ecological processes that are integral to ecosystem health; and

- **economic resiliency**, by mitigating the adverse impacts of wildfires on the ecosystem processes that produce natural resource values that sustain diverse local natural resource economies.

Date Prepared/Revised: January 27, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:
Name: Ian Meier, Executive Director Phone: (250) 643-0078

Alternate Contact for Issue:
Name: Mary Myers, Director Corporate Governance Phone: (250) 507-9353

Ministry of Forests

Issue: Economic State of the B.C. Forest Sector – 2021 Review

Recommended Response:

Advice/Recommentations

Key Facts:

- **In 2020 B.C.'s forest sector GDP[2]** was $5.51 billion (down 4.2% from 2019). Forestry and logging was $1.7 billion (up by 7.4%), support activities for forestry was $682

[1] The latest employment data from the System of National Accounts, which is considered the most robust estimate.
[2] In chained 2012 dollars. There is usually a one-year lag in GDP figures.

million (down by 2.7%), wood product manufacturing was $2.23 billion (down by 8.5%), and paper manufacturing was $911 million (down by 12.9%).

- **Forest sector employment in B.C.** was 48,050 in 2020, down 14% from 55,645 in 2019. The sector represented 11% of goods sector employment and 2% of all-industry employment in B.C.
- **The total harvest volume** was 52.6 million cubic metres in 2021 when including private and Crown land, up 1.9% from 2020. Log prices went up by 34% in the Interior, while they increased by 18% on the Coast.
- **Forest manufacturing sales** were $21 billion in 2021, up 41% from 2020, and represented 33% of B.C.'s manufacturing sales. Overall, the Canadian price index for wood product manufacturing increased by 40% and paper manufacturing increased by 5% in 2021.
- **Softwood lumber** is B.C.'s dominant forest product. In 2021, B.C. produced 9.3 billion board feet of softwood lumber (22 million m^3), up 3.8% compared to 2020. Most of B.C.'s production is in the Interior (88%). Lumber exports for 2021 totalled $8.9 billion, up 64% from 2020. In 2021, the value of softwood lumber exports to the U.S. was up 69% and volume was up 10%, while they declined by 18% and 40% for China.
- **Commodity Prices** are at record highs for lumber, oriented strand board (OSB), and plywood. Western spruce/pine/fir 2x4s averaged US$870 per thousand board feet in 2021, up by over 50% from 2020, with the latest price at US$1,400. Pulp prices increased significantly compared to 2020. Northern bleached softwood kraft pulp prices averaged at US$850/tonne in 2021 (up by 46%). Paper prices also improved in 2021, with newsprint (45 grams per square metre) prices at 623 US$/tonne (up by 12%). High prices have resulted in healthy profits for B.C. producers of these products.

Export Markets

- **The U.S.** continued to be B.C.'s primary forest product export market. Export value to the U.S. was up 54% in 2021 and accounted for 61% of total B.C. forest product exports. Softwood lumber had the largest share of exports to the U.S. (67%). U.S. housing starts totaled 1.60 million units in 2021, the highest since 2006 and up 16% from 2020.
- **China** continued as B.C.'s second-largest export market for forest products. Pulp had the largest share of exports to China (69%), followed by lumber (15%) and logs (8%). B.C.'s total export value to China was up 9% in 2021. China has suspended log exports from Australia, and Russia banned softwood log exports in early 2022 – it remains to be seen which countries will fill in these gaps in exports to China.
- **Export value to Japan** increased by 80% in 2021. Lumber volumes were 8% above 2020, recovering from 2020's new low for total volume since 1988 (the earliest data available to the Ministry).
- It remains to be seen what the long-term implications of the Russia-Ukraine war would be on forest sector exports. In the short run, rising fuel prices have already started to increase transportation costs. Some companies have ceased production at their wood

product and pulp mills inside Russia. Russia has halted export of many commodities, which will impact global forest product supplies.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 21, 2022	
Ministry Executive Sponsor:	
Name: Melissa Sanderson	Phone: 250-812-7253
Alternate Contact for Issue:	
Name: Janna Jessee	Phone: 250-507-7482

2022/23 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests

Issue: Stumpage

- Budget Forecast

Recommend Response:

Advice/Recommentations

- Harvest volumes are also declining as a result of wildfires and as we work with First Nations to rectify the historic injustice associated with past land and resource management decisions that have not involve them. Today we are working with FNs as partners in land management and that means there will be more areas put aside to address there rightful concerns.

Advice/Recommentations

Key Facts:

- 2022/23 Budget Estimates Forecast:
  - Stumpage revenue: $1.001 B
  - Crown harvest: 40.0 million m^3
  - Provincial average rate (including BCTS): $25.04/m^3$

- Stumpage forecast assumes US$575/1000bf price of lumber in 2022
  - Assumptions are discussed, debated and approved with Treasury Board

Date Prepared: February 15, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:
Name: Melissa Sanderson Phone: 250-812-7253

Alternate Contact for Issue:
Name: Allan Bennett Phone: 778-974-2407

2022/23 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests

Issue: Stumpage

- Detailed Statistics

Volume Billed (m^3, millions) - Estimates and Historical Average				
Region	Tenure type	Q3 Estimate FY 2021/2022	Budget Target FY 2022/23	5 year Average
Coast	Majors	5.6	5.3	6.9
	Other	2.0	1.8	2.4
	BCTS	1.7	1.4	2.0
	Total	**9.3**	**8.6**	**11.3**
Interior	Majors	22.2	21.1	27.0
	Other	5.5	5.3	6.6
	BCTS	8.0	5.1	8.1
	Total	**35.7**	**31.4**	**41.6**
Province	Majors	27.8	26.4	33.9
	Other	7.5	7.1	8.9
	BCTS	9.7	6.5	10.1
	Total	**45.0**	**40.0**	**52.9**

Revenue Billed ($, millions) - Estimates and Historical Average				
Region	Tenure type	Q3 Estimate FY 2021/2022	Budget Target FY 2022/23	5 year Average
Coast	Majors	156.1	128.8	74.3
	Other	44.8	37.0	20.3
	BCTS	96.9	84.0	113.4
	Total	**$297.8**	**$249.8**	**$208.0**
Interior	Majors	941.2	516.3	464.6
	Other	118.1	64.8	58.7
	BCTS	314.0	170.5	276.5
	Total	**$1,373.3**	**$751.7**	**$799.8**
Province	Majors	1,097.3	645.2	538.9
	Other	162.9	101.8	79.0
	BCTS	410.9	254.5	389.9
	Total	**$1,671.1**	**$1,001.5**	**$1,007.9**

Average Stumpage Rate Billed ($/m³) - Estimates and Historical Average				
Region	Tenure type	Q3 Estimate FY 2021/2022	Budget Target FY 2022/23	5 year Average
Coast	Majors	27.63	24.23	
	Other	22.97	20.14	
	BCTS	57.00	58.00	
	Total	**$32.02**	**$29.04**	
Interior	Majors	42.45	24.51	
	Other	21.37	12.34	
	BCTS	39.25	33.53	
	Total	**$38.47**	**$23.94**	
Province	Majors	39.44	24.46	
	Other	21.78	14.36	
	BCTS	42.36	38.96	
	Total	**$37.14**	**$25.04**	

Government Financial Information

* all logs, special forest products, species and grades billed to crown land through HBS .

Excludes waste, reject and Christmas trees. For all scale invoiced as of February 15, 2022.

** Majors only include Forest licences and Tree Farm licences

***Other category includes all other licences not Majors or BCTS

**** 5 year average: FY16/17 to FY20/21

***** Totals may not add due to rounding

Budget Forecast

Region and Tenure Type	ACTUALS 2020/21 Harvest Volume (Mm^3)	Stumpage Revenue ($M)	Average Stumpage Rates ($/$m^3$)	Q3 ESTIMATE 2021/22 Harvest Volume (Mm^3)	Stumpage Revenue ($M)	Average Stumpage Rates ($/$m^3$)	BUDGET TARGET 2022/23 Harvest Volume (Mm^3)	Stumpage Revenue ($M)	Average Stumpage Rates ($/$m^3$)	2023/24 Harvest Volume (Mm^3)	Stumpage Revenue ($M)	Average Stumpage Rates ($/$m^3$)	2024/25 Harvest Volume (m^3)	Stumpage Revenue ($M)	Average Stumpage Rates ($/$m^3$)
COAST	**10.9**	**$226.2**	**$20.71**	**9.3**	**$297.8**	**$32.02**	**8.6**	**$249.8**	**$29.04**						
BCTS	1.8	110.6	61.20	1.7	96.9	57.00	1.4	84.0	58.00						
Tenures	9.1	115.6	12.68	7.6	200.9	26.43	7.2	165.8	23.18						
INTERIOR	**36.8**	**$949.9**	**$25.79**	**35.7**	**$1,373.3**	**$38.47**	**31.4**	**$751.7**	**$23.94**						
BCTS	8.7	343.3	39.39	8.0	314.0	39.25	5.1	170.5	33.53						
Tenures	28.1	606.6	21.57	27.7	1,059.3	38.24	26.3	581.1	22.08						
PROVINCE	**47.8**	**$1,176.1**	**$24.63**	**45.0**	**$1,671.1**	**$37.14**	**40.0**	**$1,001.5**	**$25.04**						
BCTS	10.5	453.9	43.14	9.7	410.9	42.36	6.5	254.5	38.96						
Tenures	37.2	722.2	19.40	35.3	1,260.2	35.70	33.5	746.9	22.32						

*Actuals retrieved from HBS as of February 15, 2022

Government Financial Information

Date Prepared: February 15, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor;
Name: Melissa Sanderson Phone: 778 974-5974

Issue: Stumpage

- General, Lags

Recommend Response:

- Stumpage is the fee government charges when it sells trees. B.C. charges for trees like a private landowner would.
- Licensees pay cash (stumpage) and provide services (obligations) for the trees they purchase. Obligations include silviculture and road building.
  - Stumpage = Estimated Winning Bid (EWB) – Tenure Obligation Adjustments (TOA)
  - The EWB is the value of trees if sold prior to harvest. BCTS auctions standing timber to collect data, which is used to build the EWB equation.
  - The TOA is the value of services licensees provide to the government.
- Stumpage for licensees is updated quarterly based on the latest market conditions.
- The market based pricing system (MPS) uses BC Timber Sales auctions as the cornerstone system for pricing non-auctioned timber.
- B.C. uses the Market Pricing System (MPS) to determine the stumpage rate.
- MPS uses the data collected from auctioning off roughly 20% of the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) to price the remainder.
- The Coast and the Interior of B.C. both use a version of MPS and there are some differences in the details.

Addional Response points (if needed):

- **Coast**
  - The Auction Dataset:
    - The auction dataset consists of 15 years of auctions and new auctions are added annually with a 6 month lag.
    - Due to length of the dataset, the model is quite stable and the impact of adding new variables is low, as is the impact of the lag in adding new variables.
  - Market variables:
    - **Lumber and veneer prices**: Quarterly adjustments using 3 month averages and a 2 month lag.
    - **North American and Japan housing starts and total coast harvest:** North American and Japan housing starts and total coast harvest both use 12 month rolling averages with a 2 month lag.
- **Interior**
  - The Auction Dataset:
    - The auction dataset consists of 14.25 years of auctions and new auctions are added annually with a 3 month lag.
    - Importantly, the Interior uses a system which places greater weight on the last year of sales in the dataset, which means the impact of adding new sales can be significant.
    - To avoid large changes in stumpage due to annual updates, a change was made in July 2020 to incorporate new bidding behaviour quarterly.
      - This change simulates quarterly updates and reduces large impacts of the annual updates

as the changing bidding behaviour is incorporated through the year.

- For example, if the system had been in place prior to July 2019, the large stumpage increase at that time (due to extremely high bids in late 2018 and early 2019) would have been replaced by more gradual increases in the preceding quarters.

- Market variables:
  - **Lumber prices**: As on the coast; 3 month, average 2 month lag.
  - **US$/C$ exchange rate**: 3 month, average 2 month lag.
  - **Total Interior Harvest**: The overall harvest in the Interior is used as an overall market indicator, with a 12 month rolling averages and a 2-month lag.

Key Facts:

- YTD FY 2021/2022 Average Billed Stumpage Rates ($/m³)
  - For volume scaled between April 01, 2021 and March 17, 2022

Actual Billed Stumpage Rates ($/m³) - FY21/22 ytd				
Region	Tenure	Volume (m3)	Value ($)	Weighted Avg. Rate ($/m3)
COAST	Majors	5,337,865	140,445,539	$26.31
	Other	1,581,074	33,498,906	$21.19
	BCTS	1,627,327	95,205,269	$58.50
	Total	8,546,266	$269,149,713	$31.49
INTERIOR	Majors	18,349,409	878,605,094	$47.88
	Other	5,258,638	124,341,974	$23.65
	BCTS	5,842,961	286,560,547	$49.04
	Total	29,451,008	$1,289,507,615	$43.78
PROVINCE	Majors	23,687,274	1,019,050,633	$43.02
	Other	6,839,712	157,840,879	$23.08
	BCTS	7,470,288	381,765,815	$51.10
	Total	37,997,273	$1,558,657,328	$41.02

* all logs, special forest products, species and grades billed to crown land. Excludes waste and reject.

** Average rate is total revenue divided by total volume. It is a volume weighted average rate.

*** Majors category only includes forest licences and tree farm licences; Other category includes all other licences not Majors or BCTS.

***For all HBS volume scale invoiced as of March 17, 2022.

Date Revised: March 17, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:
Name: Melissa Sanderson — Phone: 250-812-7253

Alternate Contact for Issue:
Name: Allan Bennett — Phone: 778-974-2407

Issue: Stumpage

- Old Growth estimated impacts for Stumpage Forecast

Recommend Response:

Advice/Recommentations

Key Facts:

- The recommended deferral areas identified by the Technical Advisory Panel cover 2.6 million hectares, roughly half of which falls within the Timber Harvesting Land Base.
- Government has committed to implementing deferrals where there is agreement with First Nations on the need for a temporary pause in harvesting activities.
- Engagement with First Nations is underway. To date, most First Nations have indicated that they need more time to review the information.
- As most First Nations have asked for more time, it is difficult to estimate what the actual AAC and harvest impact of the deferrals will be.
- See Year over Year Stumpage Revenue Changes (below)

Year over Year Stumpage Revenue Changes

Government Financial Information

Date Prepared: April 04, 2022

Date Prepared: February 15, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:
Name: Melissa Sanderson Phone: 250-812-7253

Alternate Contact for Issue:
Name: Allan Bennett Phone: 778-974-2407

Issue: Stumpage

- Year over year estimated stumpage revenue changes

Recommend Response:

- Advice/Recommentations
-
-

Advice/Recommentations

Key Facts:

Stumpage Forecast:

Q3 ESTIMATE			BUDGET TARGET								
2021/22			2022/23			2023/24			2024/25		
Harvest Volume (Mm^3)	Stumpage Revenue ($M)	Average Stumpage Rates ($/m^3$)	Harvest Volume (Mm^3)	Stumpage Revenue ($M)	Average Stumpage Rates ($/m^3$)	Harvest Volume (Mm^3)	Stumpage Revenue ($M)	Average Stumpage Rates ($/m^3$)	Harvest Volume (m^3)	Stumpage Revenue ($M)	Average Stumpage Rates ($/m^3$)
45.0	$1,671.1	$37.14	40.0	$1,001.5	$25.04	Government Financial Information					

Forest Revenue Forecast as presented in Budget and Fiscal Plan (page 163)

Table A5 Material Assumptions – Revenue (continued)

Revenue Source and Assumptions ($ millions unless otherwise specified)	Updated Forecast 2021/22	Budget Estimate 2022/23	Plan 2023/24	Plan 2024/25	2022/23 Sensitivities
Forests *	1,847	1,121	Government Financial Information		
Prices (calendar year average)					+/- US$50 change in SPF price equals +/- $100 to $150 million
SPF 2x4 ($US/thousand board feet)	883	575			
Crown harvest volumes (million cubic metres)					
Interior	35.7	31.4			+/- 10% change in Interior harvest volumes equals +/- $70 to $80 million
Coast	9.3	8.6			
Total	45.0	40.0			
B.C. Timber Sales (included in above)	9.7	6.5			+/- 10% change in Coastal harvest volumes equals +/- $20 to $30 million
Stumpage rates ($Cdn/cubic metre)					
Total stumpage rates	37.14	25.04			+/- 1 cent change in exchange rate equals +/- $20 to $30 million in stumpage revenue
Components of revenue					
Timber tenures (net of revenue sharing recoveries)	1,229	715			
Recoveries relating to revenue sharing payments to First Nations	46	46			
B.C. Timber Sales	417	260			The above sensitivities relate to stumpage revenue only.
Logging tax	110	60			
Other CRF revenue	35	30			
Recoveries	10	10			
* Reflects information as at January 7, 2022					

- Note – there is no single line item for stumpage revenue

Date Prepared: February 22, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:
Name: Melissa Sanderson Phone: 250-812-7253

Alternate Contact for Issue:
Name: Allan Bennett Phone: 778-974-2407

Issue: Preparation for the wildfire season 2022

Recommend Response:

- In preparation for the 2022 wildfire season, the BC Wildfire Service has taken steps to expand its workforce and build stronger relationships with our partners including First Nations, the forest industry, the ranching community and more.
- In addition, BCWS is undertaking the following:
  - Increased training for all BCWS personnel
  - Modernizing firefighting equipment including more structural protection and mass water delivery systems, remote piloted aircraft system
  - Expansion of cultural and prescribed fire
  - More funding for FireSmart
  - Fuel reduction in the interface including pruning, thinning or prescribed fire.
  - Improved technology to improve fire behaviour forecasting, reporting and communication with the public
  - Enhanced research around fire prediction, prevention and fuel treatment effectiveness.

  And this is only a sample what we are doing to improve BCWS ability to respond to wildfire and other hazards.

Key Facts:

- The impacts of climate change have been felt in BC and BCWS has begun to play a larger role on behalf of government providing emergency response capability.
- BC Wildfire Service is transitioning site and incident management response capabilities to a year-round service model to allow more emphasis on all four pillars of emergency management: prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.
- Changes will include:

  - Moving to year-round operations will improve our ability to work with Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities for cross-training and planning for cultural and prescribed fire projects.
  - Initiation of the 365 Readiness project focussing on the modernization of the organization in preparedness, response, and prevention activities.
  - Renewed support for the Incident Management Team program with dedicated resources established to advance and support the organization and members.
  - Continued modernization in our approach to training our staff and partners through improved access to learning content and lesson learned.
- BCWS will be providing more training opportunities with staff and partners to help with knowledge skills and abilities with a focus on continuous improvement.
- Mental health, well-being and resiliency of our staff remains a priority and includes the development of the Total Worker Health program.
- Additionally, the BCWS Occupational Athlete program will continue to be offered to staff to support their physical and mental well-being.
- Revised the approach to external communications with improved digital and public education campaign to promote awareness of BCWS and wildfire.
- The provincial research and innovation strategy outlines priorities over the next three years including:
  - health and wellbeing of staff, both physical and mental health,
  - fire science research focusing on predictive services and prevention, specifically, fuel treatment efficacy, which involves ongoing collaboration with Thompson River University
  - equipment and technology: Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS), detection and remote communications continue to be the main priorities along with finding tools and technology to improve operations and response
- Enhanced technology to enable expedited staff and contractor payments, advanced resource planning, situational awareness, data integration between applications, weather forecasts, and reporting capabilities.
- Public mobile application enhancements allowing for the public to digitally report fires, which will also allow for operational staff to have increased awareness of the fire situation.
- Continued building of external capacity and engagement through sustained engagement with First Nations, rural community and local governments and supporting training for First Nations firefighters.
- This includes funding for local governments and First Nations through the Community Resiliency Investment funding streams to undertake FireSmart activities including priority fuel management activities on provincial Crown land and on private land. Examples of fuel management activities include pruning, thinning or prescribed fire.

2022/23 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests

Date Prepared/Revised: «add date»	
Ministry Executive Sponsor:	
Name: Ian Meier	Phone: 250 643-0078
Alternate Contact for Issue:	
Name: Todd Nessman	Phone: 778 220-8633

2022/23 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests

Issue: Lytton Wildfire Under Investigation (report pending)

Recommend Response:

- Advice/Recommentations
-
-

Additional Response points:

- Advice/Recommentations
-

Key Facts:

- On June 30, 2021, wildfire K71086 ignited near the Village of Lytton
- BC Wildfire partners with the Office of the Fire Commissioner and with all local fire departments to ensure joint-agency support on incidents.

Date Prepared/Revised: April 20, 2022	
Ministry Executive Sponsor: Name: Ian Meier	Phone: 250 643-0078
Alternate Contact for Issue: Name: Kathleen Werstiuk	Phone: 778 974 5721

Issue: Addressing archaeology following wildfires and flooding, including Lytton's rebuild

Recommend Response:

- My heart goes out to the people of BC who have been severely impacted by floods, washouts, and wildfires.
- I also acknowledge that these natural disasters have impacted cultural sites of high significance to Indigenous Communities.
- With respect to Lytton's recovery, we are working with First Nations, the Village of Lytton, government agencies, businesses, landowners and other stakeholders to help guide and support Lytton's recovery.
    - The Province's Archaeology Branch is working with the Village of Lytton and the Kumsheen Heritage Committee to ensure HCA requirements are not hindering progress.
    - Given the urgency of the recovery, HCA processes have been streamlined to allow development to occur lawfully and without delay, and work has begun to remove surface debris.
    - The Province has made $10 million available to support debris removal and archaeology, and additional funds have been committed for recovery work and housing to support Lytton.
- The Province has established HCA permits to support wildfire recovery and rehabilitiation since the 2017 fires, and issued a permit to support the emergency works related to 2021's catastrophic rains and resulting floods and landslides.

Additional Response points (if needed):

- On March 7th, 2022, the Archaeology Branch issued a s.12.2 Heritage Investigation Permit, authorising archaeological assessments within the village of Lytton. Private property

owners can be added to this permit, and can obtain the services of the qualified archaeologist of their choice.

- The Archaeology Branch has developed the processes and communications for Lytton's residents; these are expected to evolve. All communication is posted to the village of Lytton's website.
- As of April 21st, the Archaeology Branch is still working on a s.12.4 alteration permit, which would authorise necessary, unavoidable impacts to protected archaeological sites.
- On March 8th, Emergency Management BC announced funds were made available to support Lytton's recovery including:
    - $10 million for archaeology support and debris removal for 141 uninsured properties; and,
    - $970,000 for archaeology support and debris removal for 67 underinsured properties.

Key Facts:

- The Archaeology Branch sits on two of Lytton's recovery committees, which meet weekly:
    - The Land Based Recovery Working Group, a joint Federal/Provincial task force to support Lytton's rebuilding efforts; and,
    - The Kumsheen Heritage Committee (KHC), which includes representatives from Lytton First Nation, Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC), the Village of Lytton, and EMBC.
- The roles and responsibilities of the KHC have not been formalised through an agreement or charter; NNTC developed a Heritage Management Plan that incorporated NNTC values and interests, which exceed the authority of the HCA.
- On January 13, 2022, the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) issued a news release, stating archaeological work and administration of the HCA was negatively impacting the cost and timelines for Lytton's recovery.
- On January 25, 2022, the Archaeology Branch learned that IBC's policies do not cover archaeological assessments. Based on available information, approximately 56% of Lytton's residents did not have insurance; 42% are insured.
- The Village of Lytton has retained a Project Manager, and signed a contract with AEW (NNTC's archaeological firm). The Village is pleased that the HCA

application outlines the archaeological methods, and the KHC will inform the scope of assessments on a property by property basis.

- The Archaeology Branch has requested dedicated funding to support the administration of Lytton's HCA permits and provide property-specific advice to property owners and their contractors.
- The Archaeology Branch's role is currently limited to provide this level of support to Lytton; other communities within the Thompson Rivers Regional District may be proceeding with wildfire recovery, without oversight from the Archaeology Branch.

Date Prepared/Revised: April 21, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:
Name: Matt Austin, IROD ADM Phone: 250-360-6317

Alternate Contact for Issue:
Name: Paula Thorogood, A/Director - Operations Phone: 250-953-3300

Issue: Spring Freshet 2022 – Flood Preparedness

Recommend Response:

- After experiencing the catastrophic atmospheric river events last fall, we understand that there is heightened awareness and concern with flood risk this spring.
- First Nation communities and local governments are leading local flood prepardeness, supported by Emergency Management BC, our ministry and others.
- My ministry is working closely with provincial and federal partners to support First Nations and local governments as we all prepare for spring freshet.
- We are reviewing all information available to ensure we support diking authorities and communities in their preparation for this year's freshet.
- In addition to investments in flood recovery, Budget 2022 allocates more resources to the River Forecast Centre, hydrometric monitoring, and flood risk reduction.
- The River Forecast Centre is producing monthly snow bulletins for watersheds across the Province and refining hydrometric models, forecasts and flood advisories.
- This gives us the information that local governments and First Nations need to warn residents and coordinate emergency works as waters rise.
- Recent wildfires may exacerbate flooding related risks. This is being considered in communication with potentially affected communities to support efforts to reduce flooding impacts.
- We have reached out to diking authorities to request that they identify and address urgent work, and work with us to improve flood protection in a changing climate.
- During freshet the Ministry supports daily coordination calls with First Nations and Local Governments and we have

developed a Common Operating Picture to share real-time flood information with our partners.

- EMBC also provides preparedness guides for individuals and businesses as part of the whole-of-society approach to flood risk reduction.
- The Province also continues to invest in flood planning and mitigation work, including an announcement to extend the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund.

Additional Response points (if needed):

- Roles and responsibilities for flood preparedness and response (as well as mitigation and recovery) are outlined in the Provincial Flood Emergency Plan.

Key Facts:

- During response, each region coordinates a Flood Assessment Unit, with flood observers and assessors who provide technical information to improve situational awareness and decision making.
- River Forecast Centre updates the hydrometric modelling for major watersheds and the Fraser River and issues high streamflow advisories, flood watches and flood warnings based on the best available data from multiple agencies.
- Flood Safety Section has sent two letters to diking authorities connecting them with resources and guidance for dike management.
- The Ministry recently completed a dike crest elevation survey on all regulated dikes. We will compare that survey with several flood scenarios to help determine vulnerable diking areas so that EMBC has a better understanding of where flood mitigation resources may need to be deployed.
- There is continued strong relationship between regional staff and local governments, helping resolve issues on the ground.
- Ministry of Forests also supports EMBC with forecasts and information for seasonal preparedness workshops prior to freshet, and with updated information on daily response coordination calls, as required.
- EMBC Response inventory/pre-positioning response assets (e.g., gabion baskets, tiger dams, sandbags etc).

Date Prepared/Revised: March 17, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:
Name: Matt Austin, ADM — Phone: 236-478-1535

Alternate Contact for Issue:
Name: Ted White, Director Water Management — Phone: 778-698-3981

Issue: BC Caribou Recovery Program

Recommend Response:

- Caribou recovery is a priority of the government of BC.
- BC has invested approximately $10 million per year over the last six years and will continue to do so.
- We do this through consultation and engagement with Indigenous Nations, local governments, industry, and stakeholders.
- The draft Boreal Caribou Protection & Recovery Plan (BCPRP), developed in partnership between BC and Fort Nelson First Nation and in collaboration with the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality, exemplifies reconciliation in-action while ensuring communities maintain access to the natural resources that sustain them.'

Add'n Response if pressed:

Advice/Recommentations

Key Facts:

- On February 21, 2020, BC signed the Intergovernmental PartnershipAgreement for the Conservation of the Central Group of Southern MountainCaribou (the

"Partnership Agreement") in Northeastern BC and the Canada British Columbia Conservation Agreement for Southern Mountain Caribou (the "Section 11 Agreement") for all Southern Mountain Caribou.

- Despite earlier investments by BC, all six of the Boreal herds and 23 of the Southern Mountain herds are in decline, 13 of the 54 herds in the province have 25 animals or fewer.
- The main threat to caribou is high rate of predation by wolves, and to a lesser extent, other predators (bear, coyote, wolverine, and cougars).
- High ungulate populations are the primary prey of wolves and cougar. This results in higher density of predators which then impact caribou.
- Recent implementation of intensive management actions (i.e., maternal penning and predator control) in partnership with Saulteau and West Moberly First Nations, have resulted in a reversal of the population decline. Since the initiation of the intensive recovery efforts the population has grown from 162 caribou in 2014, to 289 in 2021.

Section 11 Agreement and Partnership Agreement

- The BC Caribou Program has allotted $300,000 for clubs to access in support of planning and implementation of enhancement areas for snowmobiling outside the newly established snowmobile closures to support caribou recovery (485,000 hectares of Crown land) in the South Peace. These restrictions are a deliverable of the Partnership Agreement.

Boreal Caribou

- The draft BCPRP provides for a positive long-term outlook to recover local caribou populations.
- The draft BCPRP maintains access to targeted petroleum and natural gas resources, a large-scale fibre supply that supports industrial investment (current proposal from Peak Energy is a pellet plant).
- Total available Allowable Annual Cut for the area would be maintained above 2.3M m^3, an increase of 800k m^3 from when forestry peaked in Fort Nelson with three local processing facilities. Potential estimated employment more than 1100 jobs and $187M in Gross Domestic Product maintained.
- Access to an estimated 63 Tcf of Petroleum and Natural Gas reserves are maintained ensuring that current and future jobs in the area are sustained.
- The draft BCPRP is currently out for public and stakeholder engagement and is anticipated to go to decision in Fall 2022.
- Implementation of the BCPRP will be implemented through a co-management approach with Fort Nelson First Nation and will require initial funding of ~$300k for capacity in the first year. Additional implementation capacity funding will be sought through base funding, the Nature Agreement, and future commitments through Treaty 8.

Predator Reduction

Please refer to the Caribou Recovery Program - Predator Reduction Estimates Note

2022/23 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests

Date Prepared/Revised: March 24, 2022	
Ministry Executive Sponsor: Name: Mike Hykaway	Phone: (250) 893-7516
Alternate Contact for Issue: Name: Jennifer Psyllakis	Phone: (250) 387-5657

Issue: Old Growth Strategic Review and Deferrals

Recommend Response:

- B.C.'s incredible forests are part of what makes our province a great place to live.
- We all want the forests to be here for future generations – for our grandchildren, and one day, their grandchildren.
- Old growth forests are valued for their economic contribution to the Province including forestry and tourism jobs, recreation, carbon offsets, wildlife habitat, First Nations cultural values, and supporting safe drinking water.
- Government has committed to implementing the 14 recommendations provided by Garry Merkel and Al Gorley outlined in *A New Future for Old Forests*.
- The old growth strategic review did not say there needs to be a moratorium on old growth logging, and as such, we are not considering one.
- In November 2021, Government announced it would engage with First Nations on 2.6 million hectares of ancient, remnant and big-tree old growth at risk of irreversible loss of biodiversity.
- Government has been engaging with all 204 Indigenous Nations to review the "at risk old growth" and determine their interest in deferrals in their territories.
- These are temporary to create time and space for the longer term planning to develop the old growth strategy.
- The majority of First Nations have indicated they want to work with the Province on advancing the 14 recommendations in the Old Growth Strategic Review.
- Where Nations have requested deferrals, government has worked with licensees to voluntarily pause harvest plans, and where a voluntary pause does not occur, a *Forest Act* Part 13 deferral will be applied.

- We continue to work with First Nations who require more time and analysis and acknowledge that some already believe they have protected old growth in their territories and will not be implementing further deferrals.
- While deferrals are a key component, the path to realizing a new paradigm in old growth management will come through addressing the remainder of the 14 recommendations in the old growth report.
- This will be achieved, in partnership with First Nations, and through extensive engagement with local governments, industry and stakeholders.
- The long term protection of old growth is critical and so is protecting existing jobs and developing new ones through the work of modernizing forestry in BC and adding more value to the forests that are harvested in this province.

Key Facts:

- The Province is working with First Nations on deferral agreements on the remaining, as well as additional areas brought forth by Nations and environmental non-governmental organizations.
- Nine temporary deferrals were implemented August 31, 2020 under Part 13 of the *Forest Act*. These include: Clayoquot Sound, Crystalline Creek, H'Kusam, Incomappleux Valley, McKelvie Creek, Seven Sisters, Skagit-Silver Daisy, Stockdale Creek and Upper Southgate River.
- These will expire later this year, and ministry staff will be discussing the future of these areas with First Nations.
- Two additional temporary deferrals were implemented in June 2021 at Fairy Creek and Central Walbran Area.
- the Province contacted all 204 First Nations in British
- Columbia and asked them to indicate what steps they are interested in taking on the proposed deferrals, whether that is:
  - ✓ implementing immediate deferrals within their respective territories;
  - ✓ discussing deferrals through existing treaties, agreements, or other government-to government arrangements; and/or
  - ✓ if they require further time and engagement, including to incorporate local and Indigenous knowledge into the maps.
- As of March 2022, the following responses from First Nations regarding deferrals have been received:
  - o 37 are supportive of deferrals

- 23 indicate old growth has already been addressed through existing government-to-government (G2G) land use processes
- 49 currently have, or are requesting, G2G processes to address the management of old growth
- 7 have requested deferrals not occur in their territories
- 62 have requested more time to consider deferrals
- 10 have instead expressed interest in other recommendations; and
- 5 Nations have not yet responded

- The area that has been deferred based on First Nations supportive of deferrals is equal to 1.05 million hectares which includes BCTS area that has been paused (see appendix).
- Budget 2022 included $185 million in funding over three years to support workers, communities, including First Nation communities, and contractors impacted by deferrals and other conservation measures.
- This builds on nearly $19 million provided in 2021/22 to provide enhanced supports to eligible workers, contractors and communities as deferrals progress.

Date Prepared: March 24, 2022	
Ministry Executive Sponsor:	
Name: Eamon O'Donoghue	Phone: 250-847-7495
Alternate Contact for Issue:	
Name: David Muter	Phone: 250-217-5385

Appendix

First Nations Deferrals related to Old Growth and TAP

Metrics	*TAP *(ha)*	*All OG (ha)*
Total Old Growth* Identified by the TAP	3,982,000	11,512,000
Old Growth Currently Protected (e.g., Parks and OGMA)	1,404,000	3,660,000
Total Old Growth Unprotected	2,578,000	7,852,000
Deferred since Nov.2nd (supported by FN) + Part 13 (unprotected)	766,000	1,385,000
BCTS paused	164,000	164,000
Outside of THLB (unprotected; outside deferrals)	782,000	3,766,000
Old Growth within THLB that can be harvested (unprotected; outside deferrals)	**866,000**	**2,537,000**
FN OG deferrals outside TAP		619,000

* Contains TAP older mature

TAP Overview of Ancient, Remnant and Big Tree Old Growth

	Total Area (million ha)	Protected (million ha)	Unprotected (million ha)	Recommended for Deferral (million ha)
Total Forest	56.2	12.5	43.7	
Old Growth	11.4	3.5	7.6	
Big Tree Old Growth	7.2	2.4	4.8	1.7
Ancient Old Growth	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.4
Remnant Old Growth	0.8	0.3	0.5	0.5
Total "At Risk" Old Growth (Big, Ancient, Remnant)	**7.6**	**2.6**	**5.0**	**2.6**

Issue: Old Growth Deferrals – Impacts on the Value-Added Sector

Recommended Response:

Advice/Recommentations

Key Facts:

- Sawmill products are key inputs to many value-added facilities. Potential sawmill curtailment or closures as a result of the old growth deferrals can also have cascading effect on the value-added sector.

- Many value-added manufacturers do not have long-term forest tenures. Instead, they rely on timber sold by BC Timber Sales (BCTS) or logs purchased from the open market. They have expressed concerns about government's direction to cease BCTS sales in the deferral areas.
- BCTS typically targets about 10% of its sales targets (about 1 million cubic metres) to the value-added sector through limited bidding pools (Category 2). The amount offered for 2021/22 is projected to be only 0.9 million cubic metres and for 2022/23 is projected to be 0.65 million cubic metres.
-

Advice/Recommentations

- The Manufactured Forest Products Regulation (MFPR) was put in place in part to ensure more access to fibre for local manufacturers. At the request of members of the value-added sector, a small working group was formed in late 2021 to review MFPR effects and the report from this working group is currently being reviewed by staff.
- Some value-added industry representatives have requested:
  - an increase in the fee in lieu of manufacture paid for cedar and cypress under the MFPR;
  - removal of the 3000-mile exemption for cedar and cypress; and
  - that interior cedar be subject to the same MFPR rules as the coast (interior cedar is currently exempt).
- In the Minister's March 23rd meeting with the B.C. Value Added Wood Coalition, they discussed the sector's ideas on how to increase fibre supply to the sector, and the Minister indicated support for a joint industry-government working group to explore potential policy changes to support the industry.

Date Revised: March 23, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor;
Name: Melissa Sanderson Phone: 778-974-5974

Alternate Contact for Issue:
Name: Janna Jessee Phone: 250-507-7482

Issue: Old Growth Implementation and Timeline

Recommend Response:

- Government remains committed to all 14 recommendations in the report *A New Future for Old Forests* by Garry Merkel and Al Gorly. The recommendations range from broad strategic shifts that go far beyond just old forest management to those that are operational in nature.
- Government has engaged with First Nations on 2.6 million hectares priority at risk old growth for deferral as per recommendation 6 of the report. Many of these deferrals are now in place.
- Government is now focusing on the remainder of the 14 recommendations. Through a commitment to meaningful engagement, government will be exploring, with others, options and approaches to fully address each of the recommendations, resulting in a modern Old Growth Strategy for British Columbia by 2024.
- Some recommendations may take many years to fully implement. We knew from the start this was going to be challenging, but no one could have foreseen the COVID-19 global pandemic and the extra challenges it has created, along with other challenges such as wildfire and flooding.

Key Facts:

- The Old Growth Strategic Review was submitted to former Minister Doug Donaldson on April 30, 2020 including 14 recommendations covering broad areas of forest policy.
- The report included a timeline of 3 years to get all 14 recommendations "started". This timeline was pre-COVID-19.
- Recently, ministry organizational changes (including the establishment of the new LWRS) means continued leadership of the initiative by FOR, but several strategic shift recommendations (such as those on prioritizing ecosystem health, governance, social choice land use, and new frameworks for land use targets) will be led by LWRS in collaboration with FOR.

2021/22 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests

Advice/Recommentations

Date Revised: March 24, 2022	
Ministry Executive Sponsor:	
Name: David Muter	Phone: 250-217-5385
Name: Shane Berg	Phone: 250-851-6333
Alternate Contact for Issue:	
Name: Brian Bawtinheimer	Phone: 778-974-2497
Name: Julie MacDougall	Phone: 250-880-0890

Issue: Economic Impacts to Old Growth Implementation and associated Community Worker Support Programs

Recommended Response:

- The Ministry has conducted rigorous analysis on the socioeconomic impact of old growth deferrals and continues to actively evaluate the situation as First Nations consultations on old growth deferrals continue.
- The province has announced co-ordinated and comprehensive supports for workers, communities and First Nations through the development of new programs and by continuing and enhancing existing programs to mitigate any potential impact to the workers and communities.
- As decisions on deferrals that flow from consultations with First Nations are made, the Ministry is undertaking additional socio-economic analysis
- I can assure you that transition and support funds will be made available for all regions of the province and for any community experiencing impacts from old growth deferrals.
- We will continue to monitor the impacts as more deferrals are implemented, recognizing that there are many other dynamics impacting fibre supply across the province.
- In addition, some BC Timber Sales auctions will resume in areas where First Nations indicate that old growth management is adequate and does not need additional protection as per the Technical Advisory Panel suggestions.

Key Facts:

- Following the recommendations of the Old Growth Strategic Review, the Province announced on November 2, 2021, the intention to work with First Nations to defer old growth harvest within 2.6 million hectares of B.C.'s most at-risk old-growth forests.

- Careful analysis on the socioeconomic impacts of the old growth deferrals was conducted to inform this decision.
- The Ministry developed B.C. Forest sector economic multipliers in partnership with COFI and Statistics Canada.
- The results from the multiplier model were then divided by the B.C. timber harvest, using three years of data to account for fluctuations through a business cycle, to come up with an estimate of economic impact on a per cubic metre basis.
- This set of economic multipliers is what was applied to the estimated volume impact associated with the old growth deferrals to predict the direct economic impact of the deferrals.
- In November 2021, the Ministry of Forests provided an initial estimate of the old growth deferrals' impact on jobs: 4,500 jobs. However, this estimate represents only the estimated direct forestry jobs that may be impacted by the deferral of harvest in identified old growth forests.
- Indirect jobs (such as mechanics, transportation) and in particular, induced jobs (including, for example, restaurants and retail stores) are supported by many different industries, not solely the forest sector.
- The Ministry of Forests, Labour, and AEST worked to develop the Forest Worker and Community Support Programs (FWCSP), designed to support communities in mitigating the anticipated impacts of old growth deferrals. This program builds on the past three-year Forest Worker Support Programs created to support communities impacted by mill closures and curtailments in 2019. As part of FWCSP, community transition services are being augmented to respond to old growth deferral-related impacts to communities across BC.
- Budget 2022 provides $1.5 million for the Community Transition Rapid Response Team (moving from FLNR to JERI April 1st) in 2022/23 to increase staff capacity on the ground to provide rapid response services to communities impacted by old growth deferrals, totaling $4.4 million over three years.
- The province's new and existing support programs will mitigate any potential direct job loss and by consequence, limit impacts to jobs in the induced industries.
- The Council of Forest Industries (COFI) has provided its own estimate of the employment impacts and indicated the deferrals could affect 18,000 jobs in BC. The COFI estimate differs from the Ministry estimate, likely because of difference in the assumptions about the amount of harvest volume affected, and because COFI included their estimate of indirect and induced impacts in their analysis.
- The Ministry is currently undertaking additional socioeconomic analysis as initial decisions that flow from consultations with First Nations are made. An initial assessment of Technical Advisory Panel areas approved by or overlapping with First Nations (approximately 770,000 ha) will impact approximately 2.4 million cubic metres of allowable annual cut, with the biggest impacts in the Omineca (Prince George) region (more than 800,000 cubic metres) and Kootenay Boundary (510,000 cubic metres).
- Because only about 20 percent of Technical Advisory Panel areas on the Coast are agreed to by First Nations so far, the impact to the Coast at this time is relatively small (about 330,000 cubic metres).

2022/23 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests

Date Revised: March 22, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:
Name: Melissa Sanderson Phone: 778-974-5974

Alternate Contact for Issue:
Name: Janna Jessee Phone: 250-507-7482

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

Major Investments Office Activities

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

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

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

Intergovernmental Communications; Government Financial Information

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The MIO is currently engaged with 18 prospective major investors. Advice/Recommentations

Advice/Recommentations

Approvals:

[date approved] - [James Harvey, Investment and Innovation Division]
February 8, 2022 – Carla Merkel, FSB
Last Updated: February 1, 2022

Contact:

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

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

BC Economic Plan Overview

Issue: Stronger BC: A Plan for today, A vision for tomorrow

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- On February 17, 2022, Government released "StrongerBC: A plan for today, a vision for tomorrow.
- Advice was provided by Prof. Mazzucato and the University College London Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose in the development of a mission-oriented innovation approach to developing B.C.'s economic plan.
- The Economic Plan provides a 10-15 year long vision and organizing framework for government.
- TWO GOALS: Inclusive Growth and Clean Growth set the direction of the Plan
- Each Goal is supported by three missions:
    - Inclusive Growth Missions:
        - Supporting People and Families
        - Building Resilient Communities
        - Advancing True, Lasting and Meaningful Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples
    - Clean Growth Missions:
        - Meeting B.C.'s Climate Commitments
        - Leading on Environmental and Social Responsibility
        - Fostering Innovation Across our Economy
- NEW ACTIONS - are near-term initiatives identified and will demonstrate work towards achieving each Goal:
        - Inclusive Growth:
            - Launching the *Future Ready: Skills for the Jobs of Tomorrow plan*
            - Accelerating the timeline to connect all B.C. communities to high-speed internet
            - Creating a *Small Business Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan*
            - Collaborating on an Indigenous economic development agency
            - Building a new Trades and Technology Complex at BCIT
        - Clean Growth:
            - Developing a *Mass Timber Action Plan*
            - Creating a *Life Sciences and Biomanufacturing Strategy*
            - Engaging on a *Trade Diversification Strategy*
            - Establishing Integrated Marketplaces to amplify innovation and connect local businesses with customers
            - Creating an *Industrial and Manufacturing Action Plan*
            - Establishing an ESG Centre of Excellence to promote Environmental, Social and Governance principles for products and services
            - Creating an Agritech Centre of Excellence
            - Initiating a *Goods Movement Strategy*

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

- Additional values reflected in new metrics to assess policy and progress against building new economic analysis and forecasting ability accounting for climate scenarios and economic volatility.
- METRICS SUMMARY:
    - Inclusive Growth:
        - KEY INDICATOR: Median after-tax income, household
        - *MISSION: Supporting people and families* - Gini coefficient (income distribution)
            - Core housing need
            - Poverty incidence
            - Post-secondary education
        - *MISSION: Building resilient communities* - Community Resilience Indicator (infrastructure, connectivity)
            - New business openings
            - Regional economic diversity
        - *MISSION: Advancing true, lasting and meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous peoples* – To be developed collaboratively
    - Clean Growth:
        - KEY INDICATOR: Net GHG emissions
        - *MISSION: Meeting BC's Climate Commitments* – Gross GHG emissions (emissions intensity {t/GDP})
        - *MISSION: Leading on Environmental and Social Responsibility* – Business Reporting to ESG standard (ESG performance as it becomes available)
        - *MISSION: Fostering Innovation Across our Economy* – Labour productivity
            - Value-added exports
- ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY:
    - STAKEHOLDERS:
        - 33 virtual sessions were held over 9-week period from June 11 to August 5, 2021.
        - Met with more than 330 stakeholders
        - Representatives included: business, industry, academic, non-profit, and social sector organizations from across B.C.
        - 44 written submissions were received from participants and other interested stakeholders.
        - Highlighted themes included:

Affordable Housing	Reconciliation with Indigenous People
Climate Emergency	Child Care
Health Care	Skilled Workforce
Closing the Digital Divide	Environmental & Social Standards

Immigration	Modernized Value-added Natural Resources

- INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT:
  - 7 engagements from September 20th to October 1st, 2021, led by Minister Kahlon with senior Indigenous political organizations, modern treaty nations, and Indigenous institutions responsible for building capacity in financial self-governance and major projects.
  - 8 engagements from December 8th, 2021, to January 12th, 2022, led by ADM Lesiuk with Indigenous organizations responsible for urban/off-reserve populations, capital financing, community economic development capacity-building, land and resource self-governance, and nation-owned business development, as well as with the Tahltan and Squamish nations.
  - 4 engagements from December 6th to December 17th, 2021, led by ADM Rathbone with Indigenous business development centres, Indigenous Community Futures development corporations, the New Relationship Trust, and the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association.
  - Barriers and challenges to Indigenous economic development discussed include:

Critical Infrastructure Shortages	Administrative Burdens
Financial Illiteracy	Sustainable Community Capacity
Funding Inefficiencies	

  - Opportunities to enhance Indigenous economic development include:

Building Long-Term Relationships	Supporting Indigenous Self-Determination
Equitable and Improved Access to Funding & Financing	Integrating Indigenous Worldviews in BC's Economic Development
Equitable Infrastructure Growth o Investing in Community Capacity o Supporting Indigenous Business	Creating Pathways for Economic Inclusion and Collaboration

- WWW. STRONGERBC.CA/PLAN & SENSEMAKER:
  - StrongerBC: Economic Plan is found at www.StrongerBC.ca/Plan
  - Public Engagement tool – SenseMaker will gather public input for an 8-week period commencing Feb. 17, 2022, when the plan was launched (www.strongerbc.ca/engage)
  - Public input is focused on perspectives from the public about future and current ideas regarding B.C.'s economy and longer-term vision.

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

- ANNOUNCEMENTS TO DATE – SUMMARY:

ANNOUNCEMENT	Date	$ / Details	Supporting Goal
New BCIT Trades & Technology Complex	Feb 17, 2022	• $136.6M to build a new complex • Will benefit more than 12,000 students per year in 20+ trades and technology programs • Construction to begin in 2023	Inclusive Growth – Supporting People and Families
Early-childhood educator (ECE) recruitment and retention	Feb 18, 2022	• $49.2M federal investment to reduce barriers and increase access to post-secondary ECE programs and professional learning opportunities.	Inclusive Growth – Supporting People and Families
ALR improvements based in regulatory supports	Feb 19, 2022	• ALR improvements allow for more intensive, vertical farming • Maximize space and reduce energy costs.	Clean Growth – Fostering Innovation Across our Economy
New nursing seats added provincewide	Feb 20, 2022	• $5M to support 602 new nursing seats • Will be added to approximately 2000 existing seats in B.C.	Inclusive Growth – Supporting People and Families
Life sciences investment	March 2, 2022	• $116.6M to Health Research BC • $78M to Genome BC • Support research in health, agriculture, clean technology, and climate change.	Clean Growth – Fostering Innovation Across our Economy

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Budget/Expenditures:

- $345,000 Foreign Services Agreement entered with University College London in 2021/22 to March 31, 2022.
- Staffing for Economic Narrative Development Team:
    - 7 TA – FTE positions from June - Dec 2021 (4 positions extended until March 31, 2022)
    - Staffing resourced from re-allocation within existing Ministry HR budget.
- *Budget 2022* provides $50M over the fiscal plan to support implementation of the StrongerBC Economic Plan: A plan for today, a vision for tomorrow.
- *Budget 2022* also provides JERI with a base budget lift of $4.1M ($1.3M in FY23, $1.4M in FY24 & FY25) over three years to implement the initiatives in the Economic Plan and to support ongoing tracking and reporting on the progress of the plan's intended outcomes.

Approvals:
[date approved] - Tim Lesiuk, ADM, Innovation, Technology and Investment Capital Division
[date approved] – [CFO] FSB
Last Updated: March 3 – Wendy Magnes

Contact:

Tim Lesiuk	ADM	ITIC	778-698-4039

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE
Advice to the Minister

LIFE SCIENCES

Issue: Development of B.C. Life Sciences and Biomanufacturing Strategy – an Economic Plan commitment

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- B.C.'s life sciences sector is a key driver of clean, low-carbon economy.
- The growing life sciences sector will have a role in diversifying the province's economy, realizing CleanBC's goals, addressing supply chain gaps, and ensuring Canada is prepared for future pandemics and health emergencies.
- B.C.'s life sciences sector is a global leader in nanomedicine, precision medicine, mRNA vaccines, antibodies, and innovative therapeutic platforms with applications spanning from vaccines to oncology to rare diseases.
- Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, B.C.'s life sciences research and companies have earned international recognition for new technologies and treatments that are being used around the world.
    - For example, AbCellera, BC-based biotech company developed the first antibody therapeutic approved to treat COVID-19 patients.
- Every COVID-19 vaccine candidate that reached late-stage development in 2020 used components that were developed or manufactured by a B.C. company or scientist.
    - For example, the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines developed by Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and CureVac rely on technology originally developed in Vancouver – the Lipid Nanoparticle delivery platforms (LNP).
- To build on this success, we are positioning B.C. as a world leading hub for bio-innovation in life sciences and biomanufacturing.
- In the StrongerBC Economic Plan, the Province committed to develop a B.C. Life Sciences and Biomanufacturing Strategy that will help accelerate the growth of the sector, to produce more anchor companies based in B.C. that create well paying, high skilled jobs for British Columbians and to help improve outcomes for patients.
- B.C.'s life sciences sector is the fastest growing life sciences sector in Canada, with consistent revenue growth and increasing employment trends.
- Based on the latest available statistics (2018):
    - B.C. has the fastest growing life sciences sector in Canada
    - B.C. life sciences companies generated $5.4 billion in revenue and $1.6 billion in GDP
    - Life Sciences GDP was close to 1% of B.C.'s GDP in 2018, and this is increasing
    - Annual GDP growth was ~6%, exceeding Canada's life sciences GDP growth of 1% and exceeding B.C.'s industrial aggregate GDP growth of 2.7% for the same period.
    - B.C. has 1,120 companies with employees. Most are small companies like start-ups.
- A post-COVID statistical refresh of B.C.'s life sciences sector is planned for late Fall 2022
- B.C. is home to:
    - Canada's largest biotech company, STEMCELL Technologies;
    - Canada's largest medical device company, Starfish Medical;

  - Canada's three largest biotech companies, with greater than $1B in market capitalization, are: AbCellera Biologics, Aurinia Pharmaceuticals, and Zymeworks Inc.
- The Ministry provides supports to Life Sciences in British Columbia:
  - In 2021/22, the Province invested over $24M through the BC Knowledge Development Fund to support innovative health and life sciences research (funding from Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training budget).
  - In 2021/22, the Province has provided over $10.5 million in tax credits to BC investors investing in BC Life Sciences start ups through the Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit Program (for a total investment of over $35 million dollars).
  - Funding of $200 million has been provided this year as grants to Genome BC and Michael Smith Health Research BC. (funding from Ministry of Health). This will create new scientific discoveries and economic opportunities with a significant increase in grants for a growing life sciences sector that now includes more than 2,000 companies and employs 18,000 people in BC.
  - In 2018, the Province awarded $22 million over 4 years to expand the new STEMCELL facility.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- *Budget 2022* provides $50M over the fiscal plan to support implementation of the Stronger BC Economic Plan: A Plan for Today, A Vision for Tomorrow.
- *Budget 2022* also provides JERI with a base budget lift of $4.1M ($1.3M in FY23, $1.4M in FY24 & FY25) over three years to implement the initiatives in the Economic Plan and to support ongoing tracking and reporting on the progress of the plan's intended outcomes.

Approvals:
[date approved] - Tim Lesiuk, ITIC
February 15, 2022 – Brian Urquhart
Last Updated: February 02, 2022
Contact:

Maija Duffy	Executive Director	Innovation Strategy, Policy and Coordination	250-507-0685

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

Mazzucato Contract

Issue: Contract for the development of the Economic Plan

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- A Foreign Service Agreement was put in place for June 1, 2021, with Professor Mariana Mazzucato and the University College London Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP).

RATIONALE FOR DIRECT AWARD:

- The founder of IIPP, Professor Mazzucato has proposed innovative approaches to economic planning and innovation funding that aligns with the interests of the province.
- The application of these theories through the novel and proprietary tools and approaches developed by IIPP are the primary services that have been contracted by the Ministry.
- Prof. Mazzucato advises policy makers around the world on IIPP's innovation-led inclusive and sustainable growth approach.
- Prof. Mazzucato's roles include being:
    - Chair of the World Health Organization's Council on the Economics of Health for All
    - Member of the Scottish Government's Council of Economic Advisors,
    - South African President's Economic Advisory Council,
    - OECD Secretary General's Advisory Group on a New Growth Narrative,
    - UN High Level Advisory Board for Economic and Social Affairs,
    - Argentina's Economic and Social Council,
    - Vinnova's Advisory Panel in Sweden,
    - Norway's Research Council.
- Previously, through the Professor's role as Special Advisor for the EC Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation (2017-2019), she authored the high-impact report on Mission-Oriented Research & Innovation in the European Union, turning "missions" into a crucial new instrument in the European Commission's Horizon innovation programme.
- Prof. Mazzucato's expertise and experience is not available from other sources, and it is unlikely she would perform these services outside of the structure of IIPP.
- The perspectives and advice built from unique global assignments implementing her system is not otherwise present in the marketplace.
- The agreement included services as providing policy and technical advice for establishing goals and missions for developing an economic plan for B.C. through weekly meetings along with:

<u>Deliverables within the Agreement include:</u>

1. Six advisory sessions with Prof Mazzucato to introduce and explore the concepts of Challenge Driven Policy and Mission Oriented Innovation.
2. Scoping the challenges and missions process:
    - Act as a sounding board as the BC government develops its economic plan.
    - Share examples from around the world of mission-oriented innovation and/or economic policy.

- Investigate, e.g., through working-level meetings, desk research, interviews, internal document review and mapping, the potential of a pan-government mission-oriented approach that could be set up in a structured way.
- Review and provide recommendations on the Province's key challenges that a mission-oriented approach could address and advise on phrasing and focus of in progress BC challenges and missions.
- In collaboration with the Province, assist in the identification of grand challenges, and laying the groundwork for related mission-oriented policy pathways, including the development of principles and recommendations.

3. Three (3) workshops on applying market-shaping lenses to innovation, including on:
   - Employing the ROAR framework: ROUTES AND DIRECTION; ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY; ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION, and RISKS AND REWARDS to understand optimal methods for developing market-shaping public purpose approaches
   - Developing a shared ambition for public purpose mission orientated investment across InBC and JERI
4. One live masterclass on Zoom led by Mariana Mazzucato which can be streamed thereafter on YouTube to additional stakeholders who are unable to attend – the content will cover market shaping, dynamic capability evaluation, rethinking public value and the ROAR framework. Discussion will focus on identifying clear priorities for BC.
5. Initial engagement with and mapping of InBC Investment Corp.:
   - Investigate, e.g., through internal document review, scoping of InBC investment strategy and missions potential, interviews and background research, the potential to bring a mission-oriented approach to InBC.
   - Work on identifying priorities in line with BC Principles/Challenges.
   - Map provincial and national public financial ecosystem for possible alignments
   - Provide report recommendations on possible pathways to align InBC with Government priorities
6. Identify scope for potential future engagement by the Province with IIPP on mission-oriented policy, innovation, and implementation
7. A Principles and Recommendations summary report of the process to guide BC government policy on future government-wide and aligned mission-oriented approach – to be released on or before March 31, 2022.

- The contract was amended on November 20, 2021, to allow for modification of the deliverables to align with the work required for development and timing of the Economic Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Budget/Expenditures:

- $345,000 contract entered with University College London in 2021/22.
- First invoice paid January 2022 for half the contract total = $172,892.74

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

- Second invoice received and is currently being processed for the balance of the contract amount to be paid before March 31, 2022.

Approvals:
[date approved] - Tim Lesiuk, ADM, Innovation, Technology and Investment Capital Division
February 16, 2022 – Brian Urquhart, CFO
Last Updated: March 3 – Wendy Magnes

Contact:

Tim Lesiuk	ADM	ITIC	778-698-4039

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

MASS TIMBER ACTION PLAN (MTAP)

Issue: Mass Timber Action Plan to move mass timber from niche to mainstream

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- MTAP is a bold, carbon-friendly, market transformation strategy.
- MTAP will
  - combine strategic regulatory, policy, and program interventions
  - bridge three pillars of B.C.'s economy typically siloed: forestry, manufacturing & land development/ construction.
- MTAP brings meaningful change for British Columbians through:
  - Workforce transition towards low-carbon, emerging, green technology
  - Expanded market adoption of building materials that achieve climate targets
  - Meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous communities through economic development.
- MTAP is a cross-government strategy containing
  - 3 thematic planks that align with the Economic Plan
    - Grow an innovative new economic sector
    - Maximize the benefits of mass timber for people in every part of the province
    - Support a more sustainable low-carbon future
  - 7 objectives including
    - Demonstrate mass timber in action
    - Enhance and advance the system of technical tools and rules
    - Expand mass timber education and prepare the workforce
  - Over 80 actions ranging from developing new tools for carbon accounting to systemic change across the development, construction, and forestry sectors.

- The public-facing MTAP will be released in Spring 2022.

- MTAP integrates with other cross-government strategies
  - CleanBC, Economic Plan, Modernizing Forest Policy
  - The forthcoming Industrial & Manufacturing Strategy and Future Workforce Readiness Strategy.

MTAP accomplishments

- Accomplishments to date include:
  - Support for the use of mass timber in public-sector buildings
  - Research on physical and environmental performance of mass timber
  - Collaboration with the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training to create a popular new mass timber micro-credential training program at BCIT

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Budget/Expenditures:

- In FY23, the Ministry received a base budget lift of $2.620M ($2.476 under Trade and Industry Development and $144,000 for corporate support) for the Office of Mass Timber Implementation (OMTI).
- The funding was received to support 18 FTEs and operating costs to advance the implementation of the Mass Timber Action Plan (MTAP).
    - Budget 2021 provided a base budget lift of $1.27M beginning in FY23;
    - Budget 2022 provided a further base budget lift of $1.35M for a total budget of $2.62M per year.

Approvals:
February 16, 2022 - Jeff Vasey, OMTI
[date approved] – [CFO] FSB
Last Updated: March 3, 2022

Contact:

Jeff Vasey	ADM	Office of Mass Timber Implementation	(250) 361-6673

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

Softwood Lumber Dispute

Issue: Softwood lumber dispute with the U.S. – recent developments

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) issued its preliminary determination for its third Administrative Review, where the U.S. found lower rates of alleged dumping and, apart from West Fraser, lower rates of subsidy. This would decrease duties paid on lumber if the decision is upheld in the final determination, expected in August 2022.
- Preliminary rates were determined as follows (bracketed numbers are current rates in effect):

Canfor	6.75%	(19.54%)
West Fraser	13.09%	(11.14%)
All others	11.64%	(17.91%)

  These preliminary results have no effect, only final results do once they are published in the U.S. Federal Register.
- Canada's challenges of U.S. decisions through the WTO and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) / Canada – United States – Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) are proceeding. The NAFTA challenge of the countervailing duty determination, started in 2017, still has not moved ahead because the U.S. has failed to appoint or retain appropriate panelists.
- Intergovernmental Communications

- As of the end of October 2021, countervailing and anti-dumping duties collected by the U.S. on lumber shipments from B.C. were estimated at $2.992 billion ($6.098 billion estimated for all of Canada). The U.S. holds duties in trust until all appeals are complete.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

Approvals:
[2022/02/02] - [Kerry Pridmore, Trade and Industry Development]
[2022/02/09] – [Carla Merkel, FSB]
Last Updated:

Contact:

Steve Anderson	Executive Director	Trade Policy & Negotiations	250 507-1590

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

TRADE AND INVESTMENT NETWORK

Issue: Status of B.C.'s international office network

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- In 2021-22, B.C. currently has 40 trade and investment representative positions based in 17 locations worldwide.
- On December 30, 2019 ministry staff notified contract trade and investment representatives in Asia (China, Japan, South Korea, Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore and India) that their contracts would not be renewed.
- This was due to a government decision to transition to a co-location model similar to other provinces (AB, ON, SK, PQ) which allows B.C. to maximize efficiency and cost effectiveness and better leverage the Canada brand.
- Service Agreements with Contractors in Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Singapore and Tokyo ended on March 31, 2020, while service agreements with contractors in Seoul, Manila, and Jakarta ended on May 19, 2020.
- In accordance with the terms of the contract, the notification to the contractor in India was reversed as it was not possible to transition the services to co-location in India in FY 2021. However, the contract with India will conclude on March 31, 2022.
- Trade and investment representative offices in Europe, the U.K. and the U.S. were not affected by this delivery model change and continue to advance B.C. interests within the contract model.

TIR Locations		
Tokyo, Japan	Manila, the Philippines	San Francisco, United States
Seoul, South Korea	Singapore	Los Angeles, United States
Beijing, China	Jakarta, Indonesia	Seattle, United States
Shanghai, China	New Delhi, India	Boston, United States
Guangzhou, China	Chandigarh, India	London, United Kingdom
Ho Chi-Minh, Vietnam	Mumbai, India	

Global Affairs Canada Co-location in Asia

- British Columbia requested a further 7 co-located positions for FY23. All 7 positions were approved by Global Affairs Canada.
- The COVID-19 pandemic initially delayed hiring for the co-located positions as many Canadian consular staff were relocated to Canada and consular services were prioritized.

Japan

- There are four full-time trade and investment representatives in place.
- The Province plans to hire one additional position in FY23.

South Korea

- There are three full-time trade and investment representatives in place.

- The Province plans to hire two additional positions in FY23.

China

- There are six full-time trade and investment representatives in place, located in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou.
- The Province plans to hire three additional positions, one each in Beijing, Shanghai, and Chongqing in FY23.
- Hong Kong is covered out of the office in Guangzhou.

Southeast Asia

- There are seven full-time trade and investment representatives in place, located in Singapore (2 positions, 1 vacant), Jakarta (1), Manila(2), and Ho-Chi-Minh(1)

India

- The contract for service with Dynamis Global will conclude on March 31, 2022.
- There are two vacant co-located positions in New Delhi and Chandigarh. The recruitment process is underway.
- The Province plans to hire three additional co-located positions in Mumbai, Bangalore, and New Delhi in FY23.

Europe

- B.C. maintains a contract for service with Articulate International for the European market including the U.K.
- There are eight trade and investment representatives in the EU. Representatives are based in the U.K., Germany, and the Netherlands.

United States

- B.C. maintains a contract for service with Fox Group International for the United States.
- There are eight full-time trade and investment representatives in place, located in Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Boston.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs associated with the TIR Network are managed withinthe Ministry Base Budget. The budget allocation for the Trade and Industry Development Division is $28,379,000.

Approvals:
[2022/02/04] - [Kerry Pridmore, Trade and Industry Development Division]
February 11, 2022 – Brian Urquhart, CFO, FSB
Last Updated:

Contact:

Leslie Teramoto	Executive Director	Trade & Industry Development	604 775-2201

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING

Issue: International Marketing manages B.C.'s international business brand and delivers marketing strategies to grow exports and attract international investment.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- B.C.'s international marketing strategy is being refreshed to align with the StrongerBC Economic Plan, CleanBC and other initiatives. . The Marketing Strategy will utilize business intelligence insights to develop tactics that promote British Columbia's export and investment opportunities and to capitalize on BC's ESG competitive advantages.
- BritishColumbia.ca is the digital platform on which all marketing efforts are based. A modernized version of the website was launched in October 2021
- B.C.'s international brand positioning will be adjusted through updated value propositions, highlighting B.C.'s commitment to sustainability, innovation and inclusiveness. These will be incorporated in marketing materials developed in FY 2022.
- International Marketing produces a large volume of multlingual content to promote B.C.'s competitive advantages to international markets. Marketing content is delivered through images, video, infographics, digital content, brochures and presentations. This content is updated at least annually to ensure consistency and accuracy.
- International marketing is developing new content and marketing resources to support opportunity sectors such as AgriTech and Mass Timber.
- International Marketing works with cross-Ministry teams to deliver marketing materials and communications for trade shows, events and trade missions, providing a strong and consistent business brand image for B.C.
- Delivery of marketing products has shifted to a hybrid digital and in-person model to support the continually changing nature of trade shows and events.
- International Marketing has implemented a digital asset management system to enable faster access to approved marketing materials by JERI teams.
- In February/March 2022, International Marketing will launch a paid online search advertising pay-per-click campaign that will support activities of the in-market teams. In light of the limitations on in-person activities and increase in virtual touchpoints, a search advertising campaign will assist in keeping British Columbia top of mind for trade and investment decisions.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

Approvals:
[2022/02/07] - [Kerry Pridmore, Trade and Industry Development]
February 11, 2022 – Brian Urquhart, CFO
Last Updated: February 3, 2022

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

Contact:

Eric Ommundsen	Executive Director	Strategy, Intelligence, Marketing and Industry	250 216-9277

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

B.C. SHIPBUILDING SECTOR STRATEGY – ECON PLAN

Issue: Development of B.C. Shipbuilding Strategy

KEY FACTS

Background:

- On September 22, 2021, the Province announced the appointment of an Advisory Committee to help develop a long-term provincial shipbuilding strategy ("Strategy"). The Advisory Committee consists of two separate bodies:
  - *Industry Working Group (IWG)* (chaired by Robert Allan, President, Association of B.C. Marine Industries); includes experienced experts who have longstanding industry knowledge and insight with an active role in identifying and advancing sector opportunities.
  - *Innovation Advisory Council (IAC)* (co-chaired by JERI DM Bobbi Plecas and Brenda Eaton, Chair, BC Ferries); includes a broad group of senior-level stakeholders across government, labour and academia to provide guidance, advice and objective feedback to the IWG on the research, analysis, engagement approach and report of recommendations.
- The Strategy has four main objectives:
  1) Support the capacity and competitiveness of B.C. shipyards to win more shipbuilding contracts, and refit-repair and maintenance work.
  2) Advance innovation including low-carbon technologies to help B.C. become a hub of green, low-carbon marine vessels.
  3) Expand B.C.'s market share and opportunities related to shipbuilding and supply chains.
  4) Support marine workforce development, addressing labour shortages, equity and inclusion in the B.C. shipbuilding industry.

Industry Context

- The Association of B.C. Marine Industries reports that the industrial marine sector contributes $3.7B in GDP and sustains 32,000+ jobs. The shipbuilding, refit and repair sector contributes $1.4B in GDP and 11,951 jobs (all numbers referenced are total impacts, including direct, indirect and induced).
- There are a wide range of companies in B.C. that could be considered part of the shipbuilding industry including Seaspan, BC Ferries, the Navy shipyard – FMF Cape Breton in Esquimalt, shipyards, steel fabricators, and equipment providers.
- Seaspan Shipyards is the long-term non-combat vessel shipyard under the National Shipbuilding Strategy with long-term contracts and a robust supply chain.
- B.C. has a cluster of experienced companies with global reputations in niche areas of maritime architecture and design as well as technology companies in areas such as control, communication, information, environmental monitoring and navigation systems.

Status:

- Strategy development to date has included engagement efforts including:
  - Industry survey to get a better understanding of shipbuilding/ ship repair impacts on the broader marine industry, key barriers and opportunities for growth, and ways that government can effectively support growth.

- A series of targeted roundtables with key sector stakeholders representing federal government, ports and infrastructure, academia and labour, and innovation and sustainability related organizations.
- One-on-one discussions with local governments, First Nations, and key companies.

- The Advisory Committee is expected to provide recommendations to government on strategic actions that, if endorsed and implemented as part of a made-in-B.C. sector strategy, could support a robust, resilient and innovative shipbuilding sector.

