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Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and Minister Responsible for Translink
Fiscal 2016/17 Budget Summary

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Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development Budget Overview

Ministry 2016/17 Operating Budget: $258.6M (a net increase of $30.1M or 13.1% from the 2015/16 budget of $228.5M).

Appropriation Structure:

- **Voted Appropriation:** Vote 18 Ministry Operations
- **Statutory Appropriations:**
    - BC Arts and Culture Endowment Special Account,
    - Physical Fitness and Amateur Sports Fund Special Account, and
    - University Endowment Lands (UEL) Administration Special Account

Vote 18 Ministry Operations:

2016/17 Operating Budget: $245.9M (a net increase of $30.1M or 14.0% from the 2015/16 restated budget of $215.8M).

The $30.1 million increase in the Ministry's budget is primarily due to a return to normalized funding for Small Community and Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing grants and BCGEU staff salary and benefit increase.

Key Messages, about the current year budget:

- Economic Stability Mandate and Economic Stability Dividend BCGEU staff salary and benefit increase.

Key Messages - Ministry Spending since 2001:

- Since 2001, the Province has provided more than $3.0 billion to B.C.'s local governments over and above previously existing funding streams. This unprecedented level of provincial support includes programs such as:
    - Canada-BC Infrastructure Program ($269M).
    - Building Canada Fund including Top-Up ($201M).
    - Infrastructure Stimulus Fund ($100M).
    - Municipal-Rural Infrastructure Program ($75M).
    - Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing and Small Community and Regional District Grants ($1,201M).
    - BC Community Water Improvement Program ($80M).
    - Towns for Tomorrow ($68.5M).
    - LocalMotion ($40M).
    - Spirit Squares ($20M).
    - Community Recreation Program ($30M).

Composition of 2016/17 Gross Operating Expenditures, before Recoveries (includes Special Accounts):

• Salaries and Benefits	$ 19.281M	4.7%
• Operating Costs	$ 12.158M	3.0%
• Government Transfers	$366.280M	90.2%
• Other Expenditures*	$ 8.490M	2.1%
• Gross Expenditures	$406.209M	100%

*Note: Other Expenditures includes $8.4M related to the UEL Special Account

2016/17 Capital Budget: $1.074M (decreased by $0.214M from the 2015/16 restated budget of $1.288M).

- The Ministry's Capital Budget is fully designated towards development and implementation of the Local Government Information System (LGIS).
- The budget requirements for LGIS were approved by the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) and the Capital Planning Secretariat.

Special Accounts:

Arts and Culture Endowment Fund:

- **2016/17 Revenue**: **$3.1M** (remained unchanged from 2014/15).
- **2016/17 Expense: $2.5M** (remained unchanged from 2015/16).
  - This special account is comprised of two funds with restricted balances: the BC150 Cultural fund of $150M and the Arts Legacy fund of $20M. The restricted balances are invested with BCIMC to generate revenue.
  - Expenses consist of grants to organizations and artists to support the creation, development or presentation of works of art at events or venues that provide significant exposure to those works of art.

Physical Fitness and Amateur Sport Fund:

- **2016/17 Revenue**: **$1.7M** (remained unchanged from 2015/16).
- **2016/17 Expense: $1.7M** (remained unchanged from 2015/16).
  - This special account promotes physical fitness and participation in amateur sport for residents of the province. Interest earned on the account balance is credited to the account as revenue.
  - Expenses consist of government transfers to physical fitness and amateur sports projects, groups and organizations and awards to individuals. Administration costs are provided through the Ministry Operations Vote.

University Endowment Lands (UEL) Administration Account:

- **2016/17 Revenue**: **$8.442M** (remained unchanged from 2015/16).
- **2016/17 Expense: $8.442M** (remained unchanged from 2015/16).
  - The University Endowment Lands Administration Special Account provides for services to residents of the University Endowment Lands (UEL).
  - Revenue is derived from University Endowment Lands resident ratepayer contributions including: user fees, licenses and property taxes, land sales, rent from land tenures, and the recovery of costs associated with a development/rezoning process.
  - Expenditures consist of infrastructure services to the local residents.

Ministry Operations Sub-Vote Summary (*excludes Special Account)*

Local Government – *Tara Faganello (cell:* s.17

2016/17 Operating Budget: $172.556M (increased by $30.035M or 21% from the 2015/16 restated budget of $142.521M).

University Endowment Lands – *Tara Faganello (cell:* s.17)

2016/17 Operating Budget: $5.583M (no change from 2015/16).

- This sub-sub vote provides for the net cost of fire protection services to UBC.

Assessment Services – *Robert Fraser (cell:* s.17

2016/17 Operating Budget: $.501M (decreased by $2,000 from 2015/16).

Support for Arts and Culture:

The following budget provides consistent grant funding to the BC Arts Council through 2018/19.

Budget (000's)	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Arts and Culture	$26.078M	$26.095M	$26.124M	$26.145M
Arts & Culture Endowment Special Account	$2.500M	$2.500M	$2.500M	$2.500M

For fiscal year 2016/17, the Province will provide more than $60M in arts and culture funding, including:

- $24M to the BC Arts Council (including $2.15M from the BC 150 Cultural Fund);
- $350,000 for the Arts Legacy Fund portion of the BC Arts and Culture Endowment;
- $2M for Arts and Culture programs;
- $2.2M for Arts Branch operations;
- $11.87M to the Royal BC Museum;
- Approximately $17.5M in Arts and Culture Community gaming grants;
- $2.24M for Creative BC (via the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training).

Key Messages – Arts and Culture:

- Our government will spend more than $60M on arts and culture funding in 2016/17.
- In 2016/17, the BC Arts Council, an independent agency funded by the Province of British Columbia, will provide $24M to help individual artists and cultural organizations in communities across British Columbia.
- Since 2001, the BC Arts Council has distributed approximately $259M in support of B.C. artists and cultural organizations.
- Programs provided by these funds for arts and culture helped make communities in every region of British Columbia great places to live, work and invest.
- Since 2001, the provincial government's support for the arts and culture community in B.C. has totalled more than $590M.

Support for Sport:

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Budget (000's)	$20,626	$20,632	$20,646	$20,656
Physical Fitness & Amateur Sport Special Account	$1,700	$1,700	$1,700	$1,700

In 2016/17, the Province provides approximately $50M in sport funding. This includes:

- $28.5M from community gaming grant funding.
- Over $21 million in transfers for provincial sector programming:
  - Roughly $11 million for Participation Programming
  - Close to $7 million for High-Performance Programming
  - Over $3 million for BC Games, Hosting BC, and major events

Key Messages – Sport:

- Since 2001 we have invested more than $1 billion to support sport in BC.
- In 2016/17, the Province will be providing approximately $50M in sport funding.
- We've invested more than $690M in new sport infrastructure since 2005, including:
  - Paralympics Training & Development Centre in Kimberley.
  - Charles Jago Northern Sport Centre in Prince George.
  - Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence in Victoria.
  - The Olympic Venues.
  - More than 70 other sport and recreation facilities across the province.

Community Gaming Grants Program

- In 2011/12, the Ministry's budget was adjusted to include community gaming grants, in addition to the establishment of eligibility criteria.
    - The budget for community gaming grants increased to $135M with an offsetting recovery from BC Lotto Corporation of $135M (this is a $1K sub-sub vote).
    - Administration of the community gaming grants remains unchanged. The Gaming Staff is now located in the Ministry of Finance and will continue to adjudicate the community gaming grants through an administrative agreement with MCSCD.
    - The community gaming grants budget has remained consistent at $135.0M since 2010/11.

Transfer to Crowns – Royal BC Museum – *Melanie Stewart (cell:* s.17

2016/17 Operating Budget: $11.866M (remained unchanged from 2015/16).

Executive and Support Services – *Tracy Campbell (cell:* s.17

- **Minister's Office:**
    - **2016/17 Operating Budget: $0.572M** (decreased by $1,000 from 2015/16).
- **Corporate Services:**
    - **2015/16 Operating Budget: $5.334M** (increased by $46,000 from 2015/16).

SPEAKING POINTS FOR

HON. PETER FASSBENDER

MINISTER OF COMMUNITY, SPORT AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (RESPONSIBLE FOR TRANSLINK)

Estimates

March 17, 2016

Please check against delivery

Day 1- March 17, 2016 11 a.m.

- Thank you, Honourable Chair.

- I'm joined today by staff from the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development – distinguished professionals dedicated to public service with the Province of British Columbia.

- I am very pleased to introduce:
  - Deputy Minister Jacquie Dawes, and
  - Assistant Deputy Ministers:
    - Tara Faganello: Local Government
    - Melanie Stewart: Arts and Culture, Sport, Gaming Grants; and,
    - Kevin Volk: Community and Corporate Services Division, Executive Lead
    - David Curtis – who recently joined the Ministry of Finance, but up until his recent appointment, Mr.

Curtis served as ADM for my Ministry's Management Services Division.

- I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone at the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development for their excellent counsel and advice – they do an outstanding job on behalf of the citizens of British Columbia.

- The Ministry's key responsibilities include:

  - Working with British Columbia's 189 local governments to help communities throughout the province continue to succeed as great places to live, work, visit and invest.

  - Supporting B.C.'s talented artists, creative arts groups and dynamic cultural organizations in communities across the province.

  - Supporting sport in British Columbia as an activity that citizens can enjoy – and also as a means of showcasing

our province by hosting successful sports events and competitions.

- Supporting further development of B.C.'s creative economy and workforce to support the BC Jobs Plan and the newly developed Technology and Innovation Strategy.

- I'm pleased to note that within the context of a balanced budget, funding for our Ministry's community-based programs remains strong.

- Budget 2016 ensures that record levels of community-based funding for arts and sports will be sustained.

- The Ministry has increased budget funding for local government grants programs by $30 million in 2016-17, from $124.7 million to over $154.7 million.

- This funding helps B.C.'s local governments provide services their communities and citizens need to prosper.

- In 2016-17, the B.C. Government will spend more than $60 million on arts and culture to help B.C.'s artists and cultural organizations continue to shine.

- Budget 2016 provides more than $50 million to help support the amazing success of sport in British Columbia.

- Funding for community gaming grants will be sustained at $135 million for 2016-17, benefiting over 5,000 local organizations representing virtually every community in British Columbia.

- I would like to conclude by acknowledging the exceptional contributions of my staff:
  - Constituency assistants Brittany Comrie, Carmen Gaisford and Emily Cuthbert; and

- My exceptional team here in Victoria, including:
  - Chief of Staff, Joan Dick.
  - Administrative Assistant, Raya Lawrence;

- Administrative Coordinator, Lia Robbins;
- Executive Assistant, Riley Whitelock;
- Ministerial Assistant Parveen Sandur; and,

- Thank you.

-30-

List of Crown leads:

BC Games Society – Chief Executive Officer Kelly Mann
Royal BC Museum – Chief Executive Officer Angela Williams
BC Assessment Authority – President and Chief Executive Officer David Highfield

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Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation **Date:** January 15, 2016 **Minister Responsible:** Hon. John Rustad	**Reconciliation Status Overview**

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **B.C. is making progress on reconciliation with First Nations.**
- **Supporting greater economic prosperity in First Nations communities is a major part of reconciliation – creating partnerships based on mutual respect.**
- **The Province supports reconciliation in important areas such as economic development, revenue and benefit sharing, health, education, and skills training.**
- **We've reached more than 100 economic and reconciliation agreements with nations in the past year and are working to improve the treaty process.**
- **The Province and First Nations recognize that federal involvement is also critical for meaningful reconciliation.**

KEY FACTS:

- At the 2015 BC Cabinet – First Nations Leaders' Gathering, the Premier said that reconciliation is a shared vision of the future that we must shape together with First Nations. More than 400 First Nations leaders attended the gathering, along with the Premier, every minister, and every Deputy Minister.
- At the gathering, First Nations leaders were presented with a Proposed Commitment Document that was put together with members of the First Nations Leadership Council. The document is a proposal to Cabinet and First Nations leaders and is now being discussed for potential endorsement. It suggests actions the First Nations Leadership Council and Province could pursue at a strategic level, while also acknowledging that reconciliation means different things to different First Nations. (A separate issues note on the document is available.)
- First Nations leaders asked for a UBCM-style session, and there were more than 160 meetings with B.C. ministers. First Nations leaders had the opportunity to raise issues and ideas that are important to their community. A number of First Nations leaders believe progress has been made and that the gathering was a great opportunity to build direct relationships. Ministries will follow up on the commitments made in the meetings.
- The Premier spoke about the many challenges First Nations' children face and said that too many B.C. First Nations children are in government care. She pledged to hold a provincial meeting to discuss Aboriginal child welfare issues in the coming months.
- In order to make progress, Grand Chief Edward John has agreed to work directly with government. He has been appointed as senior advisor on Aboriginal child welfare to the Minister of Children and Family Development. He will work with Aboriginal leaders to help more Aboriginal children and youth secure a safe, caring, permanent family outside of government care.
- A few of the other actions taken by B.C. to advance reconciliation include:
    - On July 13, 2015, Minister John Rustad tabled a copy of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's summary report in the B.C. Legislature. This further highlighted the importance of the report to British Columbians.

- In June 2015, B.C. announced a commitment to jointly plan and host a family gathering with signatories to the Regarding Stopping Violence Against Aboriginal Women and Girls MOU to help strengthen, support and heal families of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.
- B.C. is working to ensure the history and legacy of residential schools is thoroughly covered in B.C.'s K-12 education curriculum, including reserving one professional development day for teachers next year to be focused on improving Aboriginal student learning.
- In 2013, B.C. created the First Nations Health Authority, the first of its kind in Canada, to transform the health and well-being of B.C.'s Aboriginal people.
- The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation is contributing $300,000 over the next two years to Reconciliation Canada to expand the national dialogue on reconciliation by supporting workshops in Kitimat, Haida Gwaii, Prince Rupert and in other communities yet to be determined.

- Further action by B.C. to advance reconciliation between September 2014 and September 2015:
  - MARR reached nearly 100 (97) economic and reconciliation agreements with First Nations and took, including:
    - 44 natural gas pipeline benefit agreements with 26 First Nations;
    - 35 clean energy revenue-sharing agreements with 27 First Nations;
    - an agreement with the Saulteau to help guide resource development in the Northeast.
  - Legislation and agreements supporting Nisga'a Nation's participation in LNG export;
  - B.C. acquiring 61 coal licences in the Klappan to help develop a shared vision with the Tahltan Nation for responsible management of the area;
  - Marine Planning Partnership with 18 coastal First Nations regarding marine management and stewardship for the North Coast;
  - Province made a wildlife harvest conservation decision that ensures First Nations food, social, and ceremonial harvest requirements are met before allocations for other hunters; and,
  - Through a negotiated settlement with the owner, Grace Islet will be returned to its natural state.
- More than $44.66 million in First Nations benefits and revenue sharing was paid out in 2014-15.

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Communications Contact:	Jeremy Uppenborn
Program Area Contact:	Laurel Nash (ADM), Christian Kittleson (ADM), Neilane Mayhew (Assoc. DM)
File Created:	Sept. 22, 2015

Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation **Date:** Jan 18, 2016 **Minister Responsible:** Hon. John Rustad	**BC Jobs Plan: First Nations Implications**

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Aboriginal people have a crucial role in our jobs strategy and are a vital part of B.C.'s economic future.**
- **B.C. is committed to working with aboriginal peoples and First Nations to strengthen communities and share in the growth of the provincial economy.**
- **Through the BC Jobs Plan, we're working to create employment and new economic opportunities for Aboriginal communities and help businesses work with Aboriginal people in developing projects in First Nations traditional territory.**
- **Through the BC Jobs Plan, we're committed to ensuring Aboriginal people have access to the education and training they need today for the jobs of tomorrow.**
- **Our government is working hard to improve Aboriginal participation in the economy and to promote economic certainty in the province by encouraging job creation and economic growth in Aboriginal communities.**
- **We have made great progress in reaching agreements that support the BC Jobs Plan by strengthening relationships with First Nations and promoting a positive investment climate for industry.**

KEY FACTS:

- In December 2015, the Province released its four-year update on the BC Jobs Plan, government's long-term strategy to secure a strong and prosperous economy now and for generations to come.
- Signs of success include: a record 2.3 million people working in BC; since 2011, employment, exports and our Gross Domestic product have reached record highs.
- The Province has added more than 118,900 jobs since the launch of the BC Jobs Plan in September 2011 and B.C.'s unemployment rate is one of the lowest in the country.
- Aboriginal participation in B.C.'s economy is improving through cross-sector partnerships that foster economic diversification, investment and job creation, and increased access to employment and skills training opportunities.

BC JOBS PLAN – PROGRESS MADE

- Signed over 100 non-treaty agreements with B.C. First Nations, including strategic engagement, reconciliation, forestry, and major project revenue-sharing agreements.
- Signed 62 pipeline benefit agreements with 29 B.C. First Nations to partner on LNG opportunities.
- Celebrated the signing of four Agreements-in-Principle in 2014/2015 with Te'mexw Treaty Association, Wuikinuxv First Nation, Kitselas First Nations and Kitsumkalum First Nation.
- Launched the First Nations Economic Development Database in partnership with the Aboriginal Business and Investment Council to enable partnerships between industry and Aboriginal businesses.
- Announced a new $30 million LNG Environmental Stewardship Initiative to support projects that have the potential to create jobs and environmental legacies with First Nations throughout the North.
- Hosted the second annual meeting between B.C. First Nations leaders and the B.C. Cabinet in September 2015.
- Introduced a new $30 million Aboriginal Skills Training Development Fund which supports strategies outlined in B.C.'s Skills for Jobs Blueprint and the overall goal of increasing the number of Aboriginal people in the provincial workforce by 15,000 over the next 10 years.
- In 2015/16 the Aboriginal Skills Training Development Fund is expected to support training for approximately 1,000 Aboriginal people. New proposals for funding through are to be submitted to the ministry by May 2016. Approvals will be made in June, funds dispersed in August and second-year projects will begin in September 2016.

Communications Contacts:	Gordon Keast
Program Area Contact:	Juanita Berkhout
File Created:	February 21, 2014
File Updated:	Jan. 18, 2016

MINISTRY OF NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT AND
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR HOUSING
LNG TASK FORCE
ESTIMATES BRIEFING NOTE 2016/17

ISSUE: Liquefied Natural Gas Supply and Demand Forecast

KEY MESSAGES:

- British Columbia continues to be well positioned to compete for a share of the lucrative Asia Pacific LNG market.
- We have approximately 2,800 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in place and it is estimated that these reserves could support LNG exports for 150 years.
- The use of natural gas around the globe continues its upward trend and is expected to be the fastest growing fossil fuel over the next 25 years.
- The demand for LNG is forecasted to double by 2030 with China and the Middle East expected to be the main centres of gas demand growth.
- The next wave of LNG facilities started to come online in 2014 and over the next five years the total supply available is expected to surge, outpacing projected demand by a small margin.
- This new supply has put the market into a state of excess-supply and subsequently driven down prices.
- Following 2020, the global LNG market is expected to move back into a position of excess-demand and, as a result, prices are expected to rise.

BACKGROUND:

LNG Demand in the Asia Pacific Region

- According to many forecasts (Wood Mackenzie, IHS-CERA, IEA, ExxonMobil, EIA, BP Energy Outlook), the global demand for natural gas is expected to continue to rise and amongst the fossil fuels it is expected to experience the strongest rate of growth.
- LNG demand will continue to be centered in the Asia-Pacific region with Japan expected to remain the world's top importer. However, China and India are forecasted to be the key drivers for the incremental demand in the region:
    - Japan is the world's largest importer of LNG. The March 11, 2011 earthquake created additional demand for LNG, and has strained LNG re-gasification terminals. s.17

s.17

Contact: Brian Hansen
Cell Phone: s.17
Date: April 8, 2016

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LNG Supply and Demand Gap

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BC's Resource Base and Proposed LNG Production

- It is currently estimated that British Columbia has 2,800 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in place. The majority of this is located in the Montney basin with smaller pockets also located in the Horn River and Liard basins.
- As of February 2016 there were 20 LNG export projects proposed in British Columbia, of which 18 had received approval to export by the National Energy Board.
- Nearly 300 million tons of LNG would be exported per annum if all of these projects were to proceed.
- As of February 2016, four LNG facility projects have received provincial Environmental Assessment Certificates and another five are in the environmental assessment process. If each of these were to commence operations then approximately 82 million tons of LNG would be exported per annum.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of International Trade and Minister Responsible for the Asia Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Teresa Wat**

Title: Annual Trade Mission Plan

Revised: January 25, 2016

Issue: Annual Trade Mission Plan

Response:

- Trade missions are a critical part of British Columbia's strategy to diversify its international trading partners and secure new investment, propelling economic activity and job creation throughout the province.
- In 2014, in response to mandate letter directives, the Ministry of International Trade developed a strategic approach to mission management across government that included the development of an annual mission plan.
- The annual mission plan is coordinated by the Ministry of International Trade with input from all ministries and aligning Crown agencies.
- This annual planning cycle builds on identified government priorities to ensure missions are outcomes-based, coordinated and adequately resourced.
- This met the mandate letter commitment to: "Co-ordinate trade missions across all ministries to ensure maximum coverage and minimal duplication as ministries execute BC Jobs Plan strategies."
- The 2016/17 annual mission planning process across ministries is currently underway.

Background/Status:

- In June 10, 2014, two specific references to mission management were outlined in Minister Wat's mandate letter:
    - Develop a government-wide trade mission plan by August 1, 2014, for the upcoming fiscal year.
    - Co-ordinate trade missions across all ministries to ensure maximum coverage and minimal duplication as ministries execute *BC Jobs Plan* strategies.
- In July 30, 2015, there was one specific reference to mission management in Minister Wat's mandate letter to continue to:
    - Co-ordinate trade missions across all ministries to ensure maximum coverage and minimal duplication as ministries execute *BC Jobs Plan* strategies.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of International Trade and Minister Responsible for the Asia Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Teresa Wat**

- In response to these mandate directives, the Ministry of International Trade led the development of cross-ministries mission plans for the 2014/15 and 2015/16 fiscal years, both of which were submitted to the Premier's Office for endorsement.
- In June-July 2014, the Ministry of International Trade led the development of a cross government mission plan for senior government officials. The mission plan was drafted and submitted to the Premier's office for approval.
- In January 2015, the ministry led the development of a Mission Plan for the 2015/16 fiscal year. The 2015/16 mission plan was subsequently submitted to the Premier's Office for approval. This submission captured the first full cycle of the new planning process.
- The 2016/17 cross ministries mission planning process is currently underway.
- The 2016/17 mission plan is expected to be launched April 1, 2016, to coincide with the new fiscal year.
- There are no additional costs as the development of the plan is led by the Ministry of International Trade.

Contact:

Executive Director	Paul Irwin	East Asia Branch	604-660-5906 s.17 (Cell)

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
Estimates Debate 2016/2017

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BRITISH
COLUMBIA

July 30, 2015

Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Community, Sport, Cultural Development and Minister Responsible for Translink
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 1X4

Dear Minister,

Congratulations on your new role. I am very excited about the opportunity you have to continue to execute on the priorities of our government as we serve the people of British Columbia.

Communities are the backbone of our province and the level of government closest to British Columbians. As a former Mayor, I know that you understand the important role local government plays in the lives of our citizens in ensuring we continue to have safe, secure and economically diverse communities in our province.

Metro Vancouver voters appreciated the opportunity to make their voices heard on those issues, and the issues surrounding Translink itself. As a result, I have decided to place responsibility for Translink with the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development—as the issues surrounding Translink following the outcome of the plebiscite are now inextricably linked with taxation issues facing local governments in Metro Vancouver.

Questions surrounding taxation and the significant funds that will be required to pay for the transit improvements outlined in the Mayors Council vision for transit and transportation are best dealt with by looking at the issues facing communities as a whole.

As you know, the annual mandate letter you receive is designed to be an ongoing workplan for your ministry that is updated on an annual basis.

Your mandate for the following year is as follows:

1. Balance your ministerial budget in order to control spending and ensure an overall balanced budget for the province of British Columbia.

2. Work with the Ministry of Natural Gas Development to ensure communities facing growth due to LNG development are provided support to manage and mitigate the impacts of significant economic development and population growth.

Office of the
Premier

Mailing Address:
World Trade Centre
740 - 999 Canada Place
Vancouver BC V6C 3E1

3. Develop and present legislation to the House to implement the commitment to limit local government election expenses by March 31, 2016.

4. Working with the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, report out and implement the ministry's plan to grow BC's creative economy and creative workforce.

5. Review the recommendations made by Chris Trumpy to improve the operations of the office of the Auditor General for Local Government and provide options for reform.

6. Develop and present options to Cabinet on potential processes under which local governments could either amalgamate or integrate service delivery by June 30, 2016.

7. Assess and report to Cabinet on the economic impact resulting from the FIFA 2015 Women's World Cup in Vancouver and make recommendations on whether to financially support and pursue other similar events.

8. Work with the federal government to secure funding for British Columbia available under the Building Canada Communities Fund.

9. Work with your colleagues to ensure that the annual UBCM convention provides a comprehensive exchange of ideas with municipal partners.

10. Following the decision by the voters of Metro Vancouver on the transit plebiscite, consult with the Mayors' Council and make recommendations to Cabinet on ways to improve transit in the region.

In addition, as discussed and approved by Cabinet, our government is committed to ensuring British Columbia government services are easily accessed by our citizens and businesses. Minister Coralee Oakes will be leading this initiative on my behalf and over the following 12 months she will be reaching out to all ministries to assist in reducing unnecessary red tape and regulation.

It is hard to believe but it has been two years since the people of British Columbia put their faith in us to lead their province. We have accomplished much in those two years, but much work remains to deliver the promise of a strong economy and secure tomorrow for our citizens. I look forward to working with you over the coming year.

Yours truly,

Christy Clark
Premier of British Columbia

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Mandate Letter Commitments 2015/16

Revised: March 16, 2016

Issue: Ministry mandate letter commitments – progress to date

Response:

1. ***Balance your ministerial budget in order to control spending and ensure an overall balanced budget for the province of BC*** **– COMPLETE**
   - The Ministry has a number of mechanisms in place to monitor, evaluate and control financial performance to ensure expenses are managed within its voted appropriation, including:
     - Monthly Ministry-wide financial forecasting and reporting.
     - Quarterly financial reporting and risk financial analysis submitted to Treasury Board.
     - Mandatory training for all new Ministry expense authorities, which includes emphasis on operating within divisional budget allocations.
     - Mandatory training for all Ministry purchasing card holders, to ensure Ministry purchases are appropriate within government policy, and within budget.
   - The Ministry's budget is balanced in 2015/16, and the Ministry's expenses will be within its voted appropriation.
2. ***Work with the Ministry of Natural Gas Development to ensure communities facing growth due to LNG development are provided support to manage and mitigate the impacts of significant economic development and population growth*** **– COMPLETE**
   - The framework is complete and implementation is now ongoing.
   - Work is underway in the areas of Local Government Capacity Building, Critical Infrastructure and Services, Municipal Property Taxation and Socio Economic Effects Management (SEEMP).
   - All six communities that submitted applications for Asset Management Capacity Building have received contracts and been announced. Under the Community Land Use Planning Program (CLUPP), grant applications have been submitted and are being processed as 100% of the funding has been accounted for.
   - Ministry staff continue to lead the ADM's Committee on Community

Readiness and the associated Community Readiness Working Group (both highly integrated with renewed LNG Project Board mandate) to coordinate actions.

- Port Edward received approval in principle for the Wampler Way Bypass road through the New Building Canada Small Communities Fund for $2 million in funding ($1 million provincial, $1 million federal) pending a positive Final Investment Decision and contract signing.
- Prince Rupert received approval for their raw water supply upgrade, with funding from the New Building Canada Small Communities Fund for almost $4.4 million in funding ($2.2 provincial; $2.2 federal).
- Kitimat received approval for sewage treatment plant upgrades, with funding from the New Building Canada Small Communities Fund for $2.4 million in funding ($1.2 provincial; $1.2 federal).

3. ***Develop and present legislation to the House to implement the commitment to limit local government election expenses by March 31, 2016*** **– COMPLETE**

- Local elections reform is being implemented in two phases. Transparency, disclosure, education, compliance and enforcement were implemented through the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* for the 2014 local elections; accessibility will be addressed by introducing expense limits for the 2018 elections.
- I tabled Bill 43 in the house on October 22 as an exposure bill. It reflected the recommendations of the Special Committee on Local Elections Expense Limits. Introducing it an exposure bill allowed a final opportunity for public and stakeholder input on this important topic.
- On February 25, 2016, I introduced Bill 17 - *Local Elections Campaign Financing (Election Expenses) Amendment Act, 2016,* in the Legislative Assembly.

4. ***Working with the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, report out and implement the ministry's plan to grow BC's creative economy and creative workforce*** **– UNDER DEVELOPMENT**

- The plan and public communications document was launched February 4, 2016.
- Program criteria is under development for Collaborative Spaces 2016/17 Program with a list of potential projects for 2015/16 being finalized.
- Program criteria is also under development for the international showcasing 2016/17 program with a list of recommended tours for 2015/16 being

finalized.

- Additional components of the 3-year plan will be announced in the coming months.

5. ***Review the recommendations made by Chris Trumpy to improve the operations of the office of the Auditor General for Local Government and provide options for reform*** **– COMPLETE**

   - Bill 36 – Auditor General for Local Government Amendment Act, received Royal Assent and came into force on November 17, 2015
   - I announced the appointment of the new AGLG, Gordon Ruth, on September 23 at the UBCM convention.
   - Two new Audit Council members with experience as local elected officials have been appointed.
   - The recommendations in Chris Trumpy's report are all fully implemented or well underway. In addition, the recommendations from UBCM in its report have all been adopted.
   - The legislative changes addressed identified legal limitations and other operational issues to enhance governance, performance and operations of the Office of the AGLG.

6. ***Develop and present options to Cabinet on potential processes under which local governments could either amalgamate or integrate service delivery by June 30, 2016*** **– UNDER DEVELOPMENT**

   - Ministry work is underway on the Capital Region integrated services and governance initiative (December Minister's meeting with all Mayors in region; development of Framework). Next step is the Ministry retaining a consultant to undertake the facilitated fact finding.
   - Ministry work with communities provided with governance study grants in 2014/15 is underway (Salt Spring; Okanagan Falls; Thornhill/Terrace), with initial Thornhill/Terrace work completed. Minister has approved 2015/16 governance study grants in other communities (Central Coast and South Shuswap), and a fire protection services study in the Comox Valley (Merville); study work is launching.
   - For Salt Spring incorporation study, the Salt Spring study committee has undertaken community consultation on preliminary study; with the Ministry supporting further analysis and engagement, and undertaking initial development of a provincial offer of restructure assistance (which is part of the information included in a final study). On March 15, 2016, I announced another $135,000 for the incorporation study to assess potential community

impacts, including a more detailed road assessment. This brings the total provincial support to $255,000.

- Progress related to Core Review commitments on the University Endowment Lands continues.

7. ***Assess and report to Cabinet on the economic impact resulting from the FIFA 2015 Women's World Cup in Vancouver and make recommendations on whether to financially support and pursue other similar events*** **– UNDER DEVELOPMENT**

- The Ministry received economic assessment of the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup undertaken by the Canadian Sport Tourism Alliance on behalf of the Canadian Soccer Association.
- Ministry staff are working with Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services (BC Stats) to further analyze whether these figures are accurate, and whether the Province's $2 million investment into these types of events should be repeated. Results from this analysis will be used to form an economic ratio or indicator that can be applied when making recommendations on other similar events.
- The Ministry is working with the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training to further assess and make recommendations on other similar events.

8. ***Work with the federal government to secure funding for British Columbia available under the Building Canada Communities Fund*** **– COMPLETE**

- The funding is secure and the New Building Canada Small Communities Fund (SCF) Agreement between Canada and BC has been signed, which represents three-way cost sharing by each party (one-third each provided by federal, provincial, local) with each party contributing $109 million over 10 years.
- 55 projects, valued at a joint federal-provincial contribution of $128 million, were approved and announced in Summer 2015.
- On September 25, 2015, the Premier announced the launch of the second intake of applications. The intake will close April 28th and will allocate the remaining $90 million of the Small Communities Fund ($45 million provincial and $45 million federal).
- Project approvals and announcements are anticipated in winter 2016/17.
- The Deputy Minister and I completed an initial meeting with the Federal Minister in December 2015 to open relationships and priorities between the Federal and Provincial governments.
- The Ministry continues to work with the Minister of Transportation and

Infrastructure to clarify direction regarding provincial investment priorities under the National Regional Projects of the New Building Canada Fund,

s.13,s.16

s.13,s.16 Prince Rupert's Wastewater Treatment Plant and City of Kelowna's Integrated Water Supply Plan. One additional provincial priority was approved under this program in 2015 for the Tswawassen First Nation's Metro Vancouver South Delta Main No. 1 Replacement project for $3.7 million provincial funding.

9. ***Work with your colleagues to ensure that the annual UBCM Convention provides a comprehensive exchange of ideas with municipal partners*** **– COMPLETE**

- During the week-long 2015 Convention, there were over 455 delegate meetings held with the Premier and our Cabinet Ministers. This included 62 meetings I had with delegates. In addition, delegates met with government staff in over 175 meetings.
- The Premier's and my follow-up letters to delegates were sent and I have continued to travel to specific regions of the province to meet with additional delegates, and stakeholders.

s.13,s.16

- Following Convention, I have visited Kamloops, Kelowna, Union Bay, Qualicum Beach and the northwest (Prince Rupert, Port Edward, Terrace, Kitimat, Haisla First Nation, the regional districts of Skeena-Queen Charlotte and Kitimat Stikine and within the latter, the Thornhill area).
- Provincial responses to UBCM Resolutions are near completion.
- I have been told that my contributions at Convention were well received and this has been reflected in UBCM staff to ministry staff debriefs.
- In addition, this Convention received the highest scores (tied with a past year) based on survey results.
- I have sent a summary and thank you letters to my fellow Cabinet ministers regarding last year's Convention and preparation for 2016.

10. ***Following the decision by the voters of Metro Vancouver on the transit plebiscite, consult with the Mayors' Council and make recommendations to Cabinet on ways to improve transit in the region*** **– UNDER DEVELOPMENT**

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- Provincial appointments to the TransLink Board of Directors were made in August, 2015.
- I have engaged with Board of Director and Mayors' Council at scheduled meetings in September and October 2015, and I will continue to do so going forward in 2016.
- The Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and I have begun preliminary discussions with federal Ministers on infrastructure priorities and funding on a recent trip to Ottawa, and there is now ongoing engagement with our federal and local partners on capital and operating funding.

Background/Status:

- On July 30, 2015, the Premier provided Minister Fassbender with an updated mandate letter in his new role as Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and Minister Responsible for TransLink.
- On June 12, 2015, Premier Christy Clark issued updated mandate letters to her provincial cabinet ministers. The annual mandate letters provide the government's annual direction to the various provincial ministries and confirm each ministry's priorities for the year.
- The focus continues to be to deliver the promise of a strong economy and secure tomorrow for B.C. citizens, balancing the budget, continuing to support the growth of a diverse economy, keeping government lean and reducing the cost of administration.
- In addition, government is committed to ensuring B.C. government services are easily accessed by our citizens and businesses, while reducing unnecessary red tape and regulation.

Contact:

Vanessa Gedney	Director of Operations	Deputy Minister's Office	(250) 356-7152

MINISTRY	DATE	GOAL #	GOAL	STATUS	COMMENTS
CSCD	2016-10-05	1	Balance your ministerial budget in order to control spending an ensure an overall balanced budget for the province of British Columbia.	1	COMPLETE The Ministry's budget is balanced in 2015/16, and the Ministry's expenses will be within its voted appropriation.
CSCD	2016-10-05	2	Work with the Ministry of Natural Gas Development to ensure communities facing growth due to LNG development are provided support to manage and mitigate the impacts of significant economic development and population growth.	1	Framework is complete and implementation is in process. Work is underway in the areas of Local Government Capacity Building, Critical Infrastructure and Services, Municipal Property Taxation and Socio Economic Effects Management. All six communities that submitted applications to Asset Management Capacity Building have received contracts and been announced. Under the Community Land Use Planning Program (CLUPP), grant applications have been submitted and are being processed as 100% of the funding has been accounted for. Ministry staff continue to lead the ADMs Committee on Community Readiness and the associated Community Readiness Working Group (both highly integrated with renewed LNG Project Board mandate) to coordinate actions.
CSCD	2016-10-05	3	Develop and present legislation to the House to implement the commitment to limit local government election expenses by March 31, 2016.	1	COMMITMENT COMPLETE Local elections reform is being implemented in two phases. Phase 1: Complete, Phase 2: Underway. Bill 43 was tabled as an Exposure Bill on October 22 and consultation closed November 27, 2015. Final direction was received from P&P on December 16, 2015, with recommended changes to the expense limits period for candidates and third party advertising limits for small jurisdictions. The final version of the proposed legislation was reviewed by LRC on January 26, 2016 and on February 25, 2016, Bill 17 - Local Elections Campaign Financing (Election Expenses) Amendment Act, 2016, was introduced in the Legislative Assembly.
CSCD	2016-10-05	4	Working with the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, report out and implement the ministry's plan to grow BC's creative economy and creative workforce.	1	The Plan went to CCSE on Oct 8th, with a report out from Cabinet on October 21, 2015. The public communications document was approved by MPF, MSB and PS GK and launched February 4, 2016. Program criteria under development for Collaborate Spaces 16/17 Program. List of potential projects for 15/16 being finalized. Program criteria under development for International Presence 16/17 program. List of recommended tours for 15/16 being finalized. Proposal with First Peoples Cultural Council being negotiated (capacity building for aboriginal artists, organizations and communities.) ArtsVest BC Program - Program launched and process of selecting program participants underway.

CSCD	2016-10-05	5	Review the recommendations made by Chris Trumpy to improve the operations of the office of the Auditor General for Local Government and provide options for reform.	1	COMMITMENT COMPLETE Bill 36, the Auditor General for Local Government Amendment Act, received Royal Assent and came into force on November 17, 2015. A new permanent AGLG, Gordon Ruth was appointed on September 23, 2015. Two new Audit Council members with experience as local elected officials have been appointed. The recommendations in Chris Trumpy's report are all fully implemented or underway.
CSCD	2016-10-05	6	Develop and present options to Cabinet on potential processes under which local governments could either amalgamate or integrate service delivery by June 30, 2016	1	Ministry work is underway on the Capital Region initiative and progress related to Core Review commitments on the University Endowment Lands continues. Next step is the Ministry retaining a consultant to undertake the facilitated fact finding. Minister has approved 2015/16 governance study grants in other communities (Central Coast and South Shuswap), and a fire protection services study in the Comox Valley (Merville); study work is launching. For Salt Spring incorporation study, the Ministry is supporting further analysis and engagement, and undertaking initial development of a provincial offer of restructure assistance (which is part of the information included in a final study). On March 15, 2016, another $135,000 for the incorporation study was announced to assess potential community impacts, including a more detailed road assessment. This brings the total provincial support to $255,000.
CSCD	2016-10-05	7	Assess and report to Cabinet on the economic impact resulting from the FIFA 2015 Women's World Cup in Vancouver and make recommendations on whether to financially support and pursue other similar events	1	CSCD received economic assessment of the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup undertaken by the Canadian Sport Tourism Alliance on behalf of the Canadian Soccer Association. CSCD is working with Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services (BC Stats) to further analyze whether these figures are accurate, and whether the Province's $2 million investment into these types of events should be repeated. An initial report with recommendations is due from BC Stats February 5. s.12,s.13 s.12,s.13,s.17

CSCD	2016-10-05	8	Work with the federal government to secure funding for British Columbia available under the Building Canada Communities Fund	1	COMMITMENT COMPLETE Federal and provincial funding for the Small Communities Fund has been secured through Treasury Board approval. On September 25 2015 PCC announce the launch of the second intake of applications. The intake will close April 28th and will allocate the remaining $90 million of the Small Communities Fund ($45 million provincial and $45 million federal). Review and assessments will take place over the summer and into the fall with approvals and announcements in the winter of 16/17.
CSCD	2016-10-05	9	Work with your colleagues to ensure that the annual UBCM convention provides a comprehensive exchange of ideas with municipal partners	1	COMMITMENT COMPLETE Premier's and Ministers' follow-up letters to delegates have been sent and Ministers tours are in process. Provincial response to UBCM Resolutions are near completion. In a staff-to-staff debrief with UBCM, it was noted that the Minister's contributions at Convention were very well received and this is reflected UBCM's survey of delegates, and the highest scores for this UBCM were received from their survey of LG's, tied with a past year that also had high scores. Minister sent summary and thank you letters to Cabinet Ministers re UBCM Convention 2015 and preparation for 2016.
CSCD	2016-10-05	10	Following the decision by the voters of Metro Vancouver on the transit plebiscite, consult with the Mayors' Council and make recommendations to Cabinet on ways to improve transit in the region	1	s.13,s.17 s.13,s.17 Preliminary discussions with federal Ministers on infrastructure priorities and funding took place December 9, 2015 and a meeting with the TransLink Board, occurred January 21 to discuss general priorities. .
			Status legend: 1 = green: on or close to target to meet the goal and no attention required 2 = yellow: not on target to meet the goal and some attention is required 3 = red: not on target to meet the goal and significant attention is required		

CSCD MANDATE COMMITMENT TRACKING

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and Minister Responsible for TransLink

2015 MANDATE LETTER

#	Lead	Commitment (hyperlink to item)	Status	Commitment Details
1	MSD	**Balance Ministerial Budget**	**Complete**	Balance your ministerial budget in order to control spending and ensure an overall balanced budget for the province of British Columbia
2	LGD/NGD	**LNG Facilities & Development-Community Support**	In Process (Framework complete and implementation in process)	Work with the Ministry of Natural Gas Development to ensure communities facing growth due to LNG development are provided support to manage and mitigate the impacts of significant economic development and population growth
3	IPL	**Local Government Election Expense Limits**	**Complete**	Develop and present legislation to the House to implement the commitment to limit local government election expenses by March 31, 2016
4	ACGGS/JTST	**Creative Economy**	In Process	Working with the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, report out and implement the ministry's plan to grow BC's creative economy and creative workforce
5	IPL	**Auditor General for Local Government**	**Complete**	Review the recommendations made by Chris Trumpy to improve the operations of the office of the Auditor General for Local Government and provide options for reform
6	LGD	**Governance and Restructure-Amalgamation & Integration**	In Process	Develop and present options to Cabinet on potential processes under which local governments could either amalgamate or integrate service delivery by June 30, 2016
7	ACGGS	**FIFA 2015 Women's World Cup**	In Process	Assess and report to Cabinet on the economic impact resulting from the FIFA 2015 Women's World Cup in Vancouver and make recommendations on whether to financially support and pursue other similar events
8	LGD	**Building Canada Fund (New)**	**Complete**	Work with the federal government to secure funding for British Columbia available under the Building Canada Communities Fund
9	LGD	**Union of BC Municipalities Convention**	**Complete**	Work with your colleagues to ensure that the annual UBCM convention provides a comprehensive exchange of ideas with municipal partners
10	IPL/MOTI	**TransLink**	In Process	Following the decision by the voters of Metro Vancouver on the transit plebiscite, consult with the Mayors' Council and make recommendations to Cabinet on ways to improve transit in the region

OTHER MINISTRY 2015/16 MANDATE COMMITMENTS WITH CSCD LINKAGE				
n/a	FLNRO	**Timber Supply**	In Process	Continue to work with the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development to prepare for and minimize the impact of timber supply reductions caused by the mountain pine beetle
n/a	FLNRO	**Rural Economic Development**	In Process	Work with Parliamentary Secretary Donna Barnett and her Rural Advisory Council to provide advice to government on ways to improve rural economic development, access to capital and the rural dividend
	SBRT-LDB	**Red Tape/Deregulation**	In Process	Work with all ministries to identify new opportunities to reduce or eliminate outdated regulation and reduce red tape for British Columbians. As part of this work, examine the current Regulator Impact Assessment and consider changes to ensure regulatory impacts are identified and mitigated as early as possible in the development process. The Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development proposed three regulatory consolidation packages under the *Assessment Act*. On March 2nd, the OIC packages were announced as part of Red Tape Reduction Day.

Commitment #1 - COMMITMENT COMPLETE
Balance Ministerial Budget - MSD

"Balance your ministerial budget in order to control spending and ensure an overall balanced budget for the province of British Columbia."

- The Ministry's budget is balanced in 2015/16, and the Ministry's expenses will be within its voted appropriation.

CONFIDENTIAL

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12

Commitment #3 - COMMITMENT PARTIALLY COMPLETE

Local Government Election Expense Limits

"Develop and present legislation to the House to implement the commitment to limit local government election expenses by March 31, 2016."

CCS K Volk M Starkl-Moser T Rotgans	**Policy/Fiscal/Legislative Considerations** Significant legislative initiative; amendments to LECFA to enable implementation of expense limits. Actual limits will be set through regulation. Further to direction received from P&P in September 2015, Bill 43 (Local Elections Campaign Financing (Expense Limits) Amendment Act) was tabled on October 22 as an exposure bill. Consultation, led by Parliamentary Secretary Reimer, closed on November 27. Final direction was received from P&P December 16, 2015 and the final proposed legislation was reviewed at LRC on January 26, 2016. The final bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly during the Spring 2016 session. Following Royal Assent, regulations will be developed and changes will be implemented prior to the 2018 local elections. **Recent Actions Completed (only the most recent or high level actions completed are kept in this version, previous actions are collected in a master accomplishments tracker)** Local elections reform is being implemented in two phases. Transparency, disclosure, education, compliance and enforcement were implemented through LECFA for 2014 local elections; accessibility will be addressed by introducing expense limits for 2018 elections. Phase One: Complete Phase Two: Complete • On September 16, 2015 P&P directed that an exposure bill be tabled in the Fall 2015 session for consultation purposes. • Bill 43 was tabled on October 22. It reflects the recommendations of the Special Committee. • On December 16, 2015, P&P approved some changes to Bill 43, stemming from public consultation on the exposure bill. • The final version of the proposed legislation was reviewed by LRC on January 26, 2016. • On February 25, 2016, Bill 17 - *Local Elections Campaign Financing (Election Expenses) Amendment Act, 2016,* was introduced in the Legislative Assembly. COMMITMENT COMPLETE

Commitment #4

Creative Economy

"Working with the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training report out and implement the ministry's plan to grow BC's creative economy and creative workforce."

ACGGS M Stewart G Wood	**Recent Actions Completed (only the most recent or high level actions completed are kept in this version, previous actions are collected in a master accomplishments tracker)** • Plan went to CCSE – Oct 8th, report out from Cabinet, October 21, 2015. • Public communications document approved by MPF, MSB and PS GK. • Launch of public document February 4, 2016. **Actions Underway** **Actions Underway** • Program criteria under development for Collaborate Spaces 16/17 Program. List of potential projects for 15/16 being finalized. • Program criteria under development for International Presence 16/17 program. List of recommended tours for 15/16 being finalized. • Proposal with First Peoples Cultural Council being negotiated (capacity building for aboriginal artists, organizations and communities.) • ArtsVest BC Program - Program launched and process of selecting program participants underway.

Commitment #5 - COMMITMENT COMPLETE

Auditor General for Local Government

"Review the recommendations made by Chris Trumpy to improve the operations of the office of the Auditor General for Local Government and provide options for reform."

CCS K Volk L Zucconi	**Recent Actions Completed (only the most recent or high level actions completed are kept in this version, previous actions are collected in a master accomplishments tracker)** • Bill 36, the Auditor General for Local Government Amendment Act, received Royal Assent and came into force on November 17, 2015 • Appointment of the new permanent AGLG, Gordon Ruth, was announced by Minister Fassbender on September 23 at the UBCM convention. • The recommendations in Chris Trumpy's report are all fully implemented or underway. • The Legislative amendments Act addresses identified legal limitations and other operational issues to enhance governance, performance and operations of the Office of the AGLG. COMMITMENT COMPLETE

Commitment #6

Governance and Restructure

"Develop and present options to Cabinet on potential processes under which local governments could either amalgamate or integrate service delivery by June 30, 2016."

LGD N Marotz M Edmondson	**Fiscal Considerations** Enhancing existing restructure program has fiscal considerations for the Province (e.g. increased CSCD restructure grants for specific projects in medium term) but long term cost savings through greater municipalisation or integration of services. In the case of UEL, there are direct or indirect costs to determining an alternative model to the status quo but in the long term the Province is no longer responsible for administration or expenditures in the UEL. Also, facilitating local governments to find opportunities for further integration of services and governance in the Capital region will have some provincial costs TBD (e.g. consultant(s)) to assist with fact-finding and analysis in 16/17), but will help local governments find more efficiency, affordability and effectiveness. Salt Spring Island will have a restructure assistance offer cost for the Province but in long term the province is no longer responsible for road costs or as many police costs. **Legislative Considerations** None for approved option of CSCD pursuing strategic restructure projects to pursue long term cost savings and service integration, and pursuing Treasury Board support for increased restructure funding for specific projects starting 15/16. None to facilitate consideration of integrated services and governance opportunities in the Capital region. UEL governance change would require a significant package of legislative amendments. **Recent Actions Completed (only the most recent or high actions completed are kept in this version, previous actions are collected in a master accomplishments tracker)** CSCD was directed to prepare a Presentation to P&P in January 2015. P&P accepted recommended option to seek additional resources as necessary to support incentives for strategic local government restructures (which covers boundary extensions, incorporations and amalgamations). Various examples of strategic opportunities were provided, including Salt Spring Island, Thornhill/Terrace, Okanagan Falls, University Endowment Lands (UEL) and Capital region. CSCD was also directed to prepare a Presentation to P &P on January 28, 2015; P&P accepted recommended option of a local and regional services study focused on fact finding (e.g. extent of integration of services/ decision-making) in the Capital region. In July 2014, CWGCR accepted CSCD's recommendation to shift from provincial to local governance of the UEL based on a provincially-led review, without disruption to the Block F rezoning process (Musqueam First Nation applicant) TB submission approved for Salt Spring incorporation restructure assistance offer (Oct 2015) with an additional report back provided by November 30. **Actions Underway** • Ministry work with communities on Salt Spring Island, Okanagan Falls and Terrace-Thornhill is all underway (with initial Terrace-Thornhill work completed), utilizing grants allocated in 2014/15. • Minister has approved 2015/16 governance study grants in other communities (Central Coast and South Shuswap), and a fire protection services study in the Comox Valley (Merville); study work is launching • Ministry work also underway on foundation for Capital Region initiative (e.g. Minister's meeting with all Mayors in the region; development of Framework) and for University Endowment Lands review (e.g. TB approved lift to UEL revenues/expenditures limit; capital plan for infrastructure renewal; initial work to understand current state of the UEL; staff-level meetings with key interests). As strategies for these projects are finalized, further detailed preparation will follow (e.g. procurement processes) and then project launch. Capital project expected to launch in

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	April 2016. • With October 2015 Treasury Board approval, Provincial letter offering restructuring assistance to follow once information on roads is complete (in February 2016, Ministry provided supplemental funding to complete road assessment, finalize study and public engagement on the study).

