

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Estimates 2023/24 Briefing Book**

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Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Budget 2023 - Key Messages

Issue Summary:

- The overall budget for the ministry is \$1,028.213 million, which represents a \$115.527 million increase, or 12.7 percent, from 2022/23 (restated). Reconciliation of budget changes is detailed in section 4, page 4. Details on each initiative are included in section 5.
- The overall increase against 2022/23 (restated) includes in the following *Budget 2023* increases:
 - \$32.240 million for Core Policing, which will over the next three years close the gap between existing (1820) and funded members (2325), and further increase members to the authorized strength of 2602
 - \$27.717 million for Wage Mandate
 - \$15.400 million for Corrections Critical Staffing
 - \$11.974 million for Court Injunction Policing costs
 - \$7.095 million for Cannabis Licensing
 - \$5.162 million for Police Modernization
 - \$1.271 million for Decriminalization
 - \$0.883 million for Community Social Services Agencies wage mandate
 - (\$0.052) million for Minister's Office Reallocation
- In addition to the base budget increases in *Budget 2023*, contingencies of \$26.322 million were approved for 2023/24:
 - \$3.396 million for Repeat Offending
 - \$3.610 million for Nanaimo Correctional Center Replacement Project
 - \$10.478 million for Provincial Police Services
 - \$5.410 million for Specialized Investigation and Targeted Enforcement Program
 - \$2.493 million for Police Modernization

- \$0.395 million for Cannabis Licensing
- As detailed in sections 2, 5 and 9, the ministry also received Contingency funding of \$136 million over the 3 years.

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2023/24 Summary of Ministry Changes**

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
2023/24 Summary of Ministry Changes**

1. Three Year Service Plan Comparison

(\$ millions)	2022/23*	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
2022/23 Plan*	912.686	928.468	928.398	928.398
2023/24 Plan	912.686	1,028.213	1,033.837	1,033.392
Plan over Plan Change		\$99.745	\$105.439	\$104.994
Plan over Plan % Change		10.74%	11.36%	11.31%
Year over Year Change		\$115.527	\$5.624	(\$0.445)
Year over Year % Change		12.66%	0.55%	(0.04%)

*2022/23 restated

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
2023/24 Summary of Ministry Changes**

2. Plan-over-Plan Changes

Plan over Plan Changes	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
<u>Budget 2023 Decisions</u>	(\$ millions)		
Native Court Worker	(1.674)	(1.674)	(1.674)
Corrections Critical Staffing	15.400	15.400	15.400
SRM Allocations	27.717	33.304	33.304
Core Policing	32.240	32.240	32.240
Court Injunction	11.974	11.974	11.974
Decriminalization	1.271	1.233	0.758
Police Modernization	5.162	5.294	5.294
Cannabis Licensing	7.095	7.095	7.095
One Time Service Requests (OTSR)	(0.271)	(0.271)	(0.271)
CSS Wage Mandate Related Decision	0.883	0.896	0.926
Ministers Office Adjustment	(0.052)	(0.052)	(0.052)
Net Change	99.745	105.439	104.994

Contingencies

Plan over Plan Changes	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
<u>Budget 2023 Decisions</u>	(\$ millions)		
Repeat Offending	3.936	3.974	0.000
Nanaimo Correctional Center Replacement Project	3.610	0.000	0.000
Core Policing	10.478	35.304	51.669
Specialized Investigation and Targeted Enforcement	5.410	5.410	5.410
Police Modernization	2.493	3.531	3.531
Cannabis Licensing	0.395	0.395	0.000
Net Change	26.322	48.614	60.610

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
2023/24 Summary of Ministry Changes**

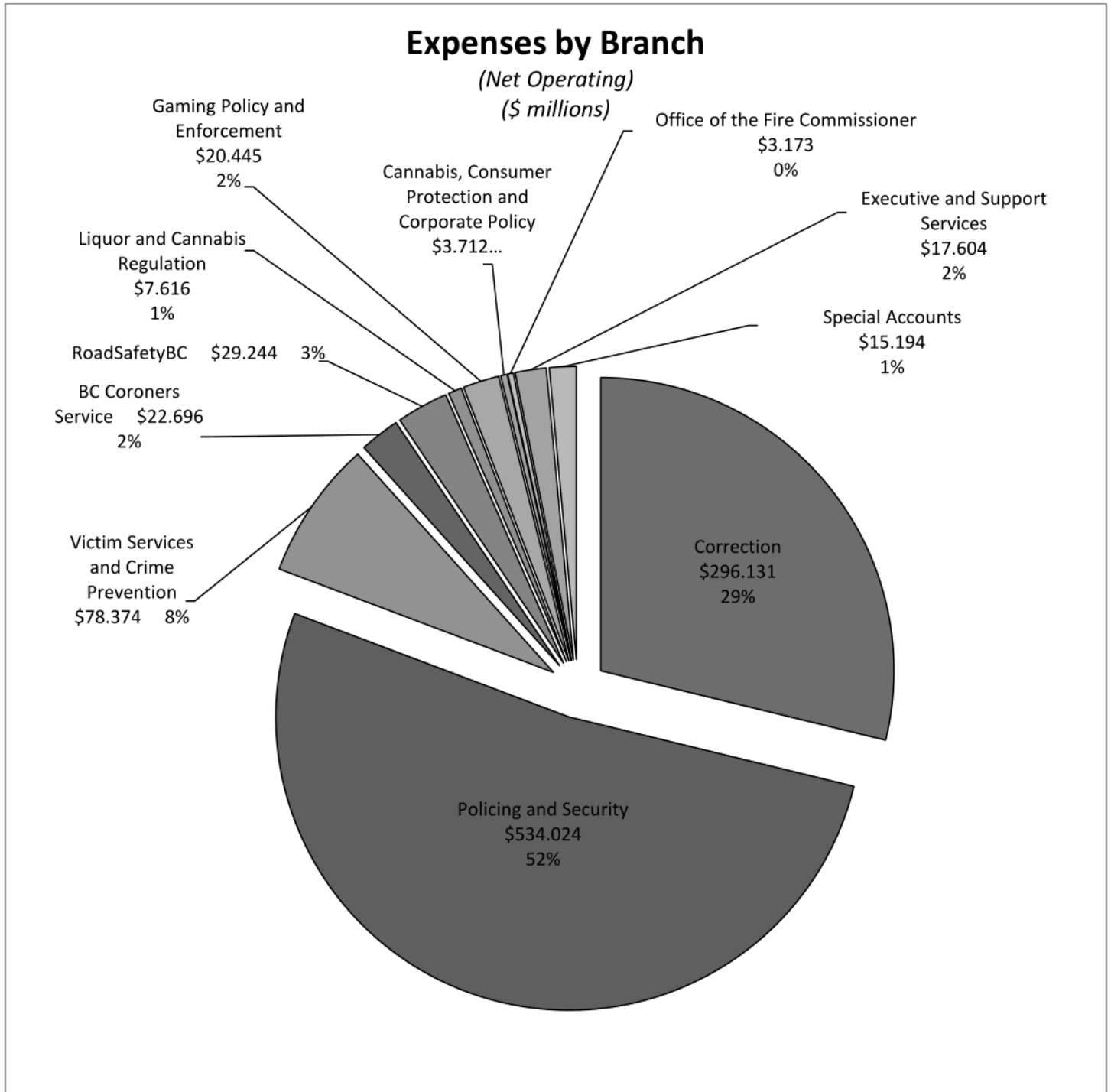
3. Year-over-Year Changes

Year over Year Changes	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
<u>Budget 2023 Decisions</u>	(\$ millions)		
Corrections Critical Staffing	15.400		
Wage Mandate	27.717	5.587	
Core Policing	32.240		
Court Injunction Policing costs	11.974		
Decriminalization	1.271	(0.038)	(0.475)
Police Modernization	5.162	0.132	
Cannabis Licensing	7.095		
Community Social Services Wage Mandate	0.883	0.013	0.030
Minister's Office Adjustment	(0.052)		
Sub-Total	101.690	5.694	(0.445)
<u>Prior Years Funding Decisions</u>			
<u>Budget 2022:</u>			
RCMP Leasing Pressures	2.633		
Sexual Assault Centres	10.212		
Victim Services Medical Forensic	0.015	0.018	
BC Coroners Service Caseload Pressures	0.645	(0.028)	
Road Safety Initiative	0.000		
Driver Medical Fitness Transformation	(0.090)	(0.060)	
Office of the Fire Commissioner Base Funding	0.316		
<u>Budget 2021:</u>			
Post-Mortem Diagnostic Suites	0.044		
First Nations Policing Program	0.050		
Minister's Office Adjustment	0.012		
Sub-Total	13.837	(0.070)	0.000
Net Change	115.527	5.624	(0.445)

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
2023/24 Summary of Ministry Changes**

4. Ministry Budget by Branch

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



**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
2023/24 Summary of Ministry Changes**

Expense by branch, table of changes from 2022/23 restated

(\$ Millions)	2022/23	2023/24	Change	Change
	Restated Estimates	Estimates	(\$)	(%)
Voted Appropriations				
Corrections	260.07	296.131	36.061	13.87%
Policing and Security	479.217	534.024	54.807	11.44%
Victim Services and Crime Prevention	66.239	78.374	12.135	18.32%
BC Coroners Service	21.464	22.696	1.232	5.74%
RoadSafetyBC	27.814	29.244	1.430	5.14%
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation	0.001	7.616	7.615	Advice/Recommendations
Gaming Policy and Enforcement	19.567	20.445	0.878	4.49%
Cannabis, Consumer Protection and Corporate Policy	3.538	3.712	0.174	4.92%
Office of the Fire Commissioner	2.719	3.173	0.454	16.70%
Executive and Support Services	17.002	17.604	0.602	3.54%
Total Voted Appropriations	897.631	1,013.019	115.388	Advice/Recommendations
Statutory Appropriations				
Civil Forfeiture Account	0.270	0.409	0.139	51.48%
Correction Work Program Account	1.281	1.281	0.000	0.00%
Victim Surcharge Special Account	13.504	13.504	0.000	0.00%
Total Statutory Appropriations	15.055	15.194	0.139	0.92%
Total Appropriations	912.686	1,028.213	115.527	12.66%

5. Summary of Changes by Branch

Corrections

- \$36.061 million increase:
 - \$20.661 million Wage Mandate
 - \$15.400 million Critical Staffing

Policing and Security

- \$54.807 million increase:
 - \$32.240 million Core Policing
 - \$11.974 million Court Injunction Policing
 - \$5.162 million Police Modernization
 - \$1.477 million Wage Mandate
 - \$1.271 million Decriminalization
 - \$2.633 million from *Budget 2021* for RCMP Leasing Pressures

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

2023/24 Summary of Ministry Changes

- \$0.050 million from *Budget 2021* for First Nations Policing Program

Victim Services and Crime Prevention

- \$12.135 million increase:
 - \$1.025 million Wage Mandate
 - \$0.883 million Community Social Services Sector
 - \$10.212 million from *Budget 2022* for Sexual Assault Centers
 - \$0.015 million from *Budget 2022* for Victim Services Medical Forensic Examinations

BC Coroners Service

- \$1.232 million increase:
 - \$0.543 million Wage Mandate
 - \$0.645 million from *Budget 2022* for Caseload Pressures
 - \$0.044 million from *Budget 2022* for Post-Mortem Diagnostic Suites

RoadSafetyBC

- \$1.430 million increase:
 - \$1.520 million Wage Mandate
 - (\$0.090) million from *Budget 2022* for Driver Medical Fitness Transformation

Liquor and Cannabis Regulation

- \$7.615 million increase:
 - \$7.095 million Cannabis Licensing
 - \$0.520 million Wage Mandate

Gaming Policy and Enforcement

- \$0.878 million increase for the Wage Mandate.

Cannabis, Consumer Protection and Corporate Policy

- \$0.174 million increase for the Wage Mandate.

Office of the Fire Commissioner

- \$0.454 million increase:
 - \$0.316 million base funding lift from *Budget 2022*
 - \$0.138 million Wage Mandate

Executive and Support Services

- \$0.602 million increase:
 - \$0.642 million Wage Mandate
 - (\$0.040) million Minister's Office adjustment

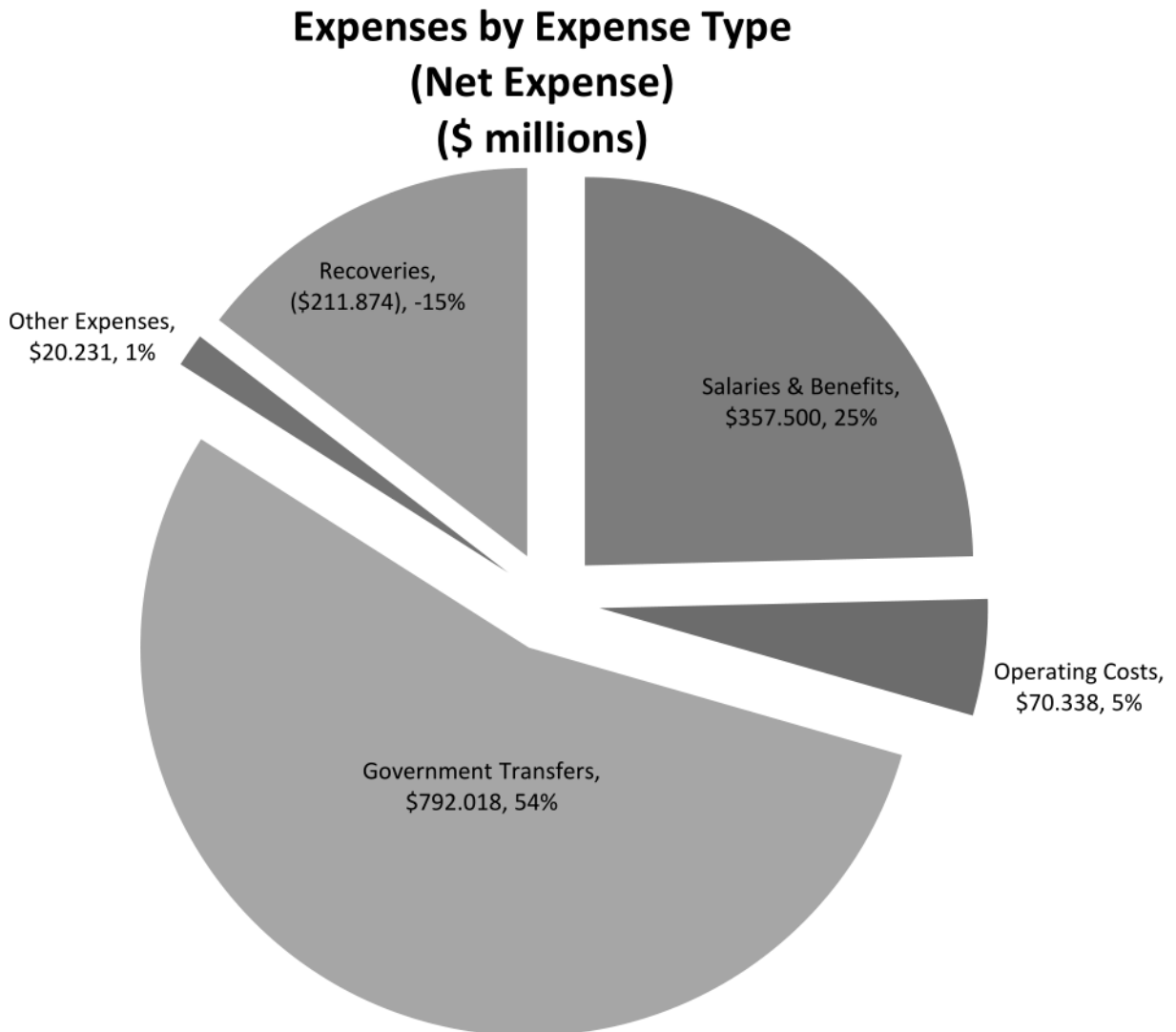
Civil Forfeiture Office

- \$0.139 million increase for the Wage Mandate.

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
2023/24 Summary of Ministry Changes

6. Ministry Budget by Expense Type

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



**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
2023/24 Summary of Ministry Changes**

Expenses by expense type, table of changes from 2022/23 restated¹

(\$ millions)	2022/23	2023/24	Change	Change
	Restated Estimates	Estimates	(\$)	(%)
Salaries & Benefits	306.288	357.500	51.212	16.72%
Operating Costs	66.488	70.338	3.850	5.79%
Government Transfers	719.271	792.018	72.747	10.11%
Other Expenses ¹	20.053	20.231	0.178	0.89%
Recoveries	(17.175)	(17.175)	0.000	0.00%
Recoveries External ¹	(182.239)	(194.699)	(12.460)	6.84%
Total	912.686	1,028.213	115.527	12.66%

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

Summary of Changes:

Salaries & Benefits

- \$51.212 million increase:
 - \$28.525 million Wage Mandate
 - \$15.400 million Corrections Critical Staffing
 - \$5.312 million Cannabis Licensing
 - \$1.198 million Police Modernization
 - \$0.237 million Decriminalization
 - \$0.212 million Court Injunction Policing
 - (\$0.055) million Minister's Office adjustment
 - \$0.316 million from *Budget 2022* for Office of the Fire Commissioner base lift
 - \$0.032 million from *Budget 2022* for BC Coroners Service Caseload Pressures
 - \$0.023 million from *Budget 2022* for Sexual Assault Centres
 - \$0.012 million from *Budget 2022* for Minister's Office adjustment

Operating Costs

- \$3.850 million increase:
 - \$2.560 million Cannabis Licensing
 - \$0.533 million Decriminalization
 - \$0.490 million Police Modernization
 - \$0.003 million Minister's Office adjustment
 - \$0.613 million from *Budget 2022* for BC Coroners Services Caseload Pressures
 - \$0.044 million from *Budget 2021* for Post-Mortem Diagnostic Suites
 - (\$0.303) million from *Budget 2022* for Road Safety Initiative
 - (\$0.090) million from *Budget 2022* for Driver Medical Fitness Transformation

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2023/24 Summary of Ministry Changes

Government Transfers

- \$72.747 million increase:
 - \$32.240 million Core Policing
 - \$11.762 million Court Injunction
 - \$3.474 million Police Modernization
 - \$3.000 million Distribution of Gaming Proceeds adjustment
 - \$0.883 million Community Social Services Sector
 - \$0.501 million Decriminalization
 - \$10.189 million from *Budget 2022* for Sexual Assault Centers
 - \$8.000 million from *Budget 2022* for Distribution of Gaming Proceeds adjustment
 - \$2.633 million from *Budget 2022* for RCMP Collective Agreement Wage increase
 - \$0.015 million from *Budget 2022* for Victim Services Medical Forensic Examinations
 - \$0.050 million from *Budget 2021* for the First Nations Policing Program

Other Expenses

- \$0.178 million increase:
 - \$0.325 million Cannabis Licensing
 - (\$0.147) million from *Budget 2022* for the Road Safety Initiative

Internal Recoveries

No Change.

External Recoveries

- (\$12.460) million increase:
 - (\$3.000) million Distribution of Gaming Proceeds adjustments
 - (\$1.100) million Cannabis Licensing
 - (\$0.810) million Wage Mandate
 - (\$8.000) million from *Budget 2022* for Distribution of Gaming Proceeds adjustments
 - \$0.450 million from *Budget 2022* for Road Safety Initiative.

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
2023/24 Summary of Ministry Changes**

External recoveries in PSSG total \$194.699 million:

External Recoveries	
(\$ millions)	2023/24
	Estimates
Corrections	2.281
Policing and Security	52.251
Victim Services and Crime Prevention	0.300
BC Coroners Service	0.002
RoadSafetyBC	4.139
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation	14.449
Gaming Policy and Enforcement	113.772
Cannabis, Consumer Protection and Corporate Policy	0.002
Executive and Support Services	0.002
Civil Forfeiture Account	7.501
Total	194.699

7. Capital Budget

Asset Type (\$ millions)	2022/23	Estimates 2023/24	Budget Change
Specialized Equipment	1.109	1.074	(0.035)
Office Furniture and Equipment	0.039	0.017	(0.022)
Vehicles	1.619	1.497	(0.122)
Information Systems	0.014	0.000	(0.014)
Tenant Improvements	0.388	0.000	(0.388)
Total	3.169	2.588	(0.581)

- (\$0.581) million decrease primarily due to one-time budget in 2022/23 for the Office of the Fire Commissioner Tenant Improvements and a reduced vehicle budget.
- In addition to the capital budget items above, the Repeat Violent Offending Program received \$0.687 million in contingencies access to purchase vehicles for operations.

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
3 Year Resource Summary**

ANNUAL SERVICE PLAN						
Core Business Area	2022/23 Restated Budget	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Plan	2024/25 Plan	2023/24 Changes	2023/24 Changes
	In \$ Millions				In \$ Millions	%
Corrections	260.070	296.131	300.467	300.467	36.061	13.9%
Policing and Security	479.217	534.024	534.398	533.923	54.807	11.4%
Victim Services and Crime Prevention	66.239	78.374	78.614	78.644	12.135	18.3%
BC Coroners Service	21.464	22.696	22.733	22.733	1.232	5.7%
RoadSafetyBC	27.814	29.244	29.494	29.494	1.430	5.1%
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation	0.001	7.616	7.719	7.719	7.615	Advice/Recommen
Gaming Policy and Enforcement	19.567	20.445	20.554	20.554	0.878	4.5%
Cannabis, Consumer Protection and Corporate Policy	3.538	3.712	3.736	3.736	0.174	4.9%
Office of the Fire Commissioner	2.719	3.173	3.200	3.200	0.454	16.7%
Executive and Support Services	17.002	17.604	17.700	17.700	0.602	3.5%
Special Accounts	15.055	15.194	15.222	15.222	0.139	0.9%
TOTAL	912.686	1,028.213	1,033.837	1,033.392	115.527	12.7%

Budget 2023 Decisions:

- Core Policing - \$32.240 million.*
- Wage Mandate - \$27.717 million.
- Corrections Critical Staffing - \$15.400 million.
- Court Injunction Policing costs - \$11.974 million.*
- Cannabis Licensing - \$7.095 million.
- Police Modernization - \$5.162 million.
- Decriminalization - \$1.271 million.
- Community Social Services Agencies increase - \$0.883 million.
- Minister's Office Adjustment - (\$0.052) million.

Prior Years' Decisions:

Budget 2022:

- RCMP Collective Agreement Wage Increase - \$2.633 million.
- Sexual Assault Centres - \$10.212 million.
- Victim Services Medical Forensic Examinations - \$0.015 million.
- BC Coroners Service Caseload Pressures - \$0.645 million.
- Driver Medical Fitness Transformation - (\$0.090) million.
- Office of the Fire Commissioner - \$0.316 million.

Budget 2021:

- Post-Mortem Diagnostic Suites - \$0.044 million.
- First Nations Policing Program - \$0.050 million.
- Minister's Office Adjustment - \$0.012 million.

Contingencies (In \$ Millions)^					
Core Business Area	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total over 3 year plan
Repeat Offending	0.175	3.936	3.974	0.000	7.910
Nanaimo Correctional Center Replacement Project	0.000	3.610	0.000	0.000	3.610
Core Policing	0.000	10.478	35.304	51.669	97.451
Specialized Investigation and Targeted Enforcement Program	0.000	5.410	5.410	5.410	16.230
Police Modernization	0.000	2.493	3.531	3.531	9.555
Cannabis Licensing	0.000	0.395	0.395	0.000	0.790
TOTAL	0.175	26.322	48.614	60.610	135.546

^The amounts in this table are in addition to the Budget 2023 base budget lifts mentioned above.

*The \$230 million that was announced for Rural and Specialized Policing is a combination of Core Policing (base and contingencies) plus Court Injunction Policing costs, see more information and reconciliation in section 5

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Budget 2023 Decisions
(in \$ millions)

Base Budget

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total	
Core Policing	32.240	32.240	32.240	96.720	*
Wage Mandate	27.717	33.304	33.304	94.325	
Corrections Critical Staffing	15.400	15.400	15.400	46.200	
Court Injunction Policing costs	11.974	11.974	11.974	35.922	*
Cannabis Licensing	7.095	7.095	7.095	21.285	
Police Modernization	5.162	5.294	5.294	15.750	
Decriminalization	1.271	1.233	0.758	3.262	
Community Social Services Sector	0.883	0.896	0.926	2.705	
Minister's Office Adjustment	(0.052)	(0.052)	(0.052)	(0.156)	
Total	101.690	107.384	106.939	316.013	

As detailed on page 4 of section 4, there are also prior years funding decisions that impact the 2023/24 budget

Contingencies

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total	
Core Policing	10.478	35.304	51.669	97.451	*
Repeat Offending	3.936	3.974	-	7.910	
Special Investigation and Targeted Enforcement Program	5.410	5.410	5.410	16.230	
Nanaimo Correctional Centre Replacement Project	3.610	-	-	3.610	
Police Modernization	2.493	3.531	3.531	9.555	
Cannabis Licensing	0.395	0.395	-	0.790	
Contingencies	26.322	48.614	60.610	135.546	

Total Funding (Base plus Contingencies)

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total	
Core Policing	42.718	67.544	83.909	194.171	*
Police Modernization	7.655	8.825	8.825	25.305	
Cannabis Licensing	7.490	7.490	7.095	22.075	

Initiatives are detailed in section 5

*The \$230 million that was announced for Rural and Specialized Policing is a combination of Core Policing (base and contingencies) plus Court Injunction Policing costs, see more information and reconciliation in section 5

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

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

MINISTRY SUMMARY

(\$000)

	Estimates 2022/23 ¹	Estimates 2023/24
VOTED APPROPRIATION		
Vote 42 — Ministry Operations.....	897,631	1,013,019
STATUTORY APPROPRIATIONS		
Civil Forfeiture Account Special Account.....	270	409
Corrections Work Program Account Special Account.....	1,281	1,281
Criminal Asset Management Fund Special Account.....	—	—
Victim Surcharge Special Account.....	13,504	13,504
OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>912,686</u>	<u>1,028,213</u>
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES ²	3,169	2,588
LOANS, INVESTMENTS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS ³	—	—
REVENUE COLLECTED FOR, AND TRANSFERRED TO, OTHER ENTITIES ⁴	—	—

NOTES

¹ For comparative purposes, figures shown for the 2022/23 operating expenses; capital expenditures; loans, investments and other requirements; and revenue collected for, and transferred to, other entities are restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2023/24 *Estimates*. A reconciliation of restated operating expenses and capital expenditures is presented in Schedule A.

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

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

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

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

SUMMARY BY CORE BUSINESS

(\$000)

OPERATING EXPENSES	2022/23	2023/24 ESTIMATES		
	Net	Gross	External Recoveries	Net
Core Business				
Corrections.....	260,070	298,412	(2,281)	296,131
Policing and Security.....	479,217	586,275	(52,251)	534,024
Victim Services and Crime Prevention.....	66,239	78,674	(300)	78,374
BC Coroners Service.....	21,464	22,698	(2)	22,696
RoadSafetyBC.....	27,814	33,383	(4,139)	29,244
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation.....	1	22,065	(14,449)	7,616
Gaming Policy and Enforcement.....	19,567	134,217	(113,772)	20,445
Cannabis, Consumer Protection and Corporate Policy.....	3,538	3,714	(2)	3,712
Office of the Fire Commissioner.....	2,719	3,173	—	3,173
Executive and Support Services.....	17,002	17,606	(2)	17,604
Civil Forfeiture Account Special Account.....	270	7,910	(7,501)	409
Corrections Work Program Account Special Account.....	1,281	1,281	—	1,281
Criminal Asset Management Fund Special Account.....	—	—	—	—
Victim Surcharge Special Account.....	13,504	13,504	—	13,504
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	912,686	1,222,912	(194,699)	1,028,213
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES				
	Capital Expenditures	Capital Expenditures	Receipts and P3 Liabilities	Net
Core Business				
Corrections.....	1,062	1,062	—	1,062
BC Coroners Service.....	47	12	—	12
Office of the Fire Commissioner.....	744	—	—	—
Executive and Support Services.....	1,316	1,514	—	1,514
TOTAL	3,169	2,588	—	2,588

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS
(\$000)

Estimates
2022/23

Estimates
2023/24

VOTE 42 — MINISTRY OPERATIONS

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

CORRECTIONS

Voted Appropriation

Corrections.....	<u>260,070</u>	<u>296,131</u>
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Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for the management of remanded and sentenced adult offenders in custody and in the community, immigration detainees, and for the planning and management of correctional programs. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, boards and commissions, other levels of governments, and other parties both internal and external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.

POLICING AND SECURITY

Voted Appropriation

Policing and Security.....	<u>479,217</u>	<u>534,024</u>
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Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for superintending policing and law enforcement in the province; management of contract policing; development and administration of policy and legislation regarding cannabis enforcement, including stakeholder consultation and public engagement; and developing and delivering initiatives to maintain safe and secure communities. This sub-vote also provides for security industry regulations and other protective programs. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, boards and commissions, other levels of government, and other parties both internal and external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.

VICTIM SERVICES AND CRIME PREVENTION

Voted Appropriation

Victim Services and Crime Prevention.....	<u>66,239</u>	<u>78,374</u>
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Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for direct services to support victims of crime, counselling and outreach services for women and children impacted by violence, and financial assistance and benefits to assist victims in their recovery from the impacts of violent crime. This sub-vote also provides for facilitating restitution to victims and support to communities to prevent crime, violence, and victimization. Costs may be recovered from the Victim Surcharge Special Account for victim service programs, from ministries for special public safety initiatives, and from other levels of government for activities described within this sub-vote.

BC CORONERS SERVICE

Voted Appropriation

BC Coroners Service.....	<u>21,464</u>	<u>22,696</u>
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Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for the operation of the BC Coroners Service and the administration of the *Coroners Act*, including investigating unnatural, sudden, and unexpected deaths; investigating and reviewing children's deaths; identifying, and publicly reporting on relevant facts about, deceased persons; advancing recommendations aimed at the prevention of death; holding inquests and Death Review Panels; and reporting on issues affecting public health and safety. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, and other levels of government for activities described within this sub-vote.

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

	Estimates 2022/23	Estimates 2023/24
ROADSAFETYBC		
Voted Appropriation		
RoadSafetyBC.....	27,814	29,244

Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for programs and activities of RoadSafetyBC, including leading and supporting government traffic safety initiatives, administration of driver regulatory and traffic safety programs, setting driver licensing policies, monitoring and regulating unfit drivers, conducting appeals of driving prohibitions and conducting hearings and reviews of the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia's decisions respecting driver licence sanctions, driver training schools, driver trainer licences, and other driver-related programs. This sub-vote also provides for expenses related to participation in national organizations and reimbursements for programs administered by RoadSafetyBC. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, boards and commissions, other levels of government, organizations, and from appeal fees and program fees for activities described within this sub-vote.

LIQUOR AND CANNABIS REGULATION**Voted Appropriations**

Liquor Regulation.....	1	1
Cannabis Regulation.....	—	7,615
	<u>1</u>	<u>7,616</u>

Voted Appropriations Description: This sub-vote provides for the overall policy development, administration, licensing, and enforcement of cannabis and liquor in support of the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act* and regulations, and the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act* and regulations to establish and operate ongoing programs to reduce the incidence of underage consumption and increase public awareness about responsible consumption. Costs may be recovered from ministries, organizations within the government reporting entity, and parties both internal and external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.

GAMING POLICY AND ENFORCEMENT**Voted Appropriations**

Gaming Policy and Enforcement Operations.....	19,566	20,444
Distribution of Gaming Proceeds.....	1	1
	<u>19,567</u>	<u>20,445</u>

Voted Appropriations Description: This sub-vote provides for the administration of gaming in the province, including horse racing and lotteries, and includes development and administration of legislation, policy, standards, and regulations; licensing gaming events; oversight of horse racing events and teletheatres; registration; equipment and product certification; auditing all forms of gambling activities for compliance, investigation, and enforcement activities concerning legal gaming venues and illegal gaming; the management of the Province's gaming initiatives; the Province's responsible gambling strategy and problem gambling program; and the distribution of gaming proceeds. This sub-vote also provides for the activities of the cross-government Compliance and Enforcement Secretariat. Costs related to the Secretariat's activities may be recovered from ministries and Crown agencies. Costs may be recovered from revenues paid into the General Fund of the Consolidated Revenue Fund by the British Columbia Lottery Corporation, from processing fees for gaming event licence applications, from the Canadian Pari-Mutuel Agency for horse race testing, from external entities for horse race betting, and from gaming registrants for direct costs incurred in the processing of registration applications for activities described within this sub-vote. Costs may also be recovered from ministries for activities described within this sub-vote.

CANNABIS, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND CORPORATE POLICY**Voted Appropriation**

Cannabis, Consumer Protection and Corporate Policy.....	3,538	3,712
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Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides service planning for the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, development of policy and legislation regarding consumer protection, oversight of delegated consumer protection authorities, and the development of policy and legislation regarding cannabis, as well as stakeholder consultation and public engagement. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, boards and commissions, other levels of government, and other parties both internal and external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

	Estimates 2022/23	Estimates 2023/24
OFFICE OF THE FIRE COMMISSIONER		
Voted Appropriation		
Office of the Fire Commissioner.....	2,719	3,173
Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for the Office of the Fire Commissioner, which implements fire safety regulations and activities, promotes fire safety, and assists major fire investigations and the response to major wildland urban interface fire emergencies. Costs may be recovered from ministries for activities described within this sub-vote.		
EXECUTIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES		
Voted Appropriations		
Minister's Office.....	824	784
Corporate Services.....	16,178	16,820
	<u>17,002</u>	<u>17,604</u>
Voted Appropriations Description: This sub-vote provides for the office of the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General; executive direction of the ministry, including the Deputy Solicitor General's office; general services to support program delivery; policy development; and management services for the ministry, including oversight of Crown corporations, and for the Ministries of Attorney General, Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, and Housing, including financial administration, facilities management, and organizational development. Costs may also be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, boards and commissions, other levels of government, organizations, and individuals for activities described within this sub-vote.		
VOTE 42 — MINISTRY OPERATIONS	897,631	1,013,019

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

STATUTORY DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

Estimates
2022/23Estimates
2023/24

STATUTORY APPROPRIATIONS

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

CIVIL FORFEITURE ACCOUNT

Statutory Appropriation

Civil Forfeiture Account.....	270	409
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Statutory Appropriation Description: This statutory appropriation provides for the Civil Forfeiture Account which is governed under the *Civil Forfeiture Act*.

CORRECTIONS WORK PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Statutory Appropriation

Corrections Work Program Account.....	1,281	1,281
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Statutory Appropriation Description: This statutory appropriation provides for the Corrections Work Program Account which is governed under the *Correction Act*.

CRIMINAL ASSET MANAGEMENT FUND

Statutory Appropriation

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

VICTIM SURCHARGE SPECIAL ACCOUNT

Statutory Appropriation

Victim Surcharge Special Account.....	13,504	13,504
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Statutory Appropriation Description: This statutory appropriation provides for the Victim Surcharge Special Account which is governed under the *Victims of Crime Act*.