Cabinet Confidences

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Budget/Expenditures:

- Given the unique expertise and time commitment required for this work, Government has established a General Service Agreement with the Association of BC Marine Industries for remuneration and administration of the Industry Working Group for up to $250,000 over two years (FY 2021/22-2022/23).
- The last deliverable under this contract is the final report from the Advisory Committee (Jun. 30, 2022).

Approvals:
[2022/02/05] - [Kerry Pridmore, Trade and Industry Development]
[2022/02/11] – Brian Urquhart, CFO
Last Updated: February 3, 2022

Contact:

Eric Ommundsen	Executive Director	Strategy, Intelligence, Marketing and Industry	250 216 9277

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

AGRITECH STRATEGY – Econ Plan

Issue: Agritech Centre of Excellence and strategy development

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The Province's Economic Plan commits to supporting Agritech to advance sector growth and resiliency
- Agritech operations use technology and innovation, such as robotics for harvesting or controlled indoor growing systems, to produce more sustainable food, while using fewer resources.
- Agritech farming contributes to a more resilient food system with increased product density and shorter growing times with the potential to increase crop yields, product quality and food security.
- In the coming months, the Province will launch a new agritech centre of excellence to help companies grow and scale up, providing more high-quality, high-tech jobs for British Columbians.
- In addition to supporting and making referrals the centre of excellence, the BC government's Agritech Concierge will continue to provide tailored pathfinding services to companies and then navigate government programs and processes (including those related to the Agricultural Land Commission) as they look to grow, attract investment and identify partnership opportunities.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Budget/Expenditures:

- *Budget 2022* provides $50M over the fiscal plan to support implementation of the Stronger BC Economic Plan: A Plan for Today, A Vision for Tomorrow.
- *Budget 2022* also provides JERI with a base budget lift of $4.1M ($1.3M in FY23, $1.4M in FY24 & FY25) over three years to implement the initiatives in the Economic Plan and to support ongoing tracking and reporting on the progress of the plan's intended outcomes.

Approvals:
[2022/02/05] - [Kerry Pridmore, Trade and Industry Development]
February 17, 2022 – Brian Urquhart, CFO
Last Updated: February 3, 2022

Contact:

Eric Ommundsen	Executive Director	Strategy, Intelligence, Marketing and Industry	250 216-9277

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE
Advice to the Minister

InBC Investment Corp. Profile

Issue: Overview of the InBC Investment Corp.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- InBC is established and governed through the *InBC Investment Corp. Act*, which also specifies independence of investment decision-making and establishes the Chief Investment Officer with the sole statutory authority to make investment decisions.
- InBC provides a local source of capital to invest in high growth potential firms in B.C. with the aims of: achieving a financial return on investment; promoting values that make life better for people in B.C. including job creation, advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and promoting diversity, equity and inclusion; and establishing B.C. as a globally competitive low-carbon jurisdiction.
- Through its triple bottom line mandate, InBC's investments will contribute to positive environmental, economic and societal impacts in the province.
- The Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation and the Minister of Finance are the shareholders of InBC.
- InBC is overseen by a nine-member Board of Directors, made up of both public and private sector members, who are appointed by Cabinet. Board members are as follows: Christine Bergeron (Chair), Kevin Campbell, Carole James, Ingrid Leong, Glen Lougheed, Bobbi Plecas, Suzanne Trottier (Vice-Chair), and Heather Wood.
- InBC submits annual reports as required by the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act* as well as an annual report regarding its investments to the Ministers responsible for InBC for tabling in the Legislature. InBC's legislation also requires an external review by an independent third party every five years.
- Jill Earthy joined InBC as its Chief Executive Officer in December of 2021. Recruitment of additional staff, including the Chief Investment Officer is underway. InBC plans on building its organization to 23 employees over the next 2 years.
- InBC was created by repurposing an existing Crown Corporation, the BC Immigrant Investment Fund (BCIIF). All the assets and responsibilities of the BCIIF have been transferred to InBC.
- InBC is also the sole shareholder of a subsidiary corporation, the BC Renaissance Capital Fund Ltd. (BCRCF), which holds venture capital investments in British Columbia's technology sector.
- The BCRCF, through its two portfolios of venture capital investments (Portfolio 1 and BC Tech Fund), makes capital available to B.C. technology companies by investing in venture capital funds and co-investing in B.C. companies. Portfolio 1 and the BC Tech Fund have concluded their investment periods and are not making any new investments. These

portfolios continue to be administered by InBC. The Board of Directors of the BCRCF are Bobbi Plecas and Heather Wood.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Budget/Expenditures:

- As of December 31, 2021, InBC manages approximately $89.1 million in assets, which includes $10.1 million in outstanding infrastructure loans, $73.0 million in venture capital fund investments and $6.0 million in cash and short-term investments.
- InBC's operations and investments are financed through a combination of returns from its existing investment portfolios, accumulated surplus and a fiscal agency loan arranged through the Ministry of Finance.
- The intention is for InBC to be self-sustaining over the long run; however, InBC is forecasting deficits of $5.4 million for 2022/23, and deficits of $6.8 million and $7.1 million in the following two years.
- InBC does not include revenue or losses from venture capital investments when forecasting due to the variable and unpredictable nature of the investments. Actual results may be significantly different from the budget as a result.

Approvals:
February 3, 2022 – Jill Earthy, CEO, InBC Investment Corp.
(date approved), 2022 – James Harvey, Associate Deputy Minister, Investment and Innovation Division
[February 10, 2022] – [Brian Urquhart, CFO] FSB
Last Updated: January 31, 2022

Contact:

Jill Earthy	Chief Executive Officer	InBC Investment Corp	778-405-1848

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE
Advice to the Minister

InBC Current Status

Issue: InBC Current Status

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- Since InBC was created, there has been substantive work undertaken in order to prepare the organization to meet its mandate. The following key tasks have been completed.

Business Case:

- InBC Business Case was approved by Treasury Board as part of Budget 2021. Public version of the Business Case is posted on the InBC website.

Legislation:

- *InBC Investment Corp. Act* came into force May 20, 2021.

Board of Directors:

- On May 5, 2021, the nine member Board of Directors were appointed.
- Core policy documents including the Board Governance Manual and Conflict of Interest Policy have been developed and approved by the Board.
- The Board has met seven times since the May 2021 appointment.

Risk Management:

- Ministry of Finance, Risk Management Branch issued an indemnification agreement to the Board of Directors. General Liability Insurance via Ministry of Finance has also been secured.

Human Resources and Recruitment:

- A human resource and compensation plan has been created. Additionally, a core set of human resource policies and procedures have been developed including COVID-19 response policies.
- A professional recruiter was retained through a competitive process, the recruiter supported the Board of Directors in recruiting a Chief Executive Officer. CEO Jill Earthy was recruited and commenced work on December 13th, 2021.
- The recruitment for the Chief Investment Officer is actively underway.
- An Office Administrator was hired in December to support operations in the Vancouver office.
- InBC is also currently recruiting 2 additional roles: Chief of Strategy and Operations (CSO) and a Marketing and Communications Specialist.

Investment Policy Statement (IPS) Development:

- InBC staff have conducted 200+ engagements and hosted 16 sessions with stakeholders focusing specifically on the IPS.
- A draft version of the IPS has been developed for Board consideration/input.
- The IPS will be finalized once the CIO is retained.

Ongoing Engagement:

- Staff are continuing to engage as required.

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE
Advice to the Minister

Operations:

- A lease was finalized on a Vancouver office space at 925 West Georgia (about 4429 sq feet); possession occurred July 1, 2021. This location is the headquarters of InBC.
- Network systems, Wi-Fi, alarms and new doors are in place in the Vancouver office. A multifunction device and MS Teams meeting equipment were installed and configured.
- Payroll system, including coordination with BC Pensions and LTD/Benefits group, launched August 2021 with successful transition of current staff.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Budget/Expenditures:

- InBC Investment Corp. (InBC) is presenting a planned deficit of $5.4 million in 2022/23, $6.8 million in 2023/24, and $7.1 million in 2024/25 in its Service Plan.

Approvals:
February 3, 2022 – Jill Earthy, CEO InBC Investment Corp
TBD – James Harvey, Associate Deputy Minister, Investment and Innovation Division
[February 10, 2022] – [Brian Urquhart, CFO] FSB
Last Updated:
Contact:

Jill Earthy	Chief Executive Officer	InBC Investment Corp	778-405-1848

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE
Advice to the Minister

InBC Investment Policy Update

Issue: InBC Investment Policy Update

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- To ensure InBC is equipped to make meaningful investment decisions that are aligned with its triple bottom line mandate, the Corporation will be guided by a well-considered Investment Policy Statement (IPS).
- The *InBC Investment Corp. Act* specifies independence of investment decision-making and establishes the Chief Investment Officer with the sole statutory authority to make investment decisions. The CIO will be responsible for investing within the parameters established by the IPS and delivering the investment outcomes established by the IPS.
- InBC staff have drafted an IPS. The format of the IPS follows Elements of an Investment Policy Statement for Institutional Investors, published by the CFA Institute.
- Content of the draft IPS is informed by InBC's business case, ongoing stakeholder engagement, and core government policy materials such as ministerial mandate letters, CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 and BC's Economic Plan.
- The IPS is informed by ongoing consultation with a broad range of stakeholders, which include businesses, industry associations, investment firms, Indigenous groups and economic development organizations.
- When finalized the IPS will:
    - Identify the *InBC Investment Corp. Act* (the Act) as the enabling legislation through which InBC conducts its investment activities;
    - Define the roles and responsibilities of the parties involved in the investment process. This will include the role of the Board of Directors, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Chief Investment Officer (CIO) in monitoring and reporting on the performance of InBC's investments and ensuring InBC's assets are managed in compliance with InBC's investment policies and guidelines;
    - Establish a structure of guidelines and policies within which InBC's CIO can exercise their statutory authority when investing InBC's assets, and against which the performance of the CIO may be assessed by the Board;
    - Describe InBC's investment return objectives, risk tolerance, constraints, and reporting requirements; and,
    - Specify the responsibilities for risk measurement, monitoring, and management, and the risk parameters within which the Board, CEO and CIO will execute their responsibilities.

- Once appointed, the Chief Investment Officer will finalize the IPS in concert with the Chief Executive Officer and InBC's Board of Directors.

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations

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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Budget/Expenditures:
N/A

Approvals:
February 3, 2022 – Jill Earthy, CEO InBC Investment Corp.
Xxxx, 2022 – James Harvey, Associate Deputy Minister, Investment and Innovation Division
[February 10, 2022] – [Brian Urquhart, CFO] FSB
Last Updated:
Contact:

Jill Earthy	Chief Executive Officer	InBC Investment Corp	778-405-1848

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

FII Profile

Issue: Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd. profile and mandate

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd. (FII) is British Columbia's Crown corporation responsible for creating, maintaining and diversifying markets for B.C. forest products.
- Building and maintaining markets is important to a strong and growing economy because forestry is one of B.C.'s largest manufacturing industries, and remains a cornerstone of communities, businesses and jobs across the province.
- With the majority of forest products destined for export markets ($11.5B in 2020), diversification is important to help protect the B.C. forest sector from ups and downs in the global marketplace.
- Reflecting this, FII was established in 2003 to build markets internationally and domestically for B.C. forest products.
- FII works closely with industry associations and other levels of government in developing markets for B.C. forest products around the world. About half of FII's budget supports programs delivered by industry trade associations and other partners. The federal government and industry also financially support these programs.
- FII benefits the B.C. economy by:
    - Working to maintain existing markets for B.C. forest products in collaboration with the forest sector, supporting forestry activity throughout B.C.
    - Opening up new markets for B.C. forest products and creating the potential for new jobs to service these markets.
    - Building awareness of B.C. forest products internationally, particularly in China, Japan, India, South Korea and Vietnam, which helps strengthen and grow trade ties.
    - Supporting the growth of a sustainable and green economy by promoting the environmental benefits of using renewable wood from B.C. in structural and non-structural applications.
- FII's mandate:
    - Promote wood's environmental merits as a preferred, sustainable and renewable building material.
    - Expand international market diversification for B.C. wood products by opening new opportunities in existing and new markets, with a strong focus on high-potential markets in Asia, including China, Japan, South Korea, India and Vietnam.
    - Showcase B.C.'s leadership in manufacturing and wood use by profiling innovative projects and leveraging that experience to expand the use of wood in Canada and abroad.
    - Collaborate with B.C. Provincial Government partners to jointly deliver on the Province's objective to expand our mass timber and engineered wood products sector in B.C.

- As of January 2021, FII can report that all performance metrics are on track to be achieved for 2021/22 with:
  - 25,291 B.C. manufacturer searches and engagements through FII's online product and supplier sourcing tool–the Supplier Directory–advancing connections with B.C. companies for potential commercial opportunities.
  - 32 product trials have been completed with an additional 13 underway in India.
  - In the U.S., 301 non-residential and multi-storey residential construction projects have been converted to wood, resulting in an incremental $213 million of wood use (reported by FII's funding recipient, US WoodWorks).
  - In B.C., 44 non-residential and multi-storey residential construction projects have been converted to wood, resulting in an incremental $61.8 million of wood use (reported by FII's funding recipient, WoodWORKS! BC).
  - These figures will increase with final reporting in April 2022.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

Budget/Expenditures:

- FII's base budget received from the Province is $19.55 million.
- For 2022/23, FII anticipates receiving $21.55 million in funding from the Province, $1.98 million from Natural Resources Canada and $0.25 million in other revenue for a grand total of $23.78 million in revenue for the fiscal year.
- The additional $2.0 million for 2022/23 from the Province has been provided for a third intake of the Mass Timber Demonstration Program.

Approvals:
[2022/02/08] - [Kerry Pridmore, Trade and Industry Development Division]
[2022/02/10] – [Brian Urquhar, CFO] FSB
Last Updated: February 4, 2022

Contact:

Kerry Pridmore	Assistant Deputy Minister	Trade and Industry Development	778 698-1591

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

FII Mass Timber Demonstration Projects - StrongerBC

Issue: Mass Timber Demonstration Program – progress and outcomes

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- First announced in fall 2020 as part of Stronger BC, the Mass Timber Demonstration Program (MTDP) helps to offset some of the incremental costs associated with the design and construction of new or emerging mass timber building systems.
- The program is intended to advance the use of mass timber in B.C., document and share lessons learned by early mass timber adopters, to support jobs and B.C.'s economic recovery, and to position B.C. as a leader in next-generation wood products, systems and services.
- Funding commitments currently extend across a three-year period, with $3 million committed in 2020/21 (Intake 1), and an additional $2 million in 2021/22 (Intake 2) and 2022/23 (Intake 3), respectively.
- JERI holds responsibility for the MTDP and has tasked Forestry Innovation Investment (FII) with the design and delivery of the program, given FII's experience on the mass timber file and with delivery of funding programs.
- FII is working closely with B.C.'s Office of Mass Timber Implementation (OMTI) to manage the outcomes and direction of the program.
- Funding proponents for each intake are identified through an Expression of Interest (EOI) application process.

Intake 1

- Intake 1's Expression of Interest process was conducted in 2020/21, with execution of selected projects beginning in early 2021.
- Of the $3 million, $500k was made available for research and testing and $2.5million for demonstration project support.
- A total of 12 projects were selected, including:
  - Four research projects focused on addressing research gaps/barriers to mass timber use.
  - Eight demonstration projects representing various building types/applications in the Lower Mainland, Southern Vancouver Island and B.C. Interior.
- The majority of research projects under Intake 1 are now completed with findings being shared with key stakeholders in all levels of government and the building design and construction sector to support capacity building and address technical barriers to mass timber use.
- Demonstration projects continue to progress with three of seven building projects having started site preparations.
- Labour availability and construction supply chain constraints are slowing progress generally, with mass timber elements for projects expected to arrive across 2022/23 depending on the project.
- Intake 1 demonstration projects include:
  - **First Nations Health Authority** – a 6-storey building with exposed mass timber elements demonstrating institutional use of mass timber supporting health and cultural activities. Located at the Tsleil-Waututh Nation in North Vancouver.

- **Main and Cordova** – an 11-storey, multi-family residential building representing the use of mass timber in affordable housing.
- **Prototype** – a 21-storey rental building that will be one of the first tall wood market rental housing buildings of its kind in Canada.
- **The Exchange** (Kelowna) – a 4-storey hybrid mixed-use building that will explore rapid onsite construction methods.
- **2150 Keith Drive** – a 10-storey mixed use building that will combine commercial and social spaces and demonstrate advanced seismic systems for tall wood building applications.
- **837 Beatty** – a 6-storey, mixed-use, commercial building that demonstrates an innovative use of mass timber-steel hybrid design to renovate a historic building.
- **District of Saanich Fire Station**– replacing the present structure with a two-storey steel and timber post and beam system that will be designed to post-disaster structural design requirements targeting a zero-carbon building standard.
- **Bellevue and 22nd** – an 8-storey, multi-family residential building targeting passive house certification (this project is on hold pending a re-zoning decision).

- With these buildings at various stages in the design and construction stages, we will be sharing progress and lessons learned across the 2022-24 period.
- Information on each of the projects is available on FII's naturallywood.com website.

Intake 2

- The Expression of Interest (EOI) process for intake 2 was conducted across the second half of 2021 with $2 million made available for mass timber demonstration projects.
- Technical and other evaluations have been completed on the 25 proposals submitted.
- Contract negotiations are currently underway with expected outcomes to be shared shortly.

Intake 3

- A third intake is planned for fall 2022.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Budget/Expenditures:

- Total expenditures in 2020/21 of $4.15 million: $3.0 million from Stronger BC to support five demonstration projects and four research projects, and an additional $1.15 million from FII to support three demonstration projects.
- Total expenditures in 2021/22 are expected to be approximately $2.84 million, including the $2 million of base funding for the program and an estimated $341,000 from FII to support additional demonstration projects.
- In 2022/23, $2 million will be made available to support Intake 3 projects.

Approvals:
[2022/02/08] - [Kerry Pridmore, Trade and Industry Development Division]
[2022/02/10] – [Brian Urquhart, CFO] FSB
Last Updated: March 7, 2022

Contact:

Kerry Pridmore	Assistant Deputy Minister	Trade and Industry Development Division	778 698-1591

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

Forestry Worker and Community Support Programs

Issue: Support programs to mitigate economic disruption expected in rural B.C. communities as a result of old-growth harvesting deferrals.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

In November 2021, the Province announced it will be working in partnership with First Nations to defer harvest from B.C.'s most at-risk old-growth forests. This process is anticipated to result in an estimated 4,528 forestry job losses, o Advice/Recommentations Advice/Recommentations with subsequent impacts for other resource sectors and indirect impacts to rural small businesses. These impacts will likely be sustained over decades.

As part of this process, the government also announced the Forestry Worker and Community Support Programs (FWCSP), a comprehensive suite of supports for workers, businesses, communities and First Nations impacted by old-growth deferrals. The three-year FWCSP includes eight programs and initiatives; five programs have been announced and three are in development and will be announced in FY22/23.

The FWCSP is a joint initiative led by the Rural Development Unit (RDU), with the Ministries of Advanced Education and Skills Training (AEST) and Labour. The five existing FWCSP programs have been successfully deployed in the past in response to the 2019 forest industry downturn and COVID-19 recovery. These programs are being adapted and enhanced to ensure workers and communities receive immediate transition supports. These existing programs are:

- **Community Rapid Response Team (JERI):** This team will provide in-community support and will co-ordinate with ministries and organizations to ensure supports are in place for individuals and communities.
- **Forest Employment Program (JERI):** Creates short-term employment to help forest and land-based contractors explore new work.
- **Rural Business and Community Recovery Initiative (JERI):** Recovery advisers will be in place to help create jobs, support rural businesses and communities, and support strategic decision-making.
- **Bridging to Retirement (LBR):** Forestry workers 55 and older, who wish to retire, may receive supports to help transition to retirement.
- **Skills Training for Job Pathways (AEST):** Connects affected workers, communities and First Nation communities with skills training and educational opportunities for new careers.

Advice/Recommentations

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

- Advice/Recommentations
-
-

A forest worker supports and community resiliency council will be established to provide feedback on the development and implementation of these programs.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Budget/Expenditures:

- In December 2021 the government announced $19 million in Cabinet funding for the immediate implementation of FWCSP for the remainder of 2021-22
- Budget 2022 provides $185 million over 3 years to support forestry workers and communities affected by old-growth logging deferrals. These Forest Worker and Community Supports programs are a joint initiative between JERI, the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training and the Ministry of Labour.

Approvals:

Last Updated: March 3, 2022

Contact:

Lori Henderson	Executive Director	Rural Development Unit	778-698-7870

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

Overview of Community Transition and Economic Recovery Services

Issue: Services and supports for communities impacted by industrial closure or disaster recovery, led by Rural Development Unit

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

Within the Rural Development Unit (RDU), the Regional Economic Operations (REO) Branch leads on-the-ground community transition (CT) services across BC by responding to the needs of workers and communities, while Rural Policy and Programs (RPP) Branch administers forest worker and economic development programs to assist with worker/community transition. CT responses are divided into three core pillars tailored to meet impacted community needs: worker transition, community supports, and economic development.

The role of CT teams is to coordinate government services to support affected workers, local governments, businesses and social services while working with key partners (e.g. community leaders, unions, companies) to connect communities and workers with available resources and opportunities for economic resilience and growth. REO Branch works closely with and provides advice to impacted communities (e.g. elected officials and senior staff in community) to help them successfully navigate the economic transition.

Worker transition is the immediate focus, with REO branch leading on the ground multi-stakeholder teams to ensure employment and training services are well coordinated to support impacted workers. Key partners typically include the employer, union, local and Indigenous governments, Service Canada, WorkBC, employment services agencies, Community Futures, post-secondary institutions, Industry Training Authority, the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR), and the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training (AEST). The CT response is enhanced by key provincial resources:

- AEST's funding for skills training and education;
- Ministry of Labour's (Labour) Bridging to Retirement (BTR) Program;
- SDPR's Community-Employer Partnerships and Labour Market Partnerships; and
- RDU's Community Support Grant (to address immediate community/social transition needs).

RDU monitors curtailment and closure status of forest processing facilities across the province; poised to provide services or respond to new announcements as required. Advice/Recommentations

Advice/Recommentations

Advice/Recommentations with transportation challenges and fibre shortages being some of the main contributing factors. There are two active CT tables responding to an indefinite curtailment in Powell River and a permanent shift reduction in Vanderhoof.

Forestry Sector Supports

In 2021 the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), Labour, and AEST worked to develop the Forest Worker and Community Support Programs (FWCSP), designed to support communities in mitigating the anticipated impacts of old growth deferrals. This program builds on the past three-year Forest Worker Support Programs created to support communities impacted by mill closures and curtailments in 2019. As part of FWCSP, community transition services are being augmented to respond to old growth deferral-related impacts to communities across BC. Further information on this new package of programs is included in the FWCSP Estimates Note.

Disaster Recovery

Under EMBC's disaster recovery framework, RDU is the lead for rural economic recovery, and works on the ground directly with communities who have experienced a natural disaster such as wildfire or flood.

- In June 2021, a fire destroyed 90% of the Village of Lytton. RDU leads on the ground economic recovery services, chairs a cross-ministry working group to ensure coordination of Lytton and area economic recovery supports, facilitates stakeholder calls with Lytton, Chamber of Commerce, Community Futures and is working with local indigenous communities to help advance economic recovery projects. In November 2021, the RPP branch provided a grant of $1 million to the Village of Lytton **(this is public)**, with the funding allocated towards restarting the local economy and supporting urgent operational needs at the Village.
- In the fall of 2021, the Fraser Valley, parts of Vancouver Island, Merritt and Princeton experienced an extreme flooding event. RDU Regional Managers quickly responded to understand flood impacts and provide advisory support. Funding through RPP is being developed to assess economic recovery needs and initiate recovery projects and planning.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Budget/Expenditures:

- The REO branch leverages existing, targeted provincial programs to provide resources to impacted communities.

Approvals:
[date approved] - [ADM name, division]
March 7, 2022 - Brian Urquhart, CFO
Last Updated:

Contact:

Lori Henderson	Executive Director	Rural Development Unit	778-698-7870

Public Sector, Private Sector, Self-employed and Private sector + Self-employed, Monthly, Provinces, seasonally adjusted, Labour Force Survey

Copyright

95- Employment_ Private and Public Sector_ Women
EMP_Class of Worker

Public Sector, Private Sector, Self-employed and Private sector + Self-employed, Monthly, Provinces, seasonally adjusted, Labour Force Survey

Copyright

Statistics Canada Table: 14-10-0288-01 Employment by class of worker, monthly, seasonally adjusted
https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1410028801

95- Employment_ Private and Public Sector_ Women
EMP_Class of Worker

Employment (Total, Male and Female), Monthly, Provinces, seasonally adjusted, Labour Force Survey

Copyright

Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0287-01 Labour force characteristics, monthly, seasonally adjusted. Copyright
https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1410028701

95- Employment_ Private and Public Sector_ Women
EMP_M-F

Employment Standards Branch - Statistical Summary

Calendar Year (Jan 1-December 31)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	AVG.
Complaints Received	5,063	4,958	7,294	7,403	6215	**6,187**
Complaints Closed	4,815	4,539	4,487	5,258	6169	**5,054**
Resolution Phase						
Advice/Recommentations						
Licence Applications						
Advice/Recommentations						
Farm Labour Compliance (now Compliance Team)						
Advice/Recommentations						
EST - Appeal Results *(Fiscal Year - April 1- March 31)*	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	**5 year Averages**

Advice/Recommentations

Advice/Recommentations

2019/20 Fiscal Year Service Plan Measures *

Advice/Recommentations

Contact: Mary Walsh A/Executive Director
604-398-6108

Employment Standards Branch

ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE **Ministry of Labour** **Date:** May 31, 2022 update **Minister Responsible:** Harry Bains	**ESB complaints backlog**

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The pandemic impacted B.C.'s workplaces – and when workers and employers need advice and support, the Employment Standards Branch is available to help.**

- **I am committed to ensuring that workers and employers have access to the Employment Standards Branch when they need it.**

- **In 2019, we began modernizing the Employment Standards Branch to make it easier for people to access the branch's services, because over the previous 16 years the system was difficult to use.**

- **We've helped by removing barriers, hiring more staff, and establishing a multi-lingual service for our information line.**

- **When there are barriers to accessing needed services, it is often the lowest paid and the most vulnerable workers who are hurt the most.**

- **We have recently hired 27 temporary new staff to focus on reducing the backlog of files. The Branch is actively recruiting additional staff to continue to focus on reducing the backlog of files.**

- **Staffing at the Branch has increased from 96 positions in 2017 to 169 at present. An additional 27 positions are currently being recruited.**

    - 2017 96 FTEs
    - 2018 99 FTEs
    - 2019 135 FTEs
    - 2020 142 FTEs
    - Jan 2021 142 FTEs
    - April 2021 142 FTEs plus 13 Aux Officers = 155
    - August 2021 142 FTEs plus 11 Aux Officers = 166
    - April 2022 142 FTEs plus 27 Aux Officers = 169

- They have made progress and are actively working to process all outstanding complaints.

Increased volume messaging:

- We are delivering services people need, and when we made access to the branch easier, it also meant our incoming volume of cases increased.
- Over the last two years we've seen that the pandemic impacted our workload too.
- We know it is vital to workers to have their complaints resolved in a timely manner and it is important to provide certainty for employers.
- That is why we are working hard on resolving complaints and have completed a business modernization project to improve accessibility, streamline services and better support workers and employers. We continue to explore new ways to improve service delivery to workers and employers.
- In 2021, the Employment Standards Branch provided advice to more than 122,000 workers and employers in more than 140 languages and successfully resolved thousands of complaints.
- In 2021, the branch received 6,215 complaints, compared with 4,260 complaints in 2016.
- Uncertainty about worker rights and employer obligations during the pandemic created an additional surge in new files.
- We are supporting people faster by triaging simpler cases so they can be resolved quickly.

ADVICE TO MINISTER

KEY FACTS:

Since 2019, the Employment Standards Branch has seen a rise in the number of complaints coming in from workers who feel their employers have infringed upon their rights under B.C.'s labour laws.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a heightened level of uncertainty about worker rights and employer obligations, resulting in a further increase in complaints.

Starting February 8, 2021, the Branch's dedicated backlog team began contacting workers who have a file in the backlog to obtain information to get each file ready to be processed as soon as an officer is available. A file that is ready and complete for an officer will significantly speed processing times from that point and will notify workers that we are working on processing their overdue files. All workers with a complaint in the backlog at that time have now been contacted.

Changes to the Branch's complaint-handling process initiated in 2019 eliminated barriers to accessing the complaint process and led to an increase in the volume of complaints filed with the Branch. These changes included:

- Eliminating the requirement for workers to use a "self-help kit" before filing a complaint about an issue with their employer.
- Increasing the amount of unpaid wages that can be recovered from six to 12 months.
- An increase in complaints as a result of these policy changes was anticipated. To improve the accessibility of branch services, government increased funding to the Employment Standards Branch in Budget 2019 by $14 million over three years.
- As part of this work, the branch retained a process design expert to review the complaints model and recommend efficiencies.
- About three dozen additional staff were hired to handle complaints and investigations and the branch adopted new intake and triage processes to better manage complaints.

Government Financial Information

Government Financial [illegible] There are a number of job postings in progress which will help add to these numbers.

On April 13, 2022, the BC Employment Standards Coalition issued a report – Justice Denied: The Systemic Failure to Enforce BC Employment Standards – critical of the complaints process and the length of time it takes for a complaint to be processed.

In calendar year 2021, the Employment Standards Branch received 6,215 complaints, and closed 6,169 complaints. For the 2021/2022 fiscal year, ESB is forecasting to resolve 51% of complaints within 180 days. As well, the Branch provided advice to more than 90,000 workers and employers in more than 140 languages.

The Employment Standards Branch processes and adjudicates complaints involving unpaid wages, unpaid overtime, statutory holiday pay, unjust layoffs and terminations, and a range of other workplace concerns that fall under the Employment Standards Act.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

BACKGROUNDER

Minimum wage in B.C. – 2001 to present

Minimum wage increases in British Columbia (per hour):

2001:	$8.00
2002-2010:	(rate freeze period)
2011:	$8.75, then $9.50
2012:	$10.25
2013:	no increase
2014:	no increase
2015:	$10.45
2016:	$10.85
2017:	$11.35
2018:	$12.65
2019:	$13.85
2020:	$14.60
2021:	$15.20
June 1, 2022:	$15.65

Minimum wage in other Canadian jurisdictions (as of May 12, 2022) (per hour):

Saskatchewan:	$11.81
Manitoba:	$11.95
New Brunswick:	$12.75
Newfoundland & Labrador:	$13.20
Nova Scotia:	$13.35
Prince Edward Island:	$13.70
Quebec:	$14.25
Ontario:	$15.00
Alberta:	$15.00
Northwest Territories:	$15.20
Yukon:	$15.70
Nunavut:	$16.00

Liquor server minimum wage:

The Fair Wages Commission found that nearly 70% of liquor servers in B.C. were earning less than $15 per hour, including tips. On June 1, 2021, government brought an end to the lower, discriminatory minimum wage for liquor servers in B.C., where 80% of whom are women. This lower minimum wage had been in place since 2011.

Contact:

Ministry of Labour
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2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Labour
Minister Responsible: Hon. Harry Bains

Title: Minimum Wage and the Fair Wages Commission

Revised: February 3, 2022

Issue: Minimum wage (including Liquor Server Rate and Piece Rates) and the Fair Wages Commission

Response:

- Government firmly believes that the lowest paid workers need support now more than ever.
- On June 1, 2021, Government fulfilled its commitment by increasing both the minimum wage and liquor server wage to $15.20 an hour, making British Columbia's minimum wage the highest among Canadian provinces. This brought an end to the lower minimum wage for liquor servers in B.C., 80% of whom are women.
- Now that the minimum wage has reached this level, we are committed to tying the minimum wage to the rate of inflation for future increases. This will provide predictability and stability for both employers and workers.
- We increased the **minimum piece rates** for hand harvesting of specific crops by 11.5 per cent as of January 1, 2019 — equal to the rate of increase for the general minimum wage on June 1, 2018.
- Meanwhile, we are taking a more in-depth look at the piece rate regulations to ensure compensation for farm workers is both fair for workers and sustainable for farm operators.
- In the final phase of its mandate, the Fair Wages Commission has been directed to work with economists, workers, the technology sector, small businesses, youth and others from all regions to make recommendations to address the discrepancy between the minimum wage and living wages in B.C.
- We expect to hear back soon from the commission on the results of their research.

Background/Status:

- The number of British Columbia employees earning minimum wage or less in 2020 was 121,000. This represents 6 per cent of paid employees in British Columbia (i.e., excluding the self-employed). This represents a decrease from 7 per cent in 2019, but is an increase from 5.1 per cent in 2017. The overall

increase in the per cent of employees earning minimum wage would be expected with the significant increases in the minimum wage since 2017.

Fair Wages Commission and commitment to reach at least $15

- The Fair Wages Commission was established in October 2017 as an independent body to provide expert advice on how B.C. should achieve a $15 an hour minimum wage, and also the timeline for implementation. The commission's first chair was Dr. Marjorie Griffin Cohen, and the commission also includes two members – Ivan Limpright representing labour interests and Ken Peacock representing business interests.
- On October 1, 2018, the chair of the commission was replaced with Professor Danielle van Jaarsveld of the UBC Sauder School of Business; the two other members remain in their roles.
- There was a budget of $490,000 over two years for the commission and its operations. The budget was $240,000 for 2017/18 and $250,000 in 2018/19 and covered payment for appointees, costs for travel, consultations and contract writing/publication and support such as research and advisory services.
- The Fair Wages Commission expenditures were $26,000 in 2020/21 and $71,000 in 2019/20. These expenditures were managed within the Ministry's base budget. Expenditures for 2021/22 are not yet available.
- In a report delivered to government in January 2018, following public consultations and receipt of research and submissions, the commission recommended the following four minimum wage increases over four years.
    - June 1, 2018: $12.65 an hour ($1.30 increase)
    - June 1, 2019: $13.85 ($1.20 increase)
    - June 1, 2020: $14.60 ($0.75 increase)
    - June 1, 2021: $15.20 ($0.60 increase)
- The commission also recommended that, depending on economic conditions, government consider an additional hourly increase of up to $0.20, to $15.40 an hour in 2021. Given the economic situation with COVID-19, government did not provide this additional 20 cent increase in 2021.
- The commission also provided recommendations and advice with respect to the ongoing role of a commission after 2021. This includes recommendations to:
    - Establish a permanent commission with staff to examine issues related to low-wages in B.C. and give advice on increases to the minimum wage.
    - Provide for a permanent research function for the commission so that it can examine the changing nature of the labour market and how well new forms of work are protected with existing minimum wage coverage.

- Have the permanent commission establish predictable indicators to guide future increases to the minimum wage, such as the CPI (or some other relationship such as between the minimum wage and the poverty level or average wage levels).
- Establish an advisory committee to the commission that is representative of the diversity of British Columbians.

- The commission conducted online and in-person consultations across the province. During the consultations, 178 people presented at one of eight regional sessions in November and early December 2017; and 77 written submissions as well as over 3,000 emails were sent to the commission.
- It is noteworthy that the commission reported hearing concerns and ideas from those who are traditionally marginalized in the labour force and are over-represented among low-wage workers. These included women, young people, immigrants, visible minorities, temporary foreign workers, those who identify with the LGBTQ community, those with disabilities and those who identify as an Indigenous person.
- The Fair Wages Commission is currently reviewing the gap between living wages and the minimum wage in B.C. communities. This will fulfil the third phase of its mandate.
- As part of this review, the commission undertook a public engagement from mid-April 2019 to June 28, 2019 which included in-person engagement sessions and email stakeholder submissions.
- The commission has now completed its consultations and is finalizing its report, which is expected soon.

Future increases to the minimum wage

- For its 2020 election campaign, Government committed to tying the minimum wage to the rate of inflation once the minimum wage reached $15.20/hour. Premier Horgan included this item as a priority in his mandate letter to the Minister of Labour. This is also consistent with the Fair Wages Commission's recommendations in its first report, regarding future adjustments to the minimum wage.

- For 2022, the minimum wage will increase by the average percentage change to the BC CPI for 2021. This would result in a 2.8 per cent increase, effective June 1, 2022. Applying this to the current general minimum wage rate (rounded to the nearest nickel), the new rate would be $15.65, representing a 45-cent increase. The 2.8% adjustment would apply to all minimum wage rates (further details regarding application to alternate rates below).

Other jurisdictions – current minimum wage rates

- B.C.'s current general minimum wage is $15.20/hour, which, is first among the 10 Canadian provinces. Minimum wage rates among Canadian provinces currently range from $11.45/hour to $15.00/hour.
- At $16/hour, Nunavut's minimum wage rate is higher than minimum wages in all other provinces and territories.
- Most Canadian jurisdictions, including B.C. now, have commitments to regular minimum wage increases based on a statistical measure (e.g., inflation) and/or a mechanism in place for a formal review (e.g., panel of experts) — see Appendix 1 for further details.
- Ontario's minimum wage was set at $15/hour in 2021 and its legislation provides that, starting in 2022, the minimum wage will increase at the rate of inflation.

Fair Wages Commission Second Report on Alternative Minimum Wage Rates

- The commission's second report, released on April 19, 2018, made recommendations on increases to the alternative regulated minimum wage rates, including the minimum rates for: liquor servers, minimum piece rates for farm workers who harvest certain crops by hand, resident caretakers, live-in camp leaders and live-in home support workers.
- Government accepted many of the recommendations, including raising the lower liquor-server minimum wage to equal the general minimum wage by 2021, and raising the minimum wage of resident caretakers and live-in camp leaders at the same rate as the general minimum wage — with the first increases to these categories occurring on June 1, 2018. Further details on the alternate minimum wage rates are laid out in the sections below.

Liquor Server Wage

- Effective June 1, 2021, both the minimum wage and liquor server wage were increased to $15.20 an hour, making this the highest minimum wage among Canadian provinces. This move brought an end to the lower minimum wage for liquor servers in B.C., 80% of whom are women.
- The move was based on the recommendations from the Fair Wages Commission's second report.

Minimum Piece Rates

- B.C. farm workers who hand harvest certain berry, fruit or vegetable crops and who are employed on a piece work basis are paid for the amount they pick, and not in relation to a minimum hourly wage. The minimum piece rates for these crops are established in the Employment Standards Regulation.
- This system of regulated minimum piece rates, which is unique within Canada, was established in 1981 with the intent that an average, reasonably diligent hand harvester would be able to earn at least the equivalent of the general minimum hourly wage.
- In April 2018, the Fair Wages Commission made recommendations on B.C.'s piece rate system as part of its second report.
- The recommendations included increasing all piece rates by 15 per cent on June 1, 2018, and implementing the general minimum hourly wage for piece-rate workers as of June 1, 2019, with piece rates as additional incentives. The Ministry of Labour determined more information was needed on the details of the piece rate system and, instead, implemented an 11.5 per cent rate increase to piece rates as of January 1, 2019, and hired agricultural economist Karen Taylor to conduct an in-depth study.
- Along with a historical study of piece rates, Dr. Taylor spoke directly with farmworkers and growers — consultations which were not possible during the consultations for the Fair Wages Commission's initial report. The study, which took place between September and December 2018, was submitted to government on January 10, 2019, and publicly released on December 10, 2019.
- No changes were made to the minimum piece rates in 2020 and 2021. For 2022, the minimum piece rates will increase by the average percentage change to the BC CPI for 2021 (i.e., 2.8%), effective January 1, 2023. This delayed implementation date minimizes disruption for the agricultural sector by providing that the rate increases do not come into force during the harvest season. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries has indicated their support for these measures. The Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries remain engaged in further discussions respecting the future of minimum piece rates.

Other alternative minimum wage rates

- In addition to the minimum piece rates, the Employment Standards Regulation also establishes separate minimum pay provisions for "live-in camp leaders", "resident caretakers", and "live-in home support workers". In 2021, based on recommendations from the commission, the rates for "live-in camp leaders" and "resident caretakers" were increased by the same percentage and on the same schedule as the general hourly minimum wage.

- This approach will continue in 2022, where the minimum wage rates for live-in camp leaders and resident caretakers will increase by the average percentage change to the BC CPI for 2021 (i.e., 2.8%), effective June 1, 2022. This would result in the following rates:
    - $125.06 per day for live-in camp leaders
    - $937.82 per month plus $76.58 per suite for those who manage nine to 60 residential suites - or $3,194.43 per month for resident caretakers who manage 61 or more units.
- With respect to the "live-in home support workers" minimum rate, government initially intended to follow the commission's recommendation and eliminate the category (i.e., applying the general minimum hourly wage). This recommendation from the commission was based on its understanding that very few, if any, workers fall into the category. However, several social services groups expressed concern to government, saying that they employ several hundred workers who fall into this category and the change may have substantial impacts on employers and employees, as well as government agencies that fund home care support services. Accordingly, the decision to eliminate this alternate wage category was deferred while the government re-examines the issue.
- For 2022, the minimum wage rate for live-in home support workers will increase by the average percentage change to the BC CPI for 2021 (i.e., 2.8%), effective June 1, 2022. This would result in a minimum daily rate of $116.68. However, discussions will continue regarding the future of this rate.

Attachments: Appendix 1 – General Minimum Wages in Canada
Appendix 2 – Fair Wages Commission Terms of Reference

Contact:

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Ministry: **Ministry of Labour**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Harry Bains**

Appendix 1 – General Minimum Wages in Canada (as of January 1, 2022)

Jurisdiction	Rate ($/hr)	Effective Date	Notes on Future Changes
Nunavut	16.00	April 1, 2020	Annual mandatory review by Minister.
British Columbia	**15.20 (proposed: 15.65)**	**June 1, 2021 (June 1, 2022)**	**Government commitment to tie future minimum wage adjustments to inflation**
Yukon	15.20	August 1, 2021	On April 1st of each year, the minimum wage is adjusted based on annual increase for the preceding calendar year in the CPI for Whitehorse.
Northwest Territories	15.20	September 1, 2021	Independent body gives advice.
Alberta	15.00	Oct 1, 2018	No required adjustments to minimum wage.
Ontario	15.00	Jan 1,2022	On October 1st of each year, the minimum wage is adjusted by the percentage change to the CPI for Ontario over the two preceding calendar years.
Quebec	13.50	May 1, 2021	No required adjustments to minimum wage.
'nce Edward .and	13.00	April 1, 2021	$13.70 effective April 1, 2022 Independent body gives advice after an annual review.
Nova Scotia	12.95	April 1, 2021	Annual adjustment on April 1st based on the percentage change in the national CPI for the calendar year immediately preceding the year in which the adjustment occurs. Effective 2022.
Newfoundland and Labrador	12.75	October 1, 2021	Annual adjustment on April 1st based on the percentage change on the national CPI for the year immediately preceding the year in which the adjustment occurs. Effective 2022.
Manitoba	11.95	Oct 1, 2021	Annual adjustment on October 1st based on the percentage change in the provincial CPI between the calendar year immediately before the date of adjustment and the calendar year two years before the date of adjustment.
Saskatchewan	11.81	Oct 1, 2021	Cabinet may annually adjustment the minimum wage by June 30th based on average increases in CPI and average hourly wage.
New Brunswick	11.75	April 1, 2021	$12.75 effective April 1, 2022. $13.75 effective October 1, 2022. Annual adjustment on April 1st based on the percentage change in the provincial CPI between the calendar year immediately before the date of adjustment and the

Ministry: **Ministry of Labour**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Harry Bains**

			calendar year two years before the date of adjustment. Minister must review every two years.

Ministry: Ministry of Labour
Minister Responsible: Hon. Harry Bains

FINAL Terms of Reference
FAIR WAGES COMMISSION

Whereas the general minimum wage in British Columbia is $11.35/hour and the liquor server minimum wage is $10.10/hour as of September 15, 2017;

And whereas among Canadian provinces, minimum wages range from $10.72 to $12.20/hour as of August 2017, although Alberta has announced a commitment to be at $15/hour by October 2018 while Ontario has plans to reach $15/hour by January 2019;

And whereas with the cost of living in BC, a person working full-time in a minimum wage job cannot make ends meet or support a family;

And whereas in contrast to the minimum wage, a living wage is designed to reflect what earners in a family need to bring home based on the actual costs of living in a specific community;

And whereas government intends to increase the minimum wage to $15/hour as part of a plan to create good jobs, fair wages and build a sustainable economy in every sector and in every corner of the province, including indexing it to inflation in the future so as not to fall behind;

And whereas the Confidence and Supply Agreement from May 2017 contains the following commitment at Section 2 (e): "*Immediately establish an at-arm's-length Fair Wages Commission that will be tasked with establishing a pathway to a minimum wage of at least $15 per hour and overseeing regular rate reviews. The commission will bring forward recommendations regarding strategies to address the discrepancy between minimum wages and livable wages. The commission will make its first report on a new minimum wage within 90 days of its first meeting.*"

Now, therefore, the Minister directs the establishment of an impartial Fair Wages

Ministry: Ministry of Labour
Minister Responsible: Hon. Harry Bains

Commission as follows:

1. The Commission will consist of a Chair, one representative of employer interests and one representative of worker interests. These three Commission members will be appointed by the Minister of Labour. The Minister may add two members (one who represents employer interests and one who represents worker interests) to the Commission if needed after the first report is submitted (as per item 4 below) to address the complexities of the discrepancy between minimum wages and living wages.

2. The budget for the Commission will come from the Ministry of Labour. Payment for the Commission Chair and its members will be in accordance with government policy. The Ministry will provide administrative support for the Commission, including research and website support.

3. The Commission will determine its own procedures, including the format for reporting to the Minister and communications. It is expected that the Commission will engage in consultations with and receive submissions from interested stakeholders from all regions of the province including but not limited to representatives of economists, trade unions, the technology sector, small business, and youth.

4. The Commission will make its first report on a new minimum wage within 90 days of its first meeting. The first meeting of the Commission will take place on or before October 1, 2017 to enable a first report no later than December 31, 2017. The report should be in writing to the Minister of Labour and address the issues in items 5 to 7, inclusive, below. The timing for items 8 and 9 are for discussion with the Minister but are not required to be included in the first report to the Minister.

5. The Commission must prepare recommendations on the general minimum wage that will result in a series of increases over time to reach a $15/hour minimum wage. Where possible, the recommendations should support the principles of regular, measured, and predictable increases over time to allow employers an appropriate notice period to plan for the changes on the way to a $15/hour minimum wage.

6. The Commission should consider the impact of minimum wage increases in other jurisdictions including those jurisdictions that have committed to achieving $15/hour. Consideration should be given to the prevailing views on the impact of minimum wage increases on employment.

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7. The Commission must consider and make recommendations on the other minimum wage rates under the *Employment Standards Regulation*.

8. The Commission must prepare recommendations related to regular rate reviews once the $15/hour minimum wage is achieved, including the Commission's role in overseeing regular rate reviews. The Commission should give consideration to the BC consumer price index and other factors (e.g., economic and labour market conditions), and provide recommendations on when and how the increases beyond the $15/hour minimum wage should be determined.

9. The Commission will review the issue of what constitutes a "living wage" and the elements that make up determining a "living wage", including a jurisdictional scan of the issue in BC and across Canada. Recognizing rapid changes occurring in the economy, the Commission will make recommendations regarding strategies to address the discrepancy between the minimum wage and a "living wage".

10. The Minister of Labour will make the Commission's reports public after a reasonable period of time to review and consider them. The Minister will also provide the reports to Cabinet.

Given under my hand this 29th day of September, 2017.

Honourable Harry Bains, Minister of Labour

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Labour**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Harry Bains**

Title: **Paid Sick Leave**

Revised: **February 3, 2022**

Issue: **Paid COVID-19 Sick Leave and Paid Personal Illness and Injury Leave**

Response:

- To better support workers and employers during the pandemic, and to support healthy and safe workplaces, our government established two new sick leaves under the *Employment Standards Act*.
- In May 2021, Bill 13 amended the *Employment Standards Act* to establish two new paid leaves:
  - for the short term, up to three days of paid leave related to COVID-19 sick leave for employees who have symptoms, are self-isolating, or are waiting for a test result, effective from May, 20 2021 until December 31, 2021; and,
  - for the long term, a permanent paid sick leave, effective January 1, 2022.
- In November 2021, an Order-in-Council was completed, which established a minimum entitlement to five days per year of employer-paid sick leave.
- This minimum entitlement was determined after a comprehensive public engagement and consultation process, including a public survey regarding current paid sick leave benefits for B.C. employees and public input on the number of days for such leave.
- I also personally met with representatives from the business community, labour organizations, Indigenous partners, and other stakeholders to hear their views.
- With the implementation of the new paid sick leave entitlement, B.C. now leads other provinces in supporting workers and ensuring that they do not have to go to work when they are sick.

Background/Status:

- On May 11, 2021, in order to support workers to stay home when they are sick both during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, Government introduced the *Employment Standards Amendment Act (No. 2), 2021* (Bill 13) into the House.
- Bill 13 amended the *Employment Standards Act* (Act) to provide:

- a permanent entitlement to paid personal injury and illness leave; and
- up to three days of paid COVID-19 sick leave.

- Paid personal illness and injury leave:
  - Effective January 1, 2022, all employees covered by the Act are eligible for 5 days of employer paid sick leave after 90 consecutive days of employment.
  - In order to meet the needs of workers and support healthy businesses, the number of paid days was determined after a comprehensive, multi-phase public engagement and consultation process over Summer and Fall 2021.
  - In the first phase, the Ministry of Labour invited all workers and employers to complete a survey regarding their current sick leave benefits, if any, and to comment on where improvements could be made.
  - This survey informed the second phase, where the Ministry developed a paper presenting three options for public feedback and consultation: a minimum entitlement of 3, 5 or 10 days of paid sick leave per year.
  - The Ministry then consulted on these options with a variety of stakeholders, including workers, employers, business associations, labour advocates, Indigenous partners, non-profit organizations, and local governments.

- Paid COVID-19 sick leave:
  - Employees in the following circumstances were eligible for up to three days of paid sick leave from the date of Royal Assent (May 20, 2021) until December 31, 2021:
    - they have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and are acting on the instructions or orders of a medical health officer or the advice of a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner, or registered nurse;
    - they are in quarantine or self-isolation in accordance with an order made by the provincial health officer or under the federal *Quarantine Act*, or in accordance with guidelines from the B.C. Centre for Disease Control or the Public Health Agency of Canada; or
    - they have been directed by their employer to stay home because of concerns about an exposure risk for others.
  - While employers were required to pay workers on COVID-19 sick leave their full wages, the Province reimbursed those employers who do not have an existing sick leave program up to $200 per day per worker to cover costs. Beginning in June 2021, WorkSafeBC began administering the employer reimbursement program on behalf of the Province. For more

information on this program see Estimates Note on Employer Reimbursement Program at TAB 23.

- An estimated 50% of B.C. employees did not previously have access to paid sick leave – meaning that upwards of one million workers in B.C. will potentially benefit from receiving these new paid sick leaves. The ability to take paid leave will be especially beneficial to many vulnerable and low-wage workers (often women or migrant workers) who lack benefits.

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2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Labour**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Harry Bains**

Title: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Revised: February 3, 2022

Issue: National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, September 30

Response:

- The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30 is a federal holiday that commemorates the tragedy of the residential school system, while seeking to promote reconciliation between Indigenous and non-indigenous communities.
- In 2021, the BC provincial public service and public sector observed the holiday, and other employers had the choice how to observe the day.
- In August 2021, the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and the Minister of Finance indicated that the Province will work with Indigenous leaders, organizations and communities on the best and most respectful ways to mark Truth and Reconciliation Day here in B.C., followed by engagement with business and labour stakeholders for their perspectives on how the national day is commemorated in future years.

Background/Status:

- On June 5, 2021, the Federal Government passed an amendment to the *Canada Labour Code* through Bill C-5, to add a new, "National Day for Truth and Reconciliation" for federally regulated workers that will be observed as a statutory holiday each year on September 30.

- Bill C-5 responded to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's call to action number 80 by creating a holiday called the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, which seeks to honour First Nations, Inuit and Métis survivors of residential schools and their families and communities and to ensure that public commemoration of their history and the legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process.

- The date of September 30, chosen by the federal government, builds on the grassroots momentum of Orange Shirt Day, which is already known as a day to remember the legacy of residential schools and to move forward with reconciliation. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendation did not specify a date for the holiday.

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- The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation will be engaging with Indigenous leaders, organizations, and communities on how best to mark Truth and Reconciliation Day in BC. The Ministry of Labour will then engage with business and labour stakeholders.

- The new statutory holiday, under the *Canada Labour Code*, does not apply to provincially regulated workers (but does apply to roughly 10% of BC workers employed in banks, airlines, the post office, and other federally regulated sectors). However, provincially regulated employees may be entitled to the federal holiday where they have collective agreement provisions that require employers to honour federal holidays (of which there are several including the BCGEU Main Agreement for the BC Public Service).

- For September 30, 2021, the national holiday was observed by federal employees and workers in federally regulated workplaces. The Ministers of Finance and of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation advised provincial public-sector employers to honour this day, which also recognized the obligations in the vast majority of public sector collective agreements. Many public services remained open but operated at reduced levels. However, most schools, post-secondary institutions, some health sector workplaces, and Crown corporations were closed.

- Manitoba, Nova Scotia and PEI formally recognized September 30, 2021, as a holiday. Schools closed, and provincially employed workers had the day off work. Flags on government buildings were lowered to half-mast.

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2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Labour
Minister Responsible: Hon. Harry Bains

Title: Workers' Compensation Review

Revised: February 23, 2022

Issue: Ensuring that workers and surviving dependents receive fair compensation, effective services and respectful treatment for injuries or fatalities experienced in the workplace

Response:

- A fair, effective and respectful workers' compensation system is of utmost importance to this government.
- This includes ensuring that injured and ill workers, and surviving dependants, receive fair and timely compensation and are treated with dignity and respect.
- Significant changes have been made to the workers' compensation system to improve programs and services to injured workers in British Columbia, including Bill 23, *Workers Compensation Amendment Act, 2020*, which provides better support to injured workers and their families and enhances WorkSafeBC's ability to investigate workplace incidents.
- In April 2019, Janet Patterson, a retired labour lawyer, was appointed to carry out a focused review of the workers' compensation system.
- Government made this report public so the people who provided feedback know that their voices have been heard and reflected in the report and its findings.
- Going forward, there is still work that needs to be done to improve WorkSafeBC's overall service to workers, including bringing forward further amendments to the Workers Compensation Act in 2022.

Background/Status:

- In addition to promoting, regulating and enforcing worker health and safety, WorkSafeBC's mandate includes providing fair wage-loss compensation to workers while recovering from work-related injuries and rehabilitating those who are injured on the job.
- WorkSafeBC's mandate also provides that these services be undertaken while ensuring the sound financial management of the workers' compensation system so that it can remain viable.

- While WorkSafeBC takes service quality very seriously and has implemented a number of improvements over the years, clients reported to government and to WorkSafeBC about the quality of services being provided. This was particularly so for complex cases that can present challenges for the system and for the affected workers and dependants.
- These concerns are important to the WorkSafeBC executive and to government. Generally, service quality issues can be addressed directly by WorkSafeBC without legislative amendment.
- Since 2017, the Minister has made progress on these priorities and commitments with a systemic approach to effecting the desired shifts including the following initiatives and policy changes:
    - Board Governance: Since 2017, government has appointed a number of new individuals to the WorkSafeBC board of directors, including a new chair, to provide new perspectives and experience.
    - Internal WorkSafeBC Culture: The Minister directed the WorkSafeBC board of directors to implement a culture change within WorkSafeBC to improve services, with a focus on injured workers who need care, compassion and respect while they recover.
    - Employers: The Minister directed the WorkSafeBC board of directors to remind employers of their responsibilities and accountability to reduce workplace injuries and death under the *Workers Compensation Act* (WCA) and the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation.
    - Policies and Legislation:
        - Government passed Bill 9-2018 (the *Workers Compensation Amendment Act, 2018)* which adds a presumption for first responders who experience trauma as a result of their work and which results in a diagnosed mental health injury/disorder. The amendment includes authority to add other occupations by regulation.
        - Effective April 16, 2019, government amended the Mental Disorder Presumption Regulation to ensure that nurses, emergency dispatchers and publicly funded health-care assistants are provided the mental disorder presumption for work-related trauma.
        - Government passed Bill 18-2019 (the *Workers Compensation Amendment Act, 2019)* which expanded the definition of firefighters who are eligible for the three workers' compensation presumptions currently available to firefighters – that is, the presumptions for certain cancers, for heart disease and heart injury, and for mental health disorders.

- The Minister directed the WorkSafeBC board of directors to review its Rehabilitation and Claims Services policies to determine if there are policies that could be amended to ensure a worker-centred approach. The process, led by consultant Paul **Petrie**, resulted in a report published on April 25, 2018 entitled "*Restoring the Balance: A Worker-Centred Approach to Workers' Compensation Policy*".
- Terrance Bogyo was engaged by the WorkSafeBC Board and issued a report, *Balance. Stability. Improvement. Options for the Accident Fund,* in December 2018.
- Lisa Jean Helps was engaged by the Attorney General and issued a report, *WorkSafeBC and Government Action Review: Crossing the Rubicon,* in August 2019.
- In 2020 the Minister requested Jeff Parr to consult with business and labour leaders on these three reports and recommend appropriate legislative amendments.
- The government considered these reports, along with the results of Jeff Parr's consultations and recommendations, and introduced Bill 23 (2020), which contained provisions to:
    - Increase the maximum earnings threshold for calculating workers' compensation to bring BC more into line with other Canadian jurisdictions,
    - Enhance WorkSafeBC's occupational health and safety investigation framework to support the health and safety of British Columbia workers by enacting further recommendations flowing from the 2012 sawmill explosion tragedies,
    - Enhance the operational effectiveness of the workers' compensation system, and
    - Add a provision to shorten the statutory timeframe for WorkSafeBC to introduce an occupational disease presumption for COVID-19 so that workers in occupations impacted by COVID-19 will have quicker access to workers' compensation benefits.
- In April 2019, Janet Patterson, a retired labour lawyer, was appointed to carry out a focused review of the workers' compensation system.

- Ms. Patterson assessed five areas:
  - Policies and practices to support injured workers' return to work,
  - The case management of injured workers,
  - A gender and diversity-based analysis of the policies and practices,
  - Modernizing WorkSafeBC's culture to be more worker-centric, and
  - Recommendations for necessary *Workers Compensation Act* amendments, consistent with her focussed terms of reference.
- The Ministry of Labour has received Ms. Patterson's report and made it public. Government is reviewing and considering its findings as consideration is given to introducing further amendments to the *Workers Compensation Act* in Fall 2022.

- Asbestos: The Ministry of Labour is leading a cross-ministry working group, with significant involvement and input from WorkSafeBC, to better protect people and the environment from the dangers of asbestos. A report for feedback was released on December 19, 2018 and identifies 16 recommendations for discussion on strategies and initiatives that the British Columbia government and its agencies could undertake to further protect British Columbians and the environment from the dangers of asbestos. On February 16, 2022, government introduced Bill 5, the *Workers Compensation Amendment Act, 2022*. These amendments will require asbestos abatement contractors be licensed to operate in B.C. and will require workers and employers who perform asbestos abatement work to complete mandatory safety training and certification.

Contact:

Michael Tanner	A/Executive Director	Labour Policy and Legislation Branch	778 974-2172

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Labour**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Harry Bains**

Title: Completion of 2019 Forest Worker Support Programs

Revised: Feb 3, 2022

Issue: Completion of the 2019 Retirement Bridging Program for Mill Workers and Job Placement Co-ordination Offices

Response:

- In 2019, our government launched a three-year, $69-million suite of programs to help forestry workers and contractors transition during a down-turn in the forest sector.
- These programs together included early retirement bridging, retraining and job matching services, a Forest Employment program and community support grants and resiliency projects.
- The Bridging to Retirement Program delivered over $46 million in funding to help more than 1,000 older workers retire early, creating vacancies for over 600 forestry jobs for younger workers, keeping our communities strong.
- The Job Placement Program engaged with more than 7,000 workers to help them connect to government services and matched more than 800 displaced workers with training opportunities.
- I'm proud of the supports we have provided for forestry workers over the past 3 years. And I appreciate the support and commitment from communities, organized labour, Indigenous people and employers helped make these programs successful.
- We continue to support workers, contractors, their families and communities with updated programs to align with the Old Growth Strategy.

  Intake is open for millworkers, contractors and their employees who may be interested in accessing bridging funding to retire in their communities and create vacancies for younger workers.

- Forestry workers will continue to be supported to access training and jobs through coordinated, targeted programs offered by WorkBC, the Ministry of Forests, and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training.

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Labour**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Harry Bains**

Background/Status:

- Of the initial $69 million allocation, the Ministry of Labour received $42 million to fund the Bridging to Retirement Program and Job Placement Program; the remaining $27 million went to other ministries.
- The ministry received an additional $10 million in funding from the Stronger BC initiative, to expand the program to the coastal forest region, and an additional $8 million to create jobs in working mills.
- Labour has spent over $46 million on the Bridging to Retirement Program and anticipates using the full $4M budget allocated for 2021/22. The benefits have averaged $44,000 per worker.
- The Job Placement Program has helped displaced forest workers with retraining and job searches and supported them to access other government services.
- The Clearwater, Mackenzie, Fort St John, and Fort St James offices are now closed, and the workers are being served through virtual service delivery and the 100 Mile House Office, which will continue to operate until the end of March 2022.
- The program expects that all workers will be successfully placed in training or jobs by the close of the 100 Mile House office on March 31, 2022.
- Forestry workers will continue to be supported to access training and jobs through coordinated, targeted programs offered by WorkBC, the Ministry of Forests, and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training.

Contact:

	Title	Branch Name	Phone Number
Rebecca Johnston	Executive Director, Forestry Worker Support Programs	ADMO, Forestry Worker Support Programs	236.478.1943

Attachment: 2019 Bridging to Retirement Program Totals

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Labour

Bridging to Retirement
Forest Worker Support Programs

March 2, 2022

BRIDGING TO RETIREMENT PROGRAM INFORMATION

- The Provincial government announced $69M in September 2019 to fund a series of temporary measures to support BC forest workers impacted by mill closures and shift reductions in BC's Interior communities. Due to the strong interest in the Program, government also provided an additional $8M to the Program and provided $10M for the Coastal region.
- The Program has supported 1,069 forest workers by providing over $46M in retirement bridge funding between December 2019 and August 2021.
- The Job Placement Coordination Offices have assisted over 600 clients, either through skills training, job placement, resume assistance, and/or other services.

BRIDGING TO RETIREMENT PROGRAM FUNDING TOTALS – INTERIOR & COASTAL

Grand Total of Committed Funding: $46.70M

Voluntary: Advice/Recommentations
Impacted:

FY21/22 Total Committed: Advice/Recommentations

Voluntary: Advice/Recommentations
Impacted:

FY20/21 Total Committed:

Voluntary: Advice/Recommentations
Impacted:

FY19/20 Total Committed:

Voluntary: Advice/Recommentations
Impacted:

Total Number of Approved Applications: 1,069

Voluntary: Advice/Recommentations
Impacted:

FEEDBACK FOR ALL FOREST WORKER SUPPORT PROGRAMS

- Personal Information Worker: **"I am grateful for all the hard work everyone put in...I really appreciate all the steps and am excited to retire."**
- Personal Information Worker: **"You have been extremely helpful and I really appreciate all the hard work you have put in to help applicants."**
- Personal Information Worker: **"Thank you again for such good news! It means a lot to our family."**
- Personal Information Worker: **"I am so excited to be retiring and really thankful for the program. My mind is so happy inside knowing that I will be retiring in a couple of weeks."**
- Personal Information Worker: **"I am extremely happy with the amount offered and how great it is that the mill is creating spots for junior workers in my small town."**

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Labour**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Harry Bains**

Title: **FLNRORD's (JERI's effective April 1, 2022) Worker Training and Job Opportunity Office**

Revised: March 7, 2022

Issue:

- New collaborative support for forestry sector workers, employers and communities when Labour's 2019 Job Placement Coordination Office Program is completed.

Response:

- Our government is committed to supporting workers in transition – and I am supporting the Parliamentary Secretary for Rural and Regional Development (PS Roly Russell) in work he is leading in a shared mandate letter commitment to establish the new Worker Training and Job Opportunity Office.
- The Office will maximize the impact of our economic recovery plan for workers and communities during COVID-19 and beyond with a focus on:
  - retraining workers,
  - supporting resource communities facing job loss,
  - developing higher value goods, and
  - accessing new global markets and opportunities for BC products.
- My staff are working with staff from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) and also with the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation (JERI) to share information from our Forestry Worker Support Programs to help inform this important work.
- This is collaborative work we are doing to support forestry workers, their families and communities with ongoing opportunities for resource communities around the province.
- This Office is aligned with government's priority to put people first and promote an inclusive, sustainable economy for all British Columbians.
- My Ministry looks forward to continuing the productive work related to this Office.

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Labour
Minister Responsible: Hon. Harry Bains

Background/Status:

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Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations

-
-

Contact:

Danine Leduc	ADM, Labour	Forestry Worker Support Programs	250.208.2850

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Labour**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Harry Bains**

Title: Old Growth Strategy – Ministry of Labour's Role

Revised: February 10,2022

Issue: Government has a coordinated response to support workers, their families and communities as Old Growth Deferral decisions are made..

Response:

- We are committed to ensuring that workers, their families and communities are supported with a suite of programs working in partnership with Ministries of Forests, Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation, and Advanced Education, Skills and Training to implement the new Forest Worker and Economic Transition Supports Initiative.
- The initiative includes an updated Bridging to Retirement Program, and it will assist workers across BC who are impacted by the deferral decisions in the forest sector.
- We are providing both immediate support for workers and forest-dependent businesses and we are supporting communities to thrive over the longer term.
- This will help to maintain strong communities, provide stable career paths in the forest industry, and retain needed skills in communities.
- It will enable older mill workers, contractors and their employees to transition to retirement creating vacancies for younger impacted workers.
- Our updated Bridging to Retirement Program serves a broader range of forestry workers and forestry-dependent contractors, operates province-wide and also includes workers from value-added and re-manufacturing operations.

Background/Status:

- On November 2,2021, Ministry of Forests (FOR), the Ministry of Labour (LBR) and Advanced Education, Skills and Training (AEST), announced implementation of the Forest Worker and Economic Transition Supports Initiative (the Initiative) in response to Cabinet approved old growth deferrals.
- Budget 2022 provides $185 million over the fiscal plan to support communities through the deferral of logging in old growth forests. This includes funding to connect workers to employment opportunities, to provide skills training to community members and to forge partnerships with businesses and communities to transition and create jobs through diversified economies and infrastructure projects.

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Labour**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Harry Bains**

- Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations

- Government action is required to provide support to impacted workers and to ensure rural communities have the resources they need to diversify their economies and be resilient.
- Short-term supports will enable workers to move to retirement or pursue new training and job opportunities and support contractors to operate their businesses while identifying new revenue sources.
- The Ministry of Labour's one program offers an expanded Bridging to Retirement Program for forest dependent workers of contractors, mill workers, and owner/operators.

Contact:

Rebecca Johnston	Executive Director	ADMO, Forestry Workers Support Programs	236.478.1943

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Labour**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Harry Bains**

Title: Bridging to Retirement Program

Revised: February 10, 2022

Issue: Expanded Retirement Bridging Program for Old Growth workers

Response:

- Our government is committed to supporting workers, their families and communities as part of a suite of forest worker supports related to old growth deferrals.
- We are focussed on ensuring that workers have access to the supports they need whether that is training, job placement, or retirement transition.
- Impacted workers, contractors and communities can access forest worker support programs online for many programs including the retirement bridging program, the forest employment program, community support grants and training opportunities.
- Our Bridging to Retirement program offers up to $75,000 to mill workers, contractors and their employees to transition to retirement. Those impacted by job loss, closures, or shift reductions and those who voluntarily wish to retire, with employer consent, can participate in the program.
- Intake is now open for impacted mill workers, contractors and their employees to apply to access bridging funding. Intake for voluntary retirees will be opening soon.

If asked about budget for the program:

- Budget 2022 provides $185 million over the fiscal plan to support communities through the deferral of logging in old growth forests. This includes funding to connect workers to employment opportunities, to provide skills training to community members and to forge partnerships with businesses and communities to transition and create jobs through diversified economies and infrastructure projects.
- Included in this funding of $185 million is funding for the expansion of the Bridging to Retirement Program.

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Labour**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Harry Bains**

- The 2019 Bridging to Retirement Program has created more than 500 good-paying jobs in working mills for younger, impacted workers and has helped more than 1,000 workers transition to retirement in their communities.

Background/Status:

- There are three streams for the expanded Bridging to Retirement Program: one for impacted mill workers and employees of forest dependent contractors, a voluntary stream for retirees in working mills and a new stream for owners of forestry-dependent contracting operations.
- Mill workers and employees of contractors will be eligible for funding if they:
    - Are a full-time employee in any B.C Mill or Forest Dependent Contractor;
    - Are 55 years of age or older (no maximum) at the time of application; and,
    - Have been working in the forestry industry for the last 2 consecutive years (or, if they have been displaced since Nov 2, 2021, the 2 consecutive years prior to the displacement date);
    - Were displaced on or after Nov 2, 2021, due to an old growth deferral decision or pause on BC Timber Sales resulting in a permanent or indefinite closure or a curtailment of at least 4 months.
- Older workers can voluntarily transition to retirement from working mills or forest dependent contractors if they meet the above criteria (without being displaced) and if their employer confirms that the vacancy created will be filled by a younger, impacted worker and no skills shortage will be created by their departure in that operation.
- To receive retirement bridging funding, the applicant must agree to permanently vacate his or her position and all seniority with the employer, and not work as an "employee" for a period of at least 18 months. Retirees can start or operate their own business, to support rural economic development.
- If eligible, applicants will receive a maximum combined payment of up to $75,000 based on years of experience, age and the amount of the employer's contribution. The benefit is calculated at $5,000 for each year in the industry to a maximum of 15 years (i.e. the $75,000 maximum). This payment is a bridging benefit which is reduced by $5,000 for each year of age over 55 to a maximum of

10 years (i.e. a maximum reduction of $50,000). For individuals over the age of 65, there is no further reduction in the benefit.