Commitment #7

FIFA 2015 Women's World Cup

"Assess and report to Cabinet on the economic impact resulting from the FIF A 2015 Women's World Cup in Vancouver and make recommendations on whether to financially support and pursue other similar events."

ACGGS M Ross	**Recent Actions Completed (only the most recent actions completed are kept in this version, previous actions are collected in a master accomplishments tracker)** • CSCD received economic assessment of the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup undertaken by the Canadian Sport Tourism Alliance on behalf of the Canadian Soccer Association. **Actions Underway** s.13,s.17 s.13,s.17 s.12,s.13,s.17

Commitment #8 - COMMITMENT COMPLETE

Building Canada Fund (New)

"Work with the federal government to secure funding for British Columbia available under the Building Canada Communities Fund."

LGD L Edwards B Bedford	**Policy /Fiscal/Legislative Considerations** • Provincial priorities are being refined and coordinated with local government needs. • TB approved matching funds of $109 million for the Small Communities Fund (SCF). • The new federal government has indicated an intention to inject $60 billion of new infrastructure investment over the next 10 years, with $20 billion being allocated to the following three funding streams: transit, social, and green. • The new federal Minister of Infrastructure Canada has stated in the press they intend to allocate $10 billion of new funding (above and beyond existing pots of funding) in fiscal 2016/17. BC needs clarity on what cost-sharing arrangements will be expected as it may be challenging for BC to match its allocation under tradition 1/3rd, 1/3rd, 1/3rd models.

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	• It is expected that the first details on the new federal funding will be released during the Federal Budget on March 22, 2016. **Recent Actions Completed (only the most recent or high actions completed are kept in this version, previous actions are collected in a master accomplishments tracker)** • On May 6 and June 26 2015, the NBCF-SCF Oversight Committee (OC) approved 55 projects valued at a joint federal-provincial contribution of $128 million. Public announcements occurred throughout June and July 2015. Minister and Deputy Minister completed an initial meeting with the Federal Minister in December 2015 to open relationships and priorities between the new federal government and the Province. • Federal and provincial funding for the Small Communities Fund has been secured through Treasury Board approval. **Actions Underway** • CSCD continues to work with MOTI to clarify direction regarding provincial investment priorities, s.13,s.16 s.13,s.16 and City of Kelowna's Integrated Water Supply Plan. In addition, CSCD is examining additional options to support critical infrastructure needs in the Northwest should existing funding programs or proponent contributions not satisfactorily support final investment decisions. • On September 25th, 2015 PCC announced the launch of the second intake of applications. The intake will close April 28th, 2016 and will allocate the remaining $90 million of the Small Communities Fund ($45 million provincial and $45 million federal). Review and assessments will take place over the summer and into the fall with approvals and announcements in the winter of 16/17.

Commitment #9 - COMMITMENT COMPLETE

Union of BC Municipalities Convention (UBCM)

"Work with your colleagues to ensure that the annual UBCM convention provides a comprehensive exchange of ideas with municipal partners."

LGD G Paget B Schmidt	**Recent Actions Completed (only the most recent or high level actions completed are kept in this version, previous actions are collected in a master accomplishments tracker)** • During the week-long 2015 there were over 455 delegate meetings held with the Premier and/or Cabinet Ministers. This includes Minister's Fassbender's 62 meetings with delegates. In addition, delegates met with government staff in over 175 meetings. • The Premier's and Ministers' follow-up letters to delegates were sent. • Post-UBCM Convention follow-up tracking of action items arising from meetings with the Premier and/or Minister. • Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development staff also coordinated a Minister's meeting with the 21-member Northwest Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA). s.13,s.16 s.13,s.16 • A number of tours resulted from Convention. The Minister visited Qualicum Beach, Kamloops and Kelowna as well as the northwest communities with visits to: Prince Rupert, Skeena-Queen Charlotte RD, Port Edward, Terrace, Kitimat-Stikine RD, Kitimat, Haisla FN, and the Thornhill area of the RDKS. • In a staff-to-staff debrief with UBCM, it was noted that the Minister's contributions at Convention were very well received and this is reflected UBCM's survey of delegates, and the highest scores for this UBCM were received from their survey of LG's, tied with a past year that also had high scores.

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	Actions underway s.13,s.16 • Provincial responses to UBCM Resolutions are near completion. • Minister CSCD has issued summary and thank you letters to Cabinet Ministers re UBCM Convention 2015 and preparation for 2016.

Commitment #10

Transit in Metro Vancouver (TransLink)

"Following the decision by the voters of Metro Vancouver on the transit plebiscite, consult with the Mayors" Council and make recommendations to Cabinet on ways to improve transit in the region."

IPL K Volk	**Policy/Fiscal/Legislative Considerations** • Mandate provides direction for consultation with the Mayors' Council, identification of options and recommendations to Cabinet on ways to improve transit in Metro Vancouver. • The province has committed to funding 1/3 of the cost of new rapid transit projects and the Pattullo bridge, subject to strong business cases and the provincial fiscal plan. • Infrastructure funding and associated business case work is being led by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. • No Legislative considerations at this time; s.12,s.13,s.17 **Recent Actions Completed (only the most recent or high level actions completed are kept in this version, previous actions are collected in a master accomplishments tracker)** s.13,s.17 • Preliminary discussions with federal Ministers on infrastructure priorities and funding, December 9. Undertaken jointly with Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure. • Meeting with the TransLink Board, January 21 to discuss general priorities. **Actions Underway** • Ongoing engagement with federal and local partners on capital and operating funding.

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Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
Estimates Debate 2016/2017

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Amalgamation

Revised: March 8, 2016

Issue: Amalgamation of two or more municipalities

Response:

- Local governments are accountable and local voices must be consulted and that is the cornerstone of this Government's position on amalgamation.
- There are many different ways to balance regional and local interests and to achieve efficiency and good governance. Many services that benefit from regional economies of scale are already provided on that scale through the regional district, which also provides sub-regional and local services.
- There is always value in constructive and balanced dialogue in municipalities and regional districts about whether current governance structures are meeting community needs.
- There is only one taxpayer and it is the responsibility of all levels of government to ensure the most efficient and effective delivery of public services.
- The Ministry can provide information regarding requirements, processes and considerations for any communities interested in discussing governance change.

s.13,s.16

Background/Status:

- Government legislated a prohibition on forced amalgamations when the *Community Charter* was introduced in 2002.

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- The creation of a new municipality out of two or more existing municipalities requires the cooperation of the existing councils and the support of the electors in *each* existing municipality.
- As in any new incorporation, a substantial process that examines the financial, service, and governance implications of the change should precede a decision of the Minister on a binding vote on the creation of a new municipality.
- The issue of amalgamation arises periodically, typically as local general elections approach, in areas where municipalities share mutual boundaries. s.13,s.16

s.13,s.16

- The last municipal amalgamation in B.C. occurred in 1995, when the Districts of Abbotsford and Matsqui merged to form the City of Abbotsford.
- Government's key interest is in having regions work better together, increase service delivery efficiencies and plan for and implement infrastructure on an optimal scale. That interest does not necessarily require structural amalgamation as a solution.
- Regional districts already do a good job of providing critical infrastructure on a regional and sub-regional scale (economies of scale). What amalgamation advocates focus on are generally services that are entwined with Provincial interests/jurisdiction, such as regional transportation, policing, and emergency communications.
- The financial stability of the local government system is based on regional districts (e.g. they are the governments which secure long term financing on behalf of their municipal members through the Municipal Finance Authority, secured by the collective liability of members).

s.13,s.16

- In the Capital region, for the 2014 local government election, eight out of thirteen municipalities in the Capital Regional District placed non-binding questions on the ballot regarding governance.
- The questions were not uniform with the exception of North Saanich, Sidney, and Central Saanich having the same question regarding amalgamation with one another. Oak Bay and Langford asked a question on amalgamation but with non-specific geography. Victoria and Esquimalt asked a general question on reducing the number of municipalities in the region. Saanich and Esquimalt (which had a two-part ballot) asked about studying services in order to achieve efficiencies. All

questions passed with the exception of Oak Bay whose electorate rejected the idea of amalgamation by a wide margin.

- The Ministry distributed a Framework for Discussion regarding a facilitated fact-finding initiative on current services and governance to the mayors of all 13 municipalities and received feedback. The next step is for the Ministry to seek to retain an appropriate consultant to assist with this initiative.
- Interest in amalgamation is not confined to the Capital region. The District of North Cowichan and the City of Duncan also had ballot questions that asked their respective electorate if they were interested in exploring amalgamation. Both votes were positive. At this time, neither Council has approached the Province regarding their interest in amalgamation.

Contact:

Marijke Edmondson	Director	Local Government	250 387-4058
Elizabeth Lane	Program Analyst	Structure	250 356-6333

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Capital Region Integrated Services and Governance Initiative

Revised: April 1, 2016

Issue: Supporting a process for local governments to address Capital Region governance and service issues

Response:

- I appreciate the efforts that mayors have taken to share their thoughts and work with others to begin discussions on governance and service issues, and I also recognize that there are details to be worked through as the Capital Region Integrated Services and Governance Initiative unfolds.
- Based on the feedback received, I believe that the *Framework for Discussion* that sets out a shared understanding of next steps materially reflects the views of the region's mayors for advancing the Initiative.
- I am pleased that we are now positioned to assist the region in moving ahead with this Initiative, which will provide an important opportunity for Capital area local governments to respond to the strong community interest, with further collaborative work in relation to local service delivery and governance
- This fact finding and information sharing exercise will be an important first step; it will assist the region's taxpayers to better understand the perspectives of the region's local governments respecting current service delivery arrangements and any opportunities for further integration, and will assist local governments to further their conversations and engagement with citizens.
- The Framework has served as the basis for developing a request for proposals for the Province of British Columbia to retain a consultant on behalf of the region; that RFP is currently available on BC Bid. The consultant will play a central role in moving the Initiative forward, gathering facts and perspectives respecting local practices from municipalities, and from the Capital Regional District, given its important role as a service provider.

Background/Status:

- In the November 2014 local government elections, 8 out of 13 municipalities in the Capital Region placed non-binding questions on the ballot ranging from investigating greater service integration to full amalgamation.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- In 2015, CSCD Ministers held individual meetings with all of the municipalities in the Capital region.

s.13,s.16

-

- In mid-November, the Minister spoke at the Victoria Chamber of Commerce on governance in the region and subsequently spoke to local media outlets.
- Some audience members and journalists expressed concerns about a shift in focus from amalgamation to governance and services. In response, the Minister made it clear that there is a need for "…clarity and a real understanding of what the issues are…".

s.13,s.16

s.13,s.16 Following up on the December meeting, the Minister has provided a framework for the initiative to the area Mayors, and welcomed feedback.

- The final Framework was sent out (week of March 7); the next step has been for the Province to seek to retain a consultant to undertake the activities set out in the framework. The Request for Proposal was posted to BC Bid March 23 and will close on April 15.
- Key activities for the consultant will be: understanding the issues, barriers and opportunities for local governments seeking to provide the most effective services for their citizens; fact finding on service organization and delivery, including services already provided in an integrated way; summarizing best practices from other jurisdictions; and translating the findings into accessible information that local governments can share with their citizens.

Contacts:

Karen Lynch	Director	Governance and Structure Branch	250 952-6593
Michelle Dann			250 387-4059

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP)

Revised: March 16, 2016

Issue: Funding to support local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Response:

- CARIP is a grant program that provides funding to BC Climate Action Charter (Charter) signatories equivalent to 100 per cent of the carbon taxes paid.
- Program goals are two-fold:
  - Assist local governments to become carbon neutral in internal operations and to take actions to reduce GHG emissions within their communities.
  - Ensure that the cost of providing local government services is not adversely impacted by carbon taxes paid.

Background/Status:

- Since its inception in 2008, CARIP has returned over $32 million to Charter signatories representing 182 of 190, or 96 per cent, of local governments in the Province.
- Local governments are required to submit a public report on their progress toward their BC Climate Action Charter goals, including the goal of becoming carbon neutral. Annual CARIP reporting requirements enable monitoring of local government climate action progress year over year, assist in measurement of intended program outcomes and support public transparency and accountability.
- The budget for CARIP is $8.7 million in 2015/2016 and $8.7 million in 2016/2017.
- Commencing 2016, and for every year after that, the payment date for CARIP will be moved from March to June. Local Government requests that CARIP reporting be moved from March to May in order to align with other Local Government reporting. CSCD has agreed to extend that reporting deadline.

Contact:

Sean Grant	Director	Local Government Finance	250 387-4063

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Climate Leadership Plan – CSCD's role

Revised: March 30, 2016

Issue: **CSCD is very supportive of the Province's new Climate Leadership Plan (CLP) to keep B.C. on track toward meeting its greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets while maintaining strong economic growth**

Response:

- CSCD is very supportive of the CLP and continued consultation with local governments (including the latest round of CLP consultations that began on January 25).
- We reached out to UBCM about engaging with local governments on a review of the CLP recommendations.
- From there we invited all local governments to join the Province on a series of webinars to review the recommendations and discuss the impact of the Climate Action Charter. The webinars are now completed and went well –we connected with almost 100 local governments across all regions of the Province.
- Local governments can and are making significant contributions to the achievement of the province's GHG emission reduction targets due to their role in land use, transportation, waste management, and infrastructure.

Background/Status:

- The Province is developing a new CLP to keep B.C. on track toward meeting its GHG reduction targets while maintaining strong economic growth.
- As part of this process a second round of public consultation is underway focused on reviewing of the CLP recommendations (concludes on April 8, 2016). This includes recommendations #21 which is about undertaking a collaborative review of the Climate Action Charter.
- The Ministry led engagement with local governments on all of the Climate Leadership Team's recommendations. The Minister invited all local governments to participate in a series a conference calls which are now completed and included participation from 21 regional districts and 78 municipalities:
    - March 8, 2016 Kootenay-Boundary Region
    - March 9, 2016 Van. Island and Coastal Com.
    - March 10, 2016 Lower Mainland Region
    - March 15, 2016 North Central Region
    - March 16, 2016 South Interior Region
    - March 17, 2016 Province-wide

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- The Ministry is in the process of summarizing what we heard and will be reporting back.
- Dialogue with local governments on climate generally will be continuing through various avenues including upcoming UBCM Executive Meeting (April 13th) and Area Association meetings:
    - Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments (AKBLG), Conference April 27-29, 2016, Kimberley, BC.
    - Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC), Annual Convention & AGM, April 8-10, 2016, Nanaimo, BC.
    - Lower Mainland Local Government Association, AGM & Conference, May 11 - 13, 2016, Whistler, B.C.
    - North Central Local Government Association, 2016 NCLGA Conference, May 4-6, 2016, Dawson Creek, BC.
    - Southern Interior Local Government Association, 2016 SILGA AGM & Convention, April 19-22, 2016, Kelowna, BC.

Fall Working Group Policy Development Process

- In the summer of 2015, the Climate Action Secretariat set up five cross-government working groups to develop new ideas and proposals to further reduce GHG emissions and adapt to climate change. CSCD was involved in three (bolded): Industry, Carbon Pricing, **Built Environment, Transportation, and Adaptation**.
- Through the working groups, CSCD has supported the development of a number of local government climate policy proposals to encourage focused growth, resilient infrastructure and transportation demand management through the use of financial and legislative tools, better information and incentives.

Climate Action Charter

- Local governments are leaders in climate action in B.C. and were quick to sign on to the *BC Climate Action Charter* (Charter) in 2007.
- Since 2007, considerable effort has been invested in developing the support of UBCM and its member local governments for taking climate action, including through the Joint UBCM-Provincial Green Communities Committee (established under the Charter) which has overseen numerous climate action initiatives.
- CSCD will continue to support local governments with climate action readiness.

Contact:

Brent Mueller	Acting Director, Intergovernmental Relations	Intergovernmental Relations and Planning	250 387-2540

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Community to Community Forum (C2C) Program

Revised: March 29, 2016

Issue: Provincial funding of the C2C program

Response:

- The Community to Community Forum (C2C) Program has proven effective in helping local governments and First Nations connect.
- Since 1999, local governments, First Nations and Aboriginal organizations have participated in more than 470 events across the province.
- The number of small and/or rural communities accessing the C2C program is significant, with the majority of C2C hosts from communities outside the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island.
- The C2C Program is funded by the provincial and federal governments, and administered by UBCM with support from the First Nations Summit.
- The Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, on behalf of the Province, continues to support the C2C Program as we have done for more than a decade. This year, we are providing $50,000 for the 2016/2017 Program.

s.13,s.16,s.17

Background/Status:

- The C2C Program is a way for local governments and First Nations to connect and build relationships.
- By developing relationships, local governments and First Nations can work together on mutual interests, provide or share services, and look for opportunities to partner on economic and community development projects.
- Many forums have led to memorandums of understanding, protocols, and service agreements between local governments and First Nations.
- The program continues to be well-received by UBCM, local governments and First Nations around the province.
- Over the last few years, one-third of the program applications were from First Nations, and interest continues to grow in this program.

- Forums are organized by the communities involved at a minimal cost (average cost per forum: $2,200).
- UBCM does not charge a fee for administering the C2C Program.

s.13,s.16,s.17

- On February 15, 2016, the UBCM President wrote to the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development requesting $50,000 for annual program funding and an additional $10,000 for a provincial C2C Gathering in October 2016. s.13,s.16,s.17

s.13,s.16,s.17

- Previous provincial C2C events were held in 1997, 2001, 2003, 2006 and 2011.

s.13,s.16,s.17

s.13,s.16,s.17

Attachment: Letter from Al Richmond to Hon. Peter Fassbender, February 15, 2016.

Contact:

Grace Van den Brink	Sr. Program Analyst	Governance and Structure Branch	250 356-5673

MPF Reading Folder

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY, SPORT AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER'S OFFICE
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FEB 17 2016
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CC:
DRAFT REPLY ☒ DM ☐ FYI/FILE ☐
REPLY DIRECT ☐ FNA ☐

UBCM

FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

February 15, 2016

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Community, Sport & Cultural Development and
Responsible for TransLink
PO BOX 9056 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC, V8W 9E2

RE: 2016/17 Regional Community to Community Forum Program

Dear Minister Fassbender,

As the 2015/16 Regional Community to Community (C2C) Forum program is nearly completed, we are writing on behalf of the Union of BC Municipalities and the First Nations Summit to seek continued funding for the C2C program for the 2016/17 fiscal year.

C2C events have played a vital role in building and improving relationships among neighbouring municipalities, regional districts and First Nations in British Columbia.

As outlined in Appendix 1, the C2C program has also resulted in tangible outcomes and specific deliverables. In addition to relationship building, applicants are routinely indicating the advancement of agreements, protocols and joint planning or projects as a result of C2C dialogues.

The provincial and federal governments have both supported the C2C program in varying degrees since 1999. This funding has translated into significant, meaningful and highly valued outcomes in communities across BC and we believe there is tremendous value in continuing the program.

Based on that, we are requesting $50,000 from the provincial government for the 2016/17 program. A similar request will be sent to Indigenous & Northern Affairs Canada.

In addition to the Regional C2C program, planning is underway for a Provincial C2C gathering in October 2016. This event will bring together local government and First Nation participants from across BC for a day of dialogue and joint learning. The provincial government has contributed to past Provincial C2C events, and it is our hope that your ministry will provide a further $10,000 contribution to support the 2016 gathering.

Regional Community to Community Forum

Administration provided by UBCM and First Nations Summit

Funding provided by the Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development

Please direct all correspondence to:

Local Government House
525 Government Street
Victoria, BC, V8V 0A8

E-mail: lgps@ubcm.ca
Phone: (250) 356-2947

It is our sincere hope that the Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development will continue its commitment to this valuable program. We look forward to hearing from you regarding this request and the related contribution agreement.

Sincerely,

Al Richmond

Al Richmond
President

encl.

RUSH!

CORRESPONDENCE SERVICES
Received:
FEB 2 2 2016
Sent: FEB 2 2 2016
ASSIGN TO:
LG GS
Grace
MINISTER'S RESPONSE
DM RESPONSE
DIRECT REPLY
NECESSARY ACTION
COMMENTS/ADVICE
PREMIER'S RESPONSE
INFO/FILE

Xref 157379

Appendix 1: Summary of Regional C2C Events, 1999 – 2015/16

2015/16

Completed Events

1. Cariboo Regional District with Canim Lake Indian Band ($1,109.00). *Outcomes & Deliverables: consideration of development of a communications protocol agreement to help guide further interactions between both governments; looking into possibilities of providing Emergency Operations services, solid waste management services and improved referrals processes, and; working together on emergency planning for the area.*
2. Central Saanich with Tsawout and Tsartlip First Nations ($1,036.50). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Community trail concept development; consideration of joint recreation amenity (all-weather field); and extension to First Nations to participate in coastal inlet (Brentwood Bay) task force.*
3. Harrison Hot Springs with Seabird Island Band, Sts'ailes First Nation and Sto:lo Tribal Council ($1,350.00). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Continued joint effort on Fraser Valley flood-risk issues.*
4. Lillooet Tribal Council with District of Lillooet ($2,333.45). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Joint planning for transportation safety, emergency services, economic development, and joint budget/business planning for recreation centre.*
5. Oak Bay with Songhees and Esquimalt Nations ($2,324.00). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Esquimalt Nation: agreement to continue meeting. Songhees Nation: invited municipal Council to dedication of new trees, tour of wellness centre and dinner meeting.*

Proposed Events[1]

1. Central Kootenay Regional District with Lower Kootenay Band. *Intended deliverables: consensus or understanding regarding building inspection, land use development and planning; service agreement for Building Inspection and Planning Services; heightened awareness and appreciation for cultural and archaeological resources.*
2. Central Okanagan Regional District with Westbank First Nation. *Intended deliverables: Sylix Cultural Site Protection Plan to provide basis for RDCO Parks to take appropriate steps to protect Sylix (Okanagan) First Nation cultural sites within the regional parks system.*
3. Creston (Spring) with the Lower Kootenay Band. *Intended deliverables: Consensus or understanding regarding land use, development and planning; partnerships in enhancing relationships with youth and Councils between the two cultures*
4. Creston (Fall) with the Lower Kootenay Band. *Intended deliverables: Building upon the current Memorandum of Understanding and Friendship; looking at future events or activities that would bring youth together as 'one' community in the Creston Valley, not an 'us' and 'them' mentality; future public display of the partnerships and cultural acceptance in the Valley.*
5. Ditidaht First Nation with Cowichan Valley Regional District. *Intended deliverables: Engagement Protocol that includes the establishment of a Steering Committee to ensure on-going collaboration and implementation of the protocol. The Protocol will specify timelines for frequency of meetings, work plans and will allow for the creation of working groups or sub-committees as needed.*

[1] *Includes applications that are approved or approved in principle*

6. East Kootenay Regional District (Spring) with Ktunaxa Nation Council. *Intended deliverables: increase awareness about the Protocols already in place (Communications Protocol); provide education on those in process (Koocanusa Land Use Planning); and explore opportunities for future agreements/MOU's or projects.*
7. East Kootenay Regional District (Fall) with Shuswap Band. *Intended deliverables: increase awareness about the agreements already in place (Servicing Agreements, Bulk Water agreements); share areas of mutual interest or concern; and explore opportunities for future agreements/MOU's or projects.*
8. Esquimalt with Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations. *Intended deliverables: economic development; introduction of local government and First Nation elected officials and staff; discussion of impact of upcoming capital projects to neighbouring communities.*
9. Fort Nelson First Nation with Northern Rockies Regional Municipality. *Intended deliverables: collaboration to provide better services for both communities by increasing efficiencies through planning.*
10. Fort St. James with Nak'azdli Band. *Intended deliverables: Discussion and potential resolution of overdue outstanding agreement relating to the existing lagoon; partners better positioned to move forward with existing collaborative projects.*
11. Islands Trust (Spring) with Squamish Nation. *Intended deliverables: Consideration of protocol agreement or MOU as part of review of the Gambier Island Official Community Plan (OCP); possible joint-initiative on an Archaeological Overview Assessment; and review by elected officials of the Islands Trust-drafted Gambier Island Profile.*
12. Islands Trust (Fall) with Stz'uminus, Lyackson and Penelakut First Nations. *Intended deliverables: Amended current protocol with the Lyackson First Nation and/or develop an MOU with them; MOUs with the Penelakut and Stz'uminus First Nations would enable a more proactive and constructive mechanism to address land use planning issues in the overlapping areas of interest.*
13. K'omoks First Nation with Comox Valley Regional District, Comox, Courtenay and Cumberland. *Intended deliverables: Implementation agreement for regional growth management and signing ceremony for water/sewer agreement.*
14. Katzie First Nation with Pitt Meadows, Maple Ridge and Metro Vancouver. *Intended deliverables: Eco-Cultural Restoration Plan that considers and incorporates the values and priorities of local governments and community groups.*
15. Kent with Cheam, Scowlitz, Seabird Island, Sts'ailes First Nations and Sto:lo Tribal Council. *Intended deliverables: Consideration of whether to expand the MOU to include other geographic areas or topics of interest; report identifying next three actions in relation to development of Fraser Valley management / flood-risk mitigation strategy; and setting dates/hosts for next two quarterly meetings.*
16. Kitsumkalum Band with Terrace. *Intended deliverables: Potential partnership opportunities; service agreement for garbage disposal; and MOU in relation to LNG.*
17. Ladysmith with Stz'uminus First Nation. *Intended deliverables: The organizations already have an MOU, Protocol Agreement and Services Agreement in place. This event will lead to identification of key elements of joint priority initiatives to be undertaken.*

18. Lake Country with Okanagan Indian Band. *Intended deliverables: Water servicing to IR#7 and Discovery centre joint project.*
19. Lake Cowichan First Nation with Cowichan Valley Regional District. *Intended deliverables: overall goal is to develop a framework agreement that will guide the relationship between to the two governments going forward in any of the initiatives that either embark upon.*
20. Lower Similkameen Indian Band with Okanagan Similkameen Regional District. *Intended deliverables: Similkameen Watershed Plan.*
21. Lytton with Lytton First Nation, Kanaka Bar, Nicomen, Skuppah, and Siska Bands. *Intended deliverables: Service agreement for slow sand filtration water system; revive emergency planning discussions and work to complete any outstanding emergency preparedness gaps currently evident; and identify common economic development interests, which will assist other working groups in the communities with specific focuses for future endeavours.*
22. Masset with Old Masset Village Council. *Intended deliverables: MOU between communities.*
23. Nanaimo Regional District with Snuneymuxw First Nation. *Intended deliverables: Discussion of future servicing agreements, matters of cultural importance such as the protection of culturally sensitive sites, mutual benefits of enhancing the economic, recreational and environmental status of the Nanaimo region, land and resource use planning, and potential opportunities for direct First Nation participation in regional management.*
24. Nanaimo Regional District with Snaw-Naw-as. *Intended deliverables: Discussion of future servicing agreements, matters of cultural importance such as the protection of culturally sensitive sites, the mutual benefits of enhancing the economic, recreational and environmental status of the Nanaimo region, land and resource use planning, and the potential opportunities for direct First Nation participation in regional management.*
25. Okanagan Indian Band with North Okanagan Regional District and Central Okanagan Regional District. *Intended deliverables: developing communications protocols; discussion of protocol agreements relating to economic planning and development where appropriate; discussion of climate change and it's related detriments to our collective environments (watershed management etc.) and Okanagan Lake health.*
26. Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District with Lower Similkameen, Penticton, Okanagan, and Upper Similkameen bands and Okanagan Nation Alliance. *Intended deliverables: clear understanding of regional tourism, culture, and history to elected officials and management within each organization.*
27. Port Edward with Metlakatla, Kitkatka, Lax' Kw'alaams and Hartley Bay bands. *Intended deliverables: Mutual aid agreement; water treatment plan; and emergency aid agreement.*
28. Port Hardy with Kwakiutl First Nation. *Intended deliverables: plans for a formal process of relationship building and reconciliation and educational session on Kwakiutl history and culture delivered to participants.*
29. Qualicum First Nation with Nanaimo Regional District. *Intended deliverables: Discussion of existing agreements and opportunities for future servicing agreements, matters of cultural importance such as the protection of culturally sensitive sites, the mutual benefits of enhancing the economic, recreational and environmental status of the Nanaimo region, economic development interests and opportunities for QFN, land and resource use planning, and the potential opportunities for direct First Nation participation in regional management.*
30. Skeetchestn Indian Band with Lower Nicola Band. *Intended deliverables: define areas of overlapping boundaries, development, and services so that a Protocol Agreement can be reached.*

31. Smithers with Office of the Wet'suwet'en. *Intended deliverables: Develop work plan for 'History of Our Shared Relationships' project.*
32. Squamish-Lillooet Regional District with St'at'imc First Nations: Xwisten, Ts'Kw'aylaxw, Sekw'el'was, Tsalalh, T'it'qet, Xaxli'p and the Lillooet Tribal Council. *Intended deliverables: renew dialogue and build trust in an effort to improve collaboration and build more effective working relationships.*
33. Sunshine Coast Regional District with shíshálh Nation. *Intended deliverables: Improving understanding of issues and communities in light of the recent change in membership of Board and Councils; identify priorities for action for 2016, and beyond, on a range of issues; build upon recent successes such as improvement in protection of community water sources, engagement process, commitments to protection of Howe Sound and Mount Elphinstone; and advancing understanding of methods to protect heritage/archaeological sites (both those registered and potential sites).*
34. Tahsis with Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation. *Intended deliverables: Objective is to reach final agreement on the Vision Statement and a Cooperation Agreement or Friendship Accord.*
35. Thompson-Nicola Regional District with Simpcw First Nation. *Intended deliverables: Focus on next steps from last forum.*
36. Tk'emlups te Secwepemc with Kamloops. *Intended deliverables: educate and inform the local government about current issues; strengthen relationships between the two communities; increase understanding; and discuss common goals and pursue opportunities for joint action.*
37. Tsilhqot'in National Government with Cariboo Regional District. *Intended deliverables: communication agreement; MOU for shared services; emergency preparedness planning; and mapping areas of joint interest.*
38. Tumbler Ridge with Saulteau, West Moberly, Kelly Lake and McLeod Lake First Nations. *Intended deliverables: MOU for economic development dispute resolution.*

2015/16 Summary:
$0.00 contribution from Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada
$50,000 contribution from provincial Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development and additional $26,782.72 from unused provincial Treaty Advisory Committee funding
45 applications for 80 proposed events
To date, 6 events completed, $55,329.93 disbursed and an additional $102,139.47 committed

2014/2015

1. Alert Bay with 'Namgis ($1,975.00). *Outcomes & Deliverables: initial work to develop Harbour Redevelopment Strategy and identification of potential future joint projects.*
2. Capital Regional District with Tseycum, Tsartlip, Pauquachin, Tsawout, Scia'new, Esquimalt First Nation, Pacheedaht, Songhees, T'Souke, Lyackson, Cowichan Tribes and Halalt ($5,000). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Future collaborative work to coordinate policy solutions.*

3. Central Saanich with Tsawout and Tsartlip First Nations ($1,395.50). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Tsawout First Nation: work plan for the divestiture of municipally held lands contiguous to reserve; public wharf expansion of uses. Tsartlip First Nation: divestiture of municipal roadway directly through reserve lands; identification of communications pieces for Central Saanich newsletter.*
4. Chetwynd with Saulteau and Moberley Lake First Nations ($474.39). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Working on better communication and future meeting.*
5. Clearwater with Simpcw First Nation ($1,281.85). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Labour Market Survey and Global GeoPark Project.*
6. Clinton with Whispering Pines/Clinton Band ($1,141.95). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Discussion of service agreements for water, sewer and fire protection; Village to support Band in development of local trail and nursery; and joint on work on items identified in Village's Sustainability Plan.*
7. Comox Valley Regional District with K'omoks First Nation ($3,545.64). *Outcomes & Deliverables: discussion of a draft implementation agreement for the CVRD regional growth strategy and of future meetings and future follow up.*
8. Creston with Lower Kootenay Band ($2,580.00). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Memorandum of Understanding & Friendship reaffirmed; discussion regarding inclusion of First Nations in Town's upcoming OCP review.*
9. Creston with Lower Kootenay Band ($5,000). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Future meetings to discuss cultural initiatives; further joint youth initiatives.*
10. Esquimalt with Esquimalt First Nation and Songhees ($1,827.50). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Consultation on Economic Development Strategy; future meetings.*
11. Fort St. James with Nak'azdli ($4,393.50). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Signing of protocol agreement.*
12. Fraser Valley Regional District with Soowahlie First Nation and Cultus Lake Parks Board ($4,688.50). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Inclusion of Soowahlie in FVRD's Liquid Waste Management Plan; consideration of Soowahlie in other FVRD services (solid waste, fire protection); invitation to Soowahlie First Nation and the FVRD to participate in development of Cultus Lake Parks Board's Emergency Plan for the Park Board area; Soowahlie to initiate referral of planning documents (Land Code, Comprehensive Community) to CLPB/FVRD.*
13. Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw with Port Hardy ($1,896.82). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Agreement to collaborate on Filomi Days; verbal suggestion to have bilateral meetings to discuss/update on economic and other initiatives.*
14. Kamloops with Tk'emlups te Secwepemc ($3,120.00). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Future collaborative work on road safety during road construction; inclusion of TseS in OCP review; future discussion of boundary extension impacts.*
15. Kent with Cheam, Scowlitz, Seabird Island and Sts'ailes bands and Sto:lo Tribal Council ($1,221.01). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Update on Regional Flood Management Strategy.*
16. Kwantlen First Nation with Pitt Meadows, Maple Ridge and Mission ($5,000.00). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Stave West Master Plan and plan to pursue funding to complete the road to the Tim Horton's camp.*

17. Ladysmith with Stz'uminus ($1,634.00). *Outcomes & Deliverables: new Service Agreement was discussed. The Naut'sa Mawt Working Group (the joint committee tasked with overseeing and guiding the development and implementation of agreements between the two organizations) has been tasked with developing this next agreement; Participants explored opportunities for joint sustainability initiatives, including clean-up of Ladysmith Harbour.*
18. Lillooet Tribal Council with Lillooet ($1,676.25). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Development of draft communications protocol; agreement to share emergency services training with St'a'timc communities; plan to share emergency preparedness plans.*
19. Lower Similkameen Indian Band with Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, Princeton, Keremeos ($4,999.82). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Continuation of Similkameen Watershed Planning.*
20. Metro Vancouver with Katzie First Nation ($4,400). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Workshop on servicing agreements by the end of 2014.*
21. Neskonlith Indian Band with Salmon Arm and Columbia Shuswap Regional District ($1,987.00). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Greatly improved communications; discussion of protocol or friendship agreement.*
22. Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District with Lower Similkameen, Osoyoos Band, Penticton Band and Upper Similkameen ($5,000). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Continue work being done by the Joint Council and Steering Committee; engage each organization to participate in the Heritage Strategic Plan; inform and potentially include one more local band into the South Okanagan Similkameen Protocol Agreement.*
23. Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District with Lower Similkameen, Penticton and Upper Similkameen Bands ($4,937.32). *Outcomes & Deliverables: identified need for land use and planning referrals workshop at the staff level between the Bands, RDOS and member municipality departments; identified the importance of celebrating the 2nd year anniversary of the Protocol Agreement signing and desire to include and welcome the Upper Similkameen Indian Band to the Protocol Agreement.*
24. Pemberton with Lil'wat, N'Quatqua and Squamish Lillooet Regional District ($5,000). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Intent to establish several servicing agreements.*
25. Port Edward with Metlakatla, Kitkatla, Lax Kw'alaams, Hartley Bay, Prince Rupert, Skeena-Queen Charlotte Regional District ($3,821.97). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Letter of support regarding the shortage of housing with the proposed LNG development; letter to BC Ferries regarding the cuts in services; CAOs meeting to discuss the Tsimshian Road Access to the Airport.*
26. Port Edward with Metlakatla, Kitkatla, Lax Kw'alaams & Hartley Bay ($5,000.00). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Continued relationship building and dialogue.*
27. Seabird Island Band with Kent, Harrison Hot Springs and Hope ($3,275.00). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Reaffirming C2C group commitment to collaborative efforts on issues of mutual interest through the implementation of a Lobbyist/Coordinator to be collectively resourced; recommitment to CEDI partnership; joint statement identifying the top priorities of the C2C concerning flood management and erosion mitigation.*
28. Smithers with Office of the Wet'suwet'en ($3,215.12). *Outcomes & Deliverables: clarification of boundaries, terms of engagement and outcomes to move forward with an Agreement in Principle and a Terms of Reference.*

29. St. Mary's with Cranbrook and Kimberley ($4,000.00). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Signed MOU with Cranbrook; drafted MOU with Kimberley; collaboration for emergency services and training; and joint work plan with Cranbrook to manage St. Mary's park.*
30. Sunshine Coast Regional District with shíshálh , Sliammon and Squamish First Nations ($4,569.87). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Draft engagement process to be amended to incorporate Tsilhqot'in Supreme Court decision; developing protocol agreements regarding building permits and archaeological sites; continuation of joint economic development; invitation for joint review of OCP.*
31. Tsilhqot'in Nation with Cariboo Regional District ($3,030.68). *Outcomes & Deliverables: formal and informal introductions between the CRD and TNG leadership; agreement for future discussions; identification of priority issues (establish levels of communication for notifications, permits, jurisdiction clarity, a joint meeting of staff to explore options for working together on planning, looking at other MOU's and Protocols, and to apply for next round of C2C funding).*
32. Ucluelet with Yuułu?ił?ath and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations ($5,000.00). *Outcomes & Deliverables: created Terms of Reference; development of a Communications Protocol, conflict of interest mitigation plan, project plan for three key areas of research.*
33. Valemount with Simpcw First Nation ($1,745.00). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Valemount to add written support to Simpcw letter of concern to Premier Clark; host a Geothermal Energy workshop ; sign existing MOU; inter-government committee to develop Terms of Reference; develop/increase relationships between administrators*
34. Vernon with Okanagan Indian Band ($595.40). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Discussion of 911 dispatch services, Employment Lands Action Plan, wastewater outfall and water and sewer services.*
35. Vernon with Okanagan Indian Band ($406.80). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Joint committee will be struck to work on waterfront development; terms of reference being drafted.*
36. Yuułu?ił?ath with Ucluelet ($1,684.38). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Protocol agreement was drafted; plan for future meetings.*
37. Zeballos with Nuu-chah-nulth and Kyuquot-Checleseht First Nations ($4,367.50). *Outcomes & Deliverables: Identified potential future joint projects: recreational infrastructure pre-feasibility study of an epic ride from Zeballos to Fair Harbour and a pre-feasibility study into expanding fish processing capacity in Zeballos or Fair Harbour.*

2014/15 Summary:

$45,000 contribution from Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada
$50,000 contribution from provincial Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development and additional $18,036.20 from unused provincial Treaty Advisory Committee funding
61 applications for 82 proposed events
49 events completed and $114,887.78 disbursed.

1999 – 2013/14 Summary

	Federal Contribution	Provincial Contribution	No. of Applications	No. of proposed events	Completed events	Funding Disbursed
2013/14	$45,000	$50,000	46	74	35	$74,025.18
2012/13	$0.00	$50,000	38	49	30	$69,355.26
2011/12	$38,730.34	$50,000	43	67	34	$73,210.67
2010/11	$50,000	$50,000	49	69	39	$74,893.49
2009/10	$50,000	$50,000	35	38	26	$59,208.55
2009 Newly Elected	n/a	n/a	13	14	14	$17,117.96
2008/09	$50,000.00	$70,000.00[2]	42	60	46	$84,073.00
2007/08	$50,000.00	$70,000.00[3]	47	58	38	$85,194.69
2006/07	$50,000.00	$50,000.00	48	58	47	$94,661.37
2005/06	$50,000.00	$50,000.00	39	58	38	$79,431.59[4]
2004/05	$50,000.00	$50,000.00	40	51	42	$73,331.85[5]
2003/04	$50,000.00	$50,000.00	33	41	36	$75,444.79[6]
2002/03	$50,000.00	$30,000.00	21	34	18	$29,152.90[7]
2001	$50,000.00	$0.00	24	24	20	$36,250.83[8]
1999	$0.00	$25,000.00	10	10	8	$19,425.84[9]

[2] *$60,000 for Regional C2C program and $10,000 for next Provincial C2C event*
[3] *$60,000 for Regional C2C program and $10,000 for next Provincial C2C event*
[4] *An additional $34,964.29 was disbursed for the Provincial C2C event*
[5] *An additional $7,400.57 was disbursed for a C2C workshop*
[6] *An additional $11,573.90 was disbursed for a C2C consultant*
[7] *An additional $5,846.86 was disbursed for a C2C workshop; $30,583.30 for the Provincial C2C event and $1,152.51 for a C2C consultant*
[8] *$13,749.17 was returned to Indian & Northern Affairs Canada*
[9] *An additional $5,574.16 was disbursed for the Provincial C2C event*

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Capital Regional District (CRD) Wastewater Treatment Project

Revised: March 31, 2016

Issue: The CRD wastewater treatment project has been delayed to resolve site selection and local political issues

Response:

- The project will provide wastewater treatment and biosolids treatment, with resource recovery, for the seven Core-Area communities of Victoria, Oak Bay, Saanich, Esquimalt, View Royal, Colwood and Langford.
- Subsequent to the 2014 municipal election, an Eastside Select Committee and a Westside Select Committee were established to further consider local input on the project. The Westside Committee includes representation from Colwood, Esquimalt, Langford, View Royal and Songhees Nation, while Eastside Committee participants represent Oak Bay, Saanich and Victoria.
- We are pleased to see that the CRD and the Core Area municipalities are working together to revitalize the project.
- On March 9th, 2016 the Province publicly committed to help facilitate a path forward with the CRD.
- **The CRD has submitted an amendment to the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan. This amendment is currently under review by the Ministry of Environment.**
- The Province has committed to contributing one-third of eligible costs, to a maximum of $248 million, dependent on the completion of all project components.
- This represents approximately one-third of the eligible capital costs as determined by the CRD in 2010.
- To ensure the project meets its goals and objectives, and to protect provincial interests, the provincial contribution will be made at substantial completion and after final commissioning of the entire wastewater system.

s.13,s.17

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- The provincial funding agreement is based upon a project completion date of no later than March 31, 2019. If the CRD requires an extension to the agreement, a request can be made when a new project plan is in place.

Background/Status:

- The Minister of CSCD and the CRD signed the Contribution Agreement in March 2013.
- The Project involves four separate senior-government contribution agreements, two with Infrastructure Canada ($170 million), one with PPP Canada ($83 million), and one with the Province ($248 million).
- On March 30, 2016 PPP Canada extended the deadline by an additional six months for signing their agreement to September 30, 2016. To meet this deadline CRD is required by PPP Canada to have a work plan, site selection, costing, and CRD board approval before September 30, 2016.
- On March 9, 2016 the CRD Board passed a motion to prepare an amendment to the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan (CALWMP) with Clover Point and McLoughlin Point as the sites for two treatment plants with biosolids treatment at Hartland. Amendment #10 to the CALWMP has been submitted by the CRD to the Ministry of Environment and it is currently under review. .
- On March 9, 2016 Minister Fassbender announced that the Province has agreed to help facilitate a path forward with the CRD..
- To date, construction work on the project has been limited to conveyance structures such as pump stations. Some of this work may be funded under the CRD's agreement with Infrastructure Canada but none is funded by the province.
- CSCD led the development of the provincial contribution agreement with input from key provincial stakeholders: Office of the Comptroller General, Treasury Board staff and Justice and Attorney General Legal & Risk Management Branch.
- The agreement supports the two Public Private Partnership (PPP) components of the project – the wastewater treatment plant and the biosolids/energy centre.
- The location of the facilities is not a factor in the provincial funding agreement, as long as those locations are approved by the Minister of Environment under the CRD CALWMP.
- Provincial policy stipulates that major capital projects with provincial funding in excess of $50 million be evaluated to consider the value of a partnership

arrangement. Partnerships BC was engaged and reviewed the PPP aspects of the project prior to Provincial approval of funding.

- The Provincial contribution of $248 million is one-third of the 2010 cost estimate of $743 million and meets the Provincial public commitment made at UBCM 2006 and in the 2007 Throne Speech for funding of one-third of the best, lowest-cost solution (subject to PPP consideration).
- When the project plan is finalized and approved in principle under the CALWMP, and the outcomes of federal funding are understood (possible withdrawal of PPP Canada funding), the provincial funding contribution and timing may need to be re-evaluated. At that time, CSCD may need to return to Treasury Board for approval, and, potentially, Cabinet direction.

Contact:

Brian Bedford	Director	Local	250 356-0700
Catriona Weidman	Senior Infrastructure Officer	Government Infrastructure	250 952-6517

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Garibaldi at Squamish Resort

Revised: February 10, 2016

Issue: **On January 29, 2016 the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) issued an environmental assessment certificate for the proposed Garibaldi at Squamish Project (GAS), an all-season resort north of Squamish. Local governments share land use authority for the development with the Province**

Response:

- My colleagues, Ministers Polak and Thomson, issued an environmental assessment certificate for the Garibaldi at Squamish proposed development in January.
- This proposal is significant and complex, with important implications for regional stakeholders.
- The environmental assessment certificate – which comes with 40 legally-binding conditions attached in this case – represents one step in a process that must be satisfied if this project is to become a reality.
- The environmental assessment certificate for this project followed extensive consultation and review by a range of stakeholders, including the Squamish Nation and local governments in the Sea-to-Sky corridor.
- Future approval processes include the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations' Resort Master Plan review and, ultimately, entering into a master development agreement with the proponent.
- In addition, the project may require regional growth strategy and official community plan amendments led by appropriate local governments; and a municipal boundary adjustment, if requested by the District of Squamish.
- These possibilities are in addition to the environmental assessment certificate's conditions.

Background/Status:

- GAS is a proposed 22,000 bed, all-season resort located on the slopes of Brohm Ridge outside Squamish that would include 25 ski lifts and 123 runs.

s.13,s.16 Supporters see it as an economic opportunity for Squamish with immediate construction jobs, long-term employment and tax

revenue. Opponents are concerned about the viability of the ski-hill, and the impact of the development on the natural environment, heavily used back country recreation areas, and local government infrastructure.

- The District of Squamish has indicated opposition to the project, citing a number of concerns, including potential negative social and economic effects. The Resort Municipality of Whistler is also opposed to the project, citing concerns that it would have a significant economic effect on Whistler and Blackcomb.
- The environmental assessment certificate decision is the first in a series of decisions and approvals necessary for GAS to proceed. While the decision enables a range of other authorizations it in no way presumes how independent statutory decision makers will approach their subsequent authorizations.
- For example, FLNRO must approve a resort master plan before the project proceeds. Further, approval in principle from either the District of Squamish or Squamish-Lillooet Regional District is required prior to the Province accepting an application for a master plan.
- Detailed considerations by local government for approving development (changing land use designations, planning for infrastructure, and considering impact on climate change), were not within the scope of the EA review. However, it was made clear to the proponent that such considerations would have to be addressed through future local government authorizations (including regional growth strategy (RGS), official community plan (OCP) and zoning amendments).

Next Steps:

- Mountain Resorts Branch of FLNRO must approve a resort master plan as the first next step. FLNRO staff have advised the proponent to work with the District of Squamish to find agreement on size and scope of the project. This could take several months to achieve.
- This agreement is needed before RGS and OCP amendments can be considered, along with any adjustments to the boundary of the DOS.
- FLNRO and CSCD are working together to coordinate on-going efforts.

Ministry's Role:

Local Governance

- GAS is in the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District. If the District of Squamish and the proponent can reach agreement on project feasibility s.13 s.13 the District of Squamish will likely formally ask the Province for a boundary extension to bring the project into the municipality.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Regional Growth Strategy (RGS)

- Currently GAS is inconsistent with the RGS – a bylaw of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District. The regional district will need to initiate an RGS amendment for GAS to proceed, which will have to be accepted by all member municipalities.
- The Minister has no approval role but if agreement cannot be reached he may have to direct the parties to dispute resolution.
- The Minister also appoints Provincial agencies to an inter-governmental advisory committee - a part of the legal consultation process.

Official Community Plan, zoning and other applicable local bylaws

- The Minister has no approval role regarding the amendment and adoption of other applicable local government land use planning bylaws.

Contact:

Brent Mueller	A/Director, Intergovernmental Relations	Intergovernmental Relations and Planning	250 387-2540

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Gas Tax Agreement

Revised: January 19, 2016

Issue: Administration of the Renewed Gas Tax Agreement.

Response:

- Since 2005, the Gas Tax Fund (GTF) has provided B.C. local governments with a significant source of funding for core infrastructure needs. The original agreement ended on March 31, 2014.
- The renewed federal Gas Tax Agreement was signed on May 22, 2014. It took effect, retroactively, as of April 1, 2014, and will transfer $1.3 billion to local governments over the first five years and up to a total of $2.7 billion over the ten year period.
- This agreement provides long-term funding that supports the achievement of public health and environmental outcomes, significant job creation, and assists in building the foundations required for a robust and prosperous economy.

Background/Status:

- The renewed Gas Tax Agreement (GTA) is a tri-partite agreement between the federal and provincial governments and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) that delivers federal funding to local governments and other eligible recipients for investments in sustainable infrastructure and capacity building.
- The GTA was established to provide local governments with predictable, long-term funding to assist them in building and revitalizing public infrastructure as well as to support capacity building and asset management.
- The original Gas Tax Agreement, 2005 – 2014, transferred $1.6 billion in federal funding to B.C. communities.
- On December 15, 2011, the federal government passed legislation that provides for a national $2 billion annual contribution for the Gas Tax Fund (GTF), beginning in 2014/15. This amount will be indexed at 2 per cent per year, starting in 2014/15, over a ten-year period from 2014/15 to 2023/24.
- The Federal Government has established individual Provincial and Territorial (P/T) allocations based on population size. B.C.'s share for the first five-year period is $1,317,040,000. Allocations for the subsequent five years of the 10-year GTA will be updated based on 2016 census population data.