MINISTRY GROUP ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY

GROUP ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION

Salaries and Benefits	306,288	357,500
Operating Costs	66,488	70,339
Government Transfers	719,271	792,018
Other Expenses	20,053	20,231
Internal Recoveries	(17,175)	(17,176)
External Recoveries	(182,239)	(194,699)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES.....	912,686	1,028,213

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS¹
(\$000)

	Estimates 2022/23	Estimates 2023/24
CIVIL FORFEITURE ACCOUNT		
This account was established by the <i>Civil Forfeiture Act</i> in 2005. The purpose of the Act is to suppress unlawful activities by removing the associated economic incentive and to fund crime prevention, crime remediation, and victim compensation initiatives. The account is established to receive the liquidated value of forfeited assets and to distribute the net revenue in the form of grants. The net revenue represents the excess of recoveries over expenses in a given fiscal year. Expenses are limited to those permitted within the scope of the Act and include administration of the Act. Costs may be recovered from proceeds from judgments or settlements of concluded legal proceedings.		
SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR ².....	<u>6,279</u>	<u>6,009</u>
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Revenue.....	—	—
Expense.....	(7,771)	(7,910)
Internal and External Recoveries.....	<u>7,501</u>	<u>7,501</u>
Net Revenue (Expense).....	(270)	(409)
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS		
Receipts.....	—	—
Disbursements.....	—	—
Capital Expenditures.....	—	—
Net Cash Source (Requirement).....	—	—
PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR ².....	<u><u>6,009</u></u>	<u><u>5,600</u></u>

NOTES

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

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

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS¹

(\$000)

	Estimates 2022/23	Estimates 2023/24
CORRECTIONS WORK PROGRAM ACCOUNT		
This account was established by the <i>Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No.2)</i> in 1987 and is governed under the <i>Correction Act</i> . The purpose of the account is to assist inmates in acquiring skills and to encourage them to develop good work habits. Revenue represents proceeds from the sale of goods and services produced by inmates. Expenses are for supplies and costs related to the Corrections Work Program. Administration costs are funded through the ministry's voted appropriations.		
SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR ².....	1,939	2,068
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Revenue.....	650	650
Expense.....	(1,281)	(1,281)
Transfer from Ministry Operations Vote.....	700	700
Net Revenue (Expense).....	<u>69</u>	<u>69</u>
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS		
Receipts.....	—	—
Disbursements.....	—	—
Capital Expenditures.....	—	—
Net Cash Source (Requirement).....	—	—
Working Capital Adjustments and Other Spending Authority Committed ³	<u>60</u>	<u>60</u>
PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR ².....	<u>2,068</u>	<u>2,197</u>

NOTES

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

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

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

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS¹
(\$000)

	Estimates 2022/23	Estimates 2023/24
CRIMINAL ASSET MANAGEMENT FUND		
The Forfeited Crime Proceeds Fund account was established by the <i>Special Accounts Appropriation and Control Act</i> in 1988, as amended by the <i>Attorney General Amendment Act</i> in 1989. This account was continued in 2012, under the name Criminal Asset Management Fund, by the <i>Criminal Asset Management Act</i> . The purpose of this account is to use the proceeds that government obtains from criminal forfeitures and certain fines for certain criminal justice purposes. Revenue represents money received by government from proceeds of crime provided by certain other governments, money paid as a fine under a provision of the <i>Criminal Code</i> of Canada or under similar legislation, and money forfeited under certain sections of the <i>Criminal Code</i> of Canada. Revenue also represents money realized from the disposition of forfeited property governed by the Act and other money, interest, and income provided for in the Act. Expenses are for compensation of eligible victims, crime prevention and remediation, administration of the Act, and other prescribed purposes. Administrative costs may be funded through the ministry's voted appropriations.		
SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR ².....	2,426	2,426
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Revenue.....	—	—
Expense.....	—	—
Net Revenue (Expense).....	—	—
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS		
Receipts.....	—	—
Disbursements.....	—	—
Capital Expenditures.....	—	—
Net Cash Source (Requirement).....	—	—
PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR ².....	2,426	2,426

NOTES

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

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

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS¹

(\$000)

	Estimates 2022/23	Estimates 2023/24
VICTIM SURCHARGE SPECIAL ACCOUNT		
This account was established by the <i>Victims of Crime Act</i> in 1996. The purpose of the account is to fund services to victims of crime as provided for in the Act. Revenue represents proceeds from a victim surcharge levy on fines from all provincial offences, both court-imposed fines and those which result in a violation ticket. Revenue also includes proceeds from the federal victim surcharge levy on offences imposed by the court under the <i>Criminal Code</i> of Canada, fines issued under the <i>Controlled Drugs and Substances Act</i> , the <i>Cannabis Act</i> , and interest earned on the balance of the fund. Expenses are for justice system obligations to victims of crime under the Act, including administration costs for both the Ministry of Attorney General and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. Any remaining funds may be expended on initiatives which may benefit victims of crime. Administration costs are funded through the ministry's voted appropriations.		
SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR ².....	29,279	27,775
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Revenue.....	12,000	12,000
Expense.....	(13,504)	(13,504)
Net Revenue (Expense).....	(1,504)	(1,504)
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS		
Receipts.....	—	—
Disbursements.....	—	—
Capital Expenditures.....	—	—
Net Cash Source (Requirement).....	—	—
PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR ².....	27,775	26,271

NOTES

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

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

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
(\$000)

VOTE 42 Ministry Operations

Description	Total 2022/23 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Corrections	260,070	192,726	4,751	49,072	—	246,549	—	835	2,504	3,298	806	2,065	—	—	7,763
Policing and Security	479,217	16,483	25	4,187	—	20,695	—	212	642	2,137	446	809	—	—	449
Victim Services and Crime Prevention	66,239	7,846	76	1,993	—	9,915	—	69	91	429	480	191	—	—	—
BC Coroners Service	21,464	9,692	76	2,462	—	12,230	55	317	201	8,443	491	241	—	—	108
RoadSafetyBC	27,814	15,759	51	4,003	—	19,813	—	86	2,599	1,482	540	271	—	—	—
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation	1	13,115	40	3,331	—	16,486	—	321	472	417	1,515	518	—	—	19
Liquor Regulation	1	8,482	20	2,154	—	10,656	—	221	147	300	525	300	—	—	5
Cannabis Regulation	—	4,633	20	1,177	—	5,830	—	100	325	117	990	218	—	—	14
Gaming Policy and Enforcement	19,567	12,132	72	3,082	—	15,286	—	472	358	572	507	641	—	40	2
Gaming Policy and Enforcement Operations	19,566	12,132	72	3,082	—	15,286	—	472	358	572	507	641	—	40	2
Distribution of Gaming Proceeds	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cannabis, Consumer Protection and Corporate Policy	3,538	2,650	—	672	—	3,322	—	44	109	100	3	35	—	—	—
Office of the Fire Commissioner	2,719	2,175	—	552	—	2,727	—	40	—	70	110	100	—	—	14
Executive and Support Services	17,002	7,479	27	1,933	58	9,497	—	156	166	111	4,473	252	—	—	5
Minister's Office	824	476	—	145	58	679	—	65	—	—	10	22	—	—	3
Corporate Services	16,178	7,003	27	1,788	—	8,818	—	91	166	111	4,463	230	—	—	2
Total	897,631	280,057	5,118	71,287	58	356,520	55	2,552	7,142	17,059	9,371	5,123	—	40	8,360

Statutory Appropriations

Description	Total 2022/23 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Civil Forfeiture Account	270	782	—	198	—	980	—	30	3,229	—	25	55	—	90	—
Corrections Work Program Account	1,281	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	41	—	—	475
Criminal Asset Management Fund	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Victim Surcharge Special Account	13,504	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	15,055	782	—	198	—	980	—	30	3,229	—	39	96	—	90	475

70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2023/24 Operating Expenses
944	—	3,777	3,047	25,039	—	4,300	21,697	25,997	—	—	1,212	1,212	—	(385)	(385)	(1)	(2,280)	(2,281)	296,131
208	—	121	329	5,353	2,061	—	559,602	561,663	—	—	149	149	—	(1,585)	(1,585)	(1)	(52,250)	(52,251)	534,024
—	—	94	3	1,357	175	18,188	58,813	77,176	—	—	44	44	(9,816)	(2)	(9,818)	—	(300)	(300)	78,374
77	—	98	510	10,541	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	28	—	(101)	(101)	(1)	(1)	(2)	22,696
15	—	13	8	5,014	—	—	5,770	5,770	—	—	2,787	2,787	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(4,138)	(4,139)	29,244
248	—	49	1,467	5,026	—	—	—	—	—	—	554	554	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(14,448)	(14,449)	7,616
170	—	49	749	2,466	—	—	—	—	—	—	229	229	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(13,348)	(13,349)	1
78	—	—	718	2,560	—	—	—	—	—	—	325	325	—	—	—	—	(1,100)	(1,100)	7,615
8	—	444	3	3,047	10,000	—	105,836	115,836	—	—	49	49	—	(1)	(1)	—	(113,772)	(113,772)	20,445
8	—	444	3	3,047	—	—	5,836	5,836	—	—	49	49	—	(1)	(1)	—	(3,773)	(3,773)	20,444
—	—	—	—	—	10,000	—	100,000	110,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(109,999)	(109,999)	1
—	—	—	—	291	100	—	—	100	—	—	2	2	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	3,712
50	—	53	10	447	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(1)	(1)	—	—	—	3,173
153	—	2,452	2,321	10,089	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,302	3,302	—	(5,282)	(5,282)	(1)	(1)	(2)	17,604
—	—	5	—	105	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	784
153	—	2,447	2,321	9,984	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,302	3,302	—	(5,282)	(5,282)	(1)	(1)	(2)	16,820
1,703	—	7,101	7,698	66,204	12,336	22,488	751,718	786,542	—	—	8,127	8,127	(9,816)	(7,360)	(17,176)	(7)	(187,191)	(187,198)	1,013,019

70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2023/24 Operating Expenses
—	—	—	1	3,430	3,000	—	—	3,000	—	—	500	500	—	—	—	—	(7,501)	(7,501)	409
115	—	60	—	705	—	—	476	476	—	—	100	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,281
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	2,000	—	—	2,000	11,504	—	—	11,504	—	—	—	—	—	—	13,504
115	—	60	1	4,135	5,000	—	476	5,476	11,504	—	600	12,104	—	—	—	—	(7,501)	(7,501)	15,194

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Estimates 2023/24 Briefing Book**

**Cross Branch Issues
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Ministry Key Figures Fact Sheet

POLICING AND SECURITY BRANCH

TOPIC: Provincial Police Service Resources (as of April 1, 2023)

DESCRIPTION: The figures below represent the Provincial Police Service numbers included in the Annex A. They are a point in time calculation, based on RCMP E Division Executive Report (April 1, 2022) with the addition of the sworn members from other police agencies¹.

Question	Response
<p><u>Authorized Strength</u>² for RCMP Provincial Policing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorized Strength is inclusive of Regular, Civilian, and Special Constable Member positions and 200 Sworn Officer positions from other police agencies. 	2, 602 Member positions
<p><u>Established Strength</u>³ for Provincial Police Service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established Strength including the 200 Sworn Officer positions from other police agencies, identified above. 	2,512 Member positions
<p><u>Actual Strength</u>⁴ for Provincial Police Service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusive of Surplus to Establishment positions and the 200 Sworn Officer position. 	1,987.5 Member position
Number of provincial policing positions currently where incumbents are on leave, e.g. off-duty sick, on parental leave, suspended, leave with out pay or other administrative leave related reasons.	312 Member positions
Number of provincial policing positions currently vacant.	212.5 Member positions
The Authorized Strength of 2,602 was agreed to at the time of signing the 2012 to 2023 Provincial Police Service Agreement.	

Contact: Katherine St. Denis (PSB)	Phone: 778 572 3401	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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¹ The 200 Sworn Officer Positions were identified in the Annex A Reconciliation, based on April 1, 2022 data.

² Authorized Strength is the number of Member positions the RCMP is authorized by contract, to fill.

³ Established Strength is the number of Member positions created in RCMP human resources system plus the 200 sworn officer positions from other police agencies, comprising the Provincial Police Service.

⁴ Actual Strength is a point in time calculation of the number of Member positions occupied by an employee (inclusive of Surplus to Establishment positions and the 200 Sworn Officer positions).

TOPIC: Federal Policing

DESCRIPTION: Federal Policing is paid for at 100% by the federal government.

Question	Response
Dedicated federal positions in B.C.	725 established positions 516 regular members 209 civilian positions
Federal positions filled in B.C.	451 operational positions 312 Regular Member Positions 135 Civilian Positions 4 Surplus to Establishment (RMs)

Contact: Jacqueline Davies (PSB)	Phone: 778-698-7786	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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TOPIC: Community Safety Unit Resources and Enforcement of Illicit Cannabis

Question	Response
Unit inspections conducted since enforcement started	320
Notices for administrative penalties issued since the unit's enforcement started	58
Illegal cannabis stores that have been closed or shut down since the unit's enforcement started	189
Unit's positions authorized within the province	41
Unit's positions currently filled	27
Location of unit's resources within the province	4 Regional Offices (Surrey, Victoria, Kelowna, Prince George)

Contact: Matt Brown (PSB)	Phone: 778-698-8432	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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TOPIC: First Nations and Inuit Police Resourcing

DESCRIPTION: Under the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program, B.C. currently has 59 Community Tripartite Agreements, serving 132 communities, one self-administered agreement serving ten communities and one quadripartite agreement serving one First Nation.

RCMP Indigenous Policing Services has an authorized strength of 117.5 FTEs. For 2020/21, the FTE utilization was 96.7 FTEs. The self-administered agreement with Stl’at’imx Tribal Police Service includes 14 FTEs and the quadripartite agreement serving Tsawwassen First Nations includes one FTE.

This resource summary reflects the RCMP “E” Division Executive Report (April 1, 2022). These figures reflect a point in time.

Question	Response
Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications	
Actual Strength for RCMP Indigenous Policing Services CTAs	94 FTEs
Indigenous Policing Services positions where incumbents are currently off-duty sick, on parental leave, or other administrative leave-related reasons	15.5
Indigenous Policing Services positions currently vacant	8

Contact: Jamie Lipp (PSB)	Phone: 604-398-4606	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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TOPIC: Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit

DESCRIPTION: The unit’s mandate is to target, investigate, prosecute, disrupt, and dismantle the organized crime groups and individuals that pose the highest risk to public safety due to their involvement in gang violence.

Question	Response
Positions within the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit*	465 (incl. support staff)
Total filled positions (Operational Capacity)	361 (78%)
Position Breakdowns:	
OCABC RM positions	52
Vacancies	3 (6%)
OCABC Civilian positions	115
Vacancies	9 (8%)
RCMP established RM positions	168
Vacancies	41 (24%)
RCMP established Civilian positions	39
Vacancies	6 (15%)
Number of Investigative and Enforcement Teams within CFSEU-BC (This includes general and specialized Investigative Teams and Uniform Enforcement Teams across all districts. Does not include operational support or intelligence teams/units)	20 teams
Provincial funding for the unit (Paid under the 70/30 cost share under the Provincial Police Service Agreement.)	\$90.8M (at 100%) Provincial share: \$63.6M

Contact: Jacqueline Davies (PSB)	Phone: 778-698-7786	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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BC CORONERS SERVICE

TOPIC: BC Coroners Service Statistics

Question	Response
Total number of deaths reported to the BC Coroners Service in 2022/2023	13,733
Total number of deaths preliminarily investigated and deemed not to meet the criteria for a coroner’s investigation in 2022/2023	6,849
Total number of deaths accepted for investigation in 2022/2023	6,884
Total number of coroner’s reports issued in 2022/2023	5,656
Total number of coroner’s inquests held in 2022/2023	5
Total number of death review panels convened in 2022/2023	1
Total FTE employed by BCCS in fiscal year 2022/2023	112.1

Contact: Lisa Lapointe (BCCS)	Phone: 778-974-5510	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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BC CORRECTIONS

TOPIC: Remand, Sentenced and Segregation

Question	Response
Average daily count of remand individuals in the provincial correctional system in 2022 and 2021.	2022: 1,181 2021: 1,029 -The remand population is approximately 71% of the total population.
Average length of remand for individuals in the provincial correctional system in 2022 and 2021.	2022: 51 days 2021: 50 days
Average daily count of sentenced individuals in the provincial correctional system in 2022 and 2021.	2022: 466 2021: 487
Average length of sentence for individuals in the provincial correctional system in 2022 and 2021.	2022: 80 2021: 81
Total number of individuals placed in segregation in January 2023 and January 2020.	January 2023: 156 January 2020: 192 -Use of segregation has decreased by 19% since January 2020, including a reduction of 2% for Indigenous people and 11% for those with mental health needs.
Average length of time an individual spent in segregation/separate confinement in January 2023 and January 2020.	January 2023: 21.9 days January 2020: 53.1 days -This represents a 59% reduction in length of placement in segregation/separate confinement from January 2020 to January 2023.

Contact: Matt Lang (BCCORR)	Phone: 604-476-2653	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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TOPIC: Adult Custody Division Recruitment and Retention

Question	Response
Total number of correctional officers in 2022 and 2021.	2022: 1,356 2021: 1,506
Total correctional officer departures in 2022 and 2021.	2022: 276 2021: 190
Attrition rate in 2022 and 2021.	2022: 19.3% 2021: 13%
Total new hires in 2022 and 2021.	2022: 148 2021: 301
Hourly wage and annual salary of correctional officers in 2022 and 2021.	2022: \$39.50/hour; \$72,143 2021: \$38/hour; \$69,178
Overtime costs in 2022 and 2021.	2022: \$11.8M 2021: \$10.9M

Contact: Sam Sheikh (BCCORR)	Phone: 778-974-2987	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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TOPIC: Adult Custody Division Correctional Centre Safety and Violence

Question	Response
Total incidents of violence in 2022 and 2021.	2022: 1061 2021: 897
Incidents of assaults on staff in 2022 and 2021 and percent that resulted in some degree of injury to staff.	2022: 175 (36%) 2021: 180 (35%)
Incidents of individual-on-individual assaults in 2022 and 2021.	2022: 482 2021: 392
Percent of violent incidents that occurred on segregation or specialized units in 2022 and 2021.	2022: 66% 2021: 59%

Contact: Helen Sharp (BCCORR)	Phone: 778-974-3019	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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CANNABIS SECRETARIAT

TOPIC: General Cannabis Figures

Question	Response
Federal License holders in B.C.	227 total (as of March 2023) Broken down as: 108 Standard License holders 92 Micro-Class License holders 13 Sales Only License holders 13 Nursery License holders 1 Combined Sales Only and Nursery License holders
Micro-Class Federal License holders in B.C.	92 (March 2023)
Indigenous-affiliated producers	24
Processing licenses located in B.C.	115 (March 23) Broken down as: 81 Standard License holders 34 Micro License holders
Completed s.119 agreements	7
Cannabis stores authorized/licensed under s.119 agreements	15
Legal share of the cannabis sector in B.C. and in Canada	<u>2022/23 (December)</u> B.C.: 57% Canada: 62% <u>2021/22 (March)</u> B.C.: 53% Canada: 58%
GDP contribution of the B.C. cannabis industry	\$2.7B in 2021
GDP contribution of B.C.'s licenced cannabis industry	\$1.3B in 2021
Retail sales increase since last year	Yes, by 21% \$669M in 2022 \$552M in 2021
British Columbians using cannabis	Estimated to be 1.3 million adults in 2022.

Contact: Kim Shelford (CS)	Phone: 778-698-7110	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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LIQUOR AND CANNABIS REGULATION BRANCH

TOPIC: Legal and Illegal Cannabis Stores

Question	Response
Licensed cannabis retail stores within the province	464 legal stores (6 stores are s.119 authorizations) 68 new stores in last fiscal (3 stores are s.119 authorizations)

Contact: David Hume (LCRB)	Phone: 250 589-9043	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION BRANCH

TOPIC: Victim Services and Crime Prevention Programs

Question	Response
Contracted victim services programs	92 Police-Based 66 Community-Based 9 Domestic Violence Units 1 Provincial Helpline
Funding provided to contracted victim services programs	\$19.4M ⁵
Contracted violence against women programs	91 Stopping the Violence Counselling programs 84 PEACE Programs 53 Outreach Programs 11 Multicultural Outreach Programs
Funding provided to contracted violence against women programs	\$25.2M ⁶
Sexual Assault Services	\$10.1M ⁷
Community Accountability Programs (CAPs)	52
Funding provided to CAPs annually	Up to \$4,000 per CAP \$184,500 total funding in 2022/23
Crime Victim Assistance Program budget	\$18.2M
CSCP's total projected expenditures	\$88.5M
CSCP's net operating budget	\$78.4M
CSCP's general program operations budget	\$11.3M
CSCP's direct service delivery budget	\$77.1M

⁵ This amount reflects existing contractual agreements for Fiscal Year 2022-23 and does not include Shared Recovery Mandate (SRM) increases. On March 29, 2023, the three-year agreement (April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2025) between the Community Social Services Employers' Association (CSSEA) and the Community Social Services' Bargaining Association (CSSBA) under the SRM was ratified. CSCP has initiated the process of calculating appropriate increases and disbursing them to service providers. This amount will be updated once these increases are known.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Sexual Assault Services programs procurement to be completed in April 2023, and Sexual Assault Centres procurement currently in progress.

Contact: Taryn Walsh (CSCP)	Phone: 778-572-1277	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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GAMING ISSUES

TOPIC: Gambling Revenue

DESCRIPTION: The BC Lottery Corporation reports through the Ministry of Finance but the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General is responsible for administering revenue sharing with host governments and the horse racing industry. Host local governments receive ten percent of net gambling revenue from casinos and community gambling centres in their jurisdiction. The Province allocates 25 percent of net revenues from slot machine profits at casinos co-located at the race tracks to support the industry.

Question	Response
BC Lottery Corporation’s annual net earnings	2022/23 - \$1.6B 2021/22 – \$1.3B 2020/21 – \$430M
Payments to host local governments	2022/23 - \$102.2M 2021/22 – \$66.9M 2020/21 - \$0*
Payments to the horse racing industry	2022/23 - \$9.8M 2021/22 – \$7.1M \$3M grant for COVID-19 relief provided to the industry 2020/21 - \$0*

*Zero for 2020/21 as casinos and community gaming centres were closed from March 2020 to July 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Contact: Sam MacLeod (GPEB)	Phone: 250-882-2347	Mobile: Government Financial Information
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TOPIC: Gambling Support BC

DESCRIPTION: Gambling Support BC delivers culturally responsive responsible gambling education in communities, early-intervention and harm reduction services, Indigenous services, and free clinical counselling for individuals and families experiencing problem gambling and intensive day treatment. Support is available free of charge to any resident of B.C. who is directly or indirectly affected by gambling products and can be accessed in a variety of ways, including the toll-free Gambling Support Line and the program website.

Question	Response
Annual budget of Gambling Support BC	2022/23 - \$5.916M
Number of annual calls received by Gambling Support BC Line.	2022/23 – 2,927 2021/22 – 3,072 calls* 2020/21 – 1,998 calls*
Clinical and outreach services (gambling support services centered on individual, group, day-treatment, and community outreach supports).	2022/23 – 2,649 people 2021/22 – 1,603 people* 2020/21 – 603 people*

*Casinos, community gaming centres, and horse racing venues were closed from March 2020 to July 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Contact: Sam MacLeod (GPEB)	Phone: 250-882-2347	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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ROADSAFETYBC

TOPIC: eTicketing

DESCRIPTION: Data for eTicketing (roll-out began in March 2018)*.

Question	Response
eTickets issued annually	2018: 21,000* 2019: 50,000 2020: 124,300 2021: 152,600 2022: 185,300
Amount of eTicketing fine amounts issued annually	2018: \$4 M 2019: \$10 M 2020: \$26.2 M 2021: \$31.7 M 2022: \$40.2 M
Amount of eTicketing fines collected via the PayBC online service annually	2018: \$1.2 M 2019: \$3 M 2020: \$8.5 M 2021: \$10.5 M 2022: \$13.4 M

Contact: Mary LaBoucane (RSBC)	Phone: 250-812-2083	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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TOPIC: Distracted Driving

Question	Response
Distracted driving tickets issued annually	2017: 42,500 2018: 36,300 2019: 38,900 2020: 24,000 2021: 26,000 2022: 26,200
Distracted driving tickets disputed annually (does not include cancelled tickets)	2014: 5,300 2017: 10,700 2018: 9,500 2019: 10,700 2020: 6,300 2021: 7,000 2022: 7,700

Contact: Mary LaBoucane (RSBC)	Phone: 250-812-2083	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE**Repeat Violent Offending
Intervention Initiative****Suggested Response:**

- To address concerns about an increase in violent and repeat offending in B.C., the Province commissioned the report *“A Rapid Investigation into Repeat Offending and Random Stranger Violence in British Columbia”* which recommended the adoption of the Prolific Offender Management model to address repeat violent offending.
- As a result, the Premier announced the Safer Communities Action Plan, through which BC Corrections, the BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) and Policing and Security Branch (PSB), are creating a multi-agency response called the Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII).
- ReVOII brings together police, dedicated prosecutors and probation officers to address repeat violent offending through enhanced investigation, enforcement and monitoring of individuals in communities throughout B.C.
- ReVOII will be structured to meet the unique needs of each community and designed to work with local stakeholders and other existing programs through collaborative information sharing, such as situation tables and Assertive Community Treatment teams, to provide enhanced release planning that connects individuals to tailored support services.
- Twelve hubs, led by BC Corrections, that will support surrounding communities within their geographic region will begin operating in early May 2023. Each hub will have members who live and work in the communities in the region so they are familiar with local issues and concerns.
- Hubs will be located in Nanaimo, Victoria, Vancouver, Surrey, New Westminister, Abbotsford, Kamloops, Kelowna, Cranbrook, Prince George, Williams Lake and Terrace. Locations were determined based on the greatest number of individuals under supervision and/or incarcerated that met the criteria for ReVOII, and the ability of those sites to support surrounding communities.
- Once implemented, the hubs will work to identify an initial cohort of 400 priority cases for investigation/intervention and compile materials to assist dedicated prosecutors in making informed decisions about charge assessments, bail release and prosecutions.
- ReVOII will be supported by the new Special Investigation and Targeted Enforcement Program (SITE) that provides expanded resources through \$16 million in funding over three years to strengthen targeted police investigations of repeat violent offending cases and enhance coordination between police agencies.

- BC Corrections, BCPS, and PSB are committed to the core principles and recommendations of the First Nations Justice Strategy and the draft Métis Nation Justice Strategy. Consultations have begun taking place with the BC First Nations Justice Council and Métis Nation BC during the development phase to ensure Indigenous perspectives inform the resulting model.
- For those that are committing repeated crimes that do not involve violence, the Safer Community Action Plan provides more resources to support individuals with substance use and mental health issues, such as expanding mental health crisis response hubs into more communities so police can focus on crime and people in crisis can get supports from trained health care workers and community members.
- Other supports include:
 - Expanded Peer Assisted Care Hubs.
 - Establishing new Car programs.
 - Additional funding for the B.C. Brain Injury Alliance.
 - Developing a scalable model of addiction care.
 - Expanding Community Transition Teams that connect people who are leaving a provincial correctional centre with mental health and substance use supports.
- Budget 2023 invests \$462 million to help build safer communities, improve access to justice, and to create connected, cohesive support for people with mental health and addictions challenges.

Resources

- Treasury Board has provided contingency funding for ReVOII as follows:
 - BC Corrections
 - \$0.175 million in 2022/23;
 - \$3.936 million in 2023/24 plus \$0.687 million for vehicle costs; and
 - \$3.974 million in 2024/25.
 - BC Prosecution Service
 - \$2.378 million in 2022/23;
 - \$8.162 million in 2023/24; and

- \$8.553 million in 2024/25.
- Funding will support the following dedicated staff resources:
 - BC Corrections:
 - Four FTEs (director, program manager, policy and program analyst, and senior researcher) to centrally develop, coordinate, and evaluate ReVOII;
 - Nine correctional supervisors and nine probation officers based in correctional centres for release planning; and
 - Twelve probation officers to support each community hub.
 - BC Prosecution Service:
 - 21 Crown Counsel and 21 BCPS professional staff to establish and support the dedicated prosecution teams.

Background:

- Appendix A Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative: Inclusion Criteria.
- Appendix B Hub Locations and Communities Served.

Advice/Recommendations

Contact: Blair Spencer (BCCORR)	Phone: 778-974-3968	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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Appendix A

Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative: Inclusion Criteria

Inclusion Criteria – To qualify for inclusion in the program, individuals MUST possess the following criteria:

- a.) **A recent history of violent offending**ⁱ
- b.) **A predicate violent offence**ⁱⁱ
The definition of “violent offences” includes:
 - i.) Actual and/or perceived violence, threat of violence, or the use of/possession of a weapon; OR
 - ii.) Property and other offences which contain a component of violence, intimidation, or the threat of violence; OR
 - iii.) Administrative offences resulting from an alleged or substantiated violation of an order where the substantive offence is a violent offence.

Note – This inclusion criteria will apply to all locations. A prioritisation tool will be developed to assist locations in selecting a group where the number of referrals exceeds the maximum capacity.

Exclusions – One or more of the following factors will disqualify an individual from inclusion in the program:

- a.) Individuals, who by virtue of their age at the time they committed the predicate offence, would be prosecuted pursuant to the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.ⁱⁱⁱ
- b.) Individuals who have committed a homicide or commit any offence that results in the death of another human being.^{iv}
- c.) Individuals whose predicate offence is an intimate partner violence offence and whose criminal history is comprised primarily of intimate partner violence offences.^v
- d.) Individuals whose predicate offence and criminal history are primarily related to organized crime or gang conflict.^{vi}
- e.) Individuals who do not have a history of violent offending OR where the history of violent offending is outdated.^{vii}
- f.) Individuals whose predicate offence does not include an element of violence or threat of violence.^{viii}

Rationale for inclusion/exclusion criteria

ⁱ RECENT HISTORY OF VIOLENT OFFENDING: The Program recognizes that people can have a criminal history that is outdated and that a person who is substantially rehabilitated may for a variety of reasons re-offend at some date in the distant future. The Program is geared towards intervening in circumstances involving the highest risk individuals to public safety. If the predicate offence is not coupled with a criminal history that is recent then it risks unnecessarily capturing the wrong group and risks not intervening in the circumstances involving the most high-risk individuals. A prioritization tool will be developed that will provide sites with metrics that will assist in selecting individuals based upon the relative recency and severity of past violent offending.

ⁱⁱ PREDICATE OFFENCES: A predicate offence can include a violent offence currently before the Courts or violent offences which are no longer actively before the courts but have resulted in a custodial sentence or community supervision order. A predicate offence is necessary to ensure that justice agencies, aside from policing, have a mandate for involvement with the participant.

ⁱⁱⁱ YOUTH EXCLUSION: There are currently existing programs in place within communities and amongst police, corrections and the BCPS to manage and address the unique personal and legal needs of young people as well as the risk they pose to the community. The *Youth Criminal Justice Act* contains a declaration of principles that guides policy and practice when it comes to intervening and holding young people accountable for offences they commit and engages resources and procedures unique to youth involved in the criminal justice system which are beyond the scope of the Program.

^{iv} HOMICIDES AND OFFENCES THAT RESULT IN THE DEATH OF A HUMAN: The investigation, management and enforcement of homicide offences and those that result in the death of another human being is complex and multifaceted. Investigative teams are often comprised of specialist and experienced police officers. Prosecution teams also involve specialist and experienced prosecutors. While pre-trial management of the individual who committed the offence is done through corrections, the post sentence supervision is most often done by the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) and the person's release is within the purview of the Parole Board of Canada (PBC). Additionally, there are other mechanisms and procedures in place that can be used to manage the risk of those individuals not within the purview of the CSC/PBC including s. 810.2 orders. The resource needs that these types of offences bring are significant and there are currently processes in place to investigate, prosecute and manage individuals who commit these offences.

^v INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE - While the impacts IPV to victims and society are very serious, it is noted that police/BCPS/and corrections have existing programs and partnerships in place to manage the unique needs and risk of these individuals (ie. IPV investigative teams, IPV prosecution teams, IPV Courts, integrated correctional teams, highest risk protocols, etc.)

^{vi} ORGANISED CRIME/GANG VIOLENCE - While the impacts of gang violence and organized crime to society are very serious, it is noted that police/BCPS/and corrections have existing programs and partnerships in place to manage and address the unique needs and risk of these individuals.

^{vii} NO HISTORY OF VIOLENCE OR HISTORY OUTDATED – The Program's objective is to respond to the public safety issue currently facing British Columbians that involves repeat violent offending. By its very definition, a history of repeat violence is necessary and focuses on a specific subset of individuals who pose greatest risk to the community. The Program also recognizes that a person may have a history of violent offending and that history may be largely outdated as the person was substantially rehabilitated. In those circumstances, the individual may not present a high risk for future violence to the community and a prioritization tool will assist in determining whether a record is too outdated to be relevant. It is those individuals who have a history of recent violent offending and who continue to violently offend that pose the greatest risk to the community and who the Program is attempting to intervene with.

viii NO ELEMENT OF VIOLENCE OR FEAR IN PREDICATE OFFENCE - This program does not seek to include individuals who are primarily committing non-violent crimes as a mean of survival; many of whom struggle with drug addiction, mental illness and/or poverty.