- For impacted workers, the bridging benefit amounts noted above will be reduced by the amount each eligible applicant receives based on compensation for length of service calculated under the *Employment Standards Act*, to a maximum of eight weeks of salary. This represents the employer cost-sharing aspect of the program.
- For voluntary retirees, the bridging benefit amounts will be reduced by the amount each eligible applicant would receive based on the contribution provided by the employer. Typical employer cost-sharing contributions include the extension of health and dental benefits, or pay in lieu, for a period of 12-18 months.
- The Ministry of Finance's Tax Policy Branch and the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) have confirmed that these payments will be considered a taxable retiring allowance and the province will be required to deduct and remit income tax on these payments at the rates prescribed by the CRA:
    - 10% on amounts up to and including $5,000
    - 20% on amounts over $5,000 up to and including $15,000
    - 30% on amounts over $15,000
- This same tax treatment was applied under the previous 2008-2011 Community Development Trust programs.

Contact:

Rebecca Johnston	Executive Director	Labour Forestry Worker Support Programs	236 478-1943

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Labour**
Minister Responsible: **Honourable Harry Bains**

Title: **Precarious and Gig Worker Strategy** Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations

Cabinet Confidences;
Advice/Recommentations

Revised: **February 17, 2022**

Issue: **Precarious and Gig Worker Strategy**

Response:

- MLA Adam Walker was appointed as Parliamentary Secretary for the New Economy following the last election. Supporting the Minister of Labour, the Parliamentary Secretary's specific mandate letter priorities are to:
  - Work with labour and business organizations to develop a precarious work strategy that reflects modern workplaces' diverse needs and unique situations.
  - As part of the precarious work strategy, propose employment standards targeted to precarious and gig economy workers, and investigate the feasibility of a government-backed collective benefit fund and access to a voluntary pooled-capital pension plan for workers who do not otherwise have coverage.
- The economy and workforce have changed dramatically over the past few decades and we've seen the growth of precarious work and the gig economy.
- The increase in gig and precarious work includes a growing prevalence of other independent contractors, part-time work and people working multiple jobs. BC's labour laws and policies have not always kept up with these changes.
- Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations
- The precarious work strategy will address the problem of ensuring appropriate working conditions, benefits, rights and protections for precarious and gig economy workers, while also encouraging innovative businesses and work opportunities in the new economy to succeed.

2022/23 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Labour**
Minister Responsible: **Honourable Harry Bains**

Background/Status:

- A specific challenge for gig workers is that they are often considered independent workers who are not "employees" covered by the protections of the *Employment Standards Act*, including minimum wage, overtime pay, and job-protected leaves. Sometimes gig workers are truly independent workers, but other times they may be employees who are incorrectly classified as independent workers.
- The economy and workforce have changed dramatically over the past few decades and we've seen the growth of precarious work and the gig economy.
- The increase in gig and precarious work includes flexible and temporary jobs, often served by way of an online platform. While rideshare drivers and food delivery couriers have received much public attention in recent years, precarious work exists in many economic sectors including administrative and support services, non-profits, cleaners, tour operators, retail, cooks, domestic workers and caregivers, healthcare, and musicians and artists.
- The increase in other forms of precarious work includes a growing prevalence of other independent contractors, part-time work and people working multiple jobs. BC's labour laws and policies have not always kept up with these changes.
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Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations

- The precarious and gig worker strategy supports BC's Economic Plan by supporting people and families and fostering innovation by encouraging the creation of flexible, well-paying jobs, often relying on new technologies.

Contact:

Michael Tanner	A/Executive Director	Labour Policy and Legislation	778 974-2172

Issue: Salmon Aquaculture Policy and Decisions

Recommend Response:

- The June 2018 policy makes it clear that, effective June 30, 2022, no new tenures will be approved unless:
  - Meet all existing and future federal aquaculture license conditions that assures protection of the health of wild salmon;
  - Demonstrate support from relevant First Nation(s) in whose territory they propose to operate via industry/First Nations agreements; and,
  - Meet all provincial *Land Act* policies related to the siting of finfish aquaculture sites.
- This approach provides clarity to industry and outlines our expectations moving forward for a sustainable industry that protects wild salmon, embraces reconciliation, and provides good jobs for local communities.
- The Province is dedicated to meaningful engagement with First Nations as demonstrated by this new policy, the work done in the Broughton, and Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA), new legislation passed in 2019 to implement the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
- Many operators already have agreements with several partnering First Nations. Those types of partnerships will grow and lead to more predictability over the long term as First Nations and industry work together.

If asked about the December 2020 federal government decision to cease licensing of open-net pen salmon farming in the Discovery Islands by 2022:

- B.C. respects the federal government's position and their authority on the decision of licensing in the Discovery Islands.

However, we remain committed to working in close collaboration with our federal counterparts to mitigate the impact of this decision on the affected companies and communities.

- I'm aware of the court's April 2022 decision. We'll continue to work with the federal government to protect, restore and enhance wild salmon populations, including through B.C.'s Wild Salmon Strategy
- But as Premier Horgan indicated in his March 10 letter to Prime Minister Trudeau, we are urging the federal government to commit to a transition plan that supports families, companies and coastal communities, and we are committed to working with them on this.
- Like B.C., the federal government is committed to partnering with Indigenous communities to ensure the aquaculture sector is sustainably manages and we will continue to encourage DFO to incorporate the principles of UNDRIP in related decisions.

If asked about the federal government's 2025 Transition Plan from open-net pen salmon farming in B.C:

- The federal government is currently deciding whether to renew 79 remaining salmon farming licences in the province when they expire in June 2022.
- On March 10, 2022, our Premier sent a letter to Prime Minister Trudeau making clear that any plan developed by 2025 to transition from current open-net pen technology must be built on meaningful and principled engagement involving industry, First Nations, local governments, and the Province.
- Our government has brought together ministers from key portfolios to call upon the federal government to commit to a transition plan that supports families, companies, and coastal

communities, and we are committed to working with them on this.

- Any federal transition plan needs to align with our commitments under the Declaration Act and considers the economic needs of impacted First Nations and communities on the B.C. coast.
- At the same time, we will continue to collaborate with our federal colleagues on the important work of protecting and rebuilding B.C.'s critical wild salmon stocks.

Key Facts:

- Representatives of LWRS are members of the Strategic Oversight Committee to collaborate on the transition away from open net aquaculture. Additionally, LWRS advocates for the industry and represents the province in discussions with DFO.
- The Ministry of Forests issues crown land tenures and develops policies to ensure Indigenous Reconciliation is incorporated into decision making towards aquaculture licensing.
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food is lead on farmed salmon as it relates to a food commodity.
- On June 20, 2018, the Province announced new conditions for the disposition of Crown land for salmon aquaculture that replaced the "pause" announced in the 2015 bulletin. These new conditions come into effect for new and replacement tenures as of June 2022 and require that operators:
    - Meet all existing and future federal aquaculture license conditions that assures protection of the health of wild salmon;
    - Demonstrate support from relevant First Nation(s) in whose territory they propose to operate via industry/First Nations agreements; and,
    - Meet all provincial *Land Act* policies related to the siting of finfish aquaculture sites.
- As of February 1, 2022, B.C. has again notified operators whose tenures expire before June 30, 2022, of their requirements to provide proof of meeting these conditions to continue operations. 29 sites will be immediately subject to the policy on June 30, while other sites across B.C. have expiry dates ranging from 2023 to 2045.
- After consultation with First Nations in December 2020, and in response to Justice Cohen's response, then Minister Bernadette Jordan announced that DFO would phase out salmon farming operations in the Discovery Islands by June 2022, with

the stipulations that no new fish be introduced into the facilities during this time, and that all farms be fish free by June 30, 2022.

- This will affect approximately 26 percent of B.C. farmed salmon capacity, representing 20 percent of provincial aquaculture revenue ($132 million in 2019).
- Currently, four operators in the area have filed a judicial review to the Federal Court of Canada in Vancouver asking the courts to find the decisions made by DFO as unreasonable. A ruling is pending and anticipated for spring 2022.
- Farm operations are contingent on DFO licensing, which is typically granted in one-to-six-year terms. All 79 remaining farm licenses expire June 30, 2022. Industry and affected communities are concerned that DFO may decide on renewal options that shutters the industry or creates uncertainty of future operations.
- On April 22, 2022, Madam Justice Heneghan decided on the issue of Procedural Fairness within the Judicial Review. She found that the Discovery Islands decision was in fact a licensing decision and was therefore subject to procedural fairness. She also found that while there was a heavy burden of the applicants to show that the decision was unreasonable, this threshold was met. As a result, the application for Judicial Review was granted, the decision of the Minister set aside, and the injunction granted on April 5, 2021, will remain in effect. The judgement also now gives the applicants the opportunity to make submissions to the court on costs related to the breach of procedural fairness.
- DFO will likely not reissue licenses in this area to remain consistent with their policy direction to remove these farms. Furthermore, it is possible that the current federal Minister may decline transfer licenses under a more defensible rationale. Therefore, it is unlikely that any of the affected farms will restock at these locations. It is currently unclear if this judgement can or will be used by the operators to further litigation efforts to re-establish finfish aquaculture in the Discovery Islands area post-June 2022.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 30, 2022	
Ministry Executive Sponsor:	
James Mack	250 415-1762
Alternate Contact for Issue:	
David Travia	778 974-3764
Mike Turner	778-698-3129
Tyson Carswell	778-698-4056

Issue: Caribou Recovery Program Predator Reduction

Recommend Response:

- The decision to remove animals of one species to benefit a species at risk is difficult.
- We understand how some people may find the idea of deliberately removing wolves unsettling, even though this approach is supported by science.
- Our monitoring and analysis of ongoing predator reduction confirms that this will make the difference between caribou herd recovery and the complete loss of caribou in particular areas.
- It is a tool used in coordination with other recovery tools including habitat protection and restoration.

Key Facts:

- LWRS is responsible for leading all species at risk recovery in BC including leading the Provincial Caribou Recovery Program. This work includes leading public facing engagement and consultation with affected stakeholder groups.
- Ministry of Forests is responsible for the regulatory components (permits and authorizations) required to support recovery strategies.
- In the case of predator management to support species at risk recovery, the overall strategy and implementation planning is led by LWRS through the Provincial Caribou Recovery Program. Implementation and permitting for predator management is done by Ministry of Forests.
- In situations where there is a compliance and enforcement component the Conservation Officer Service, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is responsible
- Over the last few decades, woodland caribou have declined significantly in many parts of BC, and across Canada. Scientific evidence indicates that habitat change (loss/fragmentation) is a main factor driving these declines.
- These habitat changes support a greater number of moose, elk, and deer in caribou ranges than historically occurred. This, in turn, leads to a greater number of wolves, which leads to more caribou being depredated by wolves.
- Caribou herds cannot tolerate high rates of predation.
- Predator reduction can and has had immediate, positive impacts on caribou populations, particularly when used with multiple management tools as is done in British Columbia. For example, the Klinse-za herd in the Peace Region has grown from 42 animals to 101 since wolf reduction measures began in 2015 in conjunction with maternity penning.

- Wolves are abundant and widely distributed across BC. Wolf population dynamics make them resilient to high rates of reduction/mortality, therefore this targeted management action does not create other conservation risks.
- Helicopter-based shooting of wolves is the most humane and effective to sufficiently reduce population density across broad, remote landscapes.
- BC's ensures careful consideration to ethics, animal welfare, and humaneness through veterinarian oversight of animal care standards and protocols.
- Authorizations are now in place for a predator reduction program for 14 caribou herds throughout B.C., following a consultation and public engagement process completed in 2021.
- The 2021 consultation and engagement process indicate that British Columbians have a range of opinions about this caribou recovery management action. EngageBC survey results showed:
    - 98% of the 15,196 respondents feel that caribou recovery is important to them
    - 42% of the respondents from British Columbia were in support of predator reduction
    - **People in areas where caribou occur indicated greater support for application of this management tool (53% to 82%), compared to other areas of the province (22% to 47%)**

Previous 2 years of predator management:

Program Area	Wolves Removed 2022	Cougars Removed 2022	Total cost 2022	Comments
Southern Mountain - Southern Group				
Central Selkirks	11	2	$100,000	Cougar removal ongoing
Columbia North	3	5	$130,000	Cougar removal ongoing
Hart Ranges	30	-	$177,000	Complete
North Cariboo	7	-	$50,000	Complete
Southern Mountain – Northern Group				
Graham	9	-	$138,000	Ongoing
Itcha-Ilgachuz	66	-	$156,000	Complete
Tweedsmuir	36	-	$272,300	Complete
Southern Mountain – Central Group				
South Peace	26	-	$320,000	Complete
Northern Mountain				
Pink Mountain	40	-	$172,400	Ongoing
Boreal				
Chinchaga	41	-	$120,000	Complete
TOTALS	**269**	**7**	**$1,635,700**	

2022/23 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship

Date Prepared/Revised: April 28, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:
Name: David Muter Phone: (250) 217-5385

Alternate Contact for Issue:
Name: Darcy Peel Phone: (778) 220-3449

ISSUE: Cumulative Effects Framework

Recommended Response:

- My mandate letter includes direction to *"Increase the Province's capacity to manage for cumulative effects through integration of science-based land, aquatic, resource, geographic and Indigenous knowledge to evidence informed policy and decisions can be made by statutory decision makers"*
- Cumulative effects (CE) assessments under the BC Cumulative Effects Framework (CEF) are a foundational component of Government's stewardship of natural resources. They assess the cumulative effects of natural and human-caused disturbances on key provincial values to inform planning and decision-making throughout BC and across natural resource agencies. CE outputs provide a common understanding of value condition and trend.
- The Province of British Columbia is committed to considering cumulative effects in natural resource decision-making. Improving cumulative effects assessment and management will be a vital part of sustainable and integrated resource management. Transparently reporting on cumulative effects assessment information and management considerations will enable coordinated, consistent management of cumulative effects across the natural resource sector
- Cumulative effects assessments are a key interest and priority for Indigenous Stewardship Forums, to collaboratively build trusted data and assessments that will inform operational and strategic decision making. The Cumulative Effects Framework provides foundational information for those collaborations.
- CEF products are used to inform: (1) modernized land use planning and forest landscape planning; (2) implementation of the provincial Old Growth Strategic Review

recommendations; (3) environmental assessments for major projects; (4) natural resource authorizations, such as roads and forestry activities; (5) watershed security planning and fish habitat management; (6) consultation with Indigenous Nations and impact assessment to Aboriginal rights and title; and (7) other strategic, tactical and operational natural resource management decisions.

- To date, current condition reports on various values have been published for seven of the eight Natural Resource Regions and several reports are nearing approval.

Next steps for CEF implementation include:

- Publishing CE assessment results for all five provincial CE values (Grizzly Bear, Forest Biodiversity, Old Growth, Aquatic Ecosystems and Moose).
- Building web-based reporting tools to communicate assessment results to users.
- Continuing engagement with First Nations through Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Forums to share information and seek collaboration on protocols and reports.
- Completing workshops with decision-makers to support consideration and implementation of the CEF in natural resource decisions.
- Engaging on effective delivery of CE assessment results to support modernized land use planning and forest landscape planning.
- Proposing changes or additions to legislation and regulations to enable consideration of cumulative effects in statutory decision making.

Key Facts:

- LWRS is the lead agency for the Cumulative Effects Framework, including the development of policy, guidance, assessments, and reporting.

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

- The Cumulative Effects Framework Interim Policy is an NRS wide policy; all natural resource ministries have a role to play in the application of the Framework to the decisions they make on the land base.
- **Audit:** In 2015, the Office of the Auditor General completed an audit on "Managing Cumulative Effects of Natural Resource Development in BC", concluding that FLNRORD was not adequately addressing CE in decision-making and that the CEF was a much-needed step forward, but that there needed to be further clarity as to how government would use the framework in decision-making. Annual progress updates on CEF implementation are provided to the Public Accounts Committee.
- **Yahey vs. BC:** In the 2021 BC supreme court decision, Justice Burke found that "The Province has not implemented a fully functioning regime where cumulative effects in the Blueberry Claim Area and impacts on the exercise of treaty rights can be assessed and managed"
- **Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship** was created in 2022, in part to strengthen integration across the sector to mitigate, plan, respond and adapt management practices, including a focus on effectively managing cumulative effects.
- **CEF Implementation –** outputs to date include:
  - Assessments have been completed for the five provincial values. Reporting out on these assessments is ongoing, including online.
  - Regions are completing assessments on additional CE values specific to their areas and management issues, in some cases through related initiatives such as Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Forums.
  - Overall, 21 CE reports have been published, covering 10 different values in 7 regions
  - Case studies are posted on the CEF website to demonstrate how CE has informed decision making across the natural resource agencies.
  - Policy, procedures, decision support tools and governance structures are in place.
  - Ongoing guidance is being provided to business areas on implementation of the policy.

Date Prepared: April 26, 2022,	
Ministry Executive Sponsor:	
Name: David Muter	Phone: (250) 217-5385
Alternate Contact for Issue:	
Name: Felice Griffiths	Phone: (778) 974-4966

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NR

Issue: Tahltan Wildlife Accord

Recommend Response:

- Our commitment to partner with Tahltan on wildlife management is part of a larger reconciliation effort with Tahltan to strengthen the economy, improve wildlife stewardship and resolve long standing conflicts between Tahltan and resident hunters.

Key Facts:

- If funding is approved, implementation of Tahltan Wildlife Accord will be a shared responsibility between LWRS, Ministry of Forests (FOR) and Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR).
- FOR is the lead responsible for implementing joint wildlife monitoring and assessment commitments and supporting the LWRS lead on co-management.
- MIRR supports implementation of governance structures linked to a broader proposed Comprehensive Reconciliation Agreement.
- Tahltan territory is situated in the most valuable mineral region in BC.
- The Wildlife Accord is political commitment to develop a world-class wildlife stewardship regime to parallel commitments in support of mining sector.
- Accord negotiated in September 2020 amidst long standing conflict between Tahltan and resident hunters that escalated in 2020.
- Accord approved by ELUC in February 2021 subject to Treasury Board approval of implementation funding.
- Accord includes commitments to:
    - Design joint wildlife governance structures and processes using opportunities under the Declaration Act,
    - Co-management to enhance protection, stewardship and sustainability of moose and caribou,
    - Joint monitoring of caribou and moose, and
    - Joint predator monitoring and management plan.
- Final endorsement of the Accord requires fiscal and negotiation mandate being brought forward under the broader mandate request for a Tahltan Comprehensive Reconciliation Agreement this spring.
- Total Accord implementation funding request is $5.2M over 5 years including $0.46M for FOR capacity.
- The Accord will compliment efforts already underway through the 3 Nations-BC Collaborative Stewardship Forum for improving wildlife management.
- A joint workplan for implementing the Accord has been developed with Tahltan which compliments the ongoing collaborative stewardship work with 3 Nations.

2022/23 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship

Date Prepared/Revised: April 28, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:
Name: David Muter — Phone: 250-217-5385

Alternate Contact for Issue:
Name: Linda Robertson — Phone: 250-877-2540

Issue: Caribou Recovery Program

Recommend Response:

- Caribou recovery is a priority of the Government of British Columbia, and a wide range of recovery actions have been implemented in caribou ranges.
- To support the recovery of caribou BC has invested approximately $10M peryear over the last 6 years.
- Provincial investments in caribou recovery will continue at this level to ensurecontinued resources to support BC's commitment to caribou recovery.
- The Caribou Recovery Program approaches recovery through consultation and engagement with Indigenous Nations, local governments, industry, and stakeholders.
- Government has adopted both short-term and long-term recovery actions.

Key Facts:

- LWRS is responsible for leading all species at risk recovery in BC including leading the Provincial Caribou Recovery Program. This work includes leading public facing engagement and consultation with affected stakeholder groups.
- Ministry of Forests is responsible for the regulatory components (permits and authorizations) required to support recovery strategies.
- In situations where there is a compliance and enforcement component the Conservation Officer Service, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is responsible.
- On February 21, 2020, the Province signed the *Intergovernmental Partnership Agreement for the Conservation of the Central Group of Southern Mountain Caribou* (the "Partnership Agreement") in Northeastern BC and the **Canada** *British Columbia Conservation Agreement for Southern Mountain Caribou* (the "Section 11 Agreement") for all Southern Mountain Caribou.
- Despite earlier investments by the Province all 6 of the Boreal herds and 23 of the Southern Mountain herds are in decline. 13 of the 54 herds in BC have 25 animals or fewer.
- The main short-term threat to most caribou populations is a high rate of predation by wolves, and to a lesser extent other predators (bears, coyote, wolverine, andcougars).
- Increased predation is caused by changes in landscape condition – broad scale reduction in older forests and expansion in younger forests. These

young, open forests provide ideal foods for other deer, elk, and moose. These ungulate species are the primary prey of wolves and cougar. This results in higher densityof predators which then impact caribou populations negatively.

- Recent implementation of intensive management actions (i.e., maternal penning and predator control) in partnership with Saulteau and West Moberly First Nations have resulted in a reversal of the population decline in the central groupwhich was previously declining at over 15% per year. Since the initiation of the intensive recovery efforts the population has grown from 162 caribou in 2014 to 289 in 2021.Caribou recovery requires a coordinated approach (depending on the specificconditions faced by a herd) involving a unique combination of the following actions:
    - habitat protection and restoration;
    - predator management;
    - maternal penning/conservation breeding; and
    - cooperative recovery planning with all Indigenous Nations, investedgroups (communities, industry, adjacent jurisdictions), and other stakeholder groups.

Section 11 Agreement and Partnership Agreement

- The Section 11 Agreement and the Partnership Agreement are being implemented in BC according to the timelines and milestones set out in theagreements.
- As a direct result of Caribou Recovery Program's efforts through these Agreements, Canada has confirmed they do not see a need to implement further emergency habitat protections through the federal *Species at Risk Act*.
- These Agreements have ensured BC does not face the risk of a federal emergency habitat protection order that would have resulted in an immediate loss of over 10 million m^3 Annual Allowable Cut.
- The Partnership Agreement does include commitments to habitat protections that have an impact on the local economy. Canada is also providing funding to help mitigate these impacts.
- To support implementation of the Partnership Agreement the Province has secured federal funding amounting to $56M to support the take back of tenured rights, as well as to address impacts to communities and workers.
- The BC Caribou Program has allotted $300,000 for snowmobile clubs to support planning and implementation of enhancement areas for snowmobiling outside of the newly established snowmobile closures to support caribou recovery (485,000 hectares of Crown land) in the South Peace. These restrictions are a deliverable of the Partnership Agreement and necessary for effective protection.
- We will be working with industry and local governments to ensure these supportsare provided in the most effective way possible.

2022/23 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship

Predator Reduction

please refer Caribou Recovery Program- Predator Reduction Estimates Note

Date Prepared/Revised: April 28, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:
Name: David Muter Phone: 250-217-5385

Alternate Contact for Issue:
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NR

Issue: Spotted Owl recovery planning

Recommend Response:

- BC has put in place over 281,000 hectares of legally protected Spotted Owl habitat; enough to support a long-term population target of 125 breeding pairs. In 2007, BC also initiated the first ever Spotted Owl captive breeding and release program. There are currently 31 owls in the program.
- BC's known wild population of Spotted Owls has declined to three owls. All are located within established wildlife habitat areas that prohibit forest harvesting. The low number of owls in the wildlife is in part due to the Captive Breeding Program which captured owls from the wild.
- In February 2021, the Province applied a temporary harvest deferral in the Spuzzum and Utzlius watersheds in areas near to the locations of the owls in the wild. These deferrals were in response to concerns that any forest harvesting activities near to the occupied areas may impact the likelihood of there survival. Therefore, an immediate action was necessary to prevent the Minister of Environment Climate Change Canada from recommending an emergency habitat protection order to the federal Cabinet under the federal Species at Risk Act.
- The renewal of these deferrals in Spuzzum and Utzlius was completed at the end of March 2022 by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources and Rural Development.
- BC continue to discuss with Canada shared commitments and new approaches to recovering species at risk and effective conservation through the negotiation of the Nature Agreement.
- Environment Climate Change Canada has indicated interest to collaborate with BC on old growth, habitat restoration, and conservation initiatives to help achieve co-benefits of nature conservation and ecosystem services (e.g., Carbon

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sequestration) with species at risk recovery and federal protected area target of 25% by 2025.
- Partnership and collaboration with First Nations is critical for long-term success.

Key Facts:

- Species at Risk Recovery in BC is led by LWRS. Other ministries in the natural resource sector support the implementation of recovery strategies through permitting and authorizing activities set out in species at risk recovery plans (wildlife monitoring and management, habitat restoration).
- LWRS is leading work with ECCC to develop an updated Recovery Strategy and associated Action Plan for spotted owls that achieves the test of SARA and provides assurances to BC on species recovery that includes reconciliation and socio-economic considerations.
- Ministry of Forests leads the implementation of the current Spotted Owl Management Plan to ensure the protection of current and future habitat and owls to support species recovery.
- Spotted owl are wide ranging, require dispersal habitats and occupy forests of high timber values. Therefore, spotted owl recovery is typically viewed in conflict with resource development objectives and their recovery has short-term economic trade-offs.
- BC considers social and economic impacts when confirming the recovery objective and the actions (habitat and wildlife management) necessary to recover populations to the recovery objective, prior to approving the recovery approach.
- There is currently no ability within federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) for the federal Minister to consider social or economic impacts that may result from recommendations for the protection of species. As well the interpretation of threats to recovery and habitat requirements are set by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and in many cases do not reflect provincial expert opinion. Recommendations by the federal Minister under SARA are provided to the federal Cabinet where social economic impacts and other provincial perspectives may be considered.
- Once a Recovery Strategy has been published with identified habitat, BC is at risk of an emergency habitat protection order in cases where there is a lack of protections for the identified critical habitat.
- The implementation of the deferrals in Spuzzum and Utzlius was partially provided so that BC and Canada could take more time to complete an updated Recovery Strategy for Spotted Owl that includes critical habitat. Consensus on critical habitat identification was not reached between federal and provincial staff. Innovative solutions are being explored to overcome technical disagreements; however, no option is completely without legal risk to the federal government, which results in a threat of an emergency order.
- There are three areas of divergent opinion between BC and Canada:

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2022/23 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship

1. ECCC has identified critical habitat using only age class and has ignored other habitat attributes that are important to spotted owl recovery. This results in a fragmented critical habitat with several gaps and inclusion of areas that are not spotted owl habitat.
    - Proposed resolution (short-term) – include two models as critical habitat that can guide the recovery program through time adaptively.
2. ECCC has identified dispersal habitat (area that juvenile owls will use when initially moving out from the nest) as part of critical habitat. Experts in BC and the US agree that dispersal habitat can be managed to an age and density standard to support recovery and does not need to be spatially protected. However, under SARA once habitat is identified as critical habitat, it must be recommended for protection to federal Cabinet.
    - Proposed resolution (mid-term) – establish a Land Use Objective Regulation order to identify the attributes to *manage toward* in these areas.
    - Proposed resolution (mid to long term) - Work with forest certification to have reporting requirements for the licencees enabling SARA section 56, which may be considered by the federal Minister as effective protection.
3. ECCC has included an additional 208,000 ha of critical habitat to account for increased risk of fires due to climate change. It is not clear what factors ECCC have used to verify this risk and the required habitat amount. Further, if this climate change risk is correct, it would likely call into question the overall viability of recovering spotted owls in BC.
    - Proposed resolution – all of the above.

Date Prepared/Revised: April 28, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:
Name: David Muter, ADM — Phone: 250-217-5385

Alternate Contact for Issue:
Name: Jennifer Psyllakis, Executive Director — Phone: 250-812-7797

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NR

Issue: Water Protection Act

Recommend Response:

- The *Water Protection Act* (WPA) is the responsibility of the Minister of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship (LWRS).
- The WPA was enacted in 1996 to restrict the bulk export of B.C.'s freshwater.
- The WPA also defines and limits the amount of water that can be removed in bulk from B.C. Under the WPA, no one can remove water from B.C. unless they:
  - Began bulk water removal prior to June 1,1995 and are registered with the Comptroller of Water Rights, or
  - Remove water in containers holding 20 litres or less, or
  - Obtained the water outside of B.C., or
  - Carry the water in vehicles, vessels or aircraft for human / animal use while moving across B.C. borders.
- The WPA and the *Water Sustainability Act* (WSA) complement each other as:
  - The WSA requires a person or company to apply for a water licence to divert and use water, and
  - The WPA restricts the diversion and use of water in relation to bulk water export, water bottling and large-scale transport of water outside B.C. or across major watersheds.

Additional Response points:

- Bulk water export restrictions are distinct from water bottling restrictions. No new bulk water exports have been permitted in B.C. since 1996, whereas a person or company can apply for a WSA water licence for water bottling which if granted is subject to WPA container volume restrictions.
- The B.C. water bottling sector represents a very small fraction of total water use in B.C. The sector includes a few major beverage companies and a greater number of small

operations, generally serving local markets and drawing water from water purveyors such as local governments.

Key Facts:

- The WPA was previously the responsibility of the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), with policy support provided by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.
- As of March 31, 2022, the Minister of LWRS is responsible for the WPA, in alignment with LWRS' provincial water leadership mandate.
- Bulk water export and water bottling are distinct:
  - Bulk water export is prohibited in B.C. Only the remaining five active registrants may export bulk water.
  - Water bottling in B.C. is only permitted in containers no larger than 20 litres in volume for export or cross-basin transfer.
- The WPA provided unique privilege to thirteen bulk water exporters actively pursuing water licences before June 1, 1995. They were granted opportunity to continue business development, provided they register with the Comptroller of Water Rights, comply with the former Water Act, now WSA, and remain active.
- Today, there remain five active bulk water exporters on the Comptroller's registry which is publicly accessible, online registry of all authorized bulk water exporters.
- The public has significant interest in the trade and export of water from B.C.:
  - The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) passed a resolution in 2019 asking the Province to cease the licensing and extraction of groundwater for commercial water bottling and/or bulk water exports.
  - The Environmental Law Centre has claimed that water bottling is de facto bulk export of water (*Water for the Future: Why BC Needs an Immediate Moratorium on New Water Bottling Licences*, 2021).
- Indigenous interests in water bottling and bulk water export vary:
  - Some First Nations are opposed to both water bottling and bulk water export while others are authorized to bottle and sell water or are actively pursuing authorizations.

Business Information; Intergovernmental Communications

- Water bottling is a small fraction of total water use in B.C., heavily relied upon in times of emergency and complex to regulate. Beverage production facilities can easily switch production of water-based drinks and many businesses draw water from water purveyors. A moratorium on water bottling would involve changing food and beverage sector regulation, the WSA and local government jurisdiction.

Date Prepared/Revised: April 28, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:
Name: Ted Zimmerman, ED, Watershed, Fisheries, and Coastal Policy and Planning Division — Phone: 250-312-7405

Alternate Contact for Issue:
Name: Julia Berardinucci, Director, Water Strategies and Conservation Phone: 778-698-4061

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NR

Issue: *Water Sustainability Act*; Groundwater Licensing

Recommend Response:

- The Water Sustainability Act (WSA) and associated regulations took effect February 29, 2016, replacing the former *Water Act* (WA).
- The WSA modernized how B.C. manages water resources by introducing new requirements for the licensing of non-domestic groundwater use, new tools for managing water scarcity, and enabled alternative water governance approaches and watershed management plans.
- The Minister of Forests (FOR) is the minister responsible for the WSA. FOR is the primary agency responsible for the operational implementation of the WSA. The BC Oil and Gas Commission (OGC) also implements the WSA in relation to oil and gas sector water use.
- LWRS' Water Protection and Sustainability Branch develops policies and programs that supports WSA implementation.
- Those using groundwater for non-domestic use prior to the WSA needed to apply by March 1, 2022 to benefit from the transitional provisions.
- A water licence is not required for household or domestic groundwater use, such as water used inside the home and for watering small lawns and gardens.
- Now that the deadline has passed, all non-domestic groundwater users must apply as new applicants to secure their water rights and to comply with the WSA.

Key Facts:

The *Water Sustainability Act* (WSA) and Groundwater

- The WSA and associated regulations brought in a new requirement for the licensing of non-domestic groundwater use. The WSA carried forward the provisions of allocating and licensing surface water from the previous WA.
- Examples of non-domestic groundwater use purposes include irrigation, industrial, waterworks and commercial.
- Groundwater licensing is a very important change to B.C. water policy because our water law now mirrors water in the natural environment; groundwater and surface water are connected, and so too is our groundwater and surface water management.

Existing Use Groundwater, deadlines, data, implications, compliance

Existing Use Groundwater

- As many British Columbians have a long history of drawing groundwater from their wells without government regulation, those using groundwater before the WSA took effect (existing users) were granted six years (until March 1, 2022) to apply for rights to their non-domestic groundwater use and to benefit from transitional provisions provided under legislation only to existing users.
- The transitional provisions were, 1) exemption from paying application fees, 2) ongoing lawful use of water until a decision on the application is finalized, 3) a priority date based on evidence of when the well was installed groundwater use started, and 4) no requirements for additional costly studies to be submitted.

Deadlines

- The existing use groundwater application deadline has been extended once:
  - from March 1, 2019, to March 1, 2022.
- The existing use groundwater application fee waiver deadline has been extended three times:
  - From March 1, 2017, to December 31, 2017,
  - Then December 31, 2017, to March 1, 2019,
  - lastly March 1, 2019, to March 1, 2022.

Application data

- Government received 7,711 applications before the deadline passed. This represents approximately 40 percent of the estimated 20,000 applicable groundwater users. Government received applications from approximately 44 First Nations.
- 2019 and 2022 deadlines saw sharp increases in application submission in the three-month lead up to the deadlines, however 2022 saw the highest activity with roughly 3419 or 44 percent of the total applications submitted over two months.
- Analysis completed in 2015 estimated approximately 20,000 non-domestic groundwater wells could potentially become WSA licensed. This estimate was extrapolated from government's database of voluntarily submitted well records, rounded upward by a few thousand to account for uncertainty in the data.
- Some domestic well registrations should have been existing use applications, some applications included more than one well and other applications were for multiple water use purposes for one well.
- Consequently, our understanding of the number of wells that should be licensed will become clearer as we review the domestic well registrations and groundwater applications that have been received, and conduct more studies of aquifers.

Post-deadline implications for existing users

- Existing non-domestic groundwater users who did not apply by deadline must now apply as a "new applicant" and they:
  - Have lost recognition of their date of first groundwater use;
  - Are unauthorized and must stop using the water until a licence is obtained;
  - Must pay application fees; and,

- May need to pay for additional studies to prove groundwater availability.

- The historical date of first use or priority date is significant in times of water scarcity, because the oldest water licence gets first access to water.

Compliance

- Government anticipates many groundwater users who did not apply will continue to use groundwater.
- FOR intends to make a focused effort on reviewing submitted existing use groundwater applications in a timely way and to continue compliance promotion to encourage more applications.
- Security Concern

- Reviews and site visits will be conducted as required to determine if water is being used without an authorization and, where found, steps will first be taken to support users to apply and come into compliance.
- Security Concern

- We experience drought every year in B.C. When this happens, government takes action to protect aquatic ecosystems, fish populations and the rights of senior licensees. During a drought, those water users not in compliance with the WSA will be the first to lose their access to water.

Outreach and Communications

- Government made significant outreach efforts since 2016, particularly in 2021 and 2022, to communicate the licensing requirements and encourage all, and especially existing groundwater users to apply.
- Outreach highlights include:
  - ~180,000 flyers mailed to rural addresses (Feb 2022);
  - ~50,000 letters mailed (2017-20);
  - ~67,000 brochures distributed;
  - 239 customized ads in 118 publications (2019-20);
  - Dozens of applications and informational workshops and events where staff provided in-person support to applicants;
  - Government hired additional resources to proactively contact potential groundwater applicants and offer application assistance; more than 2,500 British Columbians were contacted by phone;
  - Free one-on-one assistance was provided to groundwater users who needed help with their online application;
  - Social media and interviews: twitter (Minister Conroy) and CBC interview (Jan 31, 2022);
  - Regular blog posts and Information Bulletins;
  - Articles in stakeholder publications, e.g., newsletters from BC Groundwater Association, BC Cattlemen's Association, B.C. Real Estate Foundation, Union of BC Municipalities; and,

- 54 government staff provided 802 hours of overtime support to the FrontCounter BC Contact Centre to ensure timely responses to increased numbers of inquiries.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 31, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:
Name: James Mack, ADM, Watershed, Fisheries, and Coastal Policy and Planning Division — Phone: (778) 698-3290

Alternate Contact for Issue:
Name: Julia Berardinucci, Director, Water Strategies and Conservation — Phone: (778) 698-4061

Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

Budget 2022

TOPIC Ministry FTEs

Issue: An overview of the ministry's staffing complement (FTEs)

Key Messaging and Recommended Response:

- **The ministry has a total of 92 staff including the Minister's Office**
- **The ministry has an annual salaries/benefits budget of $15.24 million in 2022/23, $15.50 million in 2023/24 and $15.57 million in 2024/25**

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- Last year the Ministry FTE count was 83, with additional Ministry resourcing funding as part of Budget 2022, the Ministry expected FTE count will be 107.
- As of February 1, 2022, the ministry has 92 staff, which includes five staff in the Minister's Office; 10 of these positions are filled through a temporary assignment.
- The ministry has grown on average 16.5% per year over the last four years; the ministry received a budget lift in 2022/23 to address resourcing requirements to progress on its expanded mandate (See BN2022 – Ministry Resourcing).
- Employees in the Child, Youth and Mental Health Policy division are dedicated to priorities such as the development of province-wide integrated child and youth teams, complex care housing, and youth stabilization care.
- Employees in the Substance Use Policy division are focused on priorities like the overdose emergency response, decriminalization, and transfer of oversight of recovery homes.
- Employees who work for Government Communications and Public Engagement (GCPE) are not included in the ministry's staffing count.

	Minister's Office	Deputy Minister's Office	Corporate Services Division	Child, Youth & Mental Health Division	Substance Use Policy Division	Total*
Total 2022 FTE Count	5	6	9	40	32	92

**As at February 1, 2022*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Budget/Expenditures:

- The ministry has an annual salaries/benefits budget of $15.24 million in 2022/23, $15.50 million in 2023/24 and $15.57 million in 2024/25.

Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

Budget 2022

Salary and Benefits Estimates Details ($000):

	2022/23 Estimates	2023/24 Planned	2024/25 Planned
Minister Office	$529	$538	$538
Deputy Minister Office	$684	$684	$684
Corporate Services	$1,360	$1,360	$1,360
Children, Youth & Mental Health and Substance Use Policy Divisions	$12,670	$12,922	$12,989
Total	**$15,243**	**$15,504**	**$15,571**

Approvals:
February 16, 2022 – Tracee Schmidt, Executive Lead, Corporate Services Division
February 27, 2022 – Christine Massey, Deputy Minister

ESTIMATES NOTE

TOPIC Budget 2022

Issue: Budget 2022 investments for Complex Care Housing

Key Messaging and Recommended Response:

- **Complex care housing is a ground-breaking approach to address the needs of our communities' most vulnerable people – those with significant mental health, substance use and other complex challenges who need a level of support that goes beyond what the current model of supportive housing can provide.**
- **Budget 2022 investments of $164M over the next three years will support new complex care housing services and sites in the lower mainland, Vancouver Island, and the Interior with plans underway to support approximately 500 individuals.**

Advice/Recommentations

- ***Not yet announced* - Budget 2022 funding is in addition to investments of $4.6M being made in 2021/22 to kickstart complex care housing services in communities including Surrey, Abbotsford and Vancouver, as well** Advice/Recommentations

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- Complex care housing is an early component of the forthcoming provincial homelessness strategy.
- With provincial leadership and oversight from MMHA, services are being implemented by health authorities and the Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) in partnership with BC Housing, non-profit housing operators, and communities.
- Budget 2022 commits $164M over three years to implement complex care housing across BC, with plans for additional funding for projects that are in the final stages of planning.
- The $164M in Budget 2022 for the Ministry of Health (HLTH) will fund:
  - Advice/Recommentations

ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice/Recommentations , plus ongoing funding for 2 projects announced on January 20, 2022.

- 2 projects in Island Health (Victoria)

Advice/Recommentations

- Not included in Budget 2022, are additional projects in the planning phase, including:

Advice/Recommentations

- Interior Health services and sites (Kelowna, Kamloops)

Advice/Recommentations

- CMHA's civilian-led crisis response pilot funding

Advice/Recommentations

- Program funding will flow through HLTH to the health authorities and AHMA for implementation of services. MMHA is responsible for guiding implementation.
- An additional $2.74M (within the $164M) over three years will be added to MMHA's base budget for new FTEs to lead provincial coordination and oversight of complex care housing.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- The total approved Budget 2022 investment in complex care housing is $163.62.

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	**Total**
HLTH	53.96	53.46	53.46	**160.87**
MMHA	0.90	0.91	0.93	**2.74**
Totals	**54.86**	**54.37**	**54.39**	**163.62**

Approvals:
February 24, 2022 – Tracee Schmidt, Executive Lead, Corporate Services Division
March 8, 2022 – Peter Klotz obo Philip Twyford, ADM, Financial and Corporate Services
March 9, 2022 – Christine Massey, Deputy Minister

ESTIMATES NOTE

TOPIC Ministry Operations Budget

Issue: What is the operating budget for the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions?

Key Messaging and Recommended Response:

- **The Ministry has an annual operating budget of $24.60 million in 2022/23, $25.15 million in 2023/24 and $25.22 million in 2024/25.**
- **The Minister's Office has an annual operating budget of $0.64 million in 2022/23, $0.65 million in 2023/24 and $0.65 million in 2024/25.**
- **The Ministry has an annual salaries/benefits budget of $15.24 million in 2022/23, $15.50 million in 2023/24 and $15.57 million in 2024/25.**
- **The Ministry budget increases by $11.87 million in 2022/23, $12.31 million in 2023/24 and $12.46 million in 2024/25**
- **Much of the budget for mental health and addictions programs or services is in the budgets of ministries delivering the programs or services.**
- **The budget increase over past years represents:**
  - **Transfers to the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions from other Ministries to enable timely issuance of grant funding and streamline administration between ministries.**
  - **New resource funding to hire permanent staff.**

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The Ministry's operating budget in Budget 2022 compared to Budget 2021 has increased by $11.87 million due to the following:
  - New Resources:
    - $3.22 million – Budget 2022 funding to support Ministry resourcing to address mandate priorities such as Complex Care Housing, Decriminalization, and Youth Stabilization Care. Funding supports staffing and other operational requirements such as travel, legal services, and office expenses.
  - Budget Transfers to MMHA ($8.65 million):
    - $8.37 million – Budget transfer from Ministry of Health. This is overdose emergency response funding to support the Stop the Stigma media campaign and administration of the Community Initiatives Fund.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- $0.28 million – Budget transfer from Ministry of Children and Family Development. Funding supports Provincial Support Office for Integrated Children and Youth Teams expansion.

The Ministry currently has 92 FTEs including the Minister's Office (5) and Deputy Minister's Office (6) staff. The FTE count does not include secondments, or Government Communications & Public Engagement (GCPE) staff.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Budget 2022 change summary

Ministry of Mental Health& Addictions 3 yr. Allocation	Operating Expenses (millions)		
	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Plan	2024/25 Plan
Budget 2021 Total	**$12.743**	**$12.752**	**$12.752**
Legal Services (Resourcing)	*$0.019*	*$0.019*	*$0.019*
MMHA Operations (Resourcing)	*$2.299*	*$2.345*	*$2.392*
Complex Care Housing – MMHA Operations (Resourcing)	*$0.895*	*$0.914*	*$0.934*
Provincial Support Office (Transfer)	*$0.276*	*$0.750*	*$0.750*
Stop the Stigma (Transfer)	*$2.370*	*$2.370*	*$2.370*
Community Innovation Fund (Transfer)	*$6.000*	*$6.000*	*$6.000*
Budget 2022	**$24.602**	**$25.150**	**$25.217**

Ministry operations budget by major expense category (millions):

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Salaries/benefits	$15.243	$15.504	$15.571
Operating Expenditures	$3.637	$3.637	$3.637
Government Transfers	$6.000	$6.000	$6.000
Other Expenses	$0.011	$0.011	$0.011
Internal Recoveries	-$0.001	-$0.001	-$0.001
External Recoveries	-$0.288	-$0.001	-$0.001
Total	**$24.602**	**$25.150**	**$25.217**

Minister's Office budget by major expense category (millions):

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Salaries/benefits	$0.529	$0.538	$0.538
Travel	$0.075	$0.075	$0.075
Information Systems	$0.010	$0.010	$0.010
Office & Business Expenses	$0.015	$0.015	$0.015
Legislative Assembly	$0.010	$0.010	$0.010
Total	**$0.639**	**$0.648**	**$0.648**

Approvals:

ESTIMATES NOTE

February 17, 2022 – Tracee Schmidt, Executive Lead, Corporate Services Division
February 28, 2022 – Christine Massey, Deputy Minister

ESTIMATES NOTE

TOPIC: Decriminalization

Issue: The criminalization of people in personal possession of controlled substances causes and exacerbates stigma and prevents access to life-saving health and social services.

Key Messaging and Recommended Response:

- **Substance use is a healthcare issue, not a criminal one. But we know that shame and fear keep many people connecting with lifesaving services. That's why it's crucial to decriminalize people who use drugs.**
- **B.C. is the first province to apply for a s.56 exemption from the federal government to remove criminal penalties for people who possess small amounts of illicit drugs for personal use.**
- **BC's exemption application is now in the hands of Health Canada. Given the urgency of the illicit drug poisoning crisis, we expect that the federal government will prioritize this application and come to a decision in a timely manner.**
- **We are working hard to transform our health and substance use care services in BC to ensure that high-quality supports are available to all who wish to access them.**
- **Decriminalization will complement improvements in the system and reduce stigma so that more people to feel comfortable to seek help.**
- **We know that there is no one solution. We need to use all the options available to us to tackle the overdose crisis, and that includes decriminalization.**

KEY FACTS

- The drug poisoning crisis has drawn attention to Canada's regulatory framework on drugs, which criminalizes the simple possession of drugs, other than cannabis, under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (*CDSA)*, section 4(1).
- In 2019, nearly 1.4% of police-reports offences were for possession of controlled substances other than cannabis (30,464 offenses out of a total 2.2 million) (Statistics Canada).
- Mandate letters call for the Ministry to work with partners in the public safety sector to push Ottawa to decriminalize simple possession.
- The Province believes there should be national action on decriminalization, and on February 3, 2021, Minister Malcolmson wrote to the Federal Minister of Health to request that our governments work together on this issue,
- On April 14, 2021, Minister Malcolmson confirmed that B.C. would be proceeding with an exemption request.

Intergovernmental Communications

ESTIMATES NOTE

- On November 1, 2021, the Province submitted a formal request to Health Canada requesting an exemption to the CDSA under section 56(1) to remove criminal penalties for the possession of illicit substances for personal use. MMHA officials are meeting regularly with their counterparts at Health Canada to discuss the exemption request.
- B.C. has already taken a public health approach to help people who use drugs. Minister Farnworth has sent letters to police departments indicating that simple possession is no longer a priority and directing units to consider pursuing a public health and harm reduction approach.
- While a number of police forces in B.C. have implemented forms of de facto decriminalization, approaches remain inconsistent. B. C's proposed decriminalization framework will create a consistent, province-wide approach.
- Under the Province's decriminalization proposal, individuals over the age of 18 would be allowed to possess up to 4.5g cumulative of opioids, crack and powder cocaine, methamphetamine, and MDMA. In the absence of criminal penalties, police would provide individuals found in possession with information on health and social supports.
- B.C.'s proposal was developed with input from a range of stakeholders, including people with lived and living experience, law enforcement, Indigenous partners, municipal representatives, researchers, clinicians, public health representatives and others.
- The Province continues to work with partners on additional policy questions and to prepare for implementation upon approval. This includes examining the impact on youth, law enforcement readiness and training, health system readiness planning, implementation support for municipalities and First Nations communities, and monitoring and evaluation.

Decriminalization

- Decriminalization means not imposing criminal penalties on someone who has a small amount of drugs for their own personal use. The drugs themselves would remain illegal.
- There are approximately 30 other countries that apply some form of drug decriminalization.
- Criminal records impact one's ability to obtain employment and housing – two key supports for people in treatment and recovery.
- Several national and B.C.-based advocacy organizations and professional associations have called for the decriminalization of personal possession.
- In May 2021 the City of Vancouver formally requested a section 56 exemption, and Toronto Public Health has also formally requested an exemption within the boundaries of its city.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial impacts of decriminalization are being assessed.

Approvals

February 16, 2022– Darryl Sturtevant, ADM, Substance Use Policy
February 27, 2022 – Christine Massey, Deputy Minister

ESTIMATES NOTE

TOPIC New Community Response

Issue: Community-driven responses to the drug toxicity crisis are supported through the Community Crisis Innovation Fund and Community Action Teams

Key Messaging and Recommended Response:

- **Collaboration and coordination are at the heart of our response to the drug toxicity crisis.**
- **Through the Community Crisis Innovation Fund, we continue to support community-driven actions that draw on the expertise of local service providers and people with lived experience.**
- **The fund has been used to support priority projects including:**
  - **the development of a Provincial Peer Network;**
  - **peer coordinators/work with peers in the health authorities;**
  - **19 innovative initiatives supporting emerging opportunities; and**
  - **23 rural, remote, and Indigenous-focused projects.**
- **The fund also supports the Community Action Teams (CATs) that have been established in 36 priority communities as part of the escalated response to the drug toxicity emergency.**
- **Community Action Teams lead and coordinate multi-sectoral, on-the-ground planning and strategies to address the overdose emergency.**
- **The goal is to build on community strengths and address local challenges to save lives, address stigma, and enhance community capacity to support people who use substances.**
- **The Ministry continues to assess community needs and consider additional Community Action Teams in additional high-risk communities and additional opportunities to support innovative approaches through the Community Crisis Innovation Fund.**

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The OERC works with health authorities, community service providers, government partners, people with lived experience and other partners to collaboratively identify, prioritize and recommend programs, projects and grants with funding provided by the CCIF.
- On February 1, 2018, MMHA announced that Community Action Teams (CATs) would be established in priority communities across the province to intervene early and rapidly on the

ground with life-saving responses and proactive treatment and support.[i]

- To date, CATs have been established in the following 36 communities:
  - Fraser Health: Abbotsford, Burnaby, Chilliwack, Hope, Langley, Maple Ridge, Mission, New Westminster, Surrey-White Rock, Surrey, Tri-Cities;
  - Interior Health: Central Okanagan (Kelowna), Cranbrook, Grand Forks, Kamloops, Nelson-Castlegar, Penticton, Vernon, Williams Lake;
  - Island Health: Campbell River, Comox Valley, Duncan, Nanaimo, Oceanside, Port Alberni, Victoria;
  - Northern Health: Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Prince George, Quesnel, Terrace; and,
  - Vancouver Coastal Health: Nuxalk, Powel River, Sea-to-Sky, Sunshine Coast, Vancouver.
- To provide focused, action-oriented strategies tailored to local community needs, health authority Regional Response Teams (RRTs) work with CATs to:
  - Create action plans within high priority communities/municipalities.
  - Develop a multi-sectoral response that is inclusive of all partners
  - Escalate barriers to effective response to provincial level as needed.
- CATs are comprised of multi-stakeholder groups at the community level which include municipal officials, regional health authorities, First Nations and Indigenous partners, first responders (police, fire, ambulance), front-line community agencies, Divisions of Family Practice, local provincial ministry offices providing social services, businesses, local government agencies, education providers, the local recovery community, and people and families with lived experience.
- CATs are spearheading local coordination and communication to mount a robust response to the needs of those most at risk of overdose within their communities, with the support of RRTs and the OERC. CATs translate RRT implementation plans into action on the ground.
- CATs are focused on four areas of action to save lives and support people who use substances:
  - Expanding community-based harm reduction services.
  - Increasing the availability of Naloxone.
  - Addressing the toxic drug supply through expanded drug-checking services and increasing connections to other harm reduction services and addiction treatment medications.
  - Proactively supporting people at risk of overdose by intervening early to provide service navigation support and advocacy.
- CATs have assisted BC communities in their response to the dual public health emergencies with innovative and flexible solutions, including the servicing of hygiene stations, providing flexible outreach services, and disseminating up to date public health information.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Budget/Expenditures:

- Budget 2022 supports continued investment in the Community Innovation Fund, continuing with the $6 million in annual funding for a total of $18 million over the fiscal plan. This funding has supported CATs and Regional Response Teams since 2017/18.

Approvals:

February 16, 2022 – Darryl Sturtevant, ADM, Substance Use Policy
March 8, 2022 – Peter Klotz obo Philip Twyford, ADM and EFO, Financial and Corporate Services
March 9, 2022 – Tracee Schmidt, Executive Lead, Corporate Services
March 9, 2022 – Christine Massey, Deputy Minister

ESTIMATES NOTE

REFERENCES

[i] Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions. (2018, February 1). *B.C. communities hardest hit by overdose crisis supported through community action teams, funding*. Retrieved from: https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2018MMHA0002-000137.

ESTIMATES NOTE

TOPIC: Opioid Agonist Treatment

Issue: Increasing the number of people with opioid use disorder who are engaged and retained in opioid agonist treatment is a key priority in our response to the overdose emergency.

Key Messaging and Recommended Response:

- **Opioid use disorder is one of the most challenging forms of substance use disorder.**
- **Increasing the number of people with opioid use disorder who are engaged and retained in opioid agonist treatment is a key priority in the provincial response to the toxic drug crisis.**
- **In December 2021, there were 1,778 OAT prescribers across BC, an 11% increase from December 2020 (1,595).**
- **In December 2021, 24,540 patients received OAT, a 3% increase from December 2020 (23,734).**

KEY FACTS

Opioid Agonist Treatment

- Based on data as of September 20, 2020, there are 76,791 people with a diagnosed opioid use disorder in BC; it is estimated this number could be as high as 101,451, though many people may not be formally diagnosed.
- The number of people with a diagnosed opioid use disorder increased by almost 20% between September 2018 (64,019 persons) and September 2020 (76,791 persons).
- Opioid agonist treatment (OAT) is an effective treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD). In BC, the Ministry of Health's PharmaCare program covers methadone (Methadose® and Metadol-D®), buprenorphine/naloxone (Suboxone®), slow-release oral morphine (Kadian®) and injectable hydromorphone for OUD treatment under Plans B (Licensed Residential Care Facilities), C (Income Assistance), G (Psychiatric Medications), I (Fair PharmaCare), and W (First Nations Health Benefits).
- As of October 1, 2019, compounded methadone is available with exceptional case by case coverage under PharmaCare as a treatment option for people living with OUD, with the expectation that patients will try Metadol-D plus one other manufactured methadone product first.
- As of April 30, 2020, Sublocade®, a long-acting formulation of buprenorphine, administered monthly via abdominal subcutaneous injection, is a limited coverage Pharmacare benefit.
- Sublocade must be prescribed by a physician or nurse practitioner who has completed the manufacturer's training course.

Efforts to Expand the Availability of OAT

- The Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions (MMHA), through the OERC and Ministry of Health (HLTH), continues to work with partners to expand access to OAT and to address service gaps.
- The monthly counts of total opioid agonist treatment (OAT) clients and prescribers have steadily increased since mid-2016.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- The number of people dispensed OAT in a given month ranges between 23,000 and 24,500.
- The number of clinicians prescribing any form of OAT per month increased from 773 in June 2017 to 1,778 in December 2021.
- In June 2017, the BC Centre on Substance Use (BCCSU) released *A Guideline for the Clinical Management of Opioid Use Disorder*, which replaced the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC guideline. The guidelines have since been adopted nationally.
- As of June 5, 2017, the BCCSU became responsible for the educational and clinical care guidance activities for all health care professionals who prescribe medications to treat OUD.
- On February 14, 2018, the College of Registered Nurses of BC introduced new standards that allow nurse practitioners to prescribe OAT.
- In September 2020, the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) issued an order authorizing registered nurses and registered psychiatric nurses to prescribe OAT, beginning with buprenorphine/naloxone. As of March 2021, RNs/RPNs have started prescribing buprenorphine/naloxone.
- As of November 2021, training is available to enable RN/RPNs to prescribe Methadone and Kadian (limited scope).
- As of December 15, 2021, 120 RNs and RPNs from over 20 communities across health authorities in largely rural and remote areas have enrolled in prescriber training and 62 have fully completed their training for buprenorphine/naloxone.
- In December 2021, 51 patients filled prescriptions for buprenorphine/naloxone at communities within B.C. written by RN/RPN prescribers.
- In January 2022, BCCSU released an Opioid Use Disorder Practice Update which provides updated guidance on the provision of opioid agonist treatment as well as guidance on prescribing certain opioids as a harm reduction option.

Injectable Opioid Agonist Treatment (iOAT)

- A small portion of the OUD patient population will not respond successfully to first-line medications. Injectable OAT (iOAT) treatments (hydromorphone or diacetylmorphine (DAM)) offers a more intensive treatment alternative.
- In October 2017, the BCCSU released a provincial guidance document for the use of iOAT (supervised injectable hydromorphone or diacetylmorphine) as a specialized, intensive last line treatment option for patients who do not respond successfully to oral OAT.
- Currently, iOAT is available in high-need communities as determined by overdose surveillance data, including Surrey, Abbotsford, Kelowna, Victoria, and multiple Vancouver locations.
- In December 2021, 159 patients were receiving iOAT in British Columbia, of these 120 were on DAM.
- Injectable hydromorphone is the predominant drug used in iOAT clinics.
- DAM is an evidence-based, clinically, and cost-effective medication option to reduce illicit opioid use that has been identified as a preferred medication option by people who use illicit opioids.
- As of spring 2022, in response to strong input from people who use drugs and addictions clinicians, injectable DAM will be a medication option now that the first Canadian product has been approved by Health Canada for treatment.
- This product is available from a company call Pharmascience.
- Advice/Recommentations

ESTIMATES NOTE

Tablet Injectable Opioid Agonist Therapy (TiOAT):

- TiOAT is an innovative model first developed by Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (VCHA) and the Portland Hotel Society in 2019, using supervised consumption of hydromorphone tablets via oral intake and/or injection, and offering greater clinical flexibility and patient autonomy than iOAT.
- In response to promising pilot results, government approved the expansion of TiOAT to additional sites in Vancouver, Kamloops (2), Surrey, and Prince George. In December 2021, there were 221 patients receiving TiOAT in British Columbia.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- HLTH's BC PharmaCare program covers the province's OAT and iOAT drug costs
- Budget 2022 continues the investment in iOAT and iOAT expansion as well OAT in corrections facilities continuing $36.75 million over the fiscal plan.
- The Canada-British Columbia Mental Health and Addictions Services Funding Agreement allocates $48 million over the fiscal plan to support injectable OAT services.

Approvals:
February 25, 2022– Darryl Sturtevant, Assistant Deputy Minister, Substance Use Policy
March 8, 2022 – Peter Klotz obo Philip Twyford, ADM, Finance and Corporate Services Division, Ministry of Health
March 9, 2022 – Tracee Schmidt, Executive Lead, Corporate Services Division
March 9 2022– Christine Massey, Deputy Minister

ESTIMATES NOTE

TOPIC Prescribed Safe Supply

Issue: Prescribed safe supply of pharmaceutical alternatives is a critical program for helping to separate people who use substances from using illicit toxic drugs, saving lives and connecting them to care.

Key Messaging and Recommended Response:

- **Our government is unwavering in our commitment to address the ongoing toxic drug crisis and prevent future deaths due to drug poisoning.**
- **We know one of the most important ways to do this is by separating people from the illicit drug supply.**
- **That's why we introduced a prescribed safe supply policy – the first of its kind in Canada.**
- **Through the policy, our health authority partners are implementing prescribed safer supply and expanding access to this life-saving support for people at risk of drug toxicity events and deaths.**
- **We are doing this work while making sure patient safety is protected, and prescribers have the supports they need.**
- **Prescribed safe supply is a critical part of the broader continuum of care and the treatment of addiction as a health issue.**

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- Illicit drug toxicity deaths have increased in the last two years. The BC Coroners service (BCCS) reported 2,224 illicit drug toxicity deaths in 2021 – the highest ever recorded and a 26% increase compared to 2020 (1,767)[1].
- The toxicity of the illicit supply is also increasing. From April 2020 to Dec 2021, BCCS data shows that approximately 15% of illicit drug toxicity deaths had extreme fentanyl concentrations, compared to 8% from January 2019 to Mar 2020.
- Prescribed safe supply provides pharmaceutical grade alternatives to illicit drugs to people at risk of illicit drug toxicity events and deaths.

[1] BC Coroners Service. Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths in BC January 1, 2011 – Dec 31, 201. Available at https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/statistical/illicit-drug.pdf

ESTIMATES NOTE

Risk Mitigation in the Context of Dual Public Health Emergencies:

- As the first phase of prescribed safe supply, the interim Risk Mitigation Guidance was released by the BC Centre on Substance Use (BCCSU), in partnership with the Province, on March 26, 2020; it was updated January 2022.
- The document provides guidance for prescribing substances, including opioids, stimulants, benzodiazepines, alcohol and nicotine, to support individuals who may be at increased risk of overdose, withdrawal, craving, and other harms related to their substance use, due to COVID-19.
- Between March 27, 2020 and December 31, 2021, 12,207 people were dispensed any form of Risk Mitigation Guidance prescribed safer supply medications. Of the 12,207:
    - 7,093 (58.1%) received opioids
    - 2,136 (17.5%) received stimulants
    - 2,971 (24.3%) received alcohol withdrawal management medications
    - 1,589 (13.0%) received benzodiazepines
- There was a 780% increase in the number of people (from 197 in April 2020 to 1,734 in December 2021) prescribed hydromorphone.
- The BC Coroners Service reported that there is no indication that prescribed safer supply is contributing to illicit drug deaths[2].
- Preliminary findings suggest opioid prescribed safer supply prevents mortality.

Prescribed Safe Supply:

- In July 2021, the Province released the Prescribed Safer Supply Policy (*Access to Prescribed Safer Supply in British Columbia: Policy Direction*).
- The policy builds on the Risk Mitigation Guidance and is a broad public health-oriented, health system-level intervention to reduce illicit drug toxicity deaths, and is part of a comprehensive package of health sector interventions that comprise the illicit drug toxicity crisis response.
- The policy supports prescribing medication alternatives to illicit opioids and stimulants to people at risk of drug toxicity events and deaths.
- The policy is meant to help separate individuals from the highly toxic illicit drug supply, reduce drug toxicity injuries and deaths, and enhance connections to health and social supports.
- The prescribed safer supply policy is currently being implemented in B.C. in a phased approach, starting in health authority programs and federally funded SAFER programs.
- Clinical protocols are being developed in collaboration with BCCSU based on emerging evidence and clinical expertise.

SAFER Programs:

- Two federally funded SAFER projects (VCH SAFER in Vancouver and Aids Vancouver Island (AVI) SAFER in Victoria) are offering prescribed safer supply consistent with B.C.'s policy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Budget/Expenditures:

- Prescribed Safer Supply is funded at $8.9 m annually – the program is up and running.

2

ESTIMATES NOTE

Approvals:
February 22, 2022 – Darryl Sturtevant, Assistant Deputy Minister, Substance Use Policy
March 8, 2022 – Peter Klotz obo Philip Twyford, ADM, Finance and Corporate Services Division, HLTH
March 9, 2022 – Tracee Schmidt, Executive Lead, Corporate Services Division
March 9, 2022 - Christine Massey, Deputy Minister

ESTIMATES NOTE

TOPIC: Responding to the Overdose Emergency in British Columbia

Issue: British Columbians continue to experience unprecedented rates of harm due to the toxic drug supply.

Key Messaging and Recommended Response:

- **British Columbians are experiencing unprecedented rates of harm due to an illicit drug supply that is unpredictable and highly toxic.**
- **In June 2019, the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions launched *A Pathway to Hope*, a roadmap to improve mental health and addictions care for people in British Columbia.**
- **The roadmap includes continued focus on overdose emergency response.**
- **The Ministry's Overdose Emergency Response Centre implements a comprehensive package of essential health sector interventions and strategies for a supportive environment.**
- **This includes working with five Regional Response Teams and establishing Community Action Teams in 36 communities most impacted by the overdose emergency.**
- **Our estimates tell us that over 6,100 deaths were averted since April 2016 due to overdoes prevention and safe consumption services.**
- **Budget 2022 continues previous investment, allocating $430 million over the fiscal plan to provide a full spectrum of treatment and recovery services for individuals experiencing issues with substance use, including $45 million to support ongoing critical overdose prevention services.**

KEY FACTS

- In 2021, there were at least 2,224 suspected illicit drug toxicity deaths. This is the highest number of deaths in a single year in BC and is a 26% increase since 2020 (1767).[i]
- The illicit drug supply has become increasingly toxic since the onset of COVID-19. This is evidenced by an increase in deaths where extreme fentanyl concentrations, carfentanil and benzodiazepines are implicated[ii].
- Status First Nations[iii], men between 30 and 59 years old, and people who use drugs indoors, alone, and regularly[iv] are disproportionately impacted by toxic drug deaths.

Overdose Emergency Response Centre

ESTIMATES NOTE

- In December 2017, MMHA established the Overdose Emergency Response Centre (OERC) to coordinate the province's response to the drug toxicity emergency and implement a comprehensive package of essential services for overdose prevention in British Columbia.[v]
- The package includes the following essential health sector interventions: naloxone distribution; overdose prevention services; acute overdose risk case management; and treatment and recovery.
- The OERC collaborates with the First Nations Health Authority, five Regional Response Teams as well as 36 Community Action Teams established in high-need communities across the province.

Key Initiatives

- **Naloxone** is a life-saving medication that can quickly reverse the effects of an opioid-related poisoning.
- The BC Take Home Naloxone program provides people who use drugs and those most likely to witness illicit drug poisoning with no-charge naloxone kits and training.
- **Overdose Prevention Services (OPS) and Supervised Consumption Services (SCS)** provide a space to consume drugs under the supervision of someone trained to administer naloxone and provide other emergency first aid services.
- As of December 2021, there are 39 OPS/SCS locations in BC. Interior: 6 OPS and 2 SCS locations; Fraser: 8 OPS and 1 SCS; Vancouver Coastal: 10 OPS and 2 SCS; Island: 8 OPS and 1 SCS; Northern: 1 OPS
- 13 of these OPS services support inhalation.
- **Drug Checking** services provide life-saving information to people who use drugs about the composition of the substances they plan to consume.
- Fentanyl test strips, which detect the presence of fentanyl in drug samples are available at OPS and SCS locations, excluding housing-based OPS.
- **The Mobile Response Team** is an initiative administered by Provincial Health Service Authority to provide psychosocial support for frontline workers.

Advice/Recommentations

- **Prescribed Safer Supply** is an initiative to expand access to pharmaceutical alternatives to the illicit drug supply (*cross ref: Prescribed Safer Supply*).
- **Nurse Prescribing** is an initiative to train registered nurses and registered psychiatric nurses to prescribe Opioid Agonist Treatment (*cross ref: Nurse Prescribing*)

Measuring Success

- See Toxic Drug Crisis Response Data for more data/information on Drug Toxicity Deaths, Naloxone programs, OPS/SCS visits, Lifeguard usage, Opioid Agonist Treatment, Prescribed Safer Supply, Nurse Prescribing and more.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- Budget 2022 continues the previous investment, with $430 million over the fiscal plan to provide a full spectrum of treatment and recovery services for individuals experiencing issues with substance use. This funding includes $45 million support inhalation, and harm reduction supplies; and increased access to nursing care and interdisciplinary outreach teams.

ESTIMATES NOTE

Approvals:
February 16, 2022 – Darryl Sturtevant, Assistant Deputy Minister, Substance Use Policy
March 9, 2022 – Peter Klotz obo Philip Twyford, ADM, Finance and Corporate Services Division, HLTH
March 9, 2022– Tracee Schmidt, Executive Lead, Corporate Services Division
March 14, 2022 – Christine Massey, Deputy Minister

ESTIMATES NOTE

REFERENCES

[i] BC Coroners Service. (2019). *Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths in BC: January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2021.* Retrieved from: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/statistical/illicit-drug.pdf.

[ii] BC Coroners Service. (2021). *Illicit Drug Toxicity Type of Drug Data: Data to December 31, 2021.* Retrieved from https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/statistical/illicit-drug-type.pdf

[iii] First Nations Health Authority. (2017). *Overdose Data and First Nations in BC: Preliminary Findings.* Retrieved from: http://www.fnha.ca/newsContent/Documents/FNHA_OverdoseDataAndFirstNationsInBC_PreliminaryFindings_FinalWeb_July2017.pdf.

[iv] BC Coroners Service. (2018, September 27). *Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths in BC: Findings of Coroners' Investigations*. Retrieved from: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/statistical/illicitdrugoverdosedeathsinbc-findingsofcoronersinvestigations-final.pdf

[v] Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions. (2017). *Overdose Emergency Response Centre Terms of Reference*. Retrieved from: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/overdose-awareness/terms_of_reference_nov_30_final.pdf.