- UBCM is responsible for administering the GTF within B.C. in accordance with the Agreement. Funding is delivered through a combination of direct allocation to individual local governments, pooled and application based funding programs.
- Gas Tax funding is delivered through three programs: Community Works Fund (CWF), Greater Vancouver Regional Fund (GVRF) and Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF.):
    - The CWF consists of a floor amount and a per-capita amount and is delivered directly to local governments for eligible expenditures.
    - The GVRF pools 95 percent of GVRD-member per-capita allocations for regional transportation projects proposed by Translink and approved by the GVRD board.
    - The SPF is an application-based pooled fund for recipients outside the GVRD intended to make funds available for projects that are larger in scale, regional in impact, or innovative. Projects are approved by the program Management Committee which is made up of three UBCM representatives, one provincial rep (ADM Local Government) and one federal rep.
- All local governments have signed their renewed agreements for the Community Works Fund.
- Program design and project approvals for the SPF are made by the Management Committee of senior non-political staff from each signatory. CSCD provides technical support to UBCM for various aspects of program implementation.
- The current program delivery model incorporates the results from the extensive consultation process UBCM undertook with local governments in 2013, prior to negotiating the new agreement.
- An application intake for the pooled Strategic Priorities Fund was launched on December 10, 2014 and closed April 15, 2015. This is the first intake of three over the ten-year agreement period between 2014 and 2024.
- Under the SPF there is a capital project and a capacity-building project category, the latter of which supports planning work such as for asset management, waste management, transportation, and regional growth strategies.
- Successful projects are selected based on merit, on national objectives for productivity and economic growth, clean environment, and strong cities and communities, and on program outcomes for regional benefits, innovation, and sustainable infrastructure management. The regional distribution of funding is also considered in project selection.
- Management Committee met on January 18, 2016 and approved 28 capital projects and 30 capacity-building projects, worth approximately $71.2 million and

$4.2 million, respectively. A further meeting to decide on a second set of project approvals is planned.

- Once the final selections have been made for this first round, UBCM will notify successful and unsuccessful applicants. Opportunities for public announcements will be identified and shared by provincial, federal and local communications staff.
- The timing for a second round for funding applications under the SPF program is being considered and is expected to be announced in the next two years.

Contact:

Director	Brian Bedford	Local Government Infrastructure	250 356-0700

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Infrastructure Planning Grant Program

Revised: March 14, 2016

Issue: A status update of the ongoing Infrastructure Planning Grant Program.

Response:

- The Infrastructure Planning Grant Program (IPGP) offers grants up to $10,000 to support local government in projects related to the development of sustainable community infrastructure.
- IPGP helps local governments create a vision for the future – a future that embraces sustainability and livability.
- The next round of approvals for the Infrastructure Planning Grant Program will occur in the fall of 2016.
- Grants can be used for a range of activities related to assessing the technical, environmental and/or economic feasibility of local government infrastructure projects.
- The Infrastructure Planning Grant Program provides a solid foundation for larger capital projects helping ensure successful implementation.

Background/Status:

- Grants up to $10,000 are available to help improve or develop long-term comprehensive plans that include, but are not limited to: asset management plans; integrated storm water management plans; water master plans; and liquid waste management plans.
- Grants can be used for a range of activities related to assessing the technical, environmental and/or economic feasibility of local government infrastructure projects.
- Grants are based on a formula that provides 100 percent of the first $5,000 and 50 percent of the next $10,000.
- The provision of a planning grant demonstrates the Ministry's direct support for local government efforts to plan for construction and replacement of infrastructure, focusing on planning, designing, constructing and managing sustainable community infrastructure.
- The IPGP is highly regarded by local governments as an effective program. It is well subscribed by small and medium sized local governments. Most local governments have applied to the program.

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- There are typically two rounds of approvals, one early in the fiscal year, and a second with notifications that occur the week of the annual UBCM Convention, where the Minister has the opportunity to announce approved projects during individual local government meetings.
- In fiscal 2015/16, there were 49 grants awarded committing $470,500 to local governments.
- Projects approved in fiscal 2015/16 will draw down on the $0.5 million notional allocation and will commit funds from the 2015/16 and 2016/17 fiscal years.
- In fiscal 2016/17 approvals could result in funding announcement opportunities for up to 50 communities across the province and provide up to $500,000 in funding, subject to confirmation of Ministry budget for the program.
- The Minister approves the final list of funded projects and approval letters are sent under the Minister's signature.

Contact:

Director	Brian Bedford	Local Government Infrastructure	250 356-0700

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Jumbo Glacier Mountain Resort Municipality

Revised: March 15, 2016

Issue: Municipal incorporation; judicial reviews; Environmental Assessment Certificate; OCP deadline extension; eligibility for the small community grant

Response:

Municipal Incorporation

- In early May 2012, amendments to the *Local Government Act* were made to clarify the Province's authority to incorporate a mountain resort municipality whether or not there are residents in the area at the time of incorporation.
- The incorporation of a mountain resort municipality for Jumbo Glacier was requested by the Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK) in 2009, and on February 19, 2013 the Jumbo Glacier Mountain Resort Municipality (JGMRM) was incorporated.
- On incorporation, the Minister appointed a three-member municipal council to oversee the operations of the municipality and in 2014 the council was reappointed for a four-year term.
- The decision to incorporate a mountain resort municipality reflects government's belief that the municipal governance structure is the most appropriate model to provide the strong foundation necessary for a well-planned resort community.

Judicial Review of Incorporation

- On February 18, 2013, the West Kootenay EcoSociety petitioned BC Supreme Court to overturn the incorporation of JGMRM. On November 10, 2015, the BC Supreme Court agreed that the Province acted within its constitutional authority and in accordance with the governing statutes.

Environmental Assessment Certificate

- On June 18, 2015, the project's Environmental Assessment Certificate expired when the Minister of Environment concluded there had not been a substantial start to construction.
- The proponent announced they would submit a revised Master Plan proposal to the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations for under 2,000 bed units, which would not require a new Environmental Assessment Certificate.

- On December 17, 2015, the proponent petitioned BC Supreme Court for review of the Minister of Environment's decision not to extend the Environmental Assessment Certificate.

Small Community Grants

- The amount of a Small Community Grant is based on the formula set out in the *Local Government Grants Act Regulation*; JGMRM is annually eligible for approximately $200,000.
- Due to the uncertainty over the project's future, JGMRM council requested deferment of the second installment of the 2015 grant ($137,000) pending clarification of the municipality's long-term status.
- Surpluses are placed in a reserve fund and are required to be held for future investments in community assets to benefit future taxpayers and residents. In the event these funds are not used in future, there is the option to see them returned to the Province. s.13,s.16,s.17

s.13,s.16,s.17

Regional District Voting

- When JGMRM was incorporated, Letters Patent for RDEK were amended so that JGMRM's municipal director may not exercise voting rights on the regional district board until January 1, 2017, or until a year after the taxable value of land and improvements exceeds $30 million, whichever comes first.
- With the future of the resort uncertain as of March 2016, the Mayor of JGMRM requested that the Province amend the RDEK Letters Patent to extend the provisions on non-voting for another three years.

s.13,s.16,s.17

Background/Status:

Municipal Incorporation

- The year-round ski resort will be located at the foot of Jumbo Mountain and Jumbo Glacier, 55 kilometers west of Invermere.
- The planned $450-million resort will ultimately include 5,500 bed-units in a 104-hectare resort base area and is projected to provide approximately 3,750 person

years of construction employment and create 750 to 800 permanent full-time jobs.

- The council is putting in place a planning and regulatory framework for the development of the resort but the costs of developing the resort are the responsibility of the developer.
- Sec. 29 of the *Local Government Act* provides a process for Cabinet to dis-incorporate a municipality which includes Cabinet receiving a petition by residents of the community and ensuring that payment and discharge of all debts and obligations have been provided for.

s.13,s.16,s.17

Judicial Reviews

- In 2015, the Province was successful in defending two judicial reviews regarding JGMRM:
- In the first judicial review, First Nations claimed there was not adequate consultation leading up to the decision to approve the resort Master Development Agreement;
- On April 3, 2014, the BC Supreme Court dismissed an application by the Ktunaxa First Nation to quash the Master Development Agreement between the Province and the proponent. On August 6, 2015, the BC Court of Appeal upheld this decision; the Ktunaxa First Nation is seeking leave to appeal before the Supreme Court of Canada
- On February 18, 2013, the West Kootenay EcoSociety challenged the incorporation of JGMRM. The petitioner argued that amendments to the *Local Government Act* allowing for incorporation were unconstitutional as they failed to provide for a democratically-governed municipality. On November 10, 2015, the BC Supreme Court agreed that the Province acted within its constitutional authority and in accordance with the governing statutes.

Environmental Assessment Certificate

- On December 17, 2015, Glacier Resorts Ltd. petitioned for a review under the *Judicial Review Procedure Act* of the Province's decision not to further extend Jumbo's Environmental Assessment Certificate. The Minister of Environment is named as the respondent.

s.13,s.17

Letters Patent Amendment – OCP adoption deadline

- The incorporating Letters Patent required that the municipality adopt an official community plan by February 28, 2015. On February 13, 2015, Cabinet extended the deadline set in the Letters Patent to December 31, 2015.
- The deadline extension provided the municipality with time to respond to new information from both the legislatively-required consultations and the subsequent revised avalanche assessment information.
- In July 2015, the municipality adopted the revised official community plan bylaw.

Small Community Grant

- The Small Community Grant assists small municipalities to hire qualified staff and fund local services.
- Upon incorporation, the JGMRM was provided with a restructure assistance grant equivalent to the 2013 Small Community Grant of $200,000.
- In 2014/15, JGMRM received a Small Community Grant of $200,000. In 2015/16, the Small Community Grant was divided into two installments. s.13,s.16,s.17 s.13,s.1

- *Small Community Grants* are allocated based on the formula set out in the Local Government Grants Regulations. A grant is paid when the sum of the following components is $100,000 or more:
    - A base funding amount of $200,000;
    - A population funding amount of $50 per resident up to 5,000, less $25 per resident after that; and,
    - An assessment equalization funding amount based on the relative size of the local tax base.

Regional District Voting

1. When JGMRM was incorporated, Letters Patent for RDEK were amended so that JGMRM's municipal director may not exercise voting rights on the regional district board until the earlier of the following comes to pass:
    - January 1, 2017; or,
    - One year after the taxable value of land and improvements exceeds $30 million.

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Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

2. Due to the loss of the Environmental Assessment Certificate, development has not proceeded, and JGMRM's municipal director will be eligible to vote on the regional district board at the start of 2017.
3. The Mayor of JGMRM s.13,s.16 requested that the Province amend the RDEK Letters Patent to extend the provisions on non-voting for another three years.
4. s.13,s.16,s.17

Contact:

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201/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Municipal Taxation

Revised: January 14, 2016

Issue: Municipal Taxation

Response:

LNG and Municipal taxes

- The Province wants to encourage a competitive investment climate for LNG development, including establishing an attractive municipal tax regime while ensuring local governments are prepared for the challenges and opportunities associated with LNG development.
- Given that at least five of the proposed facilities will be located within municipal jurisdictions, the issue of municipal property taxation is a key consideration.
- The Provincial approach to this is not a “one size fits all”, but one that recognizes that LNG facilities vary in size, complexity and location. Similarly, every host community is different in terms of size, service capacity and impacts.
- It also recognizes that industrial property taxation varies greatly across the province. While rates and assessments are calculated on a consistent methodology, the system is designed to allow each community to balance the need for adequate revenues against the goal of encouraging investment.
- This flexibility is important and it is for these reasons that the Province has confirmed its preference for locally negotiated benefit sharing arrangements and its willingness to implement these arrangements through enabling legislation where appropriate.

Port Edward and Pacific Northwest (PNW) LNG

- At the invitation of the parties, CSCD facilitated negotiation of an agreement between Pacific North West LNG and Port Edward to address taxation, infrastructure and service provision issues during the construction and operations phase of the PNW LNG project.
- In December 2014, the parties signed an agreement-in-principle to establish municipal property taxation benefits, over 25 years, comprised of $3.25 million in annual municipal property taxes, which escalate over the life of the agreement. The proponent will also provide direct support for infrastructure improvements such as water and sewer system upgrades and future construction of a bypass road.

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Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- Port Edward subsequently requested that government enact legislation to enable the agreement under the *Community Charter*
- The Province responded with adoption of amendments to *the Municipalities Enabling and Validating Act* in the 2015 session of the Provincial Legislature.
- Other proponents and communities will have an opportunity to negotiate agreements consistent with their particular situations, and the Province has indicated that it is willing to consider enabling legislation where appropriate.

Background/Status:

- A key condition in securing a Final Investment Decision (FID) from LNG proponents is ensuring a fair and reasonably predictable tax regime – including municipal property taxes – that encourages industrial development in B.C.
- Currently there are a number of proposals for LNG facilities to be located in B.C., each of which would be a major capital undertaking requiring considerable planning, logistics, financing, construction, contracting, and labour.
- Municipal taxation is one of a number of factors that is of concern to the Province as it negotiates with proponents of LNG facilities in several communities on B.C.'s coast.
- Other taxes, including other property taxes (e.g. school and hospital tax), are under the purview of the Ministry of Finance.
- Because these LNG facilities are on a completely different scale from any previous industrial facilities in the province, one of the foundational issues to address is the appropriate level of municipal tax.
- The Ministry developed an engagement strategy to:
    - Assess the readiness of local governments to support the development of the LNG industry in B.C. (North West Readiness); and
    - Support the development and implementation of a competitive provincial tax policy framework that maximizes the return to citizens and also ensures B.C. is an attractive and competitive place to develop LNG.
- CSCD developed principles to inform the Province's approach to LNG property taxation at a provincial level based on the following:
    - *Every LNG facility is different.* They vary in size and complexity, and exist in both Greenfield and Brownfield environments. Their significant capital value defies standard assessment-based methodology. They cannot and should not all be treated the same, but should be treated equitably.

- *Every LNG community is different*. They vary in size and needs, and the impacts of these developments will be different. It is fair to support customized agreements that are suitable to each community, but those agreements must be defensible.
- *Industrial taxation varies across the Province.* While rates and assessments are based on a consistent methodology, the system is designed to allow each community to balance the need for adequate revenues against the goal of encouraging investment. This flexibility in important but needs to be closely managed to protect the Province's interest in a competitive LNG industry.

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) - Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA)

Revised: February 4, 2016

Issue: Twenty-one communities in Northwest B.C. have formed the RBA to pursue resource benefit sharing discussions and negotiations with the Province

Response:

- Economic growth will bring benefits to the RBA communities over time.
- The Province recognizes that, for some RBA communities, there will also be some potential pressures from the temporary population increase anticipated during the construction phase of these projects.
- To respond to new economic development opportunities, the Province is undertaking regionally tailored approaches that reflect the unique characteristics and aspirations of the communities and the specific characteristics of the proposed projects; this means that responses will differ from the Northeast to the South Coast to the Northwest.
- The Provincial approach also recognizes the fundamental role of partnerships is finding effective approaches to managing change; it requires service and infrastructure providers, including proponents, to work collaboratively. In the Northwest, the ministry has focussed its efforts on supporting the communities most likely to host an LNG facility through the Northwest Community Readiness initiative. The ministry has contributed more than $1.2 million to help them update their official community plans and regulatory bylaws and to review and assess local infrastructure needs to prepare for new developments, and has funded five planning interns and an industry liaison.
- The ministry is working with proponents and communities to ensure that proponents have certainty and communities have the financial and planning resources necessary to accommodate new growth. The December 2014 agreement between Pacific Northwest LNG and the District of Port Edward demonstrates the partnerships that we have forged to realize this opportunity.
- The ministry is also supporting socio-economic effects management planning – a process to ensure that LNG proponents work with affected communities to mitigate the direct construction phase impacts on infrastructure and services.
- On April 2, 2015, the Assistant Deputy Ministers of Local Government and Liquefied Natural Gas responded by letter to the RBA proposal. The letter

indicated that the Province will not be providing the funding requested by the RBA and will not be engaging in revenue discussions at this time. However, provincial staff will continue to work with the RBA to better understand how their proposal fits with existing community readiness work including:

  - Other tax and revenue agreements;
  - Socio Economic Effects Management Planning;
  - Northwest Community Readiness;
  - Internal infrastructure and service demand assessment work; and
  - Rural Dividend.

- At the 2015 UBCM Convention, the Minister met together with all 21 members of the RBA and listened to their interests and concerns. Ministry staff are now working on fact finding to help the Ministry better understand these requests and the Province remains committed to continuing our dialogue with the RBA.

Background/Status:

Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance

- The membership of the RBA includes the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine, Skeena-Queen Charlotte Regional District, and Bulkley Nechako Regional District, as well as all of the local governments within them, for a total of 21.
- The RBA's top priority is to start revenue-sharing discussions and negotiations with the federal and provincial governments and major resource interests.
- The RBA seeks early access to revenues from economic expansion underway in Northwest BC to address infrastructure deficits and needs, address impacts associated with major resource development, and provide significant legacy resources to Northwest communities. The RBA believes that the Province, the federal government and major resource companies must share the benefits of resource development with RBA communities, in order to obtain social license.
- Proposed benefit sharing arrangements could include:
  - New long-term sustainable provincial or federal grant programs;
  - A share of revenues from major projects;
  - A share of industrial tax revenue from industrial tax base outside municipal boundaries;
  - Improved grants-in-lieu of taxes; and
  - Bilateral agreements with major companies.

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Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- The letter written to the RBA by the CSCD and MNGD ADMs on April 2, 2015 confirmed that benefit negotiation at this time would be out of sequence; however, RBA continues to seek an immediate discussion.
- At UBCM 2015, the RBA told the Minister that their communities had at least $510 million in infrastructure needs, and reiterated their request to enter into revenue sharing negotiations.
- The Minister responded post UBCM indicating ministry staff are now working on fact finding to help the ministry better understand these requests and the Province remains committed to continuing our dialogue with the RBA.
- CSCD staff are undertaking a preliminary, high level review of current infrastructure requests from the RBA communities to support further discussion, and identification and consideration of next steps.
- CSCD staff continue to meet with individual RBA members. CSCD staff are also meeting with other provincial agencies to clarify options and relationships to the Rural Dividend and other programs.

Contacts:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) – Socio-Economic Effects Management Plan (SEEMP)

Revised: January 21, 2016

Issue: A SEEMP outlines the process for managing potential and realized adverse effects on community-level infrastructure and services directly related to LNG project construction

Response:

- LNG presents a significant new economic opportunity for British Columbia.
- While this new development brings a range of benefits to communities, the effect on community-level infrastructure and services needs to be anticipated and managed.
- A Socio-Economic Effects Management Plan (SEEMP) is required if it is a condition included in an Environmental Assessment Certificate. SEEMPs have been required for five LNG projects: Coastal GasLink Pipeline, Prince Rupert Gas Transmission, and Westcoast Connector Gas Transmission, Pacific NorthWest LNG, and LNG Canada.
- A SEEMP is a plan to adaptively manage potential and realized adverse effects on community-level infrastructure that are directly related to project construction and the associated temporary workforce.
- The SEEMP requires Certificate Holders to engage with provincial and community-level infrastructure and service providers and Aboriginal groups for the purpose of sharing key project information and ensuring potential adverse effects are identified and managed.
- The Certificate Holder must provide the SEEMP to the Province 90 days before major construction.
- The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) must approve the SEEMP before construction. MCSCD provides advice to EAO regarding SEEMP approval.
- Coastal GasLink (CGL) Pipeline submitted their SEEMP on October 20, 2015. EAO and CSCD reviewed the SEEMP. In January, EAO directed CGL to address issues and questions from the review. As this is the first SEEMP, it was anticipated that changes to the original submission would be required.

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Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Background/Status:

- Government has heard concerns from communities about the extraordinary demands that would be placed on community-level infrastructure and services as a result of major LNG developments.
- B.C. has a robust regulatory framework (e.g. *Environmental Assessment Act*) in place to identify, mitigate and manage potential adverse effects of major resource development on populations and the land base. However, due to the scale of the LNG projects and the associated temporary workforces, it is particularly important that the right level of project information is shared with service and infrastructure providers to ensure potential adverse project effects can be appropriately mitigated.
- The SEEMP applies to certain LNG projects and is a legally binding condition to the Environmental Assessment Certificate for those projects. It was developed to supplement current regulatory frameworks in B.C. by providing a process for early and ongoing engagement and sharing of project information between Certificate Holders, service and infrastructure providers and Aboriginal groups throughout the project construction phase. This is to ensure that potential adverse project effects are managed and to position all organizations to better respond to and plan for any opportunities created by these major LNG projects.
- The SEEMP complements other provincial initiatives being undertaken, as part of the Community Readiness Initiative, to support communities to respond to service and infrastructure demands that arise from major resource development projects (e.g. Community Land-Use Planning Program (CLUPP), Asset Management Capacity Building (AMBC), Community Readiness Working Group, etc.).
- CSCD has developed guidelines to assist Certificate Holders in the development of their SEEMPs. CSCD has also established relationships with all Certificate Holders and provides ongoing guidance and advice as they develop their SEEMPs.

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Squamish – Woodfibre LNG

Revised: March 7, 2016

Issue: The Woodfibre LNG proposal faces opposition from District of Squamish council

Response:

- Woodfibre LNG has an opportunity to build one of the first LNG export plants in British Columbia.
- The site is within the boundaries of the District of Squamish, is zoned for heavy industrial development, and is ideally located on Howe Sound with ready access to hydro-electric power and a natural gas pipeline.
- The site previously accommodated a pulp mill site. It is considered a "brownfield" site, but is under rehabilitation.
- Over the past few years the community and Council have been deeply divided about the merits of this project. Last year, the Council turned down a development permit application from FortisBC, which proposes to augment the existing Vancouver Island Natural Gas Pipeline to service the LNG facility.
- However, this issue has been resolved by the two parties and necessary permits issued. This shows a willingness of the Council to engage with the project proponents in a positive constructive manner.
- We will continue to engage the local government on the implementation of this project.
- While the Province has tools to intervene in local affairs to deal with matters of public interest, it respects local autonomy and the rights of councils to make decisions in light of community interests.

Background/Status:

Project Status

- Woodfibre LNG (WLNG) proposes to build an LNG plant on the site of the former Western Forest Products Woodfibre Pulp Mill.
- The site is currently zoned for industrial use, has access to a deep water dock, and a BC Hydro power line. It is also close to FortisBC's Vancouver Island Natural Gas Pipeline. Of all of the proposed LNG projects sites in the province, this one is the most ready for development.

- WLNG has been in discussions with the District of Squamish on all aspects of the project, but in particular the property tax regime to apply to the project. WLNG has offered to pay the municipality $2.5 million per year in taxes, which was equivalent to what the pulp mill paid before it closed.
- Discussions with the municipality were complicated by the fact that the Council was split between pro-development and anti-development factions. Given this split on Council, discussions were deferred pending the results of the Local Government General Election.
- The 2014 election resulted in a new mayor and council, the majority of which campaigned in opposition to the development of a LNG project.
- FortisBC is currently undertaking the planning for the pipeline supplying the Woodfibre LNG project. As part of the planning, they needed to drill six boreholes to test foundations in a Wildlife Management Area in the Squamish Estuary. This is a designated Development Permit Area, in the Official Community Plan.
- On January 20, 2015, Council turned down the development permit application for FortisBC to undertake exploratory drilling in the Squamish estuary. The staff report recommended approval based on the fact that the proponent had met all conditions associated with the development permit area and provincial and federal requirements. FortisBC indicated that it was considering legal action.
- Subsequently, Council assessed its legal risks and passed a motion to allow Fortis to reapply for a permit for two boreholes in an already disturbed area of the Squamish River dyke. In May of 2015 the necessary development permits were issued and FortisBC commenced its work.
- We understand that Council has recently engaged with the proponent and staff are examining what would be required if a decision were made in order to proceed with the project including permits, studies and the property tax framework.
- Community views on the LNG project remain very mixed and it is possible that if a decision were made to support the project environmental activists could challenge municipal decisions necessary to implement the project (e.g. development permits).

Tools for Provincial Intervention

s.13,s.17

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Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

s.13,s.17

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Initiatives—Northwest Community Readiness

Revised: January 20, 2016

Issue: Ministry responsibilities and accountabilities arising from LNG development.

Response:

- The scope and scale of the workforce and services required by LNG development could challenge communities in the Northwest in providing housing, local infrastructure, public safety, and other community services.
- The communities that are most directly affected by proposed LNG construction and operations are: Kitimat, Prince Rupert and Port Edward, with indirect effects felt in Terrace and areas within the regional districts of Kitimat-Stikine and Skeena-Queen Charlotte.
- In May 2014, the Ministry contributed $1.2 million to initiatives in northwest B.C. delivered in partnership with the Northern Development Initiative Trust including, Community Land Use Planning Grants (CLUPP), Asset Management Capacity Building (AMCB), planning interns, and industry liaison supports. These resources have been directed toward addressing the impacts that LNG developments have on community water and sewer systems, roads, land development, health, safety, and social systems in the Northwest.
- Through the Northwest Community Readiness project, communities are being assisted to prepare for escalating service demands. Project staff meet regularly with provincial and local service providers in order to confirm community-level priorities.
- CSCD staff have facilitated an agreement between Pacific Northwest LNG and the community of Port Edward to address taxation, infrastructure and service provision during the construction and operations phase of its project. Staff are also facilitating a service agreement between Pacific Northwest LNG and the city of Prince Rupert.
- The Ministry's ongoing local government programs on land use planning, infrastructure asset management, local government finance, and local government structure are engaged in assisting communities in the Northwest.

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Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Background/Status:

- Co-ordination between the Province, regional agencies and local and regional governments will be essential to ensure readiness for final investment decisions and to instill confidence in local governments that the Province is committed to extending local opportunities and addressing service pressures caused by growth.
- Cabinet Working Group on Liquefied Natural Gas (CWGLNG) has given the Minister a mandate to coordinate provincial activities to prepare social and community services for the effects of LNG development.
- CWGLNG has also mandated CSCD to work with the Environmental Assessment Office to ensure proponents work with communities through the Socio-Economic Effects Management Planning (SEEMP) process.
- The Northwest Community Readiness (NWCR) project is being supported through the combined efforts of CSCD staff as well as Ministries which provide provincial services (e.g. MOTI, MOH, etc.). The goals of the NWCR project are to:
    - ensure the community and provincial service providers are informed and prepared for changing service demands.
    - ensure coordinated planning and service delivery between provincial, proponent and community service providers in the areas of infrastructure, health services, safety, and social service delivery.
    - assist communities in responding to major industrial development-driven priorities.

Contact:

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Meggin Messenger	Executive Director	NW Community Readiness	250 387-4045

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Local Governance Studies / Restructures

Revised: March 8, 2016

Issue: Overview of studies and restructures anticipated or underway

Response:

- British Columbia has a strong tradition of self-determination and elector choice in local governance matters.
- Municipal incorporation and restructure (in the form of significant boundary extensions or other major governance changes) typically consolidates local service delivery, governance and representation in a municipality. This can lead to long term cost savings, and service and decision-making integration, to the benefit of taxpayers.
- Cabinet makes the final decision (by issuing new/amended letters patent), where supported by the recommendation of the Minister and the approval of electors.
- The transition of service responsibilities affects not just the municipality involved, but also the regional district, improvement districts, and the Province of B.C. (e.g. roads/transportation; policing).
- The fiscal impacts for the local taxpayers may be moderate or substantial, and in some cases the transition may be supported by financial assistance from the Province in the form of restructure assistance and implementation grants.
- The structure program supports elector choice through locally-led examinations of the current and alternative governance and service delivery structures. These examinations may be all-in-one studies, comparing current arrangements with either municipal incorporation or another specific governance change, or be staged processes that start with a thorough study of current governance and community needs and may be followed by examination of a more select range of change options.
- The annual budget for restructure assistance is limited and varies each year; it needs to cover not only new studies, but also further commitments arising from studies already underway (e.g. if Salt Spring Island were to incorporate, transitional support would be provided for up to five years).

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Background/Status:

- The following communities are engaged in restructure initiatives, which could proceed to government decision/implementation within 2016/17:
  - *City of Fernie* – restructure to include West Fernie area in two phases, following infrastructure upgrades by the Regional District of East Kootenay. The first phase of infrastructure upgrade is underway, utilising Provincial capital grants and Gas Tax monies. s.13,s.16,s.17
    s.13,s.16,s.17
  - *Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine* – boundary proposal extends the regional boundaries to include parts of the unincorporated Stikine region that are accessed through Dease Lake. s.13,s.16,s.17
    s.13,s.16,s.17
  - *Salt Spring Island* – incorporation study is underway, which will require a provincial offer of restructure assistance;s.13,s.16
    s.13,s.16

- The following communities are currently undertaking or have recently completed examinations of current governance arrangements, commissioned in 14/15 and 15/16:
  - *Okanagan Falls* – a governance review, utilizing up to $50,000 in provincial funding, for this growing community in the South Okanagan to examine current and alternative arrangements within the rural framework.
  - *Thornhill-Terrace* – a governance, services and planning information inventory, utilizing up to $60,000 in Provincial funding, for the Thornhill community and surrounding neighbours to support land use planning initiatives and future consideration of governance change.
  - *Interlakes* – a governance and service assessment and facilitated public dialogue on community issues, utilizing up to $10,000 in provincial funding, to identify options for the community and Regional District.
  - *Central Coast* – a governance, services, and financing inventory, utilizing up to $60,000 in provincial funding, for the Central Coast region to examine current and alternative arrangements within the rural framework to guide options development for future consideration.

- *Columbia Shuswap* – a governance review, utilizing up to $50,000 in provincial funding, for communities in the Sorrento-Blind Bay area to examine current and alternative arrangements within the rural framework.

s.13,s.16,s.17

- Interest in governance in the following communities raise broader or unique questions for provincial and other interests; work is underway to determine how best to proceed:
  - *University Endowment Lands* – the UEL Community Advisory Council, with the support of the Electoral Area Director, have requested an incorporation study in this unique area which is directly administered by the Ministry s.13
    s.13
  - *Capital Region* – following varied non-binding referenda in 8 of 13 municipalities favouring examination of aspects of governance (amalgamation and/or review of services), a facilitated fact-finding process is being finalized to help local councils identify actual issues, barriers and opportunities for integrated services and governance s.13
    s.13
- Ministry staff are aware of significant boundary or restructure study proposals under consideration in the following communities:
  - *Duncan-North Cowichan* – joint referenda question on amalgamation endorsed in both municipalities in 2014 local government elections.

s.13,s.16,s.17

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

s.13,s.16,s.17

Contact:

Marijke Edmondson	Director	Local Govt Structure	250 387-4058

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Local Government Conflict of Interest

Revised: March 15, 2016

Issue: Local government conflict of interest rules and the impact of the BC Court of Appeal (BCCA) decision in *Schlenker v. Torgrimson*

Response:

- There are legislated rules against conflict of interest, and the local government framework sets out that elected officials who operate outside the *Community Charter* (*Charter*) or *Local Government Act* may be disqualified from holding office.
- What is considered a conflict of interest can ultimately only be decided by the courts, as the courts have the expertise to weigh the facts and apply the law based on the statutory framework and established legal principles.
- The Province is actively considering the implications of the 2013 BCCA Schlenker decision and the breadth and scope of any potential response (such as providing an exception by regulation).

Background/Status:

- The *Charter* provides the conflict of interest rules for local government elected officials. In general, the rules provide that elected officials who have a pecuniary (financial) or another interest in a matter to be discussed and voted on must declare their conflict. Following their declaration, the elected official may not participate in discussions, vote or exercise influence on this matter.
- If they do not declare and absent themselves, an elected official may be challenged in court by ten electors or by their own local government. An elected official who is found by the courts to be in a pecuniary conflict of interest is disqualified from office.
- The legislated provisions do not generally define what is/is not a “direct or indirect pecuniary interest,” as that is left to the courts based on the facts of each particular case.
- After receiving legal advice, the City of Grand Forks initiated a court challenge against one of their own council members due to a perceived pecuniary conflict of interest. The BC Supreme Court’s February 29th, 2016 judgement dismissed the petition to have the council member disqualified.
- Declarations of conflict of interest may also raise issues of quorum (a majority of elected officials on a council or board is required for valid decisions).

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- Local governments may apply to the courts, who may allow conflicted elected officials to discuss and vote on the matter despite their conflict, if the council or board lacks a quorum because of their conflict.
- Legislative authority exists for a Cabinet regulation to provide exceptions to the conflict of interest restrictions.

BCCA decision: S*chlenker v. Torgrimson*

- The *Charter* sets out the process, but court decisions define, on a case-by-case basis, what constitutes a conflict of interest. The January 2013 BCCA *Schlenker v. Torgrimson* decision is such an example – where two elected officials, also directors of a society, had an indirect pecuniary interest in the vote to fund society contracts. The trustees did not disclose their director roles. A group of electors challenged the trustees in court on the basis of conflict of interest.
- The BCCA overturned the decision of the BC Supreme Court, which had found that the two trustees did not have a personal pecuniary interest in conflict with their public duties. The BCCA found that they did have an indirect pecuniary interest and declared them in violation of the *Charter*.
- In August 2013, a Bulletin was published (with Ministry help) by UBCM and the Local Government Management Association of BC (LGMA) outlining the court decision and some possible practical approaches.
- At the 2013 Convention, UBCM members approved a resolution requesting the Province to work with UBCM and LGMA to identify a solution.

s.13,s.16,s.17

s.13,s.17

- On Sept. 30, 2015, a letter from Minister Fassbender to the Capital Regional District confirmed that staff were currently exploring a potential regulatory approach. s.12,s.13,s.17

s.12,s.13,s.17

Contact:

Michelle Dann/ David Van Ommen	Director	Governance and Structure Branch	250 387-4059

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: **Local Government Elected Officials and Council/Board Relations**

Revised: **March 15, 2016**

Issue: **Provincial role in addressing expected behavior for elected officials and tools for council/board and citizen relations**

Response:

- Local governments are autonomous, responsible and accountable. They have a range of tools they may use to help elected officials conduct themselves in an acceptable manner and to provide opportunities for the public to be involved in local decision making.
- To proactively address elected officials' relations, local governments can develop standards of behavior for elected officials through developing and implementing guidelines such as codes of conduct. Educational programs for newly elected officials can also help to clarify roles and responsibilities.
- In more extreme cases of challenged council and board relations, professional consultants can be retained to assist with conflict and crisis mitigation; as well, councils and boards are able to censure individual members.
- Elected officials who operate outside the ethical standards set in the *Community Charter* or *Local Government Act* may be disqualified from holding office. These rules include restrictions on accepting gifts and conflict of interest.
- In terms of elected/citizen relations, there are a number of tools available for citizens to hold elected officials accountable, including attending open council and board meetings and being directly involved in local government decision-making through elector approval processes such as assent voting (referenda).
- Oversight bodies such as the Office of the Ombudsperson and the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner have specific roles in responding to citizen complaints. In more serious cases, the courts have the ultimate authority to adjudicate issues between council/boards and their citizens.
- The Province does not have an intervention role in situations where there is tension between elected officials or between citizens and local governments; however, the Province does provide support to elected officials and the public by providing guidance materials and best practices advice on the legislative framework, including matters such as meeting procedures and elector approval processes.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Background/Status:

Following the 2014 local government elections, some media attention on tension amongst elected officials and between elected officials and the public has raised questions about standards of behavior for elected officials. Some of the more recent attention has been focused on Nanaimo, Pouce Coupe and Penticton.

- **Nanaimo**: media reports suggest a divisive Nanaimo council, which has included acrimonious debate, name calling, and physical altercations. Tensions remain between the mayor and other council members. While there have been a number of recent resignations of senior management including the Chief Administrator Officer (CAO) on March 8, 2016, Tracy Samra was named in the media as the permanent CAO s.13,s.16
- **Pouce Coupe**: there has been significant public controversy surrounding the former mayor, who resigned on January 4, 2016. Citizens have requested documents relating to the mayor's employment as a volunteer fire fighter and Pouce Coupe's land acquisitions and other finances but have not been satisfied with the Village's responses. A by-election for Mayor is being held April 9th, 2016. There have also been challenges for village administration, s.13,s.16 s.13,s.16 currently the Chief Administrative Officer role is being filled by the Village's financial officer.
- **Penticton**: council has faced significant public opposition to its decision to lease a portion of Skaha Park for commercial development of a marina and water park. Despite public rallies and petitions signed by almost 8,000 people requesting a referendum on the issue, council is moving forward with the decision. In September 2015, a group of citizens started legal action against the City and the developer. The group is still waiting for a response from the City.

The Ministry response to these public issues has included providing information to the public, local elected officials and staff on the range of tools and avenues available on the matter. These include tools for intra-council/board relations such as:

- Council/board develop a code of conduct (or a set of rules for councilors and board members behavior and conduct).
- Education for newly elected officials that outlines the roles and responsibilities of elected officials.
- Conflict and crisis mitigation with a professional facilitator who develops strategies with council/board.
- Council/board censuring of council or board member who displays unacceptable conduct; censuring involves a public statement of disapproval and may also involve some actions (such as limiting the elected official's role or privileges).

- Council/board application to the B.C. Supreme Court (with agreement from at least two-thirds of council/board) to have the elected official disqualified under section 110 of the *Community Charter*. For example for:
    - Failing to declare a conflict of interest.
    - Failing to take the required oath.
    - An absence from council meetings for 60 days or missing 4 consecutive council meetings (unless because of illness or injury – or have leave of council).
    - An unauthorized use of money.
    - A disqualification as a result of not meeting qualifications to hold office.

In addition to the tools available to address issues amongst elected officials, there are also tools for council/board relations with the public. These include:

- Council/board meetings required by statute to be open unless specified matters are under discussion; the public can attend to voice opinions and concerns about council/board policies and decisions.
- Direct public participation in decision making on some matters (e.g., loan authorization bylaws) through the alternative approval process and assent voting.
- Local government oversight bodies such as the Office of the Ombudsperson and the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner that deal with public complaints on specific matters; as well, audits by the Auditor General for Local Government may result in recommendations for best practices related to greater transparency and better management of local government operations.
- Application to the B.C. Supreme Court (from 10 or more electors) to have the elected official disqualified under section 110 of the *Community Charter*.

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Metro Vancouver Integrated Liquid Waste Management Plan

Revised: March 31, 2016

Issue: Metro Vancouver requested funding for the new Lions Gate wastewater treatment project

Response:

- Metro Vancouver (Metro) is pursuing senior government funding for the new Lions Gate Wastewater Treatment Project to be built in North Vancouver.
- The eligible project cost is estimated at $640 million.
- In the fall of 2015, PPP Canada screened the project out of further consideration under the P3 Canada Fund.
- While the project is a priority for the Province, a funding commitment has yet to be confirmed at this time. The Ministry is actively working on this file. In addition, the Province continues to assess the multiple provincial and local infrastructure priorities and how best to fund them through the various funding programs.
- The Minister, along with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI), has been in ongoing discussions with the Federal Minister and Metro Vancouver to explore potential funding opportunities. A Federal commitment in principle of $212 million was recently announced on March 22, 2016
- The Province recognizes that this is an important project, both for the people of Metro Vancouver and for the environment. Metro Vancouver's initiative in moving this project forward in a timely manner is commendable.

Background/Status:

- In 2012, the Federal government announced a new regulation for municipal wastewater treatment. This new regulation requires upgrades to the Lions Gate treatment plant in North Vancouver by 2020, which treats wastewater for the North Shore, and the Iona facility in Richmond by 2030 that treats the wastewater for Vancouver, UEL and parts of Burnaby and Richmond.
- Municipalities across Canada are now required to implement secondary treatment (dissolved organics are removed), in addition to primary treatment (solids are removed.)
- Metro Vancouver (Metro) operates five wastewater treatment plants, three of which provide secondary treatment with the other two currently providing primary treatment (Lions Gate and Iona).

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- Metro is committed to upgrading the North Shore Lions Gate wastewater treatment plant by 2020.
- The project was developed though an integrated liquid waste and resource management plan process that responds to the pressure of population growth and the need to bring an aging infrastructure up to provincial and federal regulatory standards and that incorporated extensive public engagement.
- Metro is ready to move forward on the project. It is construction ready and has public support.
- In March 2016, Metro intends to issue a RFP to three successful applicants from its RFQ process which closed December 17, 2015.
- The existing plant is to be replaced with a new plant built at a site a few kilometers to the east of the current site. The new site is secured and zoned for the plant. The old site will be cleaned and returned to Squamish First Nation.
- Due to the expense of the project and the current costing formula, North Shore and Vancouver residents have raised the concern that they may experience a substantial increase, in hundreds of dollars, to their annual utility bills.
- The project cost is estimated at about $640 Million (eligible costs). s.13,s.16,s.17

s.13,s.16,s.17

- In fall 2015, P3 Canada dismissed Metro's application for funding, indicating that funding under the P3CF is (only) available for P3 projects where a Design-Building-Finance-Operate (DBFO) procurement model is used. Such a model is not suitable for Metro.
- Partnerships BC reviewed Metro's procurement plan and confirmed the preferred Public Private Partnership (PPP) model, Design-Build-Finance (DBF), is satisfactory.
- On March 22, 2016 a Federal contribution under the new federal Green infrastructure funding stream of $212 million was announced in the budget. This contribution is still subject to Federal Treasury Board approval.

s.13,s.16,s.17

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Metro Vancouver Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) Dispute

Revised: March 8, 2016

Issue: Metro Vancouver RGS implementation and the Board's non-acceptance of the Township of Langley's Regional Context Statement

Response:

- Metro is a large, diverse region with complex growth management issues.
- The Metro Regional Growth Strategy provides important guidance to local governments within the region as they work together to create livable and economically resilient communities in the midst of fast population growth.
- Metro and municipalities are working to implement the 2011 RGS, including the development of each municipality's regional context statement as required by legislation.
- Disputes over non-acceptance of regional context statements by the Metro Board are resolved by use of the *Local Government Act* dispute resolution process.
- These provisions are being used to resolve the dispute between the Township of Langley and the Metro Board, as the Board did not accept the Township's proposed regional context statement on November 15, 2013.
- As required under the legislation, the Minister directed Metro and the Township to a non-binding dispute resolution process. This direction was temporarily suspended pending the outcome of a B.C. Court of Appeal decision related to the previous RGS and Official Community Plan (OCP) bylaws in the Township. The Appeal Court of BC dismissed both appeals on December 24, 2014.
- With the conclusion of the court case, the statutory dispute resolution process to resolve the Metro RGS/Langley Township RCS resumed in mid-2015.
- I understand that the Township and Metro are working together and are confident in resolving their dispute.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Background/Status:

- Under Part 13 of the *Local Government Act*, a regional district is authorized to develop a regional growth strategy (RGS) and adopt it by bylaw. An RGS is a strategic regional planning policy document promoting settlement that is socially, economically and environmentally healthy which also makes efficient use of public facilities, land and other resources.
- A RGS is initiated, prepared and implemented by a regional district with full involvement, and acceptance, of its member municipalities and adjacent regional districts. The Province, First Nations and others are consulted.
- The Metro RGS was adopted by the Metro Board only after it was accepted by all its member municipalities, adjacent regional districts, TransLink and Tsawwassen First Nation.
- A regional context statement (RCS) forms a part of a municipality's official community plan (OCP), and is required by legislation. It outlines the relationship between the OCP and the content of an RGS. It describes how the OCP is or will be made consistent with the RGS.
- If a regional district does not accept a municipality's RCS, a statutory dispute resolution process is triggered and under section 439 of the *Local Government Act* the Minister must direct the parties to either a non-binding or binding dispute resolution process.
- Metro is implementing the RGS, including processing requested amendments and working with municipalities on the preparation of RCSs.

Township of Langley

- Although it accepted the RGS in July 2011, in recent years the Township has expressed concerns primarily in relation to a proposed "university district" development for which the Township recently adopted an OCP amendment bylaw. Metro has stated that the proposed amendment requires an amendment to the Township's RCS. The Township continues to disagree.

- In November 2013, the Metro Board did not accept the Township's proposed RCS related to the 2011 RGS. The Minister directed the parties to a non-binding dispute resolution process in February 2014.

- In summer 2013, the Metro Board authorized court action against two of the Township's OCP amendment bylaws due, in general terms, to inconsistencies with the 1996 RGS. The matter went before the Court in January, 2014 and the judge dismissed both petitions in favour of the Township on March 13. Metro appealed the decision and the Appeal Court dismissed the appeal on December 24, 2014.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- The Minister suspended the dispute resolution process concerning the 2011 (current) RGS (by agreement) pending the outcome of the court cases.

- With the court cases concluded, the dispute resolution process on the current RGS and the Township's RCS was able to proceed, and a July 16, 2015 letter from Minister Oakes once again directed the parties to a non-binding dispute resolution process in accordance with the legislation.

- During late 2015, the parties met CSCD timelines for starting the dispute resolution process and providing a progress report to CSCD staff.

s.13,s.16

Contact:

Karen Rothe	Director – Planning Programs	Intergovernmental Relations and Planning	250 356-7064

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Municipal Property Tax on Business and Industry

Revised: January 18, 2016

Issue: Current status of municipal taxation on business and industrial properties

Response:

- Periodically, different businesses, industries, tax lobby groups or trade and commerce associations will raise issues regarding their level of municipal property tax.
- Over the past decade, the Province has undertaken a number of studies on different aspects of municipal revenue (including taxation of business and industry).
- The two most recent studies (both concluded in 2012 and available online) are the Municipal Revenue Review and the Expert Panel on Tax.
- The general issues surrounding business and industrial taxation involve balancing the desires of industry for greater competitiveness through lower taxation, with the needs of autonomous municipalities to address local needs and finance essential services.
- To date, this balance has been achieved by respecting municipal tax autonomy while requiring greater transparency on municipal tax-setting through financial reporting requirements under *the Community Charter*.
- Ministry staff continue to monitor municipal taxation on an ongoing basis.

Background/Status:

- Periodically, business and industrial groups argue that their members are taxed at an unfair rate by B.C. municipalities relative to other jurisdictions.
- While tax rates vary widely between municipalities, to date the Province has found no strong empirical evidence to support this claim on a broad basis.
- Provincial statute provides municipalities relatively broad autonomy in setting their tax rates; however, this is balanced with fairly stringent public reporting requirements on municipal policy that went into the rate setting.

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: City of Nanaimo Council Relations

Revised: March 15, 2016

Issue: Provincial role in addressing City of Nanaimo council relations and operational effectiveness

Response:

- Ministry staff are aware of some concerns raised in the Nanaimo community in relation to the operations of the City Council.
- It is ministry practice to communicate with local governments and their officials when questions arise and to respond to any inquiries, as well as to determine whether we can provide any information or advice to assist communities. This is particularly the case when there have been public concerns raised regarding council relations and effectiveness.
- Local governments are democratic and accountable and depend on elected officials, who have the legal authority and responsibility to make decisions on behalf of their communities. If local governments find themselves unable to move forward, or in a situation where specialized advice or guidance may be beneficial, the ministry will encourage responsible elected officials to obtain independent professional assistance as necessary.
- Ultimately our common goal is for B.C. citizens to be well-served and governed by their local governments. This includes harmonious, professional and respectful relationships between councillors, staff and the community.

If pressed on a provincial role…

- The Province s.13,s.16 s.13,s.16 it does not have an oversight role on matters such as contracts or human resources. The ministry may provide best practice information or refer the entity to the appropriate resource.
- The Province expects councils to not only meet their statutory obligations but also to work together for the good of the community, to seek and obtain professional assistance as needed, and to make considered decisions to provide citizens with the most efficient and effective local government possible.
- At this point, I do not see a more formal role for the ministry. Should mayor and council collectively decide to formally request assistance from the ministry respecting any matters which may be affecting the council's ability to move forward, we would be happy to consider what support or guidance might be available.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Background/Status:

- Following the 2014 local government elections, some media attention on tension amongst elected officials and between elected officials and the public has raised questions about standards of behavior for elected officials.
- Media reports suggest a divisive Nanaimo council, which has included acrimonious debate, name calling, and physical altercations. There have also reportedly been allegations of workplace bullying. There have also been a number of recent resignations of senior management including the Chief Administrator Officer (CAO). On March 8, 2016, Tracy Samra was named in the media as the permanent CAO following a selection process.
- Media reports also indicate that a consulting contract was in place to provide facilitation services to help improve relations with council (initiated by the mayor), but that contract does not appear to have been supported by the rest of council and work may be at an end.
- Most recent media reports indicate that 7 members of council have signed a letter of "non-confidence" in the mayor.

s.13,s.16 statutory obligations continue to be met. These requirements include: ensuring that statutory positions such as corporate and financial officers are filled; operating under legislative requirements for holding meetings; and filing required financial information with the ministry.

- The ministry has an ongoing interest in what's happening in communities and regions around the province, and tries to keep informed of activities and issues on an ongoing basis. The ministry routinely converses with elected and staff officials across B.C.'s 189 local governments on a variety of subjects. Part of the ministry's role is to maintain a productive dialogue with local governments – and to be available to discuss and advise on the range of matters that may arise in the course of local government business.

Contact:

Michelle Dann	Director, Advisory Services	Governance and Structure Branch	250 387-4059

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: New Building Canada Fund (NBCF)

Revised: March 31, 2016

Issue: Administration of the New Building Canada Fund

Response:

- The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) is the lead ministry on the New Building Canada Fund (NBCF). CSCD co-leads the NBCF Small Communities Fund (SCF) with MOTI. CSCD holds the budget for all SCF projects.
- The Province signed the formal Component Agreement for SCF with Canada on March 12, 2015.
- 59 per cent of the NBCF-SCF allocation (approximately $64.4 million in provincial contributions for 55 projects) was awarded through the first intake in mid-2015. Contracts are being finalized with successful local government and projects are beginning construction.
- The remaining $44.6 million will be awarded through a second intake, which is currently open and will close on April 28, 2016.
- Applications to the second intake will undergo technical assessments by program staff.
- Approvals are made by a joint Oversight Committee with representation from the Province, Canada and UBCM (as a non-voting member).
- It is anticipated that decisions for the second round of NBCF-SCF will be made late in 2016 once assessments have been completed.
- In addition to this fund, local governments will have an opportunity to pursue funding through the Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund. The Gas Tax is administered by UBCM; the first round of approvals were recently announced. UBCM has not determined when the second application intake will open.
- The Ministry is committed to collaborating with our funding partners to ensure both provincial and local priorities are included in discussions about future infrastructure funding programs with the federal government.
- The Ministry is pleased to see the federal commitment of $5.0 Billion over 5 years to the Green fund which includes $2 billion for the new Clean Water and Wastewater Fund.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Background/Status:

- On March 21, 2013, the federal government announced its $70 billion 10-year Economic Action Plan, including the new Building Canada Plan (BCP) at $53 billion.
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) is the lead negotiator with the federal government on the BCP program, collaborating with CSCD on development of infrastructure programs that have community components supporting local government infrastructure.
- The BCP combines new and existing funding and only the New Building Canada Fund (NBCF) has a new allocation ($14 billion on a national level).
- CSCD's primary focus is on the $10 billion Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure Component (PTIC) within NBCF. Of the $10 billion PTIC, BC receives approximately 10 % based on it's population. Table 1 below provides B.C.'s PTIC allocations.
- The PTIC provides funding for infrastructure projects of national, regional and local significance that contribute to economic growth, a clean environment, and stronger communities, providing $1.09 billion over 10 years to the province.