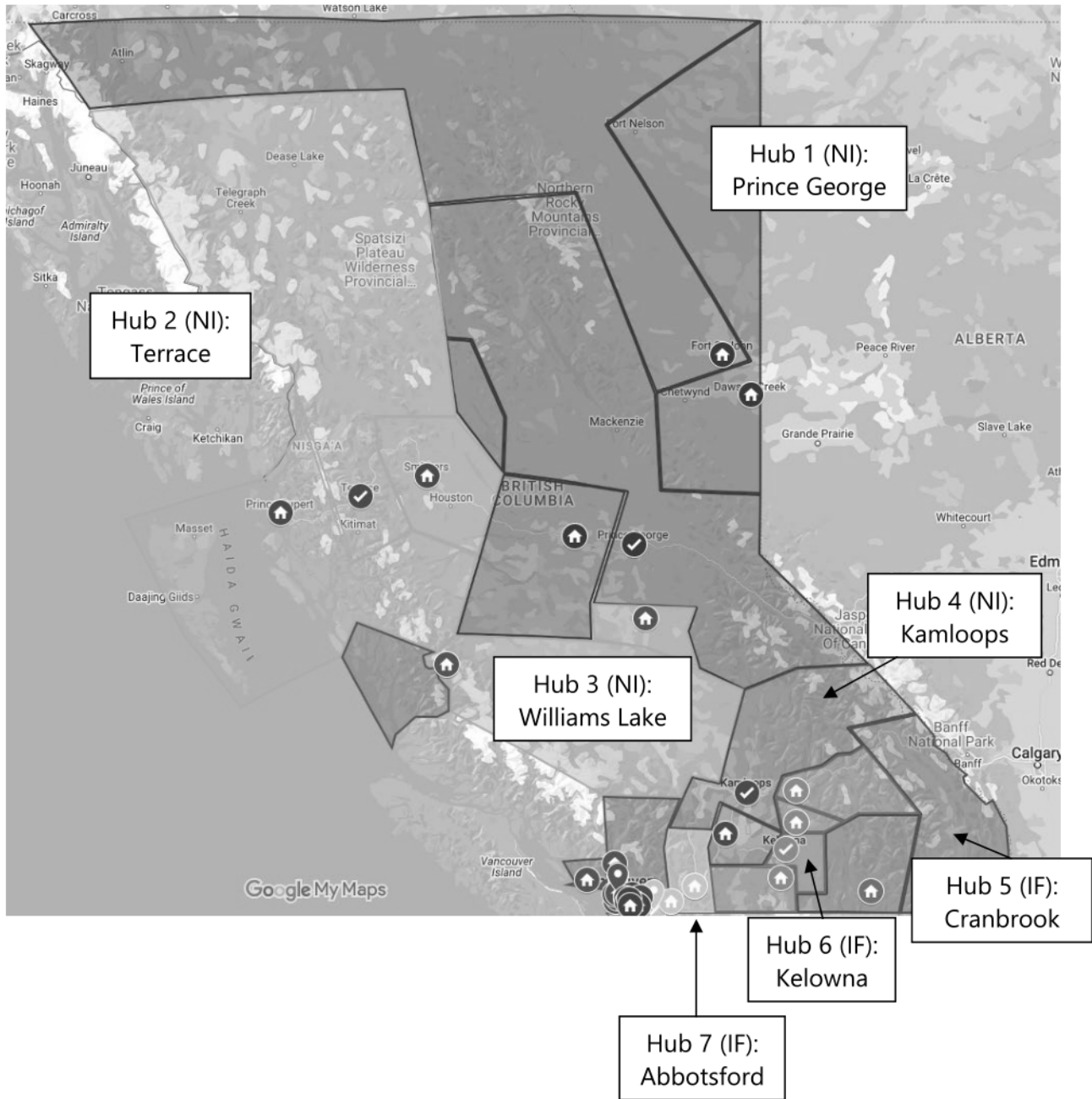
CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT

Version: February 1, 2023

Appendix B

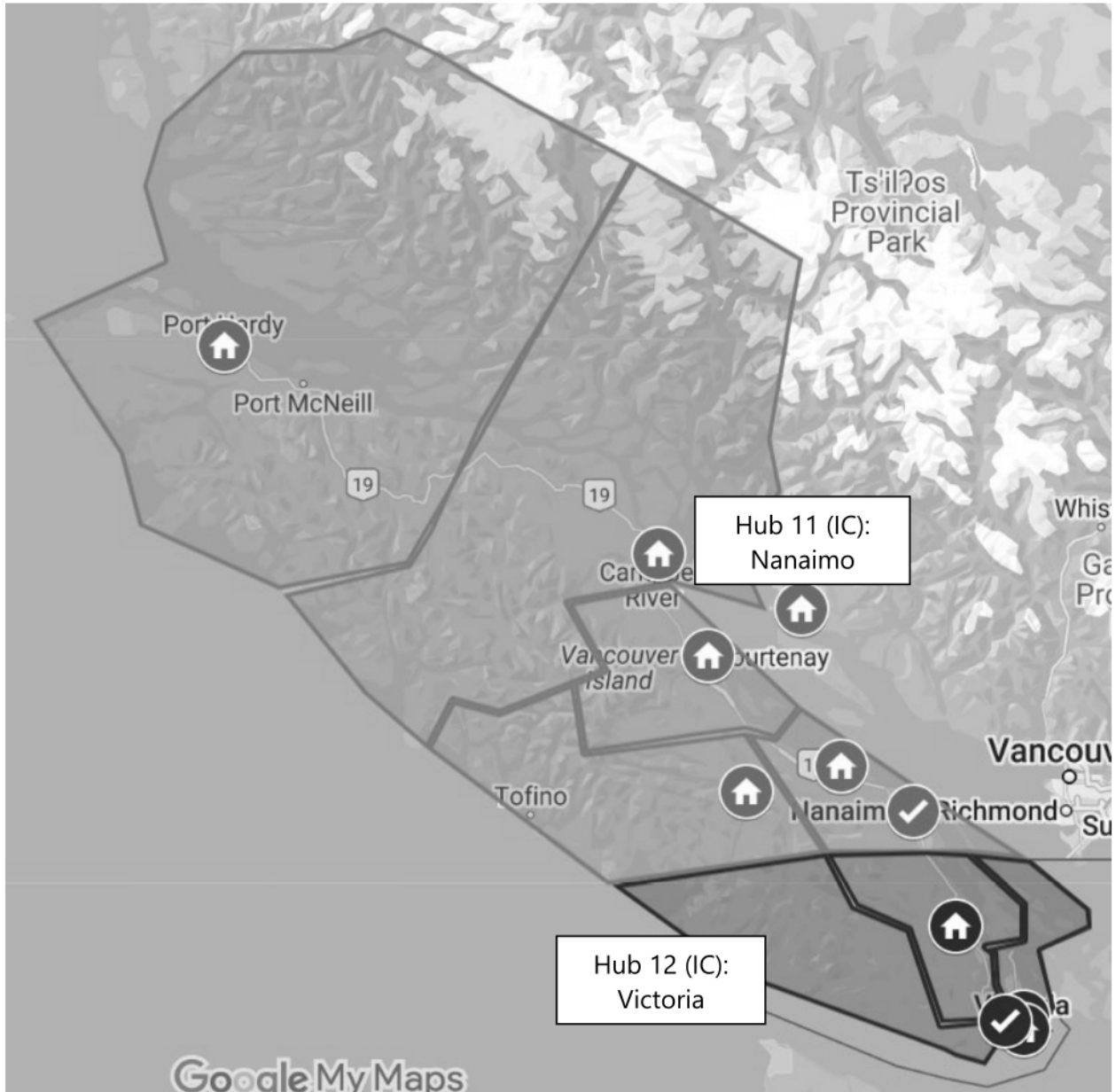
Hub Locations and Communities Served

Vancouver, Northern/Interior, Fraser/Metro, & Interior Fraser Regions

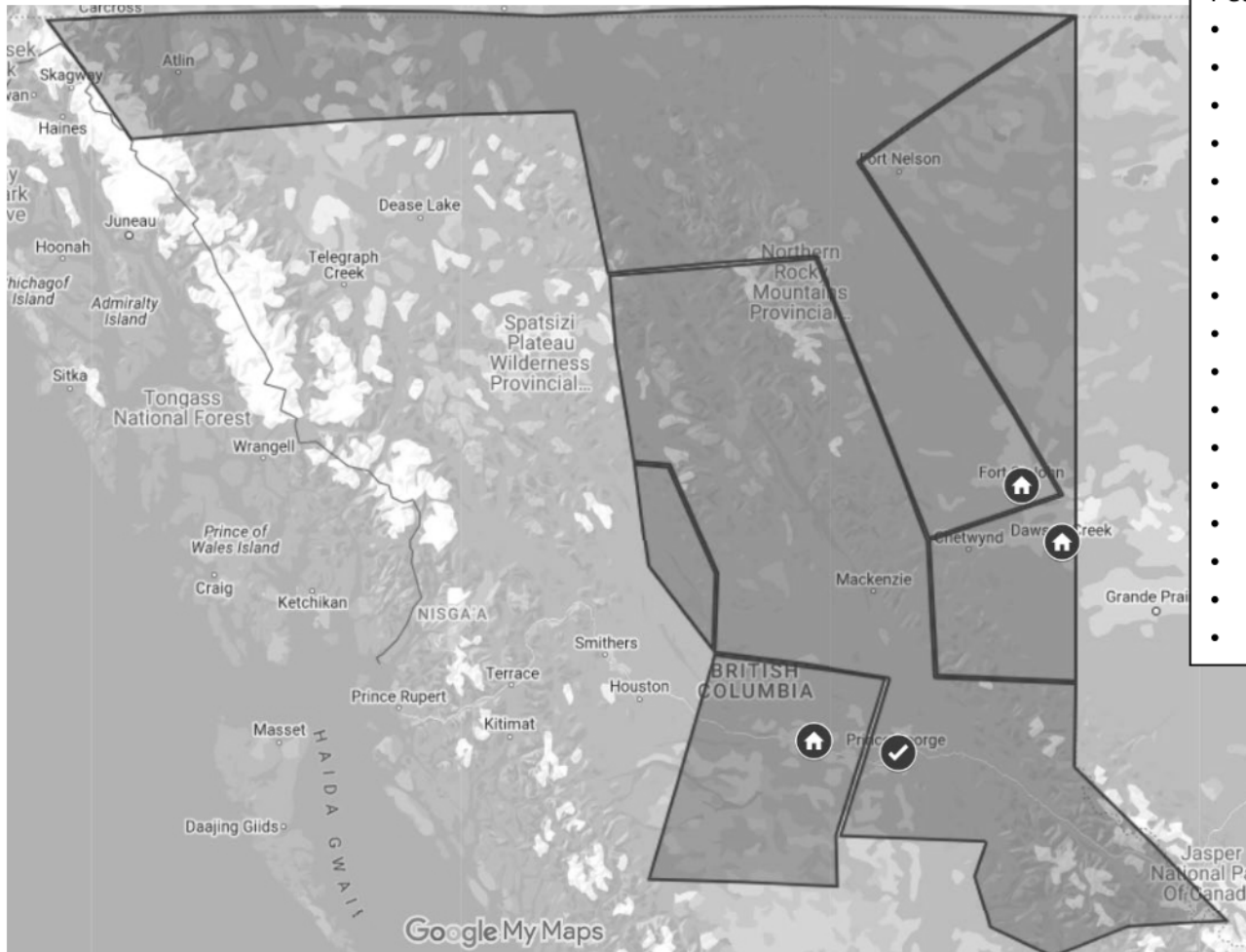


Copyright

Island/Coastal Region



1 Prince George Hub (Northern/Interior Region)



- Peace Region including:
- Burns Lake
 - Chetwynd
 - Dawson Creek
 - Fort Nelson
 - Fort St. James
 - Fort St. John
 - Fraser Lake
 - Houston
 - Kwadacha
 - Mackenzie
 - McBride
 - Peace Region
 - Prince George
 - Tsay Keh Dene
 - Tumbler Ridge
 - Valemont
 - Vanderhoof

Includes 4 Community Corrections offices: Prince George* (Hub Coordinator), Fort St. John, Dawson Creek, and Vanderhoof.

2 Terrace Hub
(Northern/Interior Region)

Copyright

Includes 3 Community Corrections offices: Terrace* (Hub Coordinator), Prince Rupert, and Smithers.

3 Williams Lake Hub
(Northern/Interior Region)

Copyright

Includes 2 Community Corrections offices: Williams Lake* (Hub Coordinator) and Quesnel.

4 Kamloops Hub
(Northern/Interior Region)

Copyright

Includes 2 Community Corrections offices: Kamloops* (Hub Coordinator) and Merritt.

5 Cranbrook Hub
(Interior/Fraser Region)

Copyright

Includes 2 Community Corrections offices: Cranbrook* (Hub Coordinator) and Castlegar.

6 Kelowna Hub
(Interior/Fraser Region)

Copyright

Includes 4 Community Corrections offices: Kelowna* (Hub Coordinator), Penticton, Vernon, and Salmon Arm.

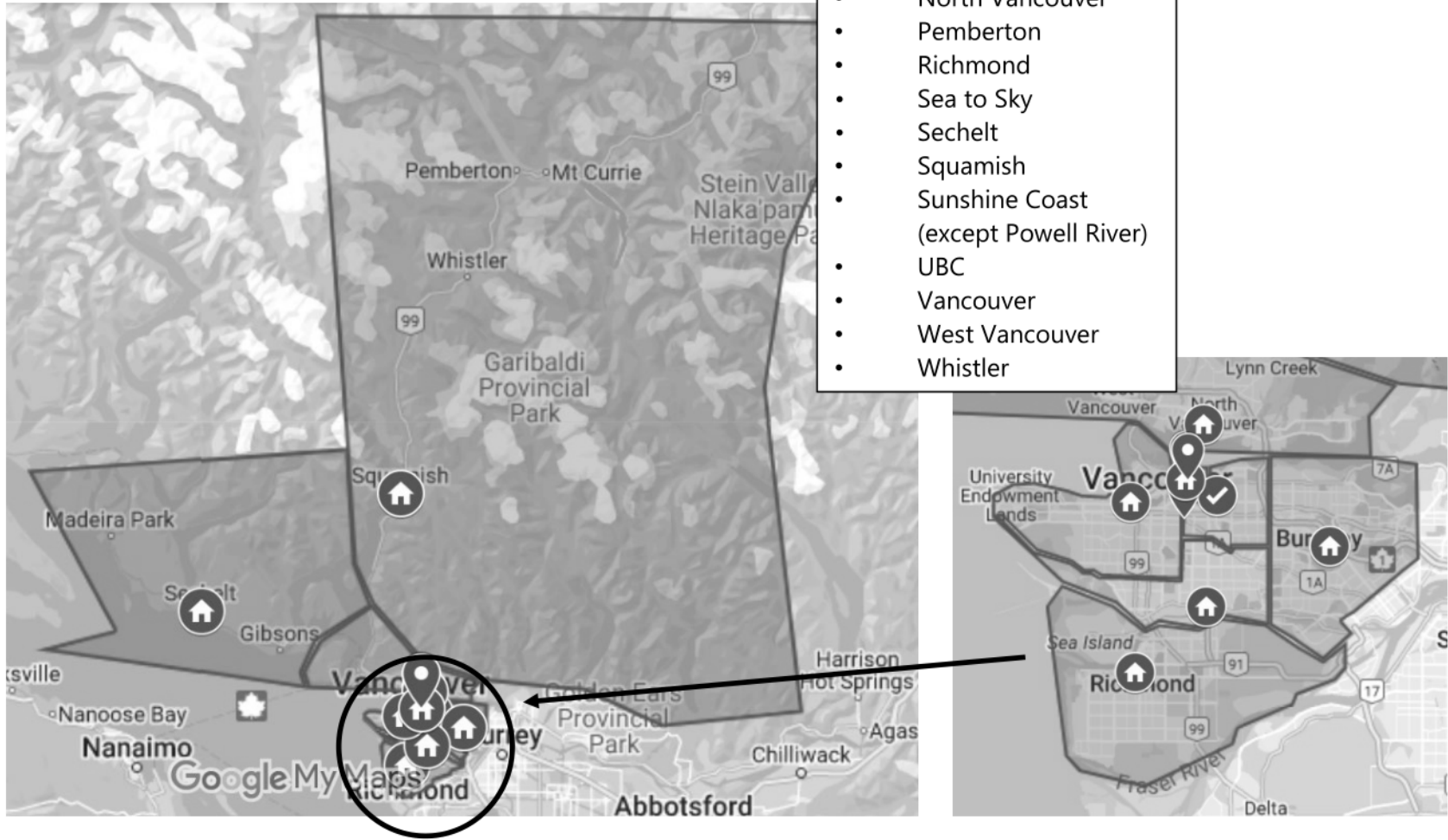
7 Abbotsford Hub
(Interior/Fraser Region)

Copyright

Includes 4 Community Corrections offices: Abbotsford* (Hub Coordinator), Chilliwack, Hope, and Mission and Community Outreach.

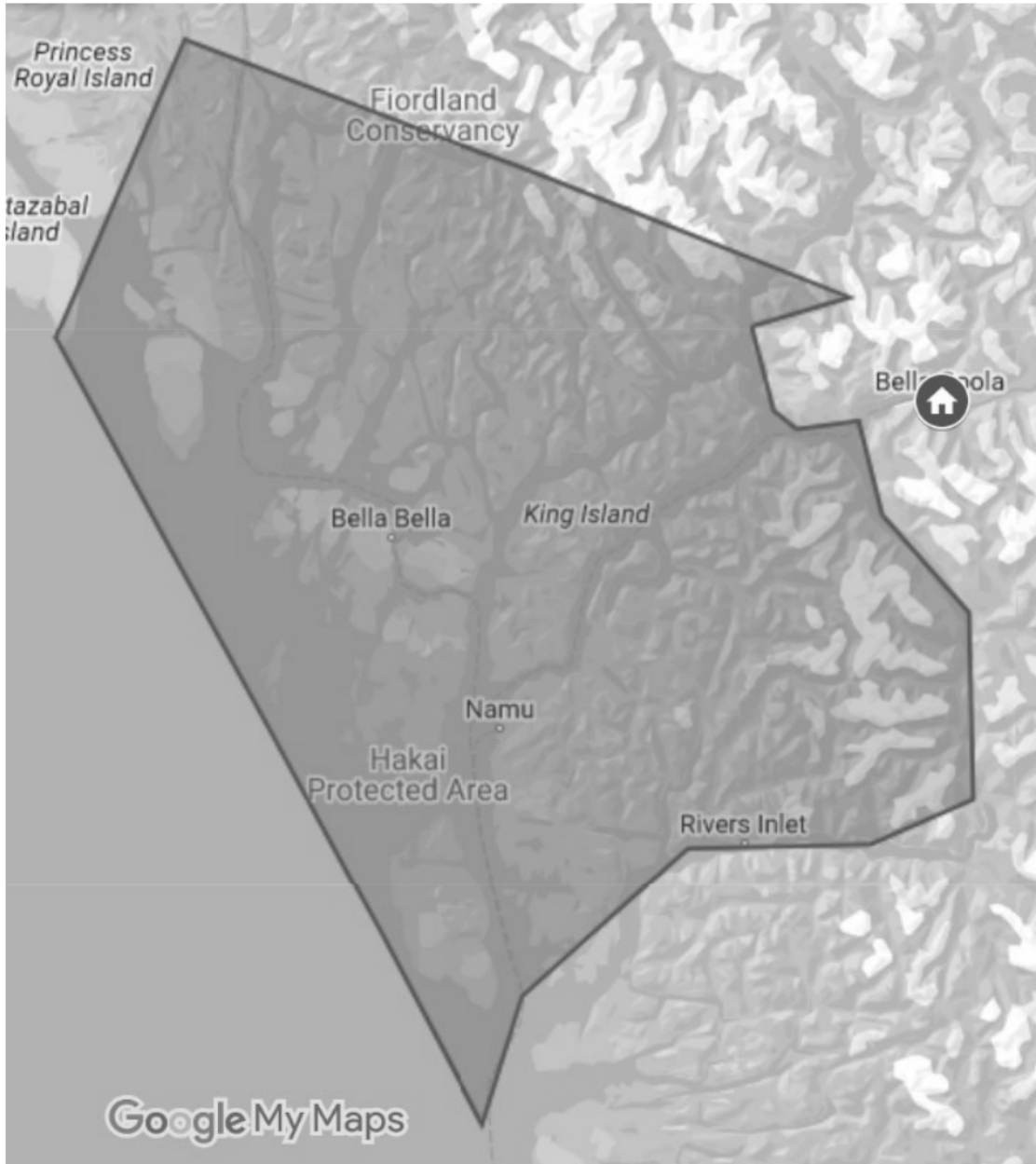
8 Vancouver Hub
(Vancouver Region)

- Metro Vancouver (West) including:
- Burnaby
 - North Shore
 - North Vancouver
 - Pemberton
 - Richmond
 - Sea to Sky
 - Sechelt
 - Squamish
 - Sunshine Coast (except Powell River)
 - UBC
 - Vancouver
 - West Vancouver
 - Whistler



Includes 13 Community Corrections offices: Vancouver East* (Hub Coordinator), Vancouver Court, Downtown Community Court, Vancouver South, Vancouver West, North Shore, Burnaby, Richmond, Vancouver Integrated Supervision Unit, Sechelt, Squamish, Drug Treatment Court of Vancouver, and Bella Coola.

8 Vancouver Hub Continued



9 New Westminister Hub
(Fraser/Metro & Vancouver Region)

Copyright

Copyright

Includes 3 Community Corrections offices: New Westminister* (Hub Coordinator), Tri-Cities, and Maple Ridge.

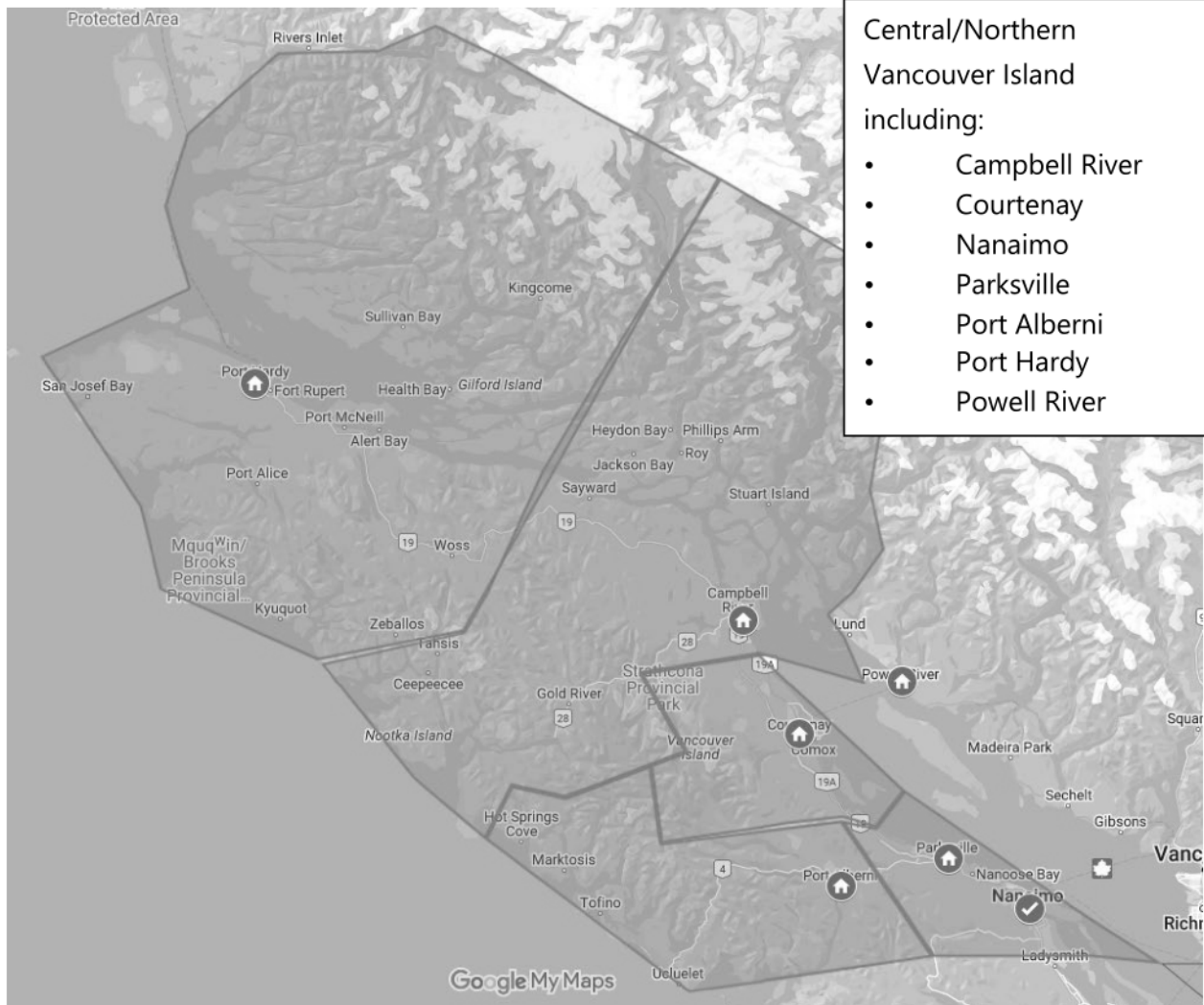
10 Surrey Hub
(Fraser/Metro Region)

Copyright

Copyright

Includes 5 Community Corrections offices: Surrey East* (Hub Coordinator), Surrey North, Surrey South, Delta West Surrey, and Langley.

11 Nanaimo Hub
(Island/Coastal Region)



Includes 7 Community Corrections offices: Nanaimo* (Hub Coordinator), Port Alberni, Courtenay, Campbell River, Port Hardy, Powell River, and Parksville.

12 Greater Victoria Hub
(Island/Coastal Region)

Copyright

Includes 4 Community Corrections offices: Western Communities* (Hub Coordinator), Victoria, Saanich, and Duncan.

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Advice/Recommendations

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Advice/Recommendations

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Next Generation 911 (NG911)

Suggested Response:

NG911 Provincial Investment

- On March 1, 2023 the Province announced a one-time \$150 million investment to offset local government costs associated with the implementation of Next Generation 911 across BC.
 - E-Comm, which handles 99% of B.C.'s 911 call volume, is leading NG911 implementation in most B.C. communities that have 911 service;
 - Funding is divided into two parts: \$90 million to E-Comm for technological upgrades; and \$60 million to the Union of BC Municipalities to administer as a grant to defray costs, such as staffing, training and quality assurance.

What is NG911

- NG911 is a federally-mandated transition of 911 networks from analog to an Internet-Protocol based network.
 - The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission has mandated implementation of NG911 across Canada and the decommissioning of current 911 networks by March 4, 2025.
 - NG911 will offer citizens more options for contacting 911 services, including Real-Time Texting and caller location features through Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping.

911 Service Provider Challenges

- The ministry is aware of the many operational and human resource challenges that 911 and dispatch service providers in BC, including E-Comm, have faced over the past few years. We continue to monitor the situation closely in the interests of public safety.

Background:

- 911 services are the responsibility of regional districts, though they are optional. Downstream dispatch services are established by the first responder agencies (police, fire and ambulance) they serve.

E-Comm

- E-Comm provides 911 call-answer services for 25 of the 27 regional districts, answering 99 per cent of 911 calls made throughout B.C. E-Comm also provides dispatch services for 33 police agencies and 40 fire departments across the province. E-Comm does not dispatch for

ambulance services, which is done by British Columbia Emergency Health Services.

- E-Comm operates on a cost recovery model. Prior to the Province’s March 1, 2023 investment, E-Comm had planned to recover NG911 implementation costs for technological upgrades from local governments through property taxes and increased between 2024 to 2029.

Areas of B.C. with 911 not serviced by E-Comm

- The one-time \$150 million NG911 Provincial investment does not include those communities in B.C. that currently have 911 but are not serviced by E-Comm (Nelson, Prince Rupert, and portions of the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality).
- Government will engage with these communities to explore funding options.

Areas of B.C. without 911

- Nearly a quarter of the province’s land-area does not have any 911 service. The majority of these areas are located in the northern part of the province and are predominantly Indigenous, rural and remote communities.
- In areas where 911 service is not provided, contacting emergency services requires knowing and dialing a 10-digit number for a specific responder agency.
- Through the Ministry of Citizens’ Services, the Province is working with service providers and providing funding to expand high speed internet and cellular connectivity to these communities. Connectivity will enable transition to NG911 in the future.

Contact: David Pilling (PSB)	Phone: 778-698-8375	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Decriminalization of Illicit Drugs

Suggested Response:

- *Budget 2023* provided funding of up to \$3.26M over three years to the Policing and Security Branch, which will provide two FTEs to the RCMP.
- Decriminalization will help break down the barriers that prevent people from getting support and create new pathways to life-saving services.
- Substance use is a health matter – not a criminal justice one.
- Decriminalization is not legalization. Drug trafficking and other activities involving any illegal substances in any amounts remain illegal.
- Decriminalization is one tool to reduce stigma and encourage access to life-saving health and social services. By reducing stigma around drug use, decriminalization complements B.C.'s broader work to build an integrated and comprehensive system of mental health and substance use care for people throughout the province.
- We know that there is no one solution to ending the toxic drug crisis. We need to use all the options available to us, and that includes decriminalization.
- Several national and B.C.-based public health experts, advocacy organizations and professional associations, including the BC and Canadian Associations of Chiefs of Police, have voiced support for the decriminalization of personal possession.
- Police are not allowed to seize exempted drugs at or below the 2.5-gram threshold when the person is abiding by the scope and terms of the exemption.

Police Training

- With the support of police leadership, the first phase of police training launched in December 2022 focused on providing all officers in B.C. the information they need to operationalize B.C.'s section 56 exemption in their day-to-day work.
- As of April 1, 2023, over 80% of frontline officers had completed phase 1 training. The second phase will launch this spring and will focus on shifting policing practices to support a health approach to substance use.

Local Governments

- Local governments are key partners in responding to the toxic drug crisis through their work with police, regional health authorities, and community service providers. B.C. is committed to implementing decriminalization in a way that recognizes the needs of local

governments.

- There is no evidence from the 30 jurisdictions that have implemented some form of decriminalization that it has resulted in an increase in public drug use, but we understand the concerns and are committed to working with municipalities to ensure communities are safe for everyone.
- The Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions also continues to work closely with UBCM, public health professionals, and police to develop tools and resources to support municipalities in adopting a public health approach to substance use in the context of decriminalization.

Budget/Expenditures:

- Budget 2023 commits \$18.92M over three years for activities related to decriminalization. Funding is allocated as follows, over three years:
 - \$3.26M to Policing and Security Branch
 - \$13.7M to Ministry of Health
 - \$1.95M to Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions
- Funding is to provide the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General staffing, stakeholder engagement, decriminalization Project Managers, resource cards, police training, communications activities, and monitoring and evaluation. This includes two dedicated RCMP resources under the Policing and Security Branch's funding amount.

Background:

- On January 31, 2023, decriminalization came into effect in B.C. This means that adults (18 years and older) are not subject to criminal penalties for possessing small amounts of certain illegal drugs for personal use.
- In place of criminal penalties, police are now providing individuals found in possession of illicit substances at or below the threshold with a resource card, which includes contact information for local health and social services.
- When requested by an individual, a police officer may assist with a referral to these services (e.g., facilitating a referral through a phone call, or navigating the Wellbeing government website (www.wellbeing.gov.bc.ca)).
- The exemption does not apply on the premises of K-12 schools and licensed childcare facilities, at certified airports, on Canadian Coast Guard vessels and helicopters, in a motor

vehicle or watercraft operated by a minor, or when illegal substances are within reach of the operator of a motor vehicle or watercraft, to youth aged 17 or younger, or to Canadian Armed Forces members subject to the Code of Service Discipline.

Contact: Matthew Brown (PSB)	Phone: 778 698-8432	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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MINISTRY OF FINANCE
ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING SECRETARIAT
ISSUE NOTE

ISSUE: Anti-Money Laundering and the Cullen Commission

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- We are working hard to address money laundering and corruption by strengthening how we detect, deter, and disrupt illicit activity, including moving forward on actions like unexplained wealth orders.
- We are building a robust strategy that will comprehensively use the advice and recommendations from Commissioner Cullen in his final report on money laundering in B.C.
- We've already taken quick action by:
 - Cracking down on illegal activity in casinos.
 - Shining a light on hidden ownership through the first of its kind Land Owner Transparency Registry and the Condo and Strata Assignment Integrity Registry.
 - Ending the use of bearer shares and implementing transparency registries for beneficial owners of B.C. businesses.
 - Introducing a new Mortgage Service Act last year, which provides a much stronger regulatory system for B.C.'s mortgage brokers and mortgage lenders.

Contact: Michele Jaggi-Smith

Division: DMO/AMLS

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**MINISTRY OF FINANCE
ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING SECRETARIAT
ISSUE NOTE**

- Introducing unexplained wealth orders as an amendment to the Civil Forfeiture Act.

KEY FACTS:

- Since 2017, the B.C. government has used expert advice and information to work aggressively to reduce the risk of illicit financial activities, including significant measures underway and to be introduced later this year:
- **Mortgage Services Act:**
 - Will improve the regulation of mortgage brokers, lenders, and administrators and the give the regulator, BC Financial Services Authority (BCFSA), the authority to develop licensing and licensee conduct rules, and heighten disclosure and reporting rules, in line with recommendations from the Commission of Inquiry into Money Laundering in B.C.
- **Unexplained Wealth Orders and equipping Civil Forfeiture with Analysts and Investigators:**
 - Adoption of unexplained wealth orders were recommended in the final report in the Commission of Inquiry into Money Laundering in B.C. Unexplained wealth orders were introduced at the end of March.
 - The Cullen Commission report recommended expanding the operational capacity of the Civil Forfeiture Office. A business case outlining plans for expanding the office will be complete

Contact: Michele Jaggi-Smith

Division: DMO/AMLS

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**MINISTRY OF FINANCE
ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING SECRETARIAT
ISSUE NOTE**

this Spring and is examining how the work being done by others, including beneficial registries, oversight of MSBs and the potential to access information in the possession of Canada (e.g., FINTRAC), will impact the office.

- **Corporate Beneficial Ownership Registry**
 - Legislation was introduced in spring 2023, to create a Corporate Beneficial Ownership Registry. The registry will be operational by the end of 2024 and will bring transparency to beneficial ownership in B.C.-owned corporations.
- **Money Services Business Act**
 - Legislation was introduced in spring 2023 to regulate Money Services Businesses. The Act will require businesses to register with the BCFSa as the provincial regulator.
 - The Cullen Commission report identified these businesses as a risk for money laundering and recommended they be subject to a provincial regulatory regime.
 - In 2020, the B.C. government held a consultation about a new regulatory framework for money services businesses.
- **Gaming Control Act**
 - The Gaming Control Act received royal assent in November 2022. Several regulations are still waiting on implementation, including set cash buy-in limits and source of fund declaration through the BC Lottery Corporation.
 - The B.C. government aims to implement these regulations in late 2023.

Contact: Michele Jaggi-Smith

Division: DMO/AMLS

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**MINISTRY OF FINANCE
ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING SECRETARIAT
ISSUE NOTE**

Securities Act

- Amendments to the Securities Act were introduced on February 8th, 2023, to continue to improve enforcement in B.C.'s capital markets by closing loopholes and cracking down on those misusing financial systems.

The amendments will help better protect people from investment misconduct, and ensure provincial regulations continue to be in-line with other jurisdictions.

BC Prosecution Service Media Statement, if asked,

- A Special Prosecutor was appointed to review the case file “E-Nationalize,” a multi-year investigation into alleged money laundering and other offences, following a review of the Report to Crown Counsel to the BC Prosecution Service and the determination that the charge assessment standard had not been met and no charges would be approved. The Special Prosecutor was given a mandate to conduct an independent charge assessment in respect of the E-Nationalize investigation. (See Appendix A for BCPS media statement and Special Prosecutor’s findings)
- The Special Prosecutor issued a “clear statement” setting out his reasons for his conclusion not to approve any charges arising from the E-Nationalize investigation.

Contact: Michele Jaggi-Smith

Division: DMO/AMLS

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MINISTRY OF FINANCE
ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING SECRETARIAT
ISSUE NOTE

- The Special Prosecutor's report stated he would not approve charges arising out of the E-Nationalize investigation given the wording of the federal *Proceeds of Crime Money Laundering Terrorist Financing Act* (PCMLTFA). The report recommends that explicit language is added to criminalize the operation of an unlicensed Money Services Business. He further suggests that *Criminal Code* could also be amended to specify that funds transmitted through a Money Services Business that has not complied with the registration requirements of the PCMLTFA, are derived from an indictable offence.
- The amendments to the PCMLTFA and the *Criminal Code* are within the purview of the federal government, and on March 15, 2023, a joint letter was sent by myself and my colleagues, the Honourable Minister Sharma, and the Honourable Minister Farnworth, to the federal Minister of Finance, the Honourable Minister Freeland requesting urgent legislative amendments to the PCMLTFA to criminalize the operation of unlicensed Money Services Businesses. These amendments are necessary to ensure charges can be laid successfully against those who use illicit funds to support their criminal activities.

Contact: Michele Jaggi-Smith

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Cullen Commission Costs, if asked

Advice/Recommendations

BACKGROUND:

- Deputy Ministers from across government work together on an Anti-Money Laundering Committee, supported by an Anti-Money Laundering Secretariat to provide Cabinet with advice on implementing important actions.
- Previous actions to address the risk of illicit financial activities include:

Gambling:

- Implemented new source of funds procedures for gambling facilities, in collaboration with BC Lottery Corp (BCLC).
- Enhanced presence of government regulators at Lower Mainland casinos during peak hours.

Financial regulation:

- Required B.C. private companies to create and maintain transparency records in their corporate offices.

Real estate:

- Strengthened tax auditor's ability to act on tax evasion associated with property transfers by amending the Property Transfer Tax

Contact: Michele Jaggi-Smith

Division: DMO/AMLS

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**MINISTRY OF FINANCE
ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING SECRETARIAT
ISSUE NOTE**

Act in 2018 to include an anti-avoidance provision.

- Implementing the speculation and vacancy tax that requires residential homeowners to provide their social insurance or business numbers.

BUDGET:

- In 2018, the Secretariat was established in the Ministry of Attorney General, then moved to the Crown Agencies Secretariat, Ministry of Finance, then assigned to the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and moved to the Ministry of Finance in October 2022.

Advice/Recommendations

- Existing ministry funding of approximately \$0.750M has been re-profiled to support FTE requirements and professional services required by the Secretariat.
- Effective March 2023, the Secretariat has 4.3 FTEs.
- Ministries which have Cullen Commission recommendations within their purview are responsible for financial implications.