ESTIMATES NOTE

TOPIC Representative for Children and Youth Reports Overview

Issue: Overview of Alignment with RCY Reports

Key Messaging and Recommended Response:

- **We are pleased to accept all recommendations for our Ministry in reports from the Representative for Children and Youth.**
- **The RCY has repeatedly identified a need for a comprehensive and integrated system of mental health and substance use care, including culturally safe, child, youth and family centered team-based care.**
- **The issues the Representative and other stakeholders have identified as problems helped to inform *A Pathway to Hope* and are reflected in our priority actions to improve wellness for children, youth and young adults.**
- **Our Government is taking action to create a coordinated mental health and addictions system of care for children, youth, and young adults.**
- **Investments include: Foundry youth centres; new youth substance use beds; early childhood programs; school-based programs for mental wellness promotion; and integrated child and youth teams; youth substance use services and early psychosis intervention programs.**

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) is an independent officer of the legislature with the authority to:
  - Advocate on behalf of children, youth and young adults to improve their understanding of and access to designated services.
  - Monitor, review, audit and publicly report on designated services for children and youth.
  - Conduct independent reviews and investigations into the critical injuries or deaths of children receiving reviewable services.
- Since 2012, the RCY has released a number of child-death investigative reports and four service reviews that contain findings and recommendations related to child and youth mental health and substance use (MHSU) services. Reports with recommendations either directed at or relevant to MMHA include:
  - *Detained: Rights of Children and Youth under the Mental Health Act* (January 2021)
  - *Excluded: Increasing Understanding, Support and Inclusion for Children with FASD and their Families* (April 2021)
  - *A Parent's Duty: Government's Obligation to Youth Transitioning into Adulthood*

(December 2020).
  - *Youth Substance Use Services in BC – An Update* (March 2020).
  - *Caught in the Middle* (November 2019).
  - *Time to Listen: Youth Voices on Substance Use (November 2018).*
  - *Missing Pieces: Joshua's Story (Oct 2017).*
- Consistent themes in RCY reports with respect to needed improvements to child, youth and young adult MHSU services include:
  - Lack of a single point of accountability for MHSU services negatively impacts system enablers, including workforce planning, information sharing, research, and integrated service planning and delivery.
  - Most MHSU services are not integrated with each other resulting in service fragmentation for youth and their families.
  - Some components of the system of care, such as Step up/Step down services, are insufficient. Harm reduction services are not consistently available to all youth throughout BC and youth need more unbiased information on substance use.
  - Transitions between service types, and from youth to adult services, are often not coordinated. Pathways to services from family physicians, schools, and hospital emergency departments are often not clearly defined.
  - Services are not consistently available for older youth and young adults.
  - Lack of attention to upstream efforts designed to support healthy social and emotional development and reduce stigma about mental illness and addiction.
  - Lack of support for families caring for a young person with MHSU problems.
  - An Indigenous perspective on mental wellness needs to be better integrated into culturally safe service governance, planning and delivery.
  - Greater input from children, youth and emerging adults with lived experience and their families would increase service accessibility and effectiveness.
  - Rural and remote communities are underserved and access to services is hampered by transportation and other issues.
  - Long wait times exist for many assessment and treatment programs and services, including for specialized and in-patient MHSU care.
  - Information sharing between service providers is neither effective nor person- and family-centered.
  - The absence of performance reporting on service utilization, quality, and outcomes using established indicators and measures results in a lack of meaningful data for system and service planning.
  - Overuse of involuntary admissions for youth, and inadequate quality of care provided in mental health facilities for youth.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

Approvals:
February 14, 2022 – Francesca Wheler, ADM, Child, Youth and Mental Health Policy
February 28, 2022 – Christine Massey, Deputy Minister

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Municipal Affairs

2022/23 Estimates Note

Honourable Nathan Cullen

January 2022

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 2022/23, 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 sixth year in 2022.**
- **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 light of the pandemic and resulting pressures on not -for-profit organizations, the Branch made changes to the program in 2020/21, such as:**
    - **Allowing organizations to redirect program funds for cancelled or postponed programming to any other approved program;**
    - **Extending the permissible timeframe to spend gaming funds from 12 to 24 months, allowing organizations to retain funding for future program delivery;**
    - **Relaxing financial eligibility criteria for returning applicants to ensure organizations can continue to access grants; and**

- **Opening the Human and Social Services sector two months earlier to support organizations that were facing an increased demand for services due to the pandemic.**

- **For 2021/22 and 2022/23 grant years many of these COVID-19 response measures have continued. Other changes have been introduced to assist with re-start and recovery:**
  - **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 per cent 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.**

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.

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Municipal Affairs

2022/23 Estimates Note

Honourable Nathan Cullen — January 2022

- 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 applications in the Human and Social Services sector due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the non-profit sector.
- The Branch also implemented changes to the CGG $5 million 'Capital Projects' program in 2020/21, including: amendments to the program assessment criteria to give priority consideration to projects that are required as a direct result of COVID-19, and a reduction in the 'matching funds' requirements for COVID-19 related applications from 50 per cent to 20 per cent of project costs, in recognition of the financial challenges many not-for-profits face.

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

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Municipal Affairs

2022/23 Estimates Note

Honourable Nathan Cullen

February 2022

DISSOLUTION OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ISSUE

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

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

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

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- In 2015, UBCM endorsed a resolution calling on government to eliminate the AGLG. The resolution stated that the AGLG's work is already being met under existing local government legislation and regulations. The UBCM opposed the Office, saying it was imposed upon them without consultation and insinuated that local governments were poor fiscal managers.
- In February 2020, the previous Minister decided to close the Office. Her reasons for closing the office included UBCM's continued opposition and the high costs of audits. The five-year review of the AGLG office found that each audit costs on average approximately $400,000 to $500,000.
- The mandated activities of the AGLG Office were completed by March 31, 2021 and the office closed. Final administrative tasks related to closing the office were managed by the Ministry.
- The *Auditor General for Local Government Act* is scheduled to be repealed in 2022.

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

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Honourable Nathan Cullen

2022/23 Estimates Note

April 2022

LABOUR SHORTAGE AND IMMIGRATION

ISSUE

- Employers across B.C. are reporting labour shortages. Immigration can be a part of the solution, but on its own can't solve these labour market challenges.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **I recognize that employers across the provinces are struggling with labour shortages and it's challenging for businesses.**
- **Immigration will play a major role in growing our labour force in the coming years, with the number of immigrants coming to B.C. expected to be at historic highs going forward.**
- **In recognition of the role immigration can play in filling essential jobs in B.C., we recently made changes to the BC Provincial Nominee Program to help more health care workers and early childhood educators immigrate.**
- **While immigration is a part of the solution to skills needs across the province, on its own it can't solve all labour needs. We must prepare British Columbians for the jobs in demand and support their ability to participate in the labour market.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- As of Feb. 2022, B.C. continued to lead all provinces, with the highest employment growth (3.2%) compared to pre-pandemic (February 2020) levels - 90% of job gains were full-time work, indicating strong employment expansion. The unemployment rate in B.C. steadily decreased to 5.6% by Dec. 2021, and fell further to 4.9% in Feb 2022.
- Immigration, on its own is not a solution to B.C.'s labour shortages. According to the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training's Labour Market Outlook, for every 10 immigrants that come to B.C., 6 enter the labour market. Ten new immigrants creates 4 new jobs in the economy. So, for every 10 immigrants there is only a net increase of worker supply of 2 workers.
- The number of immigrants coming to B.C. has increased in recent years. Canada met its target of 401,000 new permanent residents in 2021. Future targets will likely be higher; by 2024, B.C. may receive around 75,000 new immigrants per year, nearly double the number from 2016.

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Municipal Affairs

2022/23 Estimates Note

Honourable Nathan Cullen

April 2022

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

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Municipal Affairs

2022/23 Estimates Note

Honourable Nathan Cullen

April 2022

BC PROVINCIAL NOMINEE PROGRAM (PNP) ENTREPRENEUR IMMIGRATION

ISSUE

- Adjustments to the Entrepreneur Immigration Base category and reopening application intake from foreign entrepreneurs.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **The Entrepreneur Immigration (EI) stream enables the Province to facilitate immigration for foreign entrepreneurs who bring their business expertise and investment dollars and manage businesses in B.C.**
- **The EI-Base category is for entrepreneurs who wish to establish a business anywhere in B.C. New intake was paused in July 2021 to ensure that it continues to support B.C.'s economic priorities and recovery needs. We anticipate reopening for new intake in July after some modifications are made.**
- **The Regional Pilot (originally launched in 2019) is in it's second phase with 50 participating communities. 59 applications were received in 2021 and communities will see increased numbers as international travel restrictions are lifted.**
- **A full 3rd party program evaluation and audit will take place this year as required under the Canada-BC Immigration Agreement.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- In 2021, the EI stream approved 81 work permits for entrepreneurs to come to B.C. and start their businesses, and made 38 nominations for permanent residency. Final 2021 statistics will be posted publicly in May.
- The Regional Pilot is open for the enrollment of additional new communities until May 31, 2022.
- 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

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Municipal Affairs

2022/23 Estimates Note

Honourable Nathan Cullen

February 2022

BC PROVINCIAL NOMINEE PROGRAM (PNP) SKILLS IMMIGRATION

ISSUE

- Addressing labour shortages by facilitating immigration to B.C. for international talent.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **BC PNP Skills Immigration allows the Province to attract and retain skilled and semi-skilled workers and international students by facilitating their immigration to work and live in B.C.**
- **Recent program changes allow us to select workers needed to deliver services that people can count on by prioritizing and nominating workers who help deliver essential services.**
- **We responded to the critical need for more health care and childcare workers by implementing changes to increase support for the care economy.**
- **We continue to support the tech sector as well, with just under 30% of nominations being in high demand tech occupations.**
- **As the only immigration program within provincial control, we will continue to adjust our approach to support employers to meet their workforce needs by providing a tool to recruit and retain workers that are in-demand in B.C.'s economy.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Following a thorough review of the Skills Immigration categories changes were announced on March 10 to give priority access to newcomers in healthcare and childcare occupations, while safeguarding the integrity of the program. Other changes to be implemented in 2022 include supporting other priority sectors and further attracting newcomers to regions outside of the Lower Mainland.
- Applicants who are not in these priority occupations may still apply, however, there may be a higher threshold to meet to secure an invitation to submit a full application.
- B.C. approved 6,250 nominees 2021, compared to 6,268 in 2020 and 6,551 in 2019. The pandemic and travel restrictions had an impact across PN streams in

2020. Temporary federal measures in 2021 resulted in a high volume of application withdrawals from the BC PNP. Individuals who withdrew likely still came to B.C. under other federal pathways.

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

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Municipal Affairs

2022/23 Estimates Note

Honourable Nathan Cullen

April 2022

LYTTON RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

ISSUE

- On June 30, 2021, a fire swept through the Village of Lytton and adjacent communities, including the Lytton First Nations reserve. 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 further complicated by the atmospheric river in November and is ongoing.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **We recognize the situation in Lytton continues to be incredibly difficult for residents of the village.**
- **At this time, Lytton's recovery efforts are necessarily focused on the short- and medium-term, including continuing to meet basic needs of evacuees.**
- **Successful wildfire recovery is led by local communities, and the province is working with Lytton as it plans for recovery. We are providing direct funding, advice, expertise, and dedicated resources as requested by the community.**
- **Unfortunately, the level of destruction to critical municipal infrastructure and impact to community resources means that Lytton's recovery journey will be extremely challenging.**
- **While EMBC is the lead provincial agency for recovery and emergency management supports to the Village, Municipal Affairs is supporting on needs regarding municipal infrastructure, finances, and governance.**
- **In doing so, Municipal Affairs is supporting the Parliamentary Secretaries appointed to lead recovery and is coordinating with other ministries and agencies as necessary (TRAN and CITZ).**
- **On February 9th, 2022, over $8 million in funding was announced to support the Village in recovery and operations:**
    - **$6.26 million will immediately help to address wildfire response costs, and**

- **$2.1 million will support the Village's core operations over the next three years, so they can focus on planning, recovery and rebuilding rather than on revenue generation.**

- **On March 7th, 2022, the province committed a further $18.4 million for Lytton recovery. This funding will cover the substantial costs of debris removal, archeological work and soil remediation for municipal and all uninsured and underinsured properties in the village.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The ADM and MUNI staff (and other provincial agencies) are in direct contact with Lytton staff and the community. Staff attend meetings with Village staff, Council meetings and monthly community Town Halls, and other meetings hosted by the Parliamentary Secretaries for Emergency Preparedness and Rural Development. Requests from the community for assistance come to MUNI through these channels and EMBC.
- MUNI coordinates the municipal recovery related to the *Local Government Act*, while responsible provincial agencies engage directly with communities regarding specific related needs. Recovery support includes direct recovery management (EMBC), local government supports related to governance, finance, and infrastructure (MUNI), provincial transportation infrastructure (TRAN), economic recovery (FLNR) and community connectivity (CITZ).
- Community members have expressed concern over the speed of recovery. In comparison to other emergency events, recovery in Lytton has been complicated by the scale of the impacts compared to the size of the community, local capacity for response and recovery, compounding emergency events and highway closures, widespread discovery of contaminants, and the potential for undiscovered Indigenous artifacts given the area's history of human habitation.
- The province has addressed some of these concerns by providing a dedicated Provincial recovery team, funding for a dedicated local recovery team, financial and technical supports, and governance assistance (including a Policy Group Liaison Officer role provided by MUNI until March 31, 2022).
- After Lytton lost all of its physical and digital records in the fire, MUNI staff supported the recovery of lost bylaws, where possible, and Bill 2 was passed in the Legislative Assembly to provide legal tools that may be needed to provide certainty to Lytton in relation to unrecovered bylaws.
- MUNI has supported operations related to by-election requirements, cancelling a by-election scheduled for shortly after the fire and enabling Lytton to plan for a by-election in 2022 to fill two vacant councillor positions. The by-election is

scheduled for Saturday, April 30, with an advance poll on Wednesday, April 20. All resident electors and non-resident property electors may vote by mail (eligible electors can request mail-in ballots from April 4 to April 28). There are three candidates for the by-election. The successful candidates will serve until the next general local election on October 15, 2022.

- The province is also supporting a single Village-wide demolition permit for uninsured properties that encompasses both hazardous waste and cultural heritage requirements.
- MUNI has supported financial recovery of the Village by assisting with recovery of financial records, identification of monetary assistance, and supporting local adoption of the Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw.
- MUNI received approval from Treasury Board for further support operations and planning for Lytton for the next three years during recovery, which was announced on February 9, 2022.
- Activities supported by the second funding announcement began on March 8th with debris removal on municipal properties and expanding to residential properties when that work is completed.
- The province will coordinate and fund archeological work that would otherwise be covered by the residents. In late March, Lytton Council approved a contract to the archaeology consulting firm A.E.W. for archaeological and heritage monitoring during the debris removal and remediation in the Village. A.E.W was formed in 2017 by Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council member communities.
- This new funding will also address costs of remediation work to support rebuilding efforts. Funding will also address temporary accommodations for staff, consultants and construction workers who will be undertaking this work as well as project management, engineering design work and security.
- MUNI will continue to provide supports and expertise for recovery as the Village plans and rebuilds the future community.
- The Village has applied to the 2021 Wildfire Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) program, administered by EMBC. Three cost recovery plans (CRP) have been approved for infrastructure related costs.
- Most residents will want essential services such as fire, police, health care, postal services, access to food, and communications services to be in place before returning. Until services are fully restored, the RCMP and postal services are operating out of interim locations in or near the Village, and health care services are being provided from the Lytton First Nation health centre.

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

MINISTER ADVISORY NOTE
As of March 31, 2022

Issue: BC Public Service and COVID-19 Workforce Management

Advice and Recommended Response:

- **The BC Public Service operates in compliance with orders and guidance of the Provincial Health Officer (PHO), the BC Centre for Disease Control and WorkSafeBC in managing employee safety and health during the Provincial Health Emergency declared for COVID-19.**
- **The BC Public Service Agency (PSA) is committed to proactively protecting employees and minimizing the risk of spreading the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19.**
- **The human resources response for the public service workforce, including health and safety for COVID-19, has been led by the PSA.**
- **Beginning in January 2022, the PSA has been supporting supervisors to prepare for a return to usual operational staffing levels April 4, 2022. Workplaces are equipped with updated safety plans and tools, communications, education, and support including mental health support for public service workers.**
- **BC government services are deemed essential services; the PSA response to COVID-19 has allowed public service workers to sustain operations to safely support BC citizens.**

Current Status:

- As the province implements *BC's Restart Plan*, the Public Service Agency and Ministry for Citizens' Services are actively supporting the public service with guidance on workplace operations and supporting ministries in developing safe work procedures.
- Public services have been maintained through a mix of modified workplace practices and remote work arrangements that are designed to protect public service employees and clients from the spread of COVID-19.
- Through the planned repopulation of workplaces PSA is actively monitoring orders and guidance from the PHO and evidence and informationfrom the BC Centre for Disease Control (BC CDC), Government of Canada and scientific journals, among others.
- PSA actively responds, advises and adjusts as necessary to new information and guidance and communicates this to public service workers via a unique page at MyHR.
- Public service leaders continue to support employee physical and mental health through services and resources as the workforce manages through the pandemic.
- The public service ministries do not collect information on diagnosed employee COVID-19 cases.

KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

- The BC Provincial Health Officer (PHO) declared a provincial health emergency in March 2020 in response to the presence in BC of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) and the incidence of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19).
- High levels of community vaccination are significantly reducing the severity and impact of Coronavirus infection for British Columbians.
- The BC CDC says that the novel coronavirus is transmitted via liquid droplets generated when a person talks, coughs or sneezes.
- The coronavirus can enter a person through the eyes, nose or throat, particularly if the person is in close contact with an infected person.
- The PHO Workplace Safety Order is set to expire April 8, 2022. Following this date, Communicable Disease Prevention Plans or Exposure Control plans are in place across BC Public Service workplaces will guide common infection control practices.
- PSA regularly updates public service workforce guidance in line with Public Health updates.
- PSA works closely in supporting ministries with COVID-19 related operational questions.

CONTACT: DR. WILLIAM LAKEY, MEDICAL DIRECTOR WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY
PHONE: 604.660.2587

MINISTER ADVISORY NOTE
AS OF APRIL 29, 2022

ISSUE: BC PUBLIC SERVICE COVID-19 VACCINATION POLICY

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The BC government supported the effort to increase vaccination rates across the province and acted to uphold its responsibilities as an employer by making vaccination a requirement for BC Public Service employees as of November 22, 2021.**

- **The COVID-19 Vaccination Policy balances the privacy and human rights issues of employees with the requirements to maintain a safe work environment for employees and to protect the public in providing services.**

- **More than 98% of BC Public Service employees were fully vaccinated in compliance with the policy within the first three months of its implementation.**

- **Recognizing that the global pandemic is not over, the vaccination policy remains in place.**

SECONDARY MESSAGES:

- **The BC Public Service developed this policy with careful consideration of the context of B.C.'s pandemic, prevailing public health advice, the approach taken by other employers in B.C. and across Canada, and the potential legal issues and challenges to the policy.**

- **Compliance with the COVID-19 policy is a term and condition of employment under Regulation 284/2021 Public Service COVID-19 Vaccination Regulation of the *Public Service Act*.**

CURRENT STATUS:

- Approximately 400 employees are either unvaccinated or refused to disclose their vaccination status, resulting in them being place on leave without pay. Terminations for just cause are initiated three months after they were placed on leave without pay for those who have not requested an accommodation.

- The number of unvaccinated employees fluctuates over time due to several variables, including:
    - Terminations being completed
    - Unvaccinated employees resigning
    - Employees returning from various long-term leaves, at which time they must disclose

their vaccination status
    - Unvaccinated employees becoming vaccinated
    - Accommodation requests being denied, with those employees subsequently considered unvaccinated

- The PSA continues to process approximately 385 accommodation requests made under protected grounds of the Human Rights Code (BC), most of which are on either medical or religious grounds.

- A small group of excluded employees initiated legal action seeking a judicial review of the vaccination policy. Their initial request for an injunction preventing their termination pending that review was denied, and the judicial review hearing is currently scheduled for mid-July.

KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

- The COVID-19 Vaccination policy was brought into effect on November 1, 2021 and will be in effect until general public health concerns regarding COVID are reduced to a level, prescribed by government, to enable workplaces to operate without COVID-related restrictions.

- Changes to the Occupational Safety and Health policy applied the vaccination requirement to contractors and other persons entering a public service worksite.

- The COVID-19 vaccination policy does not apply to members of the public receiving a government service.

- Costs for this fiscal and next fiscal have been budgeted for legal, contract, and salary costs related to processing exemption requests under protected areas of the Human Rights Code (BC), legal reviews, and legal challenges to the policy.

CONTACT: RUEBEN BRONEE, ADM, POLICY, INNOVATION AND ENGAGEMENT
PHONE: 250.213.6614

MINISTER ADVISORY NOTE
AS OF APRIL 28, 2022

ISSUE: COVID-19 TERMINATIONS

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **On November 1, 2021, the BC Public Service implemented *HR Policy 25: COVID-19 Vaccination* ("HR Policy 25"), making it mandatory for BC Public Service Employees to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.**

- **Active employees who confirmed they were unvaccinated or refused to disclose their vaccination status by November 22, 2021 were placed on leave without pay for a period of three months after which they were advised their employment may be terminated.**

- **On November 19, 2021, government established a regulation to the Public Service Act which made HR Policy 25 a term and condition of employment for BC Public Service employees and that if an employee were terminated under HR Policy 25, the employee would be deemed to have been dismissed for just cause.**

- **Employees can request an exemption from the policy on a protected ground under the *Human Rights Code*.**

- **On February 24, 2022, the BC Public Service began terminating employees who were in non-compliance with HR Policy 25 and had completed a minimum of three months on leave without pay.**

SECONDARY MESSAGES:

- **As of April 25, 2022, 367 employees were on three-month leave without pay leading to termination; 299 had completed a minimum of three months on leave without pay; and 33 terminations had been completed.**

- **Of the 400 total employees due to be terminated for non-compliance with HR Policy 25, *including* those that have already been processed: 379 are union and 21 are non-union who live in the following regions: Lower Mainland (118), Vancouver Island (123), Interior (112), North (47).**

- **Because these terminations are for just cause, no severance is paid to employees when they are dismissed under HR Policy 25.**

CURRENT STATUS:

- As of April 25, 2022, 33 terminations under HR Policy 25 had been completed.

- The BC Public Service Agency's (PSA) Employee Relations Team continues to work with ministries across government to process pending HR Policy 25 terminations, which must be reviewed and approved on an individualized basis.

- As of April 25, 403 employees have requested an accommodation under a ground protected under the *Human Rights Code*. Nearly all requests of a medical nature have been processed and resolved. The assessment of the majority of non-medical requests remains in-progress and are either pending decision or awaiting additional information from the employee or the supervisor/manager before a final determination can be made.

KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

- The BC Public Service implemented HR Policy 25: COVID-19 Vaccination on November 1, 2021, and on November 19, 2021, Regulation 284/2021 – Public Service Covid-19 Vaccination Regulation established that the Policy is a term and condition of employment for BC Public Service employees.

- HR Policy 25 applies regardless of whether an employee works onsite at a BC Public Service worksite or remotely and includes those employees working under telework arrangements.

- Human Resource Policy 23 – Termination for Just Cause, Excluded and Included Employees was updated on February 3, 2022, to align with HR Policy 25 and the regulation. A definition of "just cause" specific to HR Policy 25 was added; as well, a new "Administrative Due Process Checklist" was added that is specific to the COVID-19 policy and regulation, to ensure due process is clearly laid out for the HR Policy 25 terminations.

- Legal Information

- Prior to implementation of HR Policy 25, the employer provided multiple communications to BC Public Service employees to ensure awareness of the policy.

- While employees are on leave without pay prior to termination, the Employer has continued to provide their employer-paid basic benefit coverage (such as health, dental and employee basic life insurance). The Employee and Family Assistance Program has also remained available to them while on leave without pay.

- As of April 25, 403 employees have requested an accommodation under a ground protected under the *Human Rights Code.* Each request is assessed on an individual basis and considered on its own merits.

- In most ministries, between one and five employees are or will be eligible for termination. Six ministries had 25 or more such employees: Attorney General and Housing; Children and Family Development; Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development; Public Safety & Solicitor General; the Ministry of Finance (specifically, the Liquor Distribution Branch); and the Ministry of Citizen's Services.

MINISTER ADVISORY NOTE

- Four excluded employees had filed a judicial review in B.C. Supreme Court in hopes of petitioning the court to overturn HR Policy 25 as unreasonable. Pending a judicial review of their case, the petitioners had sought an injunction to stop terminations from proceeding in the meantime, but a judge ruled the terminations could proceed.

CONTACT: ALYSON BLACKSTOCK, ADM, EMPLOYEE RELATIONS
PHONE: 778.698.7912

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

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MINISTER ADVISORY NOTE
AS OF MARCH 21, 2022

ISSUE: FTEs IN THE BC PUBLIC SERVICE

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

Advice/Recommentations

CURRENT STATUS:

The table below summarizes what was reported in the Budget and Fiscal Plan on Budget Day (February 22, 2022).

Table A13 Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) – 2015/16 to 2024/2025 [1]

	Actual 2015/16	Actual 2016/17	Actual 2017/18	Actual 2018/19	Actual 2019/20	Actual 2020/21	Updated Forecast 2021/22	Budget Estimate 2022/23	Plan 2023/24	Plan 2024/25	Average annual change
											(per cent)
Taxpayer-supported programs and agencies:											
Ministries and special offices (CRF)	27,192	27,940	29,291	30,891	31,774	32,444	33,400	34,400	34,400	34,400	2.6
Service delivery agencies [2]	4,803	4,850	5,076	5,258	5,985	6,042	6,698	8,108	8,670	8,194	6.1
Total FTEs	**31,995**	**32,790**	**34,367**	**36,149**	**37,759**	**38,486**	**40,098**	**42,508**	**43,070**	**42,594**	3.2
Growth rates (per cent):											
Ministries and special offices (CRF)	1.9	2.8	4.8	5.5	2.9	2.1	2.9	3.0	0.0	0.0	2.6
Service delivery agencies	0.1	1.0	4.7	3.6	13.8	1.0	10.9	21.1	6.9	-5.5	5.7
Population per FTE: [3]											
Total FTEs	149.3	148.2	143.4	138.6	134.9	134.0	130.1	125.0	125.4	128.8	-1.6

[1] Full-time equivalents (FTEs) are a measure of staff employment. FTEs are calculated by dividing the total hours of employment paid for in a given period by the number of hours an individual, full-time person would normally work in that period. This does not equate to the physical number of employees. For example, two half-time employees would equal one FTE, or alternatively, three FTEs may represent two full-time employees who have worked sufficient overtime hours to equal an additional FTE.

[2] Service delivery agency FTE amounts do not include SUCH sector staff employment.

[3] Population per FTE is calculated using July 1 population (e.g. population on July 1, 2022 divided by 2022/23 FTEs).

Note: There are other service delivery agencies with FTEs reported in the government fiscal plan that are not included here, such as Liquor Distribution Branch, BC Pension Corp., Destination BC, and Royal BC Museum.

CONTACT: DEAN SKINNER, ADM, CORPORATE SERVICES
PHONE: 250.217.5538

MINISTER ADVISORY NOTE

Appendix A:

FTEs IN BC PUBLIC SERVICE, 2017/18 – 2021/22

						Year over Year Change - Increase (Decrease)			
Ministry	**Actual 2017/18**	**Actual 2018/19**	**Actual 2019/20**	**Actual 2020/21**	**Forecast 2021/22**	***2017/18 vs 2018/19***	***2018/19 vs 2019/20***	***2019/20 vs 2020/21***	***2020/21 vs 2021/22***
Legislation	350	350	350	350	350	0	0	0	0
Officers of the Legislature	339	364	385	418	444	25	21	33	26
Office of the Premier	74	84	85	81	91	10	1	(4)	10
Advanced Education	360	354	373	383	412	(6)	19	10	29
Agriculture, Food and Fisheries	360	373	395	412	420	13	22	17	8
Attorney General	3,988	4,206	4,452	4,563	4,590	219	246	111	27
Children and Family Development	4,315	4,647	4,774	4,769	4,585	332	127	(5)	(184)
Citizens' Services	1,636	1,791	1,932	2,006	2,156	155	141	74	150
Education	359	377	392	385	394	18	16	(8)	9
Energy, Mines & Low Carbon Innovation	315	329	382	410	425	15	52	28	15
Environment & Climate Change Strategy	1,029	1,114	1,269	1,404	1,483	86	154	135	79
Finance	1,635	1,723	1,639	1,551	1,690	88	(84)	(88)	139
Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations	4,894	5,098	4,878	4,963	5,422	204	(219)	85	459
Health	1,191	1,278	1,363	1,505	1,585	87	85	142	80
Housing	130	161	164	163	159	31	3	(1)	(4)
Indigenous Relations & Reconcilliation	227	228	235	229	245	1	8	(6)	16
International Trade	Rolled into Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation								
Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation	392	358	367	341	268	(33)	9	(27)	(73)
Labour	281	284	330	346	360	4	46	16	14
Mental Health & Addictions	21	54	60	69	81	33	7	8	
Municipal Affairs	244	242	242	263	329	(2)	0	21	66
Natural Gas Development	Rolled into Energy, Mines & Low Carbon Innovation								
Public Safety and Solicitor General	3,280	3,452	3,558	3,728	3,942	172	106	169	214
Public Service Agency	476	540	565	559	557	64	25	(5)	(2)
Small Business and Red Tape Reduction	Parts moved to PSSG; Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation; Citizens' Services								
Social Development & Poverty Reduction	1,905	1,974	2,033	1,986	1,933	70	59	(47)	(53)
Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport	62	70	74	78	77	8	4	4	
Transportation and Infrastructure	1,412	1,419	1,456	1,463	1,477	7	38	7	14
Other Appropriations	21	21	21	18	19	0	(0)	(2)	1
TOTAL FTEs	**29,291**	**30,891**	**31,774**	**32,444**	**33,400**	**1,600**	**883**	**670**	**956**

MINISTER ADVISORY NOTE

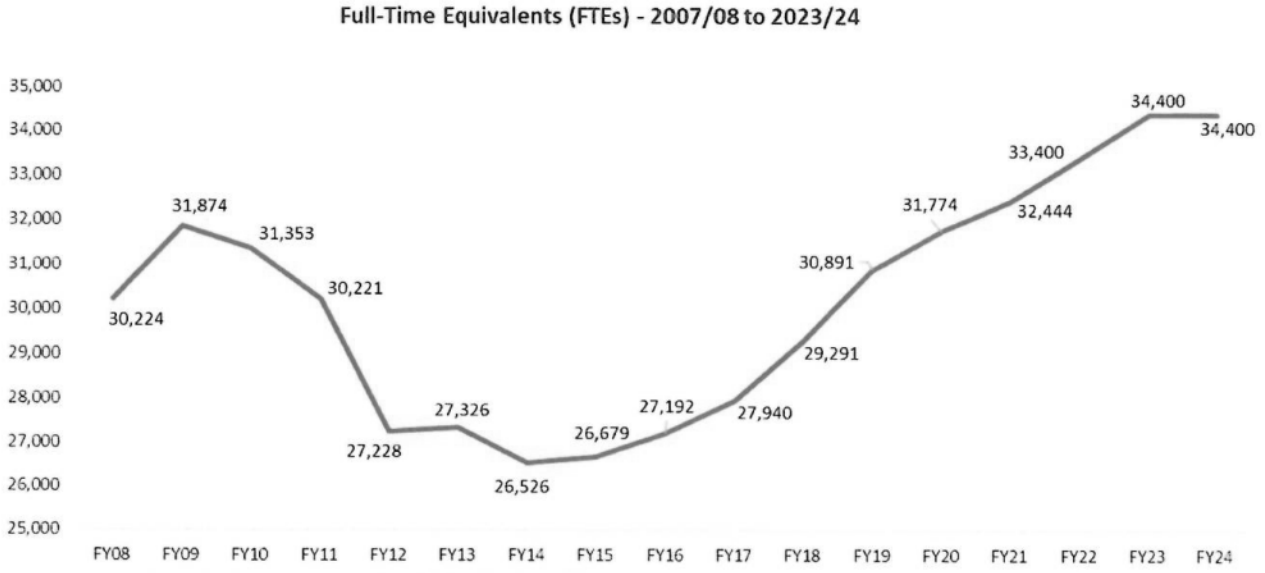
FTEs IN SERVICE DELIVERY AGENCIES, BUDGET 2022

	Actual 2017/18	Actual 2018/19	Actual 2019/20	Actual 2020/21	Q3 Fcst 2021/22	Estimate 2022/23	Plan 2023/24	Plan 2024/25	Year over Year Change - Increase (Decrease) 2017/18 vs 2018/19	2018/19 vs 2019/20	2019/20 vs 2020/21	2020/21 vs 2021/22	2021/22 vs 2022/23	2022/23 vs 2023/24
Listed service delivery agencies														
B. C. Transportation Fin Auth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TI Corp [1]	41	39	27	64	-	-	-	-	(2)	(12)	37	(64)	-	-
B. C. Transit	910	960	983	1,027	1,099	1,099	1,099	1,099	50	23	44	72	-	-
B. C. Housing	751	802	867	867	955	955	955	955	51	65	-	88	-	-
Community Living BC	524	558	592	617	640	678	682	687	34	34	25	23	38	4
Other taxpayer-supported Crown corporations														
B. C. Assessment Authority	734	710	716	680	675	641	609	609	(24)	6	(36)	(5)	(34)	(32)
B.C. Council for International Education	-	-	12	12	12	12	12	12	-	12	-	-	-	-
B.C. Financial Services Authority	-	-	147	167	264	325	323	323	-	147	20	97	61	(2)
B. C. Games Soc	10	9	8	8	10	10	10	10	(1)	(1)	-	2	-	-
InBC (formerly B. C. Immigrant Investment Fund Ltd)	-	-	-	-	4	16	23	23	-	-	-	4	12	7
B. C. Infrastructure Benefits Inc.	-	-	35	110	558	1,782	2,371	1,897	-	35	75	448	1,224	589
B.C. Family Maintenance Agency	-	-	188	189	201	201	201	201	-	188	1	12	-	-
B. C. Pavilion Corp	279	279	298	143	210	280	280	280	-	19	(155)	67	70	-
B. C. Securities Comm	222	245	262	266	282	290	276	274	23	17	4	16	8	(14)
Canadian Blood Services	307	304	305	310	307	307	307	307	(3)	1	5	(3)	-	-
Columbia Basin Trust	58	65	73	82	90	92	93	94	7	8	9	8	2	1
Destination BC	99	100	100	103	108	111	108	108	1	-	3	5	3	(3)
First Peoples' Heritage Language	12	30	44	46	47	47	47	47	18	14	2	1	-	-
Forest Enhancement Society of BC	5	5	6	6	6	6	6		-	1	-	-	-	-
Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd	46	46	49	54	55	55	55	55	-	3	5	1	-	-
Industry Training Authority	112	114	118	130	138	160	172	172	2	4	12	8	22	12
Innovate BC (formerly BC Innnovation Council)	21	19	21	18	19	17	17	17	(2)	2	(3)	1	(2)	-
Knowledge Network Corp	48	48	45	44	44	46	46	46	-	(3)	(1)	-	2	-
Legal Services Soc	150	150	211	203	206	206	206	206	-	61	(8)	3	-	-
Oil and Gas Comm	259	267	270	278	279	279	279	279	8	3	8	1	-	-
Organized Crime Agency of B. C. Soc	68	70	114	82	82	82	82	82	2	44	(32)	-	-	-
Partnerships British Columbia Inc (Infra BC)	32	32	38	37	39	43	43	43	-	6	(1)	2	4	-
Real Estate Council	60	68	97	107					8	29	10	(107)	-	-
Real Estate Foundation	8	9	10	10	9	9	9	9	1	1	-	(1)	-	-
Royal BC Museum	114	113	124	136	150	150	150	150	(1)	11	12	14	-	-
Other Service Delivery Agencies	206	216	225	246	209	209	209	209	10	9	21	(37)	-	-
Total FTEs - SDAs	**5,076**	**5,258**	**5,985**	**6,042**	**6,698**	**8,108**	**8,670**	**8,194**	**182**	**727**	**57**	**656**	**1,410**	**562**

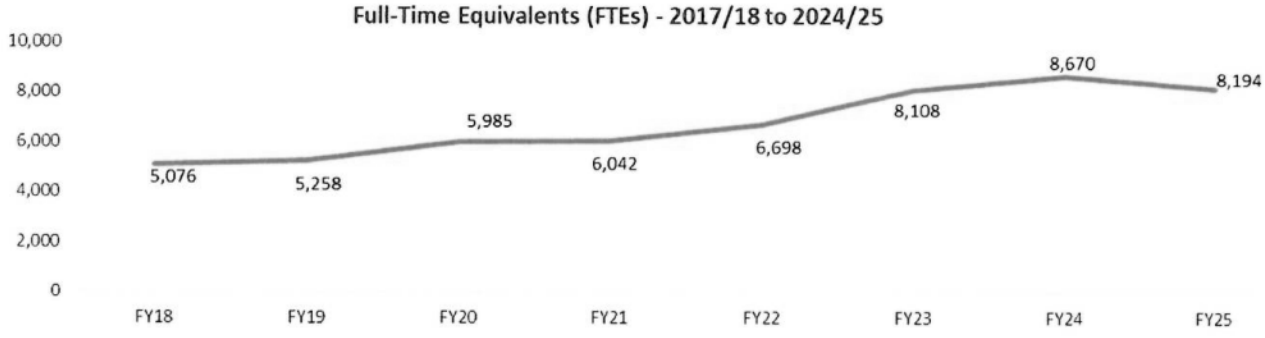
MINISTER ADVISORY NOTE

Appendix B:

BC PUBLIC SERVICE FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS, 2007/08 – 2023/24



Note: FY07-FY21 are Actuals published in the Public Accounts. FY22-FY24 are forecasts from the Budget and Fiscal Plan.



Note: FY18-FY21 are Actuals published in the Public Accounts. FY22 is a Q3 forecast; FY23-FY25 are forecasts from the Budget and Fiscal Plan.

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MINISTER ADVISORY NOTE
AS OF MAY 9, 2022

ISSUE: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The public sector bargaining mandate for agreements expiring on or after March 31, 2022 has been established by, and continues to be under review by, the Public Sector Employers' Council Secretariat (PSEC).**

Government Financial Information

- Government Financial Information

- **There are five collective agreements within the BC Public Service. Collective agreements for the BCGEU, PEA and BC Nurses Union (BCNU) expired on March 31, 2022. The collective agreement with Unifor expires June 30, 2022.** Government Financial Information

Government Financial Information

- **The following table provides a summary of the bargaining status for each of the five BC Public Service collective agreements:**

Union/Association	Contract Expiry	Negotiation Status	Employee Count
BCGEU	March 31, 2022	Government Financial Information	30,176
PEA	March 31, 2022		1,283
BCCCA	March 31, 2019		523
BCNU	March 31, 2022		102
Unifor	June 30, 2022		14

SECONDARY MESSAGES:

- **The public sector bargaining mandate is established by PSEC which is responsible for overseeing overall public sector bargaining on behalf of the Minister of Finance. PSEC's authority is under the *Public Sector Employers' Act.***

- **The PSA is the bargaining agent for the government, as set out under s. 3 of the *Public Service Labour Relations Act* (PSLRA), in negotiations with public service unions.**

CURRENT STATUS:

- Government Financial Information

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KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

- There are three bargaining units within the BC Public Service defined by s. 4 of the PSLRA:
  - British Columbia General Employees' Union (BCGEU),
  - Professional Employees Association (PEA) and
  - British Columbia Nurses Union (BCNU).
- Two other bargaining units exist within the BC Public Service outside of the PSLRA:
  - British Columbia Crown Counsel Association (BCCCA) and
  - Unifor (Queen's Printer).

MINISTER ADVISORY NOTE

CONTACT: ALYSON BLACKSTOCK, ADM, EMPLOYEE RELATIONS
PHONE: 778.698.7912

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MINISTER ADVISORY NOTE
AS OF MARCH 7, 2022

ISSUE: POLITICAL STAFF STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **In April 2014, Cabinet approved the Standards of Conduct for Political Staff. Political staff are appointees who serve as advisors and assistants and who share the governing party's political commitment.**

- **These Standards closely resemble the Standards of Conduct applicable to regular employees in the BC Public Service but recognize the unique partisan role played by political staff.**

- **The Standards of Conduct for Political Staff provide guidance on how political staff may exercise their partisan duties while also respecting the non-partisan role of employees in the BC Public Service.**

- **Political staff must comply with these Standards as a condition of employment. Those who fail to comply may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.**

CURRENT STATUS:

- Currently, the job titles deemed political staff include but are not limited to Executive Assistants to a Minister and Ministerial Assistants.

- The Standards of Conduct for Political Staff (in tandem with the Political Staff Oath) resolve the previously existing conflict between the obligation of political staff to provide partisan advice as part of their job duties, and the obligation under the Standards of Conduct for public service employees to act objectively and impartially.

KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

- Conduct expectations for regular public service employees are established by the Standards of Conduct, a policy first enacted in March 1987. The Standards of Conduct apply to all persons and organizations covered by the *Public Service Act.* Compliance with the Standards of Conduct is a condition of employment.

- In March 2013, the Deputy Minister to the Premier submitted a report to the Premier and Cabinet entitled "Review of the draft Multicultural Strategic Outreach Plan." The review required the BC Public Service Agency to assess whether the Standards of Conduct were sufficient to regulate both the conduct of regular public service employees and of political staff.

- In January 2014, Cabinet approved the recommendation of the BC Public Service Agency to establish by regulation the Political Staff Oath and Standards of Conduct for Political Staff. The regulations were deposited in April 2014.

- The Standards for Political Staff remove the obligation for political staff to act impartially and to base recommendations and decisions on objective evidence. A section is also included regarding appropriate interactions between political staff and members of the permanent public service. The Chief of Staff to the Premier is assigned responsibility for communicating and addressing breaches of the Standards of Conflict for Political Staff.

- Similarly, the Political Staff Oath replicates the requirements of the Public Service Oath, save for provisions related to serving the government impartially and basing recommendations and decisions on objective evidence. These new authorities resolved the conflict between the obligation of political staff to provide partisan advice as part of their job duties, and the obligation under the Standards of Conduct for public service employees to act objectively and impartially.

- Political staff are defined as: persons appointed under section 15(1)(a) of the *Public Service Act* who report through to the Chief of Staff to the Premier or provide support to a Minister, and who are not assigned job duties primarily of an administrative, technical or communications nature. Most appointees working in the Office of the Premier and supporting Minister's offices are political staff (e.g., Ministerial Assistants and Executive Assistants). Appointees to Government Communications and Public Engagement are not political staff.

CONTACT: RUEBEN BRONEE, ADM, POLICY, INNOVATION AND ENGAGEMENT
PHONE: 250.213.6614

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION
CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION
PROGRAM NOTES 2022/2023

TOPIC: Ministry Budget - Income Assistance

KEY INFORMATION:

- The Income Assistance sub-vote budget for 2022/23 is **$3.08 billion**, a year over year increase of **$51.9 million** and an incremental reduction of **$12.9 million** from Budget 2021.

Income Assistance - Budget 2022 Fiscal Plan					
($ millions)	**2021/22 Budget Restated[1]**	**Change**	**2022/23 Budget**	**2023/24 Plan**	**2024/25 Plan**
Temporary Assistance	547.4	12.5	**559.9**	544.9	544.9
Disability Assistance	1,871.9	24.0	**1,895.9**	1,908.0	1,916.0
Supplementary Assistance	453.3	(2.1)	**451.2**	457.5	465.1
Program Management	154.6	17.5	**172.1**	183.5	183.5
Income Assistance	**3,027.2**	**51.9**	**3,079.1**	**3,094.0**	**3,109.6**

[1] Funding Provincial Director of Child welfare (PDCW) and Modelling and Information Management (MAIM) Privacy Function moved from MCFD. Total 6 FTE, $633,000.

- Budget 2022 shows an overall reduction to Income Assistance of **$9.2 million** over the three-year fiscal plan.

Income Assistance - Budget 2022 Incremental Funding				
($ millions)	**2022/23**	**2023/24**	**2024/25**	**TOTAL**
Temporary Assistance	(1.5)	(14.3)	(14.3)	**(30.1)**
Disability Assistance	(20.8)	(14.0)	(6.0)	**(40.7)**
Supplementary Assistance	(8.1)	3.9	11.5	**7.3**
Program Management	17.6	18.3	18.3	**54.3**
Income Assistance	**(12.8)**	**(6.0)**	**9.6**	**(9.2)**

Data Source: FASB

Contact: Adam McKinnon, Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer, CSD
Cell Phone: 250-217-4377

BACKGROUND:

Key Changes for Income Assistance in Budget 2022:

- $213.9 million funding allocated to SDPR in Budget 2021 for Income Assistance programs, over and above the ministry's revised funding requirements, has been reallocated in the current budget.
- This approach ensures the ministry is best positioned to support the Province's Homelessness Strategy and advance implementation of the Accessible BC Act, while continuing to provide support for individuals requiring temporary and/or disability assistance. Highlights of the ministry's investment in the Homelessness Strategy include:
    - *expansion of the Community Integration Specialists (CIS) program*,
    - *providing a minimum $75 shelter rate allowance to help persons experiencing homelessness*, and
    - *policy revisions to support individuals facing, or at risk of, homelessness.*

- Temporary Assistance – **($30.1) million**

($ millions)	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	TOTAL
Reallocated Caseload	(11.4)	(24.3)	(24.3)	**(60.0)**
CIS Program Expansion	0.9	0.9	0.9	**2.8**
Policy Revisions Homelessness	4.1	4.1	4.1	**12.4**
$75 Shelter allowance for homeless	4.9	4.9	4.9	**14.7**
Total	**(1.5)**	**(14.3)**	**(14.3)**	**(30.1)**

- Disability Assistance – **($40.7) million**

($ millions)	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	TOTAL
Reallocated Caseload	(33.8)	(26.9)	(18.9)	**(79.6)**
CIS Program Expansion	1.0	1.0	1.0	**3.0**
Policy Revisions Homelessness	5.9	5.9	5.9	**17.6**
$75 Shelter allowance for homeless	6.1	6.1	6.1	**18.2**
Total	**(20.8)**	**(14.0)**	**(6.0)**	**(40.7)**

Contact: Adam McKinnon, Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer, CSD
Cell Phone: 250-217-4377

- Supplementary Assistance – **$7.3 million**

($ millions)	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	TOTAL
Reallocated Caseload	(10.6)	(7.6)	0.0	**(18.2)**
CIS Program Expansion	0.0	9.0	9.0	**18.0**
Policy Revisions Homelessness	2.0	2.0	2.0	**3.0**
Accessibility Directorate	0.5	0.5	0.5	**1.5**
Total	**(8.1)**	**3.9**	**11.5**	**7.3**

- Program Management – **$54.3 million**

($ millions)	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	TOTAL
CIS Program Expansion	12.5	13.2	13.2	**39.0**
Front Line Staff	5.0	5.0	5.0	**15.0**
Legal Services	0.1	0.1	0.1	**0.3**
Total	**17.6**	**18.3**	**18.3**	**54.3**

Contact: Adam McKinnon, Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer, CSD
Cell Phone: 250-217-4377

ESTIMATES NOTE

TOURISM RECOVERY INITIATIVES- 3 YEAR PLAN

Issue: Overview of the Tourism Recovery Initiatives Action Plan Funding

Key Messaging and Recommended Response:

- **The tourism industry has been among the hardest hit by the pandemic.**
- **Since day one, our Government has been working closely with people in the industry to understand the challenges, hear their suggestions on recovery and provide supports.**
- **We know recovery is going to take time and we're going to work closely with the sector to ensure we can build back even better than before.**
- **As part of Budget 2021 our government committed $120M in support for the tourism industry.**
- **In Budget 2022, an additional $25 million is committed to support the tourism sector's continuing recovery.**
- **We have already rolled out several programs, including the BC Major Anchor Attractions Program, the Tourism Accommodation and Commercial Recreation Relief Grants, and the BC Fairs Festivals and Events Fund.**
- **Our action plan is multi-faceted and offers supports to help:**
  - **maintain BC's tourism supply through supports for businesses and community infrastructure,**
  - **drive demand through the restart of the events sector and investments in tourism marketing, and**
  - **foster long term resilience with support for tourism human resources, Indigenous tourism capacity building and student training grants.**

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- Through Budget 2021, $120M was approved in FY2021/22 for:
  - BC Major Anchor Attractions fund ($50M)
  - Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program – Destination Development Stream ($20M)

ESTIMATES NOTE

- The first year of the 3-year Tourism Recovery Initiatives Action Plan ($50M).

- To help support the safe restart of events, government committed to reallocate the $12.9 million surplus from Major Anchor Attractions program to create a Fairs, Festivals, and Events Recovery Fund (BCFFE) (see note #29 for more detail on this).
- Due to oversubscription of the BCFFE fund, a top-up of an additional $17.05M was approved from the $50M tourism initiatives envelope in FY21/22. BCFFE fund recipients were announced on December 13, 2021.
- Additionally, the Indigenous Tourism Recovery Grants funding was announced at the Indigenous Tourism BC (ITBC) Annual General Meeting on November 16, 2021. This grant fund of $3M was approved from the Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information
- Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information the remaining funding for the Tourism Recovery Initiatives for up to $29.950M in FY21/22, Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information
- TACS consulted with sector partners including the Tourism Sector Recovery Roundtable, Destination BC, and incorporated Tourism Task Force Recommendations on the creation of this 3-year plan.
- Tourism Accommodation and Recreation Relief Grant fund of $15M FY21/22 was announced January 14, 2022.
- The Resilience and Capacity Building funding for ITBC, $3.7M FY21/22 to be expended over the fiscal plan period was announced January 19, 2022.
- Destination Development: $15M FY22/23 and $15M FY23/24 was announced on February 4, 2022
- The Regional Human Resources Specialists: $1.33M in FY21/22 and the Business Events Grants: $5M FY21/22, $3M FY22/23 were announced February 10, 2022.

Government Financial Information

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Budget/Expenditures:

- $50.0M FY21/22, Government Financial Information

Approvals:

[date approved] - [ADM Nick Grant, Tourism Sector Strategy Division]

ESTIMATES NOTE

TOURISM TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS (PROGRESS UPDATE)

Issue: Status of Tourism Task Force recommendations

Key Messaging and Recommended Response:

- **We know the tourism industry in B.C. has been one of the hardest hits by the pandemic.**
- **From the beginning, our government has worked closely with industry to understand the challenges and hear suggestions on what is needed.**
- **That's why, on the advice of industry, we appointed a Tourism Task Force in September 2020 to bring forward recommendations on innovative ways to best position the industry for recovery.**
- **The Province has acted on all of the Task Force's recommendations, including:**
    - **Creating a tourism-specific stream under the Small- and Medium-Sized Business Recovery program**
    - **Investing $53 million in community-based tourism infrastructure and destination development**
    - **Allocating a total of $8 million in relief funding for Indigenous tourism businesses in partnership with Indigenous Tourism BC**
    - **Partnering with go2HR to create BSAFE, a COVID-19 Safety Certificate course**
    - **Providing $5 million to Destination BC to resume B.C.-focused marketing campaigns**
    - **Investing $30 million to support fairs, festivals, and events**
    - **Committing up to $15 million for the new Tourism Accommodation and Commercial Recreation Relief Fund to help offset certain fixed costs**
- **We will continue to work with industry as we work towards completing the remaining recommendations and build back better than before.**

ESTIMATES NOTE

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- In September 2020, Government announced StrongerBC, the province's economic recovery plan. This plan included establishing a new Tourism Task Force (TTF).
- The TTF was appointed by the Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture on Sept. 18, 2020, to provide COVID-19 recovery recommendations to government for the tourism industry. The 11 appointed members of the TTF broadly represented industry, labour, and First Nations.
- The TTF submitted its Final Report to government on December 9, 2020, ahead of the December 31, 2020 deadline, as a reflection of the urgent need for support within the tourism industry.
- The Final Report included seven recommendations (and 14 sub-recommendations) under three categories: *emergency funding for businesses and the workforce*; *accelerating growth and enhancing sustainability*; and *informing a renewed Strategic Framework for Tourism in B.C.*
- At a high-level, the seven recommendations are:

1. Immediately match the $50 million with another $50 million from the Small-/Medium-Sized Business Grant program (COMPLETE)
2. Allocate $5 million to Indigenous Tourism British Columbia (ITBC) for Indigenous tourism business grants (COMPLETE)
3. Allocate $95 million to an Emergency Fund for Tourism to be accessed by businesses in the form of grants. Funding can be used by businesses for enhanced sick pay for workers, continued benefits payments for workers, or other cash flow pressures including fixed costs such as property tax payments. (COMPLETE)
4. Develop a safety certificate program to protect workers, customers, and community members (COMPLETE)
5. Prioritize innovative approaches to lifting travel restrictions, such as rapid testing protocols and healthy travel corridors (COMPLETE)
6. Defer/relieve fixed costs including property taxes, utility fees, tenure, or other Crown fees (IN PROGRESS)
7. Inform a renewed Strategic Framework for Tourism in BC, that reflects the COVID-19 context and considers further opportunities to support mid-term recovery and long-term resiliency in the tourism industry (IN PROGRESS)

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

Approvals:

[date approved] - [Nick Grant, Tourism Sector Strategy Division]

ESTIMATES NOTE

CRUISE INDUSTRY RESTART

Issue: Resumption of 2022 Cruise Season

Key Messaging and Recommended Response:

- **Our Government is approaching the safe resumption of cruise in accordance with Transport Canada and Public Health Agency of Canada guidelines.**
- **The announcement by the Public Health Agency of Canada that as of February 28 all travellers, including cruise passengers, can take a rapid antigen test instead of a molecular or PCR test before arrival is good news, and provides greater certainty for the upcoming cruise season.**
- **We, along with our colleagues in the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the Ministry of Health, continue to work in close collaboration with Transport Canada, the Cruise Lines International Association and industry leaders, the regional health authorities, and First Nations communities to support a safe and smooth resumption for the 2022 cruise season.**
- **A COVID-19 Management Plan must be implemented in accordance with Transport Canada regulations for every cruise ship intending to operate in Canadian waters, with weekly reporting requirements. These plans will be in place by the start of the cruise season in early April.**
- **As a home port, Vancouver is seeing a healthy number of itineraries already being offered in 2022. This includes itineraries to and from Alaska, with stops on the return journey in Victoria.**
- **We are optimistic and look forward to welcoming the world back to British Columbia, with a resumption of the cruise industry in 2022.**
- **We are confident that B.C. and our B.C. ports will remain a preferred and sought out destination for cruise.**
- **I look forward to welcoming the first ship back to our Victoria port on April 6, 2022.**

ESTIMATES NOTE

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- As of February 28, 2022, the Public Health Agency of Canada eased border measures regarding pre-arrival COVID-19 testing requirements. Travellers can take the rapid antigen test instead of the more expensive molecular/PCR test, to meet pre-entry requirements.
- As of January 15, 2022, a voluntary sail order is in place and cruise lines are encouraged to continue to follow all US Centre for Disease Control public health measures, including reporting, testing, and infection prevention and control. More information about CDC's COVID-19 Program for Cruise Ships will be released soon.
- Vancouver is the only homeport with one-way and round-trip itineraries to Alaska. Cruises include the Alaska route, Hawaii, the Panama Canal, Asia, the South Pacific, and California via Canada Place cruise terminal. Alaska itineraries make up the largest share of itineraries.
- Victoria, Nanaimo, and Prince Rupert are ports of call for the Alaska cruise route.

2022 Cruise Projections

- As of April 1, 2022, Vancouver will have 319 vessel calls from 22 cruise lines in place for the 2022 season. If booked at 100% capacity, this could mean a total of 1.2 million passengers over the season (a higher volume than in 2019).
- There are currently 350 ship calls scheduled to arrive at the Victoria Cruise Terminal over the 2022 season. The Greater Victoria Harbour Authority estimates there will be 759,000 passengers, or close to the equivalent number from the 2019 season.

Engagement & Response

- Since August 2021, MOTI and TACS have been co-hosting monthly industry engagement meetings to discuss the safe resumption of cruise operations.
- In addition, the Cruise Lines International Association, Transport Canada, and the Public Health Agency of Canada have been meeting regularly in preparation for safe cruise ship resumption in the spring of 2022.
- The Ministry of Health has been meeting regularly with representatives from the ports (Victoria, Vancouver, Nanaimo, and Prince Rupert) and the three regional health authorities plus the First Nations Health Authority to work out the details of the safe return of cruise to those communities.
- At the end of November 2021, Transport Canada issued an updated Interim Order outlining their approach for a new health framework for cruise ship operators and a vaccination mandate for passengers that includes the following mandatory components:
    - 100% vaccine requirements for all eligible passengers (with potential narrow exemptions).
    - COVID Management Plans for cruise ships in place by January 31, 2022.
    - Strict reporting protocols.
- Transport Canada's approach to cruise ship resumption incorporates a focus on compatibility with international models and alignment with U.S. requirements to support continuity for the cruise industry.

Resident Concerns

- Concerns have been raised by some residents of the James Bay neighbourhood in Victoria about cruise ship emissions, scheduling and frequency of dockings, shore power, traffic congestion, over-tourism and waste produced off-ship by cruise passengers.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- Concerns about emissions and pollution standards are the responsibility and purview of Transport Canada. Public health and safety measures for cruise ships are the responsibility of Transport Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada.
- Concerns about waste produced by cruise passengers off-ship can be directed to the City of Victoria and Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), the industry representative.
- Concerns regarding traffic congestion, and noise and activity in the neighbourhoods of James Bay and Odgen Point are the purview of the City of Victoria and Destination Greater Victoria.
- Docking scheduling and frequency, and shore power concerns can be directed to the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority.

US Legislation – *Alaska Tourism Restoration Act*

- On February 17, 2022, Alaskan Senator Lisa Murkowski reintroduced the *Alaska Tourism Restoration Act* in the U.S. Senate, and Rep. Don Young did so in the House of Representatives. Murkowski's office stated that this is intended as a 'messaging piece' and an 'insurance policy' if Canada implements a cruise ship ban for any or all of the 2022 or future Alaska cruising seasons.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

Approvals:

[date approved] - [ADM Nick Grant, Tourism Sector Strategy Division]

B.C. PAVILION CORPORATION (PAVCO) PROFILE

Statutory Authorities: *BC Business Corporations Act,* and
British Columbia Enterprise Corporation Act
Type of Organization: Crown Corporation
Appointment Process: Shareholder Consent Resolution

Purpose of Crown:

- B.C. Pavilion Corporation (PavCo) generates economic and community benefit for the people of B.C. by prudently managing its public facilities in Vancouver – BC Place and the Vancouver Convention Centre.
- The Vancouver Convention Centre is the provincial flagship for conventions, trade and consumer shows and meetings. It was the world's first double LEED® Platinum certified convention centre.
- BC Place is the largest indoor gathering place in British Columbia and provides support to industry as a venue for consumer shows, as well as being a major sports and entertainment centre.
- Prior to COVID-19, PavCo generated in excess of $450 million per year of economic benefit and provided significant community benefit for the people of B.C.
- The events held at PavCo's facilities support the tourism and hospitality industries, as well as trade development. PavCo's clients and guests utilize hotel rooms, local hospitality services and goods and services produced by many B.C.-based businesses.
- PavCo's business has been significantly impacted by pandemic-related restrictions on travel and public gatherings. While there were no large-scale in-person events at its venues in 2020, BC Place and Vancouver Convention Centre returned to hosting professional sporting events, consumer events and small-scale meetings in 2021 that were permissible under British Columbia's public health orders. PavCo will continue to monitor trends and risks and will adjust its marketing and response efforts appropriately.
- Throughout the pandemic PavCo has worked closely with Provincial health partners to support the Province's pandemic response and recovery plans through a series of healthcare activations including mass vaccination clinic, Alternate Care Site, lab processing site and more.

Financial Impact of COVID-19:

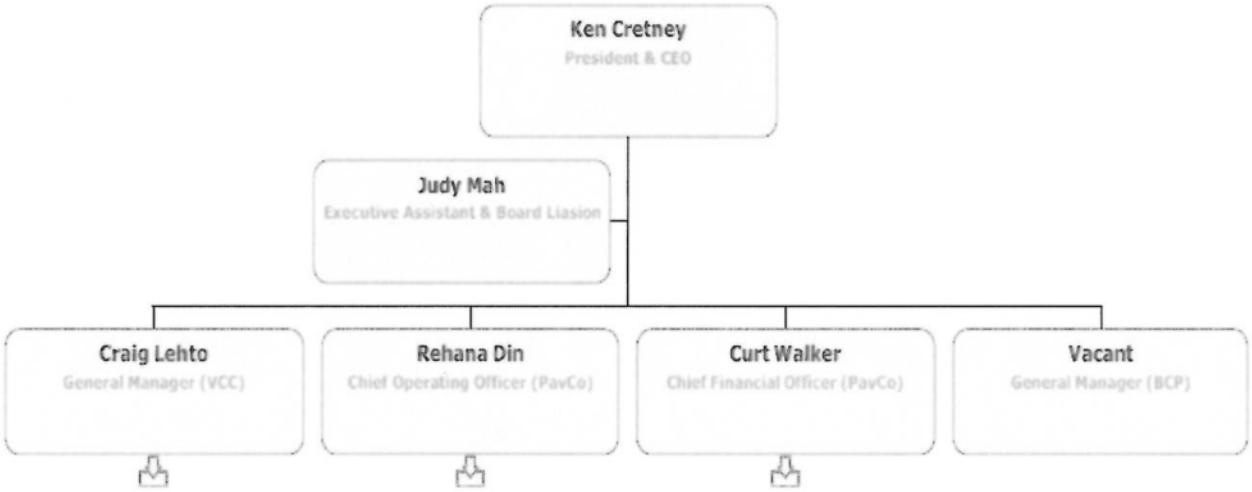
- During the pandemic, PavCo implemented several cost-cutting and efficiency measures, including: a workforce strategy, reduction in outside contractors, instituting a hiring freeze, stopping all non-essential travel and training, suspending any internal promotions and salary adjustments and more.
- PavCo received additional provincial funding of $30.161 million in FY2020/21 and will receive up to $26.034 million in FY2021/22 to assist with the impact from

COVID-19 pandemic.

Legislative Priorities:

- None currently identified.

Organizational Chart:



Client Profile:

- Visitors from British Columbia and around the world
- Businesses and associations representing the tourism and hospitality industries
- Clients leasing space for commercial activity and renting space for events
- Suppliers of goods and services to events
- Community neighbours and the general public
- Federal, provincial and municipal institutions and ministries

2022/23 Priorities/Key Initiatives:

PavCo's main strategic goals are to:

- Create economic and community benefit while optimizing corporate profit.
- Provide exceptional customer service.
- Build a highly engaged workforce.

Board Composition:

- Currently, there are six Board members.
- Section 120(A) of *the Business Corporations Act* stipulates that the company must have at least one director and in the case of a public company, must have

at least three directors.

- Section 11.1 of the Articles of Incorporation state that the shareholders can elect or appoint directors at any time.
- The number of directors may be determined by Shareholder Consent Resolution, signed by the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport (the shareholder).
- The shareholder may designate a chair or the chair may be elected by the Board.
- The Articles of Incorporation provide a process for the board to elect a chair if there is no chair designated by the shareholder.

Name	Position	Date of Appointment	Term Expiry
Dr. Gwendolyn (Gwen) Point	Chair	7-Aug-18 (Board) 9-Sep-21 (Chair)	At Pleasure
Clifford (Dan) Cahill	Director	7-Aug-18	At Pleasure
Flavia Coughlan	Director	7-Aug-18	At Pleasure
Carla Guerrera	Director	7-Aug-18	At Pleasure
Roderick (Rod) Harris	Director	7-Aug-18	At Pleasure
Jatinder Rai	Director	21-Oct-16	At Pleasure

Appointments Required:

- No changes to the Board appointments are anticipated within the next 90 days

Website: http://www.bcpavco.com/

Contacts: Ken Cretney, President and CEO
kcretney@bcpavco.com

Curt Walker, Financial Officer (Interim)
cwalker@bcpavco.com

Rehana Din, Chief Operating Officer (Interim)
rdin@bcpavco.com

ESTIMATES NOTE

CHINESE CANADIAN MUSEUM

Issue: Establishment of the Chinese Canadian Museum

Key Messaging and Recommended Response:

- **The Province is committed to establishing a Chinese Canadian Museum - Canada's first museum honouring the Chinese Canadian community.**
- **The Museum will recognize the robust and significant contributions of Chinese Canadians in B.C., both past and present.**
- **Our government has announced $25.5 million to support the purchase of the Museum facility in Vancouver Chinatown, and $2 million in one-time funds to support continued planning and operations of the Chinese Canadian Museum Society of B.C.**
- **To date, our government has invested more than $38 million into the Chinese Canadian Museum.**
- **The Chinese Canadian Museum Society of B.C. is now leading the project and will operate the Museum once it is established.**
- **Instances of racism towards the Chinese community and anti-Asian sentiment during the pandemic reinforce the need for a museum that honours this community's contributions to our province.**

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The Chinese Canadian Museum will be located in Vancouver Chinatown with an online portal offering digital experiences.
- The Chinese Canadian Museum Society of B.C. (the Society) was incorporated on March 13, 2020 as a non-profit society to advance the development and operation of the Museum.
- The Society has a 20 member board to govern the Museum, including two representatives from the Province and one representative from the City of Vancouver.
- On March 27, 2020 the Society and the Province entered into a Shared Cost Agreement which provided $10 million in funding to the Society.
- The funding agreement has two specific components:
  - $2 million to be used by the Society to build their administrative capacity to establish and operate the museum; and
  - $8 million for an endowment where the earnings will support activities.
- Since incorporating in March 2020, the Society has made significant progress towards the establishment of the Museum. Key milestones include:

- Opening its first temporary exhibit, *A Seat at the Table*, on August 15, 2020 in Vancouver Chinatown within the historic Hon Hsing building. This exhibit has since received the Public History Prize from the Canadian Historical Association;
- Launching new exhibition in Fan Tan Alley in Victoria Chinatown;
- Hiring of five full-time, fixed-term employees;
- Contracting a consultant to lead the development of the thematic plan for the Museum;
- Developing the Society's first three-year strategic plan;
- Launching the first collaborative in-person school program "Chinatown, Existing"; and
- Launching a catalogue for *A Seat at the Table: Chinese Immigration and British Columbia*.
- Launching two new temporary exhibitions in Victoria's Fan Tan Alley in February 2022: "First Steps: Chinese Canadian Journeys in Victoria" and "Gold Mountain Dream!"
- The Society identified a permanent site for the Museum, the Wing Sang building, which is the oldest building in Vancouver Chinatown and a designated heritage building. Acquisition of this building was announced on February 11, 2022.

- On February 11, 2022, Government announced that it will further the commitment to establish the Chinese Canadian Museum through provision of $27.5 million to the Society: $25.5 million for acquisition of the Wing Sang building and closing costs and $2 million for ongoing support for operations and establishment of the permanent location.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Budget/Expenditures:

- Advice/Recommentations

- On September 29, 2021 Treasury Board approved:
  - Up to $25.5 million to support the purchase of the preferred site, including closing costs.
  - $2 million in one-time funds to support continued planning and operations in FY2021/22 and FY2022/23.

Approvals:

[February 14, 2022] – Claire Avison, Arts and Culture Division

ESTIMATES NOTE

ROYAL BC MUSEUM - OVERVIEW

Issue: Royal BC Museum – recent and forthcoming changes

Key Messaging and Recommended Response:

- **Through the provincial archives, exhibitions, and educational programs, the Royal BC Museum tells the story of the people, places and history of our province.**
- **The Royal BC Museum is one of our province's greatest cultural icons, welcoming hundreds of thousands of visitors each year (pre-pandemic).**
- **The Museum is working to become a welcoming and inclusive workplace following the findings of a Public Service Agency investigation, which confirmed acts of racism and discrimination at the Museum.**
- **This work is part of the Museum's efforts to modernize and change, in its facilities, programming, practices, policies and procedures as well as its workplace culture.**
- **The modernization of the Museum has been a long-standing commitment by this government, made in both the current and previous mandates.**
- **Our vision is to build a new state-of-the-art facility that provides a cultural and historical legacy for the province and brings significant economic and social benefits for the region.**
- **The Collections and Research Building is making progress, and is currently in the procurement phase.**
- **The Royal BC Museum is currently in the planning stages of a formal province wide public outreach process which will begin in Spring 2022 to provide input into upcoming changes.**

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The Royal BC Museum (RBCM) was established as a Crown corporation in 2003 under the *Museum Act*. Under the Act, the RBCM is mandated to:

  - Communicate knowledge of the human and natural history of British Columbia through research, exhibitions, publications and web-based media and learning programs.
  - Hold and make accessible these collections for current and future generations of British Columbians.
- The Arts and Culture Division provides oversight of the relationship with the Royal BC Museum, including issuing mandate and budget letters and annual service planning.
- The Province provides $11.866 million in annual operating funding to the Museum, approximately 52% of the operating budget.