Table 1 – B.C. allocation of federal BCF funding over the 10-year program

	Provincial Territorial Infrastructure Component		
Jurisdiction	Per Capita – National Regional Projects	Small Community Fund (10% of total)	**Total Funding**
British Columbia	$980,907,692	$108,989,744	**$1,089,897,436**

- The PTIC is made up of two distinct programs:
  - **Per Capita – National Regional Projects (NRP**) ($980,907,692 over 10 years) will operate with project priorities identified jointly with each province and territory.
  - **Small Community Fund (SCF)** A minimum of 10% of the allocation for BC under PTIC will be dedicated for projects of local significance in local governments with a population of less than 100,000. To access the $109 million federal contribution, the Province will have to match the amount with operating dollars.

  Local governments with populations greater than 100,000 will likely seek access to funding through NRP – the Province will need to balance provincial infrastructure priorities against local government priorities and the provincial fiscal plan.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- **Eligible Projects** will be for the construction, renewal, rehabilitation or material enhancement of infrastructure for public use or benefit.
- The majority of funding under NBCF will flow through the latter half of the program. Funding will begin to flow in fiscal 2015/16, steadily increasing in fiscal 2016/17 until 2019/20 when the annual cash-flow remains relatively stable until 2023/24.
- The new Federal government, elected on October 19, 2015, included significant commitments to increase infrastructure spending (an additional $60 billion in national spending over ten years split equally between green infrastructure, public transit and social infrastructure). CSCD and MoTI staff will collaborate together to engage federal counterparts to ensure provincial priorities are considered in any new federal funding programs.
- On March 22nd the Federal budget provided preliminary details on the increased infrastructure spending including:
    - $5.0 Billion over 5 years for investments in water, wastewater and green infrastructure.
        - $2.0 Billion of the $5.0 Billion will support the newly announced Clean Water and Wastewater Fund. Approved projects will be eligible for up to 50% federal funding.
        - The Federation of Canadian Municipalities will receive $250 Million to administer for a local government projects through the existing Green Municipal Fund, as well as an asset management focused fund and climate change fund.
    - $3.4 Billion over 5 years for investments to improve and upgrade public transit.
    - $3.4 Billion over 5 years for investments for social infrastructure, which includes a recreation and cultural spaces allocation of $342 million.

Contact:

Liam Edwards	Executive Director	Local Government Infrastructure	250 387-4060

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Minister Responsible: **Hon. Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training**
Prepared For: **Minister Peter Fassbender, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

Title: Northern Development Initiative Trust

Revised: February 16, 2016

Issue: Overview of the Northern Development Initiative Trust

Response:

- Since inception, Northern Development has served its legislative mandate, disbursing funds to stimulate economic development, aiding in job creation and responding to community and regional economic development needs.
- In addition to fulfilling its mandate to stimulate economic development in the required sectors, Northern Development has expanded its funding programs to boost regional economic development capacity and community readiness to benefit from regional opportunities, particularly LNG.
- Northern Development also supports innovative regional initiatives such as the Supply Chain Connector, Small Town Love and the Invest In Databases.
- Northern Development's success is testament of its ability to develop relationships and partnerships, leverage funding, and respond with innovation and creativity.

Background/Status:

- Northern Development is an independent regional economic development trust focused on stimulating economic growth and job creation in central and northern British Columbia. The trust received an allocation of $135 million in 2005 from the proceeds of the sale of BC Rail and a further $50 million in 2006. The central and northern area is comprised of 40 communities, ten Regional Districts and 63 First Nations, and covers 70 per cent of the province, from Lytton to Fort Nelson, and from Valemount to Haida Gwaii (*Appendix A*).
- Project investments must fall within one of the following ten primary investment areas: Agriculture; Economic Development; Energy; Forestry; Mining; Olympic Opportunities; Pine Beetle Recovery; Small Business; Tourism; and Transportation.
- Northern Development leverages available funds by partnering with other funding agencies such as the Government of Canada, businesses and non-profit organizations. It also generates revenue through an active investment portfolio and a business loan program. As of December 31, 2014, Northern

Development's capital base totalled $240.2 million, up from the previous year's total of $218.4 million. *See Appendix B for Performance Indicators and Cumulative Values.*

- Northern Development's Strategic Plan consists of 4 goals: ensuring communities have access to sustainable funding; capacity building to ensure communities have the resources and expertise to grow a resilient economy with engaged citizens; ensuring local businesses have the capacity to grow, and ensuring that Northern Development is seen as the leader in regional economic development.
- In addition to disbursing funds to eligible infrastructure and capacity building programs, Northern Development also supports region-wide initiatives such as the regional investment databases (Invest in Northwest BC; Invest in Cariboo-Chilcotin Coast, etc.), the Supply Chain Connector (connects industrial supply and service companies with industry) and Small Town Love (a buy local marketing program).
- In 2014, Northern Development partnered with the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development (CSCD) and Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training (JTST) to prepare communities for major industrial investment in the Northwest region.
- The partnerships have spawned LNG-Buy BC business readiness workshops, planning internships, community asset management and planning grants, and a community industry liaison.
- Northern Development partnered with CSCD to administer up to $1 million in grants to help local governments in the northwest plan for economic growth associated with new industrial developments.
- Two grant programs, up to $500,000 each, help communities develop plans for Asset Management Capacity Building to review infrastructure capacity (water, sewer, drainage, local roads) and to determine services for specific growth needs.
- This partnership also funds the creation of a two-year contract position focused on distilling complex environmental assessment reports into briefing notes for local governments in the region. The Manager, Community and Industry Liaison is tasked with empowering communities to constructively respond to, and interact with, major project proponents during the environmental and socio-economic assessment process.
- Northern Development partnered with JTST to deliver LNG-Buy BC boot camps throughout the province, helping to ensure more B.C. based businesses are well positioned to land contracts with potential LNG projects.

- Northern Devleopment also sponsors two Planning Internships:
    - The Economic Development Internship is a six month paid position for recent university graduates seeking careers in economic development within local governments in central and northern British Columbia. The interns gain experience and develop a network with economic development professionals, industry, First Nations and non-profits throughout the region to attract business, market the regions' economic opportunities and manage grant funding.
    - The Local Government Internship is a 12 month position available to work with select central and northern British Columbia local governments to gain management work experience across departments with expert mentors. The interns make a difference in a community, develop leadership and management skills, and chart a path into a rewarding career.

Contact:

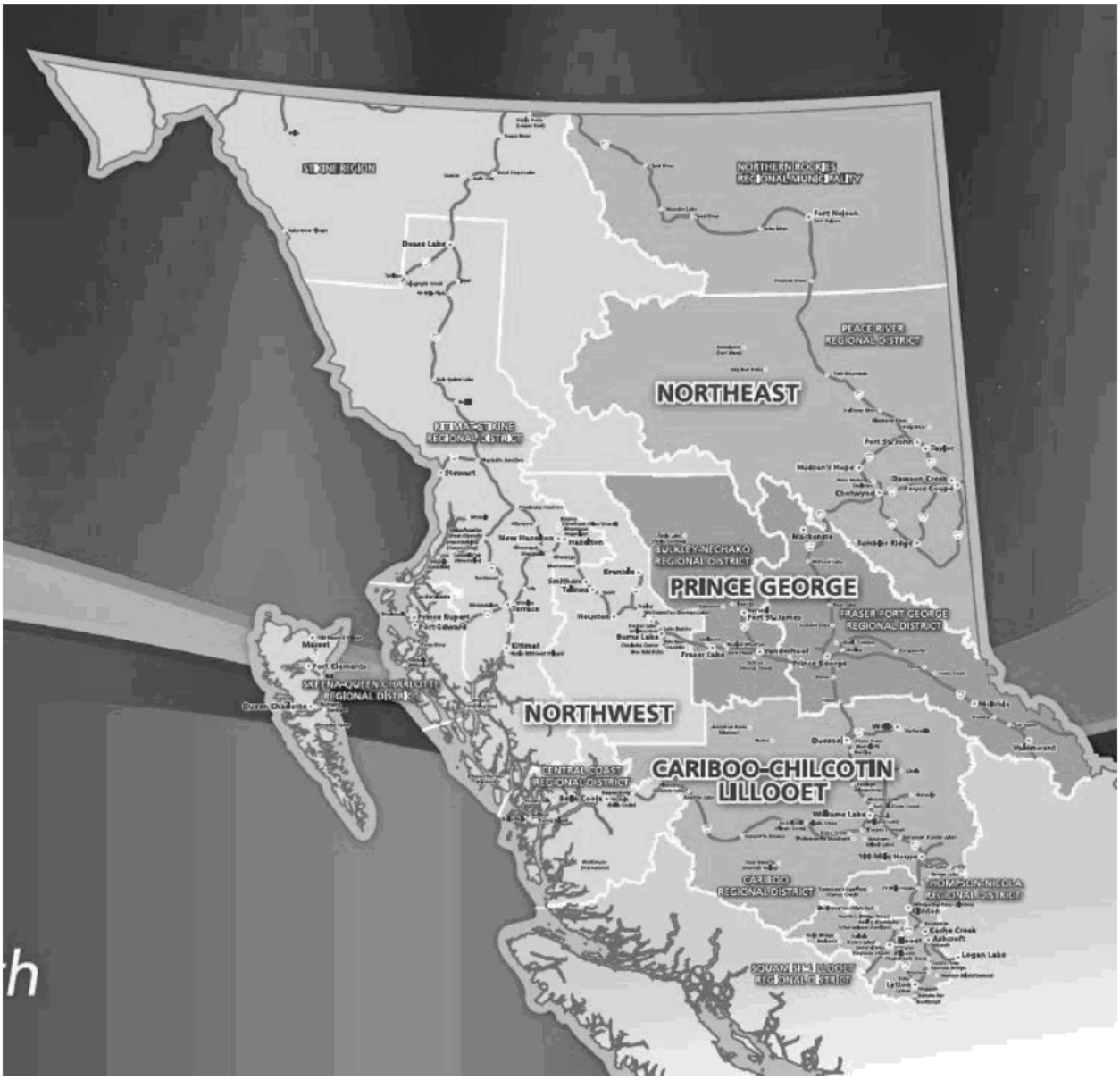
Greg Goodwin	Executive Director	Strategic Initiatives, Economic Development Division	250 356-0778

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Minister Responsible: Hon. Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training
Prepared For: Minister Peter Fassbender, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

APPENDIX A

Northern Development Initiative Trust Regions and Coverage



Minister Responsible: Hon. Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training
Prepared For: Minister Peter Fassbender, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

APPENDIX B

Northern Development Initiative Trust

Performance Indicators as at December 2013 and 2014

	ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE TRUST	
	Initial Capitalization	$185 million	
		2014	2013
1.	Capital Remaining	$240.2m	$219m
2.	Committed Capital	$10.4	$5.4m
3.	Jobs Created	99	234
4.	Projects Funded	315	209
5.	Leverage	na	$4.00
6.	Student Scholarships & Bursaries	56 grant writers	58 grant writers

Cumulative Values From Inception to December 31, 2014

	Indicator	Value
1.	Committed Capital	$123.3m
2.	Jobs Created	6,189
3.	Projects/Communities Funded	1,569 projects
4.	Leverage	$1.2b

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Northern Rockies Regional Municipality (NRRM) Infrastructure Development Contribution Agreement (Agreement)

Revised: January 25, 2016

Issue: Implementation of the NRRM Infrastructure Development Contribution Agreement

Response:

- Growing the natural gas sector is a provincial priority that will bring significant benefits to the people of British Columbia.
- We recognize that this growth will have local impacts and are committed to assisting communities to prepare for this opportunity.
- The implementation of the Infrastructure Development Contribution Agreement is an example of this commitment, and is a clear demonstration of how the Province is supporting communities as we work to grow the economy and create jobs.
- The Province is in process of approving funds for the 2016 Annual Infrastructure Development Plan, to be paid by July 2016.

Background/Status:

- Growth in the natural gas industry could place significant demands on the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality (NRRM) for housing, infrastructure and community services.
- In April 2013, the Province entered into a 20-year contribution (up to $200 million) agreement with the NRRM to facilitate and accommodate the growth of the NRRM as a regional service centre for the natural gas industry.
- The term of the agreement runs to March 31, 2036, with the potential for extension.
- The first $10 million payment was made in July 2015.

Recent Developments:

- Prior to receiving payment under the Infrastructure Development Contribution Agreement (IDCA), the NRRM is required to complete a number of plans which include an Annual Infrastructure Development Plan (AIDP) detailing projects to

be undertaken over the next year. Annual funding is subject to provincial approval of the AIDP and funding allocation from Treasury Board.

s.12,s.13,s.17

Contact:

Liam Edwards	Executive Director	Infrastructure and Finance Branch	250 387-4060

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Peace River Agreement

Revised: March 16, 2016

Issue: Provincial funding to the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) and its member municipalities

Response:

- The Peace River Agreement (Agreement) is a 20-year, $1.1 billion funding arrangement between the Province and local governments in the Peace River region. The Agreement commenced on May 31, 2015 replacing a previous funding agreement signed in 2005.
- Under the agreement, the Province provides a stable source of funding to local governments in the province's major oil and gas producing region where most of the industry assets are not subject to local taxation. These assessments produce a limited contribution to local governments through property taxation because of their dispersed locations throughout rural areas.
- From 2005 to 2015, provincial funding under the previous MOU was approximately $387 million, bringing significant benefits to the region and addressing historical deficits in local infrastructure.
- The scheduled annual payment in 2016/17 is $50 million.
- The Province is committed to achieving continued growth in the oil and gas industries and recognizes the important contribution of Peace River Regional District communities towards realizing that goal. It also recognizes the value in ensuring long-term stability and certainty in those communities through a renewed MOU, while also ensuring the agreement is affordable for provincial taxpayers.

Background/Status:

- Through the Peace River Agreement, the Province acknowledged the significant and growing natural resource revenue it derives from the natural gas sector in Northeastern B.C.

- The agreement provides annual base funding of $50 million commencing in 2016. Starting in 2020 a compounding two percent annual inflator will be added to the base payment (subject to review in 2023 and 2031).

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- Funds are primarily directed to Fort St. John and Dawson Creek, the region's two major service centres, but all local governments in the region receive some annual funding.

Financial Commitments:

Peace River Agreement Financial Payment Profile	
Base Amount	50,000,000
Escalator	2%
Calendar Year	**PRA Maximum Payment**
2016	$ 50,000,000
2017	50,000,000
2018	50,000,000
2019	50,000,000
2020	51,000,000
2021	52,020,000
2022	53,060,400
2023	54,121,608
2024	55,204,040
2025	56,308,121
2026	57,434,283
2027	58,582,969
2028	59,754,628
2029	60,949,721
2030	62,168,715
2031	63,412,090
2032	64,680,332
2033	65,973,938
2034	67,293,417
2016-2034 Commitment	**$1,081,964,263**

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Recent Developments:

- The agreement established a Partnership Committee, consisting of three provincial members and three local government members, to consider matters that may impact future growth (e.g. boundary extensions, tax rate limits, provincial services etc.).

s.13,s.16,s.17

Contact:

Sean Grant	Director	Local Government Finance	250 387-4036

Page 143 to/à Page 149

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Rural Dividend

Revised: March 31, 2016

Issue: Government is working on the creation and implementation of a rural dividend for B.C.'s communities and regions

Response:

- Many resource-dependent rural B.C. communities have experienced economic downturns and reductions in population and are seeking to reinvigorate their communities. Others are dealing with and preparing for the effects of rapid growth driven by resource development.
- It is critical that impacted communities are prepared for change.
- At the 2015 UBCM convention, Premier Christy Clark announced a pilot $25-million per-year Rural Dividend Program which will run from 2016/17 to 2018/19 to help smaller communities build capacity and promote economic diversification.
- On March 31, 2016 the Province announced that applications for the first year of funding under the program will be accepted from April 4 to May 31, 2016.
- Application forms, program guidelines, and detailed instructions on how to apply are available from the Rural Dividend website: www.gov.bc.ca/ruraldividend
- The BC Rural Dividend will help communities across the province with less than 25,000 residents respond to economic uncertainty, especially in resource sectors such as forestry and mining.
- It will contribute to the overall wellness and sustainability of B.C.'s small rural communities so they continue to be great places to live and work.
- The Rural Dividend program is part of government's multi-faceted response to assisting rural communities. It complements existing initiatives supporting rural communities such as the Strategic Priorities Fund, New Building Canada – Small Communities Fund, Community Readiness, the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative and B.C.'s community transition teams.
- This is one more example of how we are giving a voice to rural communities. The Province's Rural Advisory Council recommended the program, and helped shape key components.
- The program encourages innovation, sustainability and collaboration, and recognizes the diverse needs of individual communities.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- The Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development is supporting the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations in the delivery of this program.

Background/Status:

- In April of 2015, the Rural Advisory Council (RAC) was created, headed by Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development Donna Barnett, to identify opportunities for communities to diversify their economies.
- The RAC's mandate includes providing advice to government in moving forward with the Rural Dividend as noted in the September 2014 government report *Supporting Rural Development: Creating a Voice for Rural British Columbia.*
- The commitment to the Rural Dividend was included in Minister Thomson's 2015 mandate letter: "Work with Parliamentary Secretary Donna Barnett and her Rural Advisory Council to provide advice to government on ways to improve rural economic development, access to capital and the rural dividend."
- At the September 2015 Union of BC Municipalities convention, Premier Christy Clark announced a pilot $25-million per-year Rural Dividend Program which will run from 2016/17 to 2018/19 and will only be available to rural communities with a population of 25,000 or under.
- On March 31, 2016 the Province announced that applications for the first year of funding under the program will be accepted from April 4 to May 31, 2016.
- Application forms, program guidelines, and detailed instructions on how to apply are available from the Rural Dividend website: www.gov.bc.ca/ruraldividend
- FLNRO prioritized development of the Rural Dividend Program using advice from the RAC and input from relevant ministries including CSCD to ensure the program is suitable to rural community needs, and both effective and efficient in nature.
- Key policy questions for the Rural Dividend included: the purposes of the Rural Dividend; the geographic scope of recipients; and the governance/ management of the Rural Dividend. These questions occur in the context of the existing property tax system and current benefit sharing models in the province.
- In a letter from Premier Christy Clark on June 20, 2014, the Minister of CSCD received a mandate to work with Parliamentary Secretary Donna Barnett and Minister Steve Thomson of FLNRO on the creation and implementation of the Rural Dividend.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Contact:

Meggin Messenger	Executive Director	Intergovernmental Relations and Planning	250 387-4045

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Salt Spring Island Incorporation Study

Revised: March 15, 2016

Issue: Progress on Salt Spring Island (SSI) incorporation study

Response:

- British Columbia has a strong tradition of self-determination and elector choice in local governance matters.
- Considerable work has been accomplished since the study committee, appointed in June 2015, selected a consultant to undertake the incorporation study, including: a draft preliminary study by October 30 to disseminate study findings; and hosting two public meetings in November to engage, discuss and consult with the Salt Spring Island community about the preliminary findings.
- The preliminary study includes a comparative analysis of current governance arrangements with that of a municipality and the basic tax implications of incorporation (not including new expenditures or services).
- Feedback from the community indicates that additional work will be required to complete the study, including: a road condition assessment report; research and analysis to address the issues and questions raised by the community; and further public meetings.
- In addition to the initial $120,000 committed in March 2015, the Ministry is committing an additional $135,000 from the 2015/16 budget to support these areas of study.
- The final study – which is expected to be completed in the Fall – will also need to take into account the financial impact of the provincial offer of restructuring assistance, which would be made after some of the further work is undertaken.

Background/Status:

- In October 2012, Minister Bill Bennett committed $60,000 for a governance study on Salt Spring Island and, in anticipation of a possible call for an incorporation study, an additional $20,000 to examine the impacts of a municipal incorporation of Salt Spring Island on the Islands Trust as an organization.
- The governance study committee, and the local elected officials for Salt Spring Island (Electoral Area Director and two Local Trustees) recommended proceeding to an incorporation study at the earliest opportunity.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- At the urging of the Electoral Area Director and two Local Trustees, on March 24, 2015, Minister Coralee Oakes followed the recommendation of the governance study committee and sanctioned an Incorporation Study for Salt Spring Island. At that time, a total of $120,000 in study funding was provided for research, analysis, dissemination of the results, and public engagement.
- The Minister appointed a 10-member volunteer Incorporation Study Committee to oversee the study and ensure its credibility within the community, based on the unanimous nominations of the Salt Spring Island Director and Local Trustees.
- The study was initially expected to conclude by March 2016; however, the committee requested additional time and supplementary funding in order to complete the additional work requested by the Salt Spring community.
- An additional $135,000 has been approved to fund a more detailed road condition assessment, additional research and analysis, and public dissemination of the road report. s.13,s.16
  s.13,s. That funding was announced by news release on March 15, 2016.

s.13,s.16

- The final study will report on the effects and costs of incorporation for the community, outline the benefits of integrated governance and administration, provide a broader tax impact analysis, describe the transition to a new municipal administration as supported by the Provincial offer of restructure assistance, and include a recommendation from the study committee to the Minister on whether to proceed with a local vote on incorporation.
- The Ministry is currently consulting with First Nations on the potential for incorporation, s.13,s.16
  s.13,s.16
- The potential impact on the Islands Trust, if Salt Spring Island incorporates, is a potential revenue shortfall of $800,000 unless expenditures can be reduced relative to 2014/15 levels. At the request of the ministry, the Trust Council has developed and endorsed a document that outlines the principles and objectives that would guide the trust in developing an adaptation strategy in the event Salt Spring Island incorporates.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Contacts:

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Director	Marijke Edmondson		250 387-4058

Transportation Network Companies (Uber)
Estimates Note

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Date: February 10, 2016

ISSUE

- Consumers and industry have expressed a strong desire for more choice and innovation when it comes to passenger transportation service.

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- The safety of the travelling public has been, and will remain, our number one priority.
- New services and passenger options will not be able to come in at the expense of passenger safety and all those seeking to provide these services in Victoria, Vancouver or anywhere in B.C. must respect the current regulatory system.
- The Passenger Transportation Act requires any vehicle operated by the person who charges or collects compensation for transporting passengers to be licensed.
- Our government is looking for every opportunity to respond to the needs of consumers, to support the free market and competition in the industry, while also ensuring travelers are secure in the knowledge that they ride in vehicles that are safe, reliable and properly insured.
- We will continue to have ongoing discussions with industry and stakeholders to ensure that all perspectives are heard and included as we explore the possibilities.
- We will continue to monitor the progress of other jurisdictions across Canada, North America and around the world, as they, like us, review existing regulation in light of the challenges and the opportunities that are being presented.

BACKGROUND

- The *Passenger Transportation Act* requires any vehicle operated by a person who charges or collects compensation for transporting passengers in B.C. to have a passenger transportation licence.
- Limousine and taxi services must be approved by the Passenger Transportation Board, and comply with the terms and conditions set by the Board – including fleet size and rates.
- The supply of taxis and limousines has been regulated to ensure that the services, including accessible taxis, remain viable and available to the public.
- The Passenger Transportation Board makes decisions based on the applicant's evidence of a public need for the service, the potential impact of the new service on existing services and whether the applicant is fit and proper to operate within the framework that exists.
- Drivers must hold a valid Class 4 (restricted) driver's licence, and each vehicle must be registered for commercial purposes and insured under the appropriate rate class.
- In some municipalities, drivers must hold a chauffeur permit issued by the municipality, and operators and vehicles must be locally licensed as a business.
- In October 2014, Uber first announced its interest in working with provincial and municipal regulators to bring UberX to B.C.

- Uber has not applied for a licence, as the company has indicated that they do not directly provide passenger transportation services – they provide only the app.
- Uber and consumers wanting access to commercial ridesharing are seeking amendments to the current passenger transportation legislation to enable drivers of personal vehicles for hire to operate as app-hailed vehicles for hire with less regulation.
- Consultations with the taxi industry, municipal and provincial regulators, and the public are required to determine what changes, if any, may be contemplated.
- On Jan. 25, 2016, Premier Clark appointed Minister Peter Fassbender, the minister responsible for Translink, to lead consultations with industry stakeholders and local communities on ride-sharing passenger transportation service in B.C.

PROGRAM CONTACT

Kristin Vanderkuip, Director and Registrar, Passenger Transportation Branch
Transportation Policy and Programs Division – Cell: s.17

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Unconditional Grants

Revised: January 20, 2016

Issue: Small Community Grants, Regional District Grants and Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing

Response:

- The Province provides three provincial unconditional grant programs to support communities: Small Community Grants, Regional District Grants and Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing.

Small Community and Regional District Grants:

- The Small Community Grant assists smaller municipalities with hiring qualified staff and funding local services.
- The Regional District Grant assists regional districts with funding general administration services.
- 2016/17 projected payment to eligible communities is approximately $55 million.
- Since 2004, more than $559 million has been paid to local governments.

Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing:

- In 2004, the Province began returning 100 per cent of net traffic fine revenues to municipalities with populations over 5,000 and which are responsible for police expenditures.
- Municipalities are expected to use the funding for public safety and crime prevention in their communities.
- 2016/17 projected payment to eligible communities is approximately $61 million.
- Since 2004, over $665 million has been distributed to eligible communities.

Background/Status:

- Announced in early spring 2009, the Strategic Community Investment Fund (SCIF) Program restructured three provincial unconditional grant programs (Small Community, Regional District, and Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing) to provide more funding to communities sooner. A second iteration of the program was announced for the 2011/12 and 2012/13 fiscal years. 2014/15 was the final fiscal year for accelerated funding under the SCIF.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

If asked about Small Community / Regional District grant funding from 2014/15 to 2016/17:

- Approximately one-third of the annual grant amount for Small Community and Regional District Grant funding was accelerated in March 2015 ($17 million for 2015/16 and $2 million for 2016/17). This $19 million funding does not appear in CSCD's budget because funding is allocated from the Contingencies (all Ministries) and New Programs Vote held centrally.

If asked about Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing (TFRS) grant funding from 2014/15 to 2016/17:

- Approximately one-third of the annual grant amount for Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing funding was accelerated and partial payment effected in March 2015 ($18 million for 2015/16 and $3 million for 2016/17). This $21 million funding does not appear in CSCD's budget because funding is allocated from the Contingencies (All Ministries) and New Programs Vote held centrally.

About Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing:

- Traffic Fine Revenue Grant amounts are allocated based on actual municipal police expenditures from two years previous and the net amount of traffic fine revenue collected.
- Municipalities are expected to use the funding for public safety and crime prevention in their communities.
- While not eligible for TFRS, rural communities and municipalities with populations under 5,000 benefit from an annual reduction in the provincial police tax of approximately $2.5 million annually since 2007/08.
- s.13,s.17
- Since 2004, over $665 million has been distributed to eligible communities.

About Small Community and Regional District Grants

- Small Community and Regional District Grants are allocated using formulas described in the Local Government Grants Regulations (formula follows).
- Small Community Grants received are the sum of the base amount, a per capita amount, and an assessment amount.
- Regional District Grants are allocated based on regional and rural populations, with an additional $5,000 awarded per Local Community Commission operating within the regional district.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- 2016/17 projected payment to eligible communities is approximately $55 million; $2 million of which was accelerated to 2014/15 from contingencies.
- Since 2004, more than $559 million has been paid to local governments.

Contact:

Sean Grant	Director	Local Government Finance	250 387-4036

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Grant Calculations

1. TRAFFIC FINE REVENUE SHARING (TFRS) = (TPC/APC) X APP

TPC = Total Policing expenditures for a specific municipality

APC = Aggregate policing expenditures for all municipalities in the Province

APP = Net Traffic revenue fine Revenue from the previous year

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2. SMALL COMMUNITY GRANTS (SCG) = B + E + T

Note: the minimum allowable amount for the SCG is $100,000. If the amount calculated through this formula is less than $100,000 (including negative amounts), the value of the SCG is $0.

Factors:

B= $200,000

E = $50,000 x Fweight

Fweight= P/M

Where:
P = Provincial per Capita Assessment

= (Average assessment for all BC Municipalities for the last three years)
(Average Population of all BC Municipalities for the last three years)

M= Municipal per Capita Assessment

= Average assessment for a specific municipality for the last three years
Average population for a specific municipality for the last three years

** a three year average is use to mitigate any possible assessment spikes that may occur in a particular year. All BC properties are reassessed on an annual basis.*

T
For communities with less than or equal to 5,000 people
T = AMP x $50 (to a maximum of $250,000)
Where
AMP = Average Municipal Population for a specific municipality over the last three years

For Communities over 5,000 people
T = $250,000 -(25 x (AMP-5,000))

This formula incrementally reduces the grant by $25 per capita for municipalities above 5,000 people. Above 15,000 people, the Population Factor (T) become negative. This negative value for **T** remains in the formula until the total SCG grant becomes zero (at approximately 25,000 people).

Note: There are no negative grants

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Union Bay Dispute over Water Services

Revised: February 12, 2016

Issue: Status of negotiations between Union Bay Improvement District (UBID) and Kensington Island Properties (KIP) regarding the provision of water services to existing and future residents.

Response:

- I am aware of the current contract dispute between Kensington Island Properties (KIP) and Union Bay Improvement District (UBID) regarding an upgraded water treatment system.
- The Ministry offered to provide UBID and KIP with and independent third party facilitator to help resolve the dispute.
- Both parties accepted this offer and in early February the Ministry contracted a facilitator for the purpose of helping the parties reach consensus on the provision of water services to existing and future residents.
- Key outcomes include:
    - an enhanced local water supply and distribution system for existing residents which achieves public health and safety objectives, and
    - water supply for new residential development that has been approved by the Comox Valley Regional District.

Background/Status:

- Under the letter patent, the Union Bay Improvement District (UBID) provides water, fire protection, and street lighting to the residents and property owners of Union Bay in Electoral Area A, Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD). UBID is managed by a Board of Trustees elected annually; next election is April 2016.
- In April 2010, a private landowner, Kensington Island Properties (KIP) signed a Master Development Agreement (MDA) with the CVRD as part of a rezoning process wherein the official community plan and zoning bylaws were amended to enable the development.
- As part of the MDA, KIP was to enter into agreement with UBID on providing water services to the Union Bay properties including a treatment plant. In April 2011, a four-year water infrastructure agreement between UBID and KIP was signed, and was extended until December 31, 2015. UBID leases KIP-owned property on which UBID's main reservoir and chlorination station are located.

- After entering into the agreement with KIP, UBID developed a new plan to build a new reservoir and upgrade its water system. In June 2015, a community petition indicated that some land owners wanted UBID to renew its agreement with KIP rather than undertake a new water system. Costs between the UBID and the KIP water system proposals are not yet available.
- In 2013, MCSCD sponsored a Crown grant in response to UBID's application for Crown land for a water treatment plant. This was the first step in the application process and did not guarantee final approval. s.13,s.16

s.13,s.16

s.13,s.16

- Over the past months UBID and KIP have not been able to reach a new water infrastructure agreement to take the place of the agreement that expired at the end of 2015. UBID has stated that it is not prepared to publicly discuss negotiations. KIP would like to negotiate an upgrade to the system to supply water to its new development site according to the original plan but has a backup plan using groundwater for the first phase of their project.

Ministry Involvement

- On November 19, 2015, the Minister met with David Godfrey, a former UBID Trustee, to discuss concerns that UBID has not renewed the agreement with KIP.
- On December 14, 2015 the Minister met with Board of Trustees of UBID and offered the assistance of a facilitator.
- February 9, 2016 the Ministry announced that Mr. James Mattison had been contracted to facilitate discussions between UBID and KIP. The facilitator is a professional engineer and former long- time provincial public servant with specific expertise in water management.
- Discussions are underway between Mr. Mattison and the parties to arrange the first meetings.
- The aim is to ease communications and achieve consensus on a path forward to enhance the local water supply and distribution system in order for UBID to achieve public health and safety objectives, and in order for KIP to undertake its proposed development as approved by the CVRD.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Discussion

- Generally, improvement districts manage their own operations as separate local bodies. While they are more closely supervised than municipalities or regional districts, the Province does not have a role in investigating complaints about the fairness of decisions made or actions taken by a board of duly elected Trustees.
- Improvement districts have specified powers from the *Local Government Act* and their Letters Patent. Collectively, these powers enable Boards of Trustees (Trustees) to make decisions about the administration of the improvement district and the services provided to landowners. As part of those powers, Trustees can decide how services, including water, are ultimately delivered to residents.
- However, if the UBID was to borrow money to build a treatment plant, it would require Inspector of Municipalities approval. In addition, Ministry policy is that all substantial borrowing bylaws require some method of elector approval as do bylaws that substantially increase rates charged to landowners.

s.13,s.16

- The MDA does not stop KIP and the CVRD from working together on water provision.
- In June 2015, a petition was sent to the local Member of the Legislative Assembly calling for UBID to provide KIP with 'the legal authorizations to complete the upgrades to the existing UBID Water Works'. MCSCD staff is not aware of any further action regarding the petition.

Contact:

Brent Mueller	Acting Director	Intergovernmental Relations and Planning	250-387-2540

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: University Endowment Lands (UEL) – Block F and Other Rezoning Applications

Revised: January 20, 2016

Issue: The UEL Administration anticipates requesting a Minister's decision on a major rezoning application from the Musqueam First Nation to develop lands known as "Block F" s.13,s.16

Response:

- The 2008 Reconciliation Agreement transferred Block F lands to the Musqueam First Nation for their economic benefit.
- The agreement provides multi-family, residential zoning for Block F Lands, as well as the ability to apply for a rezoning (like any other landowner).
- In December 2013, the Musqueam First Nation submitted an application to rezone Block F. The process being followed is similar to that in adjacent municipalities, while recognising the unique legislation that governs the UEL.
- In May 2015, the applicant submitted a refined proposal addressing early concerns raised by the UEL Administration, the community and other stakeholders. The refined proposal has been referred to the community through an Open House in June 2015, and to various other stakeholders.

s.13,s.16

- Ultimately, rezoning applications in the UEL require a statutory decision by the Minister, informed by the consultation with the community.

Background/Status:

University Endowment Lands (UEL):

- Under the *University Endowment Land Act*, the Province oversees the UEL. The Minister delegates general power to operate and administer the UEL to the UEL Administration (through the appointed manager), along with some specific powers, while retaining the power to adopt bylaws and hear appeals of land use and other decisions of the UEL Manager in accordance with the Act.
- The UEL Administration provides the community (approximately 4,000 people), with community planning, water, sewer, garbage collection, local roads and other

typical municipal services, either directly or through other service providers (e.g. Vancouver).

- The community is represented through an elected Community Advisory Council (CAC), constituted under the *Society Act*, and an Advisory Design Panel (ADP) that provides technical input.

Rezoning process:

- As rezoning requires an amendment to the UEL Land Use, Building and Community Administration Bylaw (the Bylaw) and the Official Community Plan (OCP Bylaw), rezoning decisions are made by the Minister.
- Prior to submitting an application, the applicant leads its own public engagement process and undertakes studies to develop a proposed development concept.
- Once received, the UEL Administration undertakes a full review of the application and provides feedback to the applicant who may then revise the proposal.
- The UEL Administration then seeks delegated authority to undertake consultation steps in the process (CAC/ADP referral and a public meeting). Once these steps are complete, a report is brought to the Minister for decision on the application.
- The UEL's Official Community Plan (OCP) sets out the objectives and policies to guide local decisions on planning and land use management. Rezoning applications that are not fully consistent with these policies and amendments will be accompanied by proposed amendments to the OCP, which are considered as part of the rezoning process.

Musqueam First Nation (MFN) Block F Rezoning Application

- The 2008, the Reconciliation Agreement between the provincial government and the MFN, transferred Block F lands (in fee simple), along with some other land parcels and a cash payment, to the MFN for their economic benefit. Block F, which lies in the UEL's jurisdiction, was formerly part of Pacific Spirit Regional Park. The land is forested, and occupies a strategic 8.5 hectare site on a stretch of University Boulevard that is the gateway to the University of British Columbia.
- The Reconciliation Agreement provides multi-family, residential zoning for Block F Lands, as well as the ability to apply for a zoning designation change, like any other landowner.
- On December 9, 2013, the MFN submitted an application to rezone Block F from multi-family housing to a comprehensive development zone. This application includes a wider range of uses, including a commercial area, rental housing, and a range of building forms, including some high-rise development.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

s.13,s.16

- On May 21, 2015, the MFN submitted a revised application. That application was referred to the CAC, ADP, other stakeholders and introduced to the community at an Open House, hosted by the UEL, on June 9, 2015. Feedback from this consultation has gone toward further refinement of the proposal.
- The UEL Administration is proceeding with development of the draft bylaw amendments, covenants and other legal instruments. s.13,s.16
  s.13,s.16

- The final stage in the process, prior to the Minister's decision, is to hold a public meeting to enable the community to comment on the draft bylaws. s.13,s.16
  s.13,s.16 Comment received during that meeting will inform the recommendation from the UEL Administration to the Minister.
- If approved, the development of Block F will add up to 2,500 to the UEL population, and result in ongoing costs for the operation and maintenance of additional roads, utilities, a significantly-sized park and a community recreation centre. s.13,s.16,s.17
  s.13,s.16,s.17

Other Development Matters

- Prior to the MFN's Block F application, UEL had dealt with very few significant rezoning applications.
- The most recent was Regent College, which proposed a change of land use to allow for an expansion of College facilities. The Regent College rezoning application was approved by the Minister in January 2014. The College has now submitted a development permit application that is being handled by the UEL Administration.

s.13,s.16,s.17

Contacts:

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Nicola Marotz	Executive Director	Governance & Structure Branch	250 356-6257

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: University Endowment Lands (UEL) – Specific Issues: Water Quality and Bylaw Enforcement

Revised: March 8, 2016

Issue: Water colour, impacted by an older cast iron water line, is a significant concern in one neighbourhood; parking, noise and various neighbour-to-neighbour disputes give rise to complaints from residents in and around the University Endowment Lands

Response:

- Yellow colouration in water is being experienced by some UEL residents, the result of iron leaching from a cast iron water main in the area. It is an aesthetic issue, not a health concern. The UEL, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority and water supplier (Metro Vancouver) assure UEL water is safe to drink.
- The UEL has recently issued a contract to replace the water main. That work is expected to be completed sometime in April and is fully funded (estimated at roughly $699,000). This is a complex project that has been advanced by the UEL Administration in the infrastructure planning program to address the concerns of the community.
- The UEL has a number of bylaws that it enforces. As with municipalities, it is not possible to always address every bylaw complaint. UEL staff focus first on those which are highest risk (e.g., public safety) and affect the public realm.
- Parking enforcement in the UEL is managed to ensure residents and businesses have access to parking for their use, particularly in the highest use areas (e.g., close to UBC) and where there are public safety concerns. The UEL does not have 24/7 parking enforcement resources.
- Overnight motorhome parking on Blanca St. is not a public safety concern. The UEL actively monitors the situation and takes enforcement action as priorities and resources permit.
- Noise concerns can be another source of complaint. Rooftop equipment on a new school in the UEL generated noise complaints over a protracted period of time. On several occasions, the UEL Administration and residents raised the issue with the Vancouver School Board. Recently the VSB responded and is taking steps to address the issue.
- Other complaints may arise (e.g., disputes regarding hedge or tree heights on private property) and are best managed between neighbours, as they are typically not about public safety. Property redevelopment may sometimes also provide an opportunity for addressing views obscured by vegetation.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Background/Status:

Water Quality

- The neighbourhood called Area C, near the eastern boundary with the City of Vancouver, has a large cast iron water main servicing a number of homes. Recent changes to water chemistry (by the water supplier, Metro Vancouver) and water pressure, aggravated by the size of the pipe and relatively low water use, have increased the oxidation of iron, causing the water to appear yellow. Iron oxide is not a health concern, but is identified in the Canadian Drinking Water guidelines as an aesthetic issue. The local health authority is fully informed and monitoring the situation.
- The UEL has a ten-year capital plan for its infrastructure. That plan was updated in 2015 (at the five-year point) and that particular water line was advanced for early replacement. Funded as part of the 2015/2016 fiscal budget, engineering, design and tendering were completed.
- **Status as of early March:** a contract was executed on February 15 and work is proceeding, subject to weather, over the next few months (anticipated completion sometime in April). Interruptions to service and inconvenience to the neighbourhood can be expected as the work progresses. Every reasonable effort will be made to keep residents informed (e.g. a schedule will be developed and residents advised).

Parking

- UEL parking enforcement is primarily focused on the parking meters adjacent to the commercial section of the UEL, and to those neighbourhoods closest to UBC that experience problems from students parking in residential permit areas. Enforcement is aimed at ensuring UEL businesses and residents have adequate parking and public safety is maintained.
- Parking enforcement is currently limited to daytime weekdays. The UEL does not have ticketing authority and enforcement is by warning notice and/or towing.
- Overnight parking of a small number of motorhomes on the UEL side of Blanca Street is a frequent complaint s.22
  s.22 The issue has also been raised through the Community Advisory Council. The UEL bylaw does not permit overnight parking of motorhomes, but does not provide a definition of a motorhome. Parking motorhomes in the area does not interfere with UEL residential or business parking, nor is it a public safety concern.
- Blanca Street is a wide major arterial comprising two traffic lanes in each direction, plus a parking lane on each side, along the section of shared jurisdiction between the City of Vancouver and the UEL.

- The UEL has increased the enforcement activities on that section of roadway. This has included limited engagement with the RCMP detachment to assist with that activity. The consequence is an intermittent reduction in the number of vehicles parking there, although certain vehicles may relocate along Blanca Street and return to that section of roadway. As the UEL does not have parking enforcement services 24/7, enforcing overnight parking is challenging.

Noise

- The UEL has provisions in its bylaws addressing unreasonable noise generation. The bylaw does not have specific noise limits or area constraints.
- Generally, noise complaints result from construction or parties (UBC students). Construction activities are addressed by the UEL building inspector, while public disturbance complaints are referred to the police.
- A new school built to replace an existing elementary school and adjacent to the UEL Liberta townhouse development, has a heating, ventilating and air conditioning unit on the rooftop that caused considerable complaint from the adjacent residents. The UEL Administration (and residents) advised the Vancouver School Board facilities team of these concerns a number of times. VSB, at different times, advised the UEL they were working on a solution.
- VSB representatives attended the Community Advisory Council (CAC) meeting on January 18, 2016 to advise the community, including Liberta representatives in attendance, of the steps they are taking to address the noise concerns.
- The length of time it has taken to resolve this issue remains a concern in the community, but the CAC has expressed satisfaction with the likely outcome.

Trees

- The Area B neighbourhood has provisions in the Official Community Plan guidelines limiting the obstruction of views by vegetation. The enforcement provisions are limited, but do allow the manager to order removal of vegetation on private property. s.13,s.16

s.13,s.16

- Property redevelopment provides an opportunity for addressing views obscured by vegetation, s.13

Contacts:

Jonn Braman	Manager	University Endowment Lands	604 660-1810 ex 28

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Nicola Marotz Exec. Dir. Governance & Structure Branch 250 356-6257

2015/16 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: University Endowment Lands Governance

Revised: March 8, 2016

Issue: The University Endowment Lands Community Advisory Council has requested an incorporation study

Response:

- The University Endowment Lands (UEL) have a unique local governance arrangement, administered directly by the Provincial government and historically tied to the development of the University of British Columbia (UBC).
- The UEL Community Advisory Council (CAC) President, with the support of the Electoral Area A Director, has requested that the Minister fund a study of the incorporation of a town or village municipality for the UEL alone.
- The current governance structure is quite complex and involves many and varied interested parties: at the local level (University of British Columbia, UEL, City of Vancouver, Musqueam First Nation, Metro Vancouver, residents); and at the provincial level (Ministries of Transportation and Infrastructure; Advanced Education; and Justice). Therefore, any consideration around governance needs to be based on a thorough understanding of the current arrangements and their implications, the broader interests of the various parties affected, and the interests of the community.
- It will take time to develop a thoughtful path forward. While I understand that there are passionate perspectives on a potential solution, now is not the time to predetermine the range of outcomes. I am committed to exploring governance of the UEL and I recognize that it must be done in a way that respects the complexities of the UEL environment.
- Overall, the Provincial government is interested in ensuring resources are focused on functions and services that deliver the best results for citizens.

Background/Status:

Governance Arrangement

- The Point Grey peninsula, comprised of the UEL and UBC, are within Electoral Area A of the Greater Vancouver Regional District (known as Metro Vancouver).

- Across the peninsula, conventional governance and servicing roles are fulfilled by:
    - The Minister in the UEL, who exercises powers such as bylaw adoption/amendments and has direct services and administration delivered through the UEL Administration led by the UEL Manager; and
    - UBC (in the case of its campus lands), which provides direct services to those institutional and residential lands.
- Two previous restructure studies (1990 and 1995) considered UEL and UBC campus neighbourhoods together, and included options to join Vancouver. The incorporation vote in 1995 was defeated.

Change Pressures

- The UEL community is represented through an elected Community Advisory Council, constituted under the *Society Act*. In recent years, the CAC has been pressing for better and more services, change to community-wide (rather than area-based) basis for CAC elections, and extensive changes to UEL bylaws including an official community plan (OCP) review.
- The former Minister received a letter in November 2013 from the CAC advocating for incorporation of the UEL by itself as a village municipality. s.13,s.16

s.13,s.16

- On October 15, 2015, the Minister met with the CAC President and EA Director Harris to convey his commitment to exploring governance and the desire to develop a thoughtful path forward (including the need to hear from all stakeholders, including residents, as governance proceeds).

s.13,s.16

s.13,s.16

2015/16 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

s.12,s.13,s.16,s.17

- The ministry's approach is to lay further groundwork for a governance review, rather than proceeding with an active review at this time. This recognizes the need to balance the importance of the topic with the complexities of the UEL environment. The Minister is reaching out to the EA Director and the CAC to communicate this approach (with a meeting scheduled for April 1).

Contacts:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Whistler Official Community Plan

Revised: January 20, 2016

Issue: **On June 4, 2014 the BC Supreme Court struck down the Resort Municipality of Whistler's new official community plan (OCP) bylaw for lack of consultation with the Squamish and Lil'wat First Nations**

Response:

- As a result of the court decision, Whistler is operating under its existing official community plan (OCP) for now.
- The Province is working with First Nations, the resort and the municipality to find a way forward so First Nation interests are addressed and Whistler can adopt a new OCP.

Background/Status:

- Changes to Whistler's official community plan (OCP) must be approved by the Minister under section 11 of the *Resort Municipality of Whistler Act* before Council can adopt the bylaw.
- On June 4, 2014, a new OCP bylaw that had been approved by the Ministry and adopted by Council was struck down by the BC Supreme Court for lack of consultation with the First Nations after they launched a judicial review. The Province accepted the court ruling and did not appeal.
- The First Nations challenged the bylaw over concerns it would constrain their economic rights by limiting benefits they could derive from accommodation under a new Master Development Agreement (MDA) between the Province and the resort.

s.13,s.16

- Any negotiated changes to the OCP would require Council to re-read the bylaw prior to resending it to the Ministry for approval.

Contact:

Brent Mueller	Acting Director	Intergovernmental Relations and Planning	250 387-2540

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Kelowna Water Systems Integration

Revised: March 4, 2016

Issue: There are five separate water districts servicing different areas of the City of Kelowna as a result the service provision of water varies significantly for City residents.

Response:

- The Province has a long-standing policy of trying to bring core public services, including drinking water, under the responsibility of local governments.
- The Ministry has been working with the City of Kelowna (City) and the Improvement Districts (IDs) to come to an agreement with the path forward to addressing the City's drinking water needs. The parties are part of the Kelowna Joint Water Committee and have developed the Kelowna Integrated Water Supply Plan (Plan).
- In order to be considered for grant funding, the Ministry requires the Plan to be reviewed by Value Planning specialists to ensure it is the best path moving forward.
- The City and IDs are not able to reach consensus on what the Terms of Reference (TOR) should be for the Value Planning (VP) exercise.
- A collaborative approach between all parties involved with the Plan and projects is essential for moving forward. A TOR produced with input from all parties, will clearly articulate roles, responsibilities and conditions for the VP exercise.
- The Ministry will continue to hold true to previous Minister's letters detailing the need for a thorough assessment from a certified VP expert of the Plan, in order to be eligible to apply for potential future infrastructure funding. The Ministry continues to support the Committee in determining next steps for the VP process.
- In February/March 2016 the Minister provided two facilitators to help the two parties come to agreement on a TOR for review of their Plan and they are currently in Kelowna beginning the facilitation process.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Background/Status:

- Currently, five separate, self-governing water districts service different areas of the city. They are: City of Kelowna, Black Mountain Irrigation District, Rutland Water Works District, Glenmore-Ellison Improvement District and South-East Kelowna Irrigation District. Each water district raises its own revenues through taxation. The Kelowna Joint Water Board (KJWB) is composed of elected and appointed representatives from the City of Kelowna and the four water districts within the city's boundaries.
- In 2010, then Minister of CSCD, Bill Bennett, tasked all five water purveyors to work together and identify a regional water solution based on key principles (flexibility, best-lowest cost solutions, achievement of public health outcomes and agricultural interests maintained), in order to achieve Ministry support / endorsement of the solution.
- The Kelowna Joint Water Committee (Committee) was struck and created the "*Kelowna Integrated Water Supply Plan*" (Plan). The Plan was completed in 2012 and consists of eight phases with an estimated cost of $360 million. It was accepted by the elected officials from each of the water utilities and by City Council. The Plan also received feedback from CSCD, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, and from Interior Health. The Plan formed the first cooperative approach on water quality improvement projects in Kelowna.
- Ministry grant program policy is projects over $15 million or of sufficient complexity regardless of costs, are required to undergo a Value Engineering (VE) or Value Planning (VP) process, implemented by a Certified Value Specialist. It has been determined that a Value Planning (VP) process would be more suitable for the scope of this Plan, allowing for better assessment of the options.
- The development of a Terms of Reference (TOR) was discussed with the Ministry as an important step forward in clarifying the need for the VP, roles and responsibilities. It was determined by the Ministry and the City that the City would begin drafting the TOR, which would then have collaborative input from the Committee, KJWB and the Ministry.
- On February 11, 2016, during an annual state of the city address, Kelowna Mayor Colin Basra stated publicly for the first time that the municipality wants a single system, managed under the authority of city council, to provide water for city residents and that water is Kelowna's top issue. Mayor Basran also revealed that the B.C. Government has appointed two individuals as facilitators to help the five water providers begin to take steps towards integration. [The two facilitators are: George Abbott, former Shuswap MLA and cabinet minister and Chris Trumpy former B.C. Government deputy minister.]