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Division: DMO/AMLS

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MINISTRY OF FINANCE
ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING SECRETARIAT
ISSUE NOTE

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ISSUE: Anti-Money Laundering and the Cullen Commission

Question: Has government implemented any of Commissioner Cullen's recommendations from the final report into money laundering?

Answer:

- The final report on the Commission of Inquiry into Money Laundering in B.C. was released by Commissioner Cullen last June which provided comprehensive advice and contained 101 recommendations.
- Government has a Deputy Ministers' Committee on Anti-Money Laundering and the Anti-Money Laundering Secretariat working to assess and address the report's extensive recommendations.
- Because recommendations are so widespread across many industries, work has been well underway with six ministries with anti-money laundering accountabilities (attorney general, citizens' services, finance, forests, post secondary education, public safety), three governing bodies (law

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Division: DMO/AMLS

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MINISTRY OF FINANCE
ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING SECRETARIAT
ISSUE NOTE

society, chartered professional accountants, public notaries), several crowns and agencies (BC lottery corporation, BC financial services authority, BC land title and survey authority) and numerous federal agencies.

Gaming Control Act

- A new Gaming Control Act was introduced last fall which is anticipated to be brought into force by regulation late 2023.
- The new act establishes statutory duty for service providers and the BC Lottery Corporation to refuse a cash buy-in that is over an amount prescribed by the general manager if a source of funds is not completed.

Mortgage Services Act

- A new Mortgage Service Act was introduced last year, which provides a much more robust regulatory system for BC's mortgage brokers and mortgage lenders.

Contact: Michele Jaggi-Smith

Division: DMO/AMLS

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MINISTRY OF FINANCE
ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING SECRETARIAT
ISSUE NOTE

Unexplained Wealth Orders

- Government announced the introduction of Unexplained Wealth Orders this spring with changes to the Civil Forfeiture Act.
- Unexplained wealth orders are a court order that requires individuals to explain how they acquired property if there are reasonable grounds to suspect that it has been obtained through unlawful activity.
- Civil Forfeiture undermines the profit motive behind unlawful activity by going after the proceeds of crime. Most cases are linked directly to drugs, gangs, and organized crime.
- Unexplained Wealth Orders are a strong signal that government is being proactive in developing new methods to fight money laundering and organized crime in B.C.

Corporate Beneficial Ownership Registry

- The Corporate Beneficial Ownership Registry is established under the recently amended Business Corporation Act, which requires BC corporations to register beneficial corporate ownership with BC Registries. The registry will

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Division: DMO/AMLS

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**MINISTRY OF FINANCE
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help deter the use of shell companies and complex corporate structures to mask true ownership.

- BC Registries is already at work on the development of this registry and will be ready early next year when the regulations come into force.

Money Services Businesses Act

- We introduced legislative changes in spring to regulate Money Services Businesses (MSBs). MSBs will be required to register and comply with reporting requirements. This will help government identify unregistered money services businesses and sanction them.

Securities Act

- Amendments to the Securities Act were introduced on February 8th, 2023, to continue to improve enforcement in B.C.'s capital markets by closing loopholes and cracking down on those misusing financial systems.
- The amendments will help better protect people from investment misconduct, and ensure provincial regulations continue to be in-line with other jurisdictions.

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Division: DMO/AMLS

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ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING SECRETARIAT
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- These collective changes will help address money laundering by closing loopholes and cracking down on those misusing financial systems.

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Division: DMO/AMLS

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MINISTRY OF FINANCE
ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING SECRETARIAT
ISSUE NOTE

**Appendix A – BCPS Media Statement and Special
Prosecutor’s Findings**

Contact: Michele Jaggi-Smith

Division: DMO/AMLS

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March 1, 2023

23-06

BC Prosecution Service announces Special Prosecutor decision not to approve charges after directive by Attorney General

Victoria – In early 2021, the Joint Illegal Gaming Investigations Team (JIGIT) of the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of British Columbia (CFSEU-BC) concluded a significant multi-year investigation into alleged money laundering and other offences. The investigation was carried out under the file name “E-Nationalize”. At the conclusion of the investigation, CFSEU-BC submitted a Report to Crown Counsel (RCC) to the BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) recommending a variety of charges under the *Criminal Code*.

Following a lengthy review of the RCC, the BCPS concluded that the charge assessment standard had not been met and no charges would be approved. The Attorney General was briefed on the decision by the Assistant Deputy Attorney General (ADAG) of the BC Prosecution Service (BCPS).

On November 26, 2021, the Attorney General issued a directive to the ADAG to retain the services of an experienced criminal lawyer to conduct an independent charge assessment in respect of the E-Nationalize investigation. The directive was issued pursuant to section 5 of the *Crown Counsel Act*, which gives the Attorney General the authority to issue a directive respecting the approval or conduct of specific prosecutions. A copy of the directive is attached to this statement.

On March 11, 2022, the ADAG appointed Christopher Considine KC as a Special Prosecutor. Mr. Considine is a senior Victoria lawyer in private practice. He was given a mandate to:

- conduct an independent charge assessment in respect of the E-Nationalize investigation; and,
- apply the established charge assessment policy, including, if necessary, the exceptional evidentiary test of a “reasonable prospect of conviction”, and make the charging decision he deems appropriate in the exercise of his independent discretion.

The Charge Assessment Guidelines that are applied by the BCPS and Special Prosecutors in reviewing all Reports to Crown Counsel are established in BCPS policy and are available at:

www.gov.bc.ca/charge-assessment-guidelines

Pursuant to section 8 of the *Crown Counsel Act*, the ADAG directed that publication of the Attorney General's directive be delayed in the interests of the administration of justice pending the completion of the independent charge assessment process.

A clear statement setting out the Special Prosecutor's reasons for his conclusion not to approve any charges arising from the E-Nationalize investigation is attached to this statement.

The BCPS policy on Special Prosecutors and a related Information Sheet can be found at:

[Special Prosecutors \(SPE 1\)](#)

[Role of Special Prosecutors](#)

Media Contact: Dan McLaughlin
 Communications Counsel
 Daniel.McLaughlin@gov.bc.ca
 250.387.5169

To learn more about BC's criminal justice system, visit the British Columbia Prosecution Service website at: gov.bc.ca/prosecutionservice or follow [@bcprosecution](https://twitter.com/bcprosecution) on Twitter.



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

November 26, 2021

Mr. Peter Juk QC
Assistant Deputy Attorney General
Criminal Justice Branch
Ministry of Attorney General
PO Box 9276 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC
V8W 9J7

Dear Mr. Juk:

You have advised me as follows:

- a) under the file name of “E-Nationalize”, the Joint Illegal Gaming Investigations Team (JIGIT) of the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of British Columbia (CFSEU-BC) conducted a significant multi-year investigation into alleged money laundering and other offences;
- b) from 2016 to 2021, members of CFSEU-BC consulted with Crown Counsel about the investigation;
- c) at the conclusion of the investigation, CFSEU-BC submitted a Report to Crown Counsel (RCC) recommending a variety of charges against Paul King Jin, including:
 - i. participation in the activities of a criminal organization contrary to s. 467.11(1) of the *Criminal Code of Canada*;
 - ii. possession of currency and bank drafts obtained by the commission of an indictable offence, contrary to s. 354(1)(a) of the *Criminal Code of Canada*; and
 - iii. laundering currency and bank drafts, knowing or believing that all or part of that property was obtained by the commission of a designated offence, contrary to s. 462.31(1)(a) of the *Criminal Code of Canada*;
- d) after reviewing and considering the RCC, Crown Counsel concluded that no charges would be approved because the prevailing charge assessment standard was not met, specifically:
 - i. although there was a possible path to prosecuting Mr. Jin for money laundering and other offences, there was not a substantial likelihood of conviction; and

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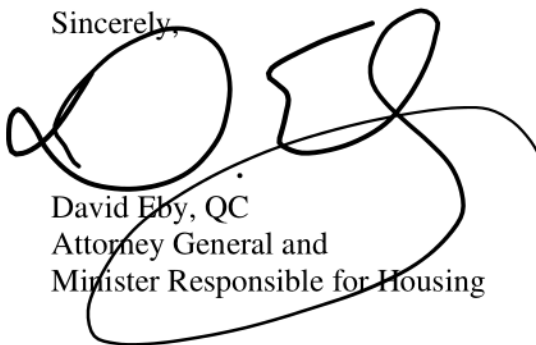
- ii. even if there was a substantial likelihood of conviction, the public interest did not require a prosecution, considering the anticipated length and expense of a potential prosecution as compared to overall societal benefit to be gained from it;
- e) CFSEU-BC appealed the charge assessment decision to you; and,
- f) giving reasonable deference to the Crown Counsel who conducted the charge assessment, you concluded that you should not interfere with or overturn the decision not to approve charges.

I have received a briefing from you about this matter and appreciate the time and effort that have gone into the charge assessment process.

Money laundering poses a threat to financial integrity in British Columbia and nationally. If there is a viable path to prosecuting Mr. Jin for money laundering or related offences and no prosecution is undertaken, public confidence in the justice system could be damaged. If there is a viable path to a prosecution, it is my opinion that there is a strong public interest in conducting a prosecution. Therefore, pursuant to Section 5 of the *Crown Counsel Act*, this letter is my direction to you to retain the services of an experienced criminal lawyer to conduct an independent charge assessment in respect of the E-Nationalize investigation. Applying the established charge assessment policy, including, if necessary, the exceptional evidentiary test of a “reasonable prospect of conviction”, if the lawyer concludes there is a viable path to prosecuting Mr. Jin or any other individual under section 467.11(1), section 354(1)(a), section 462.31(1)(a), or any other provision of the *Criminal Code of Canada*, that lawyer should initiate and conduct criminal proceedings under those sections.

As you may designate the lawyer to be either Crown Counsel pursuant to section 4(1) of the *Crown Counsel Act* or as Special Prosecutor pursuant to section 7 of the *Crown Counsel Act*, I leave that designation to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Eby', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

David Eby, QC
Attorney General and
Minister Responsible for Housing

Clear Statement

In accordance with Crown policy in cases such as this, I am issuing a "Clear Statement" respecting my work as Special Prosecutor in this matter.

On March 11, 2022, I was appointed special prosecutor for the purpose of conducting an independent charge assessment of the E-Nationalize investigation. The appointment was made pursuant to section 7 of the *Crown Counsel Act*.

Mandate

As a Special Prosecutor, I was authorized to:

- conduct an independent charge assessment in respect of the E-Nationalize investigation;
- apply the established charge assessment policy, including, if necessary, the exceptional evidentiary test of a "reasonable prospect of conviction" and make the charging decision I deemed appropriate in the exercise of my independent discretion. My decision should be made in accordance with BC Prosecution Service policies;
- provide a written report to the Assistant Deputy Attorney General (ADAG), with the results of my assessment and the reasons for my decision;
- if I conclude there is a viable path to prosecuting Mr. X or any other individual under section 467.11(1), section 354(1)(a), section 462.31(1)(a), or any other provision of the *Criminal Code of Canada*, initiate and conduct criminal proceedings under those sections;
- offer such legal advice to the investigative agency as may be necessary in the circumstances; and,
- conduct any subsequent appeal(s) on behalf of the Crown.

This Clear Statement summarizes my findings and conclusions.

The Review Process

I have conducted a thorough review of the E-Nationalize investigation. That review included consideration of substantial material provided by the Joint Illegal Gaming Investigations Team (JIGIT)/Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of British Columbia (CFSEU) and Crown counsel. I also considered the Cullen Commission Report on money laundering and anti-money laundering (AML) legislation in the United States and various Commonwealth jurisdictions.

I met with senior Crown counsel involved in the initial charge approval decision to better understand their concerns. I also met regularly with senior officers in CFSEU to explore various

aspects of the investigation and potential solutions to the concerns raised by Crown counsel. I met with an internationally-recognized money laundering expert. I also met with other members of the E-Nationalize investigative team as issues arose requiring the input of investigators with specialized knowledge.

History of the Investigation

In 2016, JIGIT was formed within CFSEU. One of JIGIT's key strategic objectives was the prevention of criminal attempts to legalize the proceeds of crime through gaming facilities. In pursuit of this objective, between 2016 and 2018, JIGIT undertook a significant investigation into the suspected illegal gaming, loan sharking, and money laundering activities of one individual who is referred to in this statement as X. This investigation was assigned project name "E-Nationalize."

The investigation was lengthy and complex. It included both covert surveillance and elements of an undercover operation. The tactical phase of the investigation concluded in June 2017, culminating in the execution of multiple search warrants and the arrest of several individuals who were released without charges. From June 2017 to September 2018, the investigation focused on translating and analyzing the fruits of the investigation.

The evidence demonstrated that X's business model generally worked as follows. X would instruct his clients, primarily wealthy businessmen and women, to complete a money transfer from accounts held outside of Canada to nominee accounts in China associated with one of two individuals, referred to hereafter as A and B. The client would provide X with confirmation that the funds had been transferred, usually in the form of a screen capture, which X would forward to A or B. A or B would arrange for one of their couriers to deliver a near equivalent amount of Canadian cash to X's courier. The cash handoffs between couriers typically took place in discreet locations.

Once the cash was in the hands of X's courier, it would either be taken to X's stash house or delivered to X's loan facilitators. X's loan facilitators would sometimes deliver cash directly to the client. In other instances, X would first convert the cash into a bank draft or casino chips to assist the client. X turned a profit by the exchange rates he charged A and B and by the interest rates he charged his gambling clients.

The investigation revealed that between February 4 and May 19, 2017, X received approx. \$5.4 million in bulk cash from A and B; provided over \$6 million in cash, bank drafts or casino chips to clients; and arranged for the deposit of approx. \$7.2 million into the Chinese bank accounts associated to A and B.

Investigators identified ten events between the months of February and May 2017 for which the evidence of X's alleged money laundering was most robust. For these ten transactions, the investigators were able to trace the chain of communications and transfer of funds, demonstrating that the cash obtained by X was the end result of an offshore transfer of funds.

The total amount of cash moved by X in these 10 transactions was approximately \$2.4 million.

Proposed Charges

CFSEU proposed charges on the following eight counts:

Count 1: Participate in criminal organization: *Criminal Code*, s. 467.11(1);

Count 2: Instruct person to commit robbery with firearm for benefit of criminal organization: *Criminal Code*, ss. 344(1)(a.1) and 467.13(1);

Count 3: Instruct person to commit intimidation and mischief for benefit of criminal organization: *Criminal Code*, ss. 423(1), 430(4) and 467.13(1);

Count 4: Counsel person to commit robbery with firearm: *Criminal Code*, ss. 344(1)(a.1) and 464(a);

Count 5: Counsel person to commit intimidation and mischief: *Criminal Code*, ss. 423(1), 430(4) and 464(a);

Count 6: Fail to register money services business (MSB): *Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act (PCMLTFA)*, ss. 11.1 and 74(1);

Count 7: Possession of property, to wit: currency and bank drafts, obtained by the commission of an indictable offence, to wit: failing to register an MSB: *Criminal Code*, s. 354(1)(a);

Count 8: Laundering currency and bank drafts, knowing or believing that all or part of that property was obtained by the commission of a designated offence, to wit: failing to register an MSB: *Criminal Code*, s. 462.31(1)(a).

In the context of this investigation, the most significant of the proposed offences are counts 7 and 8, alleging possession of the proceeds of crime and money laundering. This memorandum will focus primarily on the viability of a prosecution of those offences. My opinion with respect to the balance of the proposed counts will be addressed more briefly toward the end of this memorandum.

Potential Obstacles to Prosecution

Disclosure Issues

Several of the concerns identified by Crown counsel relate to the size and complexity of the investigation and the corresponding disclosure obligations that would face a prosecution team.

The challenging aspects of the disclosure include the following:

- The investigation produced 41,877 documents.
- Almost 90 smart phones were seized. The contents of 45 of those devices were extracted

resulting in a dataset containing 77,643 logged calls, 15,117 unique chats, over 1.6 million chat messages, 4,458 emails, 720 text message contacts, and 22,048 individual text messages.

- Over 2 million communications were intercepted, the majority of which were in Mandarin. 537,039 of these communications were intercepted between February and May 2017 (the time frame for the proposed indictment).

If charges were laid as a result of the E-Nationalize investigation, the Crown would have an obligation to disclose to defence all information in its possession of potential relevance to the defence. The extent to which the above-described information would meet that relevance threshold would likely be the subject of considerable dispute.

I am given to understand that for both the seized electronic communications (e.g., text messages, WeChat messages, etc.) and the intercepted communications, the vast majority of these communications are in Mandarin. Only a fraction of these communications have been translated into English.

While it is possible that disclosure and translation obligations could become problematic for the Crown from a resource perspective, I am not persuaded these challenges alone are sufficient to justify a decision not to approve charges. I believe these challenges could be managed and that defence applications for unduly expansive disclosure and/or translation could be successfully resisted.

E-Pirate Concerns

Prior to the E-Nationalize investigation, a somewhat similar investigation known as E-Pirate was undertaken by the Federal Serious Organized Crime Unit of the RCMP. It began on February 15, 2015, and culminated in charges of money laundering being laid by the Public Prosecution Service of Canada. These charges were eventually stayed in November 2018.

I have considered whether the issue which led to the termination of proceedings in the E-Pirate prosecution could rear its head again in an E-Nationalize prosecution.

I have had the opportunity to discuss this issue with the investigators. While there is some basis for concern, I do not foresee that a prosecution of offences disclosed by the E-Nationalize investigation would necessarily give rise to the same concern that caused the E-Pirate prosecution to fail.

While any prosecution can run into unexpected challenges, on the basis of the information I have been provided, I do not consider this issue to be a fatal impediment to successful prosecution at this time.

The Need to Prove a Predicate Offence

Both of the principal charges under consideration require the Crown to prove beyond a reasonable doubt the existence of a “predicate offence” that has the effect of tainting the property in question as illicit in origin.

The E-Nationalize investigation produced ample evidence of X possessing, transferring, and sending cash to his clients. Potential evidence of X’s alleged intent to “conceal or convert” that cash is available as well, given the clandestine nature of his operation and the exchanging of cash for bank drafts or casino chips. See: *R. v. Tejani* (1999), 138 C.C.C. (3d) 366 (Ont. C.A.).

The critical question is whether the Crown would be able to demonstrate that this cash was itself the proceeds of crime. A judge or jury would need to be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that the cash X was moving was “obtained by or derived directly or indirectly from” the commission of an indictable offence, in the case of s. 354(1), and “was obtained or derived directly or indirectly as a result of” the commission of a designated offence for the purposes of s. 462.31.

The proposed predicate offence for both charges is the operation of an unlicensed Money Service Business (MSB), contrary to the *Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act* (PCMLTFA). The Crown’s theory would be that X was operating an MSB. Because he had not registered this MSB as required by the PCMLTFA, his business was illegal. As such, the cash received into and paid out of X’s unlicensed MSB became tainted with criminality by virtue of having passed through an unlawful enterprise.

The requirement for registration of an MSB under the PCMLTFA is found in s. 11.1:

11.1 Except as otherwise prescribed by regulation, every person or entity referred to in paragraph 5(h) or (h.1), those referred to in paragraph 5(l) that issue or sell money orders to, or redeem them from, the public, and every other person or entity that is referred to in section 5 and that is prescribed must be registered with the Centre in accordance with this section and sections 11.11 to 11.2.

Section 74(1) of PCMLTFA makes failure to comply with s. 11.1 an indictable offence:

74 (1) Every person or entity that knowingly contravenes any of sections 6, 6.1 and 9.1 to 9.31, subsection 9.4(2), sections 9.5 to 9.7, 11.1, 11.43, 11.44 and 11.6, subsections 12(1) and (4) and 36(1), section 37, subsections 55(1) and (2), section 57 and subsections 62(2), 63.1(2) and 64(3) or the regulations is guilty of an offence and liable

(a) on summary conviction, to a fine of not more than \$250,000 or to imprisonment for a term of not more than two years less a day, or to both; or

(b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine of not more than \$500,000 or to imprisonment for a term of not more than five years, or to both.

In the E-Nationalize investigation, it is proposed that the operation of an unlicensed MSB would serve as the predicate offence to charges of money laundering and possession of the proceeds of crime.

Like the police and the Crown counsel who reviewed this matter before me, I have been unable to locate any Canadian authority or precedent in which the operation of an unlicensed MSB served as a predicate offence for a money laundering or possession of the proceeds of crime prosecution. It appears this issue has not been considered by Canadian courts.

Although this question has not been litigated in Canadian courts, an analogous body of law has developed in the United Kingdom that is instructive. Canadian courts would not be bound by this line of authority. However, it is reasonable to expect that our courts would take guidance from established precedent in the UK. To that end, I have spent considerable time examining this line of authority and how it might impact the interpretation of the relevant Canadian legislation.

The central theme from the UK authorities is that to determine whether money is obtained as a result of criminal conduct requires a close analysis of the statute the individual has violated.

The question the UK authorities would invite us to ask is this: Does the legislation explicitly criminalize the operation of a MSB in the absence of a licence or does it merely criminalize the failure to obtain a licence? On the UK authorities, property derived from the latter type of offence is not considered to be the proceeds of crime.

Notably absent from s. 11.1 of the PCMLTFA is an explicit criminalization of the operation of an unlicensed MSB. Unlike most of the UK legislative instruments where the activity itself was found to be prohibited, the PCMLTFA leaves the distinct impression that it is the failure to register that is the offence, not the operation of an unlicensed MSB itself.

It is certainly the case that one of the primary objects of the PCMLTFA is “the investigation and prosecution of money laundering offences” (s. 3(a)). It is also clearly the case that it is contrary to the PCMLTFA to operate a money services business without being registered under the Act. However, based on the wording of the statute, it is arguable that although the PCMLTFA criminalizes the failure to register, it does not criminalize the operation of a money service business in the absence of registration.

That, according to the UK authorities, is the critical distinction. While the trend in the UK authorities is in the direction of recognizing unlicensed commercial activity as criminal conduct in and of itself, the absence of any overt criminalization of the operation of an unlicensed MSB in the PCMLTFA leaves the Crown’s potential theory of culpability vulnerable to challenge.

Some of the authorities to which my attention has been drawn suggest that it may be possible for the Crown to prove a proceeds of crime/money laundering offence in the absence of evidence of the illicit origin of the funds if the Crown can show that illegal activity of some kind is the only possible explanation.

The challenge in this regard is the paucity of evidence concerning the activities of A and B. They appear in the narrative as little more than ATMs from whom X obtains his cash, but with no evidence as to where A and B obtained the funds or what sort of activities they are involved in. Large bundles of cash are highly suspicious, but without evidence of A and B being engaged in unlawful activity, does the cash on its own lead to the irresistible inference that it can only be the proceeds of offences prosecutable by indictment? I am not certain it does.

In other words, the inference that X believed A's and B's money was dirty is not, in my view, irresistible.

Ultimately, while the evidence, taken together, paints a highly suspicious portrait of A's and B's operations, suspicion alone is not sufficient to prove a predicate offence beyond reasonable doubt. As the Supreme Court of Canada observed in *R. v. Villaroman*, 2016 SCC 33 at para. 30, "...an inference of guilt drawn from circumstantial evidence should be the only reasonable inference that such evidence permits ..." I am not satisfied that is the case here. These pieces of evidence taken together do not lead to the inexorable conclusion that A or B derived the cash supplied to X from drug trafficking. I am bolstered in this conclusion by the fact that CFSEU themselves did not propose drug trafficking as a predicate offence.

I have also considered the evidence that X was willing to accept and convert other limited funds offered to him in the course of the undercover operation, some of which were explicitly identified to him as being "not legit" or the result of credit card fraud. While these instances demonstrate a willingness on X's part to accept funds irrespective of their source, I am not satisfied that one can infer from this that A's and B's funds were illicit in origin.

Conclusion Re: Predicate Offence

Substantial Likelihood of Conviction

The Crown's normal charge approval standard requires that I be satisfied, in respect of any charges laid, that there is a substantial likelihood of conviction.

For the reasons explained above, I am concerned that a prosecution which relies on the operation of an unlicensed MSB as a predicate offence may be ill-fated from the outset. The language of the PCMLTFA combined with the UK case authorities gives rise to the very real prospect of a viable defence that could prevent the Crown from securing a conviction on proceeds of crime or money laundering charges.

In the absence of Canadian jurisprudence on this point, I am unable to predict how a Court would receive such a Crown theory of culpability. Because of this uncertainty, I cannot conclude there is a substantial likelihood of conviction on the most serious charges proposed by the investigating agency.

Reasonable Prospect of Conviction

My mandate as special prosecutor included a direction that I consider not only the usual charge approval threshold, but also the exceptional evidentiary test of a “reasonable prospect of conviction.”

I am advised by the terms of my appointment that the Attorney General is of the view that there is a strong public interest in conducting a prosecution. I infer from this, as well as the explicit direction to consider the exceptional evidentiary test, that the Attorney General believes the public interest factors in this case are sufficiently weighty to warrant a resort to the lower charge assessment standard if necessary.

Informed by the above-referenced policy, I have asked myself whether I could lay these charges with a reasonable expectation of a conviction as a potential outcome, informed by my previous experience and common sense.

I have concluded that I cannot. I find the UK caselaw persuasive. While it is possible that a Canadian court would see matters differently, I am not satisfied that such an outcome is a reasonable expectation.

Moreover, even if there were a “reasonable prospect” of conviction with respect to the predicate offence issue, I cannot lose sight of the many other ways such a prosecution could be derailed. I am asked to apply my experience and common sense. I know from experience that it is difficult, if not impossible, to predict at the outset the challenges that a complex prosecution will face. My optimism with respect to the Crown’s ability to address disclosure and translation issues could be misplaced. The issue that prevented successful prosecution of the E-Pirate investigation could pose greater challenges than I anticipate. The Crown’s ability to lead the essential evidence of the transactions could be thwarted by a successful challenge to the many judicial authorizations. The complexities and time-requirements of the case – translation issues in particular - could create real difficulties with respect to the Crown’s ability to bring the case to trial within the time limits established by the Supreme Court of Canada in *R. v. Jordan*, 2016 SCC 27.

I am also concerned that the strong public interest in prosecuting money laundering is predicated on the very thing the Crown would be unable to establish, namely, that the money in question was “dirty money.”

While it is possible to identify on paper a theoretical legal path to conviction, my instincts tell me a prosecution is likely to founder. The public interest would not be well served by embarking on an expensive and lengthy prosecution that comes to naught.

Viability of a Prosecution for Lesser Offences

I have also considered whether there is merit in a prosecution of X for the various other discrete offences alleged in the Report to Crown Counsel. This includes X's alleged conversion of a small sum of funds provided to him in the undercover operation, as well as his alleged counseling of an individual to commit various offences, such as mischief, intimidation, and robbery, and criminal organization offences.

For the purposes of this clear statement, I do not propose to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of each of these individual possible charges in detail. The Crown likely would be able to prove some of these offences, while others are less certain. However, my overriding concern with such a prosecution is that it would likely require a level of Crown and police resources comparable to what would be required for a trial on the money laundering and proceeds of crime charges. Even a slimmed-down prosecution on these lesser offences would still need to overcome many of the most challenging aspects of an E-Nationalize prosecution, such as disclosure and translation issues. In short, the Crown would be faced with a lengthy and complex mega-trial either way.

I am not persuaded that the modest sentence the Crown might achieve on such charges could possibly justify so significant an outlay of resources. As the police conceded in a November 10, 2020 memorandum, "... if a limited portion of the case is prosecuted there would be a relatively low sentence that would not be commensurate with the resources required to prosecute." I concur.

I fully appreciate the need to send a message that the Province takes money laundering seriously and that consequences will flow from the commission of such crimes. I am concerned that a multi-year, multi-Crown, multi-million dollar prosecution that results only in a non-custodial sentence may send the opposite message.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, I have come to the difficult conclusion that I will not be approving charges arising out of the E-Nationalize investigation. Given the wording of the PCMLTFA, the absence of a link between X's cash and true criminal activity, as distinct from unlicensed activity, is the principal obstacle to a successful prosecution.

In saying this, I intend no criticism of the investigators, many of whom have worked tirelessly to bring this unwieldy investigation to completion in a commendably orderly and coherent state. I have been consistently impressed with their commitment, professionalism, and dedication to the task. Regrettably, the challenge of proving a viable predicate offence, given the wording of the current legislation, combined with the complexity of an enormous data set in a foreign language, have conspired to make the prospects for conviction poor, despite the best efforts of many dedicated officers.

Recommendations

Legislative Changes

The viability of using the operation of an unlicensed MSB as a predicate offence could be substantially enhanced by amendments to the PCMLTFA. As discussed above, at present, the Act criminalizes the failure to obtain a licence, but does not explicitly criminalize the operation of an unlicensed MSB. Were such language to be introduced into the PCMLTFA, the line of authorities in the United Kingdom would support, rather than weaken, the case for using an unlicensed MSB as a predicate offence for money laundering or proceeds of crime offences.

Such an amendment would bring Canadian law into harmony with the approach in both the UK and the United States. The American equivalent of FINTRAC is the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). Under the Federal *Bank Secrecy Act* regulations at 31 CFR 1022.380, MSBs must register with FinCEN and comply with various reporting requirements. As with the UK statute, the American federal legislation explicitly makes unlawful the *operation* of an unlicensed MSB. Similar prohibitions are found in s. 74 of Australia's *Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006*.

Alternatively, the *Criminal Code* itself could be amended to specify that funds transmitted through an MSB that has not complied with the registration requirements of the PCMLTFA are, by definition, derived from the commission of an indictable offence.

I recognize, of course, that amendments to the PCMLTFA or *Criminal Code* are within the purview of Parliament, not the Provincial Legislature. I raise this issue simply as a potential point of discussion with the Attorney General's federal counterpart, should the Attorney General conclude that a change in the law is desirable.

Legal Advice

I understand the E-Nationalize investigative team did have the benefit of access to legal advice from two senior Crown counsel during the course of the investigation. Other prosecutors were consulted on a more *ad hoc* basis as specific issues arose.

Nonetheless, it is apparent to me from my discussions with the lead investigators that JIGIT would benefit from a more formal and ongoing relationship with advisory Crown. JIGIT investigators embarking on a complex investigation would benefit from having access to a consistent source of legal advice. A more fixed relationship with legal advisors would provide JIGIT with guidance in shaping the course and objectives of similar investigations with the goal of ensuring a legally viable prosecution as the end result.

Cullen Commission

In addition to the above recommendations, I would add my support to the suite of proposals in Recommendation 51 of the June 2022 Final Report of the Cullen Commission with respect to Provincial oversight and regulation of MSBs operating in British Columbia.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have conducted this independent charge assessment on behalf of the Attorney General. While I have come to the conclusion that the charge approval standard is not met in E-Nationalize, I trust the above analysis and the many productive discussions I have had with JIGIT investigators in the course of arriving at that conclusion will assist in guiding future investigations.

This Clear Statement concludes my involvement in this matter as Special Prosecutor.

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act - Ministry Action Plan and Reconciliation

Suggested Response:

Declaration Act Action Plan and Annual Report:

- Since the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan was published in March 2022, my ministry has made considerable progress on our commitments in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples.
- The ministry is responsible for leading four actions that focus on:
 - responding to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls inquiry and ending gender-based violence;
 - policing and public safety transformation;
 - strengthening the continuum of social services and supports; and
 - cannabis governance and jurisdiction.
- We are also responsible for supporting implementation of four further actions, including:
 - improving public safety oversight bodies and complaints processes;
 - the First Nations Justice Strategy;
 - the Métis Justice Strategy; and
 - continuing efforts to combat the overdose public health emergency.
- While none of the ministry-led actions are scheduled for detailed reporting in the upcoming *Declaration Act* Annual Report, which will be tabled in the Legislature at the end of June, we have been providing ongoing status updates on this work and progress continues to be positive across all actions.
- The ministry will begin providing detailed reporting for three of our actions next year, followed by detailed reporting on the remaining action starting in 2025.

Responding to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls inquiry and ending gender-based violence (Action 3.8) and strengthening the continuum of social services and supports (Action 4.11):

- In June 2021, the ministry released the collaboratively developed *Path Forward* document,

in response to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

- In March of 2022, government invested an initial \$5.34M to create a new Path Forward Community Fund, which is administered by the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centers, and helps communities with capacity building and safety planning.
- This funding is on top of our additional \$10M stable investment for sexual assault programs starting in spring 2023, and \$20M provided through the Ending Violence Association of B.C. for community-based emergency sexual assault services grants between 2020-2023.

Policing and public safety transformation (Action 3.11):

- Preliminary work is underway to address the recommendations from the Special Committee on Reforming the *Police Act*. The ministry is already taking action to advance interim and targeted changes to the existing *Police Act* that are needed, while we simultaneously begin a comprehensive and long-term process in partnership with Indigenous Peoples to co-develop new policing legislation.

Cannabis governance and jurisdiction (Action 4.47):

- Since legalization, the ministry has continued to work with Indigenous partners on non-medical cannabis economic development opportunities, such as:
 - entering into government-to-government agreements with seven Nations under section 119 of the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act*;
 - providing capacity funding and capital grants to support Nations and Indigenous businesses looking to enter, or expand, into the regulated cannabis industry;
 - launching the B.C. Indigenous Cannabis Product Program to highlight Indigenous products in retail locations; and
 - beginning extensive consultation to advance a collaborative approach to cannabis-related governance and jurisdiction.

General:

- Reconciliation is a central part of the ongoing work we do. For each new initiative and policy the ministry brings forward, both the *Declaration Act* and the overarching impacts on Indigenous Peoples are carefully considered.
- For the *Declaration Act* actions that are already included in my mandate letter, the funding needed for implementation will be a part of the ministry budget. If additional funding needs are identified during implementation planning, the ministry will develop funding proposals for Treasury Board.

Background:

- As required under the *Declaration Act*, the Province reports annually on progress made since the Act was passed. Detailed reporting for individual actions begins during the year when substantial progress on that action is anticipated to occur.
- For the ministry, three of our four actions are scheduled for detailed reporting during the second year of the Action Plan which is the 2023/24 fiscal year. The remaining action will begin detailed reporting in the third year which is the 2024/25 fiscal year. Detailed reporting on these actions will continue through the duration of the Action Plan, which concludes in March 2027.
- Internal quarterly status reports are provided for all actions, including those that are not scheduled for detailed reporting in the Annual Report. Public updates on those actions not yet scheduled for detailed reporting will be provided by way of a high-level dashboard in the Annual Report, depicting the status and timelines for all 89 actions.
- *Declaration Act* Annual Reports, including the upcoming 2022/23 report, are submitted to the Legislative Assembly by June 30 of each year. The Annual Report provided this June will be the first one since the *Declaration Act* was finalized.
- Unlike prior years, this Annual Report will be predominantly online.

