

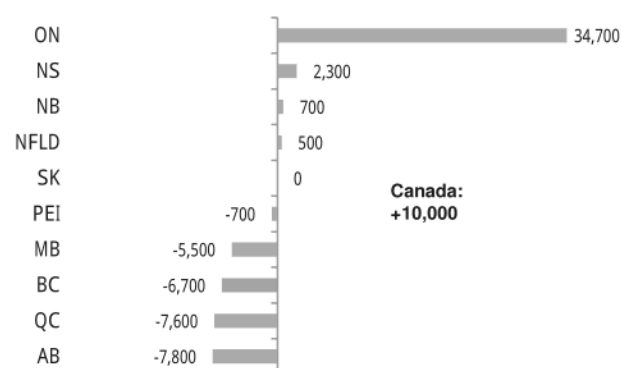
Labour Force Survey

- Employment in September: 2,473,300 (-6,700 since August)
- September UR: 4.9% (-0.2 pct pts); Youth 7.1% (-2.7 pct pts); B.C. ranks 1st (overall)/ 1st (youth)
- Wages in September: \$25.74 (+\$0.51 since Aug); B.C. ranks 4th in average hourly wages

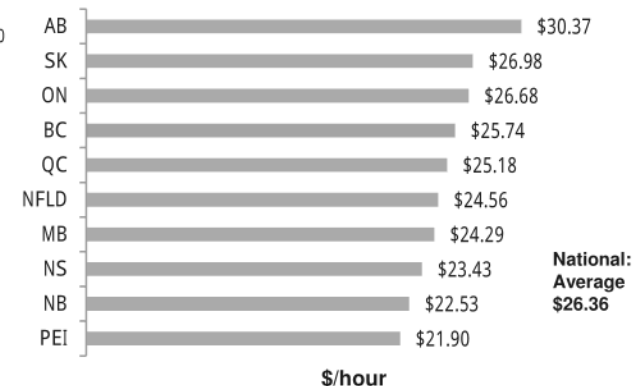
EMPLOYMENT GAINS/LOSSES

	This month	M/M	Y/Y
TOTAL	2,473,300	-6,700	+85,100
Full-time	1,935,000	+5,000	+70,500
Part-time	538,400	-11,600	+14,600
Private Sector	1,587,000	-9,700	+60,100
Public Sector	439,300	+7,600	+14,000
Self-employed	447,100	-4,500	+11,000

EMPLOYMENT GAINED/LOST (by Province)



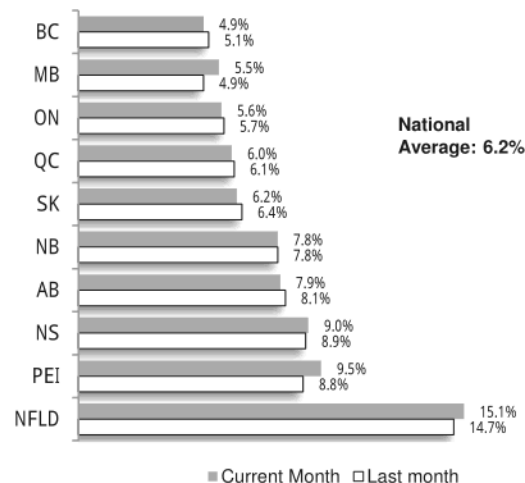
AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE (by Province)