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- A draft TOR has been created but agreement has not been achieved. The two facilitators that were provided in February/March 2016 by the Minister are currently in Kelowna working on the facilitation process with the two parties and the Ministry will be in communications with these facilitators at different points through the process to ensure progress is being made.
- The Kelowna Mayor, Colin Basra has been vocal in the media with respect to the governance of the water districts. The ministry would encourage the City and the water districts to continue with the facilitation process and then proceeding with the Value Planning exercise. The Value Planning exercise will likely determine the accurate solution over time for the water systems in the areas.

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Compass Card

Revised: **April 4, 2016**

Issue: **Compass rollout and funding**

Response:

If asked about funding:

- The Province is providing $40 million and the Government of Canada up to $30 million towards Compass for faregates and station upgrades.
- TransLink is providing the balance of the funding required, including funding for Compass Cards and bus equipment.
- TransLink is responsible for decisions about the design, installation and operation of the fare gates.

If asked about delays in implementation or Compass functionality

- Metro Vancouver transit users have been waiting to use Compass for a long time.
- The rollout of Compass began in the summer of 2015. More than 730,000 active Compass Cards are now in circulation
- TransLink is an independent organization with direct responsibility for its own operations, including the implementation of Compass.

Background/Status:

- TransLink is phasing in a new transit fare card system called Compass. Compass Cards are reloadable electronic fare cards that will work everywhere on transit in Metro Vancouver.
- TransLink's budget for Compass has increased from $171 million to $194 million.
- Compass cards will replace all of the passes and tickets used on TransLink.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Implementation & Rollout

- Implementation of the Compass Card system has been delayed many times over as the contractor addresses technical issues with slow tap speeds and errors with the card readers on buses.
- There have been concerns raised about the reliability of the "tap off" system for Compass. To address this problem, in October 2015 TransLink changed its fare structure so that bus and HandyDART riders now pay one-zone fares, regardless of how many zones they travel on the bus. This is designed to mitigate problems with "tapping out" on buses using the Compass Card. This decision was made by the TransLink board.
- TransLink is using a phased-in approach to deliver Compass Cards. In February 2015, Compass Cards were issued to 1,100 post-secondary students. An additional 50,000 were provided in June of the same year. In June TransLink also rolled out Compass to approximately 7,500 West Coast Express customers. By September 2015, it was estimated that approximately 220,000 people were using Compass.
- On August 6, 2015, TransLink announced the widespread sale of compass tickets and cards through Compass Vending Machines (CVM's) and other venues.
- Commencing in January, most SkyTrain stations now have only the accessibility gate open. TransLink has indicated that the gradual gate closure is to allow customers to become familiar with the new system, prior to full implementation. TransLink has indicated that the gates will not fully close until rollout of Compass is complete.
- January 2016 was the first month that monthly passes were replaced by Compass. The large volume of first-time users resulted in delays to processing times for loading value on cards, and long response times at the Compass call centre.
- On January 4, 2016, TransLink also announced that FareSaver tickets would be phased out and only available while supplies last.
- By January 4, 100,000 customers had loaded a monthly pass to their Compass Card, and more than 450,000 active cards were in use.

Contact:

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Evergreen Line Project Update
Estimates Note

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Date: January 19, 2016

ISSUE

- Evergreen Line Project scheduled to open for passenger service has been delayed to early 2017.

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- The original timeline for the Evergreen Line to be in service was Summer 2016.
- The Evergreen Line includes a 2-km bored tunnel. The contractor has faced technical challenges with tunnel boring, and as a result the schedule has been delayed.
- The Evergreen Line is now over 80 per cent complete, and will be ready for passenger service in early 2017.
- The elevated and at-grade guideways are complete.
- Trackwork is complete on the guideways.
- Station buildings are between 90 per cent and 99 per cent complete.
- The tunnel interior work and systems installation will continue into summer 2016. Train testing will begin in the tunnel in the fall of 2016 with the line fully operational in early 2017.
- We are working hard with the contractor to get the Evergreen Line finished as quickly as possible.
- The project remains on budget.

BACKGROUND

- The Province awarded a performance-based, fixed price contract to EGRT Construction in December 2012.
- The term of the contract is approximately 3.5 years and the Substantial Completion Target date in the contract is July 29, 2016.
- EGRT commenced construction in March 2013 and are scheduled to reach Substantial Completion in early 2017.
- This is approximately a 6 month delay.
- The tunnel boring was originally scheduled to take approximated one year.
- Main tunnel boring commenced in June 2014 and was completed late November 2015 (approximately 18 months).
- The contractor faced challenging ground conditions which made the tunnel boring process slower than was anticipated.
- It took nine months to bore 50 per cent of the tunnel when it stopped at Clarke and Seaview for maintenance in March 2015.
- The TBM was stopped at Seaview and Clarke for approximately 6 months.
- Tunnel boring started up again in September and boring was completed in November 2015.

- The contractor is responsible for all costs related to the schedule delay under the terms of the fixed price contract.
- Any cost overruns associated with tunneling are the contractor's responsibility.

PROGRAM CONTACT

Amanda Farrell, Executive Project Director, Evergreen Line Rapid Transit Project, 604-664-7379, cell: s.17

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: TransLink Board and Executive Compensation

Issue: Board and executive compensation

Response:

- Legislative changes enabled in 2014 require that any compensation increases for TransLink's CEO and / or executives, if not already provided for in an employment contract, may be implemented only if approved by the Mayors' Council.

If asked about executive compensation:

- The public expects TransLink's executive compensation choices to be respectful of taxpayers.
- The Mayors' Council has approved a new compensation plan for the incoming CEO of TransLink. The annual salary range that can be earned by the new CEO is:

Min: $325,092	Mid: $365,728	Max: $406,364

- The new salary eliminates bonus payments and a vehicle allowance.
- The Board has indicated that it will also be eliminating vehicle allowances for all executives.
- The new range is in keeping with salaries for large Crown corporations.
- TransLink has publicly reported that it has achieved about $2 million in annual savings by cutting executive and senior-management salary costs over the past two years.

If asked about board compensation:

- Board compensation was set by an independent screening panel and has not increased in recent years.
- Legislative changes made in 2014 provide that any changes to board compensation must also be approved by the Mayors' Council before coming into effect.

If asked about Ian Jarvis:

- The decision to appoint an interim CEO, while retaining Ian Jarvis as an advisor, was made by TransLink's Board.
- TransLink has indicated that Mr. Jarvis' contract expires in June 2016

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Background/Status:

- TransLink's legislation requires it to comply with the financial reporting requirements of the *Financial Information Act* (FIA). Reports include the salaries of staff earning more than $75,000 / year and board member remuneration.
- Remuneration amounts received by directors will vary from year-to-year, depending on the number of meetings called.
- TransLink has released the 2014 FIA Filing and Remuneration Report, which includes a detailed breakdown of 2014 executive compensation, as compared to 2013.
- The 2014 Report indicates that total compensation (including pension and other benefits) for TransLink executives decreased 5.2 per cent compared to 2013. Total compensation for each of the executive vice presidents and presidents/general managers of the bus and rail companies is reported to have been between four and 12 per cent lower than the previous year.
- In 2014, compensation for the CEO rose by 3.3 per cent due to the receipt of short-term incentive program remuneration in 2014 that had been earned in 2013, as well as a payment for a long-term incentive bonus earned in the 2010 to 2012 period.
- Translink has reported that in 2014, the total amount of cash compensation for the position of CEO was $435,000 (excluding pension and benefits such as medical, dental and extended health).

Legislative Amendments

- Government amended TransLink's legislation in 2014 to give the Mayors' Council more say over board and executive compensation:
    - TransLink's board must prepare a compensation plan that describes how executive compensation should be determined.
    - Compensation must not be more than that paid by similar organisations in Canada for similar work and must not be more than that paid by B.C. public sector organisations.
    - The Mayors' Council must approve compensation plans before they come into effect.
    - TransLink may only increase executive compensation in accordance with a compensation plan approved by the Mayors' Council (except, to avoid legal issues, if already committed in an employment contract).

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Compensation Plan for New CEO

- In October 2015, the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation approved a lower salary range for the incoming CEO. The minimum annual salary that can now be earned is $325,092, with a mid-point of $365,728 and a maximum of $406,364.
- The bonus plan, vehicle allowance and parking were eliminated from the CEO's pay package.
- TransLink reports that over the past two years it has achieved about $2 million in annual savings by cutting executive and senior management costs.

Interim CEOs in 2015

- In February 2015 the board removed Ian Jarvis from the role of CEO. Ian Jarvis was TransLink's CEO for five years, and will continue as an advisor to the board until the end of his contract in June 2016.
- Senior executives often have contracts that include severance clauses; the decision to request Ian Jarvis to continue as an advisor for the remainder of his contract instead of paying severance resided with TransLink's board.
- The TransLink Board appointed Doug Allen as TransLink's interim CEO on February 11, 2015, at a monthly salary of $35,000, while it searches for a new CEO. Mr. Allen was in place for approximately six months.
- Following the conclusion of Mr. Allen's contract, the interim CEO position was taken on in August 2015 by the organization's Chief Financial Officer, Cathy McLay.

Contact:

Jessica Brooks	Executive Director	ADM Office	250 952-6596

New Federal Infrastructure Programs
Estimates Note

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Date: February 18, 2016

ISSUE

- The federal government committed to almost $60 billion in new federal infrastructure funding over the next 10 years; $20 billion each for public transit, social and green infrastructure.
- This funding is incremental to, and separate from, federal funding available under the new Building Canada Fund (BCF).

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **Incremental federal funding is good news for British Columbians.**
- **Funding for public transit and green infrastructure, which were eligible under BCF, will allow BCF to refocus on roads, bridge, transportation corridors, ports and border gateways.**
- **Funding for social infrastructure will provide funds for infrastructure that was not eligible under BCF such as social housing and cultural/recreational facilities.**
- **Province has initiated engagement with the federal government on potential priorities:**
  - **Replacing the George Massey Tunnel;**
  - **Investing in Transit: supporting major transit projects in Metro Vancouver (Surrey Rapid Transit and Broadway SkyTrain Extension) and renewal of transit infrastructure assets across the province, including buses, a new SeaBus and transit maintenance facility upgrades; and,**
  - **Investing in green infrastructure: Water and waste water treatment facilities, flood protection, compressed natural gas bus conversion, hydro projects and partnering with Alberta on joint transmission line projects to support green energy and Climate Action goals.**
- **Province has also advocated for asset management capacity building funding and a more flexible cost sharing model for local government infrastructure under which the federal government could contribute more than one third.**
- **Federal government is expected to announce further details in Budget 2016 and as Terms and Conditions are approved by Cabinet and Treasury Board.**
- **The extent/timing of BC's participation is dependent cost sharing arrangements and the ability to accommodate investments within the provincial fiscal plan.**

BACKGROUND

- The federal government committed to almost $60 billion in new infrastructure funding over the next 10 years:
  - **$20 B for public transit infrastructure:** Funding will be flexible to the requirements of municipalities to maximize the number of public transit projects supported. Federal government will pay its share of capital, interest and additional charges to support new construction and the rehabilitation of existing infrastructure. Federal priorities include enhanced SeaBus services; Broadway rapid transit extension and Surrey light rail transit.

- **$20 B for social infrastructure:** Affordable housing, senior facilities, early learning and child care and cultural and recreational infrastructure. The plan will help build more housing units, refurbish existing ones, renew existing co-operative agreements and provide operational funding support for municipalities. The plan will fund the creation of new child care spaces, enhance their quality and ensure that affordable child care spaces are available to more families that need them.
- **$20 B for green infrastructure:** Broad range of projects; including local water and wastewater facilities, climate resilient infrastructure, clean energy and clean-up of contaminated sites to facilitate new construction. It will also support efforts to prepare for changing weather patterns, such as: protection against wildfires, improved storm waste systems to diminish the impact of urban floods, additional dams and dikes to prevent overland or coastal flooding and the reinforcement of infrastructure to confront melting permafrost in the North.

- Funding is to be allocated on a per capita basis and BC's share would be in the order of $7.766 billion ($2.589 billion for each of the transit, green and social infrastructure programs) based on its population as of the last census (13.14%), subject to any minimum provincial/territorial, First Nations or program administration allocations.
- Funding for public transit and green infrastructure, which were eligible under BCF will allow BCF to refocus on roads, bridge, transportation corridors, ports and border gateways. BC's priorities include:
  - **Supporting Economic Development, Goods Movement and Market Access** across the province to ensure the competitiveness of Canada's Pacific Gateway: major transportation corridor improvements, Highway 1 Kamloops to Alberta border four-laning and key corridor improvements in the Lower Mainland, supporting Deltaport Terminal 2 expansion.
  - **Renewing the coastal and inland marine transportation systems** to ensure continued reliable service for communities dependent on the services and the important role they play in the provincial and national economies.
- Cultural and recreational infrastructures, which were eligible under the 2007 BCF, but were not eligible under the new BCF, are eligible under Social Infrastructure.
- Social infrastructure such affordable housing, senior facilities and child care were not eligible under BCF.
- Any uncommitted infrastructure funds at the end of a fiscal year will be automatically transferred to the Gas Tax Fund (temporary top-up) for investment in communities.
- Infrastructure plan includes the creation of the Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB) to provide low-cost financing for new infrastructure projects.
- CIB will also issue Green Bonds to make green infrastructure projects such as electrification of transportation, smart grid technology, renewable energy transmission lines, electric vehicle charging stations and networks, building retrofits and clean power storage more attractive to private investors.
- Federal government has stated that they will be respectful of provincial priorities and that alternative funding formulae for local government infrastructure is under consideration.
- Terms and Conditions for the new programs must be approved by Cabinet and Treasury Board and further details are expected to be released under Budget 2016.
- The extent/timing of BC's participation is dependent cost sharing arrangements and the ability to accommodate investments within the provincial fiscal plan.

PROGRAM CONTACT

David Marr, Executive Director, Planning & Programming, Infrastructure Department
250 356-2100 – cell s.17

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: HandyDART

Revised: January 15, 2016

Issue: TransLink uses small buses and taxis to deliver door-to-door custom service for passengers with disabilities who cannot use conventional transit

Response:

- HandyDART provides an essential service to individuals for whom conventional transit is not an option.
- TransLink forecasts show that it provided approximately 1.2 million trips in 2015. Approximately 9,000 additional trips are projected for 2016 – an increase of 0.7 per cent.
- TransLink uses taxis to complete trips if HandyDART vehicles are unavailable, and to supplement services to meet demand.
- Taxis are used only if suitable for customers' mobility requirements, and are expected to provide the same door-to-door service as HandyDART buses.
- HandyDART trip denials in Metro Vancouver have significantly decreased since the second half of 2014, in part because of extra capacity provided by taxis.
- Like all transit services, demand for HandyDART is growing. The mayors have proposed 30 per cent more HandyDART service as part of their vision.

Background/Status:

- HandyDART service in Metro Vancouver is provided by TransLink, independent of the Province.
- In 2012, the Ministry of Finance and the TransLink Commissioner recommended TransLink increase its use of taxis to improve HandyDART cost-efficiency.
- In 2013, TransLink tested taxi service by converting 10,000 service hours (1.6 per cent of the total) on low-productivity routes from HandyDART buses to taxis.
- No HandyDART drivers were laid off as a result of the taxi pilot, but some were displaced to temporary or casual status.
- The pilot project enabled TransLink to provide 9,000 additional customer trips in 2013 using the same resources.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- In 2014, TransLink invested an additional $1 million to expand the use of taxis and to train taxi drivers in HandyDART service standards. TransLink said this funding would support 30,000 additional taxi trips for HandyDART customers.
- In 2014, there were approximately 17,000 trip denials.
- As of September 30, 2015, access transit trip denials were forecast at 1,504. The number of denials is expected to remain at current levels for 2016.

Contact:

Jessica Brooks	Executive Director	ADM Office	250 952-6596

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: TransLink Mayors' Council Vision – Funding

Revised: April 1, 2016 ***[late arrival; this version not in Minister's binder]***

Issue: **The Mayors' Council does not have an approved regional revenue source to support cost sharing and ongoing operations of new transit projects**

Response:

If asked about next steps on implementing the Mayors' Council vision:

- The Province was pleased with the federal budget commitment to transportation infrastructure expansion in lower mainland.
- BC's thirty-three per cent funding commitment remains on the table and we are excited to get going and make these projects happen.
- There is now a relatively small amount of more money required given size, scope and years it will take to deliver these major projects to the region.
- I am confident the municipalities have the means to deliver their seventeen per cent contribution and are we are willing to work with them on ideas to identify those revenues.

If asked about mobility pricing:

- The mayors have many existing revenue tools at their disposal – including property taxes – that they could use to generate revenues.
- Mobility pricing is a complex topic. Any movement in that direction will require engagement with multiple levels of government and stakeholders, including the public.

If asked about referendum requirements:

- I am confident the municipalities have the means to deliver their seventeen per cent contribution and are we are willing to work with them on ideas to identify those revenues.
- For example, municipalities can look at their current zoning practices around transit stations, increase density and commercial activity, and dedicate the permitting revenues directly toward transportation expansion.

Background/Status:

- On February 6, 2014 the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure publicly released a letter to the Mayors' Council committing government to providing one-

third funding for major rapid transit projects and the replacement of the Pattullo Bridge in Metro Vancouver, provided that they fit within the provincial capital plan.

- A subsequent letter on June 24, 2014 further clarified that provincial funding would also require that strong business cases could be made for the investments.
- A proposal for a 0.5 per cent regional sales tax was put to public vote in 2015 and defeated, with 62 per cent voting against the tax.
- The Mayors' Council has indicated that the region does not have sufficient funding to cover a one-third cost share on implementation of the regional vision on transportation, or the ongoing operations of the proposed expansion.
- The 2016 federal budget was released on March 22nd and allocates $460.5 million to BC for transit funding over the next three years (phase 1)
- The budget indicates that Canada will fund up to 50% of eligible costs for projects. The focus of phase 1 funding will generally be directed towards upgrades to and maintenance of existing transit systems and design work for new projects.
- The province has reiterated its commitment to funding no more than 33% of rapid transit projects and the Pattullo Bridge. This will require that the region cost share on capital projects at a rate of 17% and fund ongoing operations.
- No decisions have been made with respect to supporting additional projects.

Mobility Pricing

- The Mayors' Council is proposing to implement time- and distance-based mobility pricing over the next 5 to 8 years.
- On October 17, 2014, the Mayors' Council adopted a resolution to establish a Mobility Pricing Independent Commission to oversee policy, technical, communications and engagement work related to mobility pricing. This resolution calls on the Province to coordinate its review of the provincial tolling policy with the work of the Commission and for the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to recommit government officials to support the development of the mobility pricing strategy.
- TransLink's 2016 Business Plan identifies corporate one-time costs of $0.9 million for "mobility pricing." Details on the associated process are under development and anticipated in the near term.

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: TransLink Mayors' Council Vision – 2015 Plebiscite Costs

Revised: March 21, 2016

Issue: Costs to administer the 2015 Metro Vancouver Transportation and Transit Plebiscite

Response:

- The Metro Vancouver Transportation and Transit plebiscite was administered under the *Election Act*, by Elections BC.
- Elections BC is an independent office of the legislature. Budgets for electoral events, including the plebiscite, are determined and administered by Elections BC.
- Elections BC incurred costs of approximately $5.3 million to administer the plebiscite.
- The Chief Electoral Officer has reported publicly on the proceedings, results and costs of administering the plebiscite.
- The Metro Vancouver Transportation and Transit Plebiscite provided an important opportunity for Metro Vancouver voters to have a say in a new tax proposed by the Mayors' Council.

Background/Status:

- The Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation proposed a 0.5% regional sales tax to funding transportation and transit priorities in Metro Vancouver. Consistent with legislation, this proposal was put to a regional vote in the spring of 2015.
- The vote was administered as a non-binding plebiscite by Elections BC from March 16 – May 29 by mail ballot.
- The plebiscite was held under the *Election Act* which requires that costs of administering the Act are paid out of the consolidated revenue fund.
- Consistent with the independence established under the Act, Elections BC was responsible for establishing and administering the budget for the plebiscite.
- Recommendations on Elections BC's budget are provided by the all-party, Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services.
- The Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the 2015 Metro Vancouver Transportation and Transit Plebiscite was released on September 22, 2015.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- The report describes the activities Elections BC undertook to administer the plebiscite, including an overview of statistics, the legislative framework, a calendar of events, voter registration, the voting package, certification envelope review and ballot counting, public information and costs to administer the vote.
- As described in the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer, Elections BC incurred costs of $5,372,380 to administer the plebiscite. As described below, expenses included postage and mailing costs, salaries and advertising.

Expense categories	Combined totals for fiscal years 2014/2015 and 2015/16
Salaries	$801,925
Professional services	35,389
Travel	16,307
Information systems	304,733
General office expenses	509,647
Postal services/postage/courier	2,683,949
Advertising and publications	883,599
Building occupancy	136,831
Total	**$5,372,380**

Number of registered voters in Metro Vancouver on May 15, 2015	**1,562,386**

Cost per registered voter	**$3.44**

- Following the plebiscite it was reported that the Mayors' Council spent just over $5.8 million promoting a 'yes' vote. Media reports suggest that the Better Transit and Transportation Coalition also budgeted $835,000 for a yes campaign; however, it is unclear how much of this budget was funded or spent.
- The 'no' side (as represented by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation) is reported as having spent approximately $40,000 opposing the proposed sales tax.
- A framework for campaign spending by 'yes' and 'no' advocates was not established under the plebiscite regulation. No campaign costs were provided for by the province.

Contact:

Kevin Volk Executive Lead Community and Corporate Services 250-387-3860

Replacement of Pattullo Bridge
Estimates Note

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Date: January 18, 2016

ISSUE

- Pattullo Bridge Replacement

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- The Mayors' Council has identified its transportation priorities for the region, including a tolled replacement of the aging Pattullo Bridge.
- The replacement bridge would be a four-lane structure expandable to six lanes if required by growth in future demand.
- Government has committed to fund one-third of replacement cost, subject to a strong business case and room in the provincial fiscal plan.
- TransLink is preparing a business case, expected to be ready by March 31, 2016, to support a federal application for P3 funding and to meet provincial requirements.
- Government is looking forward to seeing the business case.

BACKGROUND

- The Pattullo Bridge, which was built in 1937 and transferred from the Province to TransLink in 1999, crosses the Fraser River between New Westminster and Surrey.
- Due to its age, the bridge has seismic and structural issues. Also, it does not meet modern guidelines for lane widths and curvature (i.e., it is 12 m wide whereas current standards require at least 19 m).
- The Mayors' Council has called for replacement of the Pattullo Bridge with a 4-lane bridge (expandable to 6 lanes) with modern lane widths, better connections, a centre barrier and high-quality cycling and pedestrian facilities.
- Design, funding and construction of a new bridge is expected to take 7-8 years.
- TransLink is making repairs to the current bridge to keep it operating safely until a replacement can be built.
- A new bridge is estimated to cost over $1 billion, which the Mayors' Council vision proposes will be funded by tolls to recover the costs.
- The project has been "screened in" by PPP Canada for P3 funding and TransLink is preparing a business case, due March 31, 2016, to support a funding decision.
- TransLink is also undertaking work to ensure the business case will meet provincial Capital Asset Management Framework guidelines.

PROGRAM CONTACT

Kevin Volk, Executive Director, Transit and Crown Agency Programs, Partnerships Department, Cell s.17

Metro Vancouver Regional Tolling
Estimates Note

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Date: February 18, 2016

ISSUE

- Update on regional tolling in Metro Vancouver.

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **BC is committed to replacing the George Massey Tunnel (GMT) with a new bridge and improving the Highway 99 corridor to improve the safe and efficient movement of goods and people.**
- **Those living south of the Fraser River will benefit from new infrastructure that provides significant travel time savings – about an hour a day on the Port Mann, and an estimated 30 minutes a day on the tunnel replacement.**
- **Consultation on the GMT Project Definition Report seeks feedback from the public on tolls as a funding source.**
- **Following completion of this consultation, the ministry will finalize the project scope, cost estimate and funding sources.**
- **Everyone is aware of the vibrant debate about Metro Vancouver's transportation future, including suggestions from the public that all bridges in the region should be tolled. These discussions are important and welcome as we move forward with constructing the new bridge.**
- **Construction on this project is anticipated to begin in 2017, followed by a five-year construction period; this will allow several years to discuss the merits of alternate tolling strategies for the Metro Vancouver area before tolls are put into place in 2022.**
- **We have made it clear to the federal government that the bridge is our number one priority.**
- **Over the next few months and years, we will continue to advocate on behalf of the province for a federal contribution to this important project, as we work with them to secure contributions for the Broadway Line, Surrey rapid transit and the Pattullo replacements.**

BACKGROUND

- Tolls have been collected on various crossings since the opening of the Lions Gate Bridge in 1938; however, to date they have always been used as a means to pay for new or significantly improved infrastructure and removed once the project has been paid for.
- Existing *Provincial Guidelines for Tolling* were established in 2003. The Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure has committed to reviewing and updating the provincial tolling policy.
- Key principles of note for the current Tolling Guidelines are as follows:
  - Only major projects that result in significant increases in capacity will be subject to tolling.
  - Tolls will be implemented only if there are clear, demonstrable net benefits for the users of the new or improved facilities.
  - Tolls will be implemented only if a reasonable untolled alternative is available.

- Public consultation will occur in all cases where new tolls are considered ("local input prior to decisions on how tolls are to be implemented").

- Today, the Port Mann and Golden Ears Bridges are tolled. TransLink has also indicated publicly through the Mayor's vision that a new Pattullo Bridge would also be tolled. Tolling the Pattullo and George Massey Tunnel crossings would leave the Alex Fraser Bridge (AFB) as the only untolled crossing of the main/south arm of the Fraser River. Other crossings over the north arm of the Fraser such as the Oak, Knight Street and Queensborough bridges are also untolled.
- The recent transportation plebiscite stoked public debate about tolling as a potential tool to fund transportation infrastructure and operations as well as for congestion reduction. The plebiscite also fueled debate about the equity of tolling some crossings and not others.
- The Mayors' Council vision advocates implementation of road pricing, sometimes referred to as mobility pricing within 8 years. A number of stakeholder groups including BC Trucking Association and Chambers of Commerce have advocated that the Province should consider a regional toll pricing policy and this had garnered media interest.
- TransLink is in the process of establishing a working group to explore road pricing with an initial focus on undertaking research on other jurisdictions and considerations to be taken into account in development of a pricing strategy.
- The GMTRP project has confirmed that with tolls, the Project can be self-financing. The current business case assumes that the Project will be tolled at rates generally consistent with that of the Port Mann Bridge.

PROGRAM CONTACT

Sean Nacey, Senior Project Manager, Infrastructure Department

Cell: s.17

Broadway/Surrey Lines
Estimates Note

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Date: January 28, 2016

ISSUE

- Rapid transit in Vancouver and Surrey.

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- The Mayors' Council transportation priorities for Metro Vancouver include extension of the Millennium Line SkyTrain along Broadway to Arbutus in Vancouver, and LRT on three corridors in Surrey (104th Avenue, King George Boulevard, and Fraser Highway).
- Government has committed to fund one-third of the cost of rapid transit investments, subject to a strong business case and room in the provincial fiscal plan.
- TransLink is preparing business cases for the two projects, which are expected to be ready by fall 2016, to support applications for federal and provincial funding.
- Consistent with provincial business case guidelines, the province will be reviewing technology options, particularly on corridors like Fraser Highway where both LRT and SkyTrain are viable alternatives.
- The province continues to work collaboratively with local government on the development of the business cases for the projects.

BACKGROUND

- The Mayors' Council transportation vision included
    - Underground extension of the Millennium Line SkyTrain from VCC Clark Station westwards under Broadway Avenue to Arbutus; and
    - Construction of LRT from Surrey Centre to Guildford on 104th Avenue and to Newton on King George Boulevard (collectively, the "L" Line) and from Surrey Centre to Langley City along Fraser Highway.
- The vision assumes that design and construction of the Broadway Line would take until 2023, that the Surrey "L" Line would be ready by 2022, and that the Fraser Line would be complete by 2026.
- Both LRT and SkyTrain are viable alternatives on Fraser Highway and the business case will review both options.
- The vision estimated that the Broadway to Arbutus Line would cost $2.3 billion and that LRT in Surrey would cost $2.5 billion.
- Both projects are being considered for funding by the federal government. TransLink is preparing business cases, expected to be ready by fall 2016, to support applications for federal and provincial funding.
- The business cases will update designs, costs, and construction timelines.
- Provincial staff is working with TransLink and its local partners to provide input into business case development.

PROGRAM CONTACT

Kevin Volk, Executive Director, Transit and Crown Agency Programs, Partnerships Department, cell s.17

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: TransLink Transit Police

Revised: January 29, 2016

Issue: South Coast British Columbia Transit Authority Police Service costs and services

Response:

- The Transit Police are a service provided by TransLink, and are independent of the Provincial government.
- The Transit Police budget is approved by the TransLink board.
- The Transit Police are committed to zero growth in the number of police officers employed in 2016.
- Specific issues pertaining to policing matters are the responsibility of the Solicitor General.

Background/Status:

- The South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Police Service (Transit Police) is a designated policing unit created in 2004 under the *Police Act*.
- The area covered by the Transit Police includes 137 kilometers of rail, 57 stations, over 1800 buses and 220 bus routes and the SeaBus, passing through 22 different police jurisdictions.
- Transit Police officers have full police powers to make arrests and enforce the Criminal Code of Canada (on and off TransLink property). They also have powers to uphold TransLink bylaws, including for conduct, safety, and fare payment.
- The Transit Police have 167 sworn officers.
- A 2012 performance audit of TransLink by the government recommended that "TransLink should consider reducing Transit Police and Transit Security to pre-Olympic levels after the installation of fare gates … generate[ing] savings in excess of $5 million per year."
- TransLink public records indicate that the Transit Police are committed to zero growth in the number of police officers it employs in the coming years.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Budgets

- In 2014 Transit Police expenditures were $34.3 million. TransLink reports that expenses were up $3.7 million (12.2 per cent) from the previous year, mainly due to the signing of a collective agreement going back to 2011 and filling vacant positions.
- TransLink expects that the new collective agreement will result in annual savings of $0.8 million due to the elimination of some benefits.
- The 2015 budget for the Transit Police was $33.3 million. TransLink's third quarter report indicates a forecast of a favourable variance of $194 thousand (0.6 per cent) for the year.
- The 2016 budget for the Transit Police is $33.8 million.

Contact:

Jessica Brooks	Executive Director	ADM Office	250-952-6596

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: TransLink Governance

Revised: January 15, 2016 (new)

Issue: Calls to change TransLink governance

Response:

- In 2012 the government changed TransLink's legislation to include the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Mayors' Council on TransLink's board.
- In 2014, the B.C. government further amended TransLink's governance to give the Mayors' Council greater powers to approve long term strategies and plans, and to set priorities.
- This was to address calls from the Mayors' Council for more powers and reflected recommendations in a Mayors' Council commissioned study.
- The 2014 amendments gave local government significant ability to provide input into the development of, and to approve, long-term strategies and the 10-year investment plans on which budgets must be based.
- Amendments also provide the Mayors' Council with greater oversight over board and executive compensation.
- The Mayors' Council must continue to exercise these new powers before any further changes would be considered.

Background/Status:

- The TransLink Governance Review commissioned by the Mayors' Council and issued in 2013 stated:
    - Strategic decision-making on policies, plans, funding and relationships to broader plans and public purposes is the responsibility of elected representatives.
    - Translation of policy decisions into operational plans and programs is the responsibility of persons skilled in management, administration, service provision and financial control.
- These principles were reflected in 2014 amendments to TransLink's legislation, which:
    - Make the Mayors' Council responsible for approving TransLink's 30-year strategies, which must consider broader public purposes such as land use, environmental, economic, and transportation objectives.

- Make the Mayors' Council responsible for approving TransLink's planned operations and investments through fully-funded 10-year investment plans, which must be guided by approved long-term strategies.
- Provide for TransLink's board (including the chair and vice chair of the Mayors' Council) to translate approved 10-year investment plans into annual capital and operating budgets, which must be consistent with approved 10-year plans.
- Establishes a process that requires prior approval from the Mayors' Council for increases to board and executive compensation.
- Increases Mayors' Council funding to reflect increased responsibilities.

2015 Governance Review Task Force

- The Metro Vancouver Transportation Planning and Governance Review Task Force was established in the fall of 2015 to make recommendations to the Metro Vancouver Board on transportation planning and governance, with specific reference to perceived concerns with TransLink's current governance structure.
- Following the receipt of a position paper from the Task Force, the Metro Vancouver Board endorsed the following positions on December 11th 2015:
  - That regular joint planning sessions between the Mayors' Council and the TransLink Board of Directors be established.
  - That the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development make changes to TransLink's legislation that would assign sole responsibility for all policy decisions, including those required in the development of strategies, transportation plans, investment plans, annual budgets and funding sources, to the Mayors' Council.
  - That these changes be pursued beginning the first quarter of 2016.
- The Metro Vancouver Board further clarified its opposition to the creation of any joint planning committees that report to the TransLink Board of Directors.
- The Minister has indicated that additional governance changes will not be forthcoming.

Contact:

Jessica Brooks	Executive Director	ADM Office	250 952-6596

U-Pass BC
Estimates Note

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Date: January 20, 2016

ISSUE

- The government of British Columbia sponsors the U-Pass BC program to provide students at public colleges and universities in Metro Vancouver with affordable transit.

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- The U-Pass BC program in Metro Vancouver is a partnership between the provincial government, TransLink, participating colleges and universities and their student associations.
- $12 million in provincial funding is budgeted this fiscal year for the current program.
- The ministry is working with TransLink and Student Associations to renew the program for an additional two years (May 2016 to April 2018).

BACKGROUND

- The U-Pass BC program was introduced in September 2010, and by September 2015, over 128,000 students in Metro Vancouver had access to the discounted transit pass.
- Students at the following public post-secondary institutions have U-Pass BC: University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, Capilano University, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Langara College, Douglas College, Vancouver Community College, Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology's campus in Burnaby and British Columbia Institute of Technology. The Native Education College was added to the program in September 2015.
- U-Pass BC students accounted for about 14 % of TransLink's ridership with 49 million boardings in 2014 and the student fares and government contribution contributed 12 % of TransLink's total fare revenue.
- The monthly U-Pass BC rate, for unlimited use of transit in Metro Vancouver, is $38 this year. This can save students between $56 and $135 per month.
- Students at each participating college and university will have to hold a referendum to extend the program with the new rates ($39.50 in 2016/17 and $41 in 2017/18)
- U-Pass programs in communities outside Metro Vancouver are partnerships between the Institutions, their Student Associations, BC Transit and local governments. The province contributes its share of transit costs in these communities and all transit fare revenue goes to local governments to help offset their share of transit costs. It is up to local governments to set U-Pass rates and transit service levels in their communities.

PROGRAM CONTACT

John Coombs, Manager Strategic Planning and Policy, Transit and Crown Agency Programs, Partnerships Department – Cell: s.17

DRAFT

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: TransLink Accessibility

Revised: March 16, 2016 (new)

Issue: Faregate accessibility and BC Bus Pass interoperability

Response:

If asked about accessibility

- I have been very clear that my expectations are that the faregates must be accessible to everyone.
- TransLink has worked with the community to find a number of workable, coordinated solutions to ensure that everyone can access the transit system, and has assured me that there will be no barriers for any of its clients at the faregates.

If asked about the BC Bus Pass

- 80% of BC Bus Pass holders reside in the TransLink service area, and their passes will continue to provide full access to the entire TransLink system.
- BC Transit's clients have also received faregate- compatible cards from the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation.
- This will allow for ongoing access to TransLink's system for clients in, for example, the Fraser Valley, that need to travel into Metro Vancouver, and vice versa

Background/Status:

Accessibility

- TransLink faregates are scheduled to close beginning April 4th
- This could present challenges for persons with disabilities, who are unable to use raise their arms to scan a Compass Card
- On March 1, the Minister asked TransLink to ensure full accessibility prior to closing the gates
- TransLink has subsequently developed an interim plan that will provide for on-site staff during peak hours to assist customers through accessibility gates. An accessibility gate will remain open when staff are not available.

- This approach has been supported by the Minister and advocates for persons with disabilities

- TransLink will continue to work towards a permanent solution

BC Bus Pass - Interoperability

- The BC Bus Pass program offers a reduced cost, annual bus pass for low income seniors and individuals receiving disability assistance from the Province. This program is administered by the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation (SDSI)

- Currently, Translink accepts the BC Transit BCBP as a "flash card" on its transit system, meaning pass holders from outside of the Translink service area (Metro Vancouver) can access all Translink services. (and vice versa)

- Recipients who live within the Translink service area (80% of BCBP recipients) have received Compass Cards, and will see no change in their service.

- TransLink has indicated that on closure of the faregates, BC Bus Passes from outside of the lower mainland (eg BC Transit communities) will no longer be accepted as valid fare.

- SDSI, and the Ministries of Transportation and Infrastructure and Community, Sport and Cultural Development have been working with TransLink to ensure the continuation of province-wide interoperability for BC Bus Pass clients.

- An approach has been approved for 2016 that will provide Compass Cards to all clients across the province. These cards will be used as flash passes in BC Transit communities and will work with the TransLink system.

- Work will be undertaken to develop a dual-use card for 2017.

- It is anticipated that most BC Bus Pass clients will have received their Compass Card by April 4th. For those individuals who have not received their cards or experience initial difficulties in navigating the system, TransLink has proposed to respond on a case-by-case basis or require that the individual purchase a concession fare.

- Provincial staff continue to work with TransLink to ensure a smooth transition period for BC Bus Pass clients

Contact:

Kevin Volk Executive Lead Community and Corporate Services 250-387-3860

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: 2016 Assessment Roll Inquiry and Complaint Statistics

Revised: February 12, 2016

Issue: Inquiry and Complaint Statistics – as tracked by BC Assessment (BCA)

Response:

- Appeals have gone up approximately 5.8 per cent in 2016 compared to 2015.
- I am aware of concerns about significant increases in property assessments in some areas of the province and the impact this may have on property taxes.
- An increase in a property assessment does not necessarily result in an increase in property taxes. Tax rates are set by local taxing jurisdictions according to property class, and this rate is what ultimately determines whether taxes will go up.
- BC Assessment functions independently of local and provincial taxing authorities and does not have a role in setting property tax rates.
- A property owner who is not satisfied with their assessment can ask for a review (inquiry) by BC Assessment. If after the inquiry the owner still has issue with the assessment, the next option is to file an appeal (complaint) to the Property Assessment Review Panel (PARP).

2016 statistics:

- The total number of inquiries province-wide received by phone was approximately 39,000, representing a 10 per cent increase from 2015. Inquiries received by email totaled approximately 8,500 – an increase of 19 per cent from 2015.
- For 2016 (estimated as of February 9, 2016), the number of complaint letters (appeals) filed was 23,600 properties (folios), a 5.8 per cent increase from the total number of properties for which a complaint (appeal) was filed in 2015 (22,296).
- Many inquiries are resolved through discussions with BC Assessment staff. Not all inquiries result in formal complaints (appeals).
- Inquiries and complaints fluctuate annually, and are usually dependent on the stability of the market conditions (e.g., an active or volatile market usually results in more inquiries/complaints).

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Background/Status:

- The total number of inquiries province-wide was 47,830, an increase of 12 per cent from 2015 (42,849).
- Submission of appeals has mostly been through electronic means, with using either the online appeal form or email.
- Letters of appeal or complaint are tracked separately from inquiries. For 2016, the total number of properties (folios) subject to property assessment complaint letters (appeals) was approximately 23,600, a 5.8 per cent increase from the total number of properties appealed in 2015 (22,296).* *(Note: this number is subject to change as this is an estimate as of February 9,2016)*
- Many inquiries are resolved through discussions with BCA staff. Not all inquiries result in formal complaints/appeals.
- BCA's 2016 assessment roll represents almost two million properties with a general taxable value of $1.34 trillion. This is an 11.1 per cent increase from the 2015 roll. It provides a stable base for local governments and taxing authorities in BC to raise approximately $7 billion in property taxes for schools and important local services.
- BCA determines a property's market value and sends the owner(s) a Property Assessment Notice in early January. Taxing authorities establish the property tax rate, apply it to the assessed value and send the owner a tax notice in June.
- The 2016 Assessment Notices were sent out December 31, 2015. If a property owner was not satisfied with the assessment, they had the option to file a complaint with the Property Assessment Review Panel (PARP) by February 1, 2016.
- Panels begin to hear complaints in early February and all hearings must be completed by March 15 each year.
- Typically, around 98 per cent of property owners accept their property assessment without proceeding to the formal complaint (appeal) process.

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Amacon Assessment Appeal

Revised: February 18, 2016

Issue: Potential implications of the Amacon BC Supreme Court appeal decision on the issue of split property classification for redevelopment properties

Response:

- The BC Supreme Court stated case decision on the Amacon property assessment was released on February 1, 2016.
- The decision is not yet complete as the Court referred two important questions back to the Property Assessment Appeal Board (PAAB).
- It is not clear at this time if the property will be split classified as proportionately residential and commercial.
- BC Assessment is currently working with Counsel to determine next steps with the Property Assessment Appeal Board.
- Government appreciates that some commercial properties with redevelopment potential have seen significant increases in assessments and property taxes.
- We are committed to maintaining the economic viability of small businesses.
- Government will continue to monitor resolution of this appeal.

Background/Status:

- The Amacon property consists of vacant land (nine lots) and single story commercial improvements zoned for a mix of commercial and residential use above street level. It was valued recognizing the highest and best use for this potential redevelopment.
- The property is classed for taxation purposes as commercial, including the "unbuilt density" of the air space above street level at the considerably higher commercial tax rate.
- The Amacon appeal argued that the air space has "no present use" and should be classified according to its potential use – Class 1 (Residential). There is no dispute over the value of the property (this is about classification only, and the difference between tax rates for residential and commercial properties).

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- The PAAB decision agreed with Amacon's appeal for a vertically-split classification of the property, ordering that the portions of the value attributable to both the commercial and residential potential should be classified accordingly.
- BCA's current practice is that the status of the air space above the land is connected to the land below it and, as the Amacon property is currently zoned commercial, the unbuilt airspace should also be classed commercial.
- BCA appealed the decision to the BC Supreme Court because further clarification of the scope and application of the PAAB decision was necessary.
- The Court decision agreed that the undeveloped air space above the land surface can be split classified separately from the land, but must be consistent with the requirements of the applicable regulation.
- The Court remitted the issue of whether the relevant air space has "no present use" back to the PAAB for clear reasons and decision. This clarification is essential in determining if the air space could be split classified within the meaning of Section 1(1) of the Prescribed Classes of Property Regulation, which is based on the land/air space having no present use.
- There are as many as 88,000 commercial properties in British Columbia where there is "unbuilt density"; however, until the PAAB review is complete it will not be clear whether the decision will apply to all these properties or whether it pertains only to Amacon and similar properties, which have zoning for a specified residential component.
- In 2011, to address a similar issue of undeveloped air space, Government extended authority to the City of Richmond to provide property tax relief for redevelopment properties, and informed local governments that requests for similar authority would be considered.
- This issue has also been the subject of several articles by Vancouver Sun columnist Don Cayo. These articles are critical of the City of Vancouver's approach to taxing properties with development potential in the City, suggesting they are being unfairly taxed relative to both fully developed and completely undeveloped properties.
- The City of Vancouver Tax Policy Committee has identified a split classification approach that recognizes both the current and potential future use as an option to address assessment and classification concerns regarding redevelopment properties. Government indicated that any formal request from the City to implement this policy would be considered.

Contact:

Manager	Blair Schumacher	Property Assessment Services	250 387-1520

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: BC Assessment Authority (BCA) Crown Corporation Review

Revised: February 18, 2016

Issue: BCA will be the subject of a Crown Corporation Review in early 2016

Response:

- Government introduced taxpayer accountability principles to strengthen accountability, promote cost control and ensure that provincial public sector organizations operate in the best interest of taxpayers.
- Government has committed to review every major Crown corporation to ensure they are operating in an efficient and cost-effective manner, consistent with Government's strategic priorities.
- The review of BC Assessment began early this year.

Background/Status:

- As part of the October 2011 Speech from the Throne, Government committed to reviewing Crown corporations, starting January 2012, to ensure taxpayers and families are protected and the interests of all British Columbians are well served.
- Since 2011, Government has completed Crown reviews on: BC Hydro, Community Living BC, ICBC, BCLC and Partnerships BC. In addition, a review of BC Transit is underway and expected to conclude early this year.
- The Ministry of CSCD has requested that Internal Audit and Advisory Services (IAAS) conduct a review of the BC Assessment Authority (BCA) beginning early in 2016.
- The review will assess the effectiveness of BCA's governance framework, including strategic direction and alignment with government priorities. It will also examine BCA's Planning and Forecasting, including assessment of primary cost-drivers and their impact on revenue due to the changes and trends in the overall economy and real estate market.
- The review of BCA will cover other key areas such as: Financial Performance and Information Technology (IT) practices (including: operating and administration costs and employee compensation); cost mitigation strategies; capital asset management; IT project management; and data administration and information system management.
- Fieldwork began in February 2016, and ongoing communication and regular updates will be provided to an Executive Steering Committee. The draft report

summarizing the results of the review will be issued in July 2016.

- BCA is a provincial Crown corporation with the legislated mandate to establish and maintain uniform property assessments across B.C., in accordance with the *Assessment Authority Act*.
- BCA was established to provide a fair assessment of property each year based on July 1 market values. BCA classifies and values each property in B.C. as well as recording ownership and any tax exemptions. The organization also provides a range of assessment-related data and services to several costumer groups (e.g., residential property owners, local governments, First Nations and Government) to support activities including assessment comparisons, tax revenue forecasts, valuation inquiries and real estate market analysis.
- BCA is funded largely through a levy on every property in BC that is collected by the taxing authorities and forwarded to the corporation in July of each year.

Contact:

Brian Currie	Manager	Property Assessment Services	250-356-6075

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: BC Assessment (BCA) Mandate Letter and Levy Bylaw

Revised: January 20, 2016

Issue: Overview of BCA's financial position and strategic direction

Response:

- Each year, the Minister responsible issues a Cabinet-approved Mandate Letter to BCA confirming its mandate and outlining Government's annual high level direction and priorities.
- The purpose of the Mandate Letter is to promote consistency and alignment between the Government's priorities, policy objectives and performance expectations and BCA's corporate goals, objectives and strategies.
- BCA's primary source of funding is an independent, province-wide tax levy, representing approximately 94% of the corporation's funding.
- For 2016, BCA's total budget will be approximately $93.6 million and total levy revenue will increase by $1.7 million to $87.2 million. The $1.7 million increase is due to non-market changes (i.e., new construction and development).
- The remaining revenue comes from other sources, including the sale of assessment roll information and contracting of assessment services to self-taxing First Nations.

Background/Status:

- The previous Mandate Letter issued to BCA for 2015/16 directed BCA to focus on emerging assessment policy and methodology issues that could adversely impact the economic viability of existing property types and economic sectors.
- In addition, direction was given to BCA to begin replacing its existing valueBC information system with the NextGen valueBC by 2018; develop and execute a plan to ensure up-to-date inventory across all property types by 2017; maintain the average 2015 tax levy on existing taxpayers at levels equivalent to 2014; and, ensure any increase in operating funds is used to improve customer service.
- The direction contained in the 2016/17 Mandate Letter will continue to focus on ongoing and emerging assessment issues. Specifically, BCA has been directed to:
    - Undertake planning and evaluation to determine options for the replacement of its existing valueBC information system with NextGen valueBC, to improve the collection, maintenance and distribution of assessment information. These options, in the form of a business case, consistent with the Capital Management

Framework requirements, will be brought forward by the Minister to Treasury Board for consideration.

- Continue to execute the multi-year Property Data Accuracy Program to ensure up-to-date inventory across all property types to achieve inventory accuracy by the 2018 assessment roll.
- Develop and execute a strategy to maintain the average 2016 tax levy on existing taxpayers at levels equivalent to 2015 and ensure any increase generated through non-market change (e.g., new construction) is used to improve customer service.
- Identify and assess emerging assessment policy and methodology issues that could impact the current or future economic viability of existing property types or economic sectors; and, work with the Ministry and key partners to provide policy, regulatory and legislative solutions to ensure the assessment system is fair and equitable.

- To comply with the Mandate Letter levy direction, BCA's tax levy rates have been set so that owners of properties on the 2016 assessment roll, in the same state and condition as on the 2015 assessment roll (existing properties), will see no overall increase in the average levy paid. The average 2016 levy paid by an existing residential taxpayer will be $30.10 and $228.94 for existing commercial taxpayers.
- The $1.7 million in increased revenue will be directed to improvements in the Current Inventory Program; further desktop review and street front photo initiatives; and improvements to the online e-ValueBC program, offering easy access to property assessment information.
- The attached Appendix lists the direction contained in the 2015-16 Mandate Letter as well as BCA's progress in complying with that direction.

Technical Note:
s.12,s.13,s.17

Contact:

Rob Fraser	Executive Director	Property Assessment Services	(250) 356-7835

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

APPENDIX

BC Assessment Authority
Status of Corporation-specific Directions

Direction	Current Status
• Replace the existing valueBC information system with NextGen valueBC by 2018 to improve the collection, maintenance and distribution of assessment information.	• BCA is continuing to undertake planning and evaluation to determine options for the replacement of its existing valueBC information system with NextGen valueBC, to improve the collection, maintenance and distribution of assessment information.
• Develop and execute a plan to ensure up-to-date inventory across all property types with the goal of achieving inventory accuracy by 2017.	• BCA is on target to complete and execute the multi-year Property Data Accuracy Program to ensure up-to-date and accurate inventory across all property types/folios by the 2018 assessment roll. o Overall Goal (2013-2017): validate 1,852,000 folios. o By the end of 2015, BCA is on target to achieve 1,360,000 folios. o As of August 26, 2015, BCA has achieved validation of 1,172,000 folios.
• Develop and execute upon a strategy to maintain the average 2015 tax levy on existing taxpayers at levels equivalent to 2014 and ensure any increase on funds generated through non market change (e.g., new construction) is used to improve customer service.	• The 2015 average tax levy was maintained on existing taxpayers at levels equivalent to 2014. • Increased funds generated through non-market change of about $1.7M (e.g., new construction) have been put towards customer service initiatives, such as enhancing e-valueBC, which provides an array of property comparables, and the use of more cost-effective technologies (e.g., street front and aerial imagery).