Actions the Ministry is Leading:

- 3.8 Develop and implement community-driven activities to end violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, beginning with the foundational activities in *A Path Forward: Priorities and Early Strategies for B.C.* and steps towards achieving the mandate commitment to develop a gender-based violence action plan. (PSSG; AG; FIN – Gender Equity Office)
- 3.11 Develop and implement comprehensive policing reforms to address systemic biases and racism. This will include: updating the *Police Act*, BC Provincial Policing Standards and mandatory training requirements; enhancing independent oversight; clarifying the roles and responsibilities of police officers in the context of complex social issues such as mental health, addiction and homelessness; and contributing to the modernization of the federal First Nations Policing Program. (PSSG; AG; MHA)
- 4.11 Increase the availability, accessibility and the continuum of Indigenous-led and community-based social services and supports that are trauma-informed, culturally safe and relevant, and address a range of holistic wellness needs for those who are in crisis, at-risk or have experienced violence, trauma and/or significant loss. (PSSG; HLTH; MHA)
- 4.47 Advance a collaborative approach to cannabis-related governance and jurisdiction

between First Nations and the Province that reflects common objectives to protect youth, prioritize public health and safety, strengthen First Nations governance capacity and secure economic benefits for First Nations. (PSSG)

Actions the Ministry is Supporting:

- 3.10 Implement improvements to public safety oversight bodies and complaints processes, such as enhanced investments in the B.C. Human Rights Tribunal and new models for including Indigenous laws in complaints resolution. (AG; PSSG)

- 3.12 Prioritize implementation of the First Nations Justice Strategy to reduce the substantial overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples involved in and impacted by the justice system. This includes affirming First Nations self-determination and enabling the restoration of traditional justice systems and culturally relevant institutions. (AG; PSSG)

- 3.13 Prioritize endorsement and implementation of the Métis Justice Strategy to reduce the substantial overrepresentation of Métis Peoples in and impacted by the justice system. This includes affirming Métis self-determination and enabling the restoration of traditional justice systems and culturally relevant institutions. (AG; PSSG)

- 4.12 Address the disproportionate impacts of the overdose public health emergency on Indigenous Peoples by: applying to the Government of Canada to decriminalize simple possession of small amounts of illicit drugs for personal use, and continuing campaigns and other measures to help end the stigma and shame associated with addiction; expanding prescribed safer supply and other harm reduction measures; and ensuring accessibility of recovery beds, and evidence-based, culturally relevant and safe services to meet the needs of Indigenous Peoples, including youth. (MHA; PSSG; AG)

Contact: Mark Fassina (CCPCP)	Phone: 778-698-8833	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Safer Communities Action Plan

Suggested Response:

- There has been significant progress made on implementing initiatives outlined in the Safer Communities Action Plan since it was announced on November 20, 2022.
- There are multiple, cross-government initiatives in justice, health, and social ministries that are contributing to the Province's response to enhancing public safety in B.C. communities.

Justice Ministries Response

- Two days after the Action Plan was announced, then Attorney General Murray Rankin provided direction to the BC Prosecution Service to amend their bail policy so that is clear and understandable in the situation of repeat violent offenders.
- The Province committed \$25 million to support dedicated resources for developing and operationalizing the Repeat Violence Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII). Work has been underway to create the ReVOII units with police, dedicated prosecutors, and probation officers; the multi-agency meetings will commence in early May.
- There is \$5.4 million to support a complementary initiative called Special Investigation and Targeted Enforcement (SITE) Program, which will provide supplementary funding for law enforcement investigations and enforcement actions targeting repeat violent offending.
- B.C. passed amendments to the *Civil Forfeiture Act* this spring pertaining to unexplained wealth orders, which was a Cullen Commission recommendation and considered in B.C.'s Anti-Money Laundering Strategy.
- The Province will fund 10 additional Indigenous Justice Centres to further improve access to culturally appropriate legal services for Indigenous Peoples, and the first five centres will open in metropolitan areas to better support Indigenous Peoples in urban areas.
- HealthIM, a digital public safety system designed to improve emergency police response in mental-health and substance-use situations, will be implemented with the support of over \$3 million in new funding annually, starting in fiscal 2023/24.
- To support timely, effective bail hearings that will protect the public and meet constitutional obligations, the Province is investing more than \$3 million per year to expand virtual bail hearings throughout B.C.
- The Province is providing \$1.5 billion in new operating and capital funding over three years to fund the Homeless Plan, which will create new supportive housing units, complex-care spaces, temporary modular housing, and regional response teams.

- Other existing programs in the ministry are also contributing to the Safer Communities Action Plan, such as Situation Tables, the civil forfeiture grants program, the comprehensive guns and gangs strategy, and victim services.

Health and Social Ministries Response

- A key action of the Safer Communities Action Plan is the expansion of civilian-led teams of trained peers and mental-health professionals, like social workers and psychiatric nurses, to provide trauma informed, culturally safe support for people in crisis.
- There are already three peer assisted care teams (PACT) teams operating in B.C. but a total of 12 teams will be created, including some that are Indigenous-led teams.
- The Province committed \$3 million in new funding for integrated mobile community crisis response by police and health-care workers (e.g., “Car programs” or “Mobile InCRT”).
- There are also plans to expand complex care housing services, funding for brain injury research, implementing supported rent supplement programs, investments to treatment and recovery, community transition teams, and new models of addictions care.

Background:

- The Province is making changes to help keep British Columbians safe through the new Safer Communities Action Plan, a cross-government initiative that lays out concrete steps at the provincial level through enforcement and intervention services.
- The action plan includes immediate steps that will strengthen enforcement to keep those who commit repeat violent offences off our streets, and strengthen services to build safe, healthy communities for everyone.
- The action plan builds on work already underway by the provincial government to help break the cycle of repeat offending and build safe and healthy communities.
- Each initiative is structured to improve coordination between law enforcement, community service organizations, justice system actors, health providers and people who are recovering from addiction and mental-health challenges in a collaborative, coordinated approach.
- The action plan initiatives align with recommendations from several reports on community safety, including the Special Committee on Reforming the *Police Act*, the First Nations Justice Strategy and the Investigation into Repeat Offending and Random Stranger Violence.

Contact: Ardys Baker (PSB)	Phone: 778-974-4044	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Estimates 2023/24 Briefing Book**

**BC Corrections
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Indigenous Over-Representation - BC Corrections Response

Suggested Response:

- Indigenous peoples currently comprise 5.9% of B.C.'s population (based on the 2021 census) but make up 34% of the Adult Custody Division population and 27% of people supervised by the Community Corrections Division.
- Due to COVID-19, the average daily count of individuals in custody fell from 2,287 in 2019 to 1,660 in 2022, a decrease of 27%.
- During this same period, the proportion of Indigenous people under community supervision (27%) remained relatively stable; however, the proportion of Indigenous people in custody increased slightly, from 33% (in 2019) to 35% (in 2022). This is due to:
 - A declining non-Indigenous population; and
 - An increase in the number of individuals self-identifying as Indigenous as a result of BC Corrections' efforts to improve the collection and tracking of Indigenous identity data.
- BC Corrections has been working with Indigenous justice partners and communities to reduce Indigenous over-representation in the justice system for well over a decade and this work remains a top priority.
- BC Corrections' Indigenous Programs and Relationships unit works to reduce the over-representation of Indigenous people in the justice system and educate staff about the lasting impacts of colonization, intergenerational trauma, and the role of culture in healing.
- Actions and/or work underway to support this priority include:
 - Establishing Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with Indigenous communities to support the successful reintegration of individuals upon release from custody and while under community supervision.
 - The first MOU was signed with the Sts'ailes (Sta-ay-liss) Nation in 2017.
 - Four additional agreements were signed with the Tl'etinqox (Klay-deen-ko-teen) First Nation (2018), the Tsleil-Waututh (Sail-wha-tooth) Nation (2019), Nicola Valley Justice Services Society (2021), and Williams Lake First Nation (2023).

- Work is underway to support agreements with the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council the Squamish Nation, Lake Babine Nation, Snuneymuxw (Snue-ney-mowck) First Nation, Tsawwassen (Tsa-wah-sen) First Nation, Ahousaht (A-howz-at) First Nation, Huu-ay-aht (Ho-ay-at) First Nation, Tseshaht (Say-shot) First Nation, Saik'uz (Sigh-cuz) First Nation, Xatsúll (Hat-sull) First Nation, Westbank First Nation and the Takla (Tack-lah) Lake First Nation.
- Establishing an Indigenous Cultural Liaison program in all 10 correctional centres where Indigenous Cultural Liaisons and Elders provide guidance, programming, and services (e.g., activities, ceremonies, etc.) to individuals in custody as well as support community transitional planning upon release. Indigenous Cultural Liaisons also participate in client case planning and provide training to correctional centre staff to increase understanding and support the delivery of culturally safe services.
- There are currently 27 Indigenous justice programs that deliver community-based cultural programming and supports to BC Corrections clients in a broader number of First Nations communities throughout the province:
 - The Indigenous Justice Program is a cost-shared program that is jointly supported by the Department of Justice Canada and the Province of B.C. to provide funding to Indigenous communities and organizations to deliver culture-based justice services. In 2022/2023, B.C. contributed \$1.43 million annually to this initiative.
 - BC Corrections also solely funds an additional six Indigenous community-based justice programs (\$300,000 annually).
 - Together, federal (\$2.07 million) and provincial contributions (\$1.73 million) to support Indigenous community-based justice programs total \$3.8 million in funding.
- In 2022, the Federal Government increased contributions to the B.C. Indigenous Justice Program from \$2.07 million to \$4 million for a combined provincial and federal total of \$5.73 million (to March 31, 2024).
 - The increased federal funding will be distributed to Indigenous Justice Programs as follows:
 - \$769,000 ongoing for Gladue Aftercare funding (ongoing)
 - \$376,000 for Civil and Family Mediation (annually for 2.5 years to March 31, 2024)
 - \$787,000 for Program Integrity (to March 31, 2024)
- The Indigenous Justice Program provides funding to deliver culture-based justice services in the following communities: Ahousaht, Alert Bay, Alkali Lake, Bella Bella, Bella Coola,

Chilliwack, Duncan, Fort Nelson, Fort St. James (x2), Fort Ware, Haida Gwaii, Hazelton, Kamloops, Lillooet, Lower Post, Lytton, Merritt, New Aiyansh, Penticton, Powell River, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Williams Lake, Smithers, Telegraph Creek, Victoria, and Vancouver.

- The additional community-based justice program providers solely funded by BC Corrections deliver culture-based justice services in the following communities: Atlin, Canim Lake, Cranbrook, Klemtu, Lake Babine, and Mount Currie.

- Updated data collection systems to ensure information about cultural identity is collected from Indigenous clients and cultural supports are incorporated into case management plans. This information is also used to determine whether additional Memorandums of Understanding with Indigenous communities could be developed if one is not currently in place.

- Enhanced core training and additional cultural education for staff and leadership through online and in-person experiential modes, along with branch-wide recognition of and participation in various Indigenous-specific public awareness campaigns, such as the Moose Hide campaign, National Indigenous Peoples Day, Louis Riel Day, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls memorial, and the Orange Shirt Day campaign.

Background:

- BC Corrections is working with justice sector and cross-government partners and working in partnership with the BC First Nations Justice Council and Métis Nation BC, to support the implementation of the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan to ensure provincial legislation, policies and practices align with the Act.

- BC Corrections is supporting the creation of the Métis Nation Justice Strategy and the plan to implement the BC First Nations Justice Strategy.

Contact: Lissa Laing (BCCORR)	Phone: 778-974-3004	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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Canada Border Services Agency Immigration Detention Agreement

Suggested Response:

- In June 2022, BC Corrections completed a review of its existing arrangement with the Canada Border Services Agency regarding the management of individuals subject to lawful detention under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*.
- All aspects of the arrangement were reviewed, including whether it aligned with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Mandela Rules) and expectations set by Canadian courts.
- The results of the review demonstrated that the practice of holding immigration detainees is contrary to national and international human rights standards and does not align with BC Corrections' mandate.
- On July 21, 2022, BC Corrections provided notice to Canada Border Services Agency to end its arrangement effective July 31, 2023.
- BC Corrections and the Canada Border Services Agency will work together to develop a transition plan that achieves a shared commitment to public safety while ensuring the rights of individuals are preserved and protected.

Background:

- The Canada Border Services Agency is responsible for managing the immigration detention process for individuals subject to lawful detention under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*. Following an arrest, an individual may be detained at one of three Canada Border Services Agency's Immigration Holding Centres in Canada (Laval, Quebec; Toronto, Ontario; and Surrey, B.C.).
- As part of the review, BC Corrections engaged with multiple external stakeholders and advocacy groups—including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.
- The scope of the review did not include:
 - Individuals who are held with both an Immigration and Refugee Protection Act Order of Detention and court-ordered detention (also known as dual status);

- Individuals under the age of 18, who are held on this type of Order of Detention; and
- Mothers or adult female caregivers with children who are ordered to be detained on an Immigration and Refugee Protection Act Order of Detention. (Note: Individuals under the age of 18 and family units are held under agreement between the Ministry of Children and Family Development and Canada Border Services Agency.)
- A transition plan with Canada Border Services Agency will be developed, taking into consideration the following issues:
 - The impacts on public safety associated with no longer holding immigration detainees in provincial correctional centres; and
 - The need for individuals held in provincial custody on criminal matters to be safely transferred to the Canada Border Services Agency as soon as operationally feasible when their criminal matters end.
- To date, the Canada Border Services Agency has not formally asked British Columbia to extend the deadline for ending the arrangement.
- The daily rate charged in FY2021/22 by British Columbia for holding individuals subject to an immigration hold is \$255.00. Under the terms of the arrangement, the daily rate is adjusted each fiscal year based on the change in the B.C. Consumer Price Index as set by Statistics Canada.
- BC Corrections only receives payment for 'pure' immigration detainees, meaning those that are held solely on an Immigration and Refugee Protection Act Order for Detention and not on an accompanying criminal remand or sentenced order. In FY2021/22, BC Corrections billed the Government of Canada for 2,401 total bed days and recovered \$612,255.00 (net of GST).
- In 2020, Canada Border Services Agency opened an Immigration Holding Centre in Surrey, B.C. which reduced the number of immigration detainees in BC Corrections' custody; however, individuals with complex needs and/or concurrent criminal court holds are still held by BC Corrections. Canada Border Services Agency completes a risk assessment to determine whether an individual cannot be effectively managed within an Immigration Holding Centres.
- In 2021, the Province of Alberta provided notice to the Canada Border Services Agency that they will no longer hold immigration detainees after March 31, 2022. An extension to their arrangement has since been granted to June 30, 2023, to provide time for the Canada Border Services Agency to find alternative options.
- In the fall of 2022, Nova Scotia and Manitoba announced they are ending their arrangements with the agency. Quebec followed suit in December and other provinces report they are still reviewing whether they will do the same.

Average number of immigration detainees in BC Corrections custody:

Year	2020	2021	2022
Number	19	9 ¹	12 ²

¹ The decrease from 2020-2021 is attributed to the opening of the CBSA's IHC in Surrey, B.C.

² The increase from 2021-2022 is attributable to re-opening of borders and immigration following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Contact: Tracey Ooms (BCCORR)	Phone: 778-974-3020	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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Segregation and Separate Confinement

Suggested Response:

- BC Corrections has been working to review and change its segregation practices to better safeguard the well-being of people in its custody, while supporting the safety of correctional centre staff.
- Many of the individuals placed in segregation are dealing with complex issues that require extra supports.
 - When someone is placed in segregation, they receive an individualized intensive case management plan that focusses on identifying and addressing their unique needs through additional programs, interventions, and supports.
 - This plan is designed to focus on increasing integration with peers and providing meaningful human contact.
- At least 69% of BC Corrections' custody population have been diagnosed with either a mental health or substance use disorder, and approximately 42% have been diagnosed with both.
- Segregation is used after all other options have been exhausted, for the shortest possible time, and with a 15-day limit for a disciplinary penalty. As well, the opportunity for the minimum time out of cell increased in 2020 from one hour a day to a minimum of two and half hours.
- These changes reflect, and more closely align with, recent court rulings in Canada and the United Nations' Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules).
- Other key changes include:
 - Enhanced case management for high risk, high needs individuals in custody;
 - Alternative placements outside of segregation units;
 - New behaviour management strategies;
 - Enhanced administrative fairness; and
 - Changes to the disciplinary process, including exploring restorative justice as an alternative measure.

- In 2019, government allocated \$30M over four years in capital funding to renovate segregation spaces to add program and socialization space, as well as access to recreation space, to enhance meaningful human contact. These funds will also support renovations to create alternative placement options. Initial planning work is well under way with some correctional centres actively undergoing renovations.
- The number of individuals in segregation has decreased by 24% since January 2020. This is including a reduction of 19% for Indigenous peoples and 10% reduction for those with mental health needs.
- The average length of stay in segregation/separate confinement has decreased 59% since January 2020 which is down from 53.1 days to 21.8 days.
- These reductions can be attributed to initiatives—such as Supported Integration Placements—and lower counts/incidents with COVID-19 response protocols.
- Supported Integration Placements provide the option to safely house individuals outside of segregation units with a modified living unit routine and an enhanced case plan to address any risks, needs, or behaviours to support integration to the safest and least restrictive placement possible.
- Work is underway to create the Custody Assessment Tool which will be used to predict someone’s likelihood of ending up in segregation, trigger proactive case management, and better inform classification decisions.

Alternatives to Segregation

- In addition to Supported Integration Placements, other alternatives such as Complex Needs Units provide intensive supervision and healthcare supports in an environment better suited to people with unique and challenging complex needs.

Rights and access while in segregation/separate confinement

- Documentation has been updated to be more administratively fair to ensure individuals in custody are provided with detailed reasons for their placements and understand how to challenge those placements. Individuals can make a complaint to the independent Investigation and Standards Office regarding any decision to house them in segregation and/or separate confinement.
- Individuals in segregation/separate confinement are monitored by health and mental health support staff every 24-hours and have access to many of the same programs and services that others in custody receive, such as daily exercise, reading materials, mail, phone calls, video visits, healthcare, and hygiene facilities.
 - All individuals receive a mental health rating administered by healthcare staff on day one and every five days thereafter. This rating monitors an individual’s mental health,

helps to identify patterns and triggers, and is used to inform case management decisions.

- As well, individuals may participate in programs, services, and activities outside of the segregation unit if, through case planning, supervising staff determine those programs are beneficial and their participation presents no safety risk. This further supports the ability to provide meaningful human contact and increase time out of cell.

Background:

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

BC Corrections Class Action Lawsuit

- On December 22, 2020, the BC Supreme Court certified a class proceeding against BC Corrections related to the use of separate confinement.
- In that decision, the court confirmed the action may proceed based on classes of individuals who, between April 18, 2005 and the present, were involuntarily subjected to either prolonged solitary confinement of at least 15 consecutive days or solitary confinement while suffering from mental illness.
- The lawsuit is currently in the discovery phase, and preliminary discussions about possible resolutions are underway with legal counsel. A trial date has not yet been set.

Segregation (CAR s.24 - Pending a Disciplinary Hearing for Breaching a Rule)

- An individual who is suspected of breaching a rule may be held in segregation pending a disciplinary hearing if there is reason to believe that:
 - The individual is likely to endanger him/herself or another person if not housed in segregation;
 - The individual is likely to jeopardize the management, operation or security of the correctional centre; or

- Segregation is necessary to preserve evidence for the disciplinary hearing.
- Any order to place an individual on segregation status pending a disciplinary hearing must be reviewed by the warden or designate within 24-hours of being made and must be reviewed every 24-hours until the conclusion of the hearing.
- If an individual is found guilty of breaching a rule, the chairperson may impose one or more penalties, including confinement in segregation. A penalty must not exceed 15 days.
- Individuals have the right to advocacy, including legal counsel, at any stage of the disciplinary process and counsel may attend the hearing.
 - The disciplinary process was enhanced by introducing independent correctional adjudicators in April 2021. The adjudicators enhance administrative fairness by being independent of the correctional centres. Adjudicators review each alleged rule breach and make all decisions regarding the discipline of individuals in custody.

Separate Confinement

- Separate confinement is a temporary measure for removing individuals in custody from others for security or safety reasons.
- Separate confinement is used only after all reasonable alternatives have been considered, for the shortest time possible.
- Separate confinement is not punitive and is only used to provide the correctional centre or individual an opportunity to remedy their behaviour or circumstances that led to the separate confinement. Individuals placed in separate confinement retain the same privileges of those in the general population. Privileges and personal items are not withdrawn for punitive reasons but may be limited for health and safety reasons.
- Under the Correction Act Regulation, the length of stay for short-term separate confinement is up to 72-hours before requiring reassessment/renewal and up to 15-days for long-term separate confinement before requiring reassessment/renewal.
 - While not required by the Correction Act Regulation until 72-hours, all short-term separate confinement placements are reviewed daily.
- If separate confinement continues for more than 15 days further reviews take place. Every 15 days a mental health professional reviews the impacts of separate confinement. Every 30 days a deputy warden reviews the placement.

Extended Periods of Time in Separate Confinement (CAR s.18)

- In certain circumstances, the length of stay in separate confinement may be reviewed and extended to ensure safety and security of individuals in custody and for the protection of staff.

- Individuals who have their separate confinement extended generally exhibit complex and repetitive problematic behaviours, which may include, but are not limited to:
 - Assaultive tendencies towards other individuals and/or staff; and
 - Significant behavioural issues jeopardizing, or likely to jeopardize, the management, operation, or security of the centre.

- Extended time may also be voluntary if the individual self-identifies concerns of harm if they were to be placed on a regular living unit. While the use of voluntary separate confinement remains supported by the Correction Act Regulation, this is a placement BC Corrections only used in rare circumstances. It is recognized that placement in separate confinement, even when voluntary, may have negative effects on an individual so individuals are rarely supported in volunteering for such placement. Instead, a Supported Integration Placement may be used which has more time out of cell, more integration with peers, and better overall conditions.

- BC Corrections has implemented an interim solution to improve the tracking of, and reporting on, the use of segregation/separate confinement in provincial custody centres, including an individual’s length of stay, mental health status, and Indigenous self-identification.

- In response to a request from the First Nations Summit, BC Corrections is developing a process to annually release statistics on the use of segregation in provincial correctional centres. This process is anticipated to be in place by April 2023.

Statistical changes, 2020-22

	Jan. 2, 2020	Jan. 5, 2023	Change
# in custody	2,083	1,765	- 15.3%
# in segregation/separate confinement (SSC)	192	156	- 18.8%
% of count in SSC	9.2%	8.8%	- 0.4%
Indigenous individuals in SSC	47	46	- 2.1%
Individuals with mental health needs in SSC	63	56	- 11.1%
Avg. length of stay (days) in SSC	53.1	21.9	- 58.8%
# Individuals - Stay 15 days or less	86	100	+ 16.3%
# Individuals - Stay over 15 days	97	56	- 42.3%

Breakdown of segregation/separate confinement placements on Jan. 5, 2023, by Correction Act Regulation section and by correctional centre

PROVINCE			ACCW	FMCC	FRCC	KRCC	NCC	NFPC	OCC	PGRCC	SPSC	VIRCC
TOTAL	156	%	13	0	7	5	1	20	22	13	61	14
CAR 17	50	32%	6	0	4	1	0	8	9	3	14	5
CAR 18	95	61%	7	0	3	4	0	11	11	6	46	7
CAR 19	1	1%	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
CAR 24	5	3%	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2
CAR 27	5	3%	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	0

Other Jurisdictions

- Efforts are underway to reform the use of segregation across Canada. In addition, the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners now recommends a prohibition of prolonged (anything over 15 days) or indefinite segregation.
- Two recent court decisions in the British Columbia and Ontario Supreme Courts raised concerns about Correctional Service Canada's use of segregation in the areas of prolonged solitary confinement, the independence of review mechanisms, insufficient access to legal counsel, and the placement of Indigenous individuals or those with mental health needs. Both court decisions gave Correctional Service Canada's 12 months to amend their legislation.
- Bill C-83 amended the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* and received Royal Assent on June 21, 2019. Bill C-83 eliminated segregation in federal institutions and introduced a new correctional model and the use of Structured Intervention Units for individuals who cannot be managed safely within a mainstream population. Structured interventions and programming are offered in a safe, secure environment intended to address an individual's specific needs, with the goal of facilitating reintegration into the mainstream population as soon as possible.
 - Structured Intervention Units have received criticism for conditions being comparable to segregation.
 - Public Safety Canada published preliminary observations of Structured Intervention Units where it was found that individuals on these units were regularly not achieving four hours out of cell per day, or two hours of meaningful human contact per day. Additionally, preliminary observations found placements in Structured Intervention Units to last for long periods of time and concerns were raised over higher placements in these units for certain population groups such as Indigenous individuals or individuals with mental health needs.

Contact: Matt Lang (BCCORR)	Phone: 604-476-2653	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Estimates 2023/24 Briefing Book**

**Policing and Security Branch
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Guns and Gang Violence

Suggested Response:

- The Province recognizes and shares the public’s concerns surrounding the ongoing issue of gang violence in B.C. The issue of gun and gang violence impacts all British Columbians, and the ongoing need for dedicated initiatives and strategies to curb this violence remains a top priority.
- The ministry continues to make significant strides towards addressing gun and gang violence through a multi-pronged approach that recognizes the interdependence of prevention/intervention, intelligence, enforcement, and legislation.
- The Province has invested over \$100M in 2022/23 into specialized enforcement and intelligence initiatives related to guns, gangs, and illicit drug trafficking across B.C.
- This funding includes an increase to the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of BC’s total budget to reconcile RCMP salary updates, funding for priority initiatives within the Organized Crime Agency of BC (OCABC), and support for municipal police department capacity through the federal Guns and Gangs Violence Action Fund (GGVAF).

Total Provincial Guns and Gang Policing Funding (at 70%)	\$64,480,226
Federal Contribution per PPSA (at 30%)	\$27,634,383
Other Guns and Gang Funding (at 100%)	\$12,110,000
Total	\$104,224,609

- As the Province’s anti-gang unit, the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of BC has a specific mandate to disrupt and suppress organized crime in B.C. To achieve this mandate, the agency employs a multifaceted approach that leverages proactive enforcement, gang suppression, targeted disruption, and prevention and intervention programming for gang members.
- The Organized Crime Agency of BC serves as the foundational police agency of the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit-BC.
- The Organized Crime Agency of BC is a provincially designated policing unit comprised of highly trained and specialized professionals, including both sworn members and civilian supports. The agency houses a number of provincial priority programs such as the BC Witness Security Unit, Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority, and the Provincial Forensic Firearms Lab).
- Other specialized provincial units under the Federal Investigative Serious and Organized Crime Division of the RCMP also play a critical role in B.C.’s broader efforts to combat guns and gangs. This includes the Integrated Homicide Investigations Team and the Major Crime

Section. These teams, among others, remain committed to aggressively pursuing the most dangerous gangs and organized crime groups in B.C.

- The ministry continues with its ongoing efforts to superintend gang and organized crime policing in the province through various means. We receive ongoing performance reporting from all RCMP-led Serious and Organized Crime units to demonstrate public safety outcomes.
- The Policing and Security Branch also engages with all levels of the organization up to and including the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit-BC/Organized Crime Agency BC Board of Governance to ensure proper oversight of our substantial investment and proper management of vacancies.

Background:

- Leveraging provincial and federal funds, significant investments have been made by the Province to improve responses to guns and gang violence in BC. A high-level overview of this funding includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - \$90.814 M to CFSEU-BC in 2022/23 (Provincial portion: \$63.57 at 70%). This includes a funding top-up of \$9.6M allocated in late-2022 in response to the RCMP's member pay-raise initiative. Projections for CFSEU-BC's 2023/24 budget remain the same as 2022/23.
 - \$10.48M from the fifth and final year of the Gun and Gang Violence Action Fund to support a variety of guns and gang initiatives, including targeted enforcement projects, innovative Province-wide intelligence initiatives, as well as supports for correctional, prosecutorial, and victim support services.
 - The Province recently announced \$230M to improve staffing and address vacancies within the RCMP. This funding will have both direct and indirect impacts on serious and organized crime enforcement across the province by filling historically force-blocked positions in specialized serious and organized crime units (e.g., Major Crime).
- The Province also directly funds and supports community-based programs and priority research opportunities to strengthen our knowledge on guns and gangs and combat the recruitment and exploitation of vulnerable youth. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - Expect Respect and Safe Education (ERASE) program: this program provides services to school district staff to improve the early identification and intervention of youth at risk of gang recruitment and exploitation.

- Situation Tables and Intervention Circles: this initiative brings together front-line staff to identify high-risk individuals and rapidly connect them to services and supports. There are currently 38 situation tables funded by the Province.
- Crime Reduction Research Program: \$0.5M in annual funding for priority research projects that align with ministry mandates and advance knowledge in the policing and public safety sector.
- The ministry, led by the Policing and Security Branch, is working towards the development and implementation of a comprehensive BC Organized Crime Strategy. This includes consulting with Federal, Provincial, Municipal, and First Nations law enforcement partners to coordinate multi-sector responses to organized crime and proactively building institutional resiliency across all levels of society.

Contact: Jacqueline Davies (PSB)	Phone: 778-698-7786	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

RCMP Funding

Suggested Response:

- It is my responsibility to ensure adequate and effective policing throughout the province.
- The Province continues to support RCMP operations, and as part of *Budget 23*, the Province provided a historical investment of \$230 million over three years to help the RCMP hire officers to fill gaps in vacancies and reach it's authorized strength to address public safety head on.
- The funding will sustain and strengthen RCMP enforcement across B.C. and provide police with the resources they need in frontline policing and in specialized units that benefit municipalities, such as the Major Crimes Section and the B.C. Highway Patrol.

Background:

- B.C. residents receive policing from several different police agencies: the RCMP federal service, the RCMP provincial service, 65 RCMP municipal services, 12 municipal police departments and one First Nations Administered Police Service.
- Various policing agreements detail the cost-sharing between the provincial, municipal, and federal governments specific to each agreement.

Provincial Service

- Provincial Service Costs are cost shared at a 70:30 ratio (provincial / federal)
 - 2021/22 total costs: \$649.4M (\$456.6M provincial and \$192.9M federal);
 - 2020/21 total costs: \$602.1M (\$421.5M provincial and \$180.6.1M federal)
 - The year-over-year increase of \$47.3M is attributed to the 2021/22 RCMP pay raise.
- The 2021/22 total provincial service authorized strength remains unchanged at 2,602.

First Nations Policing

- Dedicated policing for First Nations communities is primarily provided by the RCMP under the First Nations Community Policing Services program. The agreement has been extended to March 31, 2023 and is cost-shared at a 48:52 ratio (provincial / federal).
- The 2022/23 total authorized strength for First Nations policing under this agreement is 117.5 members with an approximate budget of \$30.754M (\$14.761M provincial and \$15.922M federal).

- The 2023/24 estimated budget for First Nations policing is approximately \$33.163M (\$15.918M provincial and \$17.245M federal).

Municipal Services - RCMP

- In 2021, 65 municipalities contracted with the Province for RCMP municipal police services.
- The 2021 adjusted authorized strength of the RCMP municipal services is 4,057 members. This includes adjusted strength figures for departments participating in Lower Mainland District Integrated Teams.

Independent Municipal Police Department Service

- 12 municipalities in B.C. are policed by 11 independent municipal police departments: Vancouver, West Vancouver, Victoria (also polices Esquimalt), Saanich, Central Saanich, Oak Bay, New Westminster, Abbotsford, Delta, Port Moody and Nelson.
- The 2021/22 adjusted authorized strength of the independent municipal police departments is 2,496 officers. This includes adjusted strength figures for departments participating in Lower Mainland District Integrated Teams.

Municipal - RCMP and Independent Police Department Service

- The 2021/22 total policing expenditures are \$1.508 billion compared to total expenditures of \$1.394 billion in 2020/21 with a combined adjusted authorized strength of 6,553 officers in 2021. This is the most current year for expenditure figures.

Total Policing Cost Share

- \$2.282 billion is the 2021/22 cost share for policing between municipal, provincial, and federal governments. This is the most current year for expenditure figures.
 - \$469 M Provincial or 21%
 - \$1.508 billion Municipal or 66%
 - \$305 M Federal or 13%

Contact: Billy Castillo (PSB)	Phone: 250 974 4718	Mobile:	Government Financial Information
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Provincial Police Service
Resource Levels and
Vacancies

Suggested Response:

- Announced November 20, 2022, the Province has approved an unprecedented, multi-year investment of approximately \$230 million to address existing gaps in staffing, allowing the Provincial Police Service to reach its full authorized strength of 2,602 members.

Provincial Police Service Overview as of April 1, 2023

Numbers include RCMP Member positions and Sworn Officer positions from other police agencies included in Annex A.

Provincial Police Service (PPS)	Current (April 1, 2023)*	5 Year Average (2018 - 2022)
Authorized Strength	2,602	2,602
Established Strength	2,512	2,539
Actual Strength	1987.5	2,069.4
Total Vacancies	524.5	469.5
<i>Positions where Member is on leave</i>	312	273.4
<i>Vacant Positions</i>	212.5	196.2

* Preliminary figures were used for the April 1, 2023 column. Final figures will be updated when made available from the RCMP.

Notes:

- Authorized Strength** for Provincial Police Service. This is the number of positions the RCMP is authorized, by contract, to fill.
(Authorized Strength is inclusive of Regular Member [RM], Civilian Member [CM], Special Constable [SCST] positions and Sworn Officer positions from other police agencies.)
- Established Strength** for the Provincial Police Service.
(Established Strength is the number of RCMP Member positions plus Sworn Officer positions from other police agencies, identified above)
- Actual Strength** for Provincial Police Service is a point in time calculation of the number of Member positions occupied by an employee (inclusive of Surplus to Establishment¹ (STE) positions, and the Sworn Officer positions)
- Total Vacancies** includes 'Positions where Member is on leave' and 'Vacant Positions'
 - 'Positions where Member is on leave' include positions currently where incumbents are off-duty sick, on parental leave, suspended, leave without pay or other administrative leave-related reasons
 - 'Vacant Positions' include positions currently vacant.
- The number of RCMP Provincial Police Service vacancies continues to be a concern for the provincial government. The Policing and Security Branch continue to work with E-Division RCMP and our national partners at the Contract Management Committee table to address issues pertaining to vacancies, including mitigation and supply strategies.

¹ Surplus to Establishment is a position occupied by a Member, but is not included in the Established Strength.

- In December 2021, the Policing and Security Branch initiated additional reviews of service delivery levels at the District Officer level. The intent of these reviews was to provide greater clarity on issues at both the district and community level, not captured by existing reporting that may be adversely impacting service delivery levels.
- This initiative also included a review of the impact year-over-year 'status quo' budgets have on the Provincial Police Service and the RCMP's ability to provide and maintain 'adequate and effective' service delivery levels throughout BC.
- Results of this initiative showed:
 - As of December, 2022, the point in time roadable² rate for BC RCMP core policing is approximately 80%;
 - The impact to public safety and officer wellness, particularly at smaller detachments (<15 Members) can be significant when detachments are not adequately staffed.
- Impacts to the Provincial Police Service resulting from the erosion of the status quo budget create multiple pressures within the provincial service, such as:
 - Inability to fully fund to the Authorized Strength of 2,602;
 - Staffing actions being frozen in order to fund pressures across the provincial service and;
 - Inability to provide or maintain capital assets (detachments, vehicles/vessels/aircraft) to current industry standards.
- Following the \$230M Provincial Investment announcement in November 2022, Ministry staff immediately engaged with RCMP 'E' Division in identifying and prioritizing the vacancies and resource pressures in specialized functions, such as Major Crime Section and BC Highway Patrol, as well as at front-line provincial detachment units.
- This funding will address existing gaps in staffing, allowing the Provincial Police Service to reach its full authorized strength of 2,602 members. It is important to note that this funding comes into effect April 1, 2023 and is not an increase in new member positions, beyond the authorized strength of 2,602 members.

Background:

- The Provincial Police Service Annex A authorized strength has remained at 2,602 since the signing of the 2012 Provincial Police Service Agreement. In 2021, RCMP and the Policing and Security Branch staff reconciled the established strength of Annex A. As of April 1, 2023 the established strength is 2,512 (a decrease of 0.4% from last year).