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

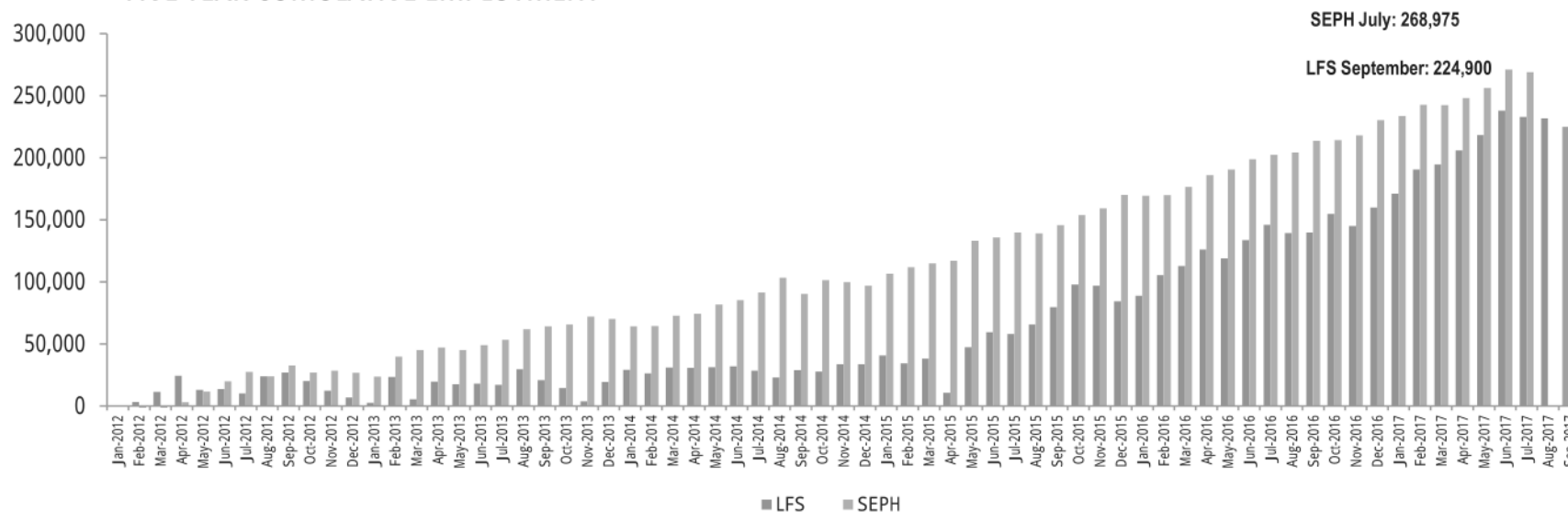


UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (by Province)



Sectors	This month	M/M
Accommodation and food services	183,200	+3,700
Health care and social assistance	311,500	+3,600
Finance, insurance, real estate & leasing	159,000	+3,300
Educational services	166,200	+2,500
Wholesale and retail trade	380,500	+2,100
Public administration	100,000	+1,800
Natural resources (incl. oil & gas)	50,100	+300
Utilities	13,100	+200
Manufacturing	176,400	-300
Transportation and warehousing	137,600	-1,900
Business, building and other supports	99,100	-2,200
Other services	111,500	-2,300
Agriculture	24,000	-3,400
Information, culture and recreation	134,800	-3,400
Professional, scientific and technical services	201,000	-4,900
Construction	225,300	-5,800

FIVE YEAR CUMULATIVE EMPLOYMENT



REGIONS	Unemployment Rate	Change since last year (Sep-16)	Change since last month (Aug-17)	Employment	Change since last year	Change since last month	10 Year High	Month/Year	10 Year Low	Month/Year
Vancouver Island/Coast	5.2%	-0.2 ppt (5.4%)	+0.1 ppt (5.1%)	392,800	+22,400	-800	9.0%	Mar-11	3.4%	Dec-07
Mainland/ Southwest	4.6%	-0.7 ppt (5.3%)	-0.1 ppt (4.7%)	1,603,700	+40,000	-13,600	8.4%	Apr-11	3.7%	Feb-08
Thompson-Okanagan	7.1%	+0.4 ppt (6.7%)	+0.7 ppt (6.4%)	266,300	+15,800	-1,600	9.9%	Apr-09	3.8%	Oct-07
Kootenay	8.1%	-0.4 ppt (8.5%)	+0.4 ppt (7.7%)	70,100	+4,800	-1,800	10.6%	Jan-10	2.6%	Jun-08
Cariboo	6.3%	-1.1 ppt (7.4%)	-0.2 ppt (6.5%)	83,300	+3,700	+500	14.2%	Jul-09	4.3%	Nov-07
North Coast/ Nechako	5.6%	-2.2 ppt (7.8%)	+0.1 ppt (5.5%)	43,700	+900	+500	12.7%	Feb-12	4.6%	Dec-14
Northeast	5.2%	-4.2 ppt (9.4%)	+0.0 ppt (5.2%)	38,200	-100	+100	10.5%	Jan-17	3.5%	Nov-12

Note: data for economic regions based on 2011 census boundaries, 3 month moving average, seasonally unadjusted

CITIES	Unemployment Rate	Change since last year (Sep-16)	Change since last month (Aug-17)	Employment	Change since last year	Change since last month	10 Year High	Month/Year	10 Year Low	Month/Year
Kelowna	5.4%	-2.1 ppt (7.5%)	+0.8 ppt (4.6%)	102,200	+12,800	+0	11.7%	Jun-09	3.1%	Jan-15
Abbotsford- Mission	5.5%	-0.6 ppt (6.1%)	-0.1 ppt (5.6%)	93,800	+1,000	+300	10.4%	Mar-12	3.9%	Aug-08
Vancouver	4.5%	-0.4 ppt (4.9%)	-0.2 ppt (4.7%)	1,410,200	+37,600	-3,000	8.3%	Apr-11	3.7%	Mar-08
Victoria	4.5%	-0.2 ppt (4.7%)	-0.1 ppt (4.6%)	192,800	+5,800	+1,300	7.3%	Jan-10	2.8%	May-08

Note: data for census metropolitan areas based on 2011 census boundaries, 3 month moving average, seasonally adjusted

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
October 3, 2017

Ministry of Environment and
Climate Change Strategy

Review of professional reliance model to ensure public interest is protected

VICTORIA – The BC government is conducting a review of the province’s professional reliance model to ensure the highest professional, technical and ethical standards are being applied to resource development in British Columbia.