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

• Identify and assess emerging assessment policy or methodology issues that could impact the current or future economic viability of existing property types or economic sectors and work with the Ministry and key partners to provide policy, regulatory and legislative solutions to ensure fairness.	• s.13

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: 2016 – 2018 BC Assessment (BCA) Service Plan

Revised: February 18, 2016

Issue: Summary of the financial plan

Response:

- BCA's 2016 – 2018 Service Plan anticipates increases in revenue of approximately 2.4 per cent. This increase is solely as a result of non-market changes (i.e., new construction and development).
- BCA's Board approved a Strategic Plan emphasizing the need to evolve as a customer-centric organization, deliver on its assessment mandate to support BC communities and contribute to a growing economy by making the property assessment system more accessible.
- Recognizing that property data accuracy is essential, BCA is developing new processes for efficient data capture and verification, and planning for the replacement of its core assessment valuation system.
- As part of BCA's Mandate Letter direction for 2016, BCA is required to ensure that the 2016 levy on existing taxpayers is at levels equivalent to 2015. The financial plan achieves this objective, and owners of existing properties on the 2016 assessment roll that are in the same state and condition as in 2015 will see no overall increase in the levy paid on their property.

Background/Status:

Revenue Increase

- The overall increase of 2.4 per cent in revenue is primarily due to new construction/non-market changes (i.e. new construction increases the assessment base that the levy is applied to, thus the revenue increase).
- The 2.4 per cent increase will be used for improvements in customer service, which include funding for initiatives, such as the Current Inventory Program, further desktop review and street front photo initiatives (using photo imagery technology for assessments, which reduces staff time to update/review the annual assessment roll) and upgrades to the online e-valueBC program.
- The following table summarizes BCA's financial information as outlined in the 2016 – 2018 Service Plan, including total budget, revenue, expenditures and net income.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

($ millions)	2015 Forecast	2016 Budget	Change from 2015 Forecast
Total Revenue Budget	$91.4	$93.6	$2.2
Levy Revenue	$85.6	$87.3	$1.7
Other Revenue Sources	$5.8	$6.3	$0.5
Total Operating Expenditure	$90.4	$91.6	$1.2
Net Income	$1.0	$2.0	$1.0

Note: Other revenue sources are primarily sales of data and contract service to First Nations. Surplus is due to $2.2M in higher than budgeted revenues (tax levies and other), and $1.2M increase in expenditures (higher training costs, appeal costs, increased need for external professional service and amortization changes).

- The $87.3 million raised through levy revenue represents 93 per cent of BCA's total budget, and reflects an increase of $1.7 million (2.0 percent) from 2015. However, consistent with the Mandate Letter direction, the average 2016 tax levy on existing taxpayers will on average be the same as in 2015.
- The impact of the levy rates for existing properties are:
    - Residential taxpayers for 2016 on average will pay $30.10 per property, no increase from 2015; and,
    - Business taxpayers for 2016 on average will pay $228.94 per property, an increase of $1.71 from 2015.
- The Appendix shows BCA's summary financial outlook as contained in the corporation's 2016 – 2018 Service Plan.

Salaries and Benefits

- The $0.1 million or 0.1 per cent increase from 2015 forecast is related to 2016 wage increases for bargaining unit staff net of savings and accounting adjustment for capitalized staff time.

Other Operating Expenditures

- The $1.1 million or 3.4 per cent increase in the 2016 budget from the 2015 forecast is related mostly to the following:
    - Restoration of employee training and development budgets to support the need to enhance the skills and abilities of leaders and appraisal staff;
    - Increases in the appeal costs to reflect the level of activity in the real estate market and the number and complexity of appeals;

- Increased need for external professional services to support BCA's strategic initiatives and core assessment system replacement project (in particular, resources to assist with project management and change management); and
- Increased amortization.

Capital Expenditures

- The $11.9 million increase in capital investment from the 2015 forecast is related to BCA's core assessment system replacement project. This is a multi-year project scheduled to be implemented in 2019.

Attachment: Financial Plan – Resource Summary Table

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
Minister Responsible: Hon. Peter Fassbender

Financial Plan - Resource Summary Table

($m)	2014 Actual	2015 Forecast	2016 Budget	2017 Budget	2018 Budget
Total Revenue ($000)					
Tax levies	83,777	85,558	87,272	89,072	92,064
Other	5,801	5,889	6,334	6,349	6,058
Total	**89,578**	**91,447**	**93,606**	**95,421**	**98,122**
Total Expenses ($000)					
Salaries and benefits	55,786	58,270	58,337	59,712	61,723
Other operating expenditures	26,994	28,818	29,653	29,968	30,388
Amortization	3,530	3,359	3,621	3,959	4,270
Total Operating Expenditures	**86,310**	**90,447**	**91,611**	**93,639**	**96,381**
Net Income	**3,268**	**1,000**	**1,995**	**1,782**	**1,741**
Total Liabilities	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Accumulated Surplus	**34,111**	**35,112**	**37,106**	**38,889**	**40,630**
Capital Investment ($000)					
Information technology	1,665	1,494	11,338	12,395	11,211
Other (tenant improvements, vehicles, furniture)	1,435	461	2,484	282	3,016
Total Capital Investment	**3,100**	**1,955**	**13,822**	**12,677**	**14,227**

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Key Forecast Assumptions

BC Assessment's financial planning process takes a long-term view of the nature and level of operating and capital expenditures, cash flows, equity balances, and tax levy revenue requirements to ensure finances are managed to meet current and long-term spending commitments, address increasing demands, and execute the highest priority programs. The Board of Directors has approved the transfer of the 2016 to 2018 budgeted surpluses to the Equity Capital Reserve designated specifically to provide funding for mandatory technology replacement projects.

Tax levy revenue, cash flow, and operating and capital requirements are anticipated far enough in advance so planning decisions can be made proactively in an appropriate timeframe to ensure financial long-term sustainability.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: BC Housing Review

Revised: January 20, 2016

Issue: New valuation methodology for non-profit affordable housing/assisted living properties with restricted use

Response:

- BC Assessment (BCA) has completed the review of close to 500 non-profit affordable housing properties as a result of questions raised by BC Housing and assessment appeals.
- BCA will now recognize the restricted use of eligible affordable housing properties in determining assessed values, which will be lower than if assessed at market.
- The decreased assessed values will be implemented for both the 2015 and 2016 assessment years. All changes have been communicated to the property owners and local governments.
- Not all affordable housing properties are considered restricted. To be restricted, the property must either have a restrictive covenant registered on title or be a Crown-owned property occupied by a tenant with restrictions in a lease.
- Approximately 70 per cent of properties reviewed required an adjustment to assessed values.

Background/Status:

- BC Housing, BC Non-Profit Housing Authority (BCNPHA) and BCA have reached a consensus on a revised approach to valuing affordable housing properties.
- There were just under 500 affordable housing properties under review, with about 25 per cent currently under appeal. The scope of the review included all projects with a BC Housing Operating Agreement and a Section 219 Covenant registered on title or properties leased from the Provincial Rental Housing Corporation with restrictive use clauses.
- Approximately 70 per cent of the properties required an adjustment and the assessed value of the total portfolio was reduced by approximately 25 per cent.
- The total change in 2015 by Supplementary Assessment was $365 million, which does not include any changes that may result from 2015 appeals to the Property Assessment Appeal Board (PAAB).

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- Historically, these restrictions have not been factored in a property's assessed value. Most affordable housing properties have been valued using market rates, which has resulted in significant increases in assessed property values in some areas.
- A revised valuation methodology was agreed upon (by BCA, BC Housing and BCNPHA) that recognizes the impact to fair market value resulting from government-imposed restrictions on title:
    - For all qualifying properties (excluding Class 3 – Supportive Housing, which already have an exemption), the building/improvement portion of the property's assessment will be reduced to approximately 20 per cent of its replacement cost (i.e. the improvements will be depreciated by 80 per cent).
    - The land portion of the properties assessment will continue to be valued at market value and in most situations will remain unchanged.
    - Any savings that accrue to BC Housing as a result of this revised valuation will be reinvested in affordable housing initiatives.
- BCA is implementing this approach by issuing Supplementary Assessments to qualifying properties for the 2015 assessment year. If the property has a current active appeal, the change will be recommended to the Property Assessment Appeal Board and the appellant. These changes will also be carried forward to the 2016 assessment roll.
- Affected property owners received their Supplementary Assessments prior to December 31, 2015. The result will be a decrease in assessed value, and a rebate on the 2015 property taxes previously paid.
- October 29, 2015: BCA sent letters to Non-profit organizations with BC Housing Operating Agreements.
- October 29, 2015: BCA sent letters to municipalities to notify them of any changes to their 2015 and 2016 assessments.
- s.13,s.16

Contact:

Brian Currie	Manager	Property Assessment Services	250 356-6075

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Farm Classification Removal

Revised: January 20, 2016

Issue: Provision of authority to assessor to remove farm classification

Response:

- The Ministry is considering a legislative amendment to the *Assessment Act* to provide clear authority to assessors to remove farm class from properties in certain circumstances.
- The legislative amendment and associated regulation amendments would address those properties where farm classification criteria are not being met and should no longer continue to receive the tax benefits of farm class. A recent court decision has ruled that assessors do not have authority to remove farm class when terms of a developing farm agreement are not met.
- If approved, the amendment would be introduced in Fall 2016.

Background/Status:

- In 1997, the Standards for Classification of Land as Farm Regulation (Regulation) was established to identify the circumstances in which the assessor must declassify land as a farm (i.e., remove farm class).
- Section 11 of the Regulation was subsequently added to ensure the assessor had clear authority to remove farm class where particular requirements were not satisfied (e.g., where information or documents were not provided at all or by a particular deadline, or when an owner or lessee did not follow a development plan).
- Section 11 was subsequently amended in 2004 and 2006, and eventually repealed completely in 2007 when Legislative Counsel advised that it was not authorized by the *Assessment Act* and that the Act and/or Regulation already conferred the power on the assessor to remove farm class in at least some of the scenarios identified in section 11. It appears that section 11 was in fact mandatory to confer the assessor's authority, though it may not have been properly supported by the legislation.
- A recent BC Supreme Court decision (Kelt v. British Columbia) highlighted the lack of clarity in the *Assessment Act* and the Regulation (now the Classification of Land as a Farm Regulation), with respect to the assessor's authority to remove property from farm class in certain scenarios.

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
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- In this case, in 1997 the property owners submitted a development plan for their five-acre property that was being developed as a Christmas tree farm. Farm class was granted for the first time on the 1998 assessment roll, with an original projected harvest date of 2003. Over the years, the owners did not meet the projected harvest date and the plan was amended a number of times and accepted by the assessor. Despite reporting only $1,140 in sales in 2007, the property remained in farm class as a developing farm until 2013.
- The assessor removed farm class for the 2014 roll and assessed the property as Class 1 (Residential). The owner appealed the class change, which was confirmed by the Property Assessment Review Panel (PARP) and the Property Assessment Appeal Board (PAAB) upheld the decision. The PAAB decision was appealed to the BC Supreme Court.
- The Court found that with the repeal of Section 11 of the Regulation, the Act and Regulation do not clearly require an owner to follow a development plan or meet a projected harvest date. In addition, the ruling determined that the assessor did not have the authority to remove the land from farm class as other requirements of the Regulation had been met.
- This decision and further analysis suggest that the current legislation regarding farm classification/declassification in general may require amendments to ensure that assessors have authority to remove farm class where the prescribed standards, conditions or requirements for farm class (particularly minimum income thresholds) are not met.

s.14

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

s.14

Contact:

Brian Currie	Manager	Property Assessment Services	250 356-6075

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Farm Market Assessment Review

Revised: February 18, 2016

Issue: New assessed values for 24 farm markets as a result of BCA's province-wide review

Response:

- BC Assessment recently completed a review of 230 farm markets to ensure the farm market building exemption policy was being applied consistently across the province.
- As a result, nine properties have had portions reclassified as Class 9 (Farm) for 2016, and 15 have had portions of properties reclassified to Class 6 (Business), which has a higher tax rate.
- The impact on tax revenues for local governments will be nominal. The largest increase will be approximately $16,000 for Abbotsford and the largest decrease will be around $1,700 for Richmond (using 2015 tax rates).
- Property owners had the option to appeal their assessments to the Property Assessment Review Panel by February 1, 2016.

Background/Status:

- BCA's review identified 24 properties that have been reclassified for 2016. The total net change in assessed property values is an increase of approximately $2.56 million overall for local governments and $1.9 million for the Province.
- Of these 24 properties, nine have had portions of land and improvements reclassified from Class 6 (Business/Other) to Class 9 (Farm) or designated as farm improvements, for a net loss of taxable value of about $1.1 million for local governments and $1.48 million for the Province. s.21

s.21

- Fifteen properties have had portions of land and improvements reclassified to Class 6 for a net increase in taxable value for local governments of about $3.6 million and $3.4 million for the Province.

s.21

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Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

s.21

- Overall gains and losses in estimated tax revenues are nominal for most local governments (and for the Province, which will see an increase in assessed value tax base of approximately $1.9 million, or about $11,000 in revenues).
- Using 2015 tax rates, Abbotsford would see the largest increase in revenue at just over $16,000, followed by Pitt Meadows (+/- $6,000) and Chilliwack (+/- $5,000). The largest loss in tax revenue would be approximately $1,700 for Richmond, followed by less than $200 for Langley.
- All impacted property owners were notified of the changes to their assessments prior to the release of the 2016 assessment roll. Local governments were notified during pre-roll discussions in November, 2015.
- If these markets change their operations to meet the current requirements, they can be eligible for the farm improvement exemption for 2017.
- There have been no inquiries to date about the new assessed values.

Additional background:

- Tax exemptions for farm improvements such as barns, storage facilities, greenhouses, etc. have been in place for many years. In rural areas, farm improvements have generally received a 100 per cent exemption from both property taxes and school taxes with no cap on the value.
- In 2013, exemptions for farm improvements within municipal boundaries were changed from a maximum of $50,000 of assessed value to the greater of either $50,000 or 87.5 per cent of their total assessed value to align more equitably with regional districts.
- Farm market improvements only receive the exemption if more than 50 per cent of the marketed farm products are grown or raised on that farm operation; and if more than 90 per cent of the gross sales value is from B.C. farm products.
- Some local governments s.16 have expressed concerns about large farm markets with a variety of non-farm products being assessed as farm improvements, benefitting unfairly from the increased farm improvement exemption.

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Assessment of Fibreco Port Property

Revised: March 8, 2016

Issue: Municipal concerns regarding assessed value of Fibreco port property

Response:

- In 2010, the upland portion of the Fibreco port property (owned in fee simple) in Burrard Inlet was inadvertently omitted from the list of designated port properties, making it ineligible for the tax rate caps under the Port Property Tax Act.
- For 2015, this error was corrected and the property was also assessed consistent with the Port Land Valuation Regulation methodology, resulting in a substantial value reduction.
- The District of North Vancouver is seeking back taxes for the period that the property was not eligible for the tax rate cap (2010-2013).
- The Ministry of Finance is working with both parties to resolve the issue.

Background/Status:

s.13,s.16

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

s.13,s.16

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: BC Assessment (BCA) Landcor Contract

Revised: March 4, 2016

Issue: Contract renewal between BCA and Landcor for the sale of assessment data

Response:

- When made aware of the contract impasse between BCA and Landcor, the Province tried to facilitate a way forward that did not involve litigation.
- I understand that Landcor and BCA have entered into a short-term contract and negotiations are ongoing for a more long-term contract.
- The BC Assessment Board of Directors will decide on the terms of a new agreement, and any contract renewed must be consistent with the Province's Open Data Policy.
- I have no further comments at this time.

Background/Status:

s.13,s.17,s.21

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

s.13,s.17,s.21

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Marina Property Assessments

Revised: February 18, 2016

Issue: Results of a multi-year review of marina properties throughout B.C.

Response:

- In 2015, BC Assessment completed a multi-year review of approximately 460 commercial marinas in preparation for the 2016 Assessment Roll.
- Although some properties have decreased in value, assessment increases are typically between 10 – 20 per cent range due to increases in the moorage rates that help establish assessed value.
- Any increases in excess of 20 per cent are typically due to physical changes, such as new construction, that have been inventoried for the first time.
- BC Assessment sent pre-roll consultation letters to all marina property owners in late October 2015, notifying them of the increases to their 2016 assessment valuations.
- Marina owners had the option to appeal their new assessments to the Property Assessment Review Panel by February 1, 2016.

Background/Status:

- In 2015, in preparation for the 2016 Assessment Roll, BC Assessment (BCA) conducted a Provincial Marina Reassessment.
- It had been more than 10 years since the marina portfolio was reviewed and reassessed in its entirety.
- The project included the separation and independent assessment of upland parcels from the water lot parcels, inspections of all properties, updating all improvement inventory and analysis of any factors that might impact property values, including moorage rates that help establish assessed value.
- Marinas are located throughout the province, with the majority located on Vancouver Island and in the Vancouver and South Fraser regions, and smaller concentrations in the interior and northern areas.
- Forty-three marinas (of 460) are under appeal to the Property Assessment Review Panel for the 2016 assessment/taxation year.

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Advice to the Minister

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Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Capital Area:

- Increases for most marina properties typically average 20 per cent due to increases in moorage rates.
- Some properties increased more than 20 per cent due to the identification of new construction.

Nanaimo and Courtenay Areas:

- Most marinas in this area were already reassessed for the 2012 and 2013 assessment rolls, so most properties received no increase for the 2016 assessment roll.
- Some property owners will see a reapportioning of total value between land and improvements that will likely be to their benefit as a higher percentage will fall into Class 8 (Recreational/Non-profit), which typically has lower tax rates applied to it.
- Those properties that will have an increase had value added due to the addition of new construction associated with boat houses.
- Many properties on the North Island will see an overall decrease in their assessments due to higher rates of depreciation being applied to their improvements.

Vancouver -Sea to Sky Area:

- On average, assessed values of marinas located in this region are increasing by approximately 10 per cent due to the overall strength of the property market.

Okanagan:

- A large number of new marina properties (34) were identified in this area and added to the assessment roll.
- A wide range of assessment changes occurred due to the identification of new construction, the discovery of taxable occupiers operating on municipal land, and other market influences.
- Overall, values decreased by about three per cent on average.

North Area:

- In general, property assessments increased by about 17 per cent due to the identification of new construction.

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Metro Vancouver Assessment Increases (2016)

Revised: February 18, 2016

Issue: Assessed values for residential properties have increased significantly in Metro Vancouver

Response:

- I am aware of concerns that property assessments have increased significantly in some areas of the province, particularly Metro Vancouver.
- An increase in a property assessment does not necessarily result in an increase in property taxes. Tax rates are set by local taxing jurisdictions according to property class, and this rate is what ultimately determines whether taxes will go up.
- BC Assessment functions independently of local and provincial taxing authorities and does not have a role in setting property tax rates.
- BC Assessment's mandate is to provide all property owners in the province with a fair and accurate assessment.
- Property owners had the option to appeal their assessments to the Property Assessment Review Panel by February 1, 2016.

City of Burnaby roll freeze request:

- The Province is not considering a roll freeze at this time, but will work closely with City of Burnaby staff to help them address any inequities or challenges that may arise as a result of the 2016 assessment roll.
- Local governments have a number of tools available to help mitigate the effects of dramatic increases in market-driven assessed values and keep property taxes at a manageable level. They can adjust tax rates by class, and also have the option to pass a bylaw to average assessed values over three years.

Background/Status:

- Property assessments (2016) in the Metro Vancouver area have increased between 15-25 per cent for a typical single-family home in Vancouver, the North Shore, Burnaby, Tri-Cities, New Westminster, Richmond and Surrey.
- Typical strata residential increases are in the 5-10 per cent range.

- Residential market movement throughout the rest of the province will be less dramatic, with typical increases in the 0-10 per cent range.
- Advance notification letters were sent in the first week of December to property owners with a significant assessment increase of at least 15 per cent (approx. 38,000 vs. 25,000 in 2015).

City of Burnaby roll freeze request:

- On December 14, Burnaby City Council endorsed sending a letter to CSCD requesting that the Province freeze property assessments to last year's levels. Some Burnaby neighbourhoods are pegged for typical increases of 23 per cent and 27 per cent for single family homes. Under the Community Charter, the municipality can set only one tax rate for the residential class, and is concerned that the larger increases in some neighbourhoods over others will result in higher tax increases for some residents.

- Burnaby City Council is also concerned that rising home values could affect residents who count on Home Owner Grants to pay their property taxes. The maximum threshold for the grant is $1.2 million for 2016. For homes above the threshold, the grant is gradually phased out at the rate of $5 per $1,000 of assessed value. In 2016, 91 per cent of homes are below the threshold (in addition to Home Owner Grants, property owners can inquire about the provincial tax deferment program).

- Note: An increase in assessed value does not necessarily translate into an increase in property taxes; taxing jurisdictions typically lower their tax rates when average assessments rise, as they only need to reach their target revenue. For example, average provincial residential school property tax rates will fall and total revenues are forecast to increase only two per cent this year, from inflation and new buildings.

- The Community Charter and the Vancouver Charter also allow for municipal governments to average assessed values over three years. Vancouver has done this to mitigate the impact of significant increases in assessed values. To date, no other municipality has passed a bylaw to implement this tool, but it is available to any local government for use in offsetting dramatic increases in assessed property values.

- Every year councils set a budget with revenue targets for each property class, and as the assessment base for Class 1 (Residential) will be significantly higher for 2016, Burnaby has the discretion to lower tax rates for this class. Local governments can also consider whether to increase tax rates in other classes to reduce the burden on one particular class.

- These tools together can help ease the tax burden on property owners who are facing significant increases in assessed values.

- A Burnaby Now article states that Burnaby will be adjusting the tax rate, but that without the ability to vary rates within a class, properties that have experienced a significant increase above the average will pay higher taxes in comparison to the average property. Applying an assessment averaging policy would address this to some degree.

- There is precedent for the Province to freeze assessments: Premier Gordon Campbell froze them for 2009 to reflect the fact that housing prices had dropped due to the sub-prime mortgage crisis in the U.S.

- However, freezing the 2016 roll would require a legislative amendment that would apply on a provincial basis. To date only Burnaby has raised concerns and Government is not considering a freeze at this time given the options that Burnaby has to mitigate any tax impacts.

Contact:

Brian Currie	Manager	Property Assessment Services	250 356-6075

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Property Assessment Appeal Board (Board) 2015 Annual Report

Revised: March 2, 2016

Issue: Summary of the Board's Report

Response:

- The Board received just over 2,300 new appeals in April 2015, which is a 15-year record number. With a higher population and business distribution, the majority of outstanding appeals (57%) are in Metro Vancouver.
- The Board resolved the vast majority (95%) of appeals without hearing, primarily by reaching mutual agreement through alternative dispute resolution.
- The Board met its three key performance targets for 2015:
  1) Completed or set for hearing 79% of the 2014 commercial appeals by March 31, 2015.
  2) Completed or heard 97% of the 2015 residential appeals by Dec. 31, 2015.
  3) Issued 97% of decisions following a hearing within 90 days.

Background/Status:

- The Property Assessment Appeal Board (Board) is a quasi-judicial body established under the *Assessment Act* and is also subject to certain provisions of the *Administrative Tribunal Act*. It is the second level of appeal following the Property Assessment Review Panels and is independent from BC Assessment (BCA) and government.
- The Board is accountable to the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development. The Board has a full-time Chair, two full-time Vice Chairs and 20 part-time members, a Registrar and five support staff.
- The Chair reports to the Minister on an annual and quarterly basis, or more frequently as needed, to discuss issues relating to the management and performance of the Board. The Chair also advises the Minister in a timely way on issues arising related to government policy or legislation and the Board's mandate.

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Assessment of Restricted-use Properties

Revised: February 18, 2016

Issue: Legislative authority to prescribe assessed values for designated restricted-use properties such as Nav Canada (NavCan) and BC Ferry Services (BCFS) facilities

Response:

- Government is considering a legislative amendment providing authority for the Lieutenant Governor in Council to prescribe assessed values for restricted-use properties by regulation.
- This would address impacts of Property Assessment Appeal Board and Court decisions that resulted in nominal assessed values for some restricted-use properties such as NavCan and BC Ferry Services facilities.
- Prescribing assessed values or a valuation methodology for all designated restricted-use properties would significantly reduce related appeals.

NavCan BC Court of Appeal and Supreme Court decisions:

- The BC Court of Appeal ruling on the BC Supreme Court stated case decision on NavCan properties was released on February 16, 2016.
- The Appeal Court ruled that the NavCan control towers assessed at a nominal $20 by the Property Assessment Appeal Board, a decision subsequently upheld by the BC Supreme Court, have value.
- However, the decision is not yet complete as the Court referred the question of what value to attribute to the properties back to the Property Assessment Appeal Board.
- BC Assessment is currently working with Counsel to determine next steps with the Property Assessment Appeal Board.
- Government will continue to monitor resolution of this appeal. It is not yet clear how the decision might impact values of other restricted-use properties including BC Ferry Services facilities.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Background/Status:

Proposed definition of restricted-use properties:

- Restricted-use (RU) properties would include properties that are subject to a lease, licence or other agreement under which use of the property is restricted to the provision of a service of benefit to the public. The entity providing the service would also have to be not-for-profit or publicly funded.

BC Ferry Services (BCFS):

- In 2013, the Property Assessment Appeal Board (PAAB) ruled that the BCFS Horseshoe Bay terminal (previously assessed at $45 million) should be valued at a nominal $20 for 2010, 2011 and 2012. If applied to all 48 ferry terminals, the aggregate impact on property tax revenues would have been about $6.1 million (including about $2 million in provincial school taxes).

- With urging from Government, BCFS and BCA subsequently negotiated an agreement that:
    - Covers all 48 BCFS properties for five assessment years – 2013-2017;
    - Reduces assessments for most BCFS properties by 20 per cent on average from the 2012 assessments; and
    - Includes a provision to annually adjust the assessed values by the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

- In addition, BCFS, BCA and communities where major terminals are located (West Vancouver, Nanaimo, North Saanich and Delta) agreed not to appeal the assessments during the term of the agreement. However, this does not preclude other local governments with ferry terminals from appealing future assessments.

Nav Canada (NavCan):

- In 2013, the PAAB ruled that the test case control towers in four municipalities (North Saanich, Penticton, Castlegar and Pitt Meadows) should be valued at a nominal $20 for 2011 and 2012.

- This ruling was confirmed by the BC Supreme Court. BCA appealed the case to the BC Court of Appeal and a decision was handed down on February 16, 2016 that reverses the BC Supreme Court decision of nominal values for NavCan properties and affirmed BC Assessment's position that the 19 control towers have value. The decision is not yet complete as the Court referred the question of what value to attribute to the properties back to the Property Assessment Appeal Board.

- It is not clear when the PAAB will rule on the valuation of these properties or whether the decision will impact other restricted-use properties (e.g., BCFS).

- BCA is currently working with Counsel to determine next steps. For 2015 and 2016, the assessed values of Navcan properties remain nominal but are under appeal.

Other restricted-use properties:

- TransLink is not seeking nominal values on its taxable properties and has settled a 2014 appeal by accepting a 14 per cent reduction to the land value. However, TransLink has several other active PAAB appeals.

- Public Works Canada is monitoring the NavCan appeals and has indicated preliminary interest in exploring similar reviews of property taxation on other federal properties (e.g. Esquimalt Graving Dock and Armed Forces properties).

Legislation:

- The proposed legislation would be in place for the 2017 assessment and tax year, including regulated values for NavCan and BCFS properties as required. The legislation would also provide authority to prescribe values for additional RU properties should the need arise (e.g. TransLink and other federal RU properties).

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Southlands Farm Properties

Revised: January 20, 2016

Issue: Concern about properties classed as farm in the Southlands area of Vancouver

Response:

- The majority of the 15 properties classed as farm in the Southlands are used for horse rearing, which requires active breeding and sales of horses to meet farm class requirements.
- To be classed as farm, the land must be used to produce qualifying farm products and the gross sales value of those products must meet minimum income thresholds for the land size. There is no requirement for the property to be in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).
- If the property meets all farm class requirements, including minimum income thresholds, the Province by law must provide farm status.
- BC Assessment has an active review and audit program to ensure that farm properties continue to meet the requirements for farm class. All the farm class properties in the Southlands have been reviewed in the last four years.
- In the past, some properties in the Southlands area have lost their farm classification because they do not meet the income requirements.

Background/Status:

- The City of Vancouver and residents of the prestigious community of Southlands, where the average market value of the land per acre ranges from $1,400,000 to $7,995,000 per acre, have expressed concerns that some property owners are benefitting from farm class status.
- Of the more than 2,100 properties in the Southlands neighbourhood, there are 15 properties classified as farm and 19 in total for the City of Vancouver.
- Farm classification for assessment purposes is a provincial policy that BC Assessment applies consistently and equitably across the province. A property can be classed as farm even if it is not in the ALR, as long as the requirements for farm class are met.
- The property owner must also verify how the criteria are being met – including confirmation of gross sales values every two years. All properties in the Southlands have a minimum income threshold of $2,500.

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Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- Land classed as farm is valued by regulation and generally ranges in rates from $300 to $5,000 per acre. Southlands farm land is valued at about $4,500 per acre using legislated assessed values.
- The majority of the properties referenced above are used for horse rearing. Equestrian facilities providing recreational horse riding are not considered for farm class qualification, but may be part of the horse breeding operation.
- The remaining qualifying farm uses in the Southlands include a nursery, two egg-producing farms and one vegetable farm.
- Some of the 15 properties in Southlands are split-classed with only a portion of the property with farm class, and some of the properties are part of larger farm operations (i.e. there are 7 farms; some include multiple separate folios/properties).
- The City of Vancouver has the authority to set different tax rates for the different classes of property – the 2015 tax rate for farm class was $1.7534 (per $1,000 of assessed value), about the same as for Class 1 (Residential).
- The City also has the option to set higher tax rates for farm properties (as Oak Bay did several years ago for the one farm property in their municipality by setting a farm class tax rate of $2,566.47 per $1,000 of assessed value) and the 15 Southlands farm properties are concentrated in one area of the City of Vancouver.
- Residences on farm properties are classified and taxed as Class 1 (Residential) – the same as other residences in the City of Vancouver.

Contact:

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Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
Estimates Debate 2016/2017

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Aboriginal Artists and Organizations Funding

Revised: January 19, 2016

Issue: Ministry funding for Aboriginal artists and cultural organizations

Response:

- CSCD annually invests in a range of arts and culture funding programs that are available to Aboriginal artists, not-for-profits, profit arts organizations and Friendship Centres.
- Funding is available through the BC Arts Council, the First Peoples' Cultural Council and the arts and culture discretionary funding. Examples include:
    - Approximately $535,000 in annual funding for the Aboriginal Arts Development Awards distributed across the province in partnership with the First Peoples' Cultural Council. (BCAC)
    - $20,739 in funding to the First Nations School Association through the Artists in Education (District Allocations program). (BCAC)
    - Funding for a number of professional and community organizations. For example, BCAC provided $99,500 to the Haida Gwaii Museum for operations, early career development and capacity building.
- In addition to the funding specifically allocated for Aboriginal artists and arts organizations through the Aboriginal Arts Development Awards at First Peoples' Cultural Council, Aboriginal artists and arts organizations may also apply to other BCAC funding programs.
- Funding is still being adjudicated for 2015/16 but the total for 2014/15 was approximately $1.3 million.

Background/Status:

Aboriginal Arts Development Awards

In continued partnership with the First Peoples' Cultural Council, BC Arts Council allocated approximately $535,000 to Aboriginal Arts Development Awards across the province during fiscal 2015/16 though a suite of long-standing programs:

- **Emerging Individual Artists**: for Aboriginal artists who have a demonstrated commitment to their artistic practice in any artistic discipline (e.g., visual, music, dance, theatre, literary or media, and including contemporary practice of traditionally based forms).

- **Sharing Traditional Arts:** for Aboriginal arts organizations, collectives and artists who have a demonstrated commitment to their artistic practice in any traditionally based artistic discipline (e.g., visual, music, dance or story). The program will assist with projects that have the transmission of traditional arts skills and knowledge as their primary focus.
- **Aboriginal Arts Organizations:** for Aboriginal organizations and established unincorporated arts collectives with a demonstrated commitment to Aboriginal arts development and practice.
- **Arts Administrator Internships:** to support internship and training opportunities for individuals who have a demonstrated commitment to arts administration and cultural management.

BC Arts Council 2015/16 Funding

- First Peoples' Culture Council ($200,000) for its Aboriginal Youth Engagement in the Arts (AYEA) project.
- First Nations Schools Association ($20,739) through the BCAC Artists in Education (District Allocations program).
- Additional funding to a number of professional and community Aboriginal organizations and projects including:
    - Full Circle First Nations Performance Society ($139,500) for operations and a number of programs including its festival, early career development programs, training, and new professional and community-based performance projects.
    - U'Mista Cultural Society ($109,500) for operations and capacity building projects.
    - Haida Gwaii Museum ($99,500) for operations, early career development programs and capacity-building.
    - The Mid-Island Métis Nation ($7,088) from Community Arts Development Projects to hire B.C. First Nations authors/illustrators presenting in four Aboriginal schools in Nanaimo area.

Arts and Culture 2015/16 Discretionary Funding

s.13,s.17

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Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Highlights from Previous Fiscal Years

- Dancers of Damelahamid ($22,000) to support their performance at the Pan-Parapan Games in Toronto in July/August 2015.
- Cultural Human Resource Council ($5,000) to develop an Aboriginal version of *The Art of Managing Your Career* and its discipline enhancements in 2014/15.

Contact:

Gillian Wood	Executive Director	Arts and Cultural Development Branch	(250) 356-1725

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Arts and Culture Discretionary Funding

Revised: January 19, 2016

Issue: Members of the Opposition, media and cultural community may request information on arts and culture funding outside the allocation to the BC Arts Council

Response:

- The Arts and Culture unit of the Arts, Culture and BC Arts Council Branch administers discretionary funding and has a 2016/17 grants budget of **$2.334 million**.
- The source of the funding is two-fold:
  - **$1.984** million from voted appropriation; and
  - **$0.350** million from Arts Legacy Fund (ALF).
- The Ministry supports programs such as the very successful After School Sport and Arts Initiative that benefits vulnerable youth across the province, funded to a value of $1 million annually since 2013/14.
- The remainder of the discretionary funding for 16/17 will support the Ministry's Creative Economy Strategy.
- In addition, the Ministry annually allocates:
  - $24 million to the BC Arts Council
  - Approximately $17.5 million in arts and culture gaming grants, and
  - $11.86 million to the Royal BC Museum

Background/Status:

- The annual voted appropriation supports the strategic delivery of goal 3 of the MCSCD service plan: "Communities are culturally rich and foster sustainable jobs, economic growth and a vibrant social fabric".
- The Arts Legacy Fund (ALF) portion of the funding is guided by legislation.
- The ALF annual funds "support the creation, development or presentation of works of art at events or venues the Minister considers will provide significant exposure of those works of art." (*Special Account Appropriation and Control Act*).

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Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- Funding included under the Creative Economy Strategy includes $500,000 annually for supporting creative clusters/collaborations and $250,000 annually for international touring.
- For additional financial figures, refer to the “Arts and Culture Spending” Note.

Contact:

Melanie Stewart	Assistant Deputy Minister	Arts, Culture, Gaming Grants & Sport	(250) 356-7139

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Arts and Culture Spending

Revised: January 19, 2016

Issue: Government funding for Arts and Culture

Response:

- The B.C. government provides a substantial investment in our creative sector.
- Budget 2016 includes no change in arts and culture funding levels compared to 2015/16.
- The B.C. Government will provide more than $60 million in arts and culture funding in 2016/17 – the same amount of funding as last year.
- Despite challenging fiscal times, government continues to demonstrate its commitment to this sector. For example, in 2016/17, government has maintained $24 million for the BCAC, the highest funding level ever for the organization.
- Accurately comparing per-capita arts funding across Canada is difficult because not all provinces support the arts in the same manner.
- For example, these financial figures do not include the investments made by our partners in the Ministry of Jobs, Tourisms and Skills Training (JTST) to support the growth and success of the film and television industry. I encourage you to speak to my counterpart Minister Bond about JTST's efforts in those sectors.
- Since 2001, government has provided arts and cultural organizations with more than half a billion dollars -- more than any other government in B.C. history.
- We are very proud of the achievements of our arts and culture community and plan to work together with artists and cultural organizations to enrich the lives of British Columbians.

Background/Status:

- In 2016/17, government will provide over $60 million in arts funding, including:
    - $24 million for the BC Arts Council (includes $2.15 million from the BC 150 Cultural Fund).
    - $350,000 for the Arts Legacy Fund [portion of the BC Arts and Culture Endowment.
    - $2.2 million for the Arts Branch operations.

  - $2 million for arts and culture programs.
  - $11.87 million for the Royal BC Museum.
  - $2.24 million for Creative BC (via the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training).
  - Approximately $17.5 million in arts and culture community gaming grants.
- Since 2001, the BC Arts Council has distributed about $259 million, provided by the B.C. Government, to artists, arts groups and cultural organizations across B.C.
- Since 2001, the B.C. Government's support for the arts and culture community in B.C. has exceeded $590 million.
- The B.C. Government recognizes the importance of growing the creative economy and the important contribution of the creative industries on our economy. According to the Cultural Satellite Account released by Stats Canada in 2015:
  - Culture GDP in B.C. was $5.7 billion in 2010, representing 3 per cent of the economy. This accounted for 12 per cent of culture GDP in Canada.
  - The number of culture jobs in the province was 87,996, or 3.8 per cent of total jobs in British Columbia.
- B.C. leads Canada with the largest percentage of its labour force in arts occupations (Hills Strategies).
- Despite increased spending on arts and culture, B.C. continues to rank low in per capita investment.
  - Accurately comparing per-capita arts funding across Canada is difficult because not all provinces support the arts in the same manner. The data can also be distorted by large-scale infrastructure investments and/or specific policy priorities that one particular jurisdiction pursues.
  - In addition to this, not all investments in culture are expenditure-based.
  - For example, B.C. makes significant investments in the film, television and interactive digital media sector through tax credits that are not reported as expenditures.

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: BC Archives and Records Management

Revised: January 19, 2016

Issue: Agreement reached to fund transfer of government archival records to the Royal BC Museum

Response:

- In July 2014, the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) released the special report "A Failure to Archive: Recommendations to Modernize Government Records Management".
- In response to report recommendations, on April 15, 2015, the Ministry of Technology, Information and Citizens Services and the Royal BC Museum (RBCM) reached a joint agreement for the funding of government archival records.
- This new agreement is part of our on-going strategy to modernize government information management, including making historical information (both paper and digital) available to current and future citizens.
- This agreement will be used to preserve and catalogue government's physical records that are ready for archiving now and into the future, including the backlog of 33,000 boxes of records.
- It will take time to address the backlog of records. There is a concerted effort taking place to address the backlog.
- Mechanisms are now in place so that each year RBCM can continue to catalogue and preserve government records.
- Questions regarding the funding agreement, the *Government Information Act* and government records should be referred to my colleague, the Honourable Amrik Virk, Minister of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services.

Background/Status:

- The main criticism of the OIPC report "A Failure to Archive: Recommendations to Modernize Government Records Management" was that virtually no government records have been transferred to the BC Archives in the past 10 years. As a result, there is a backlog of about 33,000 boxes of records.
- RBCM has responsibility for the BC Archives. BC Archives has been the custodian of historical government records since 1908 and will continue to play a

vital role in preserving the Province's documentary heritage under the new agreement.

- RBCM is responsible for the BC Archives but did not have the capacity to deal with this backlog without additional funding.
- The Parties will review the *Annual Service Agreement* process every five years to ensure its effectiveness in reaching the Parties' goals and adjust the process as needed.
- The agreement reached on April 15, 2015 addresses the findings of the report in the following ways:
    - Commitment to fund storage of government records being transferred to RBCM now and in the future (up-front payment for first 20 years).
    - Government will provide up to $400,000/year funding to the RBCM for the costs of arranging, cataloguing and preserving newly transferred and future records.
    - RBCM will cover storage, arrangement, cataloguing and preservation costs relating to previously transferred archival records from its existing budget.
    - The parties will collaborate in the creation of a single, integrated archives experience, including a seamless digital archives infrastructure and portal.

- Cost breakdown in agreement:
    - Agreement to fund storage for all new transfers of archival records to the RBCM, including the current backlog of 33,000 boxes (starting with a 20-year prepayment of $140 per box).
    - Non-storage archival services to be negotiated annually in a service agreement, not to exceed $400,000 per year
    - RBCM will continue to allocate resources to store, preserve and provide access to records transferred prior to this agreement.

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: BC Arts Council Relationship with Government

Revised: January 19, 2016

Issue: BC Arts Council Hybrid Structure

Response:

- As the Government of British Columbia's primary funding and development agency for the arts, the work of the BC Arts Council (BCAC) is remarkable.
- Not only does the work of council provide persons and organizations with the opportunity to participate in arts and culture, it also does this through an open, accountable and neutrally administered process that is highly respected by the arts and cultural community.
- BCAC grants are distributed through a process independent from government influence. All applications are peer reviewed, with funding allocations determined by BCAC juries.
- The BCAC maintains its own strategic plan but is engaged in government policy, such as the development and implementation of the Creative Economy Strategy.
- The BCAC's appointed members act as advisors to government on the development of the creative sector.

Background/Status:

- The BC Arts Council supports the arts and culture community in the development of policies, programs and strategic priorities for the sector.
- In 2014/15, the BCAC reviewed a record breaking 2,770 grants using its established peer review process. Engaging 162 artists from across B.C., BCAC's advisory committees and juries selected 1,373 recipients from a wide range of applications, submitted by individual artists, collectives and organizations.
- Currently, CSCD's Arts and Culture Development Branch is transitioning to recognize the expanding work of the staff in both policy development and program delivery, as well as the inherent interdependence of the administrative team.
- The branch is a unified team that supports the continued advancement of the creative sector through sound administration, public policy and program delivery for all British Columbians.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: BC Creative Futures Strategy

Revised: January 19, 2016

Issue: BC Creative Futures Strategy overview and achievements.

Response:

- Announced in January 2013, the BC Creative Futures Strategy was designed to develop and support B.C.'s next leaders in the creative economy by exposing school-aged children to creative activities and works, providing on-the-job skills and training in the creative sector and increasing youth engagement in the arts.
- The strategy provided an increase to the annual funding of the BC Arts Council by $5.25 million.
- It increased the annual funding to the After School Sport and Arts Initiative by $1million.
- In addition, a one-time investment of $113 million was allocated to the new Emily Carr University facility at the Great Northern Way.
- Creative BC was also established through the strategy. Creative BC is responsible for promoting and championing the creative industries. It is financially supported by JTST.
- Since the introduction of the BC Creative Futures Strategy, programs have achieved outcomes such as:
    - The number of students exposed to the arts through the Artists in the Classroom program has increased from 3,000 to over 15,000 in 2014/15.
    - The number of scholarship recipients since 2013/14 is over 400.
    - The number of professional development opportunities through the Early Career Development program since 2013/14 is 206.
- The new Creative Economy Strategy builds on the success of the BC Creative Futures Strategy.
- The Creative Economy Strategy continues many of the initiatives within Creative Futures as well as uses the existing budget to pursue new initiatives that support the continued growth of our creative industries.
- For matters related to Creative BC, I encourage you to speak with my colleague Minister Bond.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Background/Status:

- BC Creative Futures provided a $6.25-million annual package to create new programs and expand existing programs, including:
    - Creative Youth Initiatives – $2 million (BCAC)
    - After School Sport and Arts Initiative – $1 million (MCSCD)
    - Artists in Education Program – $1 million (BCAC)
    - Co-op Placement Program – $1 million (BCAC)
    - Scholarship Program – $750,000 (BCAC)
    - Artists in the Classroom Program – $500,000 (BCAC)

Appendix: Goals and Outcomes of the BC Creative Futures Strategy (MCSCD only)

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

APPENDIX:
Goals and Outcomes of the BC Creative Futures Strategy (MCSCD only)

GOAL ONE: increase skills training and participation in the creation, exhibition and performance of various art forms.

- Artists in the Classroom Program
    - BC Arts Council program for artist residencies that is managed by Artstarts.
    - Provides funding to support short-term, hands-on projects for students.
    - Since the introduction of the Creative Futures, the number of students exposed to the arts through this program has increase from 3,000 to over 15,000. (This figure is from adding student participation numbers in the Artstarts 2014/15 annual report.)
- After School Sport and Arts Initiative
    - A partnership with DASH BC (Directorate of Agencies for School Health) that builds on the success of the after-school sport program.
    - Helps build confidence and creativity for vulnerable youth.
    - According to DASH's 2015 annual report, this program has expanded to 181 schools with 6,715 unique participants, well surpassing the original goal of expanding to 65 schools and 1,300 students.

GOAL TWO: Increase opportunities for engagement with art

- Artists in Education Program
    - Also administered by ArtStarts, this is a BC Arts Council program that supports school districts in presenting professional touring artists and groups in B.C. schools.
    - BC Creative Futures invested in this program to increase the number of performances in schools.

GOAL THREE: Increase opportunities to train and work alongside creative professionals.

- Scholarship
    - Supports post-secondary school students studying dance, theatre, music, visual, literary and media arts.

- With the increase in funding, the BC Arts Council has approximately tripled the annual number of recipients.
- The total scholarships in 2012/13 was 53. Since then, the annual totals have been 144 (2013/14), 128 (2014/15) and 152 (2015/16). The 2015/16 figure is still subject to fluctuate as final confirmations from students are submitted.

- Early Career Development (ECD)
  - Includes co-ops, internships, apprenticeships and residencies.
  - Co-ops assist arts and cultural organizations in hiring students in the creative sector for work terms.
  - Internships, apprenticeships and residencies provide professional development opportunities for emerging arts practitioners.
  - Provides students and emerging arts practitioners critical opportunities to gain hands-on experience in their chosen field.
  - Since 2013/14, a total of 206 ECD awards have been made in three years.
- Creative Youth Initiatives
  - The BCAC has supported a series of youth engagement projects through unique relationships with arts and cultural organizations.
  - For example:
    - Art Farm Society on the Sunshine Coast's Woodlands Project, a youth-led community arts project exploring the evolving and complex relationship between the urban and natural world. The project involved youth working with professional artists as part of the creative process.
    - Open Space Society's support for the Indigenous Youth Arts Program, which involved hosting youth, mentors and community members in a series of discussions as well as interdisciplinary art productions and presentations. The project's aim was to engage youth with professional artists and arts/cultural practitioners.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Canada 150

Revised: March 16, 2016

Issue: Provincial approach to the Canada 150 celebrations in 2017

Response:

- We are thrilled by the Government of Canada's announcement on March 14th to provide $10 million dollars to support Canada 150 celebrations. This funding will benefit the communities of BC and communities across Canada as they prepare to celebrate Canada 150th anniversary.
- Preliminary discussions are underway regarding the provincial approach to the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation.
- s.13,s.17
- The Province will collaborate with the Federal government in relation to Canada 150 celebrations where possible.
- Any related programming or activities will be focussed on the unique contributions of British Columbia and British Columbians to Canadian life, society, heritage and history.

Background/Status:

- s.13,s.16
- s.13,s.17
- The recently announced $10 million dollar fund to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation provides micro grants (up to $15,000) through various community foundations across the country to charitable organizations, amateur athletic associations, housing corporations and municipalities.
- The micro-grants must be matched and eligible projects must be based in Canada and work towards the objective to::
    - Encourage participation in community activities and events to mark Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation;

  - Inspire a deeper understanding about the people, places and events that shape our country and communities;
  - Build vibrant and healthy communities.
- Projects that are already funded in whole or in part by the Government of Canada are ineligible.
- The distribution of funds to BC community foundations is still not confirmed.

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Creative Economy Strategy

Revised: January 19, 2016

Issue: **The 2015 mandate commitment to "work with the Ministry of JTST to report out and implement the ministry's plan to grow B.C.'s creative economy and workforce."**

Response:

- Our province's Creative Economy Strategy is all about encouraging professional artists and others working in the sector to find both creative and financial success, to reinforce their vital role in the cultural fabric of British Columbia – and in our economy.
- This strategy focuses on the arts and culture field, which is at the core of the creative economy.
- We will implement the strategy within our current budget. Investments will be targeted towards four key areas:
    - Talent: building and developing talent.
    - Markets: strengthening international presence and promoting B.C.'s cultural assets.
    - Investment: maximizing public and private investment in the creative sector.
    - Communities: supporting the creation unique and attractive communities that attract skilled workers and visitors.
- We have made a careful effort to ensure that the strategy complements the BC Arts Council strategic plan. This strategy will provide additional opportunities to grow and strengthen the sector and creative industries.
- As we implement the strategy, we will work closely with our partners inside and outside of the provincial government, including the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, Creative BC, Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, and Canadian Heritage.
- We are committed to working with the sector to promote the value of creativity, encourage cooperation and drive innovation, productivity and entrepreneurship.
- This strategy builds on the successes of the BC Creative Futures Strategy.
- We are excited about the potential for growth within the sector and for the B.C. economy as a whole with the introduction of this strategy.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Background/Status:

- B.C.'s culture GDP was $5.7 billion in 2010 – making up 3 per cent of B.C.'s economy. The potential for further growth is tremendous.
- Focusing our efforts over the next three years in four key areas:
  1. **Talent**: we want to build on the talent that's already here, raise awareness of the value of creative workers, foster partnerships and nurture creative clusters across B.C.
  2. **Markets**: B.C.'s creative sector already has a strong international reputation. We will work to strengthen this reputation, promoting B.C.'s many cultural assets and enhancing trade and cultural tourism.
  3. **Investment**: we want to maximize public and private investment in B.C.'s creative sector, target our funding to where it can have the greatest impact and encourage the private sector to invest in order to take advantage of the economic returns available.
  4. **Communities**: art, in any of its forms, helps to create unique and attractive communities. Artists bring interest, beauty and a vibrant identity to every part of the province. We will build B.C.'s reputation as a world-class hub of creative activity that attracts skilled workers and visitors from around the world.
- Details of a provincial strategy to grow the creative economy were announced on February 4, 2016. Specific actions under the plan include:
  - Promote increased collaboration among people working in the sector.
  - Target training to make sure it creates the greatest possible benefit.
  - Invest in Aboriginal artists, building on one of our province's unique and valuable identities.
  - Work with an eye to the future, to build the skilled creative workforce.
  - Increase the sector's international presence.
  - Expand access to new markets.
  - Highlight our cultural assets in tourism.
  - Demonstrate the value of investing in the arts.
  - Promote public and private partnerships and philanthropy.
  - Target investments to drive economic growth.
  - Support and promote community-led cultural activity across B.C.
  - Invest in hosting major festivals and events.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- Specific initiatives will be funded from existing arts and culture discretionary budgets.
- This includes $1.5 million over three years to support creative clusters and collaborations, and $250,000 annually for international showcasing opportunities.
- The provincial strategy reflects considerable input from various ministries including Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, Advanced Education, Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, and Technology, Innovation and Citizen Services.