² Actual Strength minus members on Gradual Return to Work, Pregnant While Working, Medical Leave, Parental Leave, and other types of Administrative Leave

- The majority of hard/soft vacancies for the Provincial Police Service (approximately 365 on average in the last five years out of 470) were held in positions located at B.C. RCMP Headquarters.
- Established, Actual, and Hard/Soft Vacancy counts are point in time numbers. Vacancy rates include adjustments to account for Surplus to Establishment positions.
- Some hard vacancies are positions that may be occupied by Municipal Police Department and/or Organized Crime Agency police officers; however, the RCMP do not consistently track or report on these. The RCMP also do not consistently “establish” positions for each “authorized” position, making the tracking of vacancy numbers challenging. Efforts are underway to resolve this issue as part of the Annex A reconciliation.
- By comparison, federal policing in B.C. has an average annual vacancy rate (hard/soft) rose to its 5 year high of 35.4% in 2019, before decreasing to 31.1% in 2021 (or 367, 300 hard/soft vacant positions, respectively). The rate has increased in 2022 to 33.3% with 317 vacant positions.
- BC Municipal RCMP policing had a 5% growth in established RM/CM/SCT positions over the last five years (from an annual average of 3,948 in 2018 to 4,131 positions in 2022). Municipal RCMP vacancy (hard/soft) rates improved from an annual average of 9.6% in 2018 (or 379 positions) to 8.5% in 2019 (or 341 positions). However, 2021 saw the highest increase of 52% rising from 375 to 572 vacant positions and a further increase to 759 in 2022.
- The additional reviews initiated in December 2021, examined service delivery levels across all RCMP business lines – Federal, Provincial, Municipal and First Nations Inuit Policing Program. They also included a review of the impact year-over-year ‘status quo’ budgets have had on the Provincial Police Service and the RCMP’s ability to provide and maintain ‘adequate and effective’ service delivery levels throughout B.C.
- Early analysis shows that the rising cost of policing (salaries, operational, and maintenance costs), inflation, realized and potential impacts from unionization are directly affecting service delivery levels. Impacts to the Provincial Police Service resulting from the erosion of the status quo budget create multiple pressures within the PPS, including but not limited to:
 - Inability to fully fund to the Authorized Strength of 2,602;
 - Staffing actions being frozen in order to fund pressures across the service and;
 - Inability to provide or maintain capital assets (detachments, vehicles/vessels/aircraft) to current industry standards.

Contact: Katherine St Denis (PSB)	Phone: 778-572-3401	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

First Nations and Inuit Policing Program

Suggested Response:

- The Province recognizes the important partnership it has with First Nations across B.C. One approach that demonstrates our commitment to Indigenous communities in B.C. is through providing culturally responsive and enhanced policing services through the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program.
- The Province, in partnership with the federal government, is working to finalize the new Framework Agreement to ensure the continuation of the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program in BC. The new Framework Agreement will have an opportunity to provide additional funding and resources to support the delivery of Community Tripartite Agreements under the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program in BC.
- A sub-program of the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program, the First Nations and Inuit Policing Facilities Program, is focused on infrastructure needs to support policing services in Indigenous communities.
- Funding for the First Nations and Inuit Policing Facilities Program is delivered directly to First Nations communities who own the policing facilities. The funding is allocated to repair, renovate or replace policing infrastructure.

Background:

First Nations and Inuit Policing Program (FNIPP)

- In B.C., approximately 70% of First Nations participate in First Nations and Inuit Policing Program. The program provides culturally enhanced policing services that are in addition to the level of policing services provided under the Provincial Police Services Agreement. Public Safety Canada is the lead agency for the program and determines the overall budget associated with the program. The program is cost shared between the federal and provincial governments at 52/48, respectively.
- The program was created in 1996 with the intention of providing participating First Nations communities a role in shaping the policing services received by their community and to address the long-standing lack of trust between Indigenous communities and the police.
- The program aims to provide policing services that are culturally responsive to the unique needs of each First Nation community.

- In accordance with, the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program there are three different types of enhanced policing models in the province:
 1. Community Tripartite Agreements are between Canada, the Province, and First Nation communities and provide enhanced policing services from the BC RCMP.
 - There are 59 Community Tripartite Agreements in BC
 - 132 First Nation communities are receiving services through Community Tripartite Agreements
 2. Self-Administered Agreements fund police services that are governed and led by First Nation governments and are established under the policing legislation of the provinces.
 - There is one Self Administered Agreement in BC – the Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police Service (STPS).
 - The the Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police Service is a Designated Policing Unit under the *Police Act*.
 - There are 10 Nations participating and receiving policing services under the Self-Administered Agreement
 3. Quadripartite Agreements between Canada, the Province, First Nation, and independent municipal police service provide enhanced policing.
 - There is one Quadripartite Agreement between the Province, City of Delta, the Delta Police Board, and Tsawwassen First Nation.

First Nations and Inuit Policing Program Financial Summary

- The First Nations and Inuit Policing Program 2023/24 budget is \$36,287,546 with the federal government providing \$18,869,524 and B.C. providing \$17,418,022.
 - The new Framework Agreement, once finalized, will result in an increase to the programs budget for 2023/24. Overall, the budget increase will be approximately 3M, cost shared at 52/48 between Canada and B.C., respectively.

First Nations and Inuit Policing Program Financial Summary 2023/2024				
	Provincial 48%	Federal 52%	Total	2022/2023 Provincial Funding
Community Tripartite Agreements	15,918,220	17,244,738	33,162,958	14,761,988
Stl'atl'imx (STPS)	1,398,805	1,515,372	2,914,177	1,361,367
Tsawwassen	100,997	109,414	210,411	98,294
2023/2024 Total	17,418,022	18,869,524	36,287,546	16,221,650

2023/2024 FTEs	Established	Utilized
Community Tripartite Agreements	117.5	112.15
St'atl'Imx (STPS)	14	13
Tsawassen	1	1

First Nations and Inuit Policing Facilities Program

Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

Contact: Jamie Lipp (PSB)	Phone: 604-398-4606	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Integrated Police Service Teams

Suggested Response:

- Our government continues to respond to the increasingly cross-jurisdictional nature of crime by taking a leadership role in the integration of police services and working with police agencies on the consolidation and integration of services throughout B.C.
- Integration helps communities maximize their policing budgets by giving their police access to sophisticated equipment and expertise, and is supported by the BC Association of Chiefs of Police, including the RCMP.
- Integrated teams provide specialized police services to multiple policing jurisdictions and may be funded by multiple governments or comprised by officers from multiple police agencies (provincial, federal, and municipal).
- Integrated teams and operations avoid duplication and optimize efficiency. Integrating specialized police services is a critical way to approach policing and we are looking for further opportunities to do so.
- In FY 2021/2022, the Province invested at the 70% cost share approximately \$105.36 Million to the RCMP for 32 integrated teams:
 - Provincial Integrated Team: \$97.10 Million
 - Regional Integrated Team: \$5.39 Million
 - Federal Integrated: \$0.28 Million
 - Regional Integrated Team on the Island: \$2.59 Million

Background:

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

- Provincial Integrated Teams - may include members from municipal, provincial, and/or federal agencies but are funded primarily by the provincial government. The provincial teams include Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit, Hate Crime Task Force, Integrated Sexual Predator Observation Team, Integrated Witness Protection Services, and the Unsolved Homicide Unit.
- Regional Integrated Teams - may include members from municipal, provincial, and/or federal police agencies. These teams are formed to provide specialized services to specific regions of the province and are funded by the participating jurisdictions according to a predetermined funding formula. For example, the Lower Mainland District Police Dog Service provides service to all RCMP municipal and provincial policing jurisdictions in the RCMP Lower Mainland District, as well as Abbotsford, Delta, New Westminster, and Port Moody Police Departments.
- Integrated teams may be “integrated” in one or more ways:
 - They are comprised of police officers from more than one police agency or from at least two levels of policing (e.g. federal, provincial, municipal) and/or;
 - Multiple policing jurisdictions, or levels of government, contribute to funding the team.
- The goal of integrated teams is to create service delivery models that centralize highly technical, capital intensive and specialized services, while at the same time decentralizing functions that provide service directly to the public. Integration optimizes operational efficiencies, improves effectiveness and facilitates the provision of a seamless, integrated professional police service.

Contact: Jacqueline Davies (PSB)	Phone 778-698-7786	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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Unlawful Protests**Suggested Response:**

- The Director of Police Services, authorized under the *Police Act*, has taken steps to ensure coordination of police forces regarding public order, critical incidents, and unlawful protest activities to ensure a unified response throughout jurisdictions across B.C.
- It is important to understand that enforcement decisions, and individual investigations, occur at arm's length from government and we cannot interfere with or direct police on such matters.
- However, while the police will respect lawful protest, they will also act pursuant to the Criminal Code of Canada and direction of the courts if necessary, to address unlawful conduct. This is particularly the case when unlawful conduct threatens the health and well being of other British Columbians both directly and indirectly.
- The RCMP report that between 2017 and 2021, protests have increased in frequency by 1,616% and in severity by 9,729%. Similar trends can be witnessed in independent police jurisdictions as well, primarily in Vancouver and Victoria.
- As a result, the Policing and Security Branch within the Ministry developed a Public Order and Critical Incidents Workplan aimed to address some of the current gaps regarding protest response throughout our province and develop comprehensive and measured approaches to better address unlawful protest activities.
- We also continue to rigorously monitor protest activity and regularly engage with police to maintain situational awareness and ensure they have the tools they require to provide an adequate response in the event of public order and critical incidents.
- It is important to note that all British Columbia police forces utilize a measured approach to unlawful protest. Despite what may be depicted in the media, much of their work is done through specially trained members who liaise with protestors prior to protests and on an ongoing basis. These efforts assist in allowing groups to carry out their activities while mitigating negative impacts and de-escalating potentially volatile situations.
- As with all police activities, oversight and accountability are important to ensure a proper balance between respect for Charter rights and enforcing the law.
- The Civilian Review and Complaints Commission is an independent agency created by the Parliament of Canada to ensure that public complaints made about the conduct of RCMP members are examined fairly and impartially. They are currently conducting a systemic

investigation of the Community-Industry Response Group and the RCMP have pledged their full cooperation. We look forward to reviewing their findings and recommendations.

- Oversight of independent departments is provided by the Office of Police Complaint Commissioner and the courts retain inherent jurisdiction to oversee the conduct of officers enforcing injunctions.

RCMP Funding to Address Unlawful Protests (Community-Industry Response Group (C-IRG):

- As the provincial police force, the RCMP have the responsibility for leading the law enforcement response to unlawful protests across B.C. Prior to this fiscal, the Province did not have a dedicated law enforcement unit to provide a consistent and measured approach to protest activity. The BC-RCMP created the Community-Industry Response Group in 2017 as a temporary measure to uphold SCBC Injunction Orders.
- The intricate and aggressive shift in protestor tactics, coupled by the notable increase in protests over five years, has led to significant public safety threats and increased workload and financial pressures. Intergovernmental Communications; Security Concern
Intergovernmental Communications; Security Concern
- As a result, the government allocated approximately \$12M for the RCMP to address unlawful protests in Fiscal Year 2023/24. Permanent base funding will provide increased predictability and sustainability for budgeting purposes instead of repeated requests for access to contingencies. This funding will help:
 - Standardize Community-Industry Response Group Intergovernmental Communications; Security Concern
Intergovernmental Communications; Security Concern
 - Sustain Community-Industry Response Group deployment operations.
- Through a dedicated provincial team, we can better ensure a consistent and sustained approach to unlawful protests in all aspects including training, deployment, communications and integration with other departments. This will also aid with outreach to stakeholders and rightsholders in an effort of establishing common ground and perform culturally safe engagement to inform the future actions of police.

Fiscal Impacts:

Coastal Gas Link:

Government Financial Information; Security Concern

- Transmountain Expansion Project and other protest pressures are not included in the RCMP's latest Provincial Forecasted Financial Outlook. However, this may change when the RCMP submit their next report.

Government Financial Information

Contact: Brian Sims (PSB)	Phone: 250-387-3920	Mobile:
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE**Special Investigation and Targeted Enforcement (SITE)****Suggested Response:**

- The Special Investigation and Targeted Enforcement Program is a law enforcement funding initiative launched as part of the Government's Safer Communities Action Plan. The program provides operational funding enhancements to law enforcement agencies to supplement their capacity to target specific violent offenders across jurisdictions and to support proactive coordinated approaches in addressing preventable violent risks to public safety.
- The program is developed in accordance with broader multi-agency responses coordinated through the Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative by complementing police resources in collaborating and information sharing with justice partners, including advancing a more comprehensive and expedient police bail disclosure process.
- The program's approach is modelled after B.C.'s successful Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority program used to prioritize gang and organized crime initiatives. The Province will provide \$16M over three years including a combined total of \$5M fund in Fiscal Year 2023/24 to the RCMP, who will administer the program at a cost of \$306,000 to fund three FTEs making up the RCMP Special Investigation and Targeted Enforcement Program Team.
- Police agencies will be asked to identify investigative targets and pro-active enforcement measures to deal with significant public safety threats in their communities. They will submit their applications to the RCMP Program team for initial review. Final review and prioritization will be carried out by a Law Enforcement Governance Committee consisting of representatives from the RCMP and independent police jurisdictions to ensure proper prioritisation, equitable distribution and cross jurisdictional cooperation.
- It is anticipated that the Special Investigation and Targeted Enforcement funding applications will complement Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative work with prioritized individuals in that program. However, program funding is not restricted to the Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative cohort but rather individuals who meet the broad program definition. For those individuals not within the cohort, any follow up measures to the program related to enforcement or investigation will follow the normal criminal justice process.
- The implementation phase for the Special Investigation and Targeted Enforcement program will commence in April 2023. Ongoing consultations with law enforcement partners will continue throughout the implementation phase to ensure equitable funding distribution and program flexibility in meeting the operational needs of police agencies across the province.

- In October 2023, the Policing and Security Branch will initiate an evaluation phase that assesses program outcomes and public safety impacts using data-driven metrics. Cabinet
Confidences

Background:

- In September 2022, a report commissioned by the Province and the BC Urban Mayors Caucus, known as the LePard-Butler report, analyzed repeat offending and stranger violence in B.C. and identified a group of individuals who pose a significant risk to public safety by committing repeated violent acts and distinguished them from those who commit survival crimes due to mental illness, addictions, and lifestyle factors.
- The findings of the report informed the Safer Communities Action Plan, which was announced by the Premier in November 2022. The plan outlines concrete steps at the provincial level to make communities safer by enhancing coordinated multi-agency response between law enforcement and justice partners and improving access to intervention services.
- The Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative is a key component of the Province's Safer Communities Action Plan. Under the initiative's integrated framework, probation officers, prosecutors, and police will collaborate to identify a prioritized list of individuals involved in recent repeat violent crimes and co-ordinate multi-agency approaches to support better outcomes for offenders.
- The Special Investigation and Targeted Enforcement program will apply the Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative eligibility criteria at program launch, except for criteria related to predicate offenses, which will be replaced with a focus on criminal history. The assessment of program applications will remain flexible and adaptable throughout the program implementation to meet the operational needs of police in addressing emerging risks to public safety.
- The program consists of two funding streams: repeat violent offender-based enforcement and proactive enforcement of actual or perceived violent offences. The first stream focuses on operations that target known individuals with a history of repeat violent offences, while the second stream focuses on proactive operations and joint initiatives that investigate incidents with significant impacts to public safety.
- A Special Investigation and Targeted Enforcement Law Enforcement Governance Committee consisting of representatives from the RCMP and municipal police agencies will review, prioritize, and approve applications in accordance with program eligibility criteria

and the application process. The distribution of funding and approval process will be reviewed regularly to ensure equitability and timeliness.

Contact: Brian Sims (PSB)	Phone: 250-387-3920	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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Policing Modernization

Suggested Response:

- The current model for policing in B.C. is significantly challenged. Costs are increasing for all levels of government and events involving police use of force and the heightened lens on systemic racism in policing across North America have implications for public confidence in policing.
- Everyone deserves to be treated fairly by the police, and our government acknowledges that this has not always been the case for many including Black, Indigenous, and other people of colour.
- The government also recognizes that police officers require a modern policing structure that provides greater clarity for their roles. Expectations on front-line police have grown and B.C.'s policing and public safety model needs to reflect communities' current and future needs.
- The government received the report of the Special Committee on Reforming the *Police Act* on April 28, 2022. The report is significant and represents almost two years of intense effort on behalf of the committee. The recommendations in the report include:
 - Co-developing new policing and oversight legislation with Indigenous and municipal leaders, and establishing a single complaints oversight body;
 - Replacing the RCMP with a new B.C. provincial police service and permitting regional or amalgamated police services;
 - Reforming policing and public safety funding models; and
 - Reforming mental health and addictions first response services.
- The ministry has also been monitoring policing reform developments and recommendations from across the country (e.g., recommendations of the Mass Casualty Commission and Alberta's initiative to create a new provincial police service).
- The ministry is advancing the policing and public safety modernization initiative, including work to respond to the Special Committee's recommendations, using a phased approach.
- A phased approach will provide time to meaningfully engage and consult on development of new policing and oversight legislation and do the analysis required so government can make informed decisions on a new police oversight agency and a potential new provincial police service.
 - Phase one includes advancing some interim changes to the current *Police Act* as a first step towards broader modernization in fall 2023. Also as part of this phase, the ministry is commencing comprehensive and broad engagement with partners and stakeholders

on policy that will form the foundation of new policing and public safety legislation.

- Based on government's review of the results of the consultation, as part of the second phase, decisions will be made on new co-developed legislation (co-development with Indigenous Peoples and local governments), a new police oversight agency, and any transition to a new provincial police service in late spring 2023-2025/26.
- The final phase involves the introduction of new legislation and beginning to operationalize any new provincial police service and oversight agency targeted for 2026.

Background:

- On July 8, 2020, the Legislative Assembly appointed a Special Committee on Reforming the *Police Act* in response to protests against police-involved deaths and calls to "defund" the police. The Special Committee's Terms of Reference included:
 - inquiring into and making recommendations related to systemic racism in policing;
 - the role of police in mental health and addictions response;
 - reforms related to police education, training, and service delivery; and
 - ensuring that a modernized *Police Act* is reflective of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- The Province has a vision to create an equitable, efficient, and accountable policing and public safety model that meets the needs of all British Columbians.
- The ministry will advance changes to the existing *Police Act*, as a first step towards broader modernization and development of new policing and oversight legislation, to address some issues from the Special Committee and gaps identified in previous reports on topics related to governance and oversight.
- Since the Special Committee report was released, the Policing and Security Branch has initiated ongoing engagement with:
 - Local Government Policing Modernization Roundtable (co-chaired with UBCM)
 - First meeting held in May 2022; monthly meetings since then.
 - BC Association of Chiefs of Police Sub-Committee on Policing Modernization
 - First meeting held in October 2022; monthly meetings since then.
 - RCMP 'E' Division leadership
 - Ongoing monthly meetings.
 - Provincial Committee on Diversity and Policing, and Multicultural Advisory Council

- Ongoing meetings.
- Indigenous leadership organizations
 - Preliminary engagement in spring 2022 to co-develop engagement strategy.
 - Ongoing meetings with First Nations Leadership Council and First Nations Justice Council since then.
- Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner and Office of the Human Rights Commissioner
 - Ongoing meetings.
- Since the Special Committee report was released, the Policing and Security Branch has invited engagement on the overall modernization initiative and consultation on the interim changes to the *Police Act* with:
 - Modern Treaty Nations
 - 204 First Nations
 - Aboriginal Friendship Centres
 - Independent Investigations Office
 - Police Association
 - BC Association of Police Boards, and some Mayors who chair police boards

Budget Items

- To support the significant scope and generational impacts of the policing modernization work, the Policing and Security Branch received funding for the following items:
 - New resources in Policing and Security Branch (five new FTEs, travel to support engagement, transfers): **\$1.688M**
 - Capacity funding (contingencies) for participating Indigenous communities: up to **\$1.086M**
 - Consultation contract (contingencies) to design engagement, provide facilitation support for Indigenous Rights holders, Modern Treaty nations, BIPOC and community advocacy groups: **\$409K**
 - Contract funding (contingencies) to support community-led engagement: **\$500K**
 - Base Budget lift to fund HealthIM: **\$3.474M**

- Contract (contingencies) to support analysis on the Special Committee recommendation related to police oversight: **\$100K**

Contact: Ardys Baker (PSB)	Phone: 778-974-4044	Mobile:
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Government Financial
Information

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

**Surrey Policing Model
Transition**

Placeholder

Due to the evolving issue, this Estimates Note will be included in the ADM of Policing and Security Branch's materials.

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Estimates 2023/24 Briefing Book**

**Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch
Table of Contents**

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2. Restorative Justice
3. Path Forward: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and LGBTQ2S+ People
4. Unexplained Wealth Orders
5. Procurement For Sexual Assault Services Program

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Addressing Gender-Based Violence

Suggested Response:

- Our government recognizes the devastating impacts of gender-based violence on survivors, families and communities and has a number of initiatives underway to address these issues in B.C.
- We are committed to a province where everyone has the services and supports they need to help prevent all forms of gender based violence, including sexual violence, escape from violent situations, and recovery from the impacts of violence.
- In total, the ministry now provides over \$54 million¹ annually in funding to support over 400 victim services and violence against women programs across the province.
- We are working with the Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity to develop an action plan to end gender based violence, including minimum standards for sexual assault response, more training for the justice sector, and core funding for sexual assault programs.
- Our commitment to this issue is demonstrated by Budget 2022 which provided approximately \$10 million annually, beginning in April 2023, to support the delivery of Sexual Assault Services Programs that deliver victim-centered, trauma-informed, coordinated, cross-sector supports depending on client needs.
- Procurement is ongoing and we expect these programs to be in place in late spring 2023.

Background:

Gender-Based Violence Action Plan

- Our ministry is mandated to support the Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity to establish a Gender Based Violence Action Plan which will identify cross-government actions and resourcing towards addressing gender based violence. It will include new initiatives, such as the development of a cross-sectoral framework to prevent and respond to sexual

¹ This amount reflects existing contractual agreements for Fiscal Year 2022-23, and does not include Shared Recovery Mandate (SRM) increases, although it includes the new \$10 million for Sexual Assault Services Program beginning in April 2023. On March 29, 2023, the three-year agreement (April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2025) between the Community Social Services Employers' Association and the Community Social Services' Bargaining Association under the Shared Recovery Mandate was ratified. The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch has initiated the process of calculating appropriate increases and disbursing them to service providers. This amount will be updated once these increases are known.

assault, while also building on work already underway, including work being led by the Director of Police Services to establish B.C. Provincial Policing Standards on sexual assault response.

Sexual Assault Response

- Between March 2020 and March 2021, the ministry provided \$20 million for a multi-year grant program to support the delivery of emergency sexual assault services throughout B.C. This work has been undertaken in partnership with Ending Violence Association of B.C., the Ministry of Finance's Gender Equity Office, the Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women, and the Ministry of Health.
- Fifty-three organizations supported through this grant program received funding until March 31, 2023, to deliver coordinated, community-based emergency sexual assault response services across the province that are trauma-informed and culturally appropriate and that meet the needs of sexual assault survivors across the province, including the unique needs of Indigenous communities and survivors.
- Building on the learnings from this multi-year grant program, Budget 2022 provided approximately \$10 million annually beginning in April 2023 to support the delivery of Sexual Assault Services Programs.

Additional Funding Related to Gender-Based Violence and Violence Against Women

- In March 2023, the ministry provided \$3.8 million in one-time grant funding to community-based organizations working to address sexual assault and gender based violence among over-represented and marginalized populations, including:
 - \$2 million to the WISH Map Van, a mobile outreach service providing assistance to street-based sex workers.
 - \$500,000 each in funding for PEERS and PACE to support increased outreach and access to drop-in services, advocacy, and low barrier access to culturally safe counselling supports for sex workers.
 - \$300,000 to the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre towards community-led initiatives focused on supporting Indigenous survivors.
- The ministry continues to prioritize addressing gender based violence and violence against women through the Civil Forfeiture Grant Program. In March 2023, the ministry awarded \$4.7 million in funding to support community-led projects that address domestic violence prevention and intervention programming; gender-based violence; human trafficking; sexual exploitation and sex worker safety; Indigenous healing; and projects that enhance the capacity and improve the services of child and youth advocacy centres. Since 2017/2018, over \$28 million has supported projects in these areas.

Domestic Violence Response

- The ministry's Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch holds responsibility for addressing the issue of domestic violence in B.C. The branch also has responsibility for victim services and violence against women counselling and outreach programs. This allows for a harmonized approach that aligns service delivery with broader coordination efforts to address domestic violence and other forms of violence against women.
- The ministry continues to support coordinated responses to domestic violence, including Domestic Violence Units (operational in nine communities) and Interagency Case Assessment Teams (60 fully operational).
- The ministry is also supporting the delivery of domestic violence prevention/intervention programming to perpetrators *prior* to the charge, conviction or sentencing stage of the criminal justice process. In March 2023, 14 one-time grants totalling \$499,060 were awarded through the Civil Forfeiture Grant Program to community organizations to deliver this type of programming.

Victim Services for Men

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

Gender-Based Violence National Action Plan

- In November 2022, Canada launched its first 10-year National Action Plan providing a strategic framework to prevent and address gender based violence. Federal/Provincial/Territorial partners are encouraged to identify actions within five pillars: support for victims, survivors and their families; prevention; responsive justice system; implementing Indigenous-led approaches; and social infrastructure and enabling environment.
- Canada's Budget 2022 committed funds to support implementation of the National Action Plan. B.C.'s funding allocation stands at \$60 million over four years (\$7.85 million in 2023-23, 2024/25 – 2026/27: \$18.05 million each year). B.C.'s Gender Equity Office will lead negotiations with Women and Gender Equality Canada. Requirements set by federal government include: 25% of funds for prevention initiatives, and that provinces secure matching funds.
- Provincially developed priorities will be incorporated in B.C.'s Gender-Based Violence Action

Plan, expected to be released late in 2023.

Non-Consensual Disclosure of Intimate Images

- The Intimate Images Protection Act was introduced in March 2023 and is part of BC’s Gender-Based Violence Action Plan. When enacted, this legislation will provide new legal tools to stop the distribution of non-consensual intimate images and improve access to justice for survivors, as well as providing a clear, legal avenue for victims to seek monetary damages for harms suffered.

Contact: Taryn Walsh (CSCP B)	Phone: 778-572-5231	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Restorative Justice

Suggested Response:

- Our government is committed to enhancing the use of restorative justice using a strategic, integrated, cross-sector approach.
- We continue to promote restorative justice collaboration and dialogue across the province to identify opportunities to enhance its use, including through funding to the Restorative Justice Association of BC to provide leadership and advanced training to relevant service providers, and to implement the province's first ever restorative justice symposium in June 2023.
- To advance the Minister's restorative justice mandate commitment, in March 2023, \$3M was provided to the Law Foundation to develop and implement a plan to enhance and expand restorative justice programming across B.C.
- We also continue to work with our Federal, Provincial, Territorial partners to learn best practices and align the province's work with other jurisdictions. In October 2022, the ministry led a provincial delegation of justice and public safety sector, and community-based restorative justice and Indigenous justice sector stakeholders to Halifax for a national collaborative learning symposium.
- The ministry also continues to increase its support for restorative justice programming through the Civil Forfeiture Grant Program. Since 2017, this ministry has provided approximately \$4.46M to 152 community-based restorative justice projects to support work in the areas of capacity development, stakeholder engagement, awareness building and partnership development.
- The province currently supports community-based restorative justice through over 83 community-based programs that deliver restorative justice approaches, including 52 Community Accountability Programs and 31 Indigenous justice programs.

Background:

Enhancing Restorative Justice in B.C.

- In recent years, the ministry has completed a number of activities in exploring options for enhancing the use of restorative justice in B.C., including consultations with federal, provincial and territorial partners and with key partners from the restorative justice and Indigenous Justice Program communities in B.C.
- Our engagement with key stakeholders to date has helped inform strategic investments made by the ministry, including approximately \$544,000 in March 2023 for projects that

support capacity development and the evaluation of restorative justice programming.

Community Accountability Programs

- The ministry currently supports 52 community-based, volunteer-driven restorative justice programs called Community Accountability Programs. There are currently 52 of these programs addressing over 1,000 referrals annually.
- These programs are eligible for annual funding of up to \$4,000 to support volunteer training and administrative expenses, for a total funding amount of approximately \$184,500 provided in 2023/2024. The programs have various capacity levels, with some programs using municipal funding to provide more complex and extensive restorative justice services.
- The programs may also apply through the annual Civil Forfeiture Grant Program for up to \$40,000 in one-time funding for proposals that support or enhance current restorative justice program delivery, capacity development, awareness and partnerships.

BC Corrections – Indigenous Justice Programs

- The Indigenous Justice Program is a cost-shared program that is jointly supported by Justice Canada and the Province. The program provides funding to 27 Indigenous communities in B.C. to deliver culture-based justice services. In 2022-2023, the Province contributed \$1.43M to this federal/provincial cost-shared initiative.
- BC Corrections funds an additional five Indigenous justice programs (\$300,000) and, in collaboration with the Ministry of Children and Family Development, works with other Indigenous communities to support the development of community justice plans and programs in areas where justice programming is not currently provided.

Ministry of Children and Family Development – Youth Focussed Restorative Justice

- The Ministry of Children and Family Development provides restorative justice services across the Service Delivery Areas as part of the formal youth justice system in B.C., to ensure opportunities for healing and accountability for youth, victims, and communities.
- This ministry has long term restorative justice enhancements planned to support the provision of earlier interventions in an effort to better address the over representation of Indigenous youth in the justice system, and to improve overall outcomes for all youth, victims, and communities impacted by the harm caused by crime. Enhancements include core training on restorative justice for all youth justice staff, and support for the increased use of restorative justice approaches throughout community youth justice, within youth custody, and in collaboration with youth forensic psychiatric services.

Contact: Taryn Walsh (CSCP B)	Phone: 778-572-5231	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Path Forward: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ People

Suggested Response:

- Our government recognizes the disproportionate levels of violence that Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ people face in the province, and we are dedicated to ensuring that services and supports are available to help prevent violence and to heal from its devastating impacts.
- That is why we made the foundational investment of \$5.34 million 2022 to establish the Indigenous-led Path Forward Community Fund, another key step towards enduring reconciliation and gender equity.
- The fund actions the number one priority identified by Indigenous communities and individuals on the path forward to end violence against Indigenous women: the need for Indigenous-led safety planning and capacity building so that communities can create and implement their own culturally safe approaches and solutions to violence.
- This fund is an important response to the *Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Women and Girls (2019)*, and a cornerstone of *B.C.'s Path Forward (2021)* to end violence against Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit plus people.
- The BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres is administering the fund and providing grants to support increased safety planning capacity for Indigenous communities across B.C. The objective of the fund is to ensure self-determination of Indigenous communities in addressing systemic causes of gender-based violence.
- The fund will be evaluated to provide a foundation for needs-based, evidence-informed decision-making on future investments in this area.

Background:

- The \$5.34 million Path Forward Community Fund builds on other government commitments to end gender-based violence, including:
 - \$20 million in March 2020 and March 2021 for a multi-year grant program to support the delivery of emergency sexual assault services throughout B.C, until March 2023, with over 40% of funds allocated to Indigenous service providers.
 - \$10 million annually beginning in April 2023 for ongoing funding to support Sexual

Assault Service Programs (including dedicated Indigenous programs), building on learnings from the multi-year grant program.

- Developing a Provincial Gender-Based Violence Action Plan.
- \$2 million in March 2023 to support the Moose Hide Campaign, an Indigenous-led movement to engage men and boys to take action to end gender-based violence.
- Approximately \$1.3 provided in April 2023 to support 36 community-led initiatives addressing Indigenous healing, through the Civil Forfeiture grant program.

NOTE: In 2023 a further \$5.5 million has been allocated to the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres to add to the fund; however, it is possible that the additional funding may not be announced prior to the Estimates debate.

The BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres

- A public call for applications was open December 3, 2021 to February 1, 2022 seeking an Indigenous organization to develop and operate the Path Forward Community Fund. The Province established a review panel that included Indigenous women who are external-to-government. Best efforts were made for the Indigenous panel members to represent geographic and Indigenous diversity and be responsive to distinction-based approaches that reflect the unique interests, priorities, and circumstances of Indigenous peoples in B.C.
- The successful applicant – BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres – is the umbrella organization for 25 Friendship Centres throughout B.C. and has a 50-year track record of supporting urban Indigenous communities. The association is accessible to diverse populations, and has critical community connections, geographical reach and understanding of the root causes of violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQ+ people.
- To date, the association distributed \$2.75 million to 20 organizations, with the remaining initial funding anticipated to be dispersed in the coming months.
 - The association may allocate up to 10% of funds towards the costs incurred in administering these grants.
 - \$200,000 must be allocated towards an independent contractor who will work with the association and the ministry to develop a framework and evaluate the implementation and early outcomes of this fund.
- Consistent with the government’s collaboration with Indigenous peoples to advance self-determination, Indigenous peoples and priorities are driving the fund.

Contact: Taryn Walsh (CSCP B)	Phone: 778-572-5231	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Unexplained Wealth Orders (UWO's)

Suggested Response:

- Unexplained Wealth Orders are a new tool that have been added to the Civil Forfeiture Act.
- Civil Forfeiture undermines the profit motive behind unlawful activity by going after the proceeds of crime. Most cases are linked directly to drugs, gangs, and organized crime.
- Money from forfeiture is reinvested in the community through grants. To date, \$70 million has been reinvested.
- On the recommendation of the Cullen Commission of Inquiry into Money Laundering, we have made changes to the Civil Forfeiture Act to introduce unexplained wealth orders and other amendments.
- Unexplained wealth orders are a court order that requires individuals to explain how they acquired property if there are reasonable grounds to suspect that it has been obtained through unlawful activity.
- Unexplained wealth orders do not change the steps required by the province to forfeit property, rather they improve the process for gathering evidence that may ultimately lead to forfeiture.
- Targeting illicitly obtained property disrupts criminal activity, deters money laundering, and supports crime prevention and victim services programs that make our communities safer and stronger.
- A component of the Safer Communities Action Plan, these amendments, in conjunction with existing civil forfeiture laws will help curb organized crime activities that fuel the deadly toxic drug crisis and drive many repeat violent offences by targeting the illicit wealth and prized possessions acquired by those who profit from this activity.
- Unexplained wealth orders are currently used in multiple jurisdictions including the UK, Ireland, Australia, and Manitoba.

Contact: Taryn Walsh (CSCP B)	Phone: 778-572-5231	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE**Procurement for Sexual Assault Services Program****Suggested Response:**

- Our government recognizes the devastating impacts of sexual violence and are committed to ensuring survivors have access to the services and supports they need.
- That is why Budget 2022 provided approximately \$10M in stable, ongoing funding beginning this fiscal year to establish specialized sexual assault services programs and centres across the province that provide trauma-informed, culturally safe, and inclusive support services for sexual assault survivors.
- This new funding is an important step in supporting survivors. We know sexual assault is one of the most significantly underreported crimes in Canada. According to victims' surveys, as few as 6% of sexual assaults are reported to police.
- As this is new contract funding - a fair, open, and transparent procurement process is currently underway to establish these ongoing services across the province. The procurement is guided by the following principles:
 - Geographic distribution of sexual assault programs across the province.
 - Sustainability (e.g., minimum program funding set at one full-time staff equivalent / \$95,000 per year; multi-year contracts to ensure certainty and stability for organizations).
 - A focus on accessibility and cultural responsiveness, particularly Indigenous focused services.
- The procurement is in its final stages and the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch will be negotiating contracts with successful organizations in the coming weeks. [Note to Minister: procurement rules do not allow government to comment on the procurement process (including successful/unsuccessful organizations) until contracts have been fully executed and a final notice has been publicly posted on BC Bid – which is anticipated to occur by late May/early June 2023].
- Not all organizations who applied for funding will receive a contract. Unsuccessful organizations, particularly those who received Emergency Sexual Assault Services grant funding from 2020 to 2022 through the Ending Violence Association of BC may raise concerns about services in their communities.
- After the procurement process formally concludes:
 - A debrief will be offered to unsuccessful organizations to provide information about the procurement process including evaluation and scoring.