“Reviewing the professional reliance model is a top priority for this government because the public must be assured that we have a strong transparent process in place that upholds the highest environmental standards,” said Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy George Heyman. “Actions flowing from this review will help restore public confidence in government’s responsibility to ensure the public interest is protected when it comes to resource management.”

The review will assess the current legislation governing Qualified Professionals (QPs) in the natural resource sector, and how their professional associations uphold the public interest. Additionally the review will look at other jurisdictions to identify best practices, and assess whether those best practices are being used by QPs doing work on government’s behalf. Finally, the review will make recommendations around resource decisions made by government to protect the public interest, under what conditions those decisions may involve QPs and what is the appropriate level of government oversight to assure the public their interests are protected.

“I am delighted that the government is moving forward with a comprehensive review of professional reliance,” said MLA for Cowichan Valley, Sonia Furstenau. “The impacts of this system have been felt across B.C., and particularly brought to light in Shawnigan. We support the government in rebuilding trust through this review.”

Engagement with those who use QPs in both government and the private sector, as well as stakeholders and representatives of the public will also be part of the review.

A final report is expected to be completed by spring 2018 with recommendations to inform the following:

- Professional reliance use in the natural resource sector and in-house capacity.
- Government oversight of QPs.
- Development of an implementation plan with a timeline for tangible steps to increase public trust in government decisions.

The review of the professional reliance model is contained in both Minister Heyman’s mandate letter as well as the Confidence and Supply Agreement with the Green Party.

(Link to Professional Reliance Review Terms of Reference at www.xxx)

Media contact:

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Media Relations

250-953-3834

Reviewing BC's Natural Resource Sector Professional Reliance Model

Terms of Reference

Background

Use of Professional Reliance (PR) within British Columbia's resource sector is a long standing practice, where activities are overseen by professionals in the private sector, monitored by self-governing professional organizations responsible for enforcing codes of ethics, professional standards and disciplinary processes. Over the past decade the use of PR has increased, in response to government's regulatory reform initiatives. Currently, approximately 27 Natural Resource Sector (NRS) regulatory regimes rely on Qualified Professionals (QP) to provide information to government decision-makers. In certain situations QPs are delegated the authority and associated responsibilities to make statutory decisions on government's behalf. Since 2013, the Environmental Appeal Board, Forest Practices Board, Office of the Auditor General, the Office of the Ombudsperson and other organizations have investigated how well the PR model performs the requirement to provide independent, objective advice to government regulators. These investigations highlight the need for adequate oversight of QPs. There has also been public concern related to some specific instances of decision making based on PR.

Purpose

To review the PR model in the NRS and make recommendations on whether:

1. Professional associations that oversee QPs employ best practices to protect the public interest and whether government oversight of professional associations is adequate.
2. Any additional oversight or changes to governance are required to ensure best practices are followed for QPs and their associations in their activities related to PR.
3. There are decisions currently made by QPs that should instead be made by government to protect the public interest and whether QP accountability to government is appropriate to protect the public interest.

Outcomes

The intended outcomes of this project are:

- Transparency and public trust in government decisions.
- Ensuring QPs are used appropriately in the NRS.

Project Components

There are five components to this review, including:

1. Professional Association Audit

- Assess the enabling legislation and performance of professional associations that govern QPs.

2. PR Appropriateness & Effectiveness Assessment

- For the approximately 27 NRS regulatory regimes that rely on QPs, determine whether the use of QPs is appropriate and whether these regimes follow best practice to protect the public interest.
- Case studies will be used to highlight the current use of QPs in the NRS and the impact the recommendations from this review could have on their use.

3. Targeted Interviews

- Interviews will be conducted with key government and private sector users of QPs from different professional associations, with stakeholders, and with representatives of the public, focusing on their experiences with PR models in the NRS.

4. Jurisdictional Scan

- A jurisdictional scan will be conducted to identify best practices in PR models of other jurisdictions and to summarize the findings from previous reviews of the PR model in the NRS.

5. Report & Recommendations

- A report with recommendations will be made to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and released to the public.

Scope

- The following associations will be included as part of the audit of professional associations:
 - BC Institute of Agrologists
 - Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of BC
 - College of Applied Biology
 - Engineers and Geoscientists of BC (formerly APEGBC)
 - Association of BC Forest Professionals
- All NRS statutes and regulations that incorporate some form of professional reliance are in scope for the assessment of the appropriateness and effectiveness of QPs in NRS decision making.