- For additional information on Royal BC Museum see the following notes:
  - *60 – Royal BC Museum – Modernization Project*
  - *61 – Royal BC Museum Indigenous Repatriation*

Culture Shift:

- Following staff allegations of racism and discrimination at the Museum in 2021, the Public Service Agency conducted an investigation. The results were released in June 2021 in a 33-page report.
- The report confirmed there have been acts of racism and discrimination at the Museum and that the Museum is viewed by some staff as a culture of distrust.
- The Board Chair and Acting CEO Daniel Muzyka apologized to all those who were mistreated at the Museum.
- The Museum is implementing a plan to address the investigation's findings, which includes recruiting new personnel, implementing a multi-year Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility training program and creating an entirely new Museum experience responding to community engagement.
- A new CEO, Alicia Dubois, was announced on February 9th and is slated to begin in the position on February 28th.

Third Floor Closure:

- As of November 1, the Museum began closing sections of the third floor to start the process of modernization in these galleries, leading up to a full closure of the third floor on January 2, 2022.
- This decision generated substantial public reaction, both in mainstream media and on social media platforms, with many criticisms suggesting this work is occurring without a plan and that the museum is attempting to erase European settler history.
- The Museum is offering opportunities to enjoy the galleries during third-floor closure, including webinars, pop-up and travelling exhibits, and online learning. The Museum has also captured the galleries via 3D tour, to be published online this year.
- The Museum is currently in the planning stages of a formal province wide public outreach process which will begin in Spring/Summer 2022 to provide input into upcoming changes.

Modernization:

- See Note *#60: Royal BC Museum – Modernization Project*

ESTIMATES NOTE

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Budget/Expenditures:

- For Fiscal Year 2020/21, RBCM forecasted a fiscal deficit of $4.279M and received: $3.400M in Covid-19 Relief to support their projected cash flow shortage at March 31, 2021.
- Cabinet Confidences
- The Province provides $11.9 million annually in operating funding to the Museum.

Approvals:

[February 14, 2022] – Claire Avison, Arts and Culture Division

ESTIMATES NOTE

ROYAL BC MUSEUM – MODERNIZATION PROJECT

Issue: Royal BC Museum Modernization Project update

Key Messaging and Recommended Response:

- **The Royal BC Museum is one of our province's greatest cultural icons, welcoming hundreds of thousands of visitors each year (pre-pandemic).**
- **The redevelopment of the Royal BC Museum has been a long-standing commitment by this government, made in both the current and previous mandates.**
- **Our vision is to build a new state-of-the-art facility that provides a cultural and historical legacy for the province and brings significant economic and social benefits for the region.**
- **The first phase of modernization is the Collections and Research Building, a new facility in Colwood to house Royal BC Museum's archives, collections and research department. We anticipate breaking ground this year.**
- **This facility will be energy efficient and use mass timber wood construction.**
- **The Ministry is working closely with the Royal BC Museum to consider options for the second phase of modernization at the downtown Museum site and a decision is anticipated this year.**
- **Modernizing how we preserve our past will help people learn more about our province and build a better future for everyone in B.C.**

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The Province committed to modernizing the Museum in the 2019 and 2020 Throne Speeches and in the Minister's 2020 Mandate Letter.
- The priorities for a modern museum are: accessibility, including a diversity of narratives, and reconciliation.
- The Ministry is working with Royal BC Museum as owner-clients on the modernization project, as well as with the Transportation Investment Corporation, who are undertaking the project delivery of the Collections and Research Building on behalf of the Ministry.

ESTIMATES NOTE

Collections and Research Building:

- On September 18, 2020, the Province announced the purchase of the land at Royal Bay in Colwood for the development the Collections and Research Building.
- The 15,500 square-metre facility will use mass timber construction and meet CleanBC energy efficiency standards.
- Building construction will generate more than 950 direct and indirect good-paying jobs.
- In Fall 2020, site preparations began at the Royal Bay location, including surveying and earthworks.
- A Request for Qualifications was posted in June 2021 to secure a proponent to design and build the facility. Three bidding teams were selected to participate in the next step of the selection process - a Request for Proposals, released in Fall 2021.
- The three teams invited to participate in the Request for Proposals are:
    - Kinetic Construction Ltd. Smith Bros. & Wilson (B.C.) Ltd. and Wright Holdings Inc.
    - Ledcor Design-Build (B.C.) Inc. and Knappett Projects Inc.
    - Maple Reinders Constructors Ltd.
- Collaborative meetings have been occurring with the three shortlisted proponents.
- Partial compensation in the amount of $1 million will be paid to each unsuccessful proponents in accordance with the terms of the Request for Proposals and is intended to partially cover the cost to participate in the process.
- Construction is anticipated to begin in Summer 2022 and complete in Winter 2024.
- Songhees Nation and Esquimalt Nation are also project partners for the Collections and Research Building. Both Nations have representative Indigenous Liaison Officers, who advise the modernization team on matters related to First Nations engagement, consult with the leadership of their respective First Nations, assist parties with procurement and construction, sit on the Working Group and on the Local First Nations Engagement Planning Team, and participate in community engagement activities.
- The Royal BC Museum's outreach approach to local First Nations on the Collections and Research Building Project has focused on sharing project-related information, determining specific preferences and details with respect to consultation activities, and identifying project-related concerns, interests, and opportunities.

Main Museum Site:

- The vision is to build a new state-of-the-art facility that provides a cultural legacy for the province and economic and social benefits for the local region.
- A business case for a new Museum facility has been developed and details are being finalized, including the project's scope and budget.
- The main Museum site is intended to support government policy initiatives such as CleanBC, Mass Timber, and universally accessible childcare.
- The Museum project presents an opportunity to modernize the galleries and narratives in a way that supports reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and recognizes underrepresented voices throughout the history of B.C.

ESTIMATES NOTE

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Budget/Expenditures:

- The Collections and Research Building was approved for a revised capital budget of $224.387 million and a revised operating budget for one-time operating costs of $20.334 million spread over five years.
- The final budget for the main Museum site has not yet been approved.

Collections and Research Building Fiscal Year Breakdown

Cash Flow	Total	2020 / 2021	2021 / 2022	2022 / 2023	2023 / 2024	2024 / 2025
Capital Project Total	**224,387**	**16,775**	**6,203**	**52,347**	**98,949**	**50,113**
One-Time Project Costs Total	**20,334**	**1,526**	**4,424**	**6,088**	**4,110**	**4,186**
Total Funding Requirement	**244,721**	**18,301**	**10,627**	**58,435**	**103,059**	**54,299**

Approvals:

[February 14, 2022] – Claire Avison, Arts and Culture Division

ESTIMATES NOTE

ROYAL BC MUSEUM INDIGENOUS REPATRIATION

Issue: Ministry support of repatriation initiatives

Key Messaging and Recommended Response:

- **The Province supports the return of ancestral remains, ceremonial objects, and belongings to Indigenous peoples in B.C.**
- **We encourage collaboration and long-term planning between cultural institutions and Indigenous peoples in a way that supports the principle of cultural self-determination.**
- **We are working across government and with our partners to support repatriation.**
- **Returning cultural belongings to Indigenous communities is essential for meaningful and lasting reconciliation and is aligned with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.**

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The Ministry has supported repatriation initiatives offered by both the Royal BC Museum and the BC Museums Association.
- The Ministry provided $2 million to the Royal BC Museum for repatriation initiatives that ran from 2016-2019 and involved repatriation grants, digital repatriation projects, and the creation of Canada's first repatriation handbook.
- The First Peoples Cultural Council worked with the Royal BC Museum on the establishment of its repatriation activities and in developing its Indigenous Collections and Repatriation department.
- The Royal BC Museum continues to work closely with Indigenous communities on repatriation. For instance, as of October 2021, the Museum had 24 active repatriation requests. 10 were treaty-related requests and 14 were non-treaty requests.
- The Museum is seeking additional staff to join the Indigenous Collections and Repatriation Department to support this work.
- The Ministry provided a one-time payment in April 2020 to the BC Museums Association of $500,000 out of FY2019/20 contingencies to establish a repatriation grant program.
- The Association undertook this work with guidance from the Royal BC Museum and an Indigenous Advisory Committee, a committee comprised of Indigenous leaders working to build relationships, facilitate reconciliation opportunities, and modernize museum practices.
- A total of 37 repatriation grant applications were submitted, representing nearly 50 First Nations communities.
- On May 17, 2021, the BC Museums Association announced that 25 grants totaling $450,000 were awarded.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- On May 18, 2021, coinciding with International Museums Day, BC Museums Association released a call to action for all publicly funded institutions in Canada to repatriate ancestral human remains and burial items.
- This call to action involves building relationships with Indigenous communities, learning how to support repatriation practices, securing adequate resources for repatriation work, and ensuring information about collections is accessible to communities.

Royal BC Museum – Nuxalk Nation

- In January 2022, it was reported that the Hereditary Chief Snuxyaltwa (as known as Deric Snow), of Nuxalk Nation, had previously requested the return of a totem pole that is displayed in the Museum's third floor galleries to the Nuxalk people.
- Two years ago, the Museum and Nuxalk Hereditary Chiefs and elected officials discussed undertaking a series of planning meetings to collaboratively develop a budget and timeline for repatriating the totem pole. These meetings have not yet occurred due to COVID-19 and other scheduling challenges.
- In a January 2022 letter to the Nation, Royal BC Museum recommitted to the agreed upon meetings and developing a course of action.
- On January 13, 2022, Nuxalk Hereditary Chief Snuxyaltwa (known as Deric Snow) filed a notice of civil claim seeking repatriation of the totem pole, alleging the Province has breached both its fiduciary duty and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) by failing to repatriate the totem pole.

Next Steps

- The Ministry is seeking further opportunities to support repatriation initiatives, including exploring potential funding for a grant program.
- Included in the Province's draft DRIPA Action Plan is a five-year commitment for the Ministry to co-develop a policy framework to support repatriation initiatives.
- Advice/Recommentations

- Feedback received during recent Draft DRIPA Action Plan engagement with First Nations and Indigenous partners made it clear that any repatriation framework should be led by First Nations, not the Province, as each Nation has a distinct approach to repatriation.
- The Ministry acknowledges the importance of this work being Indigenous led.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Budget/Expenditures:

- Repatriation has never been a line item in the Ministry budget and continues not to be.
- Advice/Recommentations

- The Province previously funded BC Museums Association $500,000 Government Financial Information
- Government Financial Information
- In fiscal 2017,2018 and 2019 the Province provided the RBCM a total of $2.000 million to develop and administer a grant program, hold a symposium and develop the Repatriation Handbook:

ESTIMATES NOTE

- 2017 - $500,000
- 2018 - $750,000
- 2019 -$750,000

Approvals:
[February 14, 2022] – Claire Avison, Arts and Culture Division

ESTIMATES NOTE

SOUTH ASIAN MUSEUM

Issue: Starting work to establish a museum for the South Asian community

Key Messaging and Recommended Response:

- **The contributions of the South Asian community in B.C. are an important part of our province's history and culture.**
- **Our government is committed to start work to create a first-of-its-kind museum to document the history, art, and contributions of South Asian people in B.C.**
- **The community expressed a need for a museum that brings together artefacts, documents, and stories.**
- **We are in the preliminary planning stages now.**

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The Minister's mandate letter includes the commitment to start work to create a first-of-its-kind museum to document the history, art, and contributions of South Asian people in B.C.
- The genesis of the museum stems from the Punjabi Canadian Legacy Project (2014-2018) and the South Asian Canadian Legacy Project (2020-2022) lead by the South Asian Studies Institute and supported by the Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Branch.
- Government provided $1.14 million for the South Asian Canadian Legacy Project to support a website, education curriculum supplements, a book, an exhibition, history site inventories, and community specific projects.
- The level of funding and the project outputs were similar to that of the Chinese Canadian legacy project, a precursor to developing the Chinese Canadian museum.
- On July 5, 2021 the Minister met with the Surrey caucus to discuss the mandate commitment and obtain input and advice.
- Ministry staff have met with representatives from the South Asian Studies Institute to seek advice and begin stakeholder relationship development.
- The Minister met with the Government Caucus Committee on Social Initiatives on September 20, 2021 to seek input and advise on managing community expectation in terms of delivering on this mandate commitment in the context of other museum projects already underway.
- On November 12, 2021, the Minister toured the Sikh Heritage Museum and met with museum proponents and interested MLAs. A follow up meeting was held in early 2022.
- Prior to undertaking extensive project planning, the Ministry plans to seek Cabinet direction related to the Minister's museum mandate commitments.

ESTIMATES NOTE

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Budget/Expenditures:

- The commitment to start work to create a museum within the next three years will have financial implications which have yet to be determined.

Approvals:
[February 14, 2022 approved] – Claire Avison, Arts and Culture Division

ESTIMATES NOTE

FIFA 2026 WORLD CUP

Issue: Hosting the 2026 FIFA World Cup in Vancouver

Key Messaging and Recommended Response:

- **The FIFA World Cup 2026 is a once-in-a-generation opportunity that soccer fans from coast to coast and around the globe look forward to watching every four years.**
- **Vancouver is a world-class city with one of the top stadiums in North America.**
- **In 2015 Vancouver hosted the record setting FIFA Women's World Cup including the final which was watched by more than 45 million and attended by over 54,000 fans.**
- **I am excited to say that B.C. is now in active discussions to place Vancouver and British Columbia into consideration as a Candidate Host City for the FIFA World Cup 2026.**
- **And the unprecedented success of Canada's men's team on the road to the 2022 World Cup makes this opportunity even more exciting for soccer fans.**
- **Our goal is to maximize the benefits of this opportunity for British Columbians.**
- **Senior officials are in ongoing dialogue with Canada Soccer to maximize the benefits for British Columbians if we are successful in bringing the FIFA World Cup 2026 to Vancouver.**
- **We expect FIFA to make its final selection of candidate cities by April 2022.**

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The FIFA World Cup is held in different countries every four years.
    - The next World Cup will be in Qatar in 2022.
- The 2026 World Cup will be held in Canada, Mexico and the U.S.
    - 60 matches will be played in 2026 from June to July.
    - It is anticipated that 40 games will be in the US, 10 in Mexico and 10 in Canada.
- FIFA is currently determining the 16 North American cities will host games.
    - There are 22 cities vying to host games including Edmonton and Toronto in Canada.

  - Montreal was originally a candidate host city but has withdrawn from consideration of being a final host city.
- Vancouver was not included as a potential host city in the original bid due to the Province's concerns about the financial commitment and agreements at that time.
- FIFA has continued to express interest in Vancouver being a host city for 2026.
- Since government's 2018 decision, Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations; Intergovernmental Communications; Advice/Recommentations; Intergovernmental Communications
- Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations; Intergovernmental Communications

- Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations; Intergovernmental Communications; Government Financial Information

- Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations; Intergovernmental Communications; Government Financial Information

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

Approvals:

[date approved] - [ADM name, division]

ESTIMATES NOTE

Barkerville Heritage Trust Funding

Issue: Barkerville Heritage Trust Funding

Key Messaging and Recommended Response:

- Government recognizes the importance of protecting and interpreting B.C.'s history through heritage properties such as Barkerville and Cottonwood.
- We value the current operator, Barkerville Heritage Trust's stewardship of these significant public assets.
- Operating funding this fiscal is set at $2.085M, the same level as fiscal 2021/22. This level of funding is designed to ensure that Barkerville and Cottonwood provide maximum public benefit while also allowing the Trust to adequately maintain the public assets that benefited from previous years of elevated funding.
- The Trust's desire for increased operational funding must be considered within the context of the entire heritage properties portfolio. The $2.085M funding to the Trust represents 55% of all provincial heritage properties funding.
- Heritage Branch staff and the Trust will continue to work closely to ensure annual operational funding meets the needs of Barkerville and Cottonwood while also accommodating the needs of the heritage properties portfolio.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- Barkerville Historic Town and Park is a 457 hectare historic town and gold mining landscape near Quesnel. Barkerville comprises 160 buildings and three campgrounds open seasonally. Cottonwood is a historic farm on the Cariboo Wagon Road near Quesnel and is operational in the spring/summer/fall.
- The two provincially-owned sites, operated by the Trust under an agreement to March 2025, receive 60,000-70,000 visitors per year.
- A 2010 study estimated that Barkerville Historic Town & Park alone had a provincial economic impact of $12.7 million.
- Between fiscal year 2015/16 and 2019/20, the Trust has received operating funding of $2.4M per year to support the additional workload attributed to addressing previously deferred maintenance. Since 2020/21, operating funding is reduced to reflect that this work is now complete.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- Recently Heritage Branch amended its Collection Management Policy to provide more clear direction, and support of, the repatriation of Indigenous Cultural Material to Indigenous communities from the Provincial Heritage Properties collections. While outside the core responsibilities of site funding, repatriation work at the Provincial Heritage Properties aligns with reconciliation mandates and strengthens Indigenous relations with the Province.
- The PHPs are important heritage assets in B.C. which are strong drivers for community identity, rural economic development, and cultural tourism.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

Approvals:

[date approved] - [ADM name, division]

Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project
Estimates Note

TI Corp / Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Date: May 12, 2022

ISSUE

- Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project (PBRP)

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- The replacement of the Pattullo Bridge is a key component of the Mayors' Council 10-Year Vision for Metro Vancouver Transportation. In February 2018, the Province announced it would fund and deliver the PBRP.
- PBRP's total project budget is $1.377 billion.
- In February 2020 a design-build-finance (DBF) contract was awarded to Fraser Crossing Partners (an Aecon/Acciona joint venture) to design, build and partially finance the new four-lane bridge, and demolish the existing bridge. The contract value is $967.5 million.
- Construction is well underway. Pile driving on the main bridge tower foundation is complete, and construction is underway on the bridge tower. Further pile installation work will take place at the second in-water pier this summer. Work is progressing on the bridge foundations in Surrey and New Westminster.
- On-site investigative work and permitting processes have taken longer than anticipated due to the complexities of the project and challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the construction timeline for the project has been adjusted, moving the bridge opening date from late 2023 into 2024. The project team is working to mitigate the delay and have the new bridge open as early as possible in 2024.
- PBRP is being delivered under the provincial Community Benefits Agreement (CBA). A CBA increases employment opportunities for locals, Indigenous people, women and other underrepresented groups who want to start a career in the skilled trades. The Agreement provides greater training opportunities for apprentices, so they can complete their certification, building our skilled trade workforce of tomorrow. Costs associated with the CBA are reflected in the Project budget.

BACKGROUND

- The Pattullo Bridge was built in 1937 and connects the cities of New Westminster and Surrey.
- The bridge is vulnerable to various risks, including seismic, river scour, deck delamination, and collision risks.
- Advice/Recommentations
- The Mayors' Council has called for replacement of the Pattullo Bridge with modern lane widths and better connections for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians.

- The new bridge will feature four-lanes built to modern safety standards, two-way pedestrian and cyclist facilities and wider lane widths to accommodate commercial vehicles. The PBRP will also include network improvements in Surrey and New Westminster, and removal of the existing Pattullo Bridge once the new bridge is operational.
- The new bridge will be built to allow for potential expansion to six lanes in the future if needed. The Province will monitor the new bridge's traffic performance and will consult with the municipalities and the Mayors' Council to develop an appropriate response to the bridge's traffic performance based on regional transportation planning and a transportation demand management framework.
- Expansion to six lanes would be put into place only after consultation among the Province, Indigenous groups, the cities of New Westminster and Surrey and the Mayors' Council.
- The ministry engaged with the Identified Indigenous groups through the Environmental Assessment Office's consultation process, which is now complete. Consultation is continuing through Project implementation and the Project has finalized agreements with 14 Indigenous groups, with one anticipated to be finalized in the coming months. Agreements include benefits such as funding for community initiatives, capacity funding and sub-contracting and employment opportunities.
- The decision to fund and replace the bridge will allow the Mayors' Council to focus on other important priorities in their 10-Year Plan.
- Completion of the project is scheduled in 2024.

Budget Variance Explanation

Table 1.7 Provincial Transportation Investments

($ thousands)	Updated Forecast 2021/22 Q3	Budget Estimate 2021/22	Change from Budget 2021
Provincial investments:			
– Pattullo Bridge replacement	266,735	224,921	41,814

- The 2021/22 third quarter forecast of $267 million is $42 million higher than the 2021/22 budget primarily due to catch up in progress in current fiscal year on delayed in river work and on-site investigate work from prior fiscal 2020/21. These costs, along with reforecast timing of construction activities based on latest accepted schedule, led to increased expenditures in the Updated 2021/22 Q3 Forecast.

Table 1.7 Provincial Transportation Investments **Budget 2022** **Budget 2021**

($ thousands)	Fiscal Plan Total	Fiscal Plan Total	Change from Budget 2021
Provincial investments:			
– Pattullo Bridge replacement	697,652	823,356	(125,704)

- The decrease in Provincial investment of $126 million from last years' Service Plan is due to completion of the project falling in the last year of the F22/23-F24/25 Service Plan window, its increased progress of construction activities in the fiscal 2021/2022 year and reforecast timing of construction activities based on the latest accepted schedule and new completion dates. The investment will decrease as the project progresses to completion.

PROGRAM CONTACT

Wendy Itagawa, Executive Director, Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project, Cell: (778) 874-0225

Highway 99 Tunnel Program
Budget/Estimates Note

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Date: May 12, 2022

ISSUE

- Highway 99 Tunnel Program.

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- We are moving ahead with a new toll-free, eight-lane tunnel to replace the George Massey Tunnel (the Existing Tunnel).
- This is the right project for the region and has been endorsed by the Metro Vancouver Board.
- It will result in better travel for all modes, particularly those who choose transit, as well as providing new opportunities for those who cycle or walk.
- The project is being designed to improve safety, reliability and connectivity while aligning with regional interests.
- The Province entered the Environmental Assessment (EA) process for the Fraser River Tunnel Project (FRTP) on April 11, 2022 and the first step is the Early Engagement phase.
- The Early Engagement phase includes a 45-day public comment, led by the BC Environmental Assessment Office (EAO), which will run from April 25 to June 9, 2022 and includes two in-person open houses and two virtual information sessions, with the Project team available to provide information on the scope and activities associated with the Project.
- Feedback received on the Initial Project Description and Engagement Plan will be considered in the development of the Detailed Project Description, which is required for the EAO's Readiness Decision, which is anticipated to be completed summer 2022.
- As well, improvements to transit and cycling infrastructure along Highway 99 are underway.
- Construction of the new Steveston Interchange Project will begin this year as well.
- The total Highway 99 Tunnel Program budget is $4.3 billion, which includes a $4.15 for the new tunnel that is scheduled to be complete in 2030 and $137 million for the Corridor Improvements that are scheduled to be complete in 2024.

BACKGROUND

- The original construction of the George Massey Tunnel was completed in 1959.
- In September 2017, the Province announced it would proceed with an Independent Technical Review (ITR) of the 10-lane George Massey Tunnel Replacement (GMTR) Project, and the procurement process for GMTR was cancelled.
- In December 2018 the ITR was completed. Based on the ITR, the Province committed to a three-phase program to improve and replace the George Massey Crossing, which included:

- $40 million in immediate safety improvements which were completed in spring 2021.
- Corridor Improvements – identify measures to reduce congestion, as well as improve safety and reliability for transit and active transportation that could be completed in advance of a new crossing project.
- Crossing – complete a business case for a new crossing by fall 2020.

- Between January and April 2019, the ministry collaborated with 10 municipalities, 12 participating Indigenous groups, TransLink and Metro Vancouver to develop a set of shared principles, goals and objectives to guide the Highway 99 Tunnel Program. Metro Vancouver established a Task Force to support this initiative.
- In July 2019, the Metro Vancouver Task Force endorsed a shortlist of six options, focused on addressing significant off-peak congestion, managing peak congestion, and providing attractive options for transit and active transportation. All the shortlisted options call for a total of eight lanes with two priority lanes for transit.
- In October 2019, the Metro Vancouver Task Force indicated their preference for the eight-lane immersed tunnel option, which was endorsed by the Metro Vancouver Board in November 2019.
- Throughout 2020, the Highway 99 Tunnel Program team undertook further technical work and analysis to inform the business case. This included potential re-use of the existing tunnel, decommissioning the Existing Tunnel, navigable waters requirements (including the bridge height and tunnel depth), need for rapid transit, active transportation requirements, lane configurations, traffic modelling, and EA requirements.
- The program team also completed an in-depth procurement analysis and looked at opportunities to reduce the schedule and budget.
- In December 2020, a business case was submitted to government for its review, which included two potential crossing options: an eight-lane immersed tunnel or an eight-lane bridge.
- The business case also identified Corridor Improvements to be completed as advance works to alleviate congestion and to improve safety, transit, and active transportation along the Highway 99 corridor, as well as align with the long-term crossing solution.
- The Corridor Improvements have a total budget of $137 million and include the Steveston Interchange Project, bus-on-shoulder transit lanes south of the Fraser River, a transit on-ramp at Bridgeport, and improvements to traffic operations at Highway 17A Interchange.
- In June 2021 the Province announced that it was proceeding with Corridor Improvements along Highway 99 to help alleviate congestion and improve transit and cycling options.
- In August 2021, the Province announced that a new, eight-lane immersed tunnel would replace the existing George Massey Tunnel on Highway 99, providing people a toll-free crossing that aligns with regional interests and an active transportation connection across the Fraser River.
- In January 2022, work on Corridor Improvements projects along Highway 99 began for bus-on-shoulder, with improvements at Bridgeport initiating early February 2022.

- The Corridor Improvements will be completed in advance of the tunnel construction, with the transit and cycling works being built by the end of 2023 and the Steveston Interchange Project completing in the third quarter of 2025.
- The Steveston Interchange Project was awarded to Flatiron Constructors Canada Limited earlier this year.
- Construction for Steveston Interchange Project begins in mid-2022 with completion in 2025, including removal of the existing structure

PROGRAM CONTACT

Donald Trapp, Executive Project Director, 778-572-3328

Highway 1 – 264th Street to Whatcom Road
Budget/Estimates Note

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Date: February 8, 2022

ISSUE

- Fraser Valley Highway 1 Corridor Improvement Program – 264th Street to Whatcom Road

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- People are finding themselves stuck in traffic, not able to get home to their families, and goods not able to get to market.
- The Province has committed to ease congestion in the Fraser Valley by improving the capacity to move people and goods, exploring multiple modes of transportation.
- The project is being developed through an integrated planning approach collaboration with First Nations, local governments, and key stakeholders.
- The impact and implications of atmospheric river is still being evaluated as the team continues to develop the project.
- We will have more information about this project later in the year, as engineering and project development work is advanced.

BACKGROUND

- It is a platform and mandate commitment to widen Highway 1 from 264th Street (Township of Langley) to Whatcom Road (Abbotsford).
- Cabinet Confidences
-
- Approximately 4km of the project area, was impacted by flood waters during the November 2021 Atmospheric River.
- Advice/Recommentations
- In addition, collaboration with other ministries, and local government is underway, and will be critical to ensure proposed highway improvements are compatible with the overall flood mitigation strategy for the area.
- Initial public consultation took place between June 1 – July 6, 2021.

PROGRAM CONTACT

Trent Folk, Project Director, South Coast Region, 250-819-9044

Taxi Modernization
Budget/Estimates Note

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Date: February 15, 2022

ISSUE

- The ministry, together with the independent Passenger Transportation Board (the Board), has implemented recommendations relating to the modernization of B.C.'s taxi industry.

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- Government has worked hard to ensure the taxi industry can compete on a fair playing field alongside ride-hailing.
- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the taxi industry has seen a significant decrease in ridership that was most noticeable in the Lower Mainland, due to regional competition from ride-hail companies. This finding was included in the Board commissioned report by Hara Associates, titled 'Economic Effects of Covid-19 on the B.C. Passenger Transportation Industry', released September 22, 2021.
- In recognition of the report's findings, the Board has refused outstanding ride hail applications, including those of Facedrive and Uber, in part to avoid unduly harming existing transportation options (i.e. taxi services), in regions that were unable to absorb new alternatives at the time.
- The Board has also directed the Registrar of Passenger Transportation to report on the status of those taxi companies that were part of the COVID-19 deferral program, to provide them with an understanding of the activity status of those companies that suspended operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Another upcoming review will be conducted by a special committee, to be appointed by the Legislative Assembly by July 1, 2023 (postponed from January 1, 2022, due to the unavailability of data reflecting normal operating conditions due to Covid-19).
- The special committee will review changes made to the Passenger Transportation Act (the Act) in 2019 to modernize passenger directed vehicle services (e.g., taxis, limousines, small shuttle buses) and introduce transportation network services (ride hail) under the Act, as well as their impacts on the passenger transportation industry. It will consider:
    - Whether the provision of licences under the Act promotes an adequate supply of passenger directed vehicles, including accessible vehicles, and promotes passenger and driver safety;
    - The effectiveness of the test the Board applies when making determinations on applications for passenger directed vehicle and transportation network services authorizations;
    - Whether the Act promotes employment in the passenger directed vehicle and transportation network services industries;
    - Impacts on public transportation and traffic congestion; and
    - Whether the Act promotes passenger directed vehicle services and transportation network services in small, rural, or remote communities.
- Within one year of being appointed, the committee must submit a report on the results of the review, which will be published on the Legislative Assembly web site.

- The Branch has been in consultation with the taxi industry and the accessibility community, among other stakeholders, to receive their input on potential programs to support accessibility in B.C.

If asked about taxi boundaries:

- The Board is responsible for evidence-based decisions regarding operating areas for the taxi industry and is now collecting data from both the ride-hail and taxi industries. This data will play an important role in guiding any future decisions about modifications to operating areas for licensees.

BACKGROUND

- On June 8, 2018, a Board-commissioned report by Hara Associates titled 'Modernizing Taxi Regulation' was publicly released and included several recommendations.
- From July to September 2018, the Board consulted with the taxi industry and affected stakeholders before making final decisions on the report's recommendations.
- In September 2018, the taxi industry was permitted to increase their fleet size by 15% in advance of Transportation Network Services (TNS or ride-hailing) companies entering the market.
- As of October 2018, the Branch began receiving applications to increase fleet sizes and the Board issued decisions over the three months following. Taxi Associations cited the likelihood of losing drivers to ride-hail companies and requested an extension to activate their additional vehicles.
- The Board granted the extension request and extended timelines to August 12, 2021. On May 26, 2021, in light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board once again extended the deadline to February 12, 2022, noting they would review further at that time. On December 15, 2021, the deadline was again extended, this time until May 12, 2022.
- In September 2019, a distance-based insurance product became available to ride-hail companies. A similar product was created for taxi companies and became available in May 2020.
    - Over 70% of provincial taxi vehicles (30% of all taxi fleets) have since moved to distance-based insurance policies (2,000 out of 2,825 taxis). These distance-based policies provide greater flexibility and can also provide savings for taxi fleet operators by having them pay only for their actual use.
- Also in September 2019, the Board adopted the recommendation to enable separate day shift and night shift vehicles to be paired together allowing for flexibility in shift change. As of February 10, 2022, 10 taxi companies have activated 130 vehicles for pairing.
- Passenger Transportation Regulation came into effect in fall 2019, requiring thorough criminal record checks and driver history checks for both the taxi and ride-hail industries. This ensures the same requirements are met across the province regardless of which municipality drivers are operating within.
- Ride-hailing drivers are also required to operate under the same, minimum, Class 4 licence requirements as taxi drivers.
- Annual renewal fees were also reduced for licensees with a Passenger Directed Vehicle Authorization from $100 per vehicle with no cap to the lesser of either $50 per vehicle, or, $5,000 for an annual renewal fee.

- Regulations were also modified to make it easier to obtain and equip wheelchair accessible vehicles by allowing both side and rear entry designs.
- A per-trip fee of $0.30 is currently charged for each ride in a non-wheelchair accessible ride-hailing vehicle. These fees are intended to go toward administrative costs and allow for expanded transportation options for the accessibility community.

PROGRAM CONTACT

Steven Haywood, Executive Director and Registrar, CVSE & Passenger Transportation Branch
Highways & Regional Services Division – Cell: 604 220-7176

Ride-Hail Status
Estimates Note

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Date: May 18, 2022

ISSUE

- Companies began providing Transportation Network Services (TNS), or ride-hail, in B.C. on January 24, 2020.

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- The independent Passenger Transportation Board (the Board) is responsible for reviewing and issuing decisions on ride-hail applications and for setting the terms and conditions of licences for approved operators.
- Under the Passenger Transportation Act Section 28 (1), the Board is required to consider a 3-part test with each application (see Appendix A: Regulatory Overview), as follows:

  1. Is there a public need for the service?
  2. Is the applicant a fit and proper person to provide the service and are they capable of providing the service?
  3. Would approval of the application promote sound economic conditions in the passenger transportation business in B.C.?

  - The PT Board must answer "yes" to all three questions to approve an application.
- The Passenger Transportation Branch (the Branch) processes the intake of ride-hail applications and forwards them to the Board for consideration. Branch staff also issue licences, conduct audits/investigations/roadside enforcement and apply penalties to licenced and unlicenced ride-hail operators.
- The Branch has received 52 ride-hail applications to date and sent them to the Board for review (see Appendix B: Status of Applications).
  - 25 applications have been approved; and
  - 27 applications have been refused by the board or withdrawn by applicants
- Nine of the approved companies are currently operating in at least one of their approved TNS Regions:

TNS:	Approved Region(s):	Actual Operating Areas:
Coastal Rides	3,5	Gibsons, Sechelt
Kabu	1,2,3,4,5	Burnaby, New Westminster, Richmond, Tri-Cities, Vancouver
Lucky to Go	1,2,3,4,5	Kelowna
Lyft	1	Burnaby, Delta, Langley, Maple Ridge, New Westminster, Richmond, Surrey, Tri-Cities, Vancouver
Metro Rides	1	Burnaby
Uber	1	Burnaby, Delta, Langley, Maple Ridge, New Westminster, Richmond, Surrey, Tri-Cities, Vancouver
Uride	2,3,4,5	Kelowna

Whistle!	1,3	Tofino, Whistler
Yellow Cab	1	Vancouver

- In April 2021 the Board announced the hiring of Hara Associates to undertake an investigation into the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the B.C. passenger transportation industry.
- During the investigation, applications before the board for Uber Canada Inc. and Facedrive Inc. were adjourned, while proceedings were stayed for Black Top Cabs Ltd., North Shore Taxi Ltd., Swiftsure TaxiCo. Ltd., Duncan Taxi Ltd., Comox Taxi Ltd. and Oceanside Taxi Ltd.
- On September 22, 2021, the report from Hara Associates, 'Economic Effects of Covid-19 on the B.C. Passenger Transportation Industry,' was released to the public, and all applicants were given an opportunity to respond.
- On December 15, 2021, applications for Uber Canada Inc. and Facedrive Inc. were refused, in part to avoid unduly harming existing transportation options in regions unable to absorb new alternatives at this time.
- On January 5, 2022, the application for Swiftsure TaxiCo. Ltd., Duncan Taxi Ltd., Comox Taxi Ltd., and Oceanside Taxi Ltd. was refused for the same reason
- On January 25, 2022, the application for Black Top and Checker Cabs was approved, followed by an approval for North Shore Taxi on February 9.
- On January 19, 2022, the Board directed the Registrar of Passenger Transportation to report on the status of approved ride-hail licensees' commencement, or plans for commencement, of their operations, to provide the Board with an understanding of the existing landscape for ride-hail. A similar request for taxi companies was also made. Advic

Advice/Recommentations

BACKGROUND

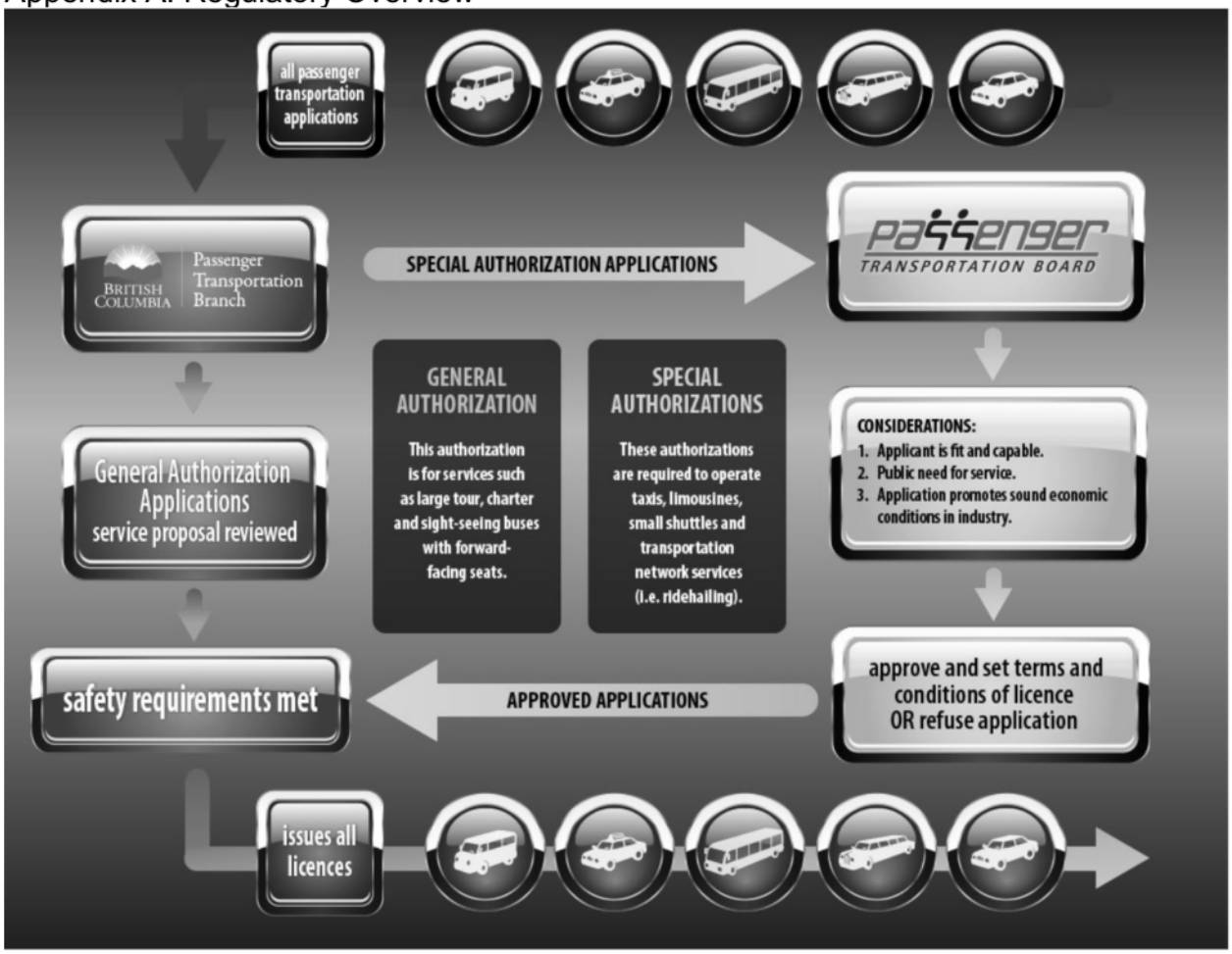
- In August 2019, the Board published its operational policy on ride-hail supply, boundaries and rates. Five regions for the province were established:
    - Region 1 (Lower Mainland, Whistler (Metro Vancouver, Fraser Valley, Squamish-Lillooet)
    - Region 2 (Capital Regional District (CRD))
    - Region 3 (Vancouver Island, excluding CRD)
    - Region 4 (Okanagan-Kootenay-Boundary-Cariboo)
    - Region 5 (North Central/other regions in B.C.)
- On September 3, 2019, the Board began receiving ride-hail applications.
- On September 16, 2019, changes to the Passenger Transportation Regulation came into force, allowing operators to apply for a TNS Authorization (TNSA), a type of Special Authorization (SA) licence.
    - A SA licence is required to operate passenger directed vehicles (PDVs) in the province. PDVs are commercial vehicles with a carrying capacity of 11 passengers or less.
- In October 2019, the Board announced its modified ride-hail application process, enabling submitters to review applicant responses to original submissions as well as the application package itself and to provide their comments to the Board.
    - The Board must publish notice of received applications and allow for written submissions from the public regarding pending applications. A hearing may take place on an application.

- On December 16, 2019, B.C.'s first ride-hailing company, Whistle!, was approved by the Board and began operation in early February 2020 in Tofino and Whistler.
- On January 23, 2020, Uber and Lyft were approved by the Board to operate in Region 1 and began operating the following day.
- In January 2021, the Supreme Court of Canada dismissed a Judicial Review pursued by the Vancouver Taxi Association since September 2019 regarding a level playing field.
- In March of 2021, the COVID-19 Pandemic arrived in B.C., decreasing ride-hail trip volumes, although the ride-hailing industry has since shown steady growth in the Lower Mainland.

PROGRAM CONTACT

Steven Haywood, Registrar and Executive Director, CVSE & Passenger Transportation
Highways & Regional Services Division – Cell: 604 220-7176

Appendix A: Regulatory Overview



Appendix B: Status of applications

Applications Approved by the PT Board

Company Name (DBA)	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Company Type
Apt Rides	✓					B.C.-based
Black Top and Checker Cabs	✓					B.C.-based
Bonny's Taxi	✓					B.C.-based
Coastal Rides			✓		✓	B.C.-based
Handicapped Cabs (Vancouver Taxi)	✓					B.C.-based
Hich	✓					B.C.-based
Inorbis, Inorbis Intercity (reapplication)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	National
Kabu	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	B.C.-based
Lucky To Go	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	B.C.-based
Lyft	✓					Multinational
MDD	✓					B.C.-based
MetroRides	✓					B.C.-based
North Shore Taxi	✓					B.C.-based
Powell River Taxi			✓			B.C.-based
Prince George Taxi					✓	B.C.-based
ReRyde		✓	✓	✓	✓	B.C.-based
Ripe Rides	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	B.C.-based
Safe Ride Sharing LTD				✓		B.C.-based
Tappcar	✓	✓	✓	✓		National
Transroad Airport Service (reapplication)	✓					B.C.-based
Uber Canada	✓					Multinational
Uride (2nd application)		✓	✓	✓	✓	National
Vancouver Taxi	✓					B.C.-based
Whistle!	✓		✓			B.C.-based
Yellow Cab	✓					B.C.-based
25	19	7	10	8	8	

Applications Refused by the PT Board or Withdrawn by Applicants

Company Name (DBA)	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Company Type
1st Choice Cabs Ltd.					×	B.C.-based
Cloudamart	×					B.C.-based
Dad's, Dial a Driver, Dad's DD	×	×	×	×	×	B.C.-based
Destiny Limousine; My Limo Ride	×					B.C.-based
Facedrive (1st application)	×					National
Facedrive (2nd application)	×					National
Getride	×					B.C.-based
Inorbis (1st application)	×	×	×	×	×	National
Interior Rideshare (withdrawn)				×		B.C.-based
Kater	×	×	×	×	×	B.C.-based
Khaled Abdulqader Omar Baowee	×					B.C.-based
Lucky To Go (1st application)		×	×	×		B.C.-based
My Limo Ride (1st application)	×	×	×	×	×	B.C.-based
My Limo Ride (2nd application)	×	×	×	×	×	B.C.-based
ReRyde (1st application)		×	×	×		B.C.-based
RideON Canada	×	×	×	×		National
Ride Sharing Travellers Company	×					B.C.-based
Ryde Today	×					B.C.-based
Tappcar (1st application)	×	×	×	×		National
Transroad Airport Service (1st application)	×					B.C.-based
Uber Canada (amendment)		×	×	×	×	Multinational
Uride (1st application)		×	×	×	×	National
VI Ride Hailing (1st application)			×			B.C.-based
VI Ride Hailing (2nd application)			×			B.C.-based
Wine Lovers Tours	×	×	×	×		B.C.-based
Yallah	×	×	×	×	×	National
Your Driver				×		B.C.-based
27	18	13	15	15	9	

Highway 99 Tunnel Program
Budget/Estimates Note

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Date: February 3, 2022

ISSUE

- Highway 99 Tunnel Program.

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- We are moving ahead with a new toll-free, eight-lane tunnel to replace the George Massey Tunnel (the Existing Tunnel).
- This is the right project for the region and has been endorsed by the Metro Vancouver Board.
- It will result in better travel for all modes, particularly those who choose transit, as well as providing new opportunities for those who cycle or walk.
- The project is being designed to improve safety, reliability and connectivity while aligning with regional interests.
- The next step is to initiate the environmental assessment (EA) process for the Fraser River Tunnel Project (FRTP).
- The EA process for the FRTP includes ongoing engagement with Indigenous groups and stakeholders and preparation for procurement.
- In the interim, improvements to transit and cycling infrastructure along Highway 99 are underway.
- Construction of the new Steveston Interchange Project will begin this year as well.
- The total Highway 99 Tunnel Program budget is $4.2 billion, which includes a $4.15 for the new tunnel that is scheduled to be complete in 2030 and $137 million for the Corridor Improvements that are scheduled to be complete in 2024.

BACKGROUND

- The original construction of the George Massey Tunnel was completed in 1959.
- In September 2017, the Province announced it would proceed with an Independent Technical Review (ITR) of the 10-lane George Massey Tunnel Replacement (GMTR) Project, and the procurement process for GMTR was cancelled.
- In December 2018 the ITR was completed. Based on the ITR, the Province committed to a three phase program to improve and replace the George Massey Crossing, which included:
    - $40 million in immediate safety improvements which were completed in spring 2021.
    - Corridor Improvements – identify measures to reduce congestion, as well as improve safety and reliability for transit and active transportation that could be completed in advance of a new crossing project.
    - Crossing – complete a business case for a new crossing by fall 2020.
- Between January and April 2019, the ministry collaborated with 10 municipalities, 12 participating Indigenous groups, TransLink and Metro Vancouver to develop a set of

shared principles, goals and objectives to guide the Highway 99 Tunnel Program. Metro Vancouver established a Task Force to support this initiative.

- In July 2019, the Metro Vancouver Task Force endorsed a shortlist of six options, focused on addressing significant off-peak congestion, managing peak congestion, and providing attractive options for transit and active transportation. All the shortlisted options call for a total of eight lanes with two priority lanes for transit.
- In October 2019, the Metro Vancouver Task Force indicated their preference for the eight-lane immersed tunnel option, which was endorsed by the Metro Vancouver Board in November 2019.
- Throughout 2020, the Highway 99 Tunnel Program team undertook further technical work and analysis to inform the business case. This included potential re-use of the existing tunnel, decommissioning the Existing Tunnel, navigable waters requirements (including the bridge height and tunnel depth), need for rapid transit, active transportation requirements, lane configurations, traffic modelling, and EA requirements.
- The program team also completed an in-depth procurement analysis and looked at opportunities to reduce the schedule and budget.
- In December 2020, a business case was submitted to government for its review, which included two potential crossing options: an eight-lane immersed tunnel or an eight-lane bridge.
- The business case also identified Corridor Improvements to be completed as advance works to alleviate congestion and to improve safety, transit, and active transportation along the Highway 99 corridor, as well as align with the long-term crossing solution.
- The Corridor Improvements have a total budget of $137 million and include the Steveston Interchange Project, bus-on-shoulder transit lanes south of the Fraser River, a transit on-ramp at Bridgeport, and improvements to traffic operations at Highway 17A Interchange.
- In June 2021 the Province announced that it was proceeding with Corridor Improvements along Highway 99 to help alleviate congestion and improve transit and cycling options.
- In August 2021, the Province announced that a new, eight-lane immersed tunnel would replace the existing George Massey Tunnel on Highway 99, providing people a toll-free crossing that aligns with regional interests and an active transportation connection across the Fraser River.
- In January 2022, work on Corridor Improvements projects along Highway 99 began for bus-on-shoulder, with improvements at Bridgeport initiating early February 2022.
- The Corridor Improvements will be completed in advance of the tunnel construction, with the transit and cycling works being built by the end of 2023 and the Steveston Interchange Project completing in the third quarter of 2025.
- Contract award for the Steveston Interchange Project is expected in spring 2022.

PROGRAM CONTACT

Donald Trapp, Executive Project Director, 778-572-3328

Burnaby Mountain Gondola Project

Estimates Note

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Date: February 11, 2022

ISSUE

- The Mayors' Council is considering a gondola link to Burnaby Mountain.

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- Our government supports continued transit expansion to meet the needs of this growing region, and we are taking the lead from the Mayors' Council who are in the best position to make decisions about regional priorities.
- We understand there are benefits to the gondola proposal, most notably more reliable and quicker service, as well as GHG reductions from replacing the diesel buses and reducing vehicle use.
- The Burnaby Mountain Gondola (BMG) Project is not included in TransLink's current 10-year plan. However, with Burnaby Council's recent endorsement, BMG will be considered for inclusion in the new Mayors' Council 10-Year Vision.
- Provincial staff is working closely with TransLink to understand the details of the gondola project.

BACKGROUND

- In 2014, the Mayors' Council's 10-Year Vision (the Vision) identified the potential need for high-capacity transit to Burnaby Mountain and in 2018 released a business case that included a gondola with three route options.
- In May 2019, the City of Burnaby unanimously confirmed support in principle for the gondola, subject to a number of conditions including minimizing impacts to residents living near the gondola and areas with high ecological values, as well as providing fair compensation to affected property owners.
- In December 2020, TransLink completed their second round of engagement on the Burnaby Mountain Gondola (BMG) and found that Route 1 was the preferred route, a straight-line route from Production Way–University SkyTrain Station to SFU Burnaby campus.
- Over 20,000 people responded during both engagements with TransLink claiming overall regional support for the BMG Project at approximately 83 per cent.
- Residents of Burnaby's Forest Grove neighborhood, over which the preferred route would run, expressed concern with the preferred route's impacts on their visual privacy.
- On March 1, 2021, TransLink announced the preferred route for BMG through a news release.
- On January 24, 2022, Burnaby City Council endorsed the Burnaby Mountain Project via Route 1.

- BMG will be considered for inclusion in the new Mayors' Council 10-Year Vision and has been identified in Transport 2050.

PROGRAM CONTACT

Sean Nacey, Director, Major Projects Branch, 250-213-6672

Industrial Land
Estimates Note

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Date: February 15, 2022

ISSUE

- The supply of industrial land in the Lower Mainland and its importance to B.C.'s economy

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- The ministry recognizes the critical importance of trade enabling industrial land to sustainable economic growth.
- The ministry is aware that the issue of industrial land supply is particularly acute within the Lower Mainland, where there is strong competition with other uses, including agriculture and housing.
- B.C.'s land-use planning framework gives local governments the authority and responsibility for local land-use planning and zoning decisions, including for industrial land, however;
- The ministry also recognizes that provincial leadership is required to address this issue and is committed to working constructively and collaboratively stakeholders to arrive at solutions that work for the region, including through the upcoming Goods Movement Strategy.

BACKGROUND

- In Metro Vancouver (Metro) industrial lands support locally-focussed jobs and economic activity and enable trade between Canada and the rest of the world. Industrial lands account for approximately 4 percent of the Metro's lands but over 27 percent of its employment. Salaries for jobs located in industrial areas are 10% higher ($61K) than the regional average ($55K). Economic activity on industrial land generates $27B in GDP, which accounts for 30% of Metro's GDP.
- The region's supply of such lands is limited, due to population and economic growth, conversion to non-industrial uses, and constrained geography. Industrial land values have increased significantly over the past few years and vacancy rates are at record lows.
- According to the CBRE Canada Research Centre, Metro Vancouver's overall availability of industrial land dipped to a record low of 0.9 percent in 2021. Demand for industrial land is largely driven by strong growth in e-commerce, warehousing, distribution, and logistics.
- Protecting these lands is one of the aims of Metro's Regional Growth Strategy (RGS), and the RGS includes a requirement for regional approval of conversions from industrial to other uses. Similarly, the Fraser Valley Regional District's RGS supports initiatives that identify, protect and expand industrial lands in the region.
- The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA) has been particularly vocal in calling for provincial action to address diminishing inventories of trade enabling industrial land,

which often requires large parcels at or with ready marine access. Recommendations from the VFPA include:

  - Implement a temporary freeze on the rezoning of industrial land to protect from further losses
  - Conduct a regional land assessment of the Metro Vancouver land base to protect and grow the trade enabling industrial lands in the region
  - Give special consideration to trade enabling industrial land with additional protection to limit type of use and preserve parcel size

- The province is supporting initiatives with partners, including the VFPA, that explore the feasibility of new approaches, such as short sea shipping, to developing our transportation network that can improve access to land in regions outside the lower mainland such as the Fraser Valley and Squamish regional districts.

Metro Vancouver - Regional Industrial Lands Strategy

- In response to the challenges associated with a shortage of industrial lands, Metro developed a Regional Industrial Lands Strategy (Strategy) which was finalized in June 2020.
- The Strategy's recommendations are broad in scope, with significant implications for a wide range of provincial interests, including agriculture, economic development, flood management, taxation, trade, and transportation and land use.

PROGRAM CONTACT

Sohee Ahn, Executive Director, Integrated Transportation Planning Branch

778 698-2870, cell 250 507-7932

Fraser River Dredging
Estimates Note

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Date: February 14, 2022

ISSUE

- Fraser River side channel dredging

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- In 2013, in response to local residents' concerns over silt buildup in the lower Fraser River, the Province entered into a $10 million funding partnership with Port Metro Vancouver, Delta and Richmond to dredge Ladner Harbour, Deas Slough and Sea Reach in Delta and Cannery Channel in Richmond.
- Significant dredging work has been completed since the initiative began, including Phase I which was completed in 2016 at a cost of approximately $6 million. In 2017, the Steveston Harbour Authority was added as a funding partner for Phase 2 work.
- This second phase included approximately $1.76 million of dredging in Steveston Harbour, with no remaining provincial involvement, and approximately $1.53 million for dredging in Delta.
- The Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (MOTI) has now fully contributed its $3 million share for both Richmond and Delta dredging and has therefore concluded its commitments to Fraser River side channel dredging.
- I understand the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Operations (FLNR) is managing Provincial tenures within the Lower Fraser River, and future funding for dredging these side channels. Further questions should be directed to the Minister responsible.

BACKGROUND

- Prior to 1998, the Canadian Coast Guard was responsible for dredging the Fraser River. In 1998, Federal funding ceased and responsibility for dredging the deep-sea shipping channels was taken over by what is now Port Metro Vancouver.
- Historically, Transport Canada had constructed engineered structures at key locations along the Fraser River to divert most of the flow into the main channel in order to manage sedimentation. While this was successful in reducing the need for dredging within the main channel, it reduced flows along the local waterways by as much as 70%, resulting in increased sedimentation.
- Due to increased sedimentation, waterways which used to have over six meters of water at low tide were reduced to less than a metre resulting in float homes, docks, boats and vessels being frequently lifted out of the water at low tide.
- FLNR is responsible for managing the lower Fraser River. As part of Phase 1, MOTI agreed to provide a one-time funding contribution of $3M to help expedite this important work in conjunction with its partners.
- The final contribution payment by MOTI occurred in March 2021. No further dredging commitments by MOTI have been made.

- The work was supported by the important contributions of the Ladner Sediment Group, Steveston Village, and float home and marina owners on the Fraser River.
- While the Port of Metro Vancouver, Delta, and Steveston Harbour Authority have all shown an interest in refreshing the dredging program with new funding, including provincial funding, no direct discussions or commitments to participate have been made by the Province at this time.

The 2013 contribution agreement as amended in 2017:

Funding Partner	Contribution
• Port Metro Vancouver	2.750 M
• Province of British Columbia	3.000 M
• Corporation of Delta	1.800 M
• City of Richmond	1.253 M
• Steveston Harbour Authority	0.550 M
Total	**9.353 M**

PROGRAM CONTACT

Kevin House, Director, Land Management,
Properties and Land Management Branch, Cell: 250-361-6679

Bill 7 – Amendments to Coastal Ferry Act
Budget/Estimates Note

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Date: April 21, 2022

ISSUE

- Cabinet Confidences

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- The purpose of Bill 7 is to help clarify roles and responsibilities between the BC Ferry Authority (Authority) – the shareholder – and BC Ferries Services Inc. (BC Ferries) – the owned service provider.
- The amendments are in response to concerns expressed by the Authority that it doesn't have sufficient tools to effectively fulfill its roles and responsibilities set out in the Act, including the strategic oversight of BC Ferries to support the public interest.
- Cabinet Confidences
- The amendments do not assert control by the provincial government– both the Authority and BC Ferries continue to remain independent of government.
- The amendments do not change the fundamental relationships in the current model. Rather, the amendments help to further clarify the roles and responsibilities between the Authority and BC Ferries.
- Cabinet Confidences
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- The amendments are not intended to change the role of the Ferry Commissioner, though the Commission will be required to consider relevant resolutions of the BC Ferry Authority when performing its regulatory role. It is important to note that the Commission just needs to consider the Authority's resolution but is not bound by them.
- The amendments are not intended in any way to affect the ability of BC Ferries to meet its obligations to its creditors. Rather they are intended to provide assurance to BC Ferries' creditors that roles and responsibilities between BC Ferries and its shareholder are further publicly clarified.

BACKGROUND

Bill 7 was tabled in the legislature on February 23, 2022.

A summary of the amendments is outlined below:

1. Clarifies that the Act prevails in event of perceived conflict with the Business Corporations Act.
   - Ensures that the BC Ferries Board of Directors can act in the public interest when directed to by their shareholder, the BC Ferry Authority.
   - The Act already indicates that where there is a perceived conflict with any other statute, that the Act prevails. The amendment now explicitly mentions the Business Corporation Act to provide greater certainty should there be a perceived conflict between the public interest and the fiduciary responsibilities of the Authority and the BC Ferries Services Board.
2. Clarifies Authority can not only appoint but also remove BC Ferries' Board members.
   - As the shareholder that appoints BC Ferry Services Board, the Authority can already remove directors of the BC Ferry Service Board.
   - Amendments explicitly acknowledge the ability of the Authority to exercise this existing power.
3. Ensures Authority has access to information in order to fulfill its responsibilities.
   - BC Ferries is already required by the Act to provide information to the Authority necessary to fulfill the Authority's strategic oversight function.
   - This amendment ensures that the information will be provided to the Authority in a timely manner as determined by the Authority.
4. Requires the Authority to develop Executive Compensation Plans.
   - The Act currently requires that the Authority approve all Executive Compensation Plans.
   - The amendment will ensure greater public interest oversight by enabling the Authority to not only approve but also develop the Executive Compensation Plans.

5. Requires Authority to consult with Public Sector Employers Council when developing compensation plans for directors and executives.
    - The Act already limits Executive Compensation Plans to provide for compensation no greater than that provided in the BC public sector.
    - As the Public Sector Employers Council is responsible for determining executive compensation in the BC public sector, they are in the best position to provide information to the Authority on the compensation trends in the BC public sector.
    - This is purely a consultative role that is not binding on the Authority.
6. Empowers the Authority to issue binding resolutions on matters of public interest and publicly report on resolutions.
    - While the Authority is responsible for strategic oversight of BC Ferries to support the public interest, the Authority currently lacks an explicit mechanism in the legislation to convey its perspectives to BC Ferries.
    - This amendment enables the shareholder to effectively convey its perspective to the operating company in a public transparent manner.
    - While the Province cannot speak for the Authority, which is independent from government, the Province would expect the use of binding resolutions to be infrequent. Rather, the Authority and the BC Ferry Services Board would discuss the public interest perspectives of the Authority and the ability to take actions to further the public interest, balancing the fiscal realities of the company.
7. Requires BC Ferries to act on direction provided by Authority, to incorporate within strategic and business plans where appropriate and to report out annually on actions taken in response to resolutions.
    - Should direction be given by the Authority, this amendment provides for a public transparent process to show how that direction was implemented.
8. Requires the BC Ferries Commissioner to consider Authority's public interest resolutions.
    - Requires the BC Ferries Commissioner to consider public interest resolutions from the Authority when undertaking relevant regulatory actions.
    - The Commissioner is independent from the Authority and government. The Commissioner is not bound by any resolution put forward by the Authority, though it would have to consider the resolution and indicate how its decision is either consistent or inconsistent with the resolution.
9. Housekeeping – repeals an outdated provision – 7(4).

PROGRAM CONTACT

Kirk Handrahan, Executive Director, Marine Branch, Policy, Programs and Partnerships Division, 250-882-0246

The dedicated motor fuel tax for TransLink was established in 1999 (when the Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority was fully created). Prior to that there was a provincial and regional gas tax.

The tax applies to clear gasoline and clear diesel sold within the TransLink service area. Revenues from the tax are payable to TransLink and are not an increase to provincial tax.

Translink rates on gasoline have been:

- April 1, 1999 – 8 cents per litre (the province shifted tax room to GVTA in 1999, this was not a tax increase for consumers)
- April 1, 2001 – 9 cents per litre
- April 1, 2002 – 11 cents per litre
- April 1, 2003 – 11.5 cents per litre
- April 1, 2005 – 12 cents per litre
- Jan 1 2010 - 15 cents per litre (
- April 1, 2012 - 17 cents per litre
- July 1, 2019 - 18.5 cents per litre

TransLink – Investment Plan
Budget/Estimates Note

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Date: February 10, 2022

ISSUE

- Economic recovery and TransLink's next investment plan.

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- Investment in public transit is a top priority for our government. That is why we committed to funding 40% of the approved capital costs for every Phase in the Mayors' Council's 10-Year Vision.
- We recognize the important role transit has in the success of B.C.'s recovery.
- The provincial and federal governments provided TransLink $ 675.8 million in relief for 2020 and 2021 COVID-19 losses to ensure the continued delivery of essential transit services and to fund free transit for children 12 and under using the TransLink system.
- We recognize that TransLink and other transit agencies are still recovering from the serious financial impacts of COVID-19 and the $750 million in one-time additional relief funding the federal government recently announced will help municipalities across Canada recover from operating shortfalls.
- We are still working with our federal partners on the exact allocation of the $750 million and what this means for transit agencies in B.C.
- We are also working with TransLink to deliver Phase Two of the Vision (Phase Two), including the construction of Broadway Subway project.
- In addition, we are working closely with TransLink on the development of their 2022 Investment Plan that focuses on economic recovery and delivering the Surrey-Langley SkyTrain project (SLS). Our expectation is that this new funding will help TransLink close the $100 million annual revenue shortfall the agency has identified as a result of the pandemic.

BACKGROUND

- As TransLink's 2018 Phase Two Investment Plan was submitted in June 2018, the original deadline for its next investment plan update was June 2021 as required by legislation.
- Given the financial uncertainty caused by COVID-19, the Province granted TransLink an extension by Ministerial Order to May 31, 2022.
- As it currently stands by Ministerial Order, TransLink must submit its investment plan to the Mayors' Council by May 31, 2022 for approval. TransLink is also required to prepare an updated 10-year investment plan in 2025 to capture the longer-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on ridership, revenues and costs.
- To support TransLink during unprecedented pandemic related revenue losses, the provincial and federal governments provided TransLink with $675.8 million in COVID-19 relief funding to cover its projected 2020 and 2021 losses.

- The agreement included $44M to reduce TransLink's planned annual fare increases to 2.3% each year, the rate of inflation, until after 2024.
- In March 2020, the agreement was amended to include $16.9M funding to fully offset TransLink's motor fuel revenue shortfalls in 2020 and partially in 2021, and $14.9M to offset costs to TransLink for the Free Transit for Youth 12 and Under program over 2021/22 – 2023/24.

- In addition, on February 17, 2022, the federal government announced a one-time $750 million in funding to support municipalities facing transit operating shortfalls contingent on provincial governments matching these funds and accelerating their efforts to improve housing supply, in collaboration with municipalities.
- The federal government will allocate funding based on the formula already used for the Public Transit stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. This calculation is based on a mix of transit ridership (70 per cent weight) and population (30 per cent weight).
- The Province is working with TransLink on its new 2022 Investment Plan update for the 2022-2024 period which includes keeping the transit system in a state of good repair and delivering SLS.
- To meet a commitment set out in the 2020 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Province, TransLink and the Mayors' Council, staff from the Ministries of Transportation and Infrastructure (TRAN) and Finance (FIN) are proposing near-term regional funding tools to help provide sustainable and predictable revenue sources for the 2022 plan.
- TransLink is projecting a $100M-$300M annual financial gap, depending on the pace of recovery, due to ongoing pandemic related losses.
  - The financial gap assumes "right-sized" services to respond to demand, a "right-sized" capital plan that includes a 40% provincial capital contribution, new non-taxation and other "own source" TransLink revenues – including 3% increase to property taxes and 2% higher transit fares through 2024 – and gradual ridership recovery.
  - Based on mid-range recovery estimates, TransLink reports that $100M in new annual revenue will help fund the 2022 Investment Plan update and keep TransLink liquid for at least the next three years.
  - The expectation is that TransLink would apply the federal/provincial pandemic funding to offset their forecasted $100 million annual revenue gap over the next three calendar years (2023-2025 inclusively)
- The Province will fund $2.416 billion of the 2022 Investment Plan as part of the

Advice/Recommentations; Government Financial Information

Post-Investment Plan

- On January 27, 2022, TransLink approved its new 30-year regional transportation strategy, *Transport 2050* and are currently renewing the Mayors' Council 10-Year Vision expected to be completed by June 2022.
    - T2050 prioritizes new major projects that will be divided into initiatives to include in the first and second half of a new 10-Year Vision.
    - A new 10-Year Vision will likely include construction of UBCx, rapid transit to the North Shore and construction of the Burnaby Mountain Gondola.

PROGRAM CONTACT

Jodi Dong, Executive Director, Transit Branch, Policy Programs & Partnerships Division

250 216-7407

TransLink Mayors' Council's Vision – Phase 2 Funding
Budget/Estimates Note

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

ISSUE **Date:** April 6, 2022

- TransLink Mayors' Council's Vision – Phase Two Funding.

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- The Province is committed to funding 40 per cent of the capital costs of the Mayors' Council's 10-Year Vision, including $2.54 billion for Phase Two of the Vision (Phase Two). The Province is also funding and delivering the replacement of the Pattullo Bridge, estimated at $1.377B.
- Phase Two includes important projects such as the Broadway Subway, which continues to be delivered on time, upgrades to the SkyTrain system including 205 new SkyTrain cars, and expansion of transit facilities.
- Our focus continues to be working with TransLink to deliver on immediate needs to ensure the continued delivery of essential transit services in Metro Vancouver, the development of TransLink's 2022 Investment Plan and the delivery of the Surrey Langley SkyTrain project.

BACKGROUND

- In June 2018, the Mayors' Council approved their Phase Two investment plan which included construction of rapid transit in Surrey and Vancouver.
    - Phase Two includes over $6.2 billion of new capital investments over ten years.
    - The Province is funding 40% (estimated at $2.54 billion) of the capital costs, while the federal government committed $2.01 billion for Phase Two capital projects as part of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP).
- As part of Phase Two, the Province enabled new revenue tools for the region to fund its share of the plan, including: a development cost charge; a 3% increase in the parking rights tax; and a 1.5 cent per litre increase in the regional fuel tax.
- TransLink planned to include the first stage of Surrey-Langley-SkyTrain (SLS) to Fleetwood, as well as any service expansion possible with no new revenue, in a Phase Two update in June 2020; however, TransLink's next investment plan has been delayed until May 31, 2022 due to COVID-19 and will focus on economic recovery, state of good repair and delivering the entire SLS project.

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations; Government Financial Information

PROGRAM CONTACT

Jodi Dong, Executive Director, Transit Branch, Policy Programs & Partnerships Department, 250 216-7407

Mobility Pricing (or Road Usage/Decongestion Charging)
Budget/Estimates Note

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Date: February 16, 2022

ISSUE

- Metro Vancouver, Vancouver, TransLink and the Mayors' Council's work on mobility pricing.

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- Metro Vancouver regional agencies continue to explore mobility pricing as a way to reduce traffic congestion and GHG emissions while investing in public transit and active transportation options.
- Our government is committed to making life more affordable *and* supporting the region in meeting its climate goals; we support the Mayors' Council's Vision and will continue working with TransLink on strategies to reduce traffic congestion and GHG emissions as we advance our shared climate goals for a cleaner, better future.
- As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect people's travel behaviour, we must ensure that solutions to traffic congestion are fair and affordable for everyone, and I know the mayors share this view.
- Our focus right now is to continue working with TransLink to protect the integrity of our public transportation systems and ensure continued delivery of essential services for people in Metro Vancouver.

BACKGROUND

- TransLink launched the Mobility Pricing Independent Commission in 2017 to evaluate tolls and distance-based charges against the objectives of reducing congestion, promoting fairness, and supporting transportation investment.
- TransLink's new Regional Transportation Strategy, *Transport 2050*, references Mobility Pricing as type of types of demand management tool to be explored and discussed with various partners over the next 5-10 years.
- Metro Vancouver's *Climate 2050 Roadmap* includes mobility pricing as a strategy to reduce driving through investing in active transportation and public transit and includes a goal to: "work with the BC government, TransLink, member jurisdictions and other regional partners to develop and implement a policy that puts a price on driving in the region to help reduce emissions."
- As part of its *Climate Emergency Action Plan*, the City of Vancouver is undertaking policy work to design a mobility pricing system (transport pricing) for its downtown core, with implementation by 2025. Policy development will include consultation and work to address equity concerns. The City cannot implement mobility pricing without provincial support.
- Metro Vancouver staff proposed mobility pricing as a "big idea" as part of the development of its Climate 2050 and Clean Air Plans.

- In 2017, the Province eliminated tolls on the Port Mann and Golden Ears bridges, saving families up to $1,500 per year.
- Kevin Falcon, newly elected leader of the opposition, was quoted as saying the decision to remove tolls was "short-sighted" and "smart politics to remove the tolls is really bad public policy."

Service Plan Variance

- No implications for the Ministry Service Plan.