- The ministry will provide detailed public information and communications about the new programs including how survivors can access services.
- A separate procurement opportunity will be posted on BC Bid in the coming weeks to establish sexual assault centres/hubs in the largest urban centres with highest demand for services (Vancouver, Victoria and the Capital Regional District, Surrey, and Prince George).

Background:

- This \$10M in funding is an investment that builds on other government actions to end sexual assault and gender-based violence, including:
 - \$20M to the Ending Violence Association of BC to administer Emergency Sexual Assault Services (ESAS) grant projects.
 - Developing a Provincial Gender-Based Violence Action Plan, which will include the development of a Provincial Sexual Assault Framework.

Procurement Process: Sexual Assault Services Program

- A Call for Responses procurement was posted on BC Bid from January 10, 2023, to February 21, 2023. This open procurement invited applications from organizations to demonstrate their ability to meet the local needs of survivors in their community and establish and deliver a Sexual Assault Services program that is coordinated, culturally safe, client centred, and trauma informed through either direct support, counselling services or both. Virtual information sessions were held with organizations on January 18, January 19 (Indigenous-focused), and February 1, 2023, to provide information about the Call for Responses and application process.
- For this procurement, the province was divided into 77 service areas (aka communities) with 93 opportunities for funding (larger communities will have more than one program) and grouped into seven regions to ensure a geographic distribution of available funding. A maximum funding amount for each region was established based on an analysis of available information about communities' needs including data on population size, police-reported sexual assault, geography, proximity, and availability of other supports/services in a community.
- In recognition of the disproportionate impacts of sexual assault on Indigenous peoples, 26 communities with higher Indigenous populations were specifically identified for an Indigenous-focused sexual assault program.
- 114 applications were received and reviewed by a regional evaluation panel which included two Branch staff and one external Indigenous reviewer. After individual reviews, each of the

evaluation panels met together to come to a consensus score for each application.

- Successful applicants are being notified and will enter into contracts beginning in late Spring 2023 that will run for an initial three years (to 2025/26) with optional one year extensions.

Contact: Taryn Walsh (CSCP)	Phone: 778-572-5231	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Estimates 2023/24 Briefing Book**

**BC Coroners Service
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5. Service Delivery Model Transition
6. Investigations of Deaths of Indigenous Women

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Residential School Sites - BC Coroners Service Involvement

Suggested Response:

- On May 27, 2021, the BC Coroners Service was advised by the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (ta-kum-loops te sheh-kwep-em) First Nation near Kamloops that preliminary review with ground penetrating radar indicated that there were soil anomalies that may be consistent with buried remains on the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School.
- The Williams Lake First Nation has also announced the discovery of similar findings at the site of the former St. Joseph's Mission Residential School.
- The BC Coroners Service is working collaboratively with the Williams Lake First Nation, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, the RCMP and the First Nations Health Authority to support this sensitive work, and has also offered assistance to the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Nation.

Background:

- On May 27, 2021, RCMP contacted the BC Coroners Service's Interior Regional Office at the behest of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Nation after they reported that ground positioning radar indicated soil anomalies that may be consistent with the presence of human remains on land near the former Kamloops Indian Residential School.
- That afternoon the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Nation released a media advisory indicating that, "with the help of a ground penetrating radar specialist, the stark truth of the preliminary findings came to light – the confirmation of the remains of 215 children who were students of the Kamloops Indian Residential School."
- In separate announcements in 2022 and 2023, the Williams Lake First Nation announced the discoveries of potential graves at the site of a former residential school.
- The discoveries have become national and international news.

Contact: Lisa Lapointe (BCCS)	Phone: 778 974-5110	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Coroner Attendance at Deaths in the Community

Suggested Response:

- The BC Coroners Service is responsible for investigating and determining the circumstances of all unnatural, sudden and unexpected, unexplained or unattended deaths in the province.
- Coroners are expected to make every effort to attend scenes of deaths that occur in the community where preliminary information indicates the death is likely the result of non-natural causes, is clearly a reportable death under the *Coroners Act*, or where a cause of death is not apparent.
- Deaths that do not meet the reporting requirements of the *Coroners Act* do not require investigation by a coroner and coroners are not expected to attend these death locations. Non-reportable deaths include natural deaths due to known illness or disease.
- When a non-reportable death occurs in the community, families can make arrangements with the funeral provider of their choice for transfer of the deceased person to a funeral home.

Background:

- In Spring 2021, there were some questions raised about coroner attendance at deaths in the Cariboo and Interior regions.
- Statistics from the regions show a drop in scene attendance in 2020 for natural deaths, which is also reflected provincewide. That decline continued in 2022.

Percentage of Scene Visited by Case Type and Region, 2019-2022												
	2019			2020			2021			2022		
	Cariboo ¹	Interior	BC	Cariboo ¹	Interior	BC	Cariboo ¹	Interior	BC	Cariboo ¹	Interior	BC
S.15	40.8%	27.8%	38.0%	15.9%	12.6%	20.6%	13.3%	9.5%	15.2%	12.9%	7.9%	14.6%
S.16	70.9%	71.5%	69.6%	69.9%	65.5%	66.8%	63.1%	59.4%	57.5%	62.5%	56.8%	62.2%
Total	54.5%	45.4%	52.3%	44.0%	36.7%	42.1%	42.5%	35.4%	37.4%	40.4%	31.5%	38.8%

¹Includes townships within the Thompson Cariboo Shuswap Health Service Delivery Area (HSDA).

Contact: Lisa Lapointe (BCCS)	Phone: 778 974-5110	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Timelines for Coroners' Investigations

Suggested Response:

- More than 13,600 deaths were reported to the BC Coroners Service in 2022. 7,000 of these were deemed reportable deaths that required investigation as per the *Coroners Act*.
- This represents a slight decrease in reportable deaths from the year before, likely due to the additional deaths caused by the heat dome emergency in 2021.
- A coroner's investigation routinely includes scene attendance, examination of the deceased, and gathering information and history from family, friends and relevant medical or nurse practitioners.
- Toxicology testing and/or autopsy are often necessary.
- The timeliness of Coroner's Reports is impacted by many factors including: post mortem reports, external expert analyses, other agency investigations (e.g. WorkSafeBC, Transportation Safety Board, police), criminal proceedings, and the coroner's own caseload.
- Coroners recognize that providing information to nearest relatives is a key responsibility and endeavour to provide information in as timely a manner as possible, even if a Coroner's Report will be not available for several months.
- New resources and a redistribution of responsibilities is expected to result in more timely information to families in the near future.

Contact: Lisa Lapointe (BCCS)	Phone: 778 974-5110	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Unregulated Drug Crisis - BC Coroners Service Response

Suggested Response:

- The BC Coroners Service investigates all suspected drug toxicity deaths and undertakes toxicology testing routinely in these investigations.
- In 2022, almost 2,300 deaths due to unregulated drug toxicity were investigated by the BC Coroners Service. More than 11,000 British Columbians have been lost to toxic drugs since 2016.
- The BC Coroners Service provides aggregated monthly statistical updates on all suspected unregulated drug toxicity deaths in the province. It is the only jurisdiction in Canada providing these timely detailed updates.
- The BC Coroners Service collaborates with several partners and working groups, such as the BC Centre for Disease Control and the Public Health Agency of Canada, to share information and data that helps inform death prevention efforts across B.C. and across Canada.
- A 2021 Coroners Service Death Review Panel directed by the chief coroner reviewed 6,007 deaths due to illicit drug toxicity between January 1, 2016, and July 31, 2017. The panel made three broad recommendations to a number of oversight entities to support the prevention of future deaths.

Background:

- Deaths due to illicit drug toxicity have increased steadily over the past 10 years, with a record 2,308 deaths in 2021 and an additional 2,287 in 2022. Illicit fentanyl continues to be detected in more than 80% of deaths.
- Two reported deaths occurred at supervised consumption or drug overdose prevention sites, one in late 2022 and the other in 2023.
- There is no evidence that prescribed safer supply is playing a role in the toxic drug crisis.

Contact: Lisa Lapointe (BCCS)	Phone: 778 974-5110	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Service Delivery Model Transition

Suggested Response:

- The BC Coroners Service is continuing its transition to a functional service delivery model. The mandate and responsibilities of the organization have not changed.
- The previous geographically based service delivery model was established long before the arrival of modern telecommunication and digital communication tools.
- Coroners are now assigned to provincial units which investigate specific types of death rather than by regions and will receive focused training designed to increase their skills and knowledge about the types of death their unit investigates.
- A functional model will allow the BC Coroners Service to be more responsive to public expectations, assist with increasing caseloads, and will reduce many of the inefficiencies and inconsistencies of the historic model.
- The BC Coroners Service is utilizing a phased approach to support its employees in the transition and to minimize disruption to the services it provides to the people of B.C. The BC Coroners Service expects to have fully transitioned to the functional model in May 2023.

Background:

- Historically, coroners across the province investigated each death reported to them to conclusion in a geographical area regardless of their experience or expertise.
- A functional model is based on type of investigation, which allows dedicated investigating coroners assigned as subject matter experts and can lead to improved investigations, enhanced subject-matter expertise, improved recommendations and better relationships with stakeholders.
- As and when required, coroners appointed under section 55 of the *Coroners Act* have previously voiced concerns over potential loss of work due to the transition to a functional model; however, section 55 coroners will continue to provide community response to scenes of death within their assigned geographical location.
- Section 55 coroners will continue to be assigned to the Operational Support Team as needed where they will complete investigations to conclusion with a Coroner's Report and can preside over inquests where their expertise permits.

Contact: Lisa Lapointe (BCCS)	Phone: 778 974-5110	Mobile:	Government Financial Information
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE**Investigations of Deaths of Indigenous Women****Suggested Response:**

- The BC Coroners Service was notified of each of these tragic deaths and, in each instance, began a coroner's investigation to establish when, where, how, and by what means each death occurred.
- The BC Coroners Service has issued its report into Tatyanna Harrison's death, and the investigations into Chelsea Poorman's and Noelle O'Soup's deaths remain open.
- In most instances, coroner's reports are not issued until all other parallel investigations are completed. If the death is the subject of a law enforcement investigation, release of information is generally managed by the police agency.
- Coroners are bound by a mandated prohibition on information sharing during open investigations; however, they do share information regarding their investigative findings with the nearest appropriate person as and when possible and appropriate.

Background:

- On April 22, 2022, the BC Coroners Service was notified of the discovery of unidentified human remains in Vancouver. The remains were later identified as those of Chelsea Poorman, an Indigenous woman who had been reported missing by family in September 2020. The coroner's investigation into this death remains open at this time. A Vancouver Police investigation is also underway.
- On May 2, 2022, the BC Coroners Service was notified of the death of Noelle O'Soup, an Indigenous girl who ran away from a group home in Coquitlam on May 12, 2021. Noelle's remains were discovered in Vancouver along with the remains of an adult female in the residence of a man whose death had also been reported to the BC Coroners Service several months earlier. The coroner's investigation into this death remains open at this time. A Vancouver Police investigation is also underway.
- Also on May 2, 2022, the BC Coroners Service was notified of the death of Tatyanna Harrison, an Indigenous woman whose body was discovered by Richmond RCMP. Tatyanna Harrison had previously been reported missing by family to the Vancouver Police. The coroner's investigation into her death has concluded, and the coroner's report has been shared with family and the media.

- The Poorman, O'Soup and Harrison families have publicly shared concerns about the police investigations related to their loved ones' deaths.

Contact: Lisa Lapointe (BCCS)	Phone: 778 974-5110	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
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**RoadSafetyBC
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Estimate Notes

1. Distracted Driving
2. Over Age 80 Driver Medical Examination Reports
3. Driver Medical Fitness Program Backlogs

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Distracted Driving

Suggested Response:

- Distracted driving and inattention are serious, high-risk behaviours and remain a factor in over 25% of all fatal motor vehicle crashes in our province and nearly 40% of crashes causing injury (five-year average from 2017-2021).
- That is why we acted three years ago to strengthen distracted driving penalties.
- Drivers with multiple distracted driving offences now face added and higher penalties, over and above their regular insurance premiums.
 - A driver with two distracted driving tickets in a three-year period could pay as much as \$2,000. This is \$740 more than under the previous penalty structure.
 - Drivers with more than two tickets in one year could receive a prohibition of up to 12 months.
 - New drivers have stricter rules for distracted driving. One distracted driving ticket could receive a prohibition between one to six months.

Consideration of Tougher Penalties:

- I am aware that many people are concerned that drivers are not changing their driving behaviour – but since 2017, we have significantly toughened the penalties for distracted and we believe our approach is working based on the following metrics:
 - The overall number of distracted driving tickets issued by police has decreased: 42,500 in 2017 to 26,000 in 2021.
 - Recidivism (measured in the number of drivers who have received two or more tickets for distracted driving) decreased by 45% from 7,600 between January 2016 and December 2018, to 4,200 between January 2019 and December 2021.
- We will continue to monitor these approaches and explore opportunities to eliminate distracted driving.

Enforcement and Clarity of the Law:

- Regulations under the *Motor Vehicle Act* clearly state that “an electronic device must be installed so that it is securely fixed to the motor vehicle.” We also continue to analyze our legislation for further clarification opportunities.
- My advice to drivers is to follow the law by having their electronic device affixed to the vehicle and programmed for voice-activated or one-touch use.
- Under no circumstances can Graduated Driver Licensing Program drivers use an electronic

device, even if the device is properly mounted.

- Police officers make enforcement decisions case by case at their discretion, but certainly; people who feel they are innocent can fight a ticket if they wish.
- We continue to monitor court decisions related to distracted driving tickets to determine any impacts on the current legislation.

Background:

- As noted on ICBC's public data site, distraction/inattention is one of the top three contributing factors to fatal motor vehicle crashes.
- Analysis of ICBC data shows that in 2021, distracted driving/inattention was identified as a contributing factor for 80 of the 296 fatal victims.
- Distracted driving relates to drivers caught using a hand-held electronic device while behind the wheel. In other instances of distraction or inattention, police may issue violation tickets for those offences, such as driving without due care and attention.
- In B.C., distracted drivers face a ticket, four penalty points and a Driver Penalty Point Premium.
- Since distracted driving is now considered a high-risk driving offence, repeat offenders with two or more offences in a one-year period will have their driving record subject to an automatic review, which could result in a three to 12-month driving prohibition.
- In B.C., penalty points remain on a person's driving record for five years and can result in further penalties, including driving prohibitions.
- From 2017 to 2021, 12,000 B.C. drivers were issued two or more distracted driving violations.
- Talking while driving increases the crash risk by three or four times; texting: by 23 times.
- Distracted driving violation disputes grew from approximately 5,300 in 2014 to 10,700 in 2019. Disputes declined in 2020 (6,300) and 2021 (7,000), likely because of decreased driving activity due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There were also a lower number of tickets issued in 2020 (24,000) and 2021 (26,000) that were likely attributable to COVID-19 (fewer vehicle kilometers travelled).

Contact: Mary LaBoucane (RSBC)	Phone: 250-812-2083	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Over Aged 80 Driver Medical Examination Reports

Suggested Response:

- At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, RoadSafetyBC paused all medical assessment requirements, including Age-based Driver's Medical Examination Reports because of the pressures on the medical community.
- The Age-based driver's program program required seniors at age 80 and every two years thereafter to be assessed on their medical fitness to drive.
- Medical assessment requirements have now been restarted, resulting in higher than usual incoming volumes, however, Age-based Driver's Medical Examination Reports have not yet resumed.
- Pausing the Age-based driver's program afforded RoadSafetyBC the opportunity to complete an evaluation of the program's effectiveness.
- Based on the evaluation's outcome and RoadSafetyBC's vision to keep B.C.'s roads safe, all drivers must now have an Age-based Driver's Medical Examination Report completed by their doctor or nurse practitioner at age 80, 85, and every two years thereafter.
- The new report cycle will reduce the number of Age-based reports issued on an annual basis by 20,000 to 30,000, while mitigating road safety risks.
- The Age-based Driver's Medical Examination Reports program is set to resume on April 29, 2023.

Background:

- Each year RoadSafetyBC sends about 70,000 examination reports to drivers aged 80 and older. Approximately 90% of drivers keep their driving privileges.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, RoadSafetyBC paused issuing Age DMERs, effective December 16, 2020.
- RoadSafetyBC wants to support the medical community's response to priority medical cases that impact seniors and the citizens of B.C.

- RoadSafetyBC continues to communicate program changes to doctors, nurse practitioners, law enforcement, and seniors’ advocacy groups.
- Medical practitioners, ICBC driver licensing office employees, and law enforcement are urged to continue reporting high-risk medically compromised drivers to RoadSafetyBC for review.
- RoadSafetyBC continues to assess the state of the COVID-19 pandemic and monitor the pressures on the medical system.
- RoadSafetyBC has completed a robust evaluation of the senior assessment model for the Age Driver’s Medical Examination Report cycle and will be communicating out the changes in cadence to identified stakeholders in April 2023.

Contact: Frances Sasvari (RSBC)	Phone: 778-698-8472	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Driver Medical Fitness Program Backlogs

Suggested Response:

- Under the *Motor Vehicle Act*, RoadSafetyBC is responsible for determining if a driver is medically fit to drive, for both the safety of the driver and the public.
- Each year, the Driver Medical Fitness Program receives over 200,000 medical reports which are triaged by the program based on risk and reviewed in date order of receipt.
- B.C.'s aging population is expected to contribute to an increase in volume of medical reports.
- To address these issues, RoadSafetyBC is engaged in a transformation project that will modernize and transform driver medical fitness processes.
- The project will increase the efficiency of the program and ensure increasing volumes can be managed while meeting service demands.
- The transformation will improve the experience of medical practitioners, drivers, and RoadSafetyBC and ICBC staff, while enhancing public safety and continuing to advance RoadSafetyBC's effort toward Vision Zero.
- Additionally, RoadSafetyBC has undertaken several measures to assist with the higher than usual volumes including hiring additional staff, reallocation of staffing resources, and overtime:
 - RoadSafetyBC has recently completed an assessment of our Aged Driver Medical Examination Report program. Recommended changes to this program's schedule will allow for an estimated annual reduction of 25,000 reports with no measurable impact to road safety.
 - RoadSafetyBC is undergoing a process mapping exercise to identify and highlight key business improvement opportunities to further streamline the work to make our programs sustainable with current staffing levels and commitment to Vision Zero.
 - RoadSafetyBC's Driver Medical Fitness area has recently completed a Jurisdictional Scan of its program equivalents in the other Provinces and Territories to gain further insight into efforts to improve key processes.
 - RoadSafetyBC is providing extended timeframes for all drivers to complete their medical assessments from 45 days to 120 days along with additional extensions when required and where possible.

Background:

- Statistics Canada projects that 1.4 to 1.6 million seniors will be living in B.C. by 2038, compared to 750,000 seniors in 2013. This is nearly 5% higher than the Canadian average.
- The primary tool to assess driver medical fitness is the Driver’s Medical Examination Report, which is required from commercial drivers including ride-hailing drivers, senior drivers aged 80 and over, and drivers with suspected or known medical conditions that may affect driving.
- To mitigate backlogs in the short term, overtime was recently offered to staff in the RoadSafetyBC program areas which has decreased processing backlogs in Client Services by 25%.
- Due to hiring additional Driver Medical Fitness adjudicators in the summer of 2022, backlogs in Driver Medical Fitness have decreased by over 30% when compared to last year.

Contact: Frances Sasvari (RSBC)	Phone: 778-698-8472	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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**Gaming Issues
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- 1. Gambling Regulatory Framework Implementation (GPEB)**

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Gambling Regulatory Framework Implementation

Suggested Response:

- This past fall, this government passed the new *Gaming Control Act*, delivering on our commitment to address systemic weaknesses in B.C.'s regulatory framework that hindered an effective response to money laundering through lower mainland casinos. The new Act is anticipated to come into force by regulation in late 2023.
- The new Act streamlines, clarifies, and modernizes the current Act to account for current and future developments such as online gambling, modern gambling facilities, and evolving technology, while also adopting recommendations from the German Report and the Cullen Commission Report.
- With the new Act, the Province continues to implement changes that will protect British Columbians from the effects of money laundering, while maintaining a modern, safe, legal, and beneficial gaming sector.
- When the new Act comes into force, government also intends to transition the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch (GPEB) to the Independent Gambling Control Office.

Background:

Gaming Control Act Reform

- In September 2017, the government appointed Dr. Peter German to undertake an independent review of allegations of money laundering in Lower Mainland casinos. In 2018, the first part of Dr. German's report was released, including recommendations that the government create an independent gambling regulator, clarify the roles and responsibilities between the regulator and BC Lottery Corporation, establish a standards-based regulatory model, and make money laundering the responsibility of the regulator.
- In December 2019, the government announced its intention to establish the Independent Gambling Control Office and to pursue legislative changes to the Act in alignment with Dr. German's recommendations.
- The Act has not been substantially amended since it came into force in 2002.

Cabinet Confidences; Legal Information

Cabinet Confidences; Legal Information

- The new Act received Royal Assent on November 3, 2022, but did not come into force. Accompanying regulations are currently in development and are anticipated to bring the Act into force in late 2023.
- The government is undertaking a full review of the Gaming Control Regulation under the Act and consulting with industry and Indigenous partners throughout spring 2023 to ensure the Regulation supports the new legislation.

Contact: Sam MacLeod, (GPEB)	Phone: 250-882-2347	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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**Cannabis Issues
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1. State of the Cannabis Industry
2. Cannabis Economy Participation - Supporting Indigenous Interests

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

State of the Cannabis Industry

Suggested Response:

- B.C.'s cannabis sector has continued to grow every year since legalization. As of March, B.C. is home to 227 licensed cannabis producers, up from 179 a year ago, which is mostly due to an increase in micro producers.
- Monthly licensed cannabis retail sales have also grown steadily since legalization, with close to 500 cannabis retail stores now open. In January 2023, people spent \$60 million at licensed cannabis stores in B.C. compared to \$50 million last January.
- However, we recognize there are challenges in the cannabis sector. We hear from legal cannabis businesses that falling cannabis prices, high regulatory costs and taxes, and a persistent illicit market have made it difficult to do business.
- In 2022, just over half of the cannabis purchased in B.C. was from licensed stores, while the rest was from illicit sources such as unlicensed stores and websites. We are advocating for changes at the federal level to make the legal cannabis sector more competitive while continuing to prioritize public health and safety.
- Looking forward in 2023, and after significant public engagement, the Province will be embarking on work to enable cannabis hospitality and tourism experiences in B.C.
- The ministry continues to work with cannabis businesses, Indigenous partners, and local governments to identify where adjustments to the provincial framework can be made to support the legal sector. Shrinking the illicit cannabis market, supporting legal businesses, and increasing Indigenous participation in regulated cannabis continue to be areas of focus.

Background:

Legal and Illicit Cannabis Sales

- As of December 2022, B.C.'s legal (vs. illicit) market share (57%) was lower than Canada's (62%). These estimates do not include cannabis coming from legal sources that do not involve buying cannabis, including cannabis grown at home or shared with friends or family.
- Although more than half (55%) of British Columbians who use cannabis reported buying it from licensed sources in 2021, those who buy their cannabis from illicit sources tend to use more cannabis and use it more frequently.

- Illicit sources may appeal to some cannabis users because illicit websites offer edible products with packages exceeding 10mg of THC, perceptions of higher-quality cannabis products from illicit (vs. legal) sources, and the option to purchase more than 30g of cannabis in a transaction, among other factors.

Cannabis Retail and Production Challenges

- Cannabis prices dropped sharply in the years following legalization, and slightly further from 2021 to 2022. Legal cannabis prices are also becoming increasingly competitive with illicit cannabis prices, which is key in displacing the illicit market.
 - Online price estimates from March 2023 indicate the average (after-tax) price per gram for a 28g unit of dried flower was \$4.88 from BC Cannabis Stores, \$5.44 from licensed private retail stores, and \$4.40 from illicit retail sites.
- Although we observed an increase in the number of licensed cannabis producers in B.C. in 2022, the rate of licensed producers exiting the market also increased. This is due in part to challenges to the economic viability of cannabis production. Specifically, price compression and flat-rate excise tax (1\$/gram) has led to producers paying an average of 30% of their revenue to the Canada Revenue Agency as excise tax.

Contact: Kim Shelford, (CCPCP)	Phone: 778-698-7110	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Cannabis Economy Participation - Supporting Indigenous Interests

Suggested Response:

- B.C. continues to support Indigenous interests and participation in the regulated cannabis sector, in collaboration with First Nations and key Indigenous partners.
- This includes entering into government-to-government agreements; advancing a collaborative approach to cannabis-related governance and jurisdiction, and; providing capacity funding and capital grants to support Nations and Indigenous businesses looking to enter, or expand, into the regulated cannabis industry.

Section 119 Agreements

- B.C. continues to engage with First Nations interested in entering government-to-government agreements that support participation in the regulated cannabis economy.
- Agreements entered through section 119 of the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act* enable variances that support economic development, self-determination, and full participation in the cannabis sector.
- To date, the Province has successfully finalized seven Section 119 agreements. Several more are under negotiation.

The *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA), Action Plan Commitment 4.47

- The ministry is working collaboratively with the First Nations Leadership Council and other key Indigenous partners to advance a collaborative approach to cannabis-related governance and jurisdiction.
- The ministry and the First Nations Leadership Council concluded initial engagement with partners and interested First Nations in spring 2023. Co-developed options will be brought forward for decision in late 2023.

Indigenous Cannabis Business Fund

- The Indigenous Cannabis Business Fund launched in December 2022 to provide grants to First Nations and Indigenous entrepreneurs to participate in the regulated sector.
- The program was developed in partnership with the BC Assembly of First Nations, the First Nations Summit, and the federal government. The New Relationship Trust and several B.C. Aboriginal Financial Institutions are delivering the fund.

- To date, the Indigenous Cannabis Business Fund has received \$3.5M from the Province and \$1.25M in federal funding. Over the next two years, the fund may receive up to an additional \$2.5M annually in combined provincial and federal funding.

B.C. Indigenous Cannabis Product program

- The Province launched the B.C. Indigenous Cannabis Product Program in January 2022, in collaboration with the First Nations Leadership Council , to support Indigenous producers in the regulated market.
- The program highlights participating products in retail locations. As of January 2023, three licensed producers are participating in the program and 47 products are registered.

Background:

Section 119 Agreements

- The most significant economic development provision enables the Nation to participate in both federally licensed cultivation and provincially licensed retail. B.C. otherwise prohibits this to avoid domination of the retail sector by a small number of large cannabis producers.
- To date, seven Nations have section 119 agreements in place: Cowichan Tribes; Kispiox First Nation; Lhtako Dene First Nation; Shxwhá:y Village; Snuneymuxw First Nation; Tsleil-Waututh Nation; and Williams Lake First Nation.

DRIPA Action Plan Commitment 4.47

- DRIPA Action Plan 4.47 commits to “advance a collaborative approach to cannabis-related governance and jurisdiction between First Nations and the Province that reflects common objectives to protect youth, prioritize public health and safety, strengthen First Nations governance capacity and secure economic benefits for First Nations”.
- Key partners include the First Nations Leadership Council , the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations and s.119 agreement holders.

Indigenous Cannabis Business Fund

- The program has seen significant uptake, with 25 Expressions of Interest received in the first intake. The second intake opened in early April.
- There are two funding streams: Community planning and engagement; and Business Planning, Design, and Capital.

Contact: David Coney (CCPCP)	Phone: 778-698-3991	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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**Office of the Fire Commissioner
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1. *Fire Safety Act* Status
2. Volunteer and Rural Fire Services - Funding

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Fire Safety Act Status

Suggested Response:

- The *Fire Services Act* provides the regulatory framework for fire safety in the province.
- The last substantial update to the *Fire Services Act* was in 1979. Since that time, there have been important developments in fire safety and prevention and new legislation, such as the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, the *Community Charter*, and the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, that need to be considered.
- The *Fire Safety Act* is the modernized replacement for the *Fire Services Act*. Modernized features include risk-based compliance monitoring to identify higher-risk buildings, an administrative penalty system to incentivise owner compliance, and increased enforcement.
- The *Fire Safety Act* was passed in 2016 but was not brought into force primarily due to local government concerns about the requirement for risk-based compliance monitoring of public buildings.
- Issues raised by local governments and fire services are actively being addressed through working groups comprising representatives from the Office of the Fire Commissioner, UBCM, and the Fire Chiefs' Association of BC.

Background:

- The *Fire Services Act* gives B.C.'s Fire Commissioner the authority to conduct inspections, investigations, and to ensure compliance with the Act and the British Columbia Fire Code. The *Fire Services Act* was last substantially updated in 1979.
- In 2016, the *Fire Safety Act* was passed but not brought into force primarily due to UBCM's concerns about implementing risk-based compliance enforcement and the requirement for fire inspections of public buildings in regional districts.
- Some regional districts have stated that they lack the capacity and resources to implement risk-based compliance monitoring.
- UBCM and the Fire Chiefs' Association of BC agree that the *Fire Services Act* is dated and that the reasons for modernizing the legislation are becoming more compelling given the increase in the size of the population, the increase in multi-unit complex fires, the increasing number of fire-related deaths and injuries, and the increase in wildland urban interface events.

- The Province has not formally committed to amending the *Fire Safety Act*, however, on March 17, 2022, Minister Farnworth, in a letter to UBCM, stated the requirement for fire inspection of public buildings in unincorporated areas.
- The Office of the Fire Commissioner has established working groups with UBCM and the Fire Chiefs' Association of BC to address the Minister's letter of March 17, 2022.

Advice/Recommendations

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Contact: Brian Godlonton (OFC)	Phone: 250-516-0721	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Volunteer and Rural Fire Services – Funding

Suggested Response:

- The Province acknowledges and appreciates the important service that volunteer and small rural fire departments provide to their communities.
- The Province recognizes the funding challenges that small and rural communities face in delivering fire suppression services and maintaining and replacing fire service equipment. It also recognizes the increasing challenges associated with recruitment, retention, and training for volunteer and rural fire services.
- In terms of funding sources, some fire services receive funding from regular core local government service funding that is provided through the collection of property taxes.
- In addition, fire services may be able to generate revenue through the establishment of a “Fire Protection Service Agreement”, if they provide services to a neighbouring community outside of their municipal or fire protection area boundaries.
- Volunteer fire services have also been able to apply for Provincial grants. The Premier recently announced an extension to the Community Emergency Preparedness Funding for 2023/24 and 2024/25. This funding includes the equivalent of the 2022 Volunteer and Composite fire department funding stream opportunity. That stream covered firefighter training and the purchase of new or replacement equipment.
- To understand the extent of the current and potential future challenges facing volunteer and rural fire services, the Office of the Fire Commissioner has initiated a project to collect and assess information about volunteer recruitment, retention, and training. This information will be used to develop recommendations to effectively support volunteer and rural and remote fire services.

Background:

- In Canada, approximately 80 percent of fire services are provided by volunteers. The Office of the Fire Commission’s estimate for the province aligns with that number.
- According to the 2021 Great Canadian Volunteer Firefighter Census there are 99,919 volunteer firefighters in Canada, which is about 21 percent lower than the 126,000 reported in 2016.

- The recruitment and retention of fire services volunteers, particularly in rural and remote communities, has been an issue for several decades. The issue was identified in the 2009 report *Public Safety in British Columbia: Transforming the Fire/Rescue Service*.
- According to the 2009 report, there were approximately 350 community-based fire departments in the province. In total, they employed approximately 4,000 career firefighters and 10,000 volunteer firefighters. In 2009, there were also 108 airport, First Nations, and industrial fire departments.
- The report was published by the Fire Services Liaison Group comprising the Fire Chiefs' Association of BC, the BC Professional Firefighters Association, the BC Fire Training Officers Association, the Fire Prevention Officers' Association of BC, the Volunteer Firefighters Association of BC, and UBCM.
- In terms of financial support, in October 2022, the Province provided approximately \$6 million to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, under the Volunteer and Composite fire department funding stream. The stream was to support fire services, firefighter training and the purchase of new or replacement equipment. Grants were provided to 114 fire departments in the province.
- As with the previous intake, local governments, First Nations, legally incorporated society-run fire departments, and Improvement Districts are eligible for the 2023/24 Community Emergency Preparedness Fund under the Volunteer and Composite fire department funding stream. A future edition of the UBCM Compass newsletter will include more information about the program and the application dates.
- The Office of the Fire Commissioner's recently initiated volunteer and rural fire services project will provide current data about volunteer rural and remote fire services, the reasons for the recruitment, retention, and training challenges, and recommendation for addressing those challenges.

Contact: Brian Godlonton (OFC)	Phone: 250-516-0721	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
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ICBC
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1. ICBC Financial Update
2. BC Utilities Commission Rate Application – ICBC
3. Enhanced Care Model
4. Road Test Wait Times – ICBC Driver Licensing
5. Material Damage Strategy and Issues

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE**ICBC Financial Update****Suggested Response:**

- ICBC forecasts a net loss of \$298M for fiscal 2022/23 compared to a net income of \$2.2B for fiscal 2021/22 and planned net income of \$327M for fiscal 2022/23.
- The forecasted net income for 2022/23 is \$625M lower than plan, which is mainly due to investment losses that are driven by global market volatility as inflation and interest rates increase.
- Investment income for fiscal 2022/23 is substantially lower than plan. An economic slow down is forecast through 2023/24, and therefore, investment income is forecast to be lower. Recovery from the downturn is expected through FY 2024/25 and onwards.
- Fiscal 2022/23 overall claims costs have increased primarily due to higher injury and material damage costs due to inflationary pressures. This is partially offset by lower current year Enhanced Care claims and a higher discount rate for unpaid claims.

Background:Year-to-Date Net Income

- ICBC's Q3 results to December 31, 2022, is a positive net income of \$189M for the first nine months of its fiscal year (April 1 to December 31, 2022), which is \$1.5B less than the net income of \$1.7B posted for the same period last year.
- The year-end forecast net loss of \$298M reflects a \$340M bond impairment that is expected in the fourth quarter, which is not reflected in the December 31, 2022, year-to-date result.
- The impairments are "paper" losses as these investments are still owned by ICBC and are not recorded in actuals until they meet the prolonged or significant impairment criteria¹. If market values improve, the impact of the impairment on the financials may be reversed.

Q3 2022/23 Outlook as Compared to Full Year Plan

- 2022/23 outlook is a net loss of \$298M versus plan net income of \$327M; which is \$625M lower than plan as a result of:
 - Investment income: \$645M lower than plan due to impairments from bond and equity funds, trading losses on bonds, and lower than expected equity distributions;

¹ An impairment is recorded when an investment asset's market value has declined by more than 20% of its cost, or when an investment asset's market value is lower than its cost for 15 consecutive quarters.

- Claims costs: \$82M - Unfavourable for both current year and prior years' claims. Material Damage costs are higher than expected due to inflationary pressures resulting in higher parts and labour costs as well as delays in repairs and settlements. Large bodily injury claims from past years under the legal-based product have emerged higher than expected. This is partially offset by a higher (favourable) rate to discount claims and lower than plan claims emergence for Enhanced Accident Benefits;
 - Operating Costs: \$65M lower than plan due to lower full time equivalents ("FTE's) and lower pension expense;
 - Premium revenue: \$25M higher than plan primarily due to higher average Optional premium as older vehicles are replaced with newer, more expensive vehicles; and
 - Service fees and other: \$16M higher than plan due to increases in the payment plan financing fee as a result of increases in the prime rate.
- Substantial risks to the estimated cost of claims remain, which could affect the 2022/23 fiscal year net income. The risks primarily relate to further development of old product injury claims including large bodily injury claims emergence; the Enhanced Care product outcomes; and a court challenge to the minor injury cap. The successful appeal on the July 2022 Evidence Act decision may provide a favourable impact.