Communication

- The Terms of Reference for the review, as well as other relevant documents, will be posted to the government's web site for the professional reliance review (www.xxxx.bc.ca) as they are finalized.

- The ministry will announce any interim measures (not requiring legislation) that may be approved before the review is complete.
- Once the final report is received, government will release it to the public and announce its response.

Project Completion

- This review will be conducted throughout 2017 and 2018 with a final report with recommendations being completed and publicly released by spring, 2018.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Review of Professional Reliance Model
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
September 2017

KEY MESSAGES:

- **The B.C. government is conducting a review of the province's professional reliance model to ensure the highest professional, technical and ethical standards are being applied to resource development in British Columbia.**
- **Reviewing the professional reliance model is a top priority for this government because the public should be assured that a strong, transparent process is in place that upholds the public interest and highest environmental standards.**
- **Actions flowing from this review are intended to help restore public confidence and ensure the public interest is protected when it comes to resource development.**
- **Government is committed to ensuring Indigenous Peoples' concerns and interests are represented in this review.**

Questions and Answers:

1. What is the professional reliance model?

- The professional reliance model emerged from the desire to have project proponents in the natural resource sector pay for the expertise needed to ensure they are complying with the various regulatory regimes.
- Qualified professionals have specific expertise necessary to inform natural resource decisions, and develop and oversee monitoring and implementation of natural resource management activities.
- The reliance upon professionals exists in many other areas such as health care and financial management.

2. Why does government need a model for reliance on qualified professionals?

- The professional reliance model is intended to ensure that qualified professionals provide independent, objective advice to clients, government regulators, and the public.
- Currently, approximately 27 natural resource sector regulatory regimes rely on qualified professionals to provide information to government decision-makers.
- In certain situations, qualified professionals are delegated the authority and associated responsibilities to make statutory decisions on government's behalf.
- In order to work most effectively in the public interest, the model needs to ensure qualified professionals are competent, accountable, independent, ethical, and have adequate oversight.

3. What is the Review's purpose and mandate?

- This review is intended to examine the professional reliance model in the natural resource sector and make recommendations on:
 - Whether professional associations that oversee qualified professionals employ best practices to protect the public interest;
 - Whether government oversight of professional associations is adequate; and
 - Whether there are decisions currently made by qualified professionals that should instead be made by government to protect the public interest.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

4. What are the outcomes of the review?

- The intended outcomes of the review are:
 - improved transparency and public trust in government decisions based on the recommendations of qualified professionals, and
 - assurance of appropriate use of Qualified professionals in the natural resource sector.

5. How will the review assess whether the oversight of qualified professionals is adequate?

- The Ministry will assess select natural resource sector regulatory regimes that use qualified professionals:
 - First, to determine which decisions should be delegated to a qualified professional, and which decisions should remain in government; and
 - Then, to assess whether those regimes are using best practices (i.e. robust regulatory and association oversight) to protect the public interest.

6. Won't this review lead to delays in issuing permits and approvals, more red tape, and therefore decreased investment and job creation?

- It's too early to say how the review will affect the natural resource management regulatory regimes. Until the final recommendations are received, any speculation would be premature.
- The review is intended to protect and uphold public trust while ensuring the environment and human health are protected, and there is sound management of BC's natural resources.
- Qualified professionals assist government in delivering efficient, transparent, evidence-based permitting and approvals processes for natural resource management. The public needs to have confidence in the decisions made by qualified professionals in assessing and approving resource management activities in BC.

7. What kinds of occupational associations and legislation are covered in this model?

- This review will include qualified professionals in the following provincially-regulated occupations:
 - BC Institute of Agrologists (Agrologists Act);
 - Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of BC (Applied Science Technologists and Technicians Act);
 - Association of Professional Biologists (College of Applied Biology Act);
 - Engineers and Geoscientists of BC (formerly APEGBC) (Engineers and Geoscientists Act); and
 - Association of BC Forest Professionals (Foresters Act).

8. When will the review be completed?

- The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy anticipates the review will be complete in Spring 2018.

9. Will there be an opportunity for public consultation associated with the Professional Reliance review?

- Yes, feedback from B.C. citizens will be solicited through the government's public engagement site later in the fall 2017.
- The Terms of Reference and other interim documents will be posted there in order to give the public an opportunity to see the progress of the review, and to give informed input.

10. Are Indigenous Peoples to be consulted?

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Yes, ministry staff have recommended that the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) be consulted to identify how best to ensure Indigenous peoples concerns and interests are represented in this review. This may include receiving input through the three First Nations natural resource sector committees that operate under the FNLC (Fisheries, Energy and Mining, Forestry).

11. What are the Terms of Reference for the review?

- The project terms of reference will be posted online at <http://engage.gov.bc.ca>.