PROGRAM CONTACT

Jodi Dong, Executive Director, Transit Branch, Policy Programs & Partnerships Division, 250 216-7407

Surrey Langley SkyTrain Project
Budget/Estimate Note

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Date: January 31, 2022

ISSUE

- Surrey Langley SkyTrain (SLS) Project Update

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- We are committed to investing in transit and transportation projects that meet the needs of people in Metro Vancouver.
- This includes extending SLS all the way to Langley City.
- In July 2021, the federal government committed to fund up to $1.3 billion for SLS, which was one more step for this important project.
- Advance work is already underway to widen Fraser Highway and relocate utilities.
- This project will provide sustainable transportation choices for people around the region, especially those south of the Fraser, as well as provide opportunities for future development, active transportation and more housing options.
- We are working to confirm the technical work and environmental studies, as well as engaging with Indigenous groups and stakeholders.
- We will be working closely with the local governments and TransLink throughout this project.
- Building the Surrey Langley SkyTrain in one stage all the way to Langley will speed up completion (from 2030 to 2028) and cost less than building it in two stages.

BACKGROUND

- In 2019, further to the request of the City of Surrey, the Mayors' Council suspended the LRT project to proceed with planning and project development for a Surrey Langley SkyTrain (SLS).
- In January 2020, TransLink submitted a business case to the Province which assumed TransLink ownership and delivery of the project.
- The business case focused on Stage 1 of the SLS project (with only $1.6 billion in available funding) - a seven-kilometre extension from Surrey's King George SkyTrain station to 166 St in Fleetwood. It was estimated that Stage 2, from 166 St in Fleetwood to Langley City Centre, Advice/Recommentations; Government Financial Information

Advice/Recommentations; Government Financial Information

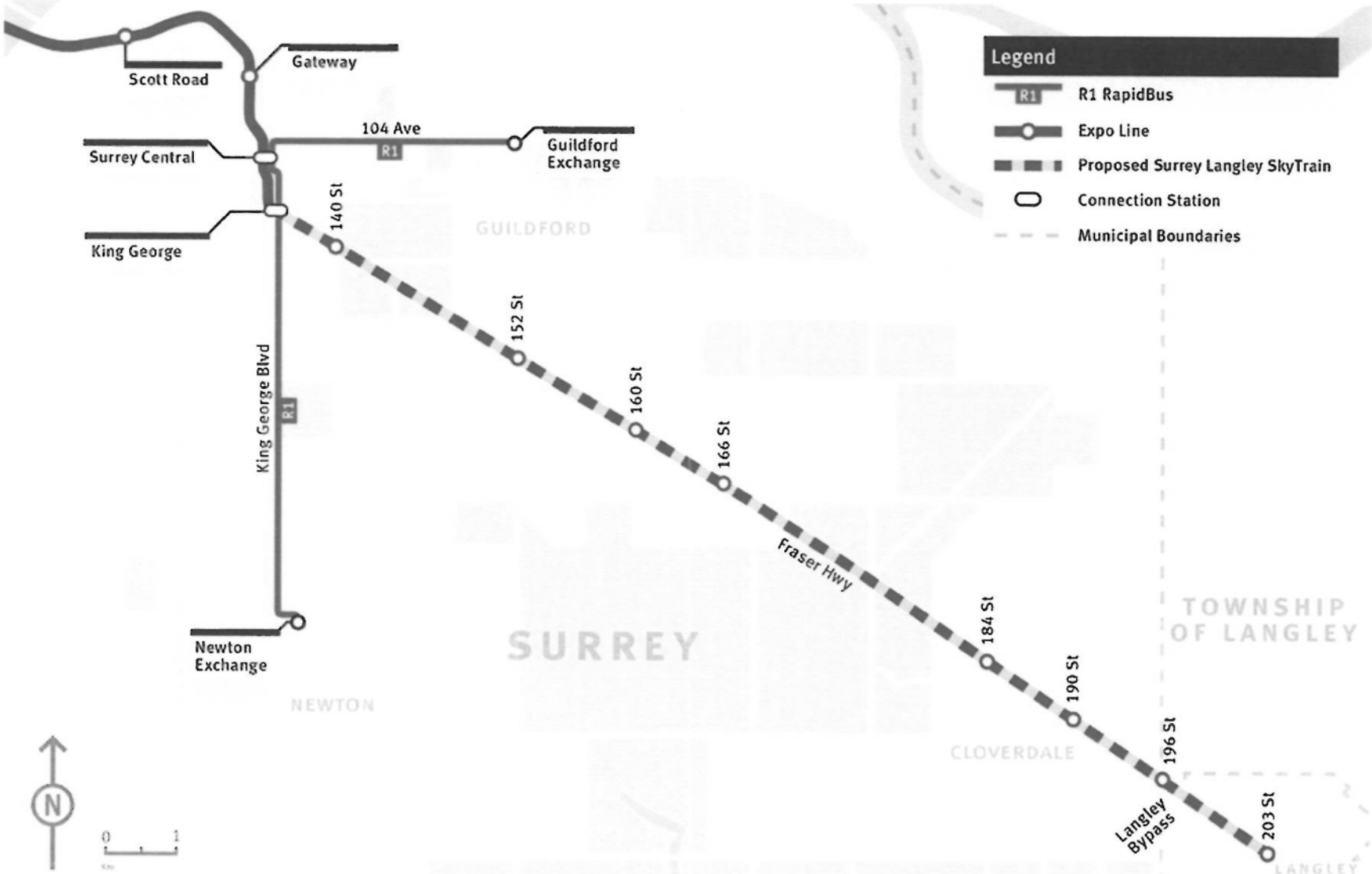
- In fall 2020, the Province publicly committed to delivering a full 16-kilometre line from King George SkyTrain Station to Langley City Centre on an elevated guideway along

Fraser Highway, and later included this commitment in the mandate letters of Ministers Heyman and Ma.

- $128.2 million is being invested in early works such as hydro line relocations and property acquisition.
- The Province is engaging with Indigenous groups and stakeholders and intends to launch a round of public engagement in spring 2022 to present a reference concept design of the entire 16km alignment.
- The ministry is developing an SLS business case, Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations
Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations

PROGRAM CONTACT

Lesley Ballman, Executive Director, Major Projects & Alternate Procurement, Cell: (250) 361-6584


Legend
R1 RapidBus
Expo Line
Proposed Surrey Langley SkyTrain
Connection Station
Municipal Boundaries
Scott Road
Gateway
104 Ave
R1
Guildford Exchange
Surrey Central
King George
King George Blvd
R1
Newton Exchange
140 St
152 St
160 St
166 St
Fraser Hwy
184 St
190 St
196 St
Langley Bypass
203 St
GUILDFORD
SURREY
NEWTON
CLOVERDALE
TOWNSHIP OF LANGLEY
LANGLEY CITY
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Burnaby Mountain Gondola Project

Estimates Note

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Date: February 11, 2022

ISSUE

- The Mayors' Council is considering a gondola link to Burnaby Mountain.

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- Our government supports continued transit expansion to meet the needs of this growing region, and we are taking the lead from the Mayors' Council who are in the best position to make decisions about regional priorities.
- We understand there are benefits to the gondola proposal, most notably more reliable and quicker service, as well as GHG reductions from replacing the diesel buses and reducing vehicle use.
- The Burnaby Mountain Gondola (BMG) Project is not included in TransLink's current 10-year plan. However, with Burnaby Council's recent endorsement, BMG will be considered for inclusion in the new Mayors' Council 10-Year Vision.
- Provincial staff is working closely with TransLink to understand the details of the gondola project.

BACKGROUND

- In 2014, the Mayors' Council's 10-Year Vision (the Vision) identified the potential need for high-capacity transit to Burnaby Mountain and in 2018 released a business case that included a gondola with three route options.
- In May 2019, the City of Burnaby unanimously confirmed support in principle for the gondola, subject to a number of conditions including minimizing impacts to residents living near the gondola and areas with high ecological values, as well as providing fair compensation to affected property owners.
- In December 2020, TransLink completed their second round of engagement on the Burnaby Mountain Gondola (BMG) and found that Route 1 was the preferred route, a straight-line route from Production Way–University SkyTrain Station to SFU Burnaby campus.
- Over 20,000 people responded during both engagements with TransLink claiming overall regional support for the BMG Project at approximately 83 per cent.
- Residents of Burnaby's Forest Grove neighborhood, over which the preferred route would run, expressed concern with the preferred route's impacts on their visual privacy.
- On March 1, 2021, TransLink announced the preferred route for BMG through a news release.
- On January 24, 2022, Burnaby City Council endorsed the Burnaby Mountain Project via Route 1.

- BMG will be considered for inclusion in the new Mayors' Council 10-Year Vision and has been identified in Transport 2050.

PROGRAM CONTACT

Sean Nacey, Director, Major Projects Branch, 250-213-6672

Sky Train Extension Arbutus to UBC

Estimates Note

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Date: February 18, 2022

ISSUE

- Pre-business case work is underway for the proposed rail rapid transit extension from Arbutus Street to UBC.

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- The Province has committed to fund 40% of the capital costs of every Phase of the Vision including the extension of the SkyTrain down Broadway to Arbutus Street, which the Province is now delivering.
- Construction of the SkyTrain extension to UBC is not included in the current Mayors' Council's 10-Year Vision.
- However - TransLink is presently engaged in pre-business case work for the proposed project, and the Province is participating in this work.
- Any decision on provincial funding for a SkyTrain extension from Arbutus to UBC will depend on the findings of a complete and detailed business case.

BACKGROUND

- The City of Vancouver, the Mayors' Council and the TransLink Board of Directors have all endorsed a SkyTrain extension from Arbutus Street to UBC as the preferred technology to advance to the next stage of project development for rapid transit to UBC.
- The Phase Two Investment Plan allocated $3 million in funding for planning and pre-business case work for rapid transit to UBC.
- TransLink, with input from the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh (MST) Development Corp, Metro Vancouver, UBC, the City of Vancouver, and the Province, is developing concept designs and to prepare pre-business case estimates of costs and benefits.
- A decision to move forward with construction of the UBC extension depends on the completion of a business case and funding from all project partners.

PROGRAM CONTACT

Sean Nacey, Director, Major Projects and Alternate Procurement Branch, Cell: 250 213-6672

Cruise Industry Restart
Estimates Note

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Date: April 26, 2022

ISSUE

- Resumption of 2022 Cruise Season.

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- The province is approaching the safe resumption of cruise in accordance with Transport Canada (TC) and Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) guidelines. We continue to work in close collaboration with industry and government.
- All cruise lines and ports have developed and implemented detailed safety plans that were created based on Transport Canada and Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) requirements. In addition, Regional Health Authorities and public health have reviewed these plans and have been actively engaged in TC guidelines.
- Cruise ship bookings for this year are already promising, with 600 ports of call or vessel calls, in Vancouver and Victoria – about a 10 per cent increase from 2019.
- We know that cruise ship passengers want to experience British Columbia, and British Columbians look forward to welcoming them to our cities under safe COVID travel protocols.

BACKGROUND

Cruise Industry Restart:

- Since August 2021, MOTI and TACS have been co-hosting monthly industry engagement meetings to discuss the safe resumption of cruise operations. In addition, the Cruise Lines International Association, Transport Canada, and the Public Health Agency of Canada have been meeting regularly in preparation for safe cruise ship resumption in the spring of 2022.
- As of November 1, 2021, cruise ships are permitted to operate in Canadian waters and operators must fully comply with public health requirements.
- Transport Canada (TC), in consultation with PHAC, has developed a comprehensive framework focussing on the COVID-19 related health requirements that the cruise industry must abide by, supporting safe cruise activities in Canada.
- Cruise operators are required to implement and put in place measures including a COVID-19 management plan, ship to shore checklist and reporting requirements. Regional Health Authorities may request a copy of the plans and ship-to-shore checklists for review, as required. In addition, all ports will have management plans.
- All persons boarding a cruise ship must be 100% vaccinated and must have a test (PCR within 72 hours of boarding/RAT within 48 hours prior to boarding). Observation and testing continues throughout the cruise. If a guest or crew member demonstrates symptoms at any time, they would receive an antigen test. If this was inconclusive, they would be required to isolate and take a PCR test. If they were confirmed, they would not be allowed to disembark for a shore tour. If they were

returning to a home port, they would be the last to leave the ship and quarantine procedures would be pre-arranged, as would travel to the quarantine location.

- On April 6, 2022, the first cruise ship, Caribbean Princess, was scheduled to arrive in Victoria; however, passengers and crew had tested positive for COVID-19 and subsequently cancelled the stop in Victoria and Vancouver. The implemented COVID-19 Management Plan allowed safe handling of this situation with no reports of serious illness.
- Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, cruise was a significant contributor to B.C.'s tourism sector and port communities, generating $2.7B in economic activity in 2019.
- Vancouver is the only homeport with one-way and round-trip itineraries to Alaska. Cruises also include Hawaii, the Panama Canal, Asia, the South Pacific, and California via Canada Place cruise terminal. Alaska itineraries make up the largest share of itineraries.
- As of April 1, 2022, Vancouver will have 319 vessel calls from 22 cruise lines in place for the 2022 season. If booked at 100% capacity, this could mean a total of 1.2 million passengers over the season (a higher volume than in 2019).
    - Vancouver to Alaska Cruise passenger profile:
        - Majority of passengers are American (62%), Other International (23%), Canadian (15%).
        - 74% of passengers spend time in B.C., either before or after their cruise, staying in: Vancouver (71%), Victoria (11%) Whistler (9%) and other parts of B.C. (23%).
- Victoria, Nanaimo, and Prince Rupert are ports of call for the Alaska cruise route.
- There are currently 350 ship calls scheduled to arrive at the Victoria Cruise Terminal over the 2022 season. The Greater Victoria Harbour Authority estimates there will be 759,000 passengers, or close to the equivalent number from the 2019 season.

PVSA Legislation:

- With the lifting of the Canadian ban on cruise ships and the U.S. CDC no sail order, the Alaska Tourism Restoration Act (ATRA) is no longer operative, and the Passenger Vessel Services Act (PVSA) applies again.
- Advice/Recommentations; Intergovernmental Communications
- The province continues to monitor the ATRA and PVSA legislation closely for impacts to cruise travel in B.C. and will continue to work closely with federal partners on the border policy.

PROGRAM CONTACT

Sandra Toth Nacey, Executive Director, Transportation Services Branch, 778-679-2483

Nooksack River Flood Initiative: Input to Date

- High level:
  - We have had preliminary discussions with Sumas First Nation staff and City of Abbotsford staff together, with follow-up conversations proposed
  - Provincial staff do not think we can de-link Nooksack conversation from Sumas Prairie long-term flood planning conversation, based on initial conversations May 12 with Sumas First Nation and City of Abbotsford staff together, and other related recent meetings – talk among them of developing an MoU to engage among the four orders of government on it
  - Sumas First Nation as the title holder and with relationships to the other nations would like to advise us on the structure of how to engage with their neighbouring nations on the Nooksack process.
-
- Sumas First Nation is the title holder
  - Sumas has just finished an election – still Chief Dalton Silver, change in counsellors but Murray Ned still engaged on this topic
  - Close relationship with Leq'á:mel
  - Asking how they would like to work with their neighbouring nations to set up a structure – and will the other nations be sharing/advising - Will likely go to STSA to discuss broader representation
  - Want to engage directly with their relatives in the Nooksack Tribe
  - Have reached out to engage with the federal government – no response yet
- Sumas key issues
  - FPIC
  - Capacity funding (TBD through top up to existing Strategic Engagement Agreement or separate; need to first have a better idea of governance structure and involvement of nations to know how to distribute)
  - Pace – understands urgency and will be in support of getting moving, but want to ensure they are there for setting the priorities, that they have enough information, ideally that they are involved in instructions to contractors, and that options respect the needs of Abbotsford and Sumas from cultural and spiritual perspectives

  - Breadth – very broad, raise the Sumas Lake for consideration – should have been an option, haven't done the work to say if they are aligned with the options Abbotsford has put forward – weren't developed by or for Sumas
- Internal provincial discussion on reaching out to other Nations
  - STSA may take time to reach based on their structure, Sumas may help expedite it
  - Leq'á:mel – has rights not title; close relationship with Sumas, part of STSA
  - Matsqui – has rights not title; need to go separately as not part of STSA
  - Other nations have rights – inform but lead with Sumas, Leq'á:mel and Matsqui
- Abbotsford key issues
  - Significant timing concern, and frustration with the idea of more discussion and reports – they want to move to action
  - Nooksack outcomes are not currently expected to inform Abbotsford's work on a "long-term flood mitigation project"
  - Move forward to securing multi-year funding commitment from feds for mitigation activities, before lose attention – expect this to take 5-10 years and need to plan it out
- Abbotsford key issues
  - Recovery piece moving quickly
  - Build back better concept - MOTI Hwy 1 expansion and in particular Whatcom interchange
- Bank Stabilization and Flood Mitigation **Memorandum of Understanding** between Sumas, Abbotsford and the province – some governance elements to draw from
- Shared understanding that there needs to be further work on an integrated floodplain management plan, and that the work could take some time and involve a big table – we will be asking whether it could be the same table as for the Nooksack 'BC caucus'

- Next steps:
  - connect with S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance (STSA)
  - Bank Stabilization steering committee/governance body will be convened under a broader umbrella of "Recovery and Planning" to discuss approach going forward

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

Disaster Financial Assistance – Atmospheric River Event – Ops Metrics

Suggested Response:

- Disaster Financial Assistance is a provincial program, administered by Emergency Management BC, to help individuals and local government bodies recover from uninsurable losses in a disaster.

- The 2021 Atmospheric River extreme weather event is the single largest event in the DFA program's history.

- On average, the program receives 450 applications per year across multiple events. We've now reached over 2,200 applications for the Atmospheric River event. With the recent amendments to the Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation, we are anticipating a small number of additional applications coming in to EMBC.

File Status	Number	Percentage
Currently open and under assessment	1,445	64%
Closed with payment (eligible)	307	14%
Closed without payment (ineligible or withdrawn)	334	15%
Transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries to be assessed under the 2021 Canada-British Columbia Flood Recovery Program for Food Security	167	7%
TOTAL	2,253	100%

- Of all currently open and under assessment files, 316 are awaiting additional information from the applicant or from another government body before processing/eligibility assessment can continue. This represents 22% of all files that are currently open and under assessment, or 14% of all total files.

- There are a variety of reasons that an applicant may be found to be ineligible for DFA:

    - damages were not eligible (e.g. land erosion; pre-existing damage; damage to non-essential items; and damages valued at less than the $1,000;

    - deductible are not eligible for DFA funding;

    - applicant has insurance sufficient to cover the damages;

    - the applicant declined to purchase insurance;

- the home is not the applicant's principal residence and/or the applicant is not eligible for the homeowner grant, in the case of homeowner applicant;
- Small businesses, farm owners, and charitable organizations must also meet eligibility criteria specific to their categories.

- To support the surge in applications due to the Atmospheric River event, we've implemented several operational improvements, including:
  - increased administrative and field staff and contractor support;
  - additional management staff to approve and process payments;
  - streamlined application adjudication;
  - evening and weekend application processing and field visits.
- A contractor has been retained and has recruited staff from across Canada (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Alberta, and throughout BC) to obtain qualified people to augment the existing workforce.
- In November 2021, the contractor had approximately 7 FTES to support field review, and currently has approximately 30 FTEs.
- And we've recently made regulation changes enabling up-front contributions toward public sector recovery projects, increased the Province's contribution toward recovery projects, and expanded eligibility to cover more people and small businesses.

If asked about specific DFA applications:

- While I can't speak to specific applications due to privacy, what I can say is that ongoing recovery work across the province has identified several areas where the existing rules and criteria for programs such as Disaster Financial Assistance are still leaving unmet needs.
- In addition to the previously-announced changes to the DFA program, staff continue to work on options for government's consideration around these issues.

Rental Housing (a small number of rental properties in Merritt have been identified as not meeting new income threshold)

- The new $10,000 **gross** income threshold for small businesses was determined following cross jurisdictional analysis of post-disaster small business support and market rent analysis. The revised threshold also aligns with both the Federal Disaster Financial Assistance

Arrangement (DFAA) program and six other provinces in addition to providing support to a greater number of market rental providers.

- It's important to note that calculating gross income of the small business may include multiple revenue streams, including more than one rental property.

- Although landlords could apply under the homeowner category, there are also potential opportunities for landlords to apply under the small business category.

Background:

Private Sector – DFA applications

- As of May 24, 2022, 2,253 private sector applications have been received.
    - Homeowners: 1,352 (or 60%)
    - Residential Tenants: 438 (or 19%)
    - Small Businesses: 272 (or 12%)
    - Charitable Organizations: 24 (or 1%)
- As of May 24, average payment per applicant category is as follows:
    - Homeowners: $28,525
    - Residential Tenants: $5,811
    - Small Businesses: $5,663
    - Overall average: $24,090
- Farm owners (167, or 7%) are being assisted with their farm business-related damages through the Canada-BC 2021 Canada-British Columbia Flood Recovery Program for Food Security.

- Applications have been received from every region of the province, with the largest number of applications received from the communities of Abbotsford (667); Merritt (478); Chilliwack (234); and Princeton (183).

- It is currently taking approximately 16 weeks to handle an application from application date to closure. There are currently 1,445 open applications.

Public Sector (Indigenous communities, local governments, and other public sector applicants)

- To date, 50 public sector applicants applied in relation to the 2021 Atmospheric River DFA event from across the province.
- 2 of these applicants' files have been closed due to them not having any recovery costs to submit for.
- There are 23 Cost Recovery Plans (CRPs) received or created by EMBC.
- 19 projects have been approved in principle by EMBC for $3.9M.
- EMBC has identified 289 projects so far and is assisting applicants in completing assessments and creating CRPs.
- 258 are projects pending approval
- There is an unknown number of projects that communities have yet to submit for consideration. As assessments continue, communities will add eligible projects to their CRPs.
- 10 projects have been identified as ineligible and closed.
- 2 projects have been withdrawn.
- 1 claim has been received and is under adjudication.

Program Changes

- EMBC has a number of operational, regulatory, and program policy changes underway to expedite application handling including:
  - Remote evaluation for tenant applications with claims under an estimated value of $7,500.
  - Approximately tripling the number of staff processing and managing applications, and hiring contracted resources to assist in contacting applicants.
  - Changes to the Regulation to increase the number of small businesses eligible for assistance.
    - Replace the existing major source of income rule with a requirement that a small business must have between $10,000 and $2 million per year in gross revenue from the business.

The following regulation changes are anticipated to drive public sector applicants to complete the recovery plans sooner to access funding:

- Changes to the Regulation to provide greater financial support to public sector applicants.
  - Regulation change from the current 80%/20% cost share to a per capita cost-share at 95%/5% with a 10% cap.
  - Regulation change to allow for the DFA program to provide up to 50% of a project's estimated costs upfront to public sector applicants.

Data highlights

- As of May 24, 310 payments have been issued for a total of more than $7.7 million paid to applicants across BC.

Private Sector Table 1: Applications received in each EMBC service region (as of May 24, 2022)

Region	Total # of applications
Central	737
Northwest	1
Northeast	1
Southeast	20
Southwest	1,242
Vancouver Island	241
Uncategorized	11
Total	**2,253**

Private Sector Table 2: Applications in communities with at least five payments made or in progress (as of May 24, 2022)

Community	Total # of applications	Closed – transferred, ineligible or withdrawn	Paid or payment in process	Total value paid or in process
	CENTRAL REGION			
Intergovernmental Communications	474	62	122	$3,918,382
	182	30	52	$1,126,704
Total paid or in progress for CTL*				$5,468,506
	SOUTHWEST REGION			
Abbotsford	667	176	104	$3,158,738
Chilliwack	234	37	40	$769,754
Intergovernmental Communications	22	5	7	$55,997
	47	7	6	$226,073
	56	29	9	$210,355
	37	10	5	$87,487
Total paid or in progress for SWE*				$4,957,343
	VANCOUVER ISLAND REGION			
Intergovernmental Communications	31	5	13	$257,005
	32	8	5	$61,857
	58	15	9	$143,329
	10	1	5	$53,430
Total paid or in progress for VIR*				$648,282

*Total is for the whole region, *including* communities with less than five payments made or in progress that are not listed in this chart. This means there are payments included in the bottom line of each region, but which may be outside of the specific communities listed. As such, the total files across these regions may not add up to the sum outlined in earlier tables.

** To assist in protecting personal privacy, no information is provided in the private sector data Table 2 where fewer than five applications have been closed and paid or are in process.

Private Sector Table 3: Payment data by applicant category (as of May 24, 2022)

Category	Home Owner	Residential Tenant	Small Business	Charitable Organization	Farm Operation	Total (File #s only)
Total applications received	1,352	438	272	24	167	2253
Total paid and closed	250	55	2	0	N/A	307
Total value paid and closed	$6,849,913	$320,212	$11,325	$0	N/A	-
Average payment	$27,399	$5,822	$5,663	N/A	N/A	-
Min. & max. payments to date	$699 to $268,902	$920 to $16,882	$1,989 to $9,336	N/A	N/A	-
						-
Total closed – not eligible or withdrawn	208	65	60	1	N/A	334
Open – in process	894	318	210	23	N/A	1445
Transferred to AFF*	-	-	-	-	167	167

*More than 160 applications for DFA were closed and transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries for support under the Canada-BC 2021 Canada-British Columbia Flood Recovery Program for Food Security. A significant portion of those files were in Abbotsford and Chilliwack. (Farmers have been transferred back to DFA for assistance in relation to their homes).

- The DFA program has 19 applications where the title to the home is in the name of a corporation. DFA program has received three evaluator's reports for such homes (i.e., the DFA-eligible damage to the home has already been assessed), and is working on issuing payments for these three. The rest of the 19 homes are still in various stages of application processing.

Public Sector Table 4: Cost Recovery Plan approvals by region (as of May 24, 2022)

Region	Total $ of CRP approval (100%)
Central	$3,045,580
Southwest	$856,906
Vancouver Island	$131,553
Total	$3,754,575

Contact: Alayna van Leeuwen, EMBC Provincial Disaster Recovery	Phone: 778-698-4224	Mobile: Government Financial Information
Rachelle Carey, EMBC Provincial Disaster Recovery	Phone: 778-587-0485	

Supplementary Information on DFA Eligibility

Eligibility for Disaster Financial Assistance

- Each application category must meet certain DFA requirements to qualify.
  - For example, all applicants must have eligible damages under the Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation; they must have uninsurable losses; and they generally need to have not received a DFA payment twice previously.

- Each application category also has specific eligibility criteria.
  - As an example, homeowners and residential tenants may only apply in relation to their principal residence and must be able to demonstrate the address where the damages have occurred is their principal residence (e.g., homeowners must be eligible for a homeowner grant).

- The key stages of handling an application are to (1) confirm an applicant's basic eligibility, (2) refer the applicant's file to the provincially funded evaluator who prepares an estimate of damages recommended for payment under the DFA program (based on a site visit in most circumstances), and (3) make a determination on the application, issuing a payment assuming the applicant is confirmed to have eligible damages.

Claim amounts and eligible expenses

- The Regulation requires the payment of the least cost option out of:
  - The cost to repair the structure to the condition it was in immediately before the disaster;
  - The cost to rebuild the structure;
  - The cost to replace the structure;
  - The assessed value of the structure.

- The amount of assistance payable in respect of any private sector applicant's claim is 80% of the amount by which the amount of the accepted claim exceeds $1,000, to a maximum payable under this Part for an accepted claim of $300,000.

- The Regulation defines eligible expenses for each category of private-sector applicant, which are limited to what the Regulation defines as essential items. The amount compensated for damaged or destroyed contents is limited to the value of a basic model replacement of the damaged item.

Reasons why the limit to assistance is rarely reached

- Under the Regulation, the maximum amount of assistance that private-sector applications can receive per application is $300,000.

- There are several factors that prevent applicants from reaching the limit to assistance:

  1. *Insurance payouts:*
     - DFA is not eligible for costs or expenses for which insurance was reasonably and readily available.
     - If a person has insurance relevant to their needs (i.e. overland flood insurance for overland flooding), the value of their insurance policy is deducted from their DFA payment.

  2. *Limits on eligible costs:*
     - DFA is not eligible for costs or expenses for which insurance was reasonably and readily available.

     - DFA only restores the essentials; it does not pay for non-essential rooms to be fully restored to their pre-event condition or for repairs or rebuilds that exceed prevailing building codes. It only pays for the cost to replace an item with a basic model of that item.

     - DFA does not pay for land loss or erosion, or any land-related restoration other than essential access.

  3. *Claim limit:*
     - For the private sector, DFA limits claims to 80% of eligible claims, less $1,000. This means an applicant would need to incur $376,250 in eligible costs before their claim is affected by the $300,000 absolute limit.

     - The CDFAR requires that assistance be the lesser of various possible remedies, or the assessed value of a structure if the cost to repair the home exceeds its assessed value.

Surge staff resourcing

- The DFA program has increased its number of staff from 10 FTEs in November 2021 to 35 FTEs. Staff are working hard to adjudicate applications in a timely manner.

- Strategies to improve throughput for the DFA program include staff working overtime, engaging external consultants for temporary supplemental resources to augment existing workforce, and amending operational program policies to promote expedited file review.

- The DFA contractor (HCM Catastrophe Management) retained to complete field evaluations (e.g., property damage assessments) has also hired additional staff to help expedite the damage assessments.

Requesting additional information from applicants

- DFA Recovery Officers review file to ensure:
    - there is a complete set of documents needed to confirm that the applicant meets basic eligibility before the file gets assigned to the field manager for an assessment of the applicant's damages;
    - that nothing has come to light as a result of the documents gathered that suggests that the applicant is not eligible (e.g. reviews the insurance template to confirm that the applicant had no relevant insurance or confirm their insurance was insufficient to cover their losses).
- Additionally, the normal procedure is for a Recovery Officer to call the applicant to discuss the applicants damages. This ensures that the program has information about the damages, and is a final check against assigning ineligible applicants for a field review.
- Occasionally, applications require additional information. Common types of missing information that DFA staff need to request from applications include:
    - Insurance information
    - For small businesses, financial information on the business' income
    - For tenants, identification and/or residential tenancy agreement or substitute document confirming principal residency
- DFA staff proactively email or call applicants to tell them what the missing information they need to provide.
- We have onboarded contractors to assist in making sure applicants know what information they need to provide to advance their files, and to improve turn around of secondary requests for documents.
- If we do not receive a response to a minimum of one phone call and two email attempts to contact the applicant to seek the missing information, we will send a "30 day letter" informing the applicant of the information we are missing and that their application will be closed if they do not respond within 30 days.

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE — Lytton Recovery

Suggested Response:

- The Lytton Creek fire caused catastrophic loss of public and private infrastructure for the community of Lytton, mass displacement of residents, and complete loss of public records. This combined with impacts from the atmospheric river event with environment and archaeological considerations has extended timelines for recovery.

- The Village of Lytton has taken positive steps forward with continued support from the Province, including:
  - Recent investment of $18.4 million in funding to cover the costs of debris removal, archaeological monitoring, and soil remediation for municipal and all uninsured and underinsured properties in the Village.
  - In February 2022, more than $8.3 million in funding to support ongoing Village operations and recovery.
  - In December 2021, a $1 million grant for operational and economic development activities so that the Village of Lytton could continue to pay staff leading the wildfire recovery in the community.
  - An exclusive Recovery Team, including a dedicated Assistant Deputy Minister, working side-by-side with village leadership and staff.

- Additionally, Lytton First Nation has demonstrated tremendous leadership in seeking regional recovery solutions and providing support and guidance for archaeological considerations.

- Lytton First Nation has proceeded with the installation of interim housing for Nlaka'pamux members, as they were able to take advantage of an existing Indigenous Services Canada program to automatically replace every residence lost on an Indian Reserve, and they had areas on the reserve readily available and suitable for the installation of interim housing.

- With consistent EMBC resources and funding support, I am confident the Village of Lytton and Lytton First Nation will continue down the road to recovery.

Background:

- The Village of Lytton has a population of approximately 275 residents with an additional 4,500 people living in the surrounding rural area that rely on it as service hub.

- On June 30, 2021, a wildfire swept through the village and across Nlaka'pamux territory, prompting an immediate evacuation.

- Approximately 90% of the village was destroyed including the town hall, police station, ambulance station, public library, and other infrastructure, with some additional structures lost outside of the village.

- Many village residents remain evacuated, and many Nlaka'pamux members, including those from the adjacent Lytton First Nation, remain displaced.

- The Nlaka'pamux Nation is made up of sixteen Indigenous communities spanning the Fraser, Thompson, and Nicola Rivers region. The Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council is a governing entity which represents interests for four of those Nations: Boothroyd, Lytton, Oregon Jack Creek, and Skuppah.

- On July 11, 2021, B.C. and Canada respectively wrote letters of commitment to Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council outlining commitments regarding fire recovery and rail safety, including the establishment of an Implementation Coordination Task Force, to develop and implement work plans for those letters of commitment.

- The Province has an ongoing agreement with the Canadian Red Cross to provide monthly housing of $1,300 plus a food stipend to wildfire evacuees. In addition, the Canadian Red Cross is offering case management supports for all evacuees to support them with their individual recovery.

<u>Community Recovery</u>

- Throughout the wildfire response, EMBC was the Province's lead agency supporting operations in the Village and Lytton First Nation, and the Province continues to play a key role in community recovery.

- The Province is working with insurance providers and the Village to coordinate community clean-up and debris removal.
  - For residents with adequate property insurance, debris removal costs are funded by their insurance company, which will hire a contractor to provide the services. It should be noted that almost all of the insurance policies do not include sufficient coverage to fund the entire cost of site clean-up, including the costs to protect the archeological resource.

  - For those without insurance or who do not have sufficient insurance (most of those with insurance), debris removal will be managed by Lytton's contractors to support this effort in a consistent manner. The Province has committed to support these costs.

- Delays were encountered due to impacts of the atmospheric river event, the need to consider the village's status as a heritage site and due to contamination concerns.
  - Limited road access to the south and north on Highway 1 following the atmospheric river event created a challenge for removal of items and general debris cleanup; however, the Province has since rebuilt the highway at the two washout locations.
  - The wildfire destroyed many structural foundations and removing these will require digging several feet deep to completely account for ash, soot, metals, brick, concrete, wood, and other building materials.
  - The testing of village ash samples determined the presence of asbestos, which requires precautions to ensure safety during cleanup, transportation, and disposal; however, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy concluded that no special orders were required for the village site, and that qualified professionals are characterising and managing waste appropriately.
  - None of the samples on Lytton First Nation lands met the criteria to be considered hazardous waste, so this work was able to proceed without delay.

- The Province is also working closely with Lytton First Nation and the Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council on debris removal, in order to respect the important heritage values in the area.
  - The Province's Archaeology Branch is working with the village and the Kumsheen Heritage Management Committee to ensure progress while respecting *Heritage Conservation Act* requirements. The Kumsheen Heritage Management Committee is a partnership of the Province's Archaeology Branch, EMBC, Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council, and the Village of Lytton. This group is responsible to approving debris removal plans.
  - The Province is holding a Heritage Investigation permit designed for multiple proponents including the Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council's archaeological firm with whom the village has contracted. A companion Alteration permit is in final development.
  - This clearing of surface debris from five municipal sites is complete, while time frames for excavation work will depend on approval of debris removal plans and on securing Right of Entry permits for individual properties.

- This work is proceeding in a stepwise fashion, across seven Zones, south to north. Zone 1 is now complete and final cleanup is now underway in Zone 2, with the current target to be completed in September on all municipal and uninsured properties. The Province and the Village are working to draw the underinsured properties into the same timeline.

- The Province has funded a number of positions for Lytton's community recovery team and has been working closely with partner agencies and other ministries to support the return of essential functions and services
  - The Province, in partnership with Northern Development Initiatives Trust, has supported an Economic Development Officer position. The Province has also committed funding towards a business liaison through Community Futures Sun Country.

  - The Province has supported or is currently supporting the following positions; as of May 16, a total of $3.8 Million has been provided for staffing:
    - Emergency Operations Centre Staff (past)
    - Housing Specialist (past)
    - Community Recovery Manager (past and ongoing)
    - Financial Consulting Firm (past)
    - Corporate Officer Position
    - CAO Position
    - Building and Bylaw Director
    - Chief Financial Officer
    - HR Consultant
    - Local Assistant to the Building and Bylaw Director
    - Project Manager (including the firm and several positions within the firm)
    - Site Security
    - Administrative support for the CAO and CFO
    - Housing Project Lead
    - Communications
    - Village Policy and Business Liaison Position
    - Recovery Director
    - Grant Application Writer

  - Interior Health Authority, along with First Nations Health Authority, continue to work toward the re-establishment of primary health care services in the region. Health services are currently being provided by the Lytton First Nation Health Centre.

  - BC Ambulance Service plans to put a modular ambulance station and accommodation at the Lytton First Nation Health Centre and, in the meantime, the area is being serviced by Ashcroft, Lillooet, and Boston Bar.

  - Canada Post is providing service five days a week in Lytton at a temporary location, and the RCMP are planning a portable detachment and up to five more officers in the Lytton region throughout the course of 2022.

- The village has a resiliency centre open in the Kumsheen ShchEma-meet School which is staffed by village resident volunteers and provides space for agency representatives such as

the Insurance Bureau of Canada and Canadian Red Cross to meet with residents, answer their questions, and connect them to available resources.

Contact: Jennifer Walker (EMBC, Community Disaster Recovery Lytton)	Phone: 778-698-4974	Mobile: Government Financial Information

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

Southwest Regional Recovery

Suggested Response:

- EMBC continues to support the City of Abbotsford, District of Hope, Sumas Prairie, Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD), and many First Nations communities to advance recovery efforts.
- Funding support up to $78M has been approved through EMBC for response activities to communities in the Southwest Region as of May 26, 2022.
- Draft recovery plans have been submitted from the City of Abbotsford, District of Hope, and Chawathil First Nation.
- Funding support up to $327,000 has been approved through EMBC for dedicated Recovery Managers for the City of Abbotsford, District of Hope, FVRD, and Chawathil First Nation.

Background:

- The atmospheric river weather events in November 2021 caused floods and landslides with unprecedented impacts to critical infrastructure such as roads and bridges, extension losses to the agricultural sector, the evacuation of over 17,000 people, and the tragic loss of 5 lives. Damage was most acute in the Fraser Valley and the southern interior of the province (Merritt, Princeton).
- Several First Nations are facing recovery issues such as flood damage to homes and infrastructure, as well as issues around debris and land recovery.
- First Nation communities do not have the capacity to thoroughly assess recovery needs, or in some cases, access recovery supports. They appear to take a cautious approach to initiating funding requests.
- The Southwest Recovery division is working with communities to inventory unmet needs.

City of Abbotsford's Flood Recovery Plan

- City of Abbotsford received $5.85M in financial support from Municipal Affairs for flood recovery.
- City of Abbotsford received $4.1M in financial support from the province for response efforts under the *Emergency Program Act (EPA)*. They have an additional $2.4M in EPA claims approved and with finance for processing.

- City of Abbotsford has submitted a cost recovery plan of $53M consisting of 63 projects, to the province (DFA applications).

City of Abbotsford council was presented with four different options for prepardedness for future flooding:

1) Status quo with enhancements to Barrowtown Pump Station. (estimated cost $209M)
2) Status quo with enhancements to Barrowtown Pump Station and a new Sumas River pump station. (estimated cost $1.297B)
3) Added floodway and storage area, enhancements to Barrowtown Pump Station and a new Sumas River pump station. (estimated cost $2.497B)
4) Added narrow floodway, enhancements to Barrowtown Pump Station and a new Sumas River Pump station and more. (estimated cost $2.797B)

Suggested Response:

- The province has received the City of Abbotsford report, and thanks the City for their leadership around this important topic.

- Premier John Horgan and Washington Governor Jay Inslee recently announced a bilaterial co-operation between the Province and Washington state to build a sustained and ongoing transboundary initiative to address the Nooksack River flooding prevention and response.

- Given the many governments involved in each option of the report, this is not a decision that would be made unilaterally by the Province.

Contact: Perry Grilz, EMBC Community Disaster Recovery SouthWest	Phone: 250-649-2618	Mobile: Government Financial Information

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

Central Regional Recovery

Suggested Response:

Current Status:

- As of April 30, 2022, EMBC has provided $18M to communities in the Central Region to support Atmospheric River event response activities.

- The EMBC Central Community Disaster Recovery Team meets weekly with recovery managers from impacted communities to chart recovery progress, identify unfunded recovery needs and explore funding solutions.

- Funding support up to $300,000 has been approved through EMBC for dedicated Recovery Managers for the City of Merritt, Town of Princeton, the Thompson Nicola Regional District, Okanagan Similkameen Regional District and Nooaitch First Nation.

- In addition to the $18M for response, on April 14, 2022, the Province announced $54M in funding dedicated to targeted recovery support for communities impacted by the Atmospheric River event. For example, the Town of Princeton and City of Merritt have partnered with BC Housing to direct $13.5M of this funding to interim housing for evacuees in these communities.

Large, Woody Debris Concerns

- The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change is leading a project to facilitate the removal debris, including the assessment and potential removal or relocation of large woody debris from impacted waterways, prior to freshet.

- EMBC's Central Community Disaster Recovery team works closely with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Forests, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada to help determine which large, woody debris jams are causing hydrologic risk to communities or important infrastructure.

- EMBC is assisting the debris removal team by communicating with affected communities and is ensuring concerns related to consultation, archaeology, fish habitat needs and safety are considered and addressed.

- Of the 195 debris sites consisting of human made and natural objects identified on the Tulameen, Similkameen, Coldwater, Thompson and Nicola river systems, 121 debris accumulations have been removed or relocated and 40 accumulations assessed were recommended not to be removed, as of April 27, 2022.

- Of this, a total of 35 large, woody debris accumulations were assessed, nine were removed or relocated and 26 recommended not to be removed, either for worker safety or

environmentally beneficial reasons.

- The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change reports the debris removal project in the Central Region will be largely complete in early May, 2022.

Background:

Current Unmet Needs

- Due to the far-reaching extent of the atmospheric river event and the 2021 wildfire season, many communities are experiencing the need for government assistance that falls outside the legislated parameters of the *Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation* of the *Emergency Program Act.*

Large, Woody Debris Concerns

- The 2021 atmospheric river-induced flooding, resulting in widespread stream channel abandonment and the creation of new water channels which caused unprecedented streambank erosion, dragging tens of thousands of trees which accumulated along the floodplains into large, woody debris jams. In one case, a jam was large enough to conceal an excavator.

- Some large, woody debris accumulations are considered to be beneficial, creating important habitat for salmon and other species, while others present a risk to critical infrastructure, such as bridges.

- Community leaders in the Central Region have asked that large, woody debris accumulations in the Tulameen and Similkameen be addressed. The Province is currently doing so, under the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Atmospheric River Debris Project.

Contact: Ray Crampton (EMBC, Community Disaster Recovery Central)	Phone: 778-943-6861	Mobile: Government Financial Information

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

Interim Housing – Floods and Landslides

Suggested Response:

- The Province is aware that a great number of uninsured residents require interim housing within their communities while they endeavour to repair and rebuild flood damaged homes.
- First Nations Communities are having interim housing needs met by Indigenous Services Canada, where housing has been provided or is in the process of being provided.
- The Province is working with the Canadian Red Cross and affected communities to provide support to approximately 1,000 households within the Central Region and the Fraser Valley.
- A significant number of evacuees are unable to find lodging in their home communities due to housing shortages and a lack of commercial accommodation availability.
- On April 14, 2022, the Province announced funding totalling $53.6 million dollars to support flood recovery efforts in 10 B.C. communities. Of this amount, approximately $13.5 million will provide in-community, interim housing solutions for evacuees in Merritt and Princeton.
- EMBC staff continue to work with the Canadian Red Cross to find interim housing solutions for evacuees in the Fraser Valley.

Background:

- The November 2021 atmospheric river event caused extensive damage to many homes in the Central Region displacing approximately 800 households in Merritt and 200 households in Princeton. Only a small proportion of these homes were insurable. A further four homes were lost or slated for demolition on Nooaitch Indian Band lands, one home on Shackan Indian Band, and one home at Cook's Ferry Indian Band. Outside of Merritt, the Thompson-Nicola Regional District has nine homes that require demolition, while outside of Princeton, the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen has three that likely require demolition.
- Evacuees from 400 Central Region households remain in temporary lodging within their communities. Due to a lack of in-community commercial lodging supports, over 100 households are being supported in communities outside Princeton and Merritt. Community leaders have requested interim housing for these evacuees as they undertake repairs to their homes. Princeton has requested funding to provide 12 temporary homes, Merritt has requested funding for 60 temporary homes.

- Recovery is a lengthy process. The onset of winter followed the flooding immediately within the interior of B.C., resulting in affected homes being frozen, with no utilities or natural gas for extended periods. Many homes are also seasonal. Thus, within the interior of B.C., much remediation and recovery did not begin until March when temperatures allowed frozen silt to be removed from the homes and the true extent of the damage to be assessed.

Contact: Ray Crampton (EMBC Community Disaster Recovery Central)	Phone: 778-943-6861	Mobile: Government Financial Information

2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

Nooksack River Flooding

Suggested Response:

- B.C. has a strong partnership with our neighbours in Washington State, and I am pleased that both governments are working closely to come up with long-term solutions to address flooding challenges that have been present for decades. This is a neighbour-to-neighbour exercise that will draw upon the many successful collaborations we have undertaken with our friends across the border.

- On March 15, Governor Inslee and Premier Horgan announced further bilateral cooperation to address flooding issues. A table has been struck between the Premier's Office and the Governor's Office to find solutions moving forward related to the Nooksack River.

- A cross-ministry team including the Office of the Premier, EMBC, the Ministry of Forests, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and other ministries are working closely to take an all-of-government, holistic approach to meaningfully engage local partners and design a governance structure for the Nooksack River flooding prevention work going forwards.

- The Province has begun preliminary discussions together with staff from Sumas First Nation and the City of Abbotsford, with further follow-up conversations planned.

- This work is just getting underway, and I anticipate that government will have more detail about next steps this summer.

- B.C. remains in regular contact with all relevant agencies and partners to advance recovery efforts across the province, and our work with Washington State will complement and enhance our work with the Government of Canada through the Committee of British Columbia and Federal Ministers on Disaster Response and Climate Resilience. We've benefited tremendously from engagement by our federal partners over the past number of months, and we look forward to continuing this close collaboration.

- The Nooksack River issue is decades old, and the last significant change made with respect to dikes was in 2003 when the *Flood Hazard Statues Amendment Act* was revised to transfer many provincial flood management responsibilities to local government to manage.

- We are taking a thoughtful and inclusive approach to designing a solution that works better for all levels of government, as well as reflecting the Province's obligations under the *Declaration Act*, and I am confident that the partnership between the Premier and the Governor of Washington State will yield good results for the people of B.C.

Background:

- The Nooksack River runs through Whatcom County in Washington, and when it overflows after heavy rains, it spills into the Sumas Prairie in the Fraser Valley.

- A March 15, 2022, news release launched the consultation process, and it indicated that the results of the engagement will drive the design of projects and programs and identify sources of funding. It is anticipated that Canadian and U.S. federal government funding will be utilized after projects are identified.

- Staff at the Ministry of Forests are also leading discussions for long-term flood planning in the Sumas Prairie, and the approach for these two initiatives will be integrated so that any projects that result from the Nooksack River partnership is complementary to planning efforts that are being lead by the City of Abbotsford for floodplain management.

- The Ministry of Forests is also working on a provincial flood strategy, and it is anticipated that the Nooksack River flooding prevention work will be incorporated into these broader efforts.

- This is not the first time that B.C. has partnered with Washington State to address flooding concerns related to the Nooksack River. In 1990, an International Task Force was formed to create technical and policy recommendations, and that work will be utilized in the engagement process going forwards.

- Jurisdiction over water management issues in the United States presents a significant logistical challenge. Regulatory and response functions are distributed across multiple agencies. The appropriation process to secure funding for recovery and infrastructure projects often takes place at the federal level, but funding is disbursed by state and county governments.

Contact: Paul Squires (EMBC, R&R Secretariat)	Phone: Government Financial Information	Mobile: Government Financial Information

EMBC – FLOOD RECOVERY

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- It's been an incredibly difficult time for people and communities affected by flooding and landslides.
- We continue to provide immediate supports to people who have been evacuated from their homes, including lodging, food, clothing, and incidentals.
- We are working with local governments and First Nations to safely remove debris and flood-damaged materials.
- The Canada-BC Flood Recovery Program for Food Security delivers the greatest amount of support of its kind in B.C.'s history, with $228 million dollars to help B.C. farmers recover, return to operation, and help strengthen our food security and food economy.
- We're providing $53.6 million in new recovery funding to support 10 flood-impacted communities, including over $13 million in new housing supports to get people in Merritt and Princeton back to their communities.
- Staff are working with communities on their recovery plans so that they can quickly access funding needed to support the recovery.
- We know that there is a lot of work that still needs to be done and our government is committed to supporting the individuals and communities.

DISASTER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- We know that people applying for Disaster Financial Assistance need this money as soon as possible.
- Claims are being processed and more than $7.8 million has been paid to-date.
- On April 28, 2022, EMBC announced five regulation changes to strengthen the Disaster Financial Assistance program. The changes include:
    - Increasing provincial contributions to local infrastructure recovery
    - Up-front cash flow to communities from the Province
    - Expanding eligibility based on minimum income
    - Increasing maximum annual revenue for small businesses
    - New eligibility for corporation-owned properties

- We also continue to provide immediate supports to people who have been evacuated from their homes, including lodging, food, clothing, and incidentals.

- So far, more than $18.5 million has been distributed to 7,500 households, through the Canadian Red Cross.

- Beyond this support, we are looking at creative options and partnerships with the private sector for longer-term recovery.

SUPPORTS FOR FARMERS

- The November flooding was the most impactful disaster ever in our province, resulting in profound losses for many B.C. farmers and food producers.

- The Canada-BC Flood Recovery Program for Food Security delivers the greatest amount of support of its kind in B.C.'s history with $228 million dollars to help B.C. farmers recover, return to operation and help strengthen our food security and food economy.

- Approximately 400 applications have been received as of May 10, with about 200 clients receiving payments of $30 million.

- More than 300 field assessments are ongoing and many clients will need multiple visits over the coming months as they make decisions on planting and repairs.

- The recent changes to Disaster Financial Assistance will ensure more farmers are eligible for the program. The changes include:

    - Raising the maximum annual revenue threshold for all small businesses from $1 million to $2 million.

    - New eligibility for corporation-owned properties. People are now eligible if they have a defined connection to the corporation and use the home as a primary residence, which is not uncommon in the farming sector.

- Our government has worked closely with farmers and farming organizations to make sure we have a comprehensive response that will help them get their farms back in production, and continue our collective efforts to build a resilient food system and economy in B.C.

- Government staff with experience in farm insurance and risk management programs are available to offer one-on-one assistance to applicants in both English and Punjabi.

DEBRIS AND CLEAN UP

- The flooding left a lot of debris behind and we know that people are anxious to get it cleaned up.

- We are supporting the safe removal of debris and flood-damaged materials through a coordinated approach with local governments and First Nations.

- Recovery and debris management work is being managed by contractors, non-governmental organizations, and a specialized contingent of BC Wildfire Service crews.

- EMBC staff continue to support the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy as they work with communities and First Nations in their coordination of the debris removal.

BACKGROUND:

In November 2021, B.C. experienced a series of atmospheric rivers that caused severe and widespread flooding and mudslides with little warning. The flooding event was described by experts as a "once-in-a century" flooding. The damage to highways, infrastructure and properties makes the flooding the most expensive natural disaster in Canadian history.

Issues raised by people, communities, MLAs and media include supports for evacuees, financial support for farmers and property owners, and what's being done to support communities with their clean-up and recovery, specifically Abbottsford, Merritt, and First Nations communities.

Disaster Financial Assistance is available to people affected by flooding and landslides in northwest, southwest, central, and southeast areas of the province and Vancouver Island from Nov. 14 to Dec. 2, 2021. This assistance is open to homeowners, residential tenants, businesses, charitable organizations, local governments, Indigenous communities, and farmers. Claims have taken longer to process than in the past due to the extreme volume coming in. Changes have been made in the administration of the program to speed up processing.

People impacted by the flooding had immediate support through Emergency Support Services and the Canadian Red Cross. Starting Feb. 1, 2022, people affected by the flooding who are receiving Emergency Support Services will see this support evolve to personalized wraparound services delivered by the Canadian Red Cross. This expands on the initial support that evacuees have received through Emergency Support Services since Nov. 15, 2021.

As immediate support after the flooding, the Province teamed up with the Canadian Red Cross to provide $2,000 to help people whose primary residences have been placed on evacuation orders due to flooding meet needs associated with being evacuated. This includes lodging, food, clothing, and incidentals.

Emergency Management BC is working with local governments and First Nations to support their needs.

On. Feb. 7, 2022, the Canada-BC Flood Recovery for Food Security Program was launched. This is a $228 million fund to help farmers who have incurred extraordinary expenses from

uninsurable damages, such as:

- The clean-up, repair and restoration of land, barns and animal shelter, water and waste systems
- Returning flood-impacted land and buildings to a safe environment for agricultural production
- The repair of uninsurable essential farm infrastructure such as livestock containment fences, drainage ditches and riprap, as well as the rental of temporary production facilities
- Animal welfare expenses such as replacement feed as well as livestock transportation, veterinary care and mortality disposal
- The loss of perennial plants not raised for resale

On April 14, 2022, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs announced $53.6 million in recovery funding to support 10 communities severely impacted by the November flood event. These direct grants will assist local governments in addressing immediate cost pressures, including on-going recovery and planning costs, as well as medium-term temporary housing in Merritt and Princeton so that residents are able to return to their communities as permanent homes are being rebuilt. The communities receiving direct grants are: Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Cowichan Valley Regional District, Fraser Valley Regional District, Hope, Kent, Merritt, Mission, Princeton, and Thompson-Nicola Regional District.

Preliminary response and recovery costs associated with the atmospheric river event are estimated at more than $4 billion. The Province anticipates significant federal support for these costs through Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) and has put in an advance payment request based on estimated costs to date. British Columbia has five years from the federal order in council, which confirmed eligibility of the event for DFAA, to submit a final claim that will confirm the actual of federal cost sharing received based on a review of costs submitted.

Permanent insurance and income support programs:
Under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, producers can access a suite of Business Risk Management programs to help manage significant risks that threaten the viability of their farm or are beyond their capacity to manage. These programs provide a variety of insurance options for weather-related losses and price protection and include:

- AgriInsurance - provides insurance against natural hazards (weather) to reduce the financial impact of reduced crop production or asset losses.
- AgriStability - provides support when producers experience a large income decline. B.C. farmers who are not currently enrolled in the 2021 program year can apply up until December 31, 2022.

Media interest: Ongoing significant media coverage on the flooding, specifically on the clean-up and recovery, and financial support for evacuees, property owners, farmers and communities. From Nov. 14 to Dec. 10, 2021, EMBC responded to 423 media requests and organized 22 media availabilities.

EMBC – Disaster Financial Assistance

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- It's been an incredibly difficult time for people and communities affected by flooding and landslides.
- Our government is committed to supporting the individuals and communities.
- We know that people applying for Disaster Financial Assistance need this money as soon as possible.
- To date, we have received 2,253 applications for Disaster Financial Assistance from individuals, small businesses, farms, charitable organizations, and local governments impacted by the November 2021 flooding.
- Typically, Emergency Management BC receives an average 450 applications a year.
- To support this surge in applications we've implemented a number of operational improvements, including:
  - Increased administrative and field staff
  - Additional management staff to approve and process payments
- Claims are being processed and more than $7.8 million has been paid to-date.
- On April 28, 2022, EMBC announced five regulation changes to strengthen the Disaster Financial Assistance program. The changes include:
  - Increasing provincial contributions to local infrastructure recovery
  - Up-front cash flow to communities from the Province
  - Expanding eligibility based on minimum income
  - Increasing maximum annual revenue for small businesses
  - New eligibility for corporation-owned properties
- The Province has re-opened applications to the program until July 27, 2022, to give businesses the opportunity to apply for assistance under the new eligibility requirements.
- The recent changes to Disaster Financial Assistance will ensure more farmers are eligible for the program. The changes include:

- Raising the maximum annual revenue threshold for all small businesses from $1 million to $2 million.
- New eligibility for corporation-owned properties. People are now eligible if they have a defined connection to the corporation and use the home as a primary residence, which is not uncommon in the farming sector.

BACKGROUND:

Disaster Financial Assistance is available to people affected by flooding and landslides in northwest, southwest, central, and southeast areas of the province and Vancouver Island from Nov. 14 to Dec. 2, 2021. This assistance is open to homeowners, residential tenants, businesses, charitable organizations, local governments, Indigenous communities, and farmers. Claims have taken longer to process than in the past due to the extreme volume coming in. Changes have been made in the administration of the program to speed up processing.

People impacted by the flooding had immediate support through Emergency Support Services and the Canadian Red Cross. Starting Feb. 1, 2022, people affected by the flooding who are receiving Emergency Support Services will see this support evolve to personalized wraparound services delivered by the Canadian Red Cross. This expands on the initial support that evacuees have received through Emergency Support Services since Nov. 15, 2021.

As immediate support after the flooding, the Province teamed up with the Canadian Red Cross to provide $2,000 to help people whose primary residences have been placed on evacuation orders due to flooding and to meet the basic needs associated with being evacuated. This includes lodging, food, clothing, and incidentals.

Emergency Management BC is working with local governments and First Nations to support their needs.

On April 28, 2022, EMBC announced five regulation changes to strengthen the Disaster Financial Assistance program. The changes include:

- Increasing provincial contributions to local infrastructure recovery
- Up-front cash flow to communities from the Province
- Expanding eligibility based on minimum income
- Increasing maximum annual revenue for small businesses
- New eligibility for corporation-owned properties

Media interest: Ongoing significant media coverage on the flooding, including financial support for evacuees, property owners, farmers and communities, and status of DFA payments.

EMBC – LYTTON RECOVERY

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- We all want Lytton to be rebuilt as soon as possible. This recovery is a partnership, and the Province continues to have the backs of the people of Lytton.

- We have provided $18.4 million to the Village of Lytton to cover the substantial costs of preparing the site for rebuilding, including debris removal, archology fees and soil remediation for all uninsured and underinsured properties.

- To keep work moving forward, the Province has committed funds to cover temporary housing for as many as 30 staff, consultants and construction workers, who will be doing a lot of this work on the ground.

- This new funding complements the $9.36 million the Province has recently provided to support Lytton's ongoing operations and recovery.

    - This funding will also support legal and governance issues, and recovery consultation.

    - $2.1 million of this funding will support the Village through three years of core operations (2022, 2023, and 2024), so they can focus on planning, recovery and rebuilding rather than on revenue generation.

- Our government has introduced legislative changes that will allow the Lytton council to take actions such as repealing and replacing bylaws that were destroyed in the wildfire.

- Successful wildfire recovery is led by the communities impacted. The Province supports communities such as Lytton in recovery by providing advice, expertise and dedicated resources as requested.

DEBRIS REMOVAL

- The Province is working with all insurance providers, NGOs, and the Village to support the Village's coordination of the community clean-up and debris removal.

- With surface debris removal now complete on municipal properties, debris removal has started for the uninsured properties, under the overall leadership from the Village.

- The ash contains asbestos, requiring precautions to ensure safety during clean up, transportation, and disposal.

- An engineered work plan has been developed for the entire town to support this debris removal and remediation work.

- The Province is working with Nlaka'pamux and the Village of Lytton to implement a workable plan for debris removal while respecting the important heritage values in the area.

- The Village and Province are working directly with insurance providers to address the challenge that most insurance policies will not adequately cover the costs of managing the heritage/archeological resource and fully cleaning-up the sites. The insurance providers will take the lead on obtaining the permission of each property owner to proceed with this work.

DELAYS DUE TO ARCHAEOLOGY PERMITS

- The Province will co-ordinate and fund archeological work that would otherwise be covered by the residents.

- The Province's Archaeology Branch is working with the Village of Lytton and the Kumsheen Heritage Committee to streamline progress with Heritage Conservation Act requirements.

- Due to the volume of properties requiring permits, the Archaeology Branch is using an umbrella permit approach rather than permits for each property.

- The Province, through the dedicated Lytton Assistant Deputy Minister Dave Peterson, has taken out this umbrella permit, which will allow all 222 properties in Lytton to begin demolition and reconstruction work concurrently.

- Previously, property owners were facing a cost of approximately $10,000 for an individual archeological permit under the Heritage Conservation Act.

DEDICATED TEAM

- We have dedicated an assistant deputy minister to work hand in hand with the Village of Lytton to make sure rebuilding milestones are met quickly.

- As well, the Province is funding more than a dozen positions in the Village's recovery team, specifically dedicated to community recovery for Lytton.

- The Province funded the Fraser Basin Council to support the Village of Lytton to develop a short-term recovery plan.

- That team works daily with the Village and Lytton First Nation on recovery planning, providing advice and support.

- By working closely with officials in Lytton, we're doing everything we can to help the Village address the challenges and speed up recovery efforts.

RED CROSS SUPPORTS

- The Canadian Red Cross is providing an immediate housing support subsidy to those who lost their primary residence.
- In addition to financial assistance, and at the request of the Village of Lytton, Red Cross is offering case management support to residents.
- This may include planning for return to home, understanding insurance, and providing information to help make decisions and inform next steps.
- The Red Cross works with individuals to help them navigate their recovery journey, including goal setting and decision-making processes.
- This support is made available thanks to the generosity of Canadians and support from the Province of British Columbia.

ACCOMMODATION FOR LYTTON EVACUEES

- It's important that people have safe places to stay.
- The Province is supporting the Village of Lytton and Lytton First Nation in their recovery planning. This includes supporting the development of interim housing solutions to ensure people are supported and safe.
- The planning of these housing solutions takes time, and a process is followed to ensure all needs are considered and funding is available for those impacted.

BACKGROUND:

On June 30, 2021, a fire burned through Lytton, B.C., forcing residents to flee and leaving two people deceased. Most of the town has been burned. The fire has been determined to be human-caused and is being investigated.

On March 7, 2022, EMBC announced that the Village of Lytton will receive $18.4 million to help with further costs of rebuilding, including archology fees and debris removal for all uninsured and underinsured properties in the Village.

A provincial lead has been appointed to work directly with mayor Jan Polderman to jointly make recovery decisions and direct activities. This would include decisions around things like the staff resources needed, projects to be funded, and long term-planning. The recovery team will be under the supervision of a recovery director and consist of some of the staff currently managed by the Village, EMBC ministry staff, and consultants as needed.

On Feb. 9, 2022, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs introduced legislative amendments that will enable Lytton's council to take actions such as repealing and replacing bylaws that were

destroyed in the wildfire. All the Village's records and backup servers were lost in the fire and the content of many existing bylaws remains unknown. The amendments introduced will enable council to re-create a full suite of bylaws to support governance and administration.

On Dec. 8, 2021, EMBC announced a $1 million grant to support the Village of Lytton in its recovery. From this, $500,000 will support the community in its efforts to restart the local economy and $500,000 will be to pay municipal staff wages. The B.C. government is supporting Lytton's recovery by funding four key areas:

Emergency and temporary housing:

- evacuee accommodation support through Emergency Support Services and Camp Hope
- direct financial assistance through partnership with Canadian Red Cross

Local government recovery team:

- emergency operations centre staff
- communications capacity
- recovery and project management
- economic development coordinator
- financial management and governance support
- survey co-ordination
- recovery planning support delivered by the Fraser Basin Council

Safe return and re-entry:

- safe work plans and site security
- dangerous tree risk assessments
- environmental hazard assessment and soot sampling
- disaster financial assistance
- debris removal

Other financial and in-kind support:

- donation management co-ordination
- case management

Jennifer Rice, Parliamentary Secretary of Emergency Preparedness and Roly Russell, Parliamentary Secretary of Rural Development have been appointed as recovery liaisons between the Province and the Village and participate in regular townhall meetings with the community.

Both the Village of Lytton (the "Village") and Lytton First Nation (LFN) were impacted by the wildfire event. The village site of Lytton consists of both Village and LFN lands, and some LFN public utilities are supplied through the Village infrastructure. Many of the Village residents are ɔff-reserve members of the LFN and other N'lakapamx First Nations.

The fire damaged an estimated 90% of the structures in the village site and most of the commercial and public services.

- In the Village,124 residences, 28 commercial properties and 45 outbuildings are estimated as destroyed. The Village of Lytton lost its administrative office, which included all its physical and digital records.
- LFN lost about 45 residences, 5 commercial properties, and 2 outbuildings. Indigenous Services Canada will fund the rebuild of all the damaged structures on the IR land.

Media interest: There has been sustained media interest and regular requests for interviews about Lytton's recovery. General tone in media is that recovery is taking a long time and residents feel "forgotten."

Flood Recovery Program
(The 2021 Canada-BC Flood Recovery Program for Food Security)

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

British Columbia (B.C.) farmers who suffered extraordinary damages during November 2021's devastating floods have access to up to $228 million in federal-provincial government support to help their farms return to production.

To May 24, 2022:

- 400 applications received (approx.)
- 350+ field assessments have been conducted:
  - 2nd and 3rd visits will occur over the coming months as decisions on planting and repairs are made.
- $31.3 million has been paid to 210 clients (343 payments)
  - Approximately $9 million dollars was for 'uninsurable repairs.'
  - Much of this is for partially completed work or advances for applicants to pay deposits on equipment or retain a contractor to commence work.
  - There are some growers who are enrolled but have yet to provide their loss details.

Sector	Total Payment	# of Payments	# of Paid Clients
Nursery	$6,037,798	24	15
Livestock	$2,991,130	48	29
Vegetables	$2,067,314	28	13
Blueberry	$9,234,885	123	73
Veg/Berries	$280,759	6	2
Bees	$148,158	3	3
Hops	$663,063	3	3
Dairy	$3,428,004	47	35
Sod	$3,004,201	3	2
Poultry	$2,425,838	30	19
Ducks	$9,238	1	1
Forage	$1,008,323	27	15
Misc		0	0
	$31,298,711	343	210

The 2021 Canada-British Columbia Flood Recovery Program for Food Security leverages the federal government's AgriRecovery Framework and Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA).

The response maximizes the support we can provide to B.C. farmers and federal cost sharing under existing disaster recovery agreements with Canada and uses one application that will be processed under two rates and government agreements.

- Farms with annual gross revenues up to $2 million will receive up to 90 percent compensation for their expenses.

- Larger, more resilient farms with annual sales of over $2 million will receive 70 percent compensation.

The November flooding was the most impactful agricultural disaster ever in our province, resulting in profound losses for many B.C. farmers, and we responded with a program that delivers the greatest amount of support of its kind in B.C.'s history.

We have worked closely with farmers and farming organizations to make sure we have a comprehensive response that will support their recovery.

The Canada-British Columbia Flood Recovery Program for Food Security is helping farmers who have incurred extraordinary expenses from uninsurable damages, such as:

- Cleanup, repair and restoration of land, barns and animal shelters, water, and waste systems; returning flood-impacted land and buildings to a safe environment for agricultural production.

- Repair of uninsurable essential farm infrastructure, reasonable repair of on-farm structures such as livestock containment fences, and the rental of temporary production facilities drainage ditches and riprap.

- Animal welfare; replacement feed as well as livestock transportation, veterinary care, and mortality disposal.

- Loss of perennial plants not raised for resale.

Overview of dike status Pre-freshet 2022

Date Prepared:	Provincial Lead Contact:
May 16, 2022	Andrew Giles

Assessment of freshet preparedness

- Under the Dike Maintenance Act, local diking authorities are responsible for maintenance, repairs, and upgrades to their dikes.
- Regional staff (Deputy Inspectors of Dikes (DIODs)) are in regular contact with diking authorities.
- In April, regional staff reached out directly to 34 diking authorities with high and major consequence dikes across freshet-prone regions of BC (responsible for 65 highest priority dikes in total) for an update on pre-freshet condition of infrastructure and preparedness planning.
- 94% of diking authorities have responded
  - All responding diking authorities indicated they had received the pre-freshet information or have had recent conversations with regional staff.
  - All indicated that they were either ready for the freshet or in the process of preparing for freshet.
  - 87% have included, or plan on including, pre-freshet dike inspection as a part of their preparation.
  - 61% noted deficiencies that need to be taken into consideration given the upcoming freshet.
  - Those diking authorities reporting deficiencies have provided observations to regional staff and Flood Assessment Unit (Emergency Management BC) to assist with freshet preparedness and response.
- Dikes in Princeton and Merritt that were impacted by the November atmospheric river events have had temporary repairs and are deemed to be ready for freshet.
- Sumas River dike in Abbotsford has had temporary repairs and is more of a fall flood risk.
- Permanent works / upgrades require design, consultation, land tenure and funding coordination by Diking Authorities, with support from the Province.
- Regional staff will remain in contact with Diking Authorities as freshet develops to help support preparedness and response to Freshet 2022 through multiple channels.

Regional dikes that have been identified with potential concerns for freshet

Lower Mainland

- Non-standard dikes along Fraser River, e.g., Nicomen Island, Barnston Island

Thompson-Okanagan

- Merritt (temporary repairs in place)
- Tulameen/Similkameen (including Princeton and areas near Keremeos - temporary repairs in place)

Kootenay

- Carpenter Creek (New Denver)
- Grand Forks dikes, upgrades still in construction post-2018 flood
- Orphans in Nelson area, Duhamel, Crawford Creek
- East Kootenay concerns, dikes near Fairmont, Fernie, Golden, Invermere, Canal flats.

Informed by Diking Authority outreach April 1 – May 16.
Updates will be made as additional information is provided.

Table 1. Overview of Southcoast dikes pre-freshet 2022. Diking authorities responsible for high and major consequence dikes were contacted in spring of 2022 to determine if there were any specific concerns identified prior to freshet that may be of concern. The information collected assists DIODs and EMBC as they support diking authorities through freshet 2022. Moderate and lower consequence dikes as listed for information. Regardless of dike condition prior to freshet it is important that all diking authorities conducted appropriate operations and surveillience through freshet.