Forecast

- Approximately \$9B in claims is still open from crashes that occurred under the previous legal-based insurance model. These outstanding claims, about \$6B of which are complex and high-risk, remain a significant liability.
- For fiscal 2023/24, ICBC is projecting a nil (\$0) net income, and then returning to profitability of \$450M in 2024/25 and 2025/26. The forecast recognizes the possible economic slowdown in fiscal 2023/24 continuing to impact investment returns through the year and expected steady recovery of investment returns in 2024/25 and thereafter.
- Claims severity (cost of a claim) is projected to increase over the forecast period for all coverages. Inflation for replacement parts and increased technology in vehicles, combined with a rising cost of labour, will continue to drive up the cost of material damage claims. General inflation will contribute to an upward cost trend for Enhanced Care claims, as accident benefits are indexed to the BC Consumer Price Index.
- ICBC continues to manage the company efficiently as indicated by the low expense ratio of 23.4%² in FY 2021/22, which continues to be significantly lower than the industry

² The Relief Rebate (\$396M) resulted in a lower earned premium for FY 2021/22 and a higher operating expense ratio. Excluding the rebate, the 2021/22 ratio would be lower (21.6%).

benchmark of 31.5%. ICBC's FY 2022/23 operating expense ratio is forecast to be 20.9% and is inclusive of 3.4% for non-insurance services, which other insurance carriers do not have.

Capital Levels

- Similar to other insurance organizations, the overall financial health and position of the Corporation are monitored through a number of standard industry metrics. Under the capital management framework, both its management operating targets and its regulatory minimums are taken into consideration to ensure that capital reserves are adequate to protect policyholders from financial risk, while maintaining rates as low as possible over the long term.
- Given amendments to Special Direction IC2, ICBC has delayed updating its Capital Management Plan until the next Revenue Requirements Application due in December, 2024. As well, the requirement to set the Basic rate in a manner that allows ICBC to maintain a Minimum Capital Test of 100% was suspended for 2023/24 and 2024/25.
- ICBC uses the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institution's Minimum Capital Test measurement framework to assess whether it has sufficient capital levels to protect policyholders from financial risk and to provide long-term stability. The 2021/22 actual Minimum Capital Test ratio was 99% and the 2022/23 forecast Minimum Capital Test ratio is lower at 91%, due to lower investment market values and returns.
- After several years of consecutive losses, capital levels began to recover in 2020/21 and 2021/22, due to higher investment income, lower than expected claims costs (pre-Enhanced Care), and the capital build component in the Basic rate.
- ICBC is rebuilding its capital with a 7% constant capital provision built into Basic rates.
- As the global investment markets recover in the future, ICBC's capital levels are to expected to grow further.
- If the global investment markets improve sooner, then actual results will be better than forecast.
- Basic capital levels will also benefit from the capital provision built into the Basic rate.
- Optional capital levels are currently below targets and expected to recover at a moderate rate, as we exit 2023/24.

Contact: Phil Leong – Interim CEO (ICBC)

Phone: Government Financial Information

Mobile: Government Financial Information

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE**BC Utilities Commission
Rate Application - ICBC****Suggested Response:**

- Under Enhanced Care, insurance rates in British Columbia have gone from some of the most expensive in Canada to being among the most affordable.
- ICBC's rate application to the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) on December 15, 2022, proposed no overall change to Basic insurance rates for the next two years. A two-year period provides British Columbians with rate stability during these uncertain economic times.
- A key priority with the introduction of the Enhanced Care insurance model was to make insurance rates more affordable and to keep them that way – and this rate application delivers on that.
- If the BCUC approves this application, it means there will have been no overall increase to Basic insurance rates in B.C. for five years, since ICBC's last Basic insurance rate increase took effect in April 2019.
- Government's introduction of generational reforms to ICBC is paying off with affordable, stable rates and a path for financial stability of the corporation.

Background:

- On December 15, 2022, ICBC filed its 2023 Revenue Requirements Application with the BCUC. In the application, ICBC requests approval for a Basic insurance rate change of 0% for policy year 2023 [April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2025], which is consistent with accepted actuarial practice and subject to legislative requirements.
- The proposed 0% rate change includes a capital provision equal to an amount of 7% of required premium, to continue to build ICBC's capital levels while also promoting rate stability in the long term.
- In accordance with *Special Direction IC2 to the BC Utilities Commission, BC Regulation 307/2004, as amended*, (Special Direction IC2) the rate approved by the BCUC in response to this application must remain in force, unless ICBC applies for a change, throughout policy year 2023. Special Direction IC2 defines policy year 2023 as encompassing the 24-month period from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2025.

- On January 10, 2023, an interim rate change of 0% was approved by the BCUC, effective April 1, 2023. The regulatory process will continue in the months ahead and a final BCUC decision is expected by late summer.

Contact: Phil Leong – Interim CEO (ICBC)	Phone: <small>Government Financial Information</small>	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Enhanced Care Model

Suggested Response:

- Government and ICBC listened to British Columbians when they told us auto insurance was not affordable which is why we developed a new model, effective May 1, 2021.
- By removing the adversarial approach of suing drivers, Enhanced Care lowers insurance premiums and redirects funds to help people get better instead of funding legal fees.
- With the transition to Enhanced Care, the majority of customers who renewed their full coverage (basic and optional) personal auto insurance saved, on average, \$490 or about 28% compared to premiums in the old model.
- In addition to these savings, Enhanced Care has significantly improved the care, recovery and income replacement benefits for any British Columbian injured in a crash in Canada or the United States. There is no overall limit to the care and recovery benefits available to British Columbians injured in a crash, regardless of fault. Those injured in a crash can have peace of mind knowing they will be supported with benefits that promote recovery.
- ICBC continues to work with stakeholders, industry experts and people with lived experience of being in crashes to support the success of Enhanced Care.

Background:

Enhanced Care vs Former Litigation-Based System

- Enhanced Care benefits are available when you need them, for as long as you need them, in your recovery – and there is no overall lifetime limit to the care and recovery benefits.
- Under Enhanced Care, if you suffer life-altering injuries because of a collision, it does not matter what level of insurance the at-fault driver purchased, which is a significant difference compared to the former litigation-based model.
- Under Enhanced Care, a catastrophically injured person does not have to wait years for a costly court settlement that would likely fall short of their care needs and be subject to being reduced by up to 33% in lawyer fees.
- Anyone who suffers a catastrophic injury will receive compensation for permanent impairment of up to approximately \$288,000. Those with serious, non-catastrophic, permanent injuries may also be eligible for some compensation.

- Under the former model, the maximum care and recovery benefit a seriously or catastrophically injured person could receive without going through a lengthy legal process (if they were not at fault) was up to \$300,000, which would need to pay for all their care for the rest of their life. Now, an injured person receives all the care and recovery benefits they need and deserve, as soon as they need them. Their benefits include immediate access to pre-approved care treatments and eligibility for cash compensation if they are seriously or catastrophically injured.
- Unlike a court settlement, Enhanced Care's medical and rehabilitation benefits do not run out. For example, if you suffer a setback to your collision-related injuries down the road, you can access further care and recovery benefits.
- Drivers who cause crashes or drive dangerously are still held accountable with Enhanced Care. They will continue to pay more for their insurance and potentially face other, more serious consequences. For example, surviving victims of a crash can still sue for pain and suffering in the event that a driver is convicted criminally.

Income Replacement Benefit and the Waiting Period

- For anyone hurt in a crash and unable to work, Enhanced Care will pay up to 90% of their net income based on a maximum gross income of up to \$109,000 – a significantly higher benefit than the maximum of \$740 per week available under the previous system. Those who earn more than \$109,000 can choose to purchase additional protection.
- Income replacement benefits are payable after the first seven days from the accident and that has not changed with Enhanced Care. A non-earner who would not have held employment during the 180 days post-motor vehicle accident is entitled to an Income Replacement Benefit beginning on day 181.
- Income replacement benefit is based on the income you were earning before the crash, supported by past income tax returns, paystubs and information from your employer. Your expected earnings after the crash may also be considered.
- Once income replacement benefit payments begin, a cheque will be mailed or deposited directly into your bank account every 14 days until you are no longer eligible. Income replacement benefit stops when no medical reason prevents you from returning to work.

Trial Lawyers Association of BC Constitutional Challenge

- We believe Enhanced Care benefits all British Columbians and know similar systems have been successful in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Quebec for years. These systems faced similar challenges when they were introduced and are still operating successfully today.
- Government filed its response to the challenge against Enhanced Care in August 2022, and the matter is now before the courts.

ICBC Claims Disputes

- If a customer feels like they have exhausted ICBC’s internal channels and are still dissatisfied, there are other external options, including: the government-appointed Fairness Officer who may review complaints from individuals who believe the process leading to a decision by ICBC was unfair; the Civil Resolution Tribunal if a customer disagrees with their entitlement to accident benefits; and the B.C. Ombudsperson who continues to be an avenue for those unsatisfied with how their concerns have been addressed.

- Customers can still retain a lawyer if they wish to seek legal advice for a claim.

Contact: Phil Leong – Interim CEO (ICBC)	Phone: <small>Government Financial Information</small>	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Road Test Wait Times – ICBC Driver Licensing

Suggested Response:

- ICBC is managing an increased demand for knowledge and road tests compared to what it typically experienced prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We also expect continued pressure on road test availability this spring and summer when seasonal demand typically increases, including for motorcycles as the weather improves.
- Despite increased demands, 54% of customers booking a class 5 or 7 road test in B.C. were able to take their road tests within 60 days of booking during 2022 compared to 51% in 2021.
- To meet the demand for road testing, ICBC continuously reviews means to increase capacity for road tests and improve customer service options.
- To date, ICBC has:
 - Increased the number of driving examiners (21 additional examiners in 2022).
 - Provided road tests on Saturdays at certain locations, since February 2023.
 - Opened 8 new road test facilities within ICBC Claim Centres throughout the province.
 - Reintroduced stand-by road tests in June 2022 at ICBC Driver Licensing Offices, allowing customers a same day test option to fill no show appointments.
- In the near term, ICBC will:
 - Continue to add new driver examiners this year, taking the total from 165 examiners in 2020 to over 260 full time driver examiners.
 - Add a new Driver Licensing Office at the Guildford Corporate Centre.
 - Repurpose the existing Guildford Driver Licensing Office to a road test only location.
 - Redesign the road test to reduce the number of duplicated maneuvers, while maintaining the integrity of the test. This aligns ICBC road test times with other Canadian jurisdictions and will allow two additional road tests per day, per driving examiner.

Background:

- In addition to the seasonal increased demand for road tests that ICBC experiences every spring and summer, in 2021, there was a surge in the number of people looking to obtain their driver's licence compared to previous years.

- For 2022, the number of customer bookings for a road test and their wait time is as follows:

Region Name	0-10 Days	11-20 Days	21-30 Days	31-40 Days	41-50 Days	51-60 Days	61-70 Days	71-80 Days	81-90 Days	90+ Days	Grand Total
Fraser Valley	82,221	20,574	11,989	10,858	30,720	6,909	7,835	7,820	7,012	135,560	321,498
Greater Vancouver	53,811	16,762	15,430	8,358	20,037	4,829	4,999	5,155	6,619	85,291	221,291
Northern Interior	5,526	4,527	4,483	1,733	1,722	1,938	1,576	1,068	851	4,652	28,076
Southern Interior	13,920	5,158	6,442	2,637	4,080	2,730	2,969	2,878	2,839	27,556	71,209
Vanouver Island	19,013	5,760	3,570	3,995	5,703	5,448	5,022	3,373	4,078	13,622	69,584
Grand Total	174,491	52,781	41,914	27,581	62,262	21,854	22,401	20,294	21,399	266,681	711,658

Region Name	0-10 Days	11-20 Days	21-30 Days	31-40 Days	41-50 Days	51-60 Days	61-70 Days	71-80 Days	81-90 Days	90+ Days	Grand Total
Fraser Valley	26%	6%	4%	3%	10%	2%	2%	2%	2%	42%	100%
Greater Vancouver	24%	8%	7%	4%	9%	2%	2%	2%	3%	39%	100%
Northern Interior	20%	16%	16%	6%	6%	7%	6%	4%	3%	17%	100%
Southern Interior	20%	7%	9%	4%	6%	4%	4%	4%	4%	39%	100%
Vanouver Island	27%	8%	5%	6%	8%	8%	7%	5%	6%	20%	100%
Grand Total	25%	7%	6%	4%	9%	3%	3%	3%	3%	37%	100%

- Unprepared drivers who repeatedly fail their road tests further drive appointment demand. In 2022, about 20% of road tests (class 5 and 7) were taken up by customers who were on at least their third road test attempt, and 8.5% of drivers needed four or more attempts to pass their Class 5 and 7 road tests.
 - ICBC has a policy requiring longer waiting periods between retests for people who fail their road tests. The change was intended to incentivize customers to be adequately prepared and safe on the road.
- From February to March 2023, ICBC has contracted Ipsos Market Research to undertake research into customer preparedness for their road tests. ICBC is also having the “Learn to Drive Smart” guide translated into Chinese and Punjabi (March 2023), and Farsi and Vietnamese (July 2023).

Contact: Phil Leong, Interim CEO (ICBC)	Phone: <small>Government Financial Information</small>	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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Material Damage Strategy and Issues

Suggested Response:

- ICBC recognizes some material damage suppliers are facing significant challenges, including cost pressures due to inflation, and attracting and retaining talent.
- At the same time, as a public insurer, ICBC is committed to managing costs for everyone, including ratepayers.
- ICBC recently provided material damage suppliers with a rate increase to address cost pressures facing the industry. Suppliers are now receiving an annual labour rate increase totaling up to approximately 9% between 2022 and 2024. Further material cost increases have also been provided. Collision repair suppliers also received the equivalent of an additional 10% increase on labour rates.
- Industry sustainability is key to ensuring ICBC customers have access to repairs throughout B.C. That is why ICBC is working with industry representatives, including the Automotive Retailers Association, to support attraction and retention of key technical roles in automotive trades; improve access to education about incentives, grants and training for industry; and, regularly review industry repair costs.
- ICBC has also worked with the towing and collision repair industries to develop funding and training initiatives to address the growing shortage of skilled labour in the province.
- ICBC's efforts strike the right balance between providing material damage suppliers with consistency and helping them plan for future years, while also supporting government's commitment to keep rates affordable for British Columbians.
- ICBC continues to engage with suppliers through its industry liaison committees.

Background:

Rates

- In June 2022, ICBC announced a rate increase of up to approximately 9% on labour rates for collision and glass repair suppliers, as part of a new three-year (2022/23-2024/25) rate framework. The first increase of 3% took effect on July 1, 2022, and was based on the B.C. Consumer Price Index (capped at 3%).
- In October 2022, ICBC announced an additional adjustment for collision suppliers, equivalent to a 10% increase (6.6% labour rate and 3.4% for three new billable fees). Coupled with the new rate framework, these suppliers are receiving the equivalent of a 19%

increase in rates over three years.

- In 2022, ICBC also updated how it pays for towing and storage services. These suppliers received a compensation increase of 6.7%, effective July 1, 2022. While no change is planned for these suppliers in 2023/24 (year 2), they are eligible for an up to 3% increase in 2024/25 (year 3).
- Commercial collision suppliers received a 10% increase on paint and body labour rates in January 2022 and a 2.58% increase in 2021, and are eligible for increases of up to 3% in both years 2 and 3.

Skilled Labour

- Beyond rate increases, ICBC is working to address other challenges including helping the collision repair and towing industries with issues related to labour shortages and training. Initiatives include funding for collision repair apprentices and training that focuses on different themes that are critical for industry, such as safety and workplace behavioural changes.
- ICBC is contributing up to \$1.5 million over 6 years to help build further capacity for their industries for the long term.
- The initiatives are designed to develop skills and talents of British Columbians looking for a fulfilling career in the collision repair industry. ICBC is offering the incentives for a limited period to gauge their effectiveness.

Contact: Phil Leong, Interim CEO (ICBC)	Phone: <small>Government Financial Information</small>	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Estimates 2023/24 Briefing Book**

**Liquor Distribution Branch
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Liquor Distribution Branch Organization Overview

Suggested Response:

- Revenue generated by the BC Liquor Distribution Branch supports vital public services like health care and education, benefitting all British Columbians.
 - In fiscal year 2022/23, the branch's projected net income is \$1.179B, exceeding its net income target in Budget 2022 by \$12.3M.
 - The net income forecast for fiscal year 2023/24 is \$1.150B with both revenue and operating expenses projected to increase.
- Beyond revenue generation, the branch supports B.C. communities and the economy by employing nearly 5,300 people across the province and collecting an estimated \$2.1M in fiscal year 2022/23 for local charities and humanitarian causes via retail fundraising efforts.
- The branch forecasts consistent revenue growth in the long term; however, inflation, supply chain issues, labour shortages, and recent economic projections continue to create uncertainty for branch operations in the current and future fiscal years.

Background:

Operations

- The branch, under the direction of a General Manager and CEO, is one of two branches of government that provide oversight of the liquor and cannabis industries; the other is the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch.
- The branch is responsible for the wholesale distribution and retail sale of liquor and cannabis. Under B.C.'s mixed public-private retail model and public wholesale model for liquor and cannabis, the branch operates:
 - 198 BC Liquor Stores and 37 BC Cannabis Stores.
 - Two liquor wholesale distribution centres located in Delta and Kamloops, and one cannabis wholesale distribution centre located in Richmond.
- The branch employs approximately 5,300 full-time and part-time employees.

Financial Outlook

- In fiscal year 2022/23, the branch forecasts \$1.179B in net income, exceeding its Budget 2022 target by \$12.3M.

- This represents a slight decrease in net income of 0.9 per cent from the previous year due to increased operating expenses driven by the new collective agreement for unionized workers and increased costs of goods and services resulting from global supply chain challenges.
- Overall sales revenue growth is expected to be 4.1 per cent over the previous year as driven by changes in product mix, rising inflation, and growth of private and public cannabis retail locations.
- Net income is projected to decline marginally in fiscal year 2023/24 to \$1.150B as a result of higher wage rates, deferred spending on new BC Cannabis Store locations, and higher overall costs due to inflation before projected growth in 2024/25 (\$1.170B) and 2025/26 (\$1.194B).
- During fiscal year 2022/23 COVID-19 restrictions and health orders were lifted, and B.C. consumers resumed more social activities. Liquor sales have subsequently shifted away from BC Liquor Stores and private retail stores back towards the hospitality sector, stabilizing hospitality market share.
 - This shift in market share has had a negative impact on the branch’s gross margin as hospitality margins are based on wholesale price while BC Liquor Stores and private retail store margins are based on the higher retail price.
- Liquor sales revenue growth in fiscal year 2023/24 and future years is expected to be consistent with historical trends and is predicted to be an average of 2.2 per cent, due to changes in product mix, impacts of inflation, and small growth in volume.
- The branch’s Cannabis Retail has opened four BC Cannabis Store locations over fiscal year 2022/23, bringing the total number of store locations in the province to 37 as of March 15, 2023. An additional two stores are anticipated by May 2023, bringing the total number of store locations to 39. In addition, Liquor Distribution Branch Cannabis Wholesale now provides product ordering and delivery services to more than 470 cannabis retailers across the province.

Budget

Budget (millions)	2021/22 Actuals	2022/23 Forecast	2023/24 Estimates	2024/25 Plan	2025/26 Plan
Sales	4,355	4,534	4,690	4,821	4,924
Gross Margin	1,680	1,715	1,769	1,808	1,840
Operating Expenses	508	556	634	653	661
Other Income ¹	17	20	15	15	15
Net Income	1,189	1,179	1,150	1,170	1,194
Capital	22	25	28	34	27
FTEs ²	4,059	4,234	4,386	4,519	4,534

¹Includes revenue from audit assessments, cannabis delivery charges, border collections, airline billings, sales data reports, and miscellaneous other revenue.

²FTE count increased between 2021-2026 due to the addition of new BCCS locations and filling vacancies.

Contact: Blain Lawson (LDB)	Phone: 604-252-7411	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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**Liquor Distribution
Branch Capital and
Operation Projects**

Suggested Response:

- The BC Liquor Distribution Branch invests in capital and operating projects to support the modernization of its business, sustainable economic growth, the creation of well-paying jobs, and improved services to the people of B.C.
- In fiscal year 2023/24, the branch anticipates spending a total of \$28.3M for ongoing operational requirements including upgrades to BC Liquor stores (\$24.2M), capital projects (\$3.2M), and the rollout of two additional BC Cannabis Stores (\$0.9M).
- The capital budget forecast for fiscal year 2023/24 has increased slightly from fiscal year 2022/23 due to the continuing need to update fixed capital assets (including equipment, vehicles, point-of-sale system upgrades, and security system replacements), the undertaking of BC Liquor Store improvement projects, and underspending in fiscal year 2022/23.
- Over the next three years, the branch anticipates spending \$89.7M (an average of \$29.9M annually) on capital projects.
- The branch remains focused on cost-consciousness and accountability to taxpayers when selecting projects and is committed to ensuring projects are completed successfully, on-time, and within budget.

Background:

LDB Capital (millions)	2021/22 Actuals	2022/23 Projection	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Plan	2025/26 Plan	3 Year
Operating Capital	\$ 13.7	\$ 13.8	\$ 24.2	\$ 30.7	\$ 24.0	\$ 78.9
Capital Projects	\$ 2.8	\$ 3.8	\$ 3.2	\$ 3.3	\$ 3.4	\$ 9.9
Cannabis Store Rollout	\$ 5.8	\$ 7.2	\$ 0.9	-	-	\$ 0.9
Total Capital	\$ 22.3	\$ 24.8	\$ 28.3	\$ 34.0	\$ 27.4	\$ 89.7

Contact: Blain Lawson (LDB)	Phone: 604-252-7411	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Liquor Distribution Branch – Top Issues Questions and Answers

Liquor Supply Chain

- **What is the financial impact of the new ratified BC General Employees' Union collective agreement on the branch's financial forecast?**
 - Employment costs for fiscal 2023/24 are expected to increase by \$45.8M due to changes in the collective agreement, as well as the addition of new BC Cannabis Store locations.
 - However, wage increases are only one of many factors impacting the branch's financial forecast.
 - While the branch's sales are expected to increase by an average of 2.8 per cent over the three-year fiscal plan period (2023/24 to 2025/26), net income for fiscal 2023/24 is anticipated to be \$28.3M lower than fiscal year 2022/23 as a result of higher wage rates, new BC Cannabis Stores, and higher overall costs due to inflation.
- **What steps is government taking to address challenges with the branch's liquor distribution system that could mitigate potential supply chain disruptions?**
 - The branch's liquor distribution system provides a safe and reliable wholesale distribution framework across multiple channels.
 - The branch worked closely with industry partners to successfully mitigate widespread, extended disruptions to the supply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic, wildfires and floods.
 - Lessons learned will inform the branch's efforts to improve its operational processes and modernize its IT systems to mitigate disruptions in the future, working closely with industry stakeholders as part of this process.
 - The branch is actively engaged with the Business Technical Advisory Panel regarding industry concerns about the distribution system, including for with respect to the timely distribution of non-stocked wholesale product.
 - Additional steps being taken include modernizing current processes and systems within the branch's warehouse operations to improve the transparency, efficiency, and accuracy of the order management process.

Cannabis Industry Concerns

- **What is the branch’s response to private cannabis retailers who feel BC Cannabis Stores’ prices are too low or who claim predatory pricing?**
 - BC Cannabis Stores is required to balance its need to be profitable with its mandate to eliminate the illicit market, which involves staying competitive with illicit retailers.
 - BC Cannabis Stores aims to maintain a blended margin of 30 per cent across its various product categories.
 - As is usual practice in the retail sector, BC Cannabis Stores is often required to price down products that have experienced poor sales to avoid them becoming aged and to mitigate the financial risk of not selling through stock.
 - Retailers are responsible for determining the retail markup of their product assortment, providing they do not price products below the wholesale price.

- **Is the branch looking into concerns from industry regarding the markup and its impact on industry combatting the illicit market?**
 - The branch applies a 15 per cent markup on the landed cost of cannabis distributed throughout the province to all retail stores (public and private).
 - The markup collected by the branch is a proprietary charge collected from the sale of cannabis products owned by the Province of B.C. through its wholesale monopoly over non-medical cannabis. Any profits generated by the branch’s cannabis sales are remitted to the Consolidated Revenue Fund where they contribute to supporting vital public services such as health care and education.
 - The branch is aware of concerns from industry regarding the markup and will continue to listen to the concerns raised and consider feedback provided by industry, broader stakeholders, and Indigenous partners to help guide decisions on potential adjustments to cannabis policies in B.C., including the markup rate.

- **What is the branch’s response to private retailers who feel like they cannot compete with BC Cannabis Stores?**
 - There are currently roughly 470 licensed private cannabis retailers licensed to operate in B.C., compared to 37 BC Cannabis Stores operating throughout the province.
 - BC Cannabis Stores adheres to the same municipal application processes as all cannabis retailers, including complying with all distancing requirements and applicable bylaws, as set out by the municipality.

- BC Cannabis Stores maximises its margins, maintaining an average margin of 30 per cent across all product categories, while continuing to adhere to its mandate of being competitive with the illicit market.

Low-Risk Alcohol Drinking Guidelines

- **What is the expected revenue impacts following the Canadian Centre for Substance Use and Addictions low-risk alcohol drinking guidelines?**
 - The impacts on consumer behaviour as a result of the Canadian Centre for Substance Use and Addiction's report are yet to be known and its too early to conclude if the new guidelines will have material impact on branch revenue.
 - Beverage alcohol is a highly regulated product and consumption patterns can be influenced by several factors, including economic shifts, regulatory changes, government policy, demographics, and weather patterns.
 - The branch will continue to support government's mandate of prioritizing public health and safety and promoting responsible consumption and awareness of the risks associated with consuming liquor.

Industry Innovation

- **What steps is government taking to support innovation in the liquor industry?**
 - B.C.'s liquor industry is important to the economy.
 - As the industry continues to grow, the branch remains committed to supporting innovation as well as balancing the shared responsibility of all industry stakeholders to support the responsible use of beverage alcohol.
 - In February 2023, the branch was criticized publicly for its decision to decline the product registration of liquor freezies submitted by a B.C. start-up while allowing the registration of other frozen drinks. In subsequent media coverage, the founders of the start-up also reiterated their concerns with the branch's decision and requested that the branch be more supportive of new products from small-scale manufacturers.
 - As part of its product registration process, the branch closely assesses each individual product request in its entirety to make sure it complies with the branch's policy for social responsibility criteria for the registration of alcohol products.
 - The LDB regularly reviews its policies and guidelines, communicates with other provincial liquor jurisdictions to identify changing trends, and updates policies as needed to address industry requests and the evolving beverage alcohol marketplace.

- In this evolving beverage alcohol market, the branch regularly reviews its Wholesale Product Registration policies and updates the policies as needed to address industry requests and the introduction of new products and packaging.

Contact: Blain Lawson (LDB)	Phone: 604-252-7411	Mobile:	Government Financial Information
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Business Technical Advisory Panel Recommendation Status and Liquor Priorities

Suggested Response:

- The Business Technical Advisory Panel has been a valuable channel for government to communicate with a broad range of liquor sector stakeholders, ensuring that discussions about liquor policy and regulatory changes occur openly and transparently, and information can be shared quickly in urgent situations, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and November 2021 floods.
- Over the course of the pandemic, the panel identified emergency recommendations to support industry. Government responded by providing timely supports to the liquor manufacturing and hospitality industries, such as enabling liquor sales with takeout food.
- Many of the panel's recommendations to government have been implemented including creating a new licence class for rural liquor stores and making market data more transparent.
- However, the operating environment within the liquor industry has changed significantly, and priorities for industry and government have evolved over the last five years since the 2018 report was initially tabled. We are now working with the panel to refresh and update our shared priorities. We want to make sure we are focusing our collective resources on the right issues.
- Government continues to meet regularly with the panel for advice on liquor policy issues and areas of concern or opportunity for B.C.'s liquor industry and is committed to identifying a new, focused list areas of interest.

Background:

- In 2018, the panel was established to inform government on liquor policy issues and areas of concern or opportunity for the B.C. liquor industry.
- The panel has 11 members representing manufacturers, retail licensees and hospitality sector associations.
- Since 2018, the panel has put forward a total of 34 recommendations, including emergency recommendations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- In 2021, government completed a prioritization exercise with the panel, committing policy resources to a list of agreed-upon priorities.
- As of March 2023, over half of the recommendations have been implemented, and several more are in progress towards implementation. The remaining recommendations involve significant policy reforms which are no longer relevant or feasible to implement.
- The 2018 report is no longer being pursued as new direction is being established. In April 2023, government communicated a refresh of the panel and the work that it is doing in collaboration with ministries. Work is now underway towards updating the priorities on which the panel is focused. Government is committed to working in partnership with industry to identify and reset priorities post-pandemic.
- Ongoing engagement with the panel is led by the Crown Agencies Secretariat of the Ministry of Finance and supported by the Liquor Distribution Branch as well as staff from the ministries of Public Safety and Solicitor General (Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch), and Agriculture and Food.

Contact: Cheryl May (CAS)	Phone: 250 812-3345	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE**Liquor Industry Requests****Suggested Response:**

- Government has introduced a range of measures to support the B.C. beer, wine, spirits, and hospitality industries, including expanding direct delivery benefits, extending the Temporary Expanded Service Area program, increased sharing of data and information, showcasing B.C. Vintners Quality Alliance wines in BC Liquor Stores, and allowing some B.C. manufacturers that meet established criteria to retain mark-up on direct sales.
- In 2021, government implemented a permanent change allowing hospitality licensees to purchase liquor at the wholesale price, representing \$71M in annual savings to the hospitality sector.
- The BC Liquor Distribution Branch has continued to make operational improvements in its distribution centres, including stock keeping unit management and space optimization to onboard additional non-stocked wholesale products and reduce the end-to-end lead time for the distribution of these products.
- Government continues to work closely with the B.C. liquor industry through the Business Technical Advisory Panel to identify and address challenges in a thoughtful manner, helping support a sustainable liquor industry, including by engaging on new and ongoing issues of concern being raised by industry.
- The branch is committed to supporting innovation while balancing the shared responsibility of all industry stakeholders, from manufacturers to retailers, to promote the responsible consumption of liquor.

Background:**Cross-Industry Requests**

- In November 2022, Business Technical Advisory Panel members sent a letter to government outlining their concerns about ongoing inefficiencies with the Liquor Distribution Branch's distribution model, including delays fulfilling orders and, in some cases, outright cancellations of orders. They requested that government work in partnership with industry to address these issues, which were exacerbated by the recent BC General Employees' Union job action focused on the branch's distribution centres.
- In February 2023, the branch was criticized publicly for discouraging innovation and entrepreneurship after it declined the product registration of liquor freezies submitted by a B.C. start-up. In recent media coverage, the founders of the start-up reiterated their concerns with the branch's decision and requested that the branch be more supportive of

new products from small-scale manufacturers. The branch reviews each new product registration to determine whether it meets the branch's social responsibility criteria and is consistent with other provincial liquor jurisdictions. Products likely to appeal to minors are not registered.

Beer Industry Requests

- Since May 2022, the BC Craft Brewers Guild has been requesting that the branch review its common ownership and worldwide production rules to minimize mark-up impacts on B.C. breweries that share common ownership with breweries located outside of the province.
- In August 2022, in light of distribution challenges that were heightened during the recent BC General Employees Union job action, the BC Craft Brewers Guild renewed requests that breweries be permitted to direct deliver packaged refreshment beverages to wholesale customers. They are currently only permitted to direct deliver these products through sales to patrons at their manufacturer on-site store.

Wine Industry Requests

- Since December 2021, Wine Growers BC has been requesting that the branch increase the minimum liquor wholesale price, relative to potential increases to the minimum liquor retail price, which is currently under review by the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch.
- Wine Growers BC have also advocated for a simplification of licence types for manufacturers (wineries, breweries and distilleries). This would allow the consumption, sale and service of liquor products throughout their sites. The Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch has initiated work on this matter.
- Further, as of May 2022, Wine Growers BC has continued to request that commercial wineries be granted a mark-up concession on non-BC VQA grape wine packaged in keg and bag-in-box formats, while continuing to allow them to import grape and grape juice. They currently only receive this concession for BC VQA wines, which must be packaged in glass bottles in order to be certified by the BC Wine Authority as being produced using 100 per cent B.C. agricultural inputs.
- In November 2022, a group of commercial wineries wrote to government requesting that all wine made from 100 per cent B.C. agricultural inputs, whether in a commercial or land-based winery, receive the same mark-up benefits.
- On June 30, 2022, the federal government repealed the federal excise duty exemption on 100 per cent Canadian wine. In response to excise now being imposed on B.C. wine, Wine Growers BC requested that the 50 per cent rebate that the branch provides on BC VQA wine be applied after factoring in the excise duty, which would result in government subsidizing a portion of this federal tax.

- In summer 2022, New Wave Wine Society requested that the branch provide the same benefits to fruit wineries and meaderies that it currently provides to BC VQA grape wines by introducing an equivalent designation program for fruit wines and meads. Specifically, they are requesting a 50 per cent rebate on sales through branch channels of fruit wine and mead products that use 100 per cent B.C. agricultural inputs.

Spirits Industry Requests

- In September 2022, the Craft Distillers Guild of British Columbia requested that craft distilleries be permitted to sell products from their on-site store that are manufactured on their behalf by another licensed manufacturer of the same licence class (i.e., contract manufacturing).
- The Craft Distillers Guild of British Columbia and individual craft distilleries have continued to advocate for the elimination of restrictions preventing craft distilleries from producing refreshment beverages, including, most recently, in November 2022.

Contact: Blain Lawson (LDB)	Phone: 604-252-7411	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Cannabis Industry Requests

Suggested Response:

- Government is committed to working with its industry partners to explore ways to support the success of the regulated cannabis market in B.C.
- In January 2022, the BC Liquor Distribution Branch launched the BC Indigenous Cannabis Product program to deliver on the Province’s commitment to develop a robust, diverse, and sustainable legal cannabis economy in B.C., inclusive of rural and Indigenous communities, while continuing to prioritize public health and safety.
 - As of January 2023, three licensed producers have registered to participate in the program and have registered 47 individual products.
- In August 2022, the branch launched a direct delivery program to allow eligible cannabis producers to ship non-medical cannabis products directly to private retail cannabis stores in B.C.
 - As of early April 2023, the program had almost 1,000 products registered, across 76 cultivators and 42 processors.
- The branch will continue to work with industry and ministry partners to understand challenges and opportunities as the regulated cannabis market evolves in B.C., and to build a successful and equitable cannabis industry for all stakeholders.

Background:

Cannabis Industry Requests

- Industry has made several requests related to the branch’s cannabis line of business and the provincial cannabis framework, including:
 - Requesting support from government to advocate for changes to the federal excise regime, retail store visibility issues and packaging and promotion restrictions.
 - Eliminating the wholesale mark-up for products sold through the direct delivery program.
 - Reducing the weekly reporting requirements under the direct delivery program.
 - Expanding the direct delivery program to allow more licensed producers to participate.
 - Placing a temporary moratorium on opening new BC Cannabis Stores.

- Providing Indigenous producers with dedicated shelf-space for their products in BC Cannabis Stores.
- Including industry stakeholders in provincial policy discussions.
- Reconsidering the recall insurance requirements for both the direct delivery and central distribution channels.
- The branch is engaged with various associations across the retail and cannabis sector and senior leaders from the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch, the Cannabis Secretariat, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and the Crown Agencies Secretariat.

Contact: Blain Lawson (LDB)	Phone: 604-252-7411	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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