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Family Day Programming

Revised: March 7, 2016

Issue: The Province of B.C.'s celebration of Family Day

Response:

- British Columbia held its fourth annual B.C. Family Day on Monday, February 8, 2016.
- As in previous years, the B.C. government partnered with the BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) and the Royal BC Museum (RBCM) to support local B.C. Family Day events.
- $250,000 was provided to the BCRPA. This funding is distributed as grants and provides families across B.C. access to community activities and events such as ice skating, face painting and scavenger hunts.
- BCRPA approved 152 BC Family Day grants in 2015, up from 120 in 2014. We look forward to receiving the final report regarding the 2016 events.
- $40,000 was provided to the Royal BC Museum to allow for free admission to the museum. A number of unique activities occurred throughout the museum in partnership with the Pacific Opera Society.
- In 2015, The Royal BC Museum welcomed over 8,500 visitors on B.C. Family Day. In 2015, museum officials noted that the public showed obvious appreciation of the ability to attend free-of-charge B.C. Family Day activities. Museum staff also received comments that the free admission encouraged low-income families to participate.
- In previous years, the Vancouver Art Gallery received $10,000 but the organization was not able to provide programming this year.
- B.C. Family Day offers great opportunities to celebrate the importance of families and family life with fun activities in local communities throughout the province.

Background/Status:

- The BCRPA is a non-profit organization dedicated to healthy lifestyles and communities in B.C. By working with its membership, including local recreation centres, community centres, sportsplexes, arenas and aquatic centres, the BCRPA provides grants to its members to host a variety of B.C. Family Day events.

- Opportunities include ice skating, face painting, photo booths, scavenger hunts, Aboriginal engagement and crafts, a pancake breakfast and more.
- In Victoria, the Royal BC Museum offered free admission and activities in partnership with the Pacific Opera Society. The museum showcased a performance piece in the Natural History Gallery, presented “Bunny of Seville” in Majestic Theatre with an interactive audience element and installed a Story Booth where visitors were asked to express and record what “family” means to them.
- In 2015, over 8,500 visitors visited Royal BC Museum free-of-charge on B.C. Family Day.
- Funds for the B.C. Family Day events came from Government Communications and Public Education in the Ministry of Advanced Education to the Ministry of CSCD for distribution.
- In 2012, British Columbians were asked to provide input on their preference for the second or third Monday in February for observation of the new Family Day statutory holiday. The result was the largest public consultation process of its kind undertaken by government at the time, with more than 31,000 votes cast, showing a clear majority in favour of the second Monday in February.
- In May, 2012 Premier Christy Clark announced that BC Family Day would take place on this day in February each year, beginning in 2013.
- On Monday, February 8, 2016, British Columbians will celebrate the fourth annual BC Family Day holiday. Over the past three years BC Family Day holidays have proved popular, as British Columbians enjoyed well-attended local events and participated in recreational activities that helped generate revenues in local and regional economies across the province.

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Federal Funding

Revised: January 19, 2016

Issue: The platform of the new Federal government includes funding increases to the Canada Council for the Arts and for cultural infrastructure

Response:

- We are supportive of the new investments outlined in the platform of the new Federal government and believe they will provide excellent opportunities for B.C. artists and arts organizations.
- We look forward to working with the new Federal government in co-hosting the 2016 Federal/Provincial/Territorial Culture and Heritage Ministers meeting in Victoria in July.
- It will be a wonderful opportunity to exchange information and new ideas regarding plans for the Canada 150 celebrations and other potential joint initiatives related to arts, culture and heritage.
- The Federal government's platform commitment to double the Canada Council for the Art's budget to $360 million provides significant opportunities for B.C., especially given the high proportion of artists based in the province.
- We look forward to partnering with our provincial counterparts and the Canada Council as they develop programs to administer the new funding.
- CSCD will collaborate with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to ensure provincial priorities are included in discussions about future infrastructure funding programs with the Federal government.

Background/Status:

- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's mandate letter to federal Canadian Heritage Minister Melanie Joly provided direction to:
    - Double investment in the Canada Council for the Arts.
    - Increase funding for Telefilm Canada and the National Film Board.
    - Restore the Promart and Trade Routes International cultural promotion programs, update their design and increase related funding.
    - Increase funding for the Young Canada Works program to help prepare the next generation of Canadians working in the heritage sector.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

    - Work with the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities to make significant new investments in cultural infrastructure as part of our investment in social infrastructure.

- There is no dedicated Provincial funding program for cultural infrastructure. Cultural infrastructure projects are eligible under the Gas Tax Fund administered in BC by UBCM.

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Maritime Museum of British Columbia

Revised: January 18, 2016

Issue: Future plans for the Museum following exit from Bastion Square location.

Response:

- Due to health and safety concerns, the Maritime Museum of BC (the Museum) closed its 28 Bastion Square location in October 2014.
- s.13,s.17
- The Museum fully vacated the Bastion Square location on October 31, 2015.
- The Museum may continue to apply for funding through the existing programs within CSCD – Community Gaming Grants and BC Arts Council Programs.
- The Province is willing to continue discussions with the Board of the Museum regarding future operations in a manner that recognizes the historical importance of the collection to British Columbians and respects our government's commitment to prudent, responsible management of taxpayer dollars.

Background/Status:

- The building at 28 Bastion Square is owned by the Government of British Columbia and managed by Shared Services BC (SSBC) in the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services.
- Up to October 2014, the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services supported the Museum through subsidized rent, deferral of building operating costs, grants-in-lieu and maintenance costs. The cost to the Province of this subsidy was approximately $770,000.
- s.13
- Subsequently, Community Gaming Grants has provided annual support of $95,000 for the Museum's programming, although this amount was reduced to $45,000 in 2015 reflecting the lack of functional exhibition space.

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Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- During the autumn of 2014, CSCD provided the Museum with $25,000 to develop a business plan for the transition to a new location and for future operations following a public re-launch. SSBC and CSCD ministry staff s.13 s.13
- In October 2014, the Museum was the tenant at Bastion Square and closed its doors to the public.
- Between October 2014 and October 31, 2015 the Museum moved the majority of its collection of 40,000 photos, 30,000 artifacts, 30,000 ship plans and more than 1,000 pieces of art to climate-controlled storage provided by SSBC.
- During the course of 2015, the Ministry, in collaboration with SSBC, met a number of times with the Society's Board members regarding business planning and requests for interim financial support. SSBC provided $10,000/month between January and October 2015 to assist with collections management and the move.
- In addition, SSBC covered all of the moving costs for the Society's exit of Bastion Square.
- SSBC also supported the Museum by leading negotiations with GVHA over a move to the Steamship Terminal in the Inner Harbour. Negotiations were unsuccessful.
- The Museum subsequently reopened a storefront operation for research and small displays at Nootka Court in August 2015.
- During the course of the negotiations regarding the Steamship Terminal, elected officials from the City of Victoria, MLA Carol James and some local media in Victoria demonstrated interest in the file. However, since the Museum fully vacated Bastion Square, this has diminished.
- In December 2015, the Museum refreshed its board and elected eight new trustees (out of 11) as well as a new chair. It is anticipated that the new board will review the Museum's position and may approach the Province in the future to discuss its plans.

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Royal BC Museum

Revised: January 19, 2016

Issue: Funding and priorities of the RBCM

Response:

- This year, the Province will continue to invest $11.87 million in support of the RBCM's annual operations. This funding remains stable from fiscal 2015/16.
- This year the government has directed the museum to:
  - Promote special exhibits and maximize the existing collection.
  - Support the implementation of the Province's plan to grow the creative economy.
  - Increase digital engagement.
  - Address relevant recommendations within the Truth and Reconciliation commission.
  - Plan for Canada's 150th anniversary in 2017.
- We are happy to report that the Gold Rush Exhibit in 2015 was extremely successful.
- In addition, the RBCM received two awards this past year:
  - For the second year in a row, reviewers on TripAdvisor.ca picked the Royal BC Museum **as the best museum in Canada.**
  - RBCM was the winner of the 27th Annual American Alliance of Museums Excellence in Exhibition Competition for the feature exhibition *Our Living Languages: First People's Voices in British Columbia*.
- Current forecasting estimates that 800,000 visitors passed through the museum in 2015/16.
- The museum anticipates that the 2016 Mammoths exhibit will draw exceptional crowds to the museum. We are looking forward to that success.
- In regards to the RBCM's ongoing plans for redevelopment, it continues to be a challenging fiscal time. We continue to encourage the museum to seek alternate sources of funding such as federal funding, redirecting internal resources or fundraising.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Background/Status:

- The RBCM was established as a Crown corporation in 2003 under the *Museum Act*.
- Under the Act, the RBCM is mandated to:
    - Communicate knowledge of the human and natural history of B.C. through research, exhibitions, publications and web-based media and learning programs; and
    - Hold and make accessible these collections for current and future generations of British Columbians.
- The RBCM is our "keeper" of the provincial archives and through its exhibitions, tells engaging stories about our province's history.
- The Board of Directors consists of 11 members, all of which are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.
- In 2014/15, nearly 790,000 people visited the museum, archives, and on-site partners including the IMAX Victoria Theatre, the Royal Museum Shop and onsite food service providers.
- Annually, 1.2 million more people visit the museum and archives through its interactive website, viewing pages more than 5 million times and 5000 more people use the resource of the provincial archives in-person.
- Over 600 volunteers contribute more than 46,000 hours annually to support the activities of the RBCM and BC Archives.
- In 2013, the RBCM released its multi-phased master plan for redevelopment of its facilities and site.
- The scale of the redevelopment is contingent on the RBCM's capacity to fund the changes internally or through public support.

2016/17 Mandate Letter Priorities

1. In collaboration with stakeholders, provide world-class visitor experiences by promoting special exhibits to support the BC Jobs Plan and the Gaining the Edge tourism strategy, and maximizing utilization of the existing collection by refreshing the permanent galleries.
2. Support the implementation of the Province's plan to grow the creative economy by further developing the RBCM's China strategy to increase research, collections, exhibition touring, cultural relationships and tourism by building partnerships with cultural organizations in key international markets.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

3. Continue implementation of the new learning strategy by developing, delivering and promoting at least one new digital engagement program.
4. With guidance from the RBCM's First Nations Advisory Council, address the relevant Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations related to museums and archives in future programming and planning.
5. RBCM will take a leadership role in pursuing opportunities to ensure British Columbia's unique history is represented throughout the province in the lead up to Canada's 150th anniversary in 2017.

Contact:

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Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
Estimates Debate 2016/2017

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Community Gaming Grants

Revised: January 18, 2016

Issue: Funding level for the Community Gaming Grants program

Response:

- Government is committed to providing $135 million in Community Gaming Grant funding to non-profit organizations delivering programs to benefit their communities.
- This is the same annual funding level for Community Gaming Grants since 2011/12.
- We are still in difficult economic times, so a return to pre-economic downturn levels of funding ($160 million) is not currently possible.

Background/Status:

- Estimated allocation by sector may have minor fluctuations depending on requests/demand:

Sector	Notional Allocation (Fiscal 2016/17)	Intake Period
Arts & Culture	$17.5m	Feb 1 – May 31
Sport	$28.5m	
Parent Advisory Councils	$12m	Apr 1 – Jun 30
Environment	$3m	Jul 1 – Aug 31
Public Safety	$7.5m	
Human & Social Services	$66.5m	Aug 1 – Nov 30
Total	**$135m**	

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- CGG funding history:
  - 2008/pre-economic recession funding was $160 million.
  - 2009/10, CGG funding was reduced by 25 per cent to $120 million.
  - Many groups that had been funded were no longer eligible, including adult arts and culture organizations, sport organizations and the environment sector.
  - In January 2012, Premier Christy Clark announced a 12.5 per cent increase to CGG funding to $135 million.
  - 2011/2012 to 2016/17 – CGG program funding remains at $135 million, including Special One Time Grants.
- Former grant programs – Direct Access Program Grants and Bingo Affiliation Grants were combined into the Community Gaming Grant program. Both previous programs had multi-year grants, which are still highly desired by community groups but not currently an option due to ongoing fiscal pressure.
- The Short Form Application was implemented in November 2012, to assist returning applicants through a streamlined process for unchanged applications as requested by participants in the Community Gaming Grant Review.
- Paperless electronic applications were introduced in February 2015, and paper forms are no longer accepted. Instructions regarding submitting applications and eligibility guidelines are all available online at: www.gaming.gov.bc.ca

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Community Gaming Grants – OAG Review

Revised: March 15, 2016

Issue: **Audit of Community Gaming Grants program by the Office of the Auditor General**

Response:

- The Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia (OAG) is conducting an audit of the Community Gaming Grants (CGG) program, Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch (GPEB).
- This audit is part of the regular rotation of annual OAG reviews and the Ministry is always open to recommendations about how to improve service delivery to British Columbians.

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Background/Status:

- The OAG is undertaking an audit of the CGG program to determine whether the CSCD and Ministry of Finance have a suitable framework in place to manage the CGG program and ensure that program objectives are being achieved.
- OAG audit primary lines of enquiry will include:
  - CGG program goals and objectives
  - CGG policies and procedures for awarding grants
  - CGG procedures regarding use of grants
  - Evaluation of program effectiveness, timing and reporting
- Findings are expected to include:
  - Clarity and resource allocation between ministries
  - CGG program objectives
  - Administration of Special One Time Grants
  - Reconsiderations process for grant applications
  - Grant recipient compliance reporting
  - Allocation of funding by sector
  - Volume of requests

- Decision making process
- Staff training

- In 2011, a public review (known as the Skip Triplett report) of the grants program was conducted. Options were provided for purpose of grants, eligibility, funding, and governance options. GPEB Management and CSCD have been taking pro-active steps to improve the CGG program.
- From spring 2014, GPEB had already gone through a re-organization and restructuring process which has resulted in a change of leadership and with new personnel in senior leadership positions. The CGG program has been combined with the Responsible and Problem Gambling program under GPEB's new Community Supports Division.

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Community Gaming Grants – Service Delivery

Revised: March 15, 2016

Issue: Service delivery standards for the Community Gaming Grants Program

Response:

- Along with colleagues at the Ministry of Finance, CSCD is committed to supporting non-profit organizations in their applications for Community Gaming Grants (CGG), recognizing the valuable services and community benefit these organizations provide throughout B.C.
- A 2016 customer service survey has already been initiated by the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch so that we can understand client concerns.
- Any additional resources and training , including the new annual survey, used to enhance user-experience and clarity related to the application process will be managed within the existing branch budget.

Background/Status:

- In 2016/17 a new goal relating explicitly to Community Gaming Grants has been added to the CSCD Service Plan.
- The new service standards have been added in response to public concerns regarding the support available to non-profits in navigating the CGG application process.
- A customer survey of the CGG program was conducted in 2007/08 and identified an 85 per cent satisfaction rating.
- The Skip Triplett Report October 2011 found that overall the CGG program was generally viewed positively.
- Recent improvements to the CGG program have included:
    - Introduction of Short Form Applications for returning applicants.
    - Paperless applications process.
    - Refresh of the website including more help tools and FAQs.
    - Phone helpline (4,800 calls for assistance in managed in 2015).
    - Email support for applications (data will be gathered started 2016).
    - Presentations in communities to assist applicants with the applications process.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- The Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch has been through a re-organization and restructuring process in the last 18 months which has resulted in the CGG program moving under the responsibility of the Executive Director, Community Supports Division.
- Given the change in leadership and shifts in personnel over the last 18 months, staff within the gaming grants team have been learning the program and identifying opportunities for process improvements.
- The Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia (OAG) is conducting an audit of the CGG program, Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch. The final OAG report is expected in July 2016.
- In 2015/16 98% of all applications received within the intake periods for the 6 sectors were processed prior to the published deadlines for application processing.
- On average, applications took 84 days to be processed which is within the 12 week window indicated within the guidelines.
- The implementation of the new standards will have no impact on the budget for grants, which will remain at $135 million.

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Community Gaming Grants to First Nations

Revised: January 18, 2016

Issue: First Nations access to Community Gaming Grants

Response:

- First Nations communities receive Community Gaming Grants (CGG) via grants to non-profit organizations through the regular application process.
- The BC Association of Friendship Centres (BCAFC) is specifically funded by CGG to assist First Nations organizations to apply to and access the CGG program.
- Both the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch and the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development are aware of cultural barriers to the CGG program, and are currently working with the BCAFC to find ways to meet specific cultural needs within First Nations organizations.

Background/Status:

- The CGG program has provided funding to the BCAFC for many years, including approximately $2.6 million over the past 10 years from fiscal year 2005/06 to mid-January 2016.
- All CGGs are awarded to non-profit organizations as opposed to local governments or First Nation councils. First Nations communities are represented in all CGG sectors, including Parent Advisory Committees:
    - Over the past 14 years (April 2002 to mid-January 2016), $29 million provided, representing approximately 90+ First Nation organizations.
    - Note: The Human and Social Services sector for 2016/17 is not yet completed.
    - Note: As grants are paid to non-profits, not all First Nation organizations self-identify as being from the First Nations community and, as such, the data may not fully capture all funding to First Nation-focused organizations.

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Special One Time Grants

Revised: January 18, 2016

Issue: Special One Time Grants are occasionally provided to fund new programs or projects which are of community benefit, but which don't meet all of criteria of the Community Gaming Grants program

Response:

- There is a set of criteria for Community Gaming Grants (CGG), to which all applicants must adhere.
- Occasionally, there is a demonstrated community need for a new program or project of significance which doesn't meet the criteria for a CGG.
- The *Gaming Control Act* includes a provision for the Minister to provide Special One Time Grants to assist in these instances. This authority is delegated to the Community Gaming Grant Manager, who is a public servant.
- The aggregate amount of Special One Time Grants varies from year to year, as the needs of the Communities change. There is no set amount for these grants and they have varied in past years from a low of less than $1 million to about $2.5 million.

Background/Status:

- There is no formal application process for these grants. s.13 s.13 The ADM of Arts, Culture, Gaming Grants and Sport is appointed by the Minister as the Community Gaming Grants Manager under the *Gaming Control Act*. As Gaming Manager, the ADM is the delegated decision maker for Special One Time Grants.
- Typically, these grants are for one-time events or for the first grant to an organization that requires funding.s.13,s.17 s.13,s.17
- The purpose of the Special One Time Grant is under review.

Contact:

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Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
Estimates Debate 2016/2017

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: 2015 Canada Winter Games Return on Investment

Revised: January 14, 2016

Issue: Economic impact and benefits from the Provincial government's investment in the 2015 Canada Winter Games

Response:

- The Games realized a local economic impact of $83 million and, combined with the rest of the province, had a total economic impact of $123 million. This spending supported 693 jobs and $43.1 million in wages and salaries throughout the province.
- The Games left lasting legacies in the North, including: improved local facility infrastructure, increased tourism and hospitality opportunities, sport development programs and services, trained volunteers and local and regional pride.
- The Games achieved positive economic and social outcomes in the north (*see attached table in appendix*).

Background/Status:

- The 2015 Canada Winter Games were held from February 12 to March 1, 2015 in Prince George.
- The Province invested $11.12 million in the Games ($3 million capital and $8.12 million operating) with matching federal government funding. Total provincial government investment from all sources was more than $12.8 million.
- The Ministry created a Games Secretariat to coordinate Government support, resources (including value in kind requests) and partnerships aimed at contributing to the success of the Games.
- The Ministry hosted the Northern BC Career Zone at the Games – contributing to direction provided in the 2014/15 Mandate Letter to: "Work with the organizers of the Canada Winter Games to ensure the Prince George games 2015 showcase provincial northern job opportunities." The interactive exhibit attracted 10,436 visitors during the Games, surpassing the projected target of 6,500.

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Appendix: Economic and social outcomes in the north

Investment Area	Outcome/Benefit
Economic Impact	$123 million ($83 million locally), 693 jobs and $43.1 million in wages and salaries.
Profiling Northern opportunities	Showcased provincial northern job opportunities ensuring that visitors received information about living and working in northern BC. The Career Zone saw 10,436 visitors, surpassing the projected target of 6,500. 97 Games athletes and officials signed up for the University of Northern BC tuition credit program.
Infrastructure	Leveraged $ from the Federal Government and City of Prince George for capital improvements to Games venues ($19M).
Tourism	Destination BC partnered with regional tourism agencies to showcase northern business, arts and sports. 18 northern BC communities and regional district activations at the Northern Tourism exhibit attracted over 20,000 visitors. The Games were broadcast on TSN (557,000 viewers) and streamed on Canada Games TV (356,633).
First Nations	Lheidli T'enneh were designated the Official Host First Nation, a first for Canada Games. The Province funded $220k to support the Lheidli T'enneh Pavilion project, job training, business and sport and cultural activities. The Pavilion showcased First Nation's culture and hospitality to over 3,000 attendees.
Accessibility	Undertook permanent upgrades to Games venues and the downtown core to ensure they were fully accessible. A dedicated Sport Accessibility Coordinator was hired to increase opportunities for peoples with disabilities in the north.
Education	Collaborated with School District 57 to develop a "Catch the Spirit" online K-8 teaching resource for educators across the country.
Sustainability	Climate Action Secretariat worked with the Society to establish initiatives related to food waste diversion, non-bottled water supply, measurement and reporting, resulting in a first-ever recycling program for Prince George.
Hosting	Aligned with the Government's commitment to develop sport hosting to draw major sport events to the province and generate economic, tourism, sport and community development benefits, the region saw an increase in future hosting opportunities. Prince George City Council and Tourism Prince George partnered to fund for a new Community Celebrations Program to support existing and new events.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Volunteers	The Games left a legacy of 4,800 trained volunteers (3,700 received World Host training) ready to host future events.
Health	A Northern Roundtable (formed prior to the Games and made up of public servants, community agencies and academic institutions) explored options for making sport and other preventative health programs more responsive to the unique needs of the north, resulting in better health and quality of living opportunities for northern B.C. families.
Physical Activity	Developed and funded a Northern Sport Strategy which focused on coach education, participation programs, athlete development and equipment program. 2 new clubs were started (including Synchronized Swimming for girls); this resulted in increased sport club registrations in the region.
Sport	Team BC had a top 3 finish at the Games (21 gold, 34 silver, and 33 bronze medals). 11 athletes from the north contributed 14 medals to the overall count.
Arts and Culture	The Games Festival Site attracted a total audience of over 50,000. 72% of the performing artists were from BC and 44% were from northern B.C. Following the Games, Prince George City Council approved the hiring of a “Civic Events Coordinator” to proactively pursue opportunities to maximize public events.
Regional Engagement	Ambassador Program launched with Mayors from all northern communities. Torch Relay visited 33 communities.
Legacies	New and improved infrastructure, trained volunteers, sport and community development programs, increased tourism opportunities, hosting experience and community pride.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Aboriginal Youth Excellence Awards – Parliamentary Secretary Mandate

Revised: January 14, 2016

Issue: A new awards program celebrating the athletic achievements of Aboriginal youth

Response:

- The awards have been developed by the Aboriginal Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity Partners Council (Partners Council).
- Award nominees will be scored on sport achievements, leadership qualities, education, cultural awareness and future goals.
- Nominations are open to youth athletes (25 years of age or under) who train and compete in performance sport.
- Twelve athletes (six male/six female) will be honoured at the 2016 Gathering Our Voices conference in Victoria, March 21-24.

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Background/Status:

- The awards build on Premier Christy Clark's 2015 announcement of a commitment to establish a program to honour and celebrate the achievements of Aboriginal youth in sport.
- In 2015, Premier Christy Clark announced the appointment of Gordon Hogg, MLA for Surrey-White Rock, as Parliamentary Secretary for Youth Sport to the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development.
- Parliamentary Secretary Hogg will focus on promoting and advancing youth participation in sport as an important element in building strong and healthy communities, with an initial focus on First Nations and Aboriginal youth.
- The Partners Council is made up of BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, the First Nations Health Authority and Métis Nation BC.

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: BC Games Society Retained Earnings

Revised: January 14, 2016

Issue: The BC Games Society has retained earnings of $965,000

Response:

- BC Games Society's (BCGS) retained earnings have accumulated over 20 years, a result of savings on the part of the BCGS, in addition to community Host Societies recruiting cash and value-in-kind support of their budgets. Host Society budget savings are shared 50/50 with the BCGS.
- In order to ensure sound fiscal management of the BCGS, the retained earnings will not be spent at this time. It is important for organizations to have funds available as a contingency in the case of unexpected costs in future games due to travel to remote communities, or other unexpected increase in costs.
- This policy is consistent with direction being provided to all Crown agencies.

Background/Status:

- BC Games Society's 2016/17 service plan identifies $965,000 in retained earnings (amounting to about one- third of its operating budget). Any planned deficit spending or use of the retained earnings must be approved in advance by Treasury Board.
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- Retained earnings were accessed in 2010 when there were exceptional external transportation costs associated with the 2010 BC Winter Games in Terrace.

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: FIFA and Marquee Events

Revised: March 16, 2016

Issue: FIFA Economic Impact and 2015/16 Mandate Letter Commitment

Response:

- A Canadian Soccer Association-commissioned economic impact study indicated that the FIFA Women's World Cup yielded $59 million in net economic activity (GDP) in B.C. with $9.7 million in tax revenues supported throughout the province.
- CSCD has partnered with Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services (BC Stats) to develop an economic indicator that will be used to inform recommendations on other similar events in the future.

Background/Status:

- The 2015/16 Mandate Letter provided direction to "*Assess and report to Cabinet on the economic impact resulting from the FIFA 2015 Women's World Cup in Vancouver and make recommendations on whether to financially support and pursue other similar events.*"
- The Province invested $2 million in the World Cup, with the Federal Government providing $15 million and City of Vancouver providing $1.5 million in cash, services and legacy projects. The total operating budget of the Organizing Committee was $90 million (operating and capital).
- The Canadian Soccer Association-commissioned economic impact study concluded that the World Cup resulted in 850 full-year jobs and contributed $39 million worth of wages and salaries in B.C.
- The economic impact indicator development with BC Stats will assess estimated net provincial revenue, GDP and job creation of potential future marquee events with a significant economic impact (e.g. North American Indigenous Games, World Junior Hockey Championships, Juno Awards, etc.).
- Marquee events are aligned with Destination BC's tourism strategy and government policy priorities focus on economic impact and return on investment.

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Sport Funding Allocations

Revised: January 11, 2016

Issue: Program funding allocations in 2016/17

Response:

Budget 2016 includes funding in these key priority areas:

Priority area	$Ms	Program examples
Participation Programs – helping more British Columbians become physically active through sport	11	KidSport, After-School Sport and Arts Initiative, Provincial Sport Organization funding for participation initiatives, Aboriginal Sport Strategy, Sport Participation Program
Youth Development – helping young athletes develop skills for competition	3.5	Team BC Support for Canada Games and Western Canada Summer Games, Provincial Sport Organization funding for youth performance initiatives, Sport on the Move Grants for high school and other competitions
High Performance – **Own the Podium Level Support**	3.5	Canadian Sport Institute Pacific (for sport science and other support to high performance athletes) , Targeted Sport Program which helps provincial sport organizations hire top level coaches. BC's $3.5 million contribution leverages close to $6 million from federal OTP funding and national organizations.
Event Hosting	3.2	BC Games: BC Winter and Summer Games ($2.013 million) and 55+ BC Games ($175,000). Hosting BC and mid-sized events: e.g., 2014 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games ($1 million)
Total Transfers	**21.2**	

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Background/Status:

- The Ministry remains committed to strengthening support to the sport community while recognizing that the Province remains in a very difficult financial position.
- In addition to funding critical programs, the Ministry continues to work with the sport sector to strengthen programming support through LEAN and streamlining initiatives which continue to yield administrative savings that can be redirected into new programming.

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Sport Hosting Programs

Revised: January 11, 2016

Issue: **Sport hosting programs and status of 2014/15 Mandate Letter Direction (*five-year hosting strategy*)**

Response:

- The Province supports smaller international, national and provincial events through the Hosting BC program, administered by viaSport.
- The Province also supports larger international and national events through the Major Events program, administered directly by the Ministry.
- $1 million was invested in sport event hosting in 2015/16 and we anticipate Budget 2016 will sustain this level of funding.
- CSCD has recently launched a Sport, Arts and Culture Hosting website – a key component direction in the 2014 mandate letter to develop a hosting strategy with JTST. The website provides communities with toolkit resources and other information that will help B.C. secure sport, arts and culture events.

Background/Status:

2014/15 Mandate Letter Commitment

- In 2014, the Premier directed the Minister of CSCD "to work in partnership with the Minister of JTST to develop options for a five-year provincial hosting strategy."
- This program was approved by Cabinet and renamed the Sport, Arts and Culture Hosting Program. Hosting program components and their status are outlined below:

Hosting Program Components	Status
1. Creation of an event hosting toolkit to support communities to develop bids and host events	Worked with partners and existing resources to develop online materials for the Government website. Toolkit and website to be launched end of February.
2. Funding criteria for major events that align the Province's tourism and economic priorities	Criteria developed to assess funding applications for major events. These criteria include: economic impact/job creation, sport development, target populations, regional engagement and community

Hosting Program Components	Status
	development.
3. Development of a rolling five-year calendar of events	Complete and updated quarterly.
4. Establishment of a cross-sector advisory committee	A Hosting Advisory Committee comprised of ministries and stakeholders advised on program development and established key relationships to provide a strategic approach to event funding.

Hosting BC

- A $500,000 application-based program that provides grants for international, national, regional, and provincial level sport events that promote sport, economic, social and community development. Grants typically range from around $2,500 to $10,000.
- Since the inception of the program in 2004, over $5 million has been awarded to more than 750 events in 83 communities throughout the province.
- In 2014/15, the program supported 114 events in more than 25 communities, including the Panorama Audi Coupe North American Cup in Invermere and the Vancouver International Wheelchair Tennis Tournament in Vancouver (2015/16 data will be available in March/April 2016).

Major Events

- The Major Events allocation of $500,000 is for larger events or national or international significance. Applications are made directly to the Sport Branch and evaluated in partnership with JTST. Criteria include: economic impact, sport development, impact on target populations such as women, First Nations and those with accessibility issues. Recommendations are then forwarded to the Minister for decision.
- Recently funded events include:
    - 2015 World Hockey Challenge – Dawson Creek/Ft. St. John ($60,000)
    - 2015 Canadian Pacific Women's Open Golf – Coquitlam ($25,000)
    - 2016 World Rugby Men's Sevens Series – Vancouver ($75,000)
    - 2016 World Rugby Women's Sevens Series – Langford ($35,000)
    - 2016 Women's World Hockey Championship – Kamloops ($150,000)

Marquee Events

- Large or marquee sport events such as the 2015 Canada Winter Games ($11.12 million plus associated investments in other facility upgrades, sport and arts programs to a total of more than $12.8 million) and the 2015 FIFA

Women's World Cup (soccer - $2 million) are considered on an individual basis.

- To protect Government's investment, there is clear language in negotiated contribution agreements that stipulate the Province is not responsible for cost overruns. Budgets and business plans are reviewed extensively before budget commitments are made.
- Branch staff also provide oversight, advice and direction to organizers to ensure that events are managed appropriately and, if necessary, contingency plans are developed.
- An economic impact assessment tool is under development with BC Stats to assess future marquee events with a significant economic impact. Events are aligned with JTST's tourism strategy and government policy priorities with a focus on economic impact and return on investment.

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Sport Infrastructure Federal Funding

Revised: January 13, 2016

Issue: Federal mandate letter regarding sport infrastructure may raise expectation for Provincial funding

Response:

- The Ministry will collaborate with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to ensure provincial priorities are included in discussions about future infrastructure funding programs with the Federal government.
- Since 2005, the Province has invested more than $719 million in sport and recreation facilities through programs such as: the Canada-BC Infrastructure Program, Major Sport Facility Infrastructure Program, Towns for Tomorrow, Bike BC, Olympic-Paralympic Live Sites, Community Recreation Program ($30 million), 2015 Canada Winter Games venues ($3 million) and others.
- Currently, there is no dedicated Provincial funding program for sport facilities. Sport and recreation projects are eligible under the Gas Tax Fund administered in BC by UBCM.

Background/Status:

- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's 2015 mandate letter to federal Sport Minister Carla Qualtrough provided direction to: *"Work with the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities to deliver on our commitment to support the construction of recreational infrastructure that allows more children access to sport and recreation."*
- The 2004 BC Recreation and Parks Association report, "A Time for Renewal," estimated $4 billion would be needed to replace B.C.'s aging recreation infrastructure.
- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities "2016 Canadian Infrastructure Report Card" (released Jan. 18, 2016) reported that almost one in two sport and recreation facilities are in "very poor, poor or fair condition" and in need of repair (community level data was not provided).

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Sport Safety – Injury/Concussion Prevention

Revised: March 23, 2016

Issue: **There is increased public attention on contact sports (particularly football and hockey) and youth safety issues associated with concussions. This has also led to calls for legislation.**

Response:

- Government wants all British Columbians to be physically active and healthy. Participating in sport is a great way to be physically active.
- Recent research is raising awareness of safety concerns associated with certain activities.
- Government wants parents and families to have access to the best available information concerning safety issues – such as concussions.
- Education, proper enforcement of rules and regulations and protective equipment are the keys to preventing injuries.
- CSCD works closely with the Ministry of Health and a number of injury prevention organizations across the province to educate and train parents, coaches, and health care professionals on the most current concussion management and return-to-play and return-to-learn protocols.
- Examples include the government-funded Concussion Awareness Training Tool (Cattonline.com), an online program that provides free resources for parents, coaches, players and educators.
- We also continue to work with viaSport and the sport sector to educate and raise awareness at the local level and will continue to work with the Ministry of Health, the Public Health Agency of Canada and other provinces and territories to further our awareness efforts on return to play protocols.

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Background/Status:

Safety issues in general

- The Ministry of Health (MOH) is government's lead agency on injury prevention from a public health perspective. However, the Sport Branch contributes by:
    - Requires each funded provincial sport organization to have up-to-date codes of conduct for athletes and coaches, as well as other safety initiatives, as a condition of funding.

- Works with viaSport, its partners and the Ministry of Health to educate the sport sector and raise awareness of concussion management best practices through webinars, workshops and website resources.
- Funds SportMed BC, an organization which provides health care professionals and the public with injury prevention information, and ensures the most recent concussion standards are being promoted in B.C.
- Co-chairs (with the BC Injury Research and Prevention Unit) the B.C. Sport and Recreation Injury Prevention Advisory Committee and is a member of the BC Concussion Advisory Network**.**
- Participates on two federal-provincial/territorial government committees (FPT Ethics in Sport and FPT Safety in Combative Sport) and a sport concussion work group (represented by a BC Ministry of Health staff member) that reports up to the FPT Sport Committee.

Calls for legislation / other jurisdictional policies

- The 2016 federal budget proposes $1.4 million over two years to the Public Health Agency of Canada to work with provinces and territories on return-to-play and return-to-learn protocols. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has also directed (through federal mandate letters) to Minister of Sport, Minister of Health and the Public Health Agency of Canada to work together “to support a national strategy to raise awareness for parents, coaches, and athletes on concussion treatment.”
- In 2015, Ontario introduced and passed second reading of Bill 149, Rowan's Law Advisory Committee Act, 2015 (to establish an advisory committee to make recommendations re: death of Rowan Stringer, a female rugby player). The bill received significant media attention and calls on other jurisdictions to follow suit.
- B.C. Health Minister Terry Lake has publicly stated that B.C. won’t follow Ontario’s lead on legislation, but will focus on education and awareness initiatives first. CSCD GCPE and MOH GCPE continue to work together to communicate government’s approach to concussion education and support.
- Quebec has just released an Action Plan for the Prevention and Management of Concussions in Sports and Recreational Activities.
- Activities in Ontario and Quebec propose cross-government plans of action that would ensure a standardized educational approach is developed and evidence-based protocol for preventing and managing concussions are implemented. Elements of a standardized educational approach are already underway in B.C. through the Concussion Awareness Training Tool’s return-to-learn resources.
- 50 U.S. states have “return to play protocol” legislation where concussed athletes must be medically cleared before returning.

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Revenue Pressure – Physical Fitness and Amateur Sport Fund (the Fund)

Revised: January 12, 2016

Issue: Low investment returns to the fund.

Response:

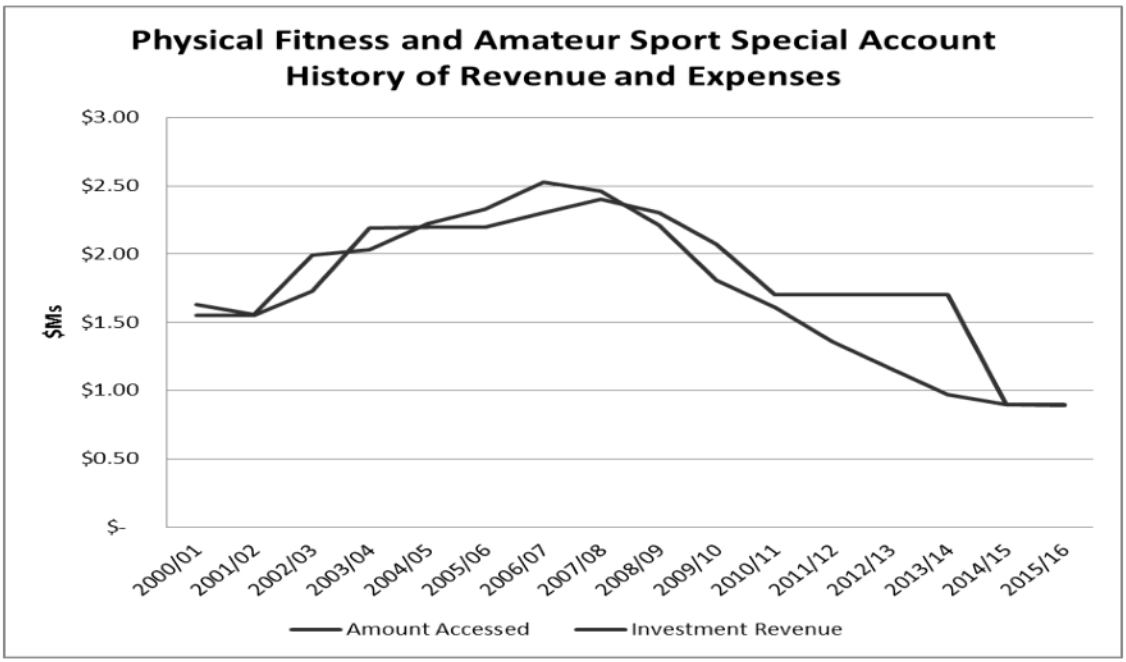
- We remain in challenging fiscal times and balancing the budget is government's top priority.
- While annual investment earnings from the fund have been reduced, I am pleased that community-based programming has been protected through careful fiscal management and reductions to administrative costs.
- In addition, the Ministry had a number of one-time expenses related to the 2015 Canada Winter Games (e.g., test events and equipment) and to start-up costs for viaSport that are no longer required.
- Ongoing, community-based programming like KidSport, the After-School Sport and Arts Initiative, and the Sport Participation Program will receive the same amount of funding as in prior years.

Background/Status:

- The Physical Fitness and Amateur Sport Fund is a perpetual fund created in 1969. The fund is governed by the *Special Accounts Appropriation and Control Act* (the Act). Under the terms of the Act, investment earnings on the balance of the account can be used for the purpose of "furthering and encouraging the physical fitness of residents of British Columbia and their participation in amaterur sports." The BC Investment Management Corporation (bcIMC) is responsible for managing all special account investments for government.
- Funding from the fund augments the Ministry's base budget allocation for sport programming across the province.
- During strong economic times, the fund earned significant investment returns. However, since the global economic crisis, investment returns have dropped substantially. Investment earnings continue to drop due to bond rates. Transfers from the fund have dropped significantly from a high of $2.4 million in 2007/08 to its current level of $0.8 million (see graph on next page).
- The Estimates (blue book) was adjusted in 2007/08 to $1.7 million (forecast revenue). Up until 2014/15, the Ministry was able to draw down surplus

investment earnings within the account to maintain spending at $1.7 million. However, in 2014/15, the Fund's legislated capital level was close to being reached and annual transfers had to be reduced. In 2014/15 only $0.9 million of revenue was transferred and the Ministry is forecasting revenue of $0.8 million in 2015/16. The revenue forecast for 2016/17 is also $0.8 million.

- To date, the revenue shortfall has been managed through prior year savings held by viaSport, and by optimizing administrative expenditures. No community-based programming has been impacted.



Contact:

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Integrated Policy, Legislation & Operations		
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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Auditor General for Local Government – General Background

Revised: March 30, 2016

Issue: Background regarding the Office of the Auditor General for Local Government (AGLG)

Response:

- Legislation creating the Office of the AGLG was passed in February 2012 to meet the Premier's Families First Agenda for Change commitment to enhance local government accountability.
- As of the end of 2015/16 the office of the AGLG released 20 reports in total: 16 performance audit reports and 4 perspective series booklets. The audit reports contained 77 recommendations in total, of which 75 were accepted by local governments.
- These audits highlight the valuable role that the AGLG plays in providing advice to local governments on the efficiency and effectiveness of their operations.
- I am confident that the Office of the AGLG is functioning efficiently and is effectively serving the interests of British Columbia taxpayers. Overall feedback from local government on the audit work and other reports has been positive.
- Regardless of results, performance audits are valuable because they assure taxpayers that their local governments are striving to manage public resources efficiently – and that they are willing to be held to public account for the quality of their stewardship.
- Audits showcase the strengths of specific local governments and serve as best practice models that can help others improve their results.
- The October 2015 amendments to the *Auditor General for Local Government Act* align with the recommendations from the 2015 independent review and strengthen the relationship between the AGLG, the Audit Council, the Minister, and the Provincial government by more clearly defining roles and responsibilities and enhancing the accountability framework.
- Like all auditors general, the AGLG makes recommendations for improvements, and does not impose solutions.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Background/Status:

- The *Auditor General for Local Government Act* (the Act) was passed in February 2012. The Act provides for the appointment, structure and operation of an Auditor General for Local Government (AGLG) and sets out the AGLG's powers and responsibilities for conducting local government performance audits.
- The AGLG is accountable through the Audit Council, a provincially-appointed body of governance and finance professionals, appointed in April 2012.
- s.22

- In April 2015, an independent review of the Office of the AGLG provided recommendations to enhance the functioning and operations of the office.
- The Act was amended in October 2015 to strengthen the roles of the Minister and the Audit Council, and to clarify AGLG terms and conditions of employment.
- The purpose of the Office of the AGLG is to conduct independent performance audits of the operations of local governments.
- The AGLG provides non-binding, objective recommendations to assist local governments in achieving effectiveness, economy, and efficiency in their operations and stewardship of public funds. Performance audits do not call into question the merits of policy decisions or objectives of a local government.
- The AGLG is required to prepare an Annual Service Plan regarding its planned activities. The AGLG released its Service Plan for 2016/17 – 2018/19 in March 2016. The AGLG released its 2014/15 Annual Report in July 2015.
- On May 29, 2013, the AGLG announced performance audits of 18 local governments on three different audit topics related to the theme of cost-containment. The AGLG later announced the performance audits of 6 local governments on two more audit topics that are related to key risks to local governments. There are a further two additional audit topics for which the communities to be audited have not yet been identified. Over 2015/16 the AGLG has made substantial progress on delivering on its planned audits (see Appendix).
- The Audit Council has an oversight and advisory role in relation to the AGLG. It provides comments on draft AGLG reports (e.g., performance audit reports, annual report, service plan) and may provide a statement for inclusion in the annual report.

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- The Audit Council also recommends to the Minister the appointment, suspension, or removal of the AGLG.
- Secretariat support to the Audit Council is transitioning from a Ministry staff member to an independent contractor.

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Appendix: Recent Progress from the Office of the AGLG

Since appointment of the Acting Auditor General for Local Government, Arn van Iersel,on April 13, 2015, followed by the appointment of Gordon Ruth as AGLG in October, the office of the AGLG has demonstrated growing confidence and productivity with the release of a series of reports and actions, including:

- Release of the AGLG Annual Service Plan 2016/17 – 2018/19 – released March 30, 2016.
- Release of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George performance audit report on operational procurement – released March 16, 2016.
- Release of the City of Campbell River performance audit report on capital procurement and asset management – released March 16, 2016.
- Release of the City of Williams Lake performance audit report on police services – released February 10, 2016.
- Release of AGLG Perspectives Series booklet on Improving Local Government Procurement – published January 2016.
- Release of the City of New Westminster performance audit report on police services – released January 12, 2016.
- Release of the City of Port Alberni performance audit report on police services – released December 8, 2015.
- Release of the City of Merritt performance audit report on police services – released November 17, 2015.
- Release of the District of West Vancouver performance audit report on operational procurement and the City of Surrey audit report on police services – released September 29, 2015.
- Release of the Comox Valley Regional District performance audit report on operational procurement – released September 23, 2015.
- Release of City of Vernon's performance audit report on operational procurement – released August 31, 2015.
- Release of District of North Vancouver's performance audit report on capital procurement and asset management activities – released August 19, 2015.
- Release of Dawson Creek performance audit report on capital procurement and asset management – released July 15, 2015.

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Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- Release of the District Sechelt performance audit report on capital procurement and asset management – released April 29, 2015.
- Release of AGLG Annual Report- released July 17, 2015.
- Second AGLG Perspective Series booklet on Asset Management for Local Governments - released July 23, 2015.
- New expanded reporting to Audit Council – July 9, 2015.
- Completion of a Performance Audit Guide to help elected representatives and staff understand the process the AGLG follows in undertaking performance audits – published early September.
- Audited Financial Statements with unmodified (clean) audit opinion – June 22, 2015.
- Acquisition of new audit software (TeamMate) to improve AGLG audit operations – June 30, 2015.

Feedback on the audit reports and perspective series booklets overall has been favourable. In addition, of the 77 recommendations made in the performance audit reports, 75 were accepted by the local governments.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Core Review

Revised: January 26, 2016

Issue: Outcomes of government's core review process

Response:

- The purpose of government's core review has been to ensure the best possible use of government resources and respect for the interests of taxpayers, and to ensure that government continues to be structured for success on our objectives.
- Over the course of Fall 2013 through to December 2014, the Cabinet Working Group on Core Review (CWGCR), led by Minister Bennett, undertook core review as part of an ongoing process to continually make sure programs and services focussed on government priorities are effective and efficient.
- Ministries were asked to work smarter by looking for duplication and overlap between ministries, and by identifying programs that could be restructured to reduce costs and improve outcomes for the public, such as the dissolution of the Provincial Capital Commission (resulting in ongoing operational savings of approximately $1.5 million/year).
- The Ministry continues to explore and implement some direction arising out of the core review process; this includes the review of compensation in the local government sector.
- Although government's core review has formally concluded, the ministry, as it always has, continues to strive for ongoing improvement in all its programs and services to provide the best possible value to the taxpayer.

Background/Status:

- The Cabinet Working Group for Core Review, led by Minister Bill Bennett, asked ministries to be smarter with less money by looking for duplication and overlap between ministries, and by identifying programs that could be restructured to reduce costs and improve outcomes for the public.
- The core review process has been about reviewing and confirming government's core responsibilities and ensuring the best possible use of government resources.
- Core review resulted in significant changes for CSCD including:
    - *Dissolution of the Provincial Capital Commission*: the core review process determined that the commission was not a core function of government. As

a result, legislation was passed to dissolve the commission (resulting in approximately $1.5 million savings annually to government).

- Although the Cabinet Working Group for Core Review itself has wound down, the ministry continues to explore and implement some of the direction received from the working group, s.12
  s.12

- While government's core review has formally concluded, the ministry continues to strive for ongoing improvement in all its programs and services through a philosophy of continuous improvement to better meet our mandate.

Contact:

Tara Faganello	Assistant Deputy Minister	Local Government Division	250 356-6575

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Dangerous Dogs

Revised: January 26, 2016

Issue: Background on legislation regarding dangerous dogs

Response:

- Local government have specific legislative authority to address issues associated with dangerous dogs in their communities.
- If an animal control officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a dog is to be considered a "dangerous dog," the officer may apply to the Provincial Court for an order that the dog be destroyed in the manner specified in the order.
- The decision to destroy the dog is made by the Provincial Court and not by the local government.
- In order for a dog to be designated as a "dangerous dog" a high threshold must be met. For example, "dangerous dog" is defined as a dog that has killed or seriously injured a person or is likely to kill or seriously injure a person. There are a small number of dogs that would meet this test and be subject to a court order for destruction.

Background/Status:

- In 2000, legislation came into force that gave both regional districts and municipalities additional authorities in relation to dangerous dogs.
- The *Community Charter* and *Local Government Act* provide that, if an animal control officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a dog is a "dangerous dog," the officer may apply to the Provincial Court for an order that the dog be destroyed in the manner specified in the order.
- This only applies to dogs determined to be dangerous. A "dangerous dog" is defined as a dog that:
    - Has killed or seriously injured a person.
    - Has killed or seriously injured a domestic animal, while in a public place or while on private property, other than property owned or occupied by the person responsible for the dog, or
    - An animal control officer has reasonable grounds to believe is likely to kill or seriously injure a person.

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Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- The issue of dangerous dogs has been subject to recent media interest due to high profile incidents involving potentially “dangerous dogs.”

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Distressed Animals in Hot Vehicles

Revised: January 26, 2016

Issue: Background regarding distressed animals in hot vehicles

Response:

- The BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA) has reported an increase in incidents of animal owners leaving their animals unattended in overheated vehicles. They have launched public education campaigns to help address the issue.
- Government recognizes the importance of this issue and has been consulting with the BC SPCA, the B.C. College of Veterinarians, UBCM, local governments and police services to increase the options to rescue animals that have been left in cars and are suffering heat-related distress.

If asked about current regulatory powers:

- BC SPCA agents and police officers have the authority to enter into property without a warrant and remove distressed animals. This includes entering into overheated vehicles to seize distressed animals. The BC SPCA has 30 agents for the province who may exercise this authority. However, they do not have the capacity to respond to every report of distressed animals in overheated vehicles.
- Pet owners that cause their pets to be in such distress may be charged under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*. BC has the heaviest penalties in Canada for convictions under this Act.