Diking Authority	Name	Conseq	Pre-freshet Communiction with Diking Authority Regarding preparedness?	Any notable dike deficiencies or vulnerabilities from recent/past inspections in consideration of the upcoming freshet? *Yes/No* (collecting this info ONLY for the purpose of advance planning once EMBC PREOC is activated, so that APU can try to expedite RR/EAF from EOCs)
High and Major Consequence Dikes				
Abbotsford, City of	Matsqui (Abbotsford dike)	High	Yes	Yes - Bank erosion work upstream of the train bridge - Erosion Arcs (between the tip of Matsqui Prairie and Sumas Mountain) - Sinkhole at the Matsqui Dyke near the JAMES Plant
	Vedder	High		
	Sumas	High		
Burnaby, City of	Byrne Creek	High	Yes	No
Chilliwack, City of	West Dike	High	Yes	No
	Town Dyke (and Wolfe Road pump station)	High		
	Hope Slough Wall	High		
	East Dike Rosedale to Young Rd	High		
Coquitlam, City of	Coquitlam	Major	Yes	No, deficiencies noted
Delta, City of	Boundary Bay	High	Yes	Yes - Riprap failures were observed along the north end of Deas Island Regional Park. Delta has informed Metro Vancouver's Parks Operations department.
	River Road DELTA	High		
	Delta - Sea	High		
Dewdney Area Improvement District	Dewdney	Major	Yes	No

Harrison Hot Springs, Village of	Harrison Hot Springs	Major	Yes	Yes. Long standing issue of gravel and rocks accumulating in front of the floodgate which makes ti difficult to close. Needs to be manually removed right now until a more sustainable solution is found
Kent, District of	Kent Dike A	High	DA was contacted	No
	Kent Dike B	High		
	Kent Dike C	High		
	Kent Dike D	Major		
Mission, City of	Mission City	Major	Yes	No
New Westminster, City of	Queensborough	High	Yes	No
Nicomen Island Improvement District	Nicomen Island	Major	Yes	Yes, Erosion site that the diking authority and program were aware of near the upstreasm section of the dike. Being monitored.
Pemberton Valley Diking District	Ayers Dike	Major	Yes	No
	Miller - Lillooet Dike	High		
	Adventure Ranch Dike	Major		
	Pemberton Creek Dike	Major		
Pitt Meadows, City of	Pitt Meadows	High	Yes	No
	Pitt Polder - Pitt River (Sturgeon Slough)	Major		
	North Alouette Right Bank	Major		
Port Coquitlam, City of	Coquitlam River	High	Yes	No
	Port Coquitlam (Pitt River)	High		
Richmond, City of, Engineering Planning	Richmond - Sea Dike	High	Yes	Yes. Highlighted areas include: - Nelson Road to 21200 River Road - North arm – 21920 west to 21200 River Road - Sturgeon Banks
Squamish, District of	Town Dike SQAM	Major	Yes	Yes, but no significant issues that are expected to create issues during the freshet
	Mamquam	High		
	Squamish River	High		
	Stawamus River	Major		
Colebrook Diking District	Colebrook	Major	Contacted, noted inspection of stop log location completed	Yes. Some minor damage to 1 stop log location. Will be repaired by April 22
Surrey Dyking District	Nicomekl-Serpentine	High		
Surrey, City of	Crescent Beach Sea Dike	Major		

	West of Colebrooke Sea Dike	Major		
	South Westminster	High		
	East of Colebrook Diking District	Major		
Tsawwassen First Nation	Tsawwassen Dike (breakwater dike)	High	N/A - not a concern for freshet flooding	
	Tsawwassen Sea Dike (Section A)	High		
	Tsawwassen Sea Dike (Section B)	High		
Whistler, Resort Municipality of	Fitzsimmons Creek Training Berm	Major	Yes	No
Moderate to Negligible Consequence Dikes				
Barnston Island Diking District	Barnston Island	Moderate		
Cheakamus Centre and Outdoor Sch	North Vancouver Outdoor School	Moderate		
Chilliwack, City of	Cattermole	Moderate		
Coquitlam, City of	Marathon Industrial Park	Minor		
Delta, City of	Westham Island - SeaReach/Canoe Pass	Moderate		
	Marina Gardens	Moderate		
Fraser Valley Regional District	Cascade Creek	Moderate		
	Wilson Road Dike	Minor		
	Lindell Beach (Frosst Creek)	Moderate		
	Baker Trails (Guy Creek and Tank Creek)	Minor		
	Elbow Creek	Moderate		
Glen Valley Diking District	Glen Valley	Moderate		
Hope, District of	River Parade Flood Protection	Moderate		
	Glenhalla Subdivision	Moderate		
Langley, Township of	Fort Langley - Salmon River	Moderate		
	West Langley	Moderate		
Maple Ridge Road No. 13 Dyking Dis	Maple Ridge Road 13	Moderate		
Maple Ridge, City of	Albion	Moderate		
Metro Vancouver	Colony Farm	Moderate		
Mission, City of	Silverdale	Moderate		
Mud Bay Diking District	Mud Bay	Moderate		
North Nicomen Diking District	North Nicomen Dike	Moderate		
Pemberton Valley Diking District	Forestry Road Dike	Minor		
	Hungerford	Minor		

	Smuks Dike (Salmon Slough)	Minor		
	Boneyard Dike	Minor		
	Creekside Village Training Berm	Minor		
	Strobl Dike	Minor		
	Ryan Dike	Moderate		
Pitt Meadows, City of	Pitt Meadows 1 - Alouette River	Moderate		
	Pitt Meadows 2 - Pitt River	Moderate		
Squamish, District of	Cheakamus River Training Berm U/S Outdoor Sch	Moderate		
	Cheekye Berm	Insignificant		
Squamish-Lillooet Regional District	Whitecap Development (Bear Creek)	Minor		
	Furry Creek Dike	Minor		
	Jason Creek	Minor		
Strata Corp LMS 483 - Newman Cree	Ocean Point Near Newman Creek	Insignificant		
Sts'ailes (formerly Chehalis Indian Ba	Chehalis Dike	Moderate		
Sunshine Coast Regional District	Hillside Industrial Park	Minor		
Surrey, City of	Nico-Wynd	Moderate		
Trethewey-Edge Diking District	Trethewey-Edge	Moderate		
Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (for	Deering Island	Minor		
Whistler, Resort Municipality of	19 Mile - High School	Moderate		
	Greenside Village - White Gold	Moderate		
	Mons-Green Lake Dike	Moderate		
	Alta Creek Berm	Moderate		
	Horstman Creek Berm	Insignificant		
	Whistler Creek	Moderate		

Table 2. Overview of Southern Interior (Thompson Okanagan) dikes pre-freshet 2022. Diking authorities responsible for high and major consequence dikes were contacted in spring of 2022 to determine if there were any specific concerns identified prior to freshet that may be of concern. The information collected assists DIODs and EMBC as they support diking authorities through freshet 2022. Moderate and lower consequence dikes as listed for information. Regardless of dike condition prior to freshet it is important that all diking authorities conducted appropriate operations and surveillience through freshet.

Diking Authority	Dike Name	Conseq	Pre-freshet Communiction with Diking Authority Regarding preparedness?	Any notable dike deficiencies or vulnerabilities from recent/past inspections in consideration of the upcoming freshet? *Yes/No* (collecting this info ONLY for the purpose of advance planning once EMBC PREOC is activated, so that APU can try to expedite RR/EAF from EOCs)
High and Major Consequence Dikes				
Kamloops, City of	Schubert Drive (Halston Bridge to Beach Ave)	High	Yes	Nothing structural reported. Vegetation management is an identified issue.
	Kelly Drive to 60 meters East of Singh Street	High		
	Oak Hills	Major		
	Airport Dike (Aviation Way to Cinnamon Way)	Major		
Keremeos, Village of	Keremeos Area	Major	Yes	
Moderate to Negligible Consequence Dikes				
Barriere, District of	Barriere - Community	Moderate		
BC Hydro	Vicars Road Industrial Site	Minor		
Central Okanagan Regional District	Bellevue Creek	Minor	Yes	
Chase, Village of	Chase Creek	Minor		
Clearwater, District of	Clearwater Flood Protection Works	Moderate		
Columbia Shuswap Regional District	Sims Creek	Minor		
Fortune Creek Drainage & Diking District	Fortune Creek Drainage & Diking District	Moderate		
Kamloops, City of	Walkem Rd to Halston Bridge	Moderate		
	Rayleigh (along Huckleberry Place)	Moderate		
	Rayleigh - Arab Run to Beachview	Moderate		
	Campbell Creek Industrial Park	Minor		
	Eighth Ave to Peterson Creek	Moderate		

	Yacht Club to Tenth Ave			
	Thirteenth Ave to Yacht Club			
	Thrupp St to McArthur Park Causeway			
	Overlander Park			
	Treated Wastewater Disposal Site (Cinnamon			
Kelowna, City of	Adams Road Dike	Minor	Yes	no
Lumby, Village of	Bessette Creek	Minor		
	Duteau Creek			
Merritt, City of	Left Bank (Collettville)		Yes	Both dikes severly damaged in November 2021. Emergency works are in place and the province is working with the diking authority
	Right Bank Dike (Coldwater River)			
Peach Cliff Estates Mobile Home Park	Peachcliff Estates Dike	Minor	Yes	
Princeton, Town of	Similkameen-Tulameen	Minor	In contact related to Nov flooding	Dikes damaged in November 2021. Emergency works in place. Province is working with Diking Authority
	Similkameen_02			
	Burton Flats			
	Allison Flats			
	Tulameen River	Minor		
Sage & Sands Mobile Home Park	Sage & Sands Mobile Home Park		Yes	
Summerland, District of	Trout Creek		Yes	no
Personal Information	Perso Dike	Minor		FYI - Owners have not accepted that they are Diking authority and there are questions as to whether this structure should be classified as a dike
Fisheries & Oceans Canada	Snootli Creek Hatchery and Atnarko Channel			
Quesnel, City of	Fraser River - Rolph Street Dike		Not in TO	
Wells, District of	Wells (Lowhee Creek Dike)		Not in TO	

Issue: Orphan Dikes

Recommend Response:

- After the catastrophic atmospheric river events in November 2021, there is heightened awareness of flood risk in BC.
- During emergencies and throughout the year, staff with the Ministry of Forests and Emergency Management BC work closely with local governments and First Nations on flood management issues, including repairs to both regulated and orphan dikes.
- In 2020, the Ministry of Forests commissioned a risk assessment of BC's orphan dikes that provides information on the condition of over 100 "registered" orphan dikes. This information has been shared with local authorities and helps guide flood preparedness, response and mitigation activities.
- Emergency Management BC continues to support flood mitigation funding programs that can help communities assess risk, map flood hazards, and implement a broad range of flood risk reduction options. In fact, Budget 2022 announced $110 million to extend the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund.
- The Province is committed to working closely with local governments to identify and support solutions that reduce flood risk in areas with orphan dikes, including dike repairs.

Additional Response points (if needed):

- Continued engagement is underway toward a BC Flood Strategy, which will articulate a provincial vision, principles, and priority program areas for flood risk reduction.
- Topics for the BC Flood Strategy may include understanding flood risks and strengthening flood governance, including addressing orphan dikes.
- Individual orphan dikes vary in their history of development, land ownership, construction standard, values protected, and

level of flood protection. Aa such, a one-size fits all approach to addressing orphan dikes would not be suitable.

- If there is an imminent risk, a local government may request financial support for temporary emergency works from the Province via an Expense Authorization Form to EMBC.

Key Facts:

- Orphan dikes are flood protection structures with no registered owner inspecting and maintaining them.
- Many of these structures were built during emergencies and although they may provide some flood protection, they were not professionally engineered to be permanent. Also, many have unclear land tenure, downstream impacts and limited First Nations engagement in the flood protection decision.
- In addition to orphan dikes, there are also numerous berms and erosion control structures built by property owners and others, often without the knowledge of the Province.
- There are at least 100 orphan works in the province and these total more than 85 kilometres in length. These works protect at least 6,000 hectares of land and more than 2,500 buildings in 75 communities. Approximately 60 are considered dikes that should be regulated under the *Dike Maintenance Act*. Most of these works are in rural areas outside of the Lower Mainland.
- Under the *Dike Maintenance Act*, local diking authorities are responsible for maintenance, repairs, and upgrades to dikes.
- The Province provides guidance through the Dike Design Guidelines and support for diking authorities in the application of the *Dike Maintenance Act*.
- Emergency Management BC Policy 5.12 stipulates that if temporary flood protection works are needed, they are to be dismantled following the emergency.
- Also, the 2010 Ministry of Forests policy "Diking Authorities for New Dikes", provides that construction of new dikes, including upgrading of existing orphan works, will only be approved where local government has agreed to accept ownership, operation and maintenance responsibilities.
- According to the 2020 Risk Assessment of Orphan Dikes in BC, the estimated costs to upgrade registered orphan dikes to Provincial standards is estimated at $865 million.

Date Prepared/Revised: May 29, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:
Name: Matt Austin, ADM — Phone: 250-360-6317

Alternate Contact for Issue:
Name: Ted White, Director Water Management — Phone: 778-698-3981

Summary of Flood Related Engagements May 30, 2022

#	Topic	Lead	Timelines
1	BC/Canada/FNLC Committee on Disaster Response and Climate Resilience	EMBC	June 10 July date TBD
2	Flood Recovery Tables with Local Governments and First Nations in South Coast and Southern Interior	EMBC	Ongoing
3	Build Back Better Together – hosted by First Nations Emergency Planning Secretariat with Ministers and Mayors	EMBC	July 14
4	BC Flood Strategy Re-engagement • Discussion regarding approach to Indigenous engagement under the MoU for Tripartite Emergency Management • Summer/Fall expansion of engagement with industry, professional associations, environmental non-government organizations and the public, plus re-engaging with First Nations communities and associations, and flood authorities (including local governments) • 2022 UBCM Convention workshop proposed	FOR	June 24 Tripartite Emergency Management Working Group Phase 2 engagement under review September UBCM
5	BC/Washington Nooksack River Flood Initiative • Conversations with Sumas First Nation and City of Abbotsford ongoing to early June, then intent to expand to other First Nations with rights, Fraser Valley Regional District and others • Roughly monthly engagement with Washington officials, on as needed basis	IGRS, supported by FOR	Spring announcement regarding process

Nooksack River Flood Initiative: Input to Date

- High level:
  - We have had preliminary discussions with Sumas First Nation staff and City of Abbotsford staff together, with follow-up conversations proposed
  - Provincial staff do not think we can de-link Nooksack conversation from Sumas Prairie long-term flood planning conversation, based on initial conversations May 12 with Sumas First Nation and City of Abbotsford staff together, and other related recent meetings – talk among them of developing an MoU to engage among the four orders of government on it
  - Sumas First Nation as the title holder and with relationships to the other nations would like to advise us on the structure of how to engage with their neighbouring nations on the Nooksack process.
-
- Sumas First Nation is the title holder
  - Sumas has just finished an election – still Chief Dalton Silver, change in counsellors but Murray Ned still engaged on this topic
  - Close relationship with Leq'á:mel
  - Asking how they would like to work with their neighbouring nations to set up a structure – and will the other nations be sharing/advising - Will likely go to STSA to discuss broader representation
  - Want to engage directly with their relatives in the Nooksack Tribe
  - Have reached out to engage with the federal government – no response yet
- Sumas key issues
  - FPIC
  - Capacity funding (TBD through top up to existing Strategic Engagement Agreement or separate; need to first have a better idea of governance structure and involvement of nations to know how to distribute)
  - Pace – understands urgency and will be in support of getting moving, but want to ensure they are there for setting the priorities, that they have enough information, ideally that they are involved in instructions to contractors, and that options respect the needs of Abbotsford and Sumas from cultural and spiritual perspectives

  - Breadth – very broad, raise the Sumas Lake for consideration – should have been an option, haven't done the work to say if they are aligned with the options Abbotsford has put forward – weren't developed by or for Sumas
- Internal provincial discussion on reaching out to other Nations
  - STSA may take time to reach based on their structure, Sumas may help expedite it
  - Leq'á:mel – has rights not title; close relationship with Sumas, part of STSA
  - Matsqui – has rights not title; need to go separately as not part of STSA
  - Other nations have rights – inform but lead with Sumas, Leq'á:mel and Matsqui
- Abbotsford key issues
  - Significant timing concern, and frustration with the idea of more discussion and reports – they want to move to action
  - Nooksack outcomes are not currently expected to inform Abbotsford's work on a "long-term flood mitigation project"
  - Move forward to securing multi-year funding commitment from feds for mitigation activities, before lose attention – expect this to take 5-10 years and need to plan it out
- Abbotsford key issues
  - Recovery piece moving quickly
  - Build back better concept - MOTI Hwy 1 expansion and in particular Whatcom interchange
- Bank Stabilization and Flood Mitigation **Memorandum of Understanding** between Sumas, Abbotsford and the province – some governance elements to draw from
- Shared understanding that there needs to be further work on an integrated floodplain management plan, and that the work could take some time and involve a big table – we will be asking whether it could be the same table as for the Nooksack 'BC caucus'

- Next steps:
  - connect with S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance (STSA)
  - Bank Stabilization steering committee/governance body will be convened under a broader umbrella of "Recovery and Planning" to discuss approach going forward

Notes from May 12 Conversation with Sumas First Nation and City of Abbotsford

Topic	Semá:th First Nation staff	City of Abbotsford staff
What are the **primary values** that your organization would like to see represented in steps taken to respond to the impacts of flooding in this region? [Process values]	• Free, Prior and Informed Consent • Need Sumas' consent to go ahead with any projects, which requires them to have enough information • Want to be part of setting the priorities at the get go • Interested in collaboration and information sharing, and despite potentially having different priorities still coming up with shared solutions • Time for more thought on the way forward • "Feels like a train" – the Abbotsford process needs to slow down so the priorities of Sumas can be heard at the same time. • Sumas First Nation understands there is an urgency – they share that urgency and drive to work quickly on this project. • Would like to be engaged early in instruction of contractors. They would like to jointly instruct experts when contracts are being established to deliver reports – joint reports would have greater value and directly incorporating Sumas' key priorities would mean that they would not necessarily have to do their own separate report with different options (competing experts), which would	• Political side have attention of province and federal side - so concerned about losing the attention the longer the process goes on. • Significant concern that there has been no action for 30 years – if we reinitiate another task force, undertake additional discussions and studies, and it takes time, attention will again be taken away from us • Hoping to not continue to talk about things and move toward solutions. Been seeing events of extreme weather more frequently. Nooksack overflows every other year, sometimes it just stays in the Sumas River but with climate change the next event may happen next year. • Expect an integrated floodplain management plan to take a number of years in design phase to obtain agreement of all the parties and funding (the size of their project may take 5-10 years in order to plan, get approvals, and later construct) • Need to address short term recovery (pre fall rains) while we develop the longer, bigger pieces for the valley

	take more time and resources •	
[Thematic values]	• Consider what happened to Sumas Lake • [internal note: May be interest in exploring the opportunities to address values lost when the lake was drained without bringing back the lake; also recognize the importance of agriculture, values in Sumas Prairie] • Look at the issue from a much broader perspective • Protection of local infrastructure, communities and ecosystem • Was almost good that the water flows from the river to the lake side to do fish recovery • Sumas First Nation hasn't done the work to say they are aligned with the options that Abbotsford has put forward – ideas brought forward by Abbotsford weren't developed by or for Sumas. • They haven't done initial work on key priorities for the nation, and how they look on the landscape, and how they need to be reflected • Climate change isn't going away – this will be an ongoing consideration	• Need to look after our residents, and the significant infrastructure that the Nooksack flooding impacts • Build back better concept – MOTI Hwy 1 expansion and in particular Whatcom interchange • Reconciliation and Sumas lake topic are not in scope for Abbotsford – that would be something that would have to be addressed by senior government • Regarding the lake: the system was developed in the 1920's - prior to that, Vedder River itself flowed into the lake bottom and no dikes, so when Nooksack overflowed it created a bigger lake. To go backward and try to undue time, would remove the left bank of the Vedder dike and then Vedder river would then flow and spread out into the lake bottom. That would definitely impact Hwy 1, BC Hydro's transmission mains that go through the valley, as well as Transmountain Pipeline and West Coast Energy (pipelines that cross there)
Have you identified specific areas in which the **province may be able to assist** you in advancing these values?	• There is a capacity issue that needs to be addressed • There is the absence of federal agencies. They sent letters to multiple federal agencies, asking	• Dedicate some long term money to do some mitigation, before attention gets shifted elsewhere in the country • Mayor has stated -six months after

	who they should engage with on the flood topic.	the event we want to talk about funding for mitigation options. • Need to come up with a funding strategy that allows Abbotsford to invest over a period of years, rather than asking for a big lump sum at once – steps that allow them to invest in a multi-year approach
Have you identified specific **gaps or areas in which greater cooperation with individuals or groups in the U.S. would improve outcomes** for your organization? If so, what are those gaps? Which U.S. actors are you seeking greater cooperation with?	• Sumas has strong relations across the border, and are interested in working with them. • Sumas Nation has relatives in the Nooksack Tribe. They both just went through an election period and are working on their term plans. They would like to engage directly with them.	•
Whose voices need to be heard in conversations about flooding? Are all those voices presently represented appropriately?	• Sumas has strong ties with Leq'á:mel (referenced history)	• There are so many parties that need to be involved in this, beyond the province, city and Sumas First Nation. Other Nations including Leq'á:mel and Matsqui must be involved.
Do you have access to research papers, studies, traditional knowledge or other **sources of knowledge** that you believe the province would benefit from? Are there other elements of your previous experiences with flooding that you believe the province should be aware of?	• Previous reports and recommendations were done pre UNDRIP and DRIPA • Significant number of reports that haven't been acted on – operationally they are ready and willing to help. • It needs to be something that respects the needs of Abbotsford and the Nation from cultural and spiritual perspectives. • Don't want multiple reports or that	• Stella and Rob tried to reinitiate the Nooksack task force in 2010 and recognize the risk of another Nooksack event happening. Pushing behind scene to do studies for 10 years.

	Sumas doesn't have the time or resources to engage in the process	
Governance Ideas	• Can engage together or in bilaterals. Would like to meet with all the parties to discuss how best to recover from all that happened. • Could consider the Bank Stabilization MoU as a model for how to come together – recognize that this process could be broader and more complex, but has the same underlying needs • Can use Bank Stabilization steering committee/governance body as a starting off point and bring in the nations and federal government.	• Open to an MoU, but not the existing Bank Stabilization MoU specifically • Potential new MoU on provincial side, to set up a bigger table than the province, city and Sumas First Nation have on the bank stabilization topic • Mayor Braun cannot represent all of council, so City Manager may be most appropriate representative
Other	• Bank Stabilization steering committee/governance body will be convened under a broader umbrella of "Recovery and Planning" to discuss approach going forward (and shift from agreement with Abbotsford for capacity funding, to the province – both what's eligible under DFA and otherwise)	•

Provincial Leads on Engagement and Status

Name	Contact Person	B.C. engagement contact – pre-announcement	B.C. engagement lead – process input	High-level summary of input heard to date
Sumas First Nation	Chief Dalton Silver 604-852-4041	MMF		
Sumas First Nation	Staff	Perry Grilz	Laura Plante - May 12; Sumas FN staff offered follow-up call week of May 16	Sumas First Nation would like to coordinate with the other two communities – so awaiting follow-up from them on what that looks like
Leq'a:mel First Nation	Chief Alice Thompson 604-826-7976	MMF		
Leq'a:mel First Nation	Staff	Perry Grilz	To be scheduled – Laura Plante	Waiting for further conversation from the province
Matsqui First Nation	Check	Check	To be scheduled – Laura Plante	Waiting for further conversation from the province
FNLC	Staff	Paul Squires	To be scheduled - Paul Squires	
PCO	Jeff Hutchison	Paul Squires	To be scheduled -	

Name	Contact Person	B.C. engagement contact – pre-announcement	B.C. engagement lead – process input	High-level summary of input heard to date
			Paul Squires	
Mayor Braun, City of Abbotsford		MMF		
City of Abbotsford	Senior City staff Rob Isaac and Stella Chiu (Engineering)	Perry Grilz, Andrew Giles	Laura Plante - May 12; Laura requested follow-up call week of May 16	
Fraser Valley Regional District	Chair of the Board Jason Lum	MMF		
Fraser Valley Regional District	Staff	Perry Grilz	To be scheduled – Perry Grilz	
Min Popham				
Govt MLAs in region	N/A	MLA Rick Glumac	IGRS will arrange	
MLA Bruce Banman, Abbotsford South	N/A	MMF	IGRS will arrange	

Name	Contact Person	B.C. engagement contact – pre-announcement	B.C. engagement lead – process input	High-level summary of input heard to date
(Opposition)				
MLA Michael de Jong, Abbotsford West (Opposition)	N/A	MMF		

REPORT TITLE: CROSS-GOVERNMENT SUMMARY OF NOVEMBER FLOOD ACTIVITIES
LAST UPDATE: MAY 30, 2022

INITIATIVES UNDERWAY				
REF. #	LEAD MINISTRY	SUPPORTING MINISTRIES	PROJECT NAME	DELIVERABLE/ DESIRED OUTCOME
1	AFF	TBD	AGRI-RECOVERY	A Canada-BC Flood Recovery Program for Food Security to help farmers who have incurred extraordinary expenses from uninsurable damages in the November floods return to production.
2	EMBC	IGRS	BC/CANADA/FNLC COMMITTEE ON DISASTER RESPONSE AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE	The governments of Canada and BC, along with First Nations, are working together to ensure effective response and recovery following the impacts of severe weather experienced in British Columbia, while also enhancing climate adaptation and response measures. This committee meets monthly with topics focused on joint efforts to respond, recover and rebuild.
3	EMBC	MULTIPLE	Cabinet Confidences	
4	EMBC	FIN	DFA REG CHANGES - PHASE 1	Following the flooding in November 2021, the Province is making significant changes to ensure more people, communities and businesses can access and receive increased benefits from BC's Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) program. Priority topics for phase 1 include: small business eligibility; LG contributions; clean reimbursement model.
5	EMBC	FIN	Cabinet Confidences	
6	EMBC	MUNI	INTERIM HOUSING FUNDING FOR MERRITT AND PRINCETON	Many residents from Merritt and Princeton require temporary housing to return home to their communities. These grants will assist the local governments of Merritt and Princeton with supports in implementing innovative temporary housing options as permanent homes are rebuilt.

7	EMBC	FORESTS, MULTIPLE	FLOOD RECOVERY TABLES WITH SOUTH COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND FIRST NATIONS	Coordinated recovery planning that moves towards enhanced flood risk mitigation and resiliency by incorporating existing policy, collaboration with First Nations and considers elements of Build Back Better (in absence of fulsome policy).
8	EMBC	FORESTS, MULTIPLE	FLOOD RECOVERY TABLES WITH SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND FIRST NATIONS	Coordinated recovery planning that moves towards enhanced flood risk mitigation and resiliency by incorporating existing policy, collaboration with First Nations and considers elements of Build Back Better (in absence of fulsome policy).
9	EMBC	FORESTS		
10	ENV	EMBC; FOR	DEBRIS MANAGEMENT	A debris removal program to identify, prioritize and remove debris along eight major river systems.
11	FORESTS	EMBC, MULTIPLE	BC FLOOD STRATEGY RE-ENGAGEMENT	A BC Flood Strategy that sets a vision for innovative, holistic flood risk management, enhancing BC's flood resilience for the 21st century. Enhancing public safety, economic stability and environmental sustainability.
12	FORESTS	LWRS, ENV, MUNI, TRANS	RESOURCE ROAD REBUILD	Prioritized rebuilding of resource roads that access communities, rural residences and high value recreation as well as forest resources.
13	FORESTS	LWRS, ENV, DFO	FLOOD RESPONSE AND RECOVERY AUTHORIZATIONS	Timely and coordinated authorizations (WSA, DMA, WA, HCA, FA) to support response and recovery works by local governments, First Nations as well as related projects such as Debris Removal.
14	FORESTS	MUNI, EMBC	ORPHAN DIKE STRATEGY	Review and refine existing work on orphan dikes to facilitate decisions on ownership and long term maintenance, decommissioning or other actions.
15	IGRS	FORESTS	BC/WASHINGTON NOOKSACK RIVER FLOOD INITIATIVE	A sustained and ongoing transboundary initiative to address Nooksack River flooding prevention and response.
16	JERI	MULTIPLE	ECONOMIC RECOVERY FOR FLOOD IMPACTED RURAL COMMUNITIES	Economic development grants for Princeton and Merritt to complete economic development projects and initiatives to support long-term economic recovery, including sustainable tourism, and business and investment attraction.
17	LWRS	FORESTS	SALMON/FISH HABITAT AND MIGRATION ROUTE REMEDIATION	A BC-DFO-First Nations habitat oversight and operations team.
18	MCFD	TBD	EMERGENCY PLANNING FOR FOSTER CAREGIVERS	Develop an emergency plan/contingency document to ensure plans are in place prior to emergencies or natural disasters occurring.

Government Financial Information

19	MUNI	EMBC; OTHERS TBD	INTERIM FUNDING SUPPORT OR ADDITIONAL FUNDING SUPPORT (10 COMMUNITIES)	Due to the extreme effects of the flooding on their communities, the local governments of Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Cowichan Valley Regional District, Fraser Valley Regional District, Hope, Kent, Merritt, Mission, Princeton and Thompson-Nicola Regional District are receiving direct grants to assist them in meeting the additional costs pressures of ongoing recovery and infrastructure planning.
20	TRAN	MUNI	COMMITTEE OF DM'S ON REBUILDING OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE	Committee focused on cross-government issues/priorities on the rebuild of public infrastructure.
21	TRANS	MULTIPLE	HIGHWAY REBUILD	Repairs of BC highways impacted by November atmospheric flooding. As at May 16, temporary repairs are complete at 14 locations, construction started on another six, and five sites have work planned for the near future.

PLANNING

REF. #	LEAD MINISTRY	SUPPORTING MINISTRIES	PROJECT NAME	DELIVERABLE/ DESIRED OUTCOME
1	EMBC	MUNI; OHCS	INTERIM HOUSING POLICY FRAMEWORK	Review and update to the provincial coordinated interim housing policy framework to support communities.
2	ENV	HLTH	WATER QUALITY MONITORING (SEPARATE CONTRACT FROM DEBRIS MANAGEMENT)	To assist residents in flood impacted communities in assessing and taking appropriate action to maintain safe drinking water.
3	FORESTS	EMBC;MUNI	FLOODPLAIN MAPPING (FORESTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CANADA)	Floodplain and hazard maps for regions with high flood risk and poor existing flood map coverage by 2024; then expanded to all high risk areas of province contingent on further funding.
4	MUNI	TBD	BUILD BACK BETTER BEYOND INFRASTRUCTURE	Targeted outcomes include, 1. Prepare BC communities for future climate disasters; 2. Make British Columbian homes and buildings more energy efficient (and comfortable); and, 3. Think locally – build more resilient, self-reliant communities.
5	MUNI	TBD	RISK BASED PLANNING	To integrate consideration of current and future risk into land use planning for new developments.
6	TBC	TBD	MANAGED RETREAT DURING RECOVERY	To provide guidance to local governments who in flood recovery may choose to explore options for community-led retreat.

Office of the Premier
Budget 2022/23

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Key Contacts – Budget 2022

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Planning and Priorities Secretariat	Donna Sanford Associate Deputy Minister	250-893-4771	250 893-4771	Donna.Sanford@gov.bc.ca
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Office of the Premier
Budget Changes - Questions and Answers
Fiscal 2022/23

Q: Why did the budget for the Office of the Premier vote increase by $0.014 million?

A: **Key Messages:**

- **This is a budget lift to provide additional funding for increased costs for services provided to ministries by the Legal Services Branch. This lift is not unique to the Office of the Premier.**

Q. Why did the budget for the Deputy Minister's Office (Executive and Support Services) increase by $0.006 million?

A. **Key Messages:**

- **This is a budget lift to provide additional funding for increased costs for services provided to ministries by the Legal Services Branch.**

Q. Why did the budget for Cabinet Operations increase by $0.002 million?

A. **Key Messages:**

- **This is a budget lift to provide additional funding for increased costs for services provided to ministries by the Legal Services Branch.**

Q. Why did the budget for IGRS increase by $0.001 million?

A. **Key Messages:**

- **This is a budget lift to provide additional funding for increased costs for services provided to ministries by the Legal Services Branch.**

Q. Why did the budget for the Planning and Priorities Secretariat (PPS) increase by $0.005 million?

A. **Key Messages:**

- **This is a budget lift to provide additional funding for increased costs for services provided to ministries by the Legal Services Branch.**

Office of the Premier
Issue Note

ISSUE: SUMMARY OF FIVE YEAR BUDGET CHANGES

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- Since February 2017, the Office of the Premier budget has increased by $5.681 M:
    - In *Budget 2022* the budget increased by $0.014 M to provide additional funding for increased costs for services provided to ministries by the Legal Services Branch. This lift is not unique to the Office of the Premier and was also in the Ministry of Finance.
    - In *Budget 2021* the budget increased by $3.344 M:
        - Incremental funding increase of $1.739 M for resources to support Mandate Letter commitments and provincial COVID-19 response initiatives; and
        - Base funding of $1.605 M to establish a Planning and Priorities Secretariat (PPS).
    - In *Budget 2020* the budget decreased by ($0.015 M):
        - Fiscal adjustment of ($0.513 M) reduction in budgets for government redirection of previously planned ministry budget allocations to core programs and services,
        - Reduction of ($0.002 M) to reflect the benefits rate for 2020/21; and
        - Partially offset by an increase of $0.500 M in base budget funding to meet government's commitment to enhanced public engagement and communication.
    - In *Budget 2019* the budget increased by $0.044 M to reflect the benefits rate for 2019/20, which included an allocation for the cost of the Employer Health Tax.

- In *Budget 2018* the budget increased by $0.294 M:
  - $0.250 M to increase funding for the Francophone Affairs Program to offset the administrative costs of the program and reallocate the funds to provide grants used to improve services for British Columbians.
  - $0.029 M to reflect the benefits rate for 2018/19
  - $0.015 M to reflect salary increased negotiated under the Economic Stability Mandate.
- In the *Budget 2017 September Update* the budget increased by $2.0 M:
  - $0.746 M for corporate support and program delivery previously funded by the Ministry of Finance
  - $1.254 million to fund 10 additional staff needed to support the achievement of government's objectives.

Budget Changes by Service Plan and Fiscal Year

$ millions	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Feb 2017 Service Plan	**9.011**	**9.055**	**9.055**					
Budget Lift	2.000	2.000	2.000					
Sep 2017 Service Plan	**11.011**	**11.055**	**11.055**	**11.055**				
FAP Lift		0.250	0.250	0.250				
Feb 2018 Service Plan		**11.305**	**11.305**	**11.305**	**11.305**			
Benefits Chargeback Rate			0.044	0.000	0.000			
Feb 2019 Service Plan			**11.349**	**11.305**	**11.305**	**11.305**		
Benefits Chargeback Rate				0.042	0.042	0.042		
Fiscal Adjustment				(0.513)	(0.513)	(0.513)		
Base Budget Build				0.500	0.500	0.500		
Feb 2020 Service Plan				**11.334**	**11.334**	**11.334**	**11.334**	
Budget 2021 Resourcing					3.344	3.344	3.344	
Feb 2021 Service Plan					**14.678**	**14.678**	**14.678**	**14.678**
Legal Services Funding						0.014	0.014	0.014
Feb 2022 Service Plan						**14.692**	**14.692**	**14.692**
Year over Year Change		**0.294**	**0.044**	**(0.015)**	**3.344**	**0.014**	**0.000**	**0.000**
Net Change Since Feb 2017	**2.000**	**2.294**	**2.338**	**2.323**	**5.667**	**5.681**	**5.681**	**5.681**

Office of the Premier
Issue Note

2022/23 Budget vs February 2017 by Expense Type

$ millions	2017/18	2022/23	Change
Salaries and Benefits	8.014	12.511	4.497
Travel	0.405	0.532	0.127
Legal	0.064	0.138	0.074
Contracts	0.088	0.208	0.120
IM/IT	0.143	0.271	0.128
Office Expenses	0.767	0.720	(0.047)
Other Operating Costs	0.061	0.058	(0.003)
Government Transfers	0.686	1.003	0.317
Other Expenses	0.293	0.559	0.266
Recoveries	(1.510)	(1.308)	0.202
Total	**9.011**	**14.692**	**5.681**

FTEs by Fiscal Year

	2017/18[1]	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat	**25.2**	**27.4**	**26.8**	**25.7**	**27.4**
Cabinet Operations	**24.0**	**14.0**	**14.4**	**13.7**	**13.8**
Planning and Priorities Secretariat				**4.5**	**8.9**
Executive Operations	**24.8**	**42.6**	**43.8**	**40.6**	**41.2**
Premier's Office	14.4	28.9	28.9	27.0	31.2
Deputy Minister's Office	10.4	13.6	14.9	13.6	10.0
Total Office of the Premier	**74.0**	**83.9**	**85.0**	**84.5**	**91.3**

Notes

1. 2017/18 FTEs are lower due to:
   - a large number of employees being temporarily off pay during the election campaign.
   - hiring lag for the incoming government

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER
BUDGET BY CORE BUSINESS
Fiscal 2022-23

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Office of the Premier
2021/22 to 2022/23 Budget Changes
(in $ millions)

	2021/22 Restated	2022/23	Increase / (Decrease) $	Increase / (Decrease) %
Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat	**3.478**	**3.479**	**0.001**	**0.0%**
Cabinet Operations	**2.097**	**2.099**	**0.002**	**0.1%**
Planning and Priorities Secretariat	**1.605**	**1.610**	**0.005**	**0.3%**
Executive and Support Services				
Premier's Office	4.810	4.810	0.000	0.0%
Deputy Minister's Office	2.688	2.694	0.006	0.2%
Subtotal Executive and Support Services	**7.498**	**7.504**	**0.006**	**0.1%**
Total Office of the Premier	**14.678**	**14.692**	**0.014**	**0.1%**

Office of the Premier
2021/22 to 2022/23 Budget Changes
(in $ millions)

	Note	Budget Change
Office of the Premier		
***Budget 2022* Changes**		
Legal Services Funding	1	0.014
Total Office of the Premier		**0.014**

Notes

1. Budget lift to provide additional funding for increased costs for services provided to ministries by the Legal Services Branch.

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER – INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SECRETARIAT
2021/22 to 2022/23 Budget Changes

Compared to its restated 2021/22 budget of $3.478M, the Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat net budget increased by $0.001M to $3.479M.

Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat ($ millions)	**2021/22 Restated**	**2022/23**	**Note**
2021/22 Budget (Restated)	$3.478	$3.478	
Increases/(Decreases):			
Legal Services Funding		0.001	1
Budget 2022/23:	**$3.478**	**$3.479**	
Changes from prior year plan increase/(decrease):		$0.001	
Percentage changes from prior year plan:		0.0%	

Notes

1. Budget lift to provide additional funding for increased costs for services provided to ministries by the Legal Services Branch.

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER – CABINET OPERATIONS
2021/22 to 2022/23 Budget Changes

Compared to its restated 2021/22 budget of $2.097M, the Cabinet Operations net budget increased by $0.002M to $2.099M.

Cabinet Operations ($ millions)	**2021/22 Restated**	**2022/23**	**Note**
2021/22 Budget (Restated)	$2.097	$2.097	
Increases/(Decreases):			
Legal Services Funding		0.002	1
Budget 2022/23:	**$2.097**	**$2.099**	
Changes from prior year plan increase/(decrease):		$0.002	
Percentage changes from prior year plan:		0.1%	

Notes

1. Budget lift to provide additional funding for increased costs for services provided to ministries by the Legal Services Branch.

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER – PLANNING AND PRIORITIES SECRETARIAT
2021/22 to 2022/23 Budget Changes

Compared to its restated 2021/22 budget of $1.605M, the Planning and Priorities Secretariat net budget increased by $0.005M to $1.610M.

Planning and Priorities Secretariat ($ millions)	**2021/22 Restated**	**2022/23**	**Note**
2021/22 Budget (Restated)	$1.605	$1.605	
Increases/(Decreases):			
Legal Services Funding		0.005	1
Budget 2022/23:	**$1.605**	**$1.610**	
Changes from prior year plan increase/(decrease):		$0.005	
Percentage changes from prior year plan:		0.3%	

Notes

1. Budget lift to provide additional funding for increased costs for services provided to ministries by the Legal Services Branch.

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER – PREMIER'S OFFICE
2021/22 to 2022/23 Budget Changes

Compared to its restated 2021/22 budget of $4.810M, the Premier's Office net budget remained the same.

Premier's Office ($ millions)	**2021/22 Restated**	**2022/23**
2021/22 Budget (Restated)	$4.810	$4.810
Increases/(Decreases):		
n/a		
Budget 2022/23:	**$4.810**	**$4.810**
Changes from prior year plan increase/(decrease):		$0.000
Percentage changes from prior year plan:		0.0%

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER – DEPUTY MINISTER'S OFFICE
2021/22 to 2022/23 Budget Changes

Compared to its restated 2021/22 budget of $2.688M, the Deputy Minister's Office net budget increased by $0.006M to $2.694M.

Deputy Minister's Office ($ millions)	**2021/22 Restated**	**2022/23**	**Note**
2021/22 Budget (Restated)	$2.688	$2.688	
Increases/(Decreases):			
Legal Services Funding		0.006	1
Budget 2022/23:	**$2.688**	**$2.694**	
Changes from prior year plan increase/(decrease):		$0.006	
Percentage changes from prior year plan:		0.2%	

Notes

1. Budget lift to provide additional funding for increased costs for services provided to ministries by the Legal Services Branch.

ISSUE: PLANNING AND PRIORITIES SECRETARIAT

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- The Planning and Priorities Secretariat (PPS) was established on November 26, 2020 to ensure that the scope, direction, sequencing and delivery of key policy initiatives are aligned with the intentions and priorities of the Premier and Cabinet.

- The PPS supports Cabinet in maintaining a whole-of-government view of work underway across ministries and supports Cabinet in making decisions regarding the prioritization and sequencing of work on key commitments.

- The PPS reports directly to the Deputy Minister to the Premier, and its structure and function reflect central policy coordination offices across Canada at the provincial and federal levels.

- The PPS consists of 10 positions (1 Associate Deputy Minister, 1 Executive Coordinator, 4 Executive Directors, and 4 Directors) responsible for priority initiatives in the following areas:
    - Social Initiatives – including health, mental health, opioid response, homelessness, housing, education, childcare, children and families, and other social priorities as well as reconciliation, public safety, emergency management, and municipal affairs;
    - Economic Initiatives – including the Economic Plan, advanced education and skills training, future workforce, capital projects, labour policies, and other economic priorities; and,
    - Environment and Natural Resource Initiatives – including energy, CleanBC, climate adaptation & preparedness, forest sector modernization, agriculture, land use planning, coastal & watershed strategies, and other environment & natural resource priorities.

Contact: Nicole Wright, ADM/EFO **Phone:** 778 698-7768
Division: Ministry of Finance - Corporate Services

(*See Background for PPS organizational chart.)*

- Through *Budget 2022,* the Office of the Premier (PREM) was provided with base funding of $1.610M for fiscal 2022/23. Costs for the PPS include staffing and operating expenses such as travel, legal, procurement, IM/IT, and office and business expenses. (*See Background Table 1 for budget details.)*

BACKGROUND:

- The Secretariat has four main areas of focus:
    - Developing a long-term plan for the delivery of Government's priority commitments over the four-year term, and managing this plan over time to reflect Cabinet direction;
    - Coordinating and convening relevant ministries and government offices to support effective development of policies and submissions on key commitments, and effective policy responses to emerging high priority issues;
    - Ensuring key commitments are scoped, sequenced, coordinated, and delivered in accordance with Cabinet direction; and,
    - Coordinating the two Government Caucus Committees (GCC on Economy and GCC on Social Initiatives) which allow for Cabinet ministers and government caucus members to address policy considerations at early stages of policy development.

- Responsibilities of PPS staff include:
    - Establishing a collaborative and cooperative approach to policy development and implementation - with and across ministries;
    - Reviewing early-stage policy work and Cabinet submissions to provide strategic advice and help ensure Cabinet intention and cross-government priorities are addressed;

- Proposing timelines for priority initiatives on Cabinet and Cabinet committee agendas, in collaboration with Cabinet Operations;
- Providing advice on Government's legislative agenda for each session of the four-year term;
- Coordinating the two Government Caucus Committees (Economy and Social Initiatives); and,
- Coordinating and attending Cabinet planning retreats.

Appendix 1. Planning and Priorities Secretariat Organization Chart

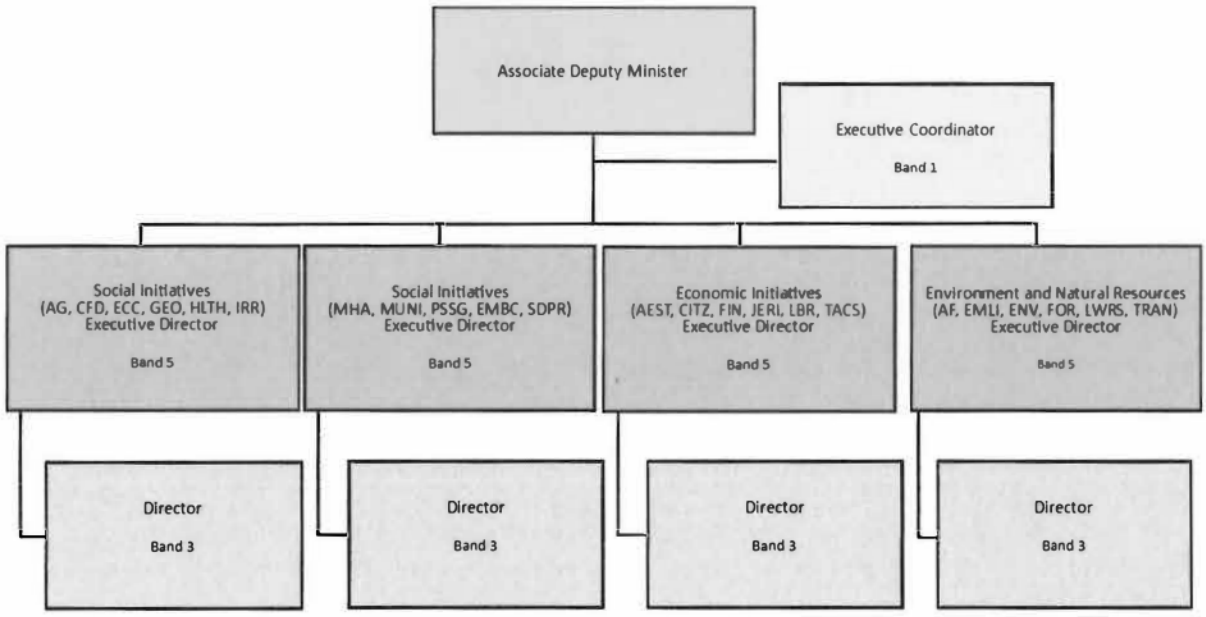


Table 1. PPS 2022/23 Budget Details

Budget Item	Total ($)
Salaries	1,176,000
Benefits	299,000
Travel	50,000
Legal Services	45,000
Professional Services	20,000
Information Systems Operating	10,000
Office and Business Expenses	10,000
Total	**1,610,000**

FTEs (positions) **10**

ISSUE: PLANNING AND PRIORITIES SECRETARIAT – JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- A new Planning and Priorities Secretariat (PPS) was established on November 26, 2020 to support Cabinet to deliver its priority initiatives over the course of the mandate.

- The PPS is responsible for developing a plan under Cabinet direction for delivering Government's priority initiatives and working with ministries to ensure that these initiatives are aligned with the intentions of Cabinet and are well coordinated across government.

- Most provinces across Canada have a similar type of central policy coordinating office. It is the norm, not the exception. (*See Table 1 for details*).

- The overall budget of the British Columbia Premier's office is not comparatively higher than other provinces. It is very similar in size and scope compared to other provinces. (*See Table 2 for details*).

Table 1 – Select Canadian provinces with central policy offices similar to PPS

Alberta	Executive Council Policy Coordination Office - Supports effective strategic planning and coordinated policy development across government, and the promotion of a vibrant and innovative public service. Ensures outcomes are achieved by supporting strategic planning, coordinated policy development and informed decision-making for the Government of Alberta.
Saskatchewan	Cabinet Planning Office – Part of the Executive Council Office, the Cabinet Planning Office includes an Associate Deputy Minister and several Policy Advisors. The office develops and advances the government's plan for Saskatchewan and manages how that is implemented across government

Manitoba	Priorities and Planning Committee of Cabinet Secretariat – Established to recommend overall policy direction and priorities to Cabinet and to oversee the implementation of the government's priorities.
Ontario	Policy and Delivery Division (within DMPO and supported by stand alone DM) – Provides critical analysis and advice to the Premier, the Secretary of the Cabinet, and to Cabinet and its committees. The division leads the co-ordination of the policy and results agendas across the government and plays a central role in facilitating horizontal linkages and corporate initiatives. This is achieved by working closely with the Premier's Office and other central agencies, building strong relationships with line ministries, undertaking research and environmental scanning, and providing advice on decision-making structures and tools.
Quebec	While a dedicated policy and planning structure does not appear to formally exist, funding for support services for the Premier and the Executive Council include the human, financial, material and information resources required to assist the Premier, the Conseil exécutif and its committees in carrying out their duties. Intergovernmental relations is divided into Canadian relations (which supports the Executive Council) and the Ministry of International Relations and Le Francophonie
Nova Scotia	The Office of the Premier provides support to the Premier and Executive Council and its Committees in carrying out government, departmental and legislative duties to advance the priorities of government. The Office of Priorities and Planning is responsible for communicating government's policy agenda and working across departments to advance it. Intergovernmental Affairs is responsible for managing Nova Scotia's relations with other governments within Canada and internationally.

Table 2 – Comparison of select Premier's Office budgets *$ 000*

British Columbia (Source: Budget 2022 Estimates)	Operating Expenses	
	Intergovernmental Relations	3,479
	Cabinet Operations	2,099
	Planning and Priorities Secretariat	1,610
	Executive and Support Services	7,504
	Total	**14,692**

Alberta (Source: Budget 2022 Estimates)	Operating Expenses	
	Office of the Premier / Executive Council	12,322
	Intergovernmental Relations	5,744
	Office of Lieutenant Governor	614
	Total	**18,680**
Saskatchewan (Source: Budget 2022 Estimates)	Operating Expenses – Executive Council	
	Central Management and Services	6,031
	Communications Office	1,094
	Cabinet Planning	1,118
	Cabinet Secretariat	512
	Members of the Executive Council	143
	Premier's Office	492
	House Business and Research	248
	Intergovernmental Affairs	2,783
	Lieutenant Governor's Office	725
	Total	**13,146**
Manitoba (Source: Budget 2022 Estimates)	Operating Expenses	
	Executive Council – General Administration	4,511
	Total	**4,511**
	Ministry of Finance	
	Priorities and Planning Committee of Cabinet Secretariat	**2,300**
	Intergovernmental Affairs	2,522
	Total including equivalent offices within Finance	**9,333**
Ontario (Source: Budget 2021-22 Estimates)	Operating Expenses	
	Office of the Premier	2,327
	Cabinet Office ("The Cabinet Office is the Premier's ministry, providing essential strategic advice and analysis to support the Premier and Cabinet to achieve the government's priorities.")	35,527
	Total	**37,854**
Quebec (Source: Budget 2022-2023)	Operating Expenses	
	Conseil exécutif	
	Office of the Premier	5,532
	Governance and Administration	27,658
	Canadian Relations	14,084
	Ministry of International Relations and Le Francophonie	**47,274**
	International Affairs	**103,432**

Contact: Donna Sanford, Assoc DM **Phone:** 250-893-4771
Division: Planning and Priorities Secretariat
File Name: PPS Jurisdictional Comparison IN

Nova Scotia (Source: Budget 2022 Estimates)	Operating Expenses – Executive Council Office of the Premier Office of Priorities and Planning Intergovernmental Affairs **Total**	 6,205 4,807 4,614 **12,255**

Contact: Donna Sanford, Assoc DM
Division: Planning and Priorities Secretariat
File Name: PPS Jurisdictional Comparison IN

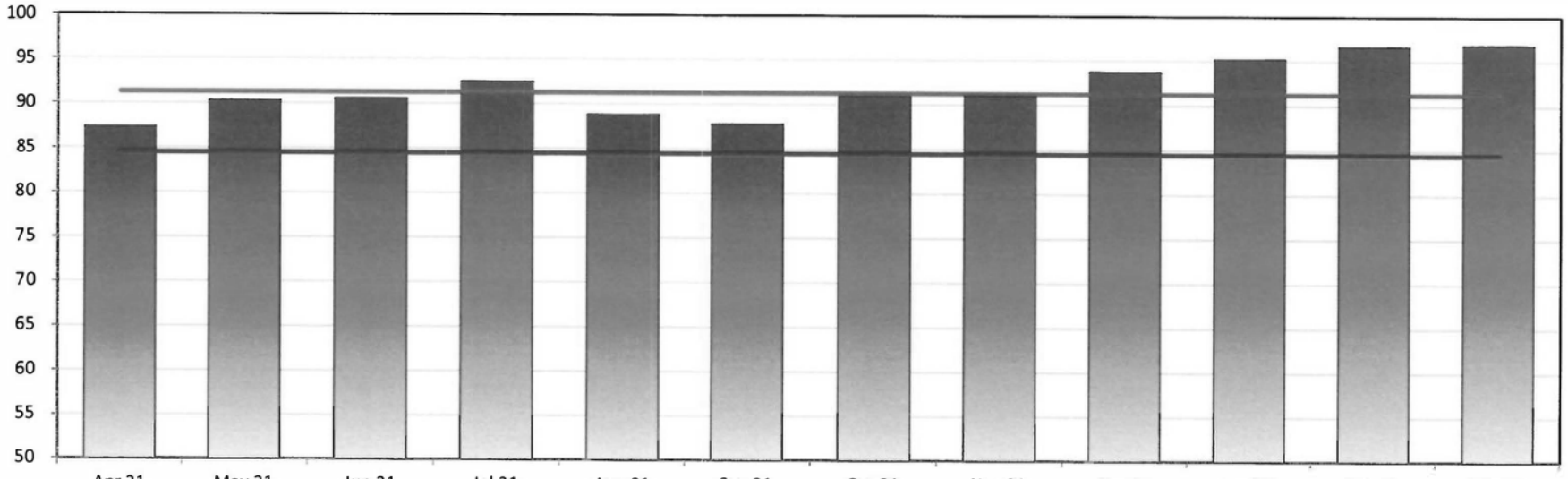
Phone: 250-893-4771

Office of the Premier
3 Year Budget Changes by Core Business

	2021/22 Restated	2022/23	21/22 to 22/23	2023/24	22/23 to 23/24	2024/25	23/24 to 24/25
Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat							
Service Plan 21/22	**3,478**	**3,478**	**0**	**3,478**	**0**	**3,478**	**0**
Legal Services Funding		1	1	1	0	1	0
Service Plan 22/23	**3,478**	**3,479**	**1**	**3,479**	**0**	**3,479**	**0**
Cabinet Operations							
Service Plan 21/22	**2,097**	**2,097**	**0**	**2,097**	**0**	**2,097**	**0**
Legal Services Funding		2	2	2	0	2	0
Service Plan 22/23	**2,097**	**2,099**	**2**	**2,099**	**0**	**2,099**	**0**
Planning and Priorities Secretariat							
Service Plan 21/22	**1,605**	**1,605**	**0**	**1,605**	**0**	**1,605**	**0**
Legal Services Funding		5	5	5	0	5	0
Service Plan 22/23	**1,605**	**1,610**	**5**	**1,610**	**0**	**1,610**	**0**
Office of the Premier							
Service Plan 21/22	**4,810**	**4,810**	**0**	**4,810**	**0**	**4,810**	**0**
			0		0		0
Service Plan 22/23	**4,810**	**4,810**	**0**	**4,810**	**0**	**4,810**	**0**
Corporate Services							
Service Plan 21/22	**2,688**	**2,688**	**0**	**2,688**	**0**	**2,688**	**0**
Legal Services Funding		6		6		6	0
Service Plan 22/23	**2,688**	**2,694**	**6**	**2,694**	**0**	**2,694**	**0**
TOTAL							
Service Plan 21/22	**14,678**	**14,678**	**0**	**14,678**	**0**	**14,678**	**0**
Legal Services Funding	0	14	14	14	0	14	0
Service Plan 22/23	**14,678**	**14,692**	**14**	**14,692**	**0**	**14,692**	**0**

Office of the Premier
FTE Burn by Core Business 2021/22

	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22	2022 Average	2021 Average
Vote 11 - Office of the Premier														
Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat	25.8	26.9	26.8	26.9	26.0	26.7	27.0	27.6	29.1	29.0	29.2	30.0	27.4	25.7
Cabinet Operations	12.7	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.3	13.6	14.0	14.0	13.3	13.7	14.6	14.3	13.8	13.7
Planning and Priorities Secretariat	6.9	9.0	9.0	9.0	8.4	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.9	10.3	11.0	8.9	4.5
Executive Operations	41.9	40.4	40.7	42.6	40.1	38.6	40.9	40.4	42.4	42.6	42.7	41.7	41.2	40.6
Premier's Office	31.1	30.4	30.5	32.6	30.1	28.6	31.1	31.9	32.4	32.6	31.7	30.7	31.2	27.0
Deputy Minister's Office	10.9	10.0	10.2	10.0	10.0	10.0	9.8	8.5	10.0	10.0	11.0	11.0	10.0	13.6
Total Office of the Premier	**87.3**	**90.3**	**90.6**	**92.5**	**88.8**	**87.8**	**90.9**	**91.0**	**93.8**	**95.2**	**96.7**	**96.9**	**91.3**	**84.5**

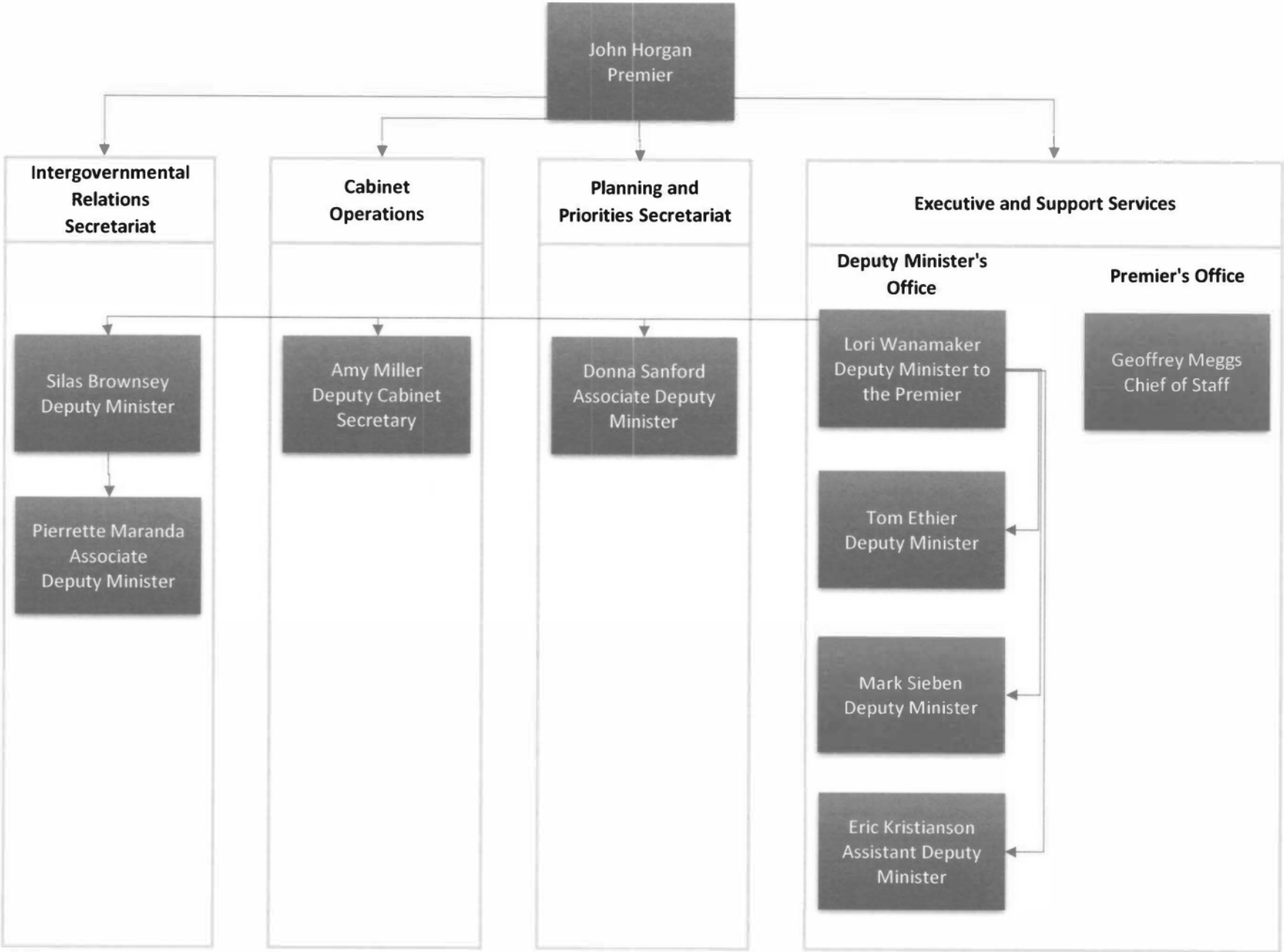


	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22
Monthly FTE Burn	87.3	90.3	90.6	92.5	88.8	87.8	90.9	91.0	93.8	95.2	96.7	96.9
2022 Average	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3
2021 Average	84.5	84.5	84.5	84.5	84.5	84.5	84.5	84.5	84.5	84.5	84.5	84.5

to Table of C

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

as at March 31, 2022



Office of the Premier

2022/23 – 2024/25 SERVICE PLAN

February 2022

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Minister's Accountability Statement

The *Office of the Premier 2022/23 – 2024/25 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.

Honourable John Horgan
Premier
February 10, 2022

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Minister's Accountability Statement 2
Purpose of the Ministry 4
Strategic Direction 4
Performance Planning 5
Financial Summary 8

Purpose of the Ministry

The Premier serves as the President of the Executive Council (Cabinet) of the Government of British Columbia. The Office of the Premier assists the Premier in overseeing and leading government. In addition, it supports the Cabinet decision-making process. As a central agency, the Office facilitates effective policy coordination across the public service and ensures a strategic and corporate level approach is undertaken on the development and implementation of key priorities. The Premier is advised by the Deputy Minister to the Premier, Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Public Service on matters of public policy, and management and operational issues. The Office if the Premier:

- Articulates government's goals, commitments, and priorities through ministry mandate letters, and works with ministries and Crown agencies to ensure communication of those goals, commitments, and priorities and to track and monitor their implementation.
- Leads the public service and, with the Deputy Ministers' Council, commits to be a top employer that maintains and enhances public trust, builds capacity, increases our competitiveness, and manages for results.
- Provides support for the operations and decision-making processes of Cabinet and its committees; and
- Works directly with the federal, provincial and territorial governments, with governments in other countries and with all ministries and Crown agencies to ensure that relations with the federal, provincial, territorial and international governments advance British Columbia's interests.

Strategic Direction

In 2022/2023, the Government of British Columbia will continue its whole-of-government response to the COVID-19 pandemic with a focus on protecting the health, social and economic well-being of British Columbians. Building on our economic, environmental, and social strengths while looking to seize opportunities to improve outcomes for all British Columbians will be an important aspect of each ministry's work as we respond to COVID-19 and recover from devastating floods and wildfires. The policies, programs and projects developed over the course of this service plan period will align with the five foundational principles established by Government in 2020: putting people first; working toward lasting and meaningful reconciliation; supporting equity and anti-racism; ensuring a better future through fighting climate change and meeting our greenhouse gas reduction targets; and supporting a strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone.

This 2022/2023 service plan outlines how the Office of the Premier will continue to track progress on key mandate letter commitments and other emerging government priorities.

Performance Planning

Goal 1: Establish government goals, commitments, and strategic priorities

Objective 1.1: Establish government goals, commitments, and strategic priorities

Provide a government -wide focus on fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, responding to severe wildfire and weather events, advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, providing better health care, delivering affordability and security, and investing in good jobs and livelihoods including a clean energy future.

Key Strategies

- Set out the key goals, commitments, and strategic priorities of government.
- Assign responsibility for the delivery of these goals, commitments and priorities to ministries, central agencies and crown corporations through mandate letters provided to Cabinet Ministers and/or government organizations.
- Lead the Deputy Ministers Council
- Supported by the Planning and Priorities Secretariat, determine the priority sequence for the implementation of government goals, commitments, and priorities, aligned with government's fiscal and delivery capacity.
- Monitor progress on implementing government's goals and priorities

Performance Measure(s)	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
1.1 Number of members of Deputy Ministers Council that are meeting performance expectations	32	32	32	32

Data source: Deputy Minister's Office

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

Within government's accountability framework, there are strategies in place to align the work of all staff with government's goals, commitments, and strategic priorities. The Office of the Premier is responsible for the performance expectations of Deputy Ministers. This performance measure is an indicator of whether the work of government is in alignment with the established goals, commitments, and strategic priorities.

Goal 2: Provide guidance and direction for the Government of British Columbia

Objective 2.1: Lead the Executive Council

Cabinet Operations supports the Deputy Minister to the Premier in setting out the framework for Cabinet and Cabinet Committee decision-making.

Key Strategies

- Assist and guide government ministries in the development of Cabinet Submissions, ensuring cross-government alignment with government commitments and priorities.
- Support the COVID pandemic response and economic recovery.
- Support the response to severe wildfire and weather events.
- Effectively provide the necessary and appropriate logistical support for the operations and decision-making process of Cabinet and its Committees.
- Ensure the complete, thorough, and accurate recording of Cabinet and Cabinet Committee decision -making.

Performance Measure(s)	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
2.1 Cabinet received timely advice on all key public policy recommendations and plans.	100%	100%	100%	100%

Data source: Cabinet Operations

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

Cabinet committees and ministries provide prompt and effective advice enabling timely and well-informed Cabinet decisions benefiting British Columbians.

Goal 3: Foster Intergovernmental Relations

The Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat (IGRS) advances British Columbia's priorities through leadership in intergovernmental partnerships and international relations. IGRS is also responsible for the Francophone Affairs Program and manages ceremonial and protocol activities.

Objective 3.1: Create and cultivate a network of culturally respectful relationships with other governments, diverse partners and British Columbians to showcase and advance B.C.'s strategic interests.

Key Strategies

- Engage with federal government, provinces and territories to effectively manage impacts of the global pandemic and extreme weather events, and advance B.C.'s priorities, including federal transfers and support programs for people and businesses.
- Strengthen partnerships with federal government and other provinces and territories through bilateral and multilateral cooperation on shared priorities discussed at First Ministers' meetings, the Council of the Federation, Wester Premiers' Conference, and other Premiers' meetings.
- Identify alignment and pursue opportunities to develop and strengthen bilateral relations with U.S. state governments and promote B.C.'s interests and objectives through the Pacific Coast Collaborative, Cascadia Innovation Corridor, British Columbia's participation in the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region and other opportunities as they arise.
- Advance British Columbia's priorities through strategic engagement with international partners, including Global Affairs Canada, the diplomatic community, and international organizations.
- Lead and coordinate government's diplomatic, protocol and ceremonial activities, and maintain relationships with consular corps.
- Support government initiatives and partnerships to increase the Province's capacity to provide information and services in French, and lead B.C.'s engagement with the Ministerial conference on the Canadian Francophonie.

Performance Measure(s)	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
3.1 Progress on Key intergovernmental objectives	100%	100%	100%	100%

Data source: Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

Cabinet is informed on a regular basis on upcoming intergovernmental meetings and initiatives, including comprehensive strategic advice on engagement with federal and other governments.

Financial Summary

Core Business Area	2021/22 Restated Estimates[1]	2022/23 Estimates	2023/24 Plan	2024/25 Plan
Operating Expenses ($000)				
Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat	3,478	3,479	3,479	3,479
Cabinet Operations	2,097	2,099	2,099	2,099
Planning and Priorities Secretariat	1,605	1,610	1,610	1,610
Executive and Support Services	7,498	7,504	7,504	7,504
Premier's Office	4,810	4,810	4,810	4,810
Deputy Minister's Office	2,688	2,694	2,694	2,694
Total	**14,678**	**14,692**	**14,692**	**14,692**
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) ($000)				
Executive and Support Services	1	3	3	3
Total	**1**	**3**	**3**	**3**

[1] For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2021/22 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the *2022/23 Estimates*.

* Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates.

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

The mission of the Office of the Premier is to provide leadership across government and Crown agencies to ensure timely decision making and effective service delivery, supported by the transparency and accountability of government practices.

SUMMARY

($000)

	Estimates 2021/22[1]	**Estimates 2022/23**
VOTED APPROPRIATION		
Vote 11 — Office of the Premier	14,678	**14,692**
OPERATING EXPENSES	14,678	**14,692**
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES [2]	1	**3**
LOANS, INVESTMENTS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS [3]	—	**—**
REVENUE COLLECTED FOR, AND TRANSFERRED TO, OTHER ENTITIES [4]	—	**—**

NOTES

[1] For comparative purposes, figures shown for the 2021/22 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 *2022/23 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.

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

SUMMARY BY CORE BUSINESS

($000)

OPERATING EXPENSES	2021/22 Net	2022/23 ESTIMATES Gross	External Recoveries	Net
Core Business				
Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat	3,478	**4,180**	**(701)**	**3,479**
Cabinet Operations	2,097	**2,101**	**(2)**	**2,099**
Planning and Priorities Secretariat	1,605	**1,612**	**(2)**	**1,610**
Executive and Support Services	7,498	**7,506**	**(2)**	**7,504**
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	14,678	**15,399**	**(707)**	**14,692**

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	Capital Expenditures	Capital Expenditures	Receipts and P3 Liabilities	Net
Core Business				
Executive and Support Services	1	**3**	**—**	**3**
TOTAL	1	**3**	**—**	**3**

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

($000)

	Estimates 2021/22	**Estimates 2022/23**

VOTE 11 — OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

This vote provides for the programs, operations, and other activities described in the voted appropriations under the following core businesses: Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat, Cabinet Operations, Planning and Priorities Secretariat, and Executive and Support Services.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SECRETARIAT

Voted Appropriation

Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat	3,478	**3,479**

Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for management and administrative support for the Executive Council (Cabinet) in the development and coordination of advice, policy, negotiations, issues management, and public consultation relating to federal-provincial, interprovincial, and international relations initiatives. This sub-vote includes support for the Premier and Cabinet participation in First Ministers' Conferences, Premiers' Conferences, Joint Cabinet Meetings with neighbouring jurisdictions, and ministerial conferences. This sub-vote manages the Canada-British Columbia Agreement on French Language Services. This sub-vote provides for the deputy minister of the Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat and includes the Office of Protocol; and for costs of official ceremonies, programs for visiting dignitaries, government-hosted functions, and government honours and awards by authority of the *Provincial Symbols and Honours Act*. Costs may be recovered from ministries, organizations within the government reporting entity, and parties external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.

CABINET OPERATIONS

Voted Appropriation

Cabinet Operations	2,097	**2,099**

Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for the support of Executive Council and Executive Council Committees; the provision of policy, planning, and operational support to the Executive Council and its committees; the provision of support to ministries and Crown agencies in the development and submission of materials to Executive Council and its committees; and for the planning and coordination of legislative priorities, including coordination of Orders in Council. Costs may be recovered from ministries, organizations within the government reporting entity, and parties both internal and external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.

PLANNING AND PRIORITIES SECRETARIAT

Voted Appropriation

Planning and Priorities Secretariat	1,605	**1,610**

Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for strategic advice to the Premier, Executive Council, and the Planning and Priorities Cabinet Committee on the prioritization and sequencing of key initiatives of government. This sub-vote provides for the organization of Executive Council planning sessions, and provides for the development of priority policy initiatives through engagement with ministries and coordination of cross-ministry work. This sub-vote provides for coordination of Government Caucus Committees. Costs may be recovered from ministries, organizations within the government reporting entity, and parties both internal and external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

($000)

	Estimates 2021/22	**Estimates 2022/23**
EXECUTIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES		
Voted Appropriations		
Premier's Office	4,810	**4,810**
Deputy Minister's Office	2,688	**2,694**
	7,498	**7,504**

Voted Appropriations Description: This sub-vote provides for the Premier's office and the deputy ministers' offices. This sub-vote also provides for the management of cross-government issues and corporate planning; support for cross-government and other initiatives that support government's mandate; and providing policy, planning, communications, and strategic support to the Executive Council, ministries, and Crown agencies, including government administration. Costs may be recovered from ministries, organizations within the government reporting entity, and parties both internal and external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.

VOTE 11 — OFFICE OF THE PREMIER	14,678	**14,692**

GROUP ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY

GROUP ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION		
Salaries and Benefits	12,511	**12,511**
Operating Costs	1,913	**1,927**
Government Transfers	1,003	**1,003**
Other Expenses	559	**559**
Internal Recoveries	(601)	**(601)**
External Recoveries	(707)	**(707)**
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	14,678	**14,692**

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER
($000)

VOTE 11 Office of the Premier

Description	Total 2021/22 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat	**3,478**	**2,377**	**9**	**610**	**—**	**2,996**	**—**	**80**	**9**	**37**	**94**	**531**	**—**	**—**	**1**
Cabinet Operations	**2,097**	**1,455**	**2**	**370**	**—**	**1,827**	**—**	**25**	**22**	**1**	**60**	**44**	**—**	**—**	**1**
Planning and Priorities Secretariat	**1,605**	**1,176**	**—**	**299**	**—**	**1,475**	**—**	**50**	**45**	**20**	**10**	**10**	**—**	**—**	**—**
Executive and Support Services	**7,498**	**4,783**	**28**	**1,294**	**108**	**6,213**	**—**	**377**	**62**	**150**	**107**	**135**	**—**	**—**	**5**
Premier's Office	4,810	3,199	5	858	108	4,170	—	275	—	100	57	59	—	—	—
Deputy Minister's Office	2,688	1,584	23	436	—	2,043	—	102	62	50	50	76	—	—	5
Total	**14,678**	**9,791**	**39**	**2,573**	**108**	**12,511**	**—**	**532**	**138**	**208**	**271**	**720**	**—**	**—**	**7**

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 2022/23 Operating Expenses
5	—	—	6	763	700	—	301	1,001	—	—	18	18	—	(598)	(598)	(1)	(700)	(701)	3,479
1	—	1	1	156	1	—	—	1	—	—	118	118	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	2,099
—	—	—	—	135	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	1,610
25	—	7	5	873	1	—	—	1	—	—	420	420	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	7,504
1	—	2	—	494	—	—	—	—	—	—	146	146	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,810
24	—	5	5	379	1	—	—	1	—	—	274	274	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	2,694
31	—	8	12	1,927	702	—	301	1,003	—	—	559	559	—	(601)	(601)	(4)	(703)	(707)	14,692

BRITISH COLUMBIA

April 22, 2022
488919

STRICTLY Confidential

Honourable John Horgan, Premier
Office of the Premier
West Annex Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

Dear Premier Horgan:

On February 22, 2022, our government tabled *Budget 2022*, the three-year Budget and Fiscal Plan, and ministry and Crown Agency Service Plans for the 2022/23 to 2024/25 period.

Budget 2022 builds on historic investments since 2017 to build a stronger society, a stronger environment, and a stronger economy. We have prioritized investments to continue to respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and to build back better from climate-related disasters. We will continue to focus on putting people first by delivering the services people rely on, investing in mitigating and fighting climate change, and growing an inclusive and clean economy for all British Columbians.

Budget 2022 maintains Pandemic and Recovery Contingencies to support ongoing health responses and to continue to help people, businesses and communities that are still recovering from the pandemic's impacts. Pandemic and Recovery Contingencies will be limited to the most urgent health and recovery needs. Access will be restricted to measures that are time-limited in nature and that do not create increased costs to government in the future. Reserve funding that is not needed will be held to reduce government's forecasted operating deficit. Advice/Recommentations
Advice/Recommentations

In addition, *Budget 2022* provides $1.5 billion over the next three years to support ongoing flood related recovery efforts and help communities rebuild from the November 2021 event. The flooding - in addition to other climate-related disasters like the heat dome and severe wildfire season - exemplifies the impacts of climate change and the need to rebuild in ways that are smarter and more resilient to its impacts. This funding will supplement ongoing response and recovery efforts in addition to federal support for recovery from flooding and other recent natural disasters in B.C. Advice/Recommentations
Advice/Recommentations

...2/

Ministry of Finance
Treasury Board
Mailing Address
PO Box 9469 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8V 9V8
Location Address:
1st Floor – 617 Government St
Victoria BC

Our government has supported people, communities, and businesses through the events of the past two years while remaining disciplined in our fiscal planning. As the pandemic continues to take its course and as communities recover from disastrous climate-related disasters, the need for investments to protect people and communities remains. As part of *Budget 2022*, we committed to maintain the same fiscal discipline to guide a responsible approach to budgeting and fiscal planning. We must fulfill our commitments by prioritizing our new investments so that they are sustainable, and by reassessing programs to ensure they continue to respond to the priorities of British Columbians.

Your 2022/23 budget allocations and future year targets are listed in the table below. Final budgets will be confirmed once Final Supply is passed after the conclusion of the Estimates debate.

2022/23 Budget Allocations and Future Year Targets			
($ millions)	**2022/23**	**2023/24**	**2024/25**
Operating	14.692	14.692	14.692
CRF Capital	0.003	0.003	0.003

There remains uncertainty about how the economic recovery will be impacted by the changing dynamics of the pandemic. Cabinet Confidences

Cabinet Confidences TBS will continue to work with ministries, including confirming areas where ministries may be under-spending against their budgets due to ongoing impacts of the pandemic.

Please refer to Appendix A for a summary of *Budget 2022* budget decisions, your ministry's approvals to access the Contingencies (All Ministries) and New Program Vote and approvals to access CRF Capital Contingencies as of April 1, 2022. Contingencies allocations identified in Appendix A replace all previous Contingencies approvals provided through decision letters prior to April 1, 2022. All ministries are expected to manage to their budgeted appropriations to minimize draw on Contingencies. Cabinet Confidences

Cabinet Confidences

Please ensure your ministry continues to work closely, and in a timely manner, with TBS to identify any areas of risk to your budget and develop mitigation strategies to ensure you meet your budget targets as per the *Financial Administration Act* and the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act*.

Please refer to Appendix B for further operational policies, procedures and directives. Please refer to Appendix C for operational policies, procedures and directives related to capital management.

...3/

Ministry Specific Budget Direction

Capital Funding

Budget 2022 provides additional CRF capital funding of $0.002 million in 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 to address basic maintenance and replacement of office furniture and equipment.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to maintain strong fiscal management while supporting government's commitments to build a stronger province. I thank you for your dedication to serving the people of British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Selina Robinson
Minister of Finance
Chair of Treasury Board

See Attachment

cc: Lori Wanamaker
Deputy Minister to the Premier,
Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Public Service
Office of the Premier

Nicole Wright
Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer
Ministry of Finance

Appendix A

2022/23 - 2024/25 Budget and Fiscal Plan

Office of the Premier (PREM)

	2022/23 Estimates	2023/24 Plan	2024/25 Plan
Operating Expense ($ million)			
Budget 2021	**14.678**	**14.678**	**14.678**
Budget 2022 Inter-ministry Program Transfers	-	-	-
Restated *Budget 2021* Plan and Adjustments	**14.678**	**14.678**	**14.678**
Ministry Specific *Budget 2022 Decisions:*			
Legal Services Funding	0.014	0.014	0.014
Budget 2022	**14.692**	**14.692**	**14.692**
CRF Capital Expenditures ($ million)			
Budget 2021 **- CRF Capital**	**0.001**	**0.001**	**0.001**
Ministry Specific *Budget 2022 Decisions:*			
Increase to Minimum Appropriation	0.002	0.002	0.002
Budget 2022 **- CRF Capital**	**0.003**	**0.003**	**0.003**

Appendix A

PREM Contingencies as of April 1, 2022

General Programs Contingencies ($ million)	2022/23		2023/24		2024/25	
	Approval	Approved-in-Principle	Approval	Approved-in-Principle	Approval	Approved-in-Principle
N/A	Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information					
Total						

Pandemic & Recovery Contingencies ($ million)	2022/23		2023/24
	Approval	Approved-in-Principle	Approved-in-Principle
N/A	Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information		
Total			

CRF Capital Contingencies ($ million)	2022/23		2023/24		2024/25	
	Approval	Approved-in-Principle	Approval	Approved-in-Principle	Approval	Approved-in-Principle
N/A	Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information					
Total						

Appendix B

This Appendix has the following sections:

1. Policy or Program Proposals with Financial Implications
2. Operating Contingencies
3. Year-End Funding
4. *BBMAA*, Statutory Appropriations, and Special Accounts
5. Commercial Crown Corporations, Taxpayer-supported Service Delivery Agencies and SUCH Sector Organizations - Fiscal Target Management
6. STOB Management
7. Public Sector Bargaining
8. Property Management and Shared Services BC
9. Other Budget Management Requirements

1) Policy or Program Proposals with Financial Implications

Ministries must seek prior Treasury Board approval of:

- Any new policies or programs;
- Changes to existing policies or programs;
- Significant long-term contracts and contract renewals; or
- Major alternative service delivery projects/agreements

Per Treasury Board Directive 2/96, all new program proposals must include a program design plan; a three-year business plan; and a clear description of the accountability structure.

Ministries must identify financial implications of proposed changes, which may include changes or a risk of changes to government's revenues, expenditures, assets, or liabilities. Cross-ministry financial implications must also be considered and identified, including any facilities or IM/IT requirements for the Ministry of Citizens' Services (CITZ).

Consistent with Government's Core Policy and Procedures Manual (CPPM), Treasury Board approval is required for all projects and initiatives (such as corporate services funded through chargebacks or capital projects) that assume contributions from other ministries to fund or partially fund costs. Please refer to Treasury Board Directives for applicable policies and consult with Treasury Board Staff (TBS) if you have any questions on these requirements.

a. Targeted Expenditures

Budget 2022 provides base budget lifts for targeted initiatives or programs. Ministries may not reallocate targeted funds to other ministry programs without prior approval from the Chair of Treasury Board unless otherwise specified.

b. Revenues

Any adjustment to revenue policies including revenue rates, credits, remissions, etc. requires prior approval. Ministry staff should consult TBS to determine the appropriate process.

c. Treasury Board Submissions

Ministry staff should engage with TBS prior to the development of Treasury Board submissions. Ministry submissions must include multiple options that outline internal capacity to fund existing program pressures as well as any proposed new initiatives. Every option presented must be viable, without any assumptions of future incremental funding. Ministries should clearly articulate implications should no additional funding be available.

Ministries should consult with TBS to ensure that all pertinent information required by Treasury Board to make an informed decision is included in the ministry's submission prior to obtaining final ministerial approval.

Advice/Recommentations

Please refer to the Performance Budgeting Office intranet site for information outlining the Treasury Board submission process/timelines.

Other Specific Considerations:

Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+)

Ministries are expected to integrate Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) into new and existing policies, programs and initiatives. All Treasury Board submissions are expected to outline how GBA+ methodology and equity considerations have been incorporated through all phases of the policy development cycle from issue identification through to monitoring and evaluation, and indicate how this has influenced the options and recommendations. Any barriers to GBA+ implementation should be discussed with your Treasury Board Analyst and be clearly identified within your submission. TBS briefing notes will discuss the extent and quality of GBA+ implementation within the submission.

Submissions with Indigenous Considerations

Ministries must work with TBS and the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, as applicable, to determine if a submission should first be reviewed by the appropriate Cabinet committee prior to proceeding to Treasury Board.

Treasury Board submissions are, at minimum, required to address the following requirements:

1. How is government currently addressing this issue? Does this issue have any linkages with established government programs or policies, and can it be addressed through them?
2. How does the measure support implementation on the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*?
3. The criteria approved by Cabinet are to be assessed and discussed as part of the Treasury Board submission. Please contact your Treasury Board Analyst for a description of the criteria.

Submissions with CleanBC and Other Climate-Related Considerations

Ministries must engage with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy in the development of any Treasury Board submissions related to CleanBC and other climate-related programming in addition to any submissions with implications for the Province's greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

Ministries with measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions or adapt to climate change are to work with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to identify ways to incorporate emission reductions associated with those measures into tracking progress towards the Province's reduction targets, and as part of annual climate accountability

reporting. This includes emission reductions measures associated with CleanBC programs, investments outside of CleanBC, regulatory measures, and any other measures to reduce emissions.

d. Cabinet, Cabinet Committee and Working Group Submissions

TBS are responsible for reviewing the financial implications of initiatives presented to Cabinet, Cabinet Committees, and Working Groups. It is expected that ministry staff and TBS will work together during the drafting of the submission to ensure the accuracy of the presentation of fiscal risks and impacts.

Ministry Executive Financial Officers (EFOs) must review the fiscal impacts and risks prior to finalizing all Cabinet/Treasury Board submissions and consult with the Office of the Comptroller General (OCG) to ensure accurate accounting treatment. Working through ministry EFOs, ministry staff are to notify TBS when draft and final submissions, or other materials such as PowerPoints or appendices to the submissions, are posted to the Cabinet Operations SharePoint site.

Advice/Recommentations

This process applies to the materials proceeding to Cabinet, Cabinet Committees and Working GroupsAdvice/Recommentations
Advice/Recommentations

e. Regulation Changes

Ministries must seek Treasury Board review of regulation changes with potential financial implications for government or government agencies (e.g., Crown corporations). Ministries are also accountable for ensuring appropriate consultation is undertaken to evaluate the potential fiscal implications across government.

For regulation changes made through Orders in Council (OIC), before the OIC Summary Template is sent to TBS for review, the ministry EFO must review and agree to the fiscal impacts and risks. Ministry staff are expected to engage with their Treasury Board Analyst well in advance of submitting the OIC package to Cabinet Operations to ensure that fiscal implications are adequately analysed.Advice/Recommentations
Advice/Recommentations

f. Public Release of Reports

Advice/Recommentations

Advice/Recommentations

2) Operating Contingencies

Advice/Recommentations

Pandemic and Recovery Contingencies and Flooding Contingencies

Budget 2022 includes funding reserved for unanticipated and urgent needs associated with pandemic response and economic recovery (Pandemic and Recovery Contingencies). Pandemic and Recovery Contingencies are to only be used to support urgent needs and unanticipated events related to priority pandemic and recovery responses.

Budget 2022 includes funding reserved for costs associated with recovery from the November 2021 flooding events. Advice/Recommentations

Advice/Recommentations

Please refer to Appendix C for information about Capital Contingencies.

3) Year-End Funding

Advice/Recommentations

Advice/Recommentations

4) *BBMAA*, Statutory Appropriations, and Special Accounts

Under section 3 of the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act* (*BBMAA*), your ministerial salary is reduced by 10 per cent. This will be restored on the day after the *2022/23 Public Accounts* are released, provided your ministry's actual 2022/23 operating spending does not exceed your operating expense accountabilities outlined in Schedule F of the *2022/23 Estimates*.

Notwithstanding the exclusions of statutory appropriations from Schedule F, your ministry is not to exceed your ministry's 2022/23 budget allocation and future year targets noted in the body of this letter without prior Treasury Board approval.

Unless otherwise directed by Treasury Board, any special account decrease in revenues or increase in expenses, or financing transaction disbursements above the amounts outlined in the *2023/24 Estimates* requires Treasury Board approval.Advice/Recommentations
Advice/Recommentations

5) Commercial Crown Corporations, Taxpayer-supported Service Delivery Agencies and SUCH Sector Organizations - Fiscal Target Management

Your ministry is responsible for overseeing the financial position and operating results of commercial Crown corporations, service delivery agencies and SUCH sector organizations (school districts, universities, colleges, health authorities and hospital societies) that fall under your legislated responsibilities.

Commercial Crown corporations are expected to meet or exceed their net income projections as identified in their three-year service plans as tabled under *Budget 2022*.Advice/Recommentations
Advice/Recommentations

Service delivery agencies and SUCH sector organizations are required to meet or exceed their financial targets as identified in their three-year service plans as tabled under *Budget 2022*, unless prior Treasury Board approval is provided. Advice/Recommentations
Advice/Recommentations

Ministries with SUCH sector responsibilities are required to report quarterly to TBS on progress in achieving *Budget 2022* financial targets and to ensure their organizations will collectively meet bottom line, net expense, and debt targets. In addition, all ministries are

required to ensure the agencies and organizations for which they are responsible manage their capital projects within approved project budgets or previously approved envelopes, and where necessary develop strategies to ensure projects and envelopes remain within approved provincial funding limits.

6) STOB Management

Advice/Recommentations

Expenditure management controls remain in effect for *Budget 2022*

Advice/Recommentations

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommentations

- Advice/Recommentations
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-
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7) Public Sector Compensation

a. B.C. Public Sector Bargaining

Advice/Recommentations; Government Financial Information

b. 2021 - 2023 Public Sector Compensation Mandate

Budget 2022 includes centralized funding to assist with anticipated costs of concluding collective bargaining agreements under the 2022 *Shared Recovery Mandate*, Government Financial Information

c. Excluded Employees

Advice/Recommentations

8) Property Management and Shared Services

a. Effective Property Management

As one of the largest owners and tenants of real estate in British Columbia, the Province has an obligation to responsibly manage the real estate portfolio in the best interests of taxpayers.

All organizations throughout the Government Reporting Entity, including ministries, SUCH sector organizations (school districts, universities, colleges, and health authorities), and Crown corporations and agencies, are expected to follow the Inventory Policy for Real Property. This policy includes the requirement to identify properties that are surplus to an organization's needs to CITZ, which is managing this information on behalf of the Province.

Advice/Recommentations

b. CITZ - Shared Services

Ministries are expected to continue to work cooperatively with CITZ to actively manage down their consumption and reduce governments cost for information technology and facilities, to generate efficiencies and control costs. Ministries are also expected to engage the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) to seek its sign-off from an enterprise architecture perspective on information technology funding requests. Further, for Treasury Board requests for decisions on new/expanded programs, ministries are required to consult with OCIO to ensure the costs of enterprise digital services and technology are appropriately reflected.Advice/Recommentations

Advice/Recommentations

Advice/Recommentations

CITZ is responsible for optimizing the utilization of government's office space.Advice/Recommentations

Advice/Recommentations

Corporate Supply Arrangements (CSAs) have been established for use by government ministries and public sector organizations in B.C. to provide value for taxpayers. Ministries must not use any procurement or solicitation instrument (e.g., RFP) to acquire goods or services that are currently available through a CSA. As well, broader public sector organizations in the province may be eligible to access the pricing, terms and conditions set out in many of these supply arrangements. Please access the Goods and Services Catalogue for more information.

Procurement and Oversight of Complex/High Risk Services

The Strategic Partnerships Office (SPO) in CITZ is responsible for providing central coordination and expertise across core government in the business planning and management of major, high-risk strategic contracts.Advice/Recommentations
Advice/Recommentations Ministries are reminded to advise and consult with SPO/Procurement and Supply Division on any plans for alternative service delivery and other complex, high-risk service contracts (over $10 million annual spend) and coordinate with their EFOs.Advice/Recommentations
Advice/Recommentations

For information regarding IM/IT Capital Investments, please refer to Appendix C.

9) Other Budget Management Requirements

a. Legal Services Funding

Advice/Recommentations

b. Recoveries and Fees/Fines

Advice/Recommentations

All fee and fine proposals (i.e., new, increase, decrease, elimination, exemption or change in scope of coverage) must be reviewed by Treasury Board. The Fee/Fine Treasury Board Submission template is located on the TBS Performance Budgeting Office intranet site.

Consistent with the principle of ministerial accountability, each ministry and program area charging fees is responsible for ongoing monitoring of its fees to ensure that the approved fee

rates continue to be appropriate and consistent with relevant government policies and regulations. Ministries are instructed to review their fees at least annually, to ensure they are accurate and up to date, and should bring forward fee proposals for Treasury Board consideration as they feel necessary.

Ministries are reminded that the fee database is only updated when changes have been legally authorized by cabinet Regulation / OIC, Ministerial Order or Minister of Finance Directive. The current fee database is available on the TBS intranet site. In order to keep the database current, it is important that ministries notify TBS at Anita.Nair@gov.bc.ca once legal authorization for fees has been received.

c. Sponsored Crown Grants (SCGs) and Nominal Rent Tenures (NRTs)

Advice/Recommentations

For further information on the funding and approval process, please contact the Ministry of Forests.

Appendix C

Capital Management

There are four main types of capital project expenditures. The management requirements vary for each category, as identified below. Please refer to the Supplemental Capital Definitions on the Treasury Board Staff (TBS) intranet site for definitions of the types of capital project expenditures.

1) Priority Investments (non-IM/IT)
2) Routine Capital Envelopes
3) IM/IT Capital Investments and Maintenance
4) CRF Capital

1) Priority Investments (non-IM/IT)

Advice/Recommentations

[1]Security Concern

Advice/Recommentations

Ministries are expected to manage within the project scope, schedule and budget as approved by Treasury Board. Advice/Recommentations
Advice/Recommentations

For clarification on the approval or funding status for any of your ministry's Priority Investment projects, please contact your Treasury Board Analyst. For more information on completing a Concept Plan and Business Plan, please refer to the Concept Plan Guideline and Business Plan Guideline.

Advice/Recommentations

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Advice/Recommentations

Advice/Recommentations

2) Routine Capital Envelopes

Routine Capital funding envelopes enable ministries to address deferred maintenance and achieve an acceptable level of condition for Government's capital assets. Advice/Recommentations
Advice/Recommentations

CITZ is responsible for corporately managing the CRF Routine Capital envelope for facilities and tenant improvements. Advice/Recommentations
Advice/Recommentations

3) IM/IT Capital and Transformation and Technology Funding

The Deputy Ministers Committee on Digital and Data is responsible for the management of the CRF IM/IT Capital Investment program funding envelope Advice/Recommentations

- Advice/Recommentations

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Security Concern

Advice/Recommentations

Ministries are responsible for funding the associated operating costs for IM/IT projects from within existing ministry budgets. By working with CITZ (OCIO), ministry Executive Financial Officers are responsible for ensuring that IM/IT proposals are inclusive of all costs, including both operating and capital infrastructure costs that must be borne by CITZ. Any additional costs not provided for in this manner must be funded from within ministries' existing operating/capital budgets.

Advice/Recommentations

4) CRF Capital

CRF Capital provides spending appropriation to ministries (as outlined in Schedule C of the 2022/23 *Estimates*) for core government owned assets across several asset classes including land, buildings, tenant improvements, specialized equipment, vehicles, information systems, and office furniture and equipment. CRF capital is comprised of discrete capital projects (including Priority Investments covered above) and recurring capital envelopes, such as ongoing annual funding for office furniture and equipment.

Advice/Recommentations

[3] For Terms of Reference, see https://intranet.gov.bc.ca/assets/intranet/mtics/ocio/imit-capital-investments/dib_terms_of_reference_-_approved_-_march_18_2021.pdf.

Advice/Recommentations

Governance and Responsibilities

Ministries are responsible for the oversight of planning, delivery, and reporting of capital projects in their respective sectors, including those capital projects undertaken by agencies and Crown Corporations for which they are responsible. Advice/Recommentations

Advice/Recommentations

Advice/Recommentations

Capital Project Reporting

All ministries and their respective agencies, Crown Corporations, school districts, universities, colleges and health authorities/hospital societies included in the Government Reporting Entity must submit quarterly capital spending updates via the Capital Planning System database to the Performance Budgeting Office, TBS, and ensure consistency with quarterly updates provided to the Fiscal Planning and Estimates Branch and the Office of the Comptroller General.

Reporting in the Capital Planning System database is required for discrete capital projects above the following thresholds:

Reporting Threshold	**Ministries**
Advice/Recommentations	

The *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act* requires public disclosure for all major capital projects, defined as those with a total cost of $50 million or greater. Within one month of the approval of the project by Cabinet, the minister responsible must make public a major capital project plan outlining the objectives, costs, benefits, and risks of the project. Making public means either laying the document before the Legislative Assembly, if it is in session, or filing the document with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, if the Legislative Assembly is not in session and making the document available to the general public in a reasonable manner, which may include by electronic means.

In addition, major capital projects are reported on publicly each quarter. Please see the policy guidance on reporting for major capital projects, available on the TBS intranet site[4] for more information.

Security Concern

Office of the Premier Salaries - March 31, 2022

Branch/ Unit	Classification	Position Title	Bi-weekly Rate[1]	Annual Rate[1]
Premier's Office - Executive Branch				
	Executive 2 MS	Chief of Staff	$8,090.45	$211,074.27
	Executive 1	Deputy Chief of Staff	$6,101.40	$159,181.20
	Executive 1	Deputy Chief of Staff	$5,981.76	$156,060.00
	Band 6 MS	Director of Communications	$4,982.89	$130,000.00
	Band 5 MS	Press Secretary & Dep Comm Dir	$4,791.24	$125,000.10
	Band 5 MS	Press Secretary & Dep Comm Dir[2]	$4,791.24	$125,000.10
	Band 6 OIC	Dir,StratOutreach&StakehldrRel	$4,791.24	$125,000.00
	Band 5 MS	Sr Advisor, Intergov Relations	$4,785.41	$124,848.00
	Band 5 OIC	Director, ExecOps & Scheduling	$4,386.63	$114,444.00
	Band 5 MS	Director, Projects&Strategic	$4,300.61	$112,200.00
	Band 3 MS	Communications Manager	$3,714.17	$96,900.00
	Band 3 MS	ExecAdvisor,Comm&SkherRelation	$3,622.17	$94,500.00
	Band 3 MS	Exe Adv, Com & Stake Relations	$3,622.17	$94,500.00
	Band 3 MS	Mgr,StratOutreach&StaekhldrRel	$3,258.04	$85,000.00
	Band 2 MS	Exec Coord to the Premier	$3,190.27	$83,232.00
	Band 2 OIC	ExecCoord to DCoS & HR Advisor	$3,066.39	$80,000.00
	Band 2 MS	ExecCoord to Chief of Staff	$2,928.67	$76,406.98
	Administrative Coordinator	Administrative Coordinator	$2,549.47	$66,513.89
	Band 1 MS	Executive Assistant	$2,541.27	$66,300.01
	Administrative Officer R18	Scheduling Clerk	$2,436.45	$63,565.28
	Clerk R15	Administrative Assistant	$2,030.85	$52,983.46
	Clerk R11	Administrative Assistant	$1,999.21	$52,157.99
	Clerk R15	Administrative Assistant	$1,975.24	$51,532.63
	Clerk R11	Administrative Assistant	$1,062.10	$27,709.50
Premier's Office - Correspondence Branch				
	Band 3 MS	Manager, Correspondence Branch	$3,127.72	$81,600.00
	Communications Officer R18	Correspondence Coordinator	$2,436.45	$63,565.28
	Communications Officer R15	Communications Officer	$2,236.38	$58,345.59
	Communications Officer R15	Correspondence Officer	$2,088.36	$54,483.85
	Communications Officer R15	Correspondence Officer	$2,030.85	$52,983.46
	Communications Officer R15	Correspondence Officer	$2,030.85	$52,983.46
	Clerk R9	Correspondence Clerk	$1,891.86	$49,357.30
	Clerk R9	Administrative Assistant	$1,722.99	$44,951.60

Branch/ Unit	Classification	Position Title	Bi-weekly Rate[1]	Annual Rate[1]
Corporate Services - Deputy Minister's Office				
	Cabinet Sec & Depty to Premier	DM to Premier & Cab Secretary	$12,457.21	$325,000.00
	Special Advisor	Special Advisor, NRS	$10,132.20	$264,342.00
	Deputy Minister 2	DM, Policy & Coordination	$10,067.35	$262,650.00
	Deputy Minister 1	DM, Strategic Initiatives	$8,773.71	$228,900.00
	Assistant Deputy Minister 1	ADM, Strategic Issues	$6,040.41	$157,590.00
	Band 5 OIC	Director, Executive Operations	$4,215.15	$109,970.31
	Band 1 OIC	Executive Administrative Coord	$2,760.50	$72,019.44
	Band 1 OIC	Executive Administrative Coord	$2,188.64	$57,100.09
	Band 1 OIC	Information Management Advisor	$2,188.64	$57,100.09
	Clerk R9	Administrative Assistant	$1,818.96	$47,455.39
Cabinet Operations				
	Assistant Deputy Minister 1	Deputy Cabinet Secretary	$5,783.98	$150,900.00
	Band 5	Executive Director	$4,814.19	$125,598.85
	Band 5	Executive Director	$4,672.69	$121,907.21
	Band 5	Executive Director	$4,658.49	$121,536.74
	Band 3	Cabinet Committee Director	$3,721.96	$97,103.33
	Band 3	Cabinet Committee Director	$3,671.82	$95,795.16
	Band 3	Cabinet Committee Director	$3,656.41	$95,393.18
	Band 3	Cabinet Committee Director	$3,482.10	$90,845.55
	Band 3	Manager, Cabinet Operations	$3,363.72	$87,757.15
	Band 2	Records Management Officer	$3,328.32	$86,833.54
	Band 1	OIC Coordinator, Cabinet Opns	$2,579.65	$67,301.26
	Clerk R11	Branch Administrator	$1,770.17	$46,182.50
	Clerk Stenographer R11 (Auxiliary)	Document Processing Coor.	$1,770.17	$46,182.50
Planning & Priorities Secretariat				
	Associate Deputy Minister	AssocDM, Plan&Priorities Sec.	$6,516.08	$170,000.00
	Band 5 OIC	ED, Plng & Prior Secretariat	$5,166.87	$134,800.02
	Band 5 OIC	ED, Plan&Priorities Sec	$5,095.92	$132,949.07
	Band 5 OIC	ED, Plng & Prior Secretariat	$4,873.27	$127,140.16
	Band 5 OIC	Exec Dir, Plan&Priorities Sec.	$4,631.18	$120,824.14
	Band 3 OIC	Dir, Plng & Prior Secretariat	$3,871.32	$101,000.00
	Band 3 OIC	Director, Plan&Priorities Sec	$3,871.32	$101,000.00
	Band 3 OIC	Dir, Plng & Prior Secretariat	$3,843.88	$100,284.15
	Band 3 OIC	Dir, Planning & Priorities	$3,843.88	$100,284.15
	Band 1 OIC	Executive Coordinator	$2,454.33	$64,031.82

Branch/ Unit	Classification	Position Title	Bi-weekly Rate[1]	Annual Rate[1]
tergovernmental Relations Secretariat Operations				
	Deputy Minister 1	DM Intergovernmental Relation	$8,773.71	$228,900.00
	Associate Deputy Minister	Associate DM, IGR	$7,854.06	$204,907.00
	Band 4	Director, Francophone Affairs	$4,437.88	$115,781.15
	Band 5	Chief of Protocol & Exec Dir	$4,341.60	$113,269.29
	Band 5	Exec Dtr, Strat Policy & Plan	$4,341.60	$113,269.29
	Band 5	Exec Dir, Fed & Can Intrgv Pol	$4,341.60	$113,269.29
	Band 4	Director, Strategic Services	$3,733.70	$97,409.61
	Band 3	Manager, Executive Operations	$3,614.60	$94,302.38
	Band 3	Mgr,Intergovernmental Relation	$3,611.99	$94,234.38
	Band 3	Mgr, International Relations	$3,423.39	$89,313.72
	Band 3	Protocol Manager	$3,304.59	$86,214.33
	Band 3	Protocol Manager	$3,304.59	$86,214.33
	Band 3	Band 3	$3,216.50	$83,916.23
	Band 3	Protocol Manager	$3,129.90	$81,656.92
	Band 3	Protocol Manager	$3,129.90	$81,656.92
	Band 3	Manager, Executive Operations	$3,037.80	$79,254.20
	Band 3	Mgr,Intergovernmental Relation	$2,978.24	$77,700.20
	Band 2	Mgr. Finance & Administration	$2,937.67	$76,641.79
	Band 1	Intergov Relations Coordinator	$2,491.66	$65,005.56
	Band 1 (Auxiliary)	Intergovernmental Advisor	$2,453.11	$64,000.00
	Band 1	Intergovernmental Advisor	$2,391.79	$62,400.00
	Senior Executive Assistant	Senior Executive Assistant[2]	$2,362.49	$61,635.71
	Band 1 (Auxiliary)	Intergovernmental Advisor	$2,223.14	$58,000.17
	Band 1 (Auxiliary)	Intergovernmental Advisor	$2,223.14	$58,000.17
	Senior Executive Assistant	Senior Executive Assistant	$2,172.76	$56,685.79
	Clerk R15	Protocol Assistant	$2,088.36	$54,483.85
	Clerk R15	Protocol & Events Assistant	$2,030.85	$52,983.46
	Clerk R9	Greetings Clerk	$1,891.86	$49,357.30
	Clerk R15	Protocol & Events Assistant	$1,565.47	$40,841.91
	Clerk R15	Protocol Assistant	$1,118.19	$29,172.79
Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat - Francophone Affairs Program				
	Band 3	Mgr Francophone Affairs Prog	$3,315.72	$86,504.93
	Band 1	Advisor Francophone Affairs Pr	$2,678.71	$69,885.67

tes:

1. The amounts presented in the above table are actuals as of March 31, 2022. Any discrepancies between these amounts and the Public Accounts, the Public Accounts will be taken as accurate and final.
2. This staff person is currently on leave.

Office of the Premier - 2021/22 Contract Expenditures

For the year ending March 31, 2022.

VENDOR	CONTRACT	LATEST PO AMOUNT	2021/22 EXPENDITURES[1]	Procurement Type	DESCRIPTION
REGROOVE SOLUTIONS INC.	C21IGRS1573	16,000	6,650	Direct Award - Confidentiality	Expenses FY22 new software application and reconfiguration for the kiosks at the Parliament Buildings. This will include knowledge transfer and documentation for care and maintenance of the kiosks.
DYE & DURHAM CORPORATION	C22IGRS1579	9,990	1,350	Direct Award - Sole Source	Honours and awards due diligence checks.
DEWAR, ROBERT	C22PREM1572	50,000	43,750	Direct Award - Sole Source	Fees/Expenses: Strategic advisory services to the Premier.
ELEVATE INCLUSION STRATEGIES INC.	C22PREM1574	7,000	7,000	Direct Award - Sole Source	FEES: Delivery of training workshops on building inclusive workplace.
SFU MORRIS J. WOSK CENTRE FOR DIALOGUE	C22PREM1575	34,140	29,965	Direct Award - Confidentiality	FEES: Facilitation of consultative services with faith communities around engagement and compliance with Covid19.
CONVERGENCE COMMUNICATIONS INC.	C22PREM1577	22,000	14,063	Direct Award - Confidentiality	Design and provide facilitation for Cabinet planning sessions.
LLOYD, EVAN STANLEY	C22PREM1578	10,000	5,000	Direct Award - Confidentiality	FEES: Communications advice to Office of the Premier related to the Provinces intentions to modernize forest policy.
TOTAL STOB 60 and STOB 61		**149,130**	**107,778**		

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER
ESTIMATES FACT SHEET

NAME: Contracts Procured during FY2021/22 as of March 31, 2022

DESCRIPTION:

- Government's guiding principles for procurement are as follows:
  - Accountability and transparency
  - Fair, open and non-discriminatory processes
  - Competition, value for money and demand aggregation
- Contracts are prepared in accordance with the Core Policy & Procedures Manual, the Procurement Services Act and applicable Trade agreements.

SUMMARY OF CONTRACTS AWARDED BY PROCUREMENT TYPE:

Procurement Type	Number of Contracts	Amount
Direct Award - Sole Source	4	$82,990
Direct Award - Confidentiality	3	$66,140
Total	7	$149,130

- The three largest contracts procured in the year are detailed below and comprise more than 70% of total procurements within the year.

Service provider	Amount	Description	Direct Award Justification
DEWAR, ROBERT	$50,000	Strategic advisory services to the Premier.	Direct Award - Sole Source: High-level strategic advice is based on trust, confidentiality and discretion provided through the Chief of Staff to the Premier on major policy issues, including the 2017 Confidence & Supply Agree between the BC Green Caucus and the BC New Democrat caucus.
SFU MORRIS J. WOSK CENTRE FOR DIALOGUE	$34,140	Facilitation of consultative services with faith communities around engagement and compliance with Covid19.	Direct Award - Confidentiality: Highly sensitive and timely facilitation work

Contact: Amy McAleese, Executive Director, CFO **Phone:** 778 698-3352
Branch: Corporate Services Division

			regarding community compliance with evolving PHO orders.
CONVERGENCE COMMUNICATIONS INC.	$22,000	Design and provide facilitation for Cabinet planning sessions.	Direct Award - Confidentiality: The acquisition is of a confidential nature and disclosure through an open competitive process could reasonably be expected to compromise government confidentiality.

Office of the Premier
ISSUE NOTE

ISSUE: Premier Travel Expenditures

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- This reflects the amounts paid for Capital City Allowance and travel for the Premier. The information provided includes the amounts up to the end of March 2022. The amounts at the end of March 2022 reported in the public accounts are as follows:

1. Capital City Allowance:

2021/22 Actuals (End of March 2022)	2020/21 Actuals (End of March 2021)
$1,102*	$1,271*

* The total Capital City Allowance for the Premier is for the Daily Allowance and does not include amounts for the Living Allowance as his constituency is Langford-Juan de Fuca.

Contact:	Amy McAleese, CFO & Executive Director	**Phone:**	778 698-3352
Division:	Corporate Services Division	**Page:**	1 of 4
File Name:	Premier Travel Expenditures for Estimates Debate 2022/23		

2. Travel:

	In-Province	In-Canada	Out-of-Canada	Total
Travel – 2021/22 at the end of March 2022	$14,951	$0	$1,040 (Cancellation Fees for trips to Scotland)	**$15,991**
Travel – 2020/21 at the end of March 2021	$2,096	$0	$0	**$2,096**
Travel – 2019/20 at the end of March 2020	$46,601	$7,985 (Edmonton-June/19, Saskatoon-July/19, Whitehorse/ Watson Lake-Oct/19, Toronto/Ottawa-Dec/19)	$8,737 (Rouen/London/ The Hague/ Amsterdam-Jun/19, Seattle-Oct/19)	**$63,323**

- The amount listed in total travel matches the amount published on the Open Information website.
- Appendix 1 is attached to provide information of the different types of travel and the area of responsibility.

Appendix 1 – Different Types of Minister's Travel and the Area of Responsibility

Travel Item:	Paid By:	Notes:
Between Capital and Constituency	Ministry of Finance	Official travel between constituency and Victoria is considered government business. Travel at government rates applies and is charged to the central Minister's travel budget in Ministry of Finance.
Travel Within Province, Out of Province or Out of Canada	Ministers' Office Sub-Vote	When travelling on official government business, officials are governed by the Official Duties Expense Regulation and travel guidelines for "officials".
Parliamentary Secretary and MLA Travel on Behalf of Executive Council	Ministers' Office Sub-Vote	When travelling on official government business, Parliamentary Secretaries and MLAs travelling on behalf of Executive Council are governed by the Official Duties Expense Regulation and travel guidelines for "officials".
Accompanying Persons Travel	Vote 1 Legislative Assembly (Financial Services)	MLA's can allocate up to 12 return trips within the province for an accompanying person of the member's choosing, who is typically a family member, constituency assistant, or legislative assistant. All reasonable and justifiable travel expenses will be reimbursed upon presentation of receipts.
Capital City Allowance	Ministry of Finance	When the official is in Victoria, the meal allowance(s) is charged to the Capital City Allowance budget. This budget is a central Minister's travel budget that is held by the Ministry of Finance.

Appendix 1 – Different Types of Minister's Travel and the Area of Responsibility

Travel Item:	Paid By:	Notes:
Capital City Living Allowance	Ministry of Finance	o The official whose principal residence is outside the Victoria CRD and is maintaining a year-round rented residence within the CRD will be eligible for reimbursement of expenses to a maximum of $22,801 per fiscal year effective April 1, 2022 (previously $22,180). o The official who owns a secondary residence within the CRD that he/she utilizes for the purpose of fulfilling his/her duties as MLA is eligible for reimbursement of expenses to a maximum of $22,801 per fiscal year effective April 1, 2022 (previously $22,180). o The official who stays in a hotel and does not make any claims under either of the above provisions, will be reimbursed to a maximum of $20,067 effective April 1, 2022 (previously $19,520) per fiscal year for hotel expenses upon presentation of receipts for the purposes of discharging his or her official duties.
Members' Expense Allowance	Vote 1 Legislative Assembly (Financial Services)	An annual allowance of $6,000 per fiscal year is payable to Members to help offset costs associated with work within their constituencies. This allowance is added to each Members' pay cheque in a quarterly lump sum with deductions held at source (May, August, November, and February).
Caucus Related Travel	Vote 1 Legislative Assembly (Financial Services)	All reasonable and justifiable travel expenses will be reimbursed upon presentation of receipts.

Premier's Quarterly Travel Expense Summary

Name: Honourable John Horgan

Portfolio: Office of the Premier

Travel expense summary (amount paid by quarter):

	21/22 Q1	21/22 Q2	21/22 Q3	21/22 Q4
In Province Flights:	$ -	$ 4,318.25	$ 4,485.33	$ 4,185.19
Other Travel in Province:	$ -	$ 607.23	$ 1,029.02	$ 326.32
Out of Country Travel:	$ -	$ -	$ 1,039.85	$ -
Out of Province Travel:	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total travel expenses paid this quarter:	$ -	$ 4,925.48	$ 6,554.20	$ 4,511.51
Travel expenses fiscal year-to-date:	$ -	$ 4,925.48	$ 11,479.68	$ 15,991.19

Supporting backup to Issue Note: Premier Travel Expenditures for Estimates Debate 2022/23

Office of the Premier
Staff Travel Expense Summary - 2021/22

NAME	JOB TITLE	TOTAL
AARON, SAGE	ADM, Strategic Communications Division	1,462
ALLAN, JOHN	Special Advisor	603
BADGER, JOLEEN Person	Director, Executive Council Events	535
BAIN, DONALD Pers	Deputy Chief of Staff to the Premier	12,488
BEHN SMITH, DANIELE	Deputy Provincial Health Officer Indigenous Health	3,283
BROWN, EVAN Person	Executive Assistant, Ministry of Labour	7,512
BROWNSEY, SILAS P	Deputy Minister, IGRS	819
BYERS, LINDSAY	Deputy Communications Director and Press Secreta	13,120
CANITZ, SHELLEY P	Executive Director, DMO	854
COPAGE, CAITLIN	Director, DMO	685
CRAIG, DON	Photographer	1,160
FELKER, KAREN P	Protocol Manager, IGRS	127
GEARY, VANESSA	Executive Director	3,216
GEARY, VANESSA	Senior Executive Lead	859
GIRN, NAVEENDAR Person	Director, Strategic Outreach & Stakeholder Relatior	4,223
GORMAN, FRANCES Perso	Protocol Projects Coordinator	290
HAGGLUND, JARRETT Personal	Manager, Event Services	2,581
HOCKIN, AMBER Personal	Deputy Chief of Staff	8,659
HORGAN, JOHN	Premier of BC	16,054
JOSHI, SHRUTI Personal	Director, Media Relations and	5,368
KRISTIANSON, ERIC P	Assistant Deputy Minister Stra	630
LOBMEIER, LUCY P	Chief of Protocol and Executive Director	656
LONGPRE, NICOLE	A/Manager, U.S. Relations	1,131
MADOC-JONES, SIAN	Events Coordinator	722
MARSHALL, MEGAN Personal	Manager, Strategic Outreach & Stakeholder Relatio	1,003
MASSY, MICHELLE	Manager, Cabinet Operations	586
MCCOLL, JOHN MICHAEL Pe	Director, PPS	658
MCCONNELL, SHEENA Person	Sr. Advisor, Intergovernmental Relations	543
MEGGS, GEOFFREY	Chief of Staff	6,867
MENDES MIRANDA, HERNANI Personal	Protocol Assistant	661
MILLER, AMY Perso	Deputy Cabinet Secretary	1,467
SAM, ANN Perso	Director, PPS	1,173
SMITH, GEORGE Personal	Director, Communications	370
SQUIRES, PAUL Personal	Executive Director	683
TRUONG, LELE	Media Relations Officer	682
WADE, DEBORAH P	Executive Coordinator to the Chief of Staff & HR Ad	841
WANAMAKER, LORI P	Deputy Minister, Premier & Cabinet Secretary	886
ZACHARUK, CHRISTINA Pers	Associate Deputy Minister	439
Non-staff expenditures[3]		71,280
TOTAL STOB 57		175,175

NOTE 1: *The amounts presented in the above table are actuals as of March 31, 2022. Employee-specific amounts in the above table include only items paid directly by the Office of the Premier and therefore may not match Public Accounts or proactive travel releases. Any discrepancies between these amounts and the Public Accounts, the Public Accounts will be taken as accurate and final.*

NOTE 2: *Travel amounts include only travel expenses incurred under the Office of the Premier vote. Any travel paid by other ministries is not included.*

NOTE 3: *Non-staff expenditures includes expenses not directly attributable to individual staff within the Office of the Premier. These are costs not made through the CFS travel module, and can include travel paid for staff from other ministries, or amounts journal vouchered to from the Office and Premier. Note the 2021/22 amount includes a $68k expense resulting from reconciling the travel pre-payment STOB.*

Premier Horgan - Capital City Allowance 2021/22

Sup .ing backup to Issue Note: Premier Travel Expenditures for . mates Debate 2022/23

Period	Batch	Supplier	Invoice Num	Client	RESP	Service Li	Stob	Project	Travel Day	Meal Claimed	Total	Pre-GST (4%)[1]
MAR-22	FS22EXESLP67	HORGAN, JOHN	E134611	004	36A10	36200	5750	36MTCCA	Mar 1/22	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Mar 3/22	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Mar 4/22	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Mar 7/22	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Mar 9/22	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Mar 11/22	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Mar 16/22	L	$12.50	$12.02
MAR-22	FS22EXESLP67	HORGAN, JOHN	E134519	004	36A10	36200	5750	36MTCCA	Feb 28/22	L	$12.50	$12.02
MAR-22	FS22EXESLP67	HORGAN, JOHN	E134518	004	36A10	36200	5750	36MTCCA	Feb 1/22	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Feb 3/22	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Feb 8/22	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Feb 10/22	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Feb 11/22	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Feb 14/22	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Feb 16/22	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Feb 18/22	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Feb 22/22	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Feb 24/22	L	$12.50	$12.02
MAR-22	FS22EXESLP67	HORGAN, JOHN	E134485	004	36A10	36200	5750	36MTCCA	Jan 26/22	L	$12.50	$12.02
FEB-22	FS22EXESLP58	HORGAN, JOHN	E134328	004	36A10	36200	5750	36MTCCA	Nov 10/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Nov 15/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Nov 16/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Nov 17/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Nov 22/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Nov 23/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Nov 24/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
DEC-22	FS22EXESLP53	HORGAN, JOHN	E134228	004	36A10	36200	5750	36MTCCA	Oct 26/21	LD	$34.00	$32.69
									Oct 27/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Oct 28/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
DEC-22	FS22EXESLP53	HORGAN, JOHN	E134227	004	36A10	36200	5750	36MTCCA	Oct 1/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Oct 4/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Oct 6/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Oct 8/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Oct 12/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Oct 18/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Oct 20/21	L	$12.50	$12.02

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Premier Horgan - Capital City Allowance 2021/22

Sup[illegible]ing backup to Issue Note: Premier Travel Expenditures for [illegible]mates Debate 2022/23

Period	Batch	Supplier	Invoice Num	Client	RESP	Service Li	Stob	Project	Travel Day	Meal Claimed	Total	Pre-GST (4%)[1]
									Oct 21/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
OCT-22	FS22EXESLP39	HORGAN, JOHN	E134031	004	36A10	36200	5750	36MTCCA	Sep 20/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Sep 27/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Sep 29/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
OCT-22	FS22EXESLP39	HORGAN, JOHN	E134030	004	36A10	36200	5750	36MTCCA	Sep 1/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Sep 3/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Sep 7/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Sep 13/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Sep 15/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
OCT-22	FS22EXESLP37	HORGAN, JOHN	E133961	004	36A10	36200	5750	36MTCCA	Aug 20/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Aug 23/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Aug 30/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
SEP-22	FS22EXESLP31	HORGAN, JOHN	E133849	004	36A10	36200	5750	36MTCCA	Jul 12/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Jul 28/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
SEP-22	FS22EXESLP31	HORGAN, JOHN	E133848	004	36A10	36200	5750	36MTCCA	Jul 1/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Jul 5/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Jul 14/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Jul 20/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
JUL-22	FS22EXEPAL05	HORGAN, JOHN	E133794	004	36A10	36200	5750	36MTCCA	Jun 2/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Jun 4/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Jun 7/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Jun 9/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Jun 11/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Jun 14/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Jun 16/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Jun 18/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Jun 28/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
JUN-22	FS22EXESLP13	HORGAN, JOHN	E133720	004	36A10	36200	5750	36MTCCA	May 31/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
JUN-22	FS22EXESLP13	HORGAN, JOHN	E133719	004	36A10	36200	5750	36MTCCA	May 3/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									May 5/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									May 10/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									May 12/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									May 14/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									May 17/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									May 19/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									May 21/21	L	$12.50	$12.02

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Premier Horgan - Capital City Allowance 2021/22

Supporting backup to Issue Note: Premier Travel Expenditures for Estimates Debate 2022/23

Period	Batch	Supplier	Invoice Num	Client	RESP	Service Li	Stob	Project	Travel Day	Meal Claimed	Total	Pre-GST (4%)[1]
									May 25/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									May 27/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
MAY-22	FS22EXESLP07	HORGAN, JOHN	E133658	004	36A10	36200	5750	36MTCCA	Apr 30/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
MAY-22	FS22EXESLP07	HORGAN, JOHN	E133657	004	36A10	36200	5750	36MTCCA	Apr 6/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Apr 8/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Apr 12/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Apr 14/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Apr 16/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Apr 19/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Apr 21/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Apr 23/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Apr 26/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Apr 28/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
MAY-22	FS22EXESLP07	HORGAN, JOHN	E133656	004	36A10	36200	5750	36MTCCA	Mar 19/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Mar 22/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Mar 26/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Mar 29/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Mar 31/21	L	$12.50	$12.02
									Total:			**$1,102.40**

Notes

Supporting backup to Issue Note: Premier Travel Expenditures for Estimates Debate 2022/23

1. Per Federal Government agreement the GST rate for travel vouchers is 4% instead of the usual 5%. Note this rate applies only to travel paid through travel claims only, not through purchase cards.

IGRS SUMMARY BY PROJECT

PROJECT	PROJECT NAME	21/22 Actuals as of March 31, 2022[1]	% of total Actuals	Description
3600000	General	3,012,690	88.04%	Salaries, benefits, Legal, Data, Cell, Postal, Vehicle, Building
3601124	CICS annual contribution	0	0.00%	Canadian Intergovernmental Conference Secretariat - Recovered from ministries therefore net zero expense
3601201	Remembrance Day	439	0.01%	Wreath for Premier presentation & Aboriginal Lapel pins
3601202	Order of BC	73,523	2.15%	Writers, Medals, AC Meeting & Investiture travel, reception & dinner
3601203	Long Service Awards	(199,800)	-5.84%	IGRS service fee recovered from BCPSA, primarily in salaries and benefits. This represents only the reoveries on the expense.
3601204	Official Visits	3,491	0.10%	Hospitality, IGRS travel
3601208	Opening of the Legislature	50	0.00%	Refreshments for LG & ceremonial attendees
3601210	Consular Corps Relations	3,884	0.11%	IGRS travel for meetings & Consular Corps Briefing with Govt Officials
3601237	Council of the Federation	187,458	5.48%	COF dues 186K & online conference training
3601260	Medal of Good Citizenship	0	0.00%	TACS covers the cost of the Medal of Good Citizenship (because their Minister is the Chair of the Advisory Committee)
360X001	COVID-19 Corporate Tracking	1,402	0.04%	COVID-19 pandemic supplies/signage
3698738	Official Visits Gift Purchases	4,181	0.12%	Replenish gift inventory for visiting dignitaries
3698741	Protocol Ceremonies	39	0.00%	Venue, Reception, Flowers, etc for State funerals/memorials
3698788	US Engagement	67,945	1.99%	USA engagement meetings
3698789	Fed-Prov Engagement	17,112	0.50%	Fed/Prov Meeting - Ministers' Council on the Canadian Francophonie
3601101	*Francophone Affairs Program	249,353	7.29%	FAP recovered from FEDs
TOTALS		3,421,766		

Notes:

1. The amounts presented in the above table are actuals as of March 31, 2022. Any discrepancies between these amounts and the Public Accounts, the Public Accounts will be taken as accurate and final.

IGRS Government Transfers 2021/2022

STOB	Actual Amount	Supplier Name	Description/Reason
7703	15,000	FEDERATION DES PARENTS FRANCOPHONES DE COLOMBIE-BRITANNIQUE	INV #MOU-2021/22-HSS-1 FAP: BEBE FRANCOPHONE
7703	43,780	LA BOUSSOLE, CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE SOCIETE	INV #MOU-2021/22-HSS-3
7703	3,756	LEGAL SERVICES SOCIETY	INV #MOU-2021/22-JT-3 REVISIONS, FRENCH TRANSLATION, WEB POSTING OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS
7703	3,150	SOCIETE PLACE MAILLARDVILLE SOCIETY	INB #MOU-2021-/22-CS-1 FRENCH PLAYTIME PROGRAM
7703	11,476	LA BOUSSOLE, CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE SOCIETE	FAP: BILINGUAL SOCIAL AND OUTREACH WORKERS
7703	11,476	LA BOUSSOLE, CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE SOCIETE	FAP: BILINGUAL SOCIAL AND OUTREACH WORKERS
7703	4,351	RICHMOND CITY CENTRE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION	FOR: FRENCH FUN FOR PRESCHOOLERS + GATHERING
7703	30,000	BC LIBRARIES COOPERATIVE	FRANCOPHONE EBOOK LIBRARY COLLECTION
7703	17,000	LA SOCIETE DE DEVELOPPEMENT ECONOMIQUE DE LA C.-B. (SDECB)	FAP: SDECB
7703	4,350	RICHMOND CITY CENTRE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION	FOR: FRENCH FUN FOR PRESCHOOLERS + GATHERING
7703	20,000	AG-BC Prosecution Services	Francophone Affairs pymt to AG-BC Prosecution Services
7703	2,500	Ministry of Health - Seniors Services Division	Francophone Affairs pymt to Seniors Services Division
7703	15,000	Government Communications & Public Engagement	French translation of Budget 2022 from FAP to GCPE
7703	7,000	CLUB BON ACCUEIL	FOR CURRENT AND DIVERSE SKILLSET PROGRAMMING PYMT 2
7703	30,000	FEDERATION DES PARENTS FRANCOPHONES DE COLOMBIE-BRITANNIQUE	FRENCH LANGUAGE CHILD CARE CENTRES PYMT 2
7703	7,000	L'ASSOCIATION DES FRANCOPHONES DE NANAIMO	MAPLE SUGAR FESTIVAL DU SUCRE D'ERABLE
7703	10,000	LA SOCIETE DE DEVELOPPEMENT ECONOMIQUE DE LA C.-B. (SDECB)	FAP: CAREER EXPLORATION FOR YOUTH ECONOMIC INTEGRATION PYMT #2
7703	5,000	LA SOCIETE FRANCOPHONE DE VICTORIA	FAP: FOR THE PROJECT: FRANCO ON THE ROAD 2ND PYMT
7703	20,000	RESEAU-FEMMES COLOMBIE-BRITANNIQUE	MOU-PF-3B
7703	10,000	THE PROVINCIAL LANGUAGE SERVICE	FAP FOR PLS: OPIOD CRISIS
7703	10,000	Ministry of Citizen Services - Digital Platforms and Data Division	Maintenance of BC Francophone Maps
7703	715	LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA	FAP: LEG ASSEMBLY?PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION
7703	1,700	RESEAU-FEMMES COLOMBIE-BRITANNIQUE	FAP: PEOPLE LIVING WITH ADDICTION
7703	7,000	SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY	FRANCOPHONIE CELEBRATIONS 2022
7703	1,055	THEATRE LA SEIZIEME	FAP: ZERO BY ORANGE NOYEE THEATRE LA SEIZIEME
7703	10,000	CONSEIL JEUNESSE FRANCOPHONE DE LA COLOMBIE-BRITANNIQUE	BC FRANCOPHONE YOUTH PARLIAMENT
7703	11,476	LA BOUSSOLE, CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE SOCIETE	FAP: BILINGUAL SOCIAL AND OUTREACH WORKERS
7703	3,800	RESEAU-FEMMES COLOMBIE-BRITANNIQUE	FAP: POUR AMOUR ET ARGENT
7703	8,500	VICTORIA INDEPENDENT FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL	FRENCH FILM SCREENINGS FILM FEST
7703	4,000	VISIONS OUEST PRODUCTIONS	FAP: FOR THE ART OF CIRCUS
7703	30,992	BC LIBRARIES COOPERATIVE	FRANCOPHONE EBOOK LIBRARY COLLECTION PYMT 2
7703	5,000	THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF SAANICH	FRENCH FOR LITTLE LEARNERS
7703	10,000	THE PROVINCIAL LANGUAGE SERVICE	FAP FOR PLS: OPIOD CRISIS
7703	25,000	AG-BC Prosecution Services	Francophone Affairs pymt to AG-BC Prosecution Services
7703	80,000	THE PROVINCIAL LANGUAGE SERVICE	FAP: FRANCOPHONE SERVICES COORDINATOR'S POSITION
7703	20,000	CLUB BON ACCUEIL	FAP: FOR CURRENT AND DIVERSE SKILLSET PROGRAMMING
7703	60,000	FEDERATION DES PARENTS FRANCOPHONES DE COLOMBIE-BRITANNIQUE	FAP: FRENCH LANGUAGE CHILD CARE CENTRES
7703	35,000	LA SOCIETE DE DEVELOPPEMENT ECONOMIQUE DE LA C.-B. (SDECB)	FAP: CAREER EXPLORATION FOR YOUTH ECONOMIC INTEGRATION
7703	18,000	LA SOCIETE FRANCOPHONE DE VICTORIA	FAP: FOR THE PROJECT: FRANCO ON THE ROAD
7703	45,000	RESEAU-FEMMES COLOMBIE-BRITANNIQUE	FAP: WORKING TOGETHER FOR A VIOLENCE?FREE COMMUNITY
7703	792	LA BOUSSOLE, CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE SOCIETE	FAP: BILINGUAL SOCIAL AND OUTREACH WORKERS
	658,869	**TOTAL STOB 77**	
8001	185,922	COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION SECRETARIAT	B.C. ANNUAL DUES FOR APRIL 1, 2021 TO MARCH 31, 2022
8001	17,112	THE GOVERNMENT OF YUKON	BRITISH COLUMBIA'S CONTRIBUTION FOR 2021-22 MCCF
8097	95,000	CANADIAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT	B.C.'S CONTRIBUTION FOR 2021-22
	298,034	**TOTAL STOB 80**	

1. All STOB 77 is recovered from the Federal Government under a federal/provincial agreement
2. Amounts presented in the above table are actuals as of March 31, 2022. Any discrepancies between these amounts and the Public Accounts, the Public Accounts will be taken as accurate and final.

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER
ESTIMATES BRIEFING NOTE

ISSUE: Recoveries as at March 2022

KEY FACTS:

- The Office of the Premier 2021/22 budget for recoveries is ($1.308 M), with ($0.601 M) in internal recoveries, and ($0.707 M) in external recoveries.
- As at March 31, 2022 the Office of the Premier had recovered ($1.026 M), with ($0.326 M) in internal recoveries, and ($0.700 M) in external recoveries.
- Internal recoveries are costs recovered from entities within the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF). Office of the Premier internal recoveries include:
    - ($0.110 M) in salary and benefits costs recovered;
    - ($0.200 M) in operating costs recovered from the Public Service Agency for costs incurred in supporting the Long Services Awards;
    - ($0.016 M) in other minor recoveries.
- External recoveries are costs recovered from entities outside the CRF, both internal and external to the Government Reporting Entity (GRE). Office of the Premier external recoveries include:
    - ($0.700 M) in recoveries from the Federal Government's Ministry of Canadian Heritage to establish, through an agreement, a general framework for the planning and implementation of various measures to support the development and vitality of the Francophone community of British Columbia through the delivery of French-language services. The Francophone Affairs Program provided grants and contributions in the amount of $0.659 M. An additional $0.041 M was used for translations and other administrative support costs.

Contact: Amy McAleese **Phone:** 250-580-4768
Branch: Corporate Financial & Facilities Services

2021/22 Recoveries as at March 31, 2022

$ millions	IGRS	Cab Ops	PPS	PO	DMO	Total
Internal Recoveries						
Budget	(0.598)	(0.001)	(0.001)	0.000	(0.001)	**(0.601)**
Actuals	(0.224)	(0.091)	0.000	(0.011)	0.000	**(0.326)**
Variance	(0.374)	0.090	(0.001)	0.011	(0.001)	**(0.275)**
External Recoveries						
Budget	(0.701)	(0.002)	(0.002)	0.000	(0.002)	**(0.707)**
Actuals	(0.700)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**(0.700)**
Variance	(0.001)	(0.002)	(0.002)	0.000	(0.002)	**(0.007)**
Total Recoveries						
Budget	**(1.299)**	**(0.003)**	**(0.003)**	**0.000**	**(0.003)**	**(1.308)**
Actuals	**(0.924)**	**(0.091)**	**0.000**	**(0.011)**	**0.000**	**(1.026)**
Variance	**(0.375)**	**0.088**	**(0.003)**	**0.011**	**(0.003)**	**(0.282)**

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Freedom of Information Requests

Office of the Premier Requests Processed/Closed

On Time and Overdue Report Card

General and Personal Requests

Fiscal 2021/22 (April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022)

Closed By Request Type

		No. Requests	Avg Processing Days	Avg Days Overdue
General	On Time	299	127	n/a
	Overdue	75	n/a	328
	All General	374		
Personal	On Time	4	24	n/a
	Overdue	1	35	5
	All Personal	5		
	All Requests	379		

Closed By Applicant Type

	No. requests	Avg Processing Days	Avg Overdue Days
Business	3	17	n/a
Individual	46	37	168
Interest Group	4	38	n/a
Law Firm	4	41	n/a
Media	110	30	151
Other Public Body	0	n/a	n/a
Political Party	209	203	340
Researcher	3	14	n/a
Grand Total	379		

Office of the Premier Requests Closed

Fiscal Year Comparisons of On Time and Over due

General and Personal Requests

	On Time	Overdue	Total Requests	On Time Percentage
FY2013/2014	445	160	605	74%
FY2014/2015	469	22	491	96%
FY2015/2016	420	104	524	80%
FY2016/2017	437	125	562	78%
FY2017/2018	355	45	400	89%
FY2018/2019	728	12	740	98%
FY2019/2020	975	49	1024	95%
FY2020/2021	706	76	782	90%
FY2021/2022	303	76	379	80%
Overall	4838	669	5507	92%

2021/22 Estimates Note
Advice to the Premier

Title: **Freedom of Information Requests – Office of the Premier**

Response:

- During FY2021/22, Office of the Premier has responded to 379 FOI requests with an average processing time of 126 days and an on-time compliance of 81%.
- In FY2020/21 Office of the Premier responded to 781 FOI requests Average processing days: 57. On-Time Percentage: 90%.
- In FY2019/20 Office of the Premier responded to 1024 FOI Requests. Average processing days: 64. On-Time Percentage: 95.2

FOI Issues/ Status:

Overdue Requests:

- The number of open overdue requests increased in previous fiscal years as a result of several factors:
  - High volume of repetitive, non-topical requests from a single applicant.
  - An overall 41% increase in request volumes for government between 2017-18 and 2019-20, with over 13,000 requests received in 2019-20 alone, an all time high.
  - Requests continued to grow in size and complexity.
  - Challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Closing large complicated overdue OOP requests were a primary focus for FY 2021-22.
- Office of the Premier currently has 45 open overdue requests. This is a 50% drop in open overdue requests since last fiscal year.
- Along with the drop in open overdue requests, there was a drop in requests received this past fiscal year. OOP received 294 FOI requests which is a 54% drop from the previous year.
- Considering the lower number of requests recently received and the continuing efforts to close overdue requests, it is expected that the timeliness rates will be negatively impacted in the short term.
- OOP continues to provide impressive service to citizens, responding to 81% of requests on-time in FY21-22.

2021/22 Estimates Note
Advice to the Premier

Implementation of Application Fee

- The ability for public bodies to charge an application fee for non-personal requests received Royal Assent on November 25, 2021 with the $10 application fee coming into force, by regulation, on November 29, 2021.
- Indigenous Governing Entities (IGEs) are exempt from paying application fees.
- The impact of application fees will be evaluated at regular intervals to understand the impacts it has had on volume of requests and pages processed.

Decrease in Processing Fee Estimates:

- In FY 2021-22, the percentage of processing fee estimates issued has dropped to 3%. This is in comparison to FY 2020-21 when processing fee estimates were issued on 18% of OOP requests.
- All applicants are charged fees based on the same criteria found in s. 75 of FOIPPA and as permitted by schedule 1 of the FOIPP Regulation.
- Government is committed to openness and transparency regarding government records with only approximately 2 % resulting in processing fees being collected.
- Information Access Operations on behalf of Office of the Premier is in constant contact with applicants in order to assist with the wording of their FOI requests to understand what they are seeking and help them be as specific as possible, which also enables a cost-effective process.

Decrease in Time Extensions

- The government of B.C. takes its *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA) obligations seriously and only takes extensions when it is necessary to do so.
- Time extensions are taken on an as/when needed basis for any of the justifications found in section 10 of FOIPPA.
- In FY21/22, approximately 31% of the files processed by Office of the Premier required an extension as compared to approximately 40% in FY2020/21 and 35% in FY19/20.

Decrease in No Records Responses:

- Seventeen percent of requests closed in FY 2021-22 resulted in a "no records response". This is a decline from 32% of closed requests being no record responses.
- In previous fiscal years, many of the routine, non-topical requests result in a "no records response" (for example "copies of text messages for a *specified individual*")

2021/22 Estimates Note
Advice to the Premier

FOI Received Requests, Processed/ Closed Requests Over past 6 years:

Received Requests

Fiscal Year	OOP	Government
2016/17	536	9,296
2017/18	555	10,471
2018/19	851	12,246
2019/20	992	13,054
2020/21	645	10,266
2021/22	294	9319

Processed/Closed Requests

Fiscal Year	OOP	Government
2016/17	568	9,856
2017/18	412	9,362
2018/19	748	11,786
2019/20	1,024	12,915
2020/21	781	10,843
2021/22	379	9656

Contact:

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