Background/Status:

- The BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA) has reported an increase in calls reporting distressed animals in overheated vehicles. Currently, only BC SPCA agents and police have authority to seize animals in critical distress from vehicles. There are not enough BCSPCA agents to respond to calls across the province. Police officers may be available, but are often occupied with more serious crimes.
- The BC SPCA has requested that the Province provide local government bylaw enforcement officers with authority to enter a vehicle and remove an animal in distress due to overheating.
- A resolution from the City of Kamloops was passed at the 2014 UBCM Convention requesting government action. There were no resolutions on this issue for the 2015 UBCM Convention.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- During the spring 2015 legislative session, Opposition MLA Robinson introduced the Private Member Bill M214, the Distressed Animal Act which proposed granting bylaw-making authority for the seizure of animals left in overheated vehicles.
- The Province recognizes the importance of this issue and has been consulting with key stakeholders, including the BC SPCA, the BC College of Veterinarians, UBCM, local governments and police services to increase the options to rescue animals that have been left in cars and are suffering heat-related distress.
- Any provincial response would need to consider a variety of factors, including how to determine if an animal is in critical distress and the role of local governments in addressing this concern.
- Pet owners that cause their pets to be in such distress may be charged under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*. BC has the heaviest penalties in Canada for convictions under this Act – a fine of up to $75,000, imprisonment for up to two years, or both. However, to date, no prosecutions have been initiated or penalties issued under the act for distressed animals in hot vehicles.
- Questions regarding penalties under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* should be referred to the Minister responsible, the Honourable Norm Letnick, Minister of Agriculture.

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Elections BC Report on 2014 Local Elections

Revised: January 26, 2016

Issue: Following the 2014 general local elections, Elections BC published a report outlining recommendations for improving compliance and enforcement

Response:

- On September 17, 2015, Elections BC published a report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the 2014 general local elections.
- The report provides an overview of every candidate, electoral organization and third party sponsor who participated in the 2014 general local election, an outline of Elections BC's new role and responsibilities, as well as an introduction to local elections in B.C.
- The report also provides recommendations for improving compliance and enforcement for local elections.
- Government appreciates the recommendations put forward by Elections BC and is committed to continuous improvement for local elections.
- Government's goal is to ensure that campaign finance rules support transparency, accountability and accessibility.

Background/Status:

- Local elections campaign finance reform is being accomplished in two phases.
    - Phase one: focussed on accountability, transparency, compliance and enforcement. In spring 2014, the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* (LECFA) was passed. The LECFA implemented the majority of the 2010 Local Government Elections Task Force recommendations on campaign finance reform and applied to the November 2014 local elections.
    - Phase two: focusses on expense limits to enhance accessibility and fairness in local elections.
- The 2014 general local election also marked a significant change in the mandate of Elections BC, which became responsible for administering the campaign financing and election advertising requirements of the new LECFA.
- In accordance with section 87(2)(b) of LECFA, Elections BC published a report on the 2014 general local elections. The report summarized Elections BC's role in administering compliance with the LECFA and provided 13 recommendations

for improving compliance and enforcement for local elections. The recommendations were on issues ranging from attribution of election spending to exceptions to late filing.

- Elections BC is a key stakeholder and Government values its input on various legislative proposals, especially with respect to the LECFA.

Contact:

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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Appendix: Elections BC – Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the 2014 General Local Elections (September 17, 2015)

Note: Highlighted recommendations are addressed in the revised bill, which will be introduced in the Spring 2016 legislative session.

Recommendation #1 - Attribution of election spending to candidates
Consider amendments that would require election expenses incurred by an elector organization with the primary purpose of promoting a specific candidate to be attributed to that candidate and reported as an election expense of the candidate similar to the requirements in the *Election Act*.

Recommendation #2 – Registration and financial disclosure of elector organizations
Require elector organizations to register with Elections BC and file annual disclosure statements similar to provincial political parties, including the reporting of all contributions received. Such registration and disclosure would improve transparency and accountability. It would also enhance understanding of campaign financing provisions in LECFA by allowing Elections BC to better establish ongoing relationships with elector organizations and improve our service offerings to these groups.

Recommendation #3 – Contributions and expenditures after the close of voting
Amend the definition of campaign contribution in section 13. For candidates, replace "for campaign use" with "in relation to the individual's candidacy." For elector organizations the definition could read, "…the amount of any money, or the value of any non-monetary property or services, provided without compensation to an elector organization."

Recommendation #4 – Threshold for disclosure contributor
Consider amending one or the other of these thresholds to make them consistent with each other (refer to the Report).

Recommendation #5 – Exceptions to late filing deadlines
Amend section 90(1) and (2) to authorize the Chief Electoral Officer to make Orders extending the time period for filing beyond the 120 day late filing deadline. Such authority would be appropriate for an independent Officer of the Legislature and be consistent with section 280 of the *Election Act*.

Recommendation #6 – Penalties for non-compliance
The ability for the Chief Electoral Officer to impose administrative penalties such as fines would allow for more effective enforcement. Contraventions such as sponsoring election advertising without being registered, failing to include the required sponsorship information on election advertising and accepting a prohibited anonymous contribution are examples where an administrative fine imposed by the Chief Electoral Officer may be appropriate. Consider establishing administrative penalties as fines, for some contraventions of the campaign financing and third party advertising provisions in LECFA.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Recommendation #7 – Use of social media on General Voting Day

Amend section 45(3) of LECFA to permit the posting of messages on General Voting Day on the internet for the sole purpose of encouraging voters to vote in the election. Such a change would be consistent with an amendment to section 233 of the *Election Act* which received Royal Assent in May 2015.

Recommendation #8 – Loans received by candidates and elector organizations

Require details of loans received by candidates and elector organizations to be disclosed. Such details should include:

- The amount of the loan
- The date the loan was made
- The date the loan was due
- The rate of interest charged for the loan
- The full name and other details of the lender

Recommendation #9 – Campaign Accounts

To avoid discouraging participation in local elections and impairing accessibility, consider allowing candidates with small campaigns, perhaps those below a certain threshold in contributions or expenses, to use their personal bank accounts in place of a campaign bank account. As long as the account is not shared with any other candidate or an elector organization, there should be an adequate paper trail to permit effective review and auditing. An alternative could be to allow candidates to pay election expenses using their personal credit cards without reimbursement from the campaign account. Expenditures made through the use of the personal credit card would still be a campaign contribution from the candidate to their own campaign.

Recommendation #10 – Restrictions on campaign account usage

Amend section 18 to remove certain restrictions on the use of campaign accounts. A simplified approach that requires that all financial transactions go through the campaign account would suffice.

Recommendation #11 – Detailed reporting of financial transactions

Review the disclosure requirements and repeal unnecessary detail. Consider applying similar requirements to those established in the *Election Act*.

Recommendation #12 – Effective date of appointment of financial agent

Amend sections 17 and 28 of the Local Elections Campaign Financing Regulation to remove the requirement to include the financial agent's effective date of appointment in the disclosure statement.

Recommendation #13 – Reporting of jurisdictions publishing candidate information

Remove the requirement for candidates to report transmission of election advertising by jurisdictions by amending section 13(6) of LECFA and repealing section 24(b) of the Local Elections Campaign Financing Regulation.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Electronic Voting in Local Elections

Revised: January 26, 2016

Issue: Implementation of electronic voting in local government elections

Response:

- Electronic voting is of interest to many British Columbians, as well as a number of municipalities.
- We recognize the potential benefits of electronic voting; however, those benefits must be balanced with the security of the electoral process.
- At the request of the government, B.C.'s Chief Electoral Officer convened an independent expert panel, the Independent Panel on Internet Voting, in the Fall of 2012 to review the use of internet voting in both provincial and local government elections.
- The Independent Panel on Internet Voting presented its final report to the House in February 2014, in which concerns regarding security, privacy and anonymity were raised.
- The government may look into a province-wide coordinated approach to electronic voting once the concerns regarding security privacy and anonymity, raised by the Independent Panel, are fully addressed.

Background/Status:

- In August 2012, the former Minister of Justice and Attorney General requested that Chief Electoral Officer, Dr. Keith Archer, convene an independent panel to review the topic.
- The Independent Panel on Internet Voting (the panel) was formed by the Chief Electoral Officer in September 2012 to examine the opportunities and challenges related to internet voting in provincial and local government elections. The panel presented its final report to the House in February 2014.
- Currently, under the *Local Government Act*, there is no legislative authority to enable alternate delivery of ballots such as email for local government elections.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- While the panel recognizes the potential benefits of increased accessibility and convenience for voters through alternate delivery of ballots by email, that increased access must be balanced with security of the electoral process. Given the complexity of the local elections process in B.C., there are significant challenges for both local governments and electors with a move to electronic delivery of ballots. Those challenges include:
    - Security of data transmission
    - Authentication and ballot anonymity
    - Trust in the legitimacy of election results
- In addition, the panel indicated in the final report that internet voting does not necessarily increase voter turnout.
- To address these challenges, further work needs to be done to ensure the integrity of the electoral process, and therefore government is not considering legislative changes at this time. However, government may explore alternate delivery of ballots in conjunction with internet voting in the future.

Contact:

Tara Faganello	Assistant Deputy Minister	Local Government Division	250 356-6575

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Local Government Compensation

Revised: January 28, 2016

Issue: Aligning local government compensation levels to the broader public sector

Response:

- As part of the core review process, the Province engaged Ernst and Young (E&Y) to review trends in compensation across the BC Public Sector.
- E&Y's report found there is a clear variation in the models used for setting compensation across the BC Public Sector. This has resulted in a lack of alignment in compensation between levels of government.
- With one taxpayer funding multiple levels of government, it is up to the Province and local governments to work together to ensure public services are affordable.
- We have to look at any and all opportunities that can improve the system and ensure our taxpayers receive the highest value possible.
- One of those opportunities is to align local government compensation levels to the broader public sector.
- The Province is continuing to engage with the UBCM to establish a collaborative approach to address local government compensation levels.
- I look forward to continuing dialogue with UBCM to move forward on strengthening fiscal management and providing the best possible value to the taxpayer.

Background/Status:

- In November 2013, the Cabinet Working Group on Core Review engaged E&Y to review compensation across the BC Public Sector.
- Released in September 2014, the BC Public Sector Compensation Review, found variation in models used for setting compensation; conclusions indicated that local government compensation is out of step with the rest of the public sector.
- The E&Y report noted there is considerable catch-up for local governments and provincial leadership is imperative to support local governments to align to the broader public sector.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- The Public Sector Employers' Council Secretariat is the overall lead on the Province's response to the E&Y report.
- Appropriate Compensation is one of Government's Taxpayer Accountability Principles.
- To ensure efficient use of taxpayer's dollars across all levels of government, the Province is advising local governments to take a more coordinated approach to manage wage settlement trends for collective bargaining employees, and take a principle-based approach to set compensation levels for excluded positions.
- The Province wants to work together with UBCM and local governments to develop a shared understanding of the current state of local government compensation and, moving forward, identify best practices and enabling tools to support local governments in setting appropriate compensation levels.

Contact:

Tara Faganello	Assistant Deputy Minister	Local Government Division	250 356-6575

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Local Government Elections – Contribution Limits

Revised: January 26, 2016

Issue: During consultations on expense limits for local elections, some stakeholders expressed interest in establishing contribution limits

Response:

- The majority of the 2010 joint Provincial-UBCM Local Government Elections Task Force recommendations were implemented in 2014, when the new *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* was passed.
- The Task Force did not recommend contribution limits. The Task Force felt that expense limits were a better approach to ensuring running for office remains accessible.
- Government intends to table legislation to implement expense limits in time for the 2018 local elections.
- Government does not intend to implement contribution limits for local elections.

If asked about disclosure of contributions and expenses:

- All candidates, elector organizations and third party advertisers are required to record and disclose all campaign contributions received in relation to a campaign, regardless of when those contributions were received.

  In addition, the legislation requires the disclosure of contributors' names where the total amount of one or more contributions is $100 or more.

If asked about indirect contributions:

- A donor may not make an indirect contribution. In other words, a donor cannot give money to another party with the intention that the other party gives it to a candidate.
- Likewise, if a financial agent discovers that a contribution was made indirectly, the financial agent is required to return the contribution. If the financial agent is unable to return the contribution, the financial agent must pay the applicable amount to Elections BC.

If asked about anonymous contributions:

- Anonymous contributions of more than $50 are not permitted.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Background/Status:

- Contribution limits may involve one or both of the following:
    - Restriction or bans on who can contribute (source restrictions – e.g., bans on non-residents making donations).
    - Limits on how much can be contributed (amount restrictions – e.g., an individual, or class of entity like corporations or unions have a cap on the total amount they may donate).
- Contribution limits are not directly related to expense limits. Contribution limits regulate money and other contributions made to and/or accepted by elections participants (candidates, parties/elector organizations and third party advertising sponsors). Expense limits regulate how much an election participant can ultimately spend – not where the funds come from.
- Some elections systems have only contribution limits; some systems have only expense limits; and some systems have both.
- Contribution limits have been requested during various consultations on expense limits, such as:
    - During the Local Government Elections Task Force process in 2010.
    - During the Minister's stakeholder engagement on expense limits in November 2013 - January 2014.
    - During the Special Committee on Local Elections Expense Limits Phase 1 process (October 2014-December 2014).
        - At the December 19, 2014 meeting of the Special Committee on Local Elections Expense Limits, Opposition Committee members tabled a motion that the committee's mandate should be expanded to include exploration of contribution limits, given that many stakeholders suggested contribution limits during the committee's consultations. The motion was defeated.
        - Therefore, the committee's recommendations in its Final Report (tabled on June 26, 2015) did not address contribution limits.
    - During consultations on Bill 43 *Local Elections Campaign Financing (Expense Limit) Amendment Act* (October 22 to November 27, 2015).
        - Fourteen comments were received with respect to contribution limits. Five included requests for outright bans on union and corporate donations and 11 asked for contribution limits.
- Three UBCM resolutions (2003, 2009, 2013) have called for campaign contribution limits (banning contributions from outside Canada; banning union and corporation donations).

  - The 2003 resolution was not endorsed and the 2009 resolution (sponsored by Vancouver) was not voted on because UBCM ran out of time for resolution debate.
  - The 2013 resolution (sponsored by Vancouver) was endorsed. It asked that UBCM members support Vancouver in asking the Province to allow Vancouver to set its own campaign finance rules, including contribution limits.

- Councils for the City of Vancouver have been particularly vocal in calling for contribution limits in local elections. A frequently-noted example in the city's arguments for why contribution limits should be implemented is that one individual made several contributions totalling about $960,000 in 2011 to one elector organization in Vancouver.
- Of the 13 Canadian provincial and territorial jurisdictions:
  - Six currently have no contribution limits for local elections (including B.C.).
  - Three provide municipalities the choice to impose limits (not yet implemented by any jurisdiction).
  - Four have contribution limits in local elections and limit contributions to residents of the province (Alberta, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba).

Contact:

Tara Faganello	Assistant Deputy Minister	Local Government Division	250 356-6575

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Local Government Elections – Expense Limits

Revised: January 26, 2016

Issue: **Implementation of local government elections expense limits for the 2018 local elections; Special Committee on Local Election Expense Limits recommendations and Bill 43**

Response:

- In the spring 2016 legislative session, we intend to introduce a revised version of the legislation to implement expense limits in local elections, in keeping with my mandate letter.
- Expense limits will be implemented for the 2018 local elections.
- Expense limits for local elections were recommended by the 2010 joint Provincial-Union of BC Municipalities Local Government Elections Task Force.

If asked about the Special Committee:

- In October 2014, the B.C. Legislative Assembly appointed an all-party Special Committee on Local Elections Expense Limits.
- The Special Committee's June 2015 Final Report provided recommendations for expense limit amounts based on extensive feedback from both people involved in local elections and the public.
- Those recommendations informed the development of an exposure bill which was introduced in the House in fall 2015.

If asked about Bill 43:

- Bill 43, the Local Elections Campaign Financing (Expense Limits) Amendment Act, was introduced in fall 2015 as an exposure bill. It was introduced to give election participants and the public a final opportunity to provide further feedback on this important issue.

Background/Status:

- In 2010, a joint B.C. government-UBCM Local Government Elections Task Force (Task Force) made 31 recommendations to reform B.C.'s local government elections, including limiting campaign expenses.

- The task force recommended expense limits for all B.C. communities to establish consistent local elections campaign finance rules across the province. The task force did not think a patchwork of rules applicable to individual communities would be fair.
- Most of the task force's recommendations were implemented through the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* (LECFA) passed by the Legislative Assembly in spring 2014. Given the significant changes introduced for the 2014 local elections, government decided not to implement expense limits for 2014, but for the next local elections in 2018.
- In October 2014, the B.C. Legislative Assembly appointed an all-party Special Committee (the Special Committee) on Local Elections Expense Limits. The Special Committee was chaired by Fraser-Nicola MLA Jackie Tegart and tasked with providing recommendations to support the development of legislation and regulations necessary to implement expense limits for local elections in 2018.
- The Special Committee consulted with key stakeholders to encourage fair and accessible local elections. Expense limits apply to candidates for mayor and council, regional district electoral area directors, boards of education trustees and special purpose local government elected officials, elector organizations and third party advertisers.
- The Special Committee issued its first report on December 15, 2014, recommending that the principles of fairness, neutrality, transparency and accountability inform the development of legislation on expense limits for candidates, elector organizations, and third party advertisers.
- Following the consultations, the Special Committee made its first recommendations to the Legislative Assembly on:
    - Principles for the relationship between elector organizations and their endorsed candidates with respect to expense limits, including how elector organizations and endorsed candidates share accountability for expense limits, with consideration for fairness between independent candidates and candidates endorsed by elector organizations; and
    - Principles for establishing expense limits for third party advertisers, including whether there should be an overarching, cumulative limit on third party spending such as exists in provincial general elections.
- On June 26, 2015, the Special Committee tabled its final report with recommendations to the Legislative Assembly on expense limits, including, but not limited to, the general relationship between limits for the various offices, and for third party advertisers in local elections. The recommendations included:
    - In jurisdictions with a population less than 10,000, the Special Committee recommended expense limits of $10,000 for mayoral candidates and

$5,000 for all other candidates including councillor, school trustee, electoral area directors, and Islands Trust representatives.

- In jurisdictions with a population 10,000 or more, the Special Committee recommended using a per-capita formula recognizing that the size of the community significantly affects a candidate's campaign costs.
- Limiting the amount that third party advertisers can spend to 5 per cent of a mayoral candidate's limit if advertising in relation to a municipal election; in other types of election, such as school trustee elections, 5 per cent of the applicable candidate limit; $150,000 overarching, cumulative limit (similar to cap on third party advertising in provincial elections).

- The Special Committee's work was based on significant public consultation, a review of spending data from 2014 local elections campaign finance disclosure statements, and careful consideration of important public policy questions. The Special Committee posted the 2014 local elections spending data used to inform its recommendations on its website, along with the report containing its detailed recommendations.
- The recommendations of the Special Committee were used to develop legislation to establish expense limits for local elections. On October 22, 2015, government introduced Bill 43, Local Elections Campaign Financing (Expense Limits) Amendment Act, as an exposure bill, which provided an opportunity for final feedback on this important issue.
- Consultation began on October 22, after Bill 43 was introduced for First Reading. The consultation period ended on November 27, 2015. In response, CSCD received 29 submissions. Comments were received from the Union of BC Municipalities, British Columbia School Trustees Association, Elections BC, local politicians, elector organizations, third party advertisers and private citizens.
- In the spring 2016 legislative session, government intends to introduce a revised version of the legislation. After the bill is finalized and passed by the Legislative Assembly, expense limits amounts will be implemented through regulations for the 2018 local elections.

Contact:

Tara Faganello	Assistant Deputy Minister	Local Government Division	250 356-6575

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Surrey Charter Proposal

Revised: January 26, 2016

Issue: The City of Surrey is requesting a Surrey charter to reflect their unique status as a major city

Response:

- The Province is committed to work with the City of Surrey and all local governments.
- The challenges that the City of Surrey faces are not necessarily unique to Surrey; many have implications that would affect the provincial-local government balance.
- As a first step, the Province could work with the City of Surrey to define and further assess their specific challenges.
- There may be an opportunity to target particular challenges without necessarily establishing a separate act or charter.
- The *Community Charter* provides municipalities with wide-ranging capacity and immense flexibility to autonomously address a variety of complex issues and circumstances in their communities.

Background/Status:

- Since at least 1983, Surrey has lobbied extensively for its own version of a *Vancouver Charter*. Surrey points to its unique status as a major city as a reason for requiring its own statute.
- At a May 20, 2015, state-of-the-city address to the South Surrey and White Rock Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Linda Hepner, announced that she will be striking a working group to develop a Surrey charter or act.
- Historically, municipalities in British Columbia have not been incorporated under their own Charters. The *Vancouver Charter* for the City of Vancouver exists as a separate piece of legislation due to historical circumstances; the direct precursor to the *Vancouver Charter* was enacted in 1953.

- In particular, the City of Surrey believes that provincial approval and oversight is inappropriate and administratively inefficient. In the past, their correspondence has focused on:
    - Elimination of borrowing limits.
    - More autonomy related to development cost charges.
    - Greater authority to create technical building regulations.
    - Authority for concurrent authority areas of public health and wildlife.
    - Greater civil liability protection, including possibly statutory immunity for building officials.
- s.16

Contact:

Tara Faganello	Assistant Deputy Minister	Local Government Division	250 356-6575

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: *Vancouver Charter* Amendment Request: Business Improvement Associations

Revised: January 26, 2016

Issue: Vancouver has requested an amendment to the *Vancouver Charter* to modernize the sections on Business Improvement Areas

Response:

- A request has been received from both the Vancouver Business Improvement Associations Partnership and the City of Vancouver for an amendment to the *Vancouver Charter*.
- I will be meeting with the Vancouver Business Improvement Associations Partnership and looks forward to learning more about their concerns.
- Specifically, I understand that they'd like to examine the BIA mandate renewal process which they perceive as onerous and costly.

Background/Status:

- The Vancouver Business Improvement Associations Partnership (VBIAP) and the City of Vancouver see the benefits of modernizing the existing system and have requested changes be made to the *Vancouver Charter*.
- The VBIAP represents all twenty-two business improvement areas (BIAs) in the City Vancouver and serves over 38,000 businesses in Vancouver, which amounts to almost 40 per cent of the local businesses in the city.
- Specifically, they are requesting a change to the BIA mandate renewal process, which they perceive as onerous and costly. This request was sent directly to the Minister as well as through the Reducing Red Tape for BC engagement process.
- The Minister has a meeting set up with the Vancouver Business Improvement Associations Partnership and looks forward to learning more about their concerns.
- A Business Improvement Area is a specific area designated by bylaw.
- Business Improvement Associations provide marketing, street beautification, safety programs, advocacy and community engagement initiatives to support local businesses and enhance neighbourhoods in their business improvement area.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- Sometimes Business Improvement Associations work together to provide services which cross improvement area boundaries.
- The funding for Business Improvement Association activities comes from the land owners in the Business Improvement Area.
- When the *Community Charter* was created, the rules and processes governing Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) evolved and were modernized as well.
- At that time the City of Vancouver preferred to retain their existing system. As a result, the *Vancouver Charter* contains an old system for BIAs which is not aligned with the rest of the province.

Contact:

Tara Faganello	Assistant Deputy Minister	Local Government Division	250 356-6575

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Core Review: UBC Fire Protection

Revised: March 15, 2016

Issue: Recovering fire protection costs from UBC's market properties

Response:

- We are working with the University of British Columbia and the Ministry of Advanced Education to ensure that quality fire protection for on-campus market housing residents continues under a plan that is fair to all B.C. taxpayers.
- Fire protection service is essential to community safety everywhere in British Columbia - and the principle that residents pay their fair share for local fire protection service applies to all communities in the province.
- I am pleased that officials from the University of British Columbia and the University Neighbourhood Association are working together to support a fair, reasonable approach to addressing the costs of fire protection services for the university's neighbourhood areas.
- Our government was elected on a promise to control government spending and ensure the best possible use of government resources. We are delivering on this promise.

Background/Status:

- As directed by the Cabinet Working Group for Core Review, CSCD is proceeding to implement a new $1 million cost recovery for the provision of fire protection to UBC's market properties.
- In 1995 the Province of B.C. entered into a 99-year contract with the City of Vancouver to provide fire protection services to UBC and the University Endowment Lands (UEL).
- CSCD is responsible for funding the contract. For fiscal 2016/17 contract costs are approximately $7.1 million.
- The UEL funds its share of fire service costs (approx. $420,000 annually) through a higher general 'rural' property tax rate.
- UBC's academic lands are exempt from property taxation.
- Unlike properties in B.C.'s other unincorporated areas and the UEL, UBC's market properties currently do not pay directly for fire services costs.
- The 1995 fire services contract did not create a cost-recovery mechanism from UBC's market properties because at the time the campus had few taxable

properties. Since 1995, significant development at UBC now provides market-housing for over 9,000 residents.

- The Government of B.C. has reviewed this anomaly and decided a change is needed to bring UBC's market properties in line with the cost recovery funding model used in B.C.'s other unincorporated areas.
- The financial restructure s.13,s.17 with UBC's market housing residents funding approximately $1 million of fire protection costs.
- The University Neighbourhood Association (UNA) represents residents living within UBC's neighbourhood areas.
- UBC administration and the UNA's Board of Directors understand that, based on the principle of fairness, market properties should pay for their fair share of fire protection costs.
- UBC and the UNA have committed to reaching a fair solution for the campus' residential community.
- The UNA informed its residents of the recovery on March 14, 2016.
- The recovery will not increase total property taxes for residents; however, it will impact the UNA's operating budget.
- The UNA and UBC have struck a joint financial task force to manage the financial impact of the transition.
- The UNA Board is confident that it will manage the impact to residents.

Contact:

Kevin Volk	Executive Lead	Community and Corporate Services Division	250 387-3860

BC Athletic Commission		
	BC Athletic Commissioner	133

2016/2017 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Honourable Peter Fassbender**

Title: BC Athletic Commissioner

Revised: January 12, 2016

Issue: **In 2013, the government instituted a new regulatory regime for professional boxing and mixed martial arts (MMA) in the province as well as administrative oversight for amateur MMA, kickboxing, Muay Thai and pankration events**

Response:

- The BC Athletic Commissioner (BCAC) was established under the *Athletic Commissioner Act*, which came into force May 30, 2013, to regulate professional boxing and MMA.
- Due to changes to the Criminal Code of Canada in June of 2013, the BCAC was also designated to oversee amateur MMA, kickboxing, Muay Thai and pankration events in the Province. This designation occurred by OIC on August 1, 2013.
- The Ministry continues to work with the federal government and study whether professional kickboxing and Muay Thai competitions can be allowed in this province under the existing provisions of the Criminal Code of Canada.

Background/Status:

- Currently, under Section 83 of the Criminal Code of Canada (s.83), "prize fighting" is prohibited. Exempted from the definition of prize fight are any professional boxing or MMA contests held with the permission or under the authority of an athletic board or commission or similar body established by or under the authority of the legislature of a province for the control of sport within the province.
- The BCAC was established to regulate professional boxing and MMA events in the Province.
- Some provinces have chosen to interpret s.83 to allow professional kickboxing and Muay Thai as well as MMA and boxing. Advice from legal counsel in B.C. is that there is a risk to interpreting s.83 in such a way. B.C. is continuing to study the issue and work with the federal government to clarify the relevant sections of the Criminal Code. Currently, professional kickboxing and Muay Thai are not allowed in B.C.

2016/2017 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Honourable Peter Fassbender**

- Subsequent to the establishment of the BCAC for regulation of professional boxing and MMA, the Federal government made changes to the Criminal Code of Canada (June 2013) that required the provinces to determine how to regulate amateur combat sports. B.C. chose to have the BCAC oversee amateur MMA, kickboxing, Muay Thai and pankration as these sports are among those combat sports with a higher potential for injury.
- Other amateur combat sports such as Amateur Boxing and Karate do not fall within the oversight of BCAC.
- Beginning on May 30, 2013, the BCAC commenced operations. Promoters, contestants, matchmakers, seconds, and officials now require licenses and event permits issued by the BCAC before they can plan or participate in a professional boxing, MMA, kickboxing, Muay Thai or pankration event.
- Similar provincial athletic commissioner offices have been, or are being, established across Canada.
- The BCAC has been involved in two to five events per month to date. There have been approximately 450 amateur athletes and 190 professional athletes who have participated in over 30 events throughout the province (including Victoria, Nanaimo, Vancouver, Fort St. John, Chilliwack, Tumbler Ridge and Kamloops).
- The BCAC employs one staff full-time and one staff part-time. The annual expenditure projection is $400,000 which is anticipated to be offset by revenues from licencing fees for the regulated events. The Ministry will cover expenditures that exceed revenues from existing funding.
- Currently there are no fees for amateur events. The Ministry continues to explore the possibility of a fee/fine schedule for amateur events.

Contact:

Wayne Willows	BC Athletic Commissioner	CSCD	250 952 6735

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Audits

Revised: February 3, 2016

Issue: Summary of Audit Work Performed in Fiscal Year 2015/16

Recommended Response:

Ministry Financial Statements

- The Office of the Auditor General of BC (OAG) is in the fieldwork stage of an audit of the community gaming grants award process. s.13
  s.13
- OAG will be conducting a financial audit of the Ministry, as it has in previous years. The audit results will be released with the public accounts early this summer.

Background/Status

Community Gaming Grants

- The objective of this audit is to determine whether the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and the Ministry of Finance have a suitable framework in place to administer the Community Gaming Grant program. (Source: Office of the Auditor General of BC communication)

Contact:

Manager	Derek Cockburn	Financial Services Branch	(250) 356-9017

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Direct Award Contracts

Revised: March 30, 2016

Issue: Summary of Direct Awards

Recommended Response:

The following information is for direct award operating contracts (STOB 60, 61, 63 and 69) issued between April 1, 2015 and February 29, 2016.

- The Ministry is committed to maintaining a fair and transparent procurement process, in line with the policies established by the Ministry of Finance.
- In most cases opportunities to contract with the Ministry are publicly competed through BC BID.
- In limited circumstances, the Ministry will directly award contracts to contractors. Such direct awards are limited to the following circumstances:
    - The contract is with another government organization.
    - The ministry can strictly prove that only one contractor is qualified, or is available, to provide the required goods, services.
    - The subject matter is of a confidential or privileged nature and disclosure through an open bidding process could reasonably be expected to compromise government confidentiality.
    - Where an unforeseeable emergency exists and the goods, services could not be obtained in time by means of a competitive process.
    - When the cost of a competitive procurement process exceeds the benefits which is generally the case for contracts under $25,000.
- In October 2015, the Ministry created a new policy that all direct award contracts must be **pre-approved** by both the branch ADM and the EFO.
- In the first eleven months of fiscal 2015/16, CSCD issued 22 direct award contracts with a total value of $246,874, an average value of approximately $11,222.
  (Appendix 1 – Summary of Direct Awards)

Contact:

Manager Contracts	Derek Cockburn	Financial Services Branch	250-356-9017

CSCD Direct Awards for Operating Contracts as at February 29, 2016

Reference	STOB	Supplier Name	Service Line And Desc	Description	Latest PO Amount	Trade Agreement Code
1	6001	HODGE, LETA V	54200 ADMs Office Local Government	TO PROVIDE EXPERT ADVICE AND ASSITANCE ON ALL FACETS OF THE UEL HEARING PROCESS	7,709	Direct Awards - Sole Source
2	6101	ROLF, CAROL ANNE*	55401 Integrated Policy, Legislation and Operations	DRAFTING OF EXPENSE LIMITS LEGISLATION	44,000	Direct Awards - Under $25,000
3	6001	WHEELER, CHRIS JAMES	56301 Cultural Services	DEVELOP/DELIVER ARTS & CULTURE WEEK VIDEO CAMPAIGN 2015 (ACB)	24,990	Direct Awards - Under $25,000
4	6001	CIRCLE SQUARE SOLUTIONS LTD.	54200 ADMs Office Local Government	TO ACHIEVE CONCENSUS ON TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE VALUE PLANNING EXERCISE TO BE CARRIED OUT AS PART OF THE KELOWNA INTEGRATED WATER SUPPLY PLAN INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS	24,500	Direct Awards - Under $25,000
5	6001	MATTISON, JAMES STEWART	54200 ADMs Office Local Government	THE CONSULTANT WILL ACT AS A THIRD PARTY FACILITATOR ON BEHALF OF THE PROVINCE OF BC TO ENHANCE THE UNION BAY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT WATER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM	24,500	Direct Awards - Under $25,000
6	6001	OSBORNE, ALAN	54200 ADMs Office Local Government	ADVICE AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT FOR THE CLIMATE LEADERSHIP PLAN PROJECT.	24,500	Direct Awards - Under $25,000
7	6001	TARTAN PUBLIC RELATIONS LTD.	56301 Cultural Services	to provide stakeholder/resident engagement strategy to build BC's creative economy	23,500	Direct Awards - Under $25,000
8	6001	CARO ANALYTICAL SERVICES LTD.	54600 University Endowment Lands	PROVIDE DRINKING WATER QUALITY MONITORING SAMPLING SERVICES IN COMPLYING WITH THE DRINKING WATER PROTECTION ACT AND REGULATION	12,000	Direct Awards - Under $25,000
9	6101	MWA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS LIMITED	54600 University Endowment Lands	TO PROVIDE CONSULTING SUPPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT LANDS IMPLEMENTATION OF RESIDENTIAL CURBSIDE FOOD SCRAPS COLLECTION.	9,000	Direct Awards - Under $25,000
10	6101	CORNERSTONE PLANNING GROUP	54600 University Endowment Lands	CORNERSTONE PLANNING GROUP- EXP -SPECIAL EVENT PLANNING, COORDINATION AND LOGISTIC: ORGANIZE A COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANNING EVENT:PROVIDE ASSISTANCE WITH ADVERTISING/COMMUNICATIONS AS REQUIRED	8,000	Direct Awards - Under $25,000
11	6020	JMP CONSULTANTS INC.	54160 Strategic Human Resources	Lumina Spark practitioner certification training for SHR staff	7,450	Direct Awards - Under $25,000
12	6905	HIPPO CONSULTING	54600 University Endowment Lands	PROVIDE TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR WATER BILLING SYSTEM (RIGHTWATER SOFTWARE) & UNLIMITED CRITICAL UPDATES & PHONE ACCESS	5,500	Direct Awards - Under $25,000
13	6001	ROBINS, SHAWN	54110 ADM's Office, Management Services	MINISTRY LEVEL SUPPORT FOR BC PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION PROGRAM	5,000	Direct Awards - Under $25,000
14	6001	GOSAL, MANJIT, DR	54110 ADM's Office, Management Services	CONTRACT WITH DR. MANJIT GOSAL TO PROVIDE MEDICAL FILE REVIEW AND CONSULTATION SERVICES TO THE BC ATHLETIC COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE	5,000	Direct Awards - Under $25,000
15	6905	JOYCE GROUP SERVICES INC.	54600 University Endowment Lands	PROVIDE JANITORIAL SERVICES TO THE ADMINISTRATION OFFICE TWICE A WEEK	5,000	Direct Awards - Under $25,000
16	6001	MACDONALD, GEOFFREY J E	54200 ADMs Office Local Government	RESEARCH, ANALYSIS AND COMPILATION OF INFORMATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF LOCAL GOVT INTERGRATED SERVICES & GOVERNANCE DUTIES	5,000	Direct Awards - Under $25,000
17	6001	CS CREATIVE INC.	54200 ADMs Office Local Government	CREATIVE DESIGN, LAYOUT AND DIGITAL PRODUCTION OF THE AGE-FRIENDLY AND DISABILITY-FRIENDLY OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLANS GUIDE	3,000	Direct Awards - Under $25,000
18	6001	TURNBULL, GREGORY	54110 ADM's Office, Management Services	ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS, PROVIDES SERVICES TO THE BC ATHLETIC COMMISSIONER IN THE CAPACITY OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, CHIEF SUPERVISOR OR ADVICE ON MATCHES OR OTHER PROMOTER EVENTS	2,500	Direct Awards - Under $25,000
19	6020	GLOCKZIN, DAVID JOHN*	54110 ADM's Office, Management Services	REVIEW ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE WITH THE MINISTRY/DMO AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EFFICIENCY.	2,350	Direct Awards - Under $25,000
20	6905	ARPEL SECURITY & MONITORING LTD.	54600 University Endowment Lands	MONITOR ALARM TRANSMITTER AT THE PUMP STATION AT 7TH AVE & DRUMMOND DR	1,500	Direct Awards - Under $25,000
21	6001	GALACZY, PATRICIA	54160 Strategic Human Resources	PROVIDE INTERACTIVE PRESENTATION TO THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY, SPORT AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE ALL STAFF MEETING	1,500	Direct Awards - Under $25,000
22	6001	CEDARWOOD PRODUCTIONS INC.	54300 Assessment Services	CONTRACT IS REQUIRED TO UPDATE A VIDEO POSTED ON THE PARP WEBSITE AND YOUTUBE CORRECTING AN ERROR ON THE VIDEO AND TO UPDATE IMAGES THAT HAVE BEEN CHANGED BY A GOVERNMENT AGENCY	375	Direct Awards - Under $25,000
				Total	**246,874**	

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Operational Contracts

Revised: March 30, 2016

Issue: Summary of Operational Contracts

Recommended Response:

Operational contracts include professional services (stob 60/61), information systems (stob 63), and utilities, materials and supplies (stob 69).

- The Ministry is committed to maintaining a fair and transparent procurement process, in line with the policies established by the Ministry of Finance.
- The following are the Ministry's objectives for the procurement of goods and services:
    - purchases are managed consistent with requirements of trade agreements
    - government receives the best value for money spent on contracts
    - vendors have fair access to information on procurement opportunities, processes and results
    - opportunities are competed, wherever practical
    - ministries only engage in a competitive process with the full intent to award a contract at the end of that process
    - ministries are accountable for the results of their procurement decisions and the appropriateness of the processes followed
    - the cost of the procurement process, to both vendors and ministries, is appropriate in relation to the value and complexity of each procurement
    - assets that are surplus to the needs of government are disposed of in a coordinated way to maximize the dollar return to government, and to minimize the risk to the environment
- The Ministry issued 28 new operational contracts, with a total value of $1,087,330 in the first eleven months of fiscal 2015/16.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Background/Status

Professional services (stob 60/61)

The Ministry issued 25 new professional services contracts totalling $1,075,330 in the first eleven months of fiscal 2015/16:

Branch	Vendor	Project	Value
UEL	Lions Gate Excavation and Demolition Ltd.	Water main replacement and Wesbrook sewer separation in Area C	$700,000
IPLO	Pinton Forrest & Madden Group Inc.	Consulting services to identify and hire qualified candidate for the position of the AGLG	$58,000
LG	Bains Strategies Inc.	AGLG Audit Council Executive & Secretarial Support	$50,000
IPLO	Rolf, Carol	Drafting of "expense limits" legislation	$44,000
Various	Twenty-One (21) Contracts <$25,000	Various (*)	$223,330

*The average contract value is $10,635

Information systems (stob 63)

The Ministry did **not** issue any information systems contracts in the first eleven months of fiscal 2015/16.

Utilities, materials and supplies (stob 69)

The Ministry issued three new utilities, materials and supplies contracts totalling $12,000 in the first eleven months of fiscal 2015/16:

Branch	Vendor	Project	Value
UEL	Three (3) Contracts <$25,000	Various (*)	$12,000

*The average contract value is $4,000

Contact:

Manager Contracts	Derek Cockburn	Financial Services Branch	250-356-9017

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Contracts - Vendor Complaint Review Process

Revised: March 15, 2016

Issue: Report on the Vendor Complaints Received in Fiscal Year 2015/16

Response:

- The Ministry has not received any vendor complaints in the first eleven (11) months of fiscal 2015/16.
- The Ministry has not received any vendor complaints for the past nine years.

Background/Status:

- The Ministry's Vendor Complaint Review Process (VCRP) is designed to ensure that there is a process for the review of vendor complaints about its procurement process.
- The intent of the VCRP is to assist the Ministry in identifying and responding to problems in the establishment and application of government procurement policy and procedures.
- If necessary, the Ministry will implement changes required to its procurement processes identified through the complaint review process
- This VCRP requires that ministries and vendors provide full access to all information pertinent to complaints. All information under this VCRP is subject to the Document Disposal Act and the access and privacy provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Contact:

Manager Contracts	Derek Cockburn	Financial Services Branch	250-356-9017

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Deputy Minister's Office

Revised: February 4, 2016

Issue: Deputy Minister's Office Budget in 2016-17

Recommended Response:

- Deputy Minister's budget in 2016/17 is $467,000, this is a $1,000 decrease from the 2015/16 budget of $468,000.
- The net decrease to the budget is due to lower charges for employee benefits in 2016/17. The benefits budget was reduced by $1,000.
- There are four FTEs in the Deputy's Office (Positions include: Deputy Minister, a Director of Operations, a Sr. Executive Assistant and a Document Coordinator).

Estimates Budget	FY16 Estimates ($)	FY17 Estimates ($)	Change ($)
Salaries and Benefits	374,000	373,000	(1,000)
Travel	44,000	44,000	0
Information Systems	1,000	1,000	0
Office and Business	33,000	33,000	0
Operating Equipment Vehicles	13,000	13,000	
Amortization Expense	2,000	2,000	0
Other Expenses	1,000	1,000	0
TOTAL	**468,000**	**467,000**	(1,000)

- Deputy Minister's Office spending is forecast to come in on budget this year.

Contact:

Manager, Budgets & Reporting	Debbie Chew	Financial Services Branch	250-356-7999

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Minister - Minister's Office Budget

Revised: February 4, 2016

Issue: Minister's Office Budget in 2016-17

Recommended Response:

- Budget for Minister's Office in 2016/17 is $572,000.
- The overall budget decreased by $1,000 from the 2014/15 budget of $573,000
- The net decrease to the budget is due to lower charges for employee benefits in 2016/17. The benefits budget was reduced by $1,000.

Background/Detail:

Minister's Office Budget:

Minister's Office			
Expenditure Type	**FY16 Estimates ($)**	**FY17 Estimates ($)**	**Increase/ (Decrease)**
Salaries	295,000	296,000	1,000
Benefits	93,000	92,000	-1,000
Legislative Salaries	54,000	54,000	0
Travel	95,000	95,000	0
Information Systems	6,000	6,000	0
Office and Business	3,000	3,000	0
Other Expenses	18,000	17,000	-1,000
TOTAL	**573,000**	**572,000**	**-1,000**

Minister's Office Budget, Detailed Explanation:

- Salaries Budget:

  Salaries budget supports Minister's Office Staff Complement:

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Minister's Office Staff Salaries (approximate)	Level	Salary ($)	Benefits ($)	Total ($)
Chief of Staff	Band A	90,000	21,815	111,815
Ministerial Assistant	Band A	63,000	15,310	78,310
Administrative Coordinator	ADMIN	54,000	13,120	67,120
Executive Assistant	Band B	51,000	12,465	63,465
Administrative Assistant	Clerk 9	38,000	9,325	47,325
TOTAL		**296,000**	**72,035**	**368,035**

- Benefits Budget:
    - Benefits are calculated as a fixed percentage of employee salaries.
    - The percentage is established by the Ministry of Finance on an annual basis.
    - In 2015/16 the benefit charge was 24.8% of salaries, in 2016/17 the Ministry of Finance revised the charge downward to 24.3%.
    - Employee benefits are estimated to be approximately $72,000 next year.
    - Benefits budget also accommodates the charge for the Ministerial pension adjustment.
    - The charge is a fixed percentage of the Minster's executive salary.
    - The percentage is determined by the Ministry of Finance and is approximately $20,000 a year (39.4% of the Minister's executive salary).

- Legislative Salaries Budget:
    - Legislative salaries budget accommodates the Minister's executive salary.
    - Ministers receive an additional salary that corresponds to 50% of their basic MLA compensation.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- Only the Minister's executive salary is reported against the Minister's Office budget.
- MLA basic compensation ($102,878) is reported against the Legislative Assembly's budget.
- The Minister's executive salary is determined by the Member's Remuneration and Pensions Act.

- Travel
  - Travel budget accommodates the travel for ministerial staff and Minister Travel (e.g. travel for Missions and other Ministry business).
  - Travel to and from the Minister's constituency is reported separately under the budget of the Legislative Assembly.

- Information Systems
  - Information systems budget accommodates data communications charges (e.g. email cell phone charges).

- Office and Business
  - Office and Business budget accommodates printing charges, shipping, and office supplies.

- Other Budget
  - Other Budget accommodates Ministry of Finance charges for VIP computer support (24 hr).

Contact:

Manager, Budgets & Reporting	Debbie Chew	Financial Services Branch	250-356-7999

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Minister's Office- Travel

Revised: **March 10, 2016**

Issue: **Minister's Office Travel Expenditures**

Recommended Response:

- Minister's Office budget for travel in 2016/17 is $0.095M (no change from 2015/16).
- Minister Fassbender's travel expenses are made available on a monthly basis on the government's Open Information website.
- The most recent publication of Minister Fassbender's travel expenses is for the 10 month period ended January 31, 2016. At that time, Minister Fassbender's travel expenses were $40,844.61.
- Final expenditure balances for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2016 will be released with Public Accounts in July 2016.

How does Minister's Travel compare to Other MLAs?

- Travel Expenses for all MLA's are published on a quarterly basis on the Legislative Assembly's website. The public is free to review this information and perform comparisons.
- Travel requirements are be assessed throughout the year to ensure fiscally prudent management practices are adhered to.
- The Minister's ranking against other MLA's is not a performance metric used by the Ministry.

Contact:

Manager, Budgets & Reporting	Debbie Chew	Financial Services Branch	250-356-7999

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Ministry Fees

Revised: March 15, 2016

Issue: New Fees Collected by the Ministry

Recommended Response:

- CSCD is proposing the establishment of a Works and Services bylaw for the University Endowment Lands that will establish: standards (based on provincially-supported Master Municipal Construction Documents) for developers and builders on how services such as water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer are installed and connected to the UEL infrastructure when property owners develop/redevelop their lots; **and what fees are paid for the installation and what direct costs (related to the installation) are recovered from developers and builders.**
- The Fee Issue paper for the fees associated with the Works and Services bylaw was approved by the Chair of Treasury Board on March 8, 2016. Six of the seven fees approved are changes to replace over 20 different existing specific size-dependent per unit fees.
- There are no other fee changes or new fees collected by the Ministry in 2015/16.

Background/Status:

Fees collected by the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development are the following:

- Fees and permits are collected for local government type services delivered on the University Endowment Lands. These fees include: rezoning applications, hook up of water, sewer and sanitary, inspection fees, building permits, dog licenses, metered water usage and garbage collection fees. With the exception of one cost-recovery based fee all UEL fees are recorded as revenue in the UEL special account. The cost recovery fee is offset against the cost of the services rendered.
- Under the authority of the *Athletic Commissioner Act,* the Ministry collects fees for event permits and for licenses for event promoters, contestants, corner men and time keepers. The Ministry also collects a fee based on a percentage of the gross gate receipts of an event. All BC Athletic Commissioner fees are applied against the cost of the BC Athletic Commissioner's office.

University Endowment Lands (UEL) Works and Services Fee Review:

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- On March 8, 2016, the Chair of Treasury Board approved the Fee Issue Paper to establish what fees are paid for installation and any direct costs (related to the installation) that are recovered from developers and builders who develop/redevelop properties within the UEL (as it relates to CSCD's proposed Works and Services bylaw.)
- The Works and Services bylaw for the UEL will establish standards (based on provincially-supported Master Municipal Construction Documents) for developers and builders on how services such as water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer are installed and connected to the UEL infrastructure when property owners develop/redevelop their lots.
- Six of the seven fees approved are changes to replace over 20 different existing specific size-dependent per unit fees.
- The existing bylaw includes per unit fees for water and sewer connections dependent on the size of pipes. This model would be replaced by a model that will establish an administrative fee for inspection and a pass-through of actual costs for similar services, separated into below-ground services (water, sanitary and storm sewers) and on-ground remediation (curbs, boulevards, sidewalks and roads damaged by construction). A new subdivision review fee is proposed to cover review of anticipated subdivision applications in the UEL.

Contact:

Manager, Budgets & Reporting	Debbie Chew	Financial Services Branch	250-356-7999

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Transfers

Revised: February 5, 2016

Issue: Summary of Government Transfers

Recommended Response:

- Government transfers are transfers of monetary assets from the Province to an individual, a business, or other entities.
- They are non-exchange transactions where the Province is not the direct beneficiary of any goods or services, repayment, or investment.
- Government Transfers fall under the following expenditure categories: Grants, Entitlements, Shared Cost Arrangements and Transfers to Crown Corporations.
- CSCD's 2016/2017 government transfers budget (including special accounts) is $366.280 million, an increase of $30.0 million from the 2015/2016 restated estimates budget of $336.280 million.
    - Increase of $15.0 million to return to normalized funding for Small Community Grants.
    - Increase of $15.0 million to return to normalized funding for Traffic Fine Revenue Grants.

Grants (STOB 77):

- Grants are provided at the discretion of government to individuals, businesses, or other entities for specified purposes.
- They are non-exchange transactions where government is not the direct beneficiary of goods or services, and government does not control or participate in the ongoing activities of the transfer recipients.
- The Ministry's budget for Grants is $317.686 million (includes $2.5 million from the BC Arts and Culture Endowment Special Account).

Entitlements (STOB 79):

- Entitlements are payments the government must make if the recipient meets eligibility criteria. The eligible recipient and the amount of the entitlement are prescribed in legislation and other authorities.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- The Ministry's budget for Entitlements is $1.123 million.

Shared Cost Arrangements (STOB 80):

- Shared cost arrangements are non-exchange transactions(i.e., government is not the direct beneficiary of goods or services) under contract or formal written agreement with other levels of government, individuals, businesses, or other entities for purposes specified under the cost-share agreement and the transferring government has significant control over how the funds are to be spent.
- The Ministry's budget for shared cost arrangements is $47.471 million (includes $1.7 million from the Physical Fitness and Amateur Sports Fund - Special Account).
    - Includes $11.866 million **transfers to crown corporations and agencies** to the Royal BC Museum.

Attachments: Appendix 1 – Local Government Transfers Budget 2016/17 details and program descriptions

Appendix 2 – Arts, Culture, Gaming Grants and Sport Transfers Budget 2016/17 details and program descriptions

Contact:

Manager, Budgets & Reporting	Debbie Chew	Financial Services Branch	250-356-7999
Contract Manager	Derek Cockburn	Financial Services Branch	250-356-9017

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Transfers to Local Government

Budget 2016/17

The budget for transfers to Local Government is $165.2 in 2016/17:

Grant Programs $154.3 M

- $53.1 M Small Community Grants
- $58.1 M Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing
- $41.6 M Peace River*
- $ 1.0 M Bulkley Nechako/ Kitmat Stikine
- $ 0.5 M First Nations Rail Tax Agreements

* The funding commitment for the Peace River agreement is $50.0 M. ($41.6 M in the CSCD budget and $8.4 M notional contingency access

Entitlement Programs $1.1 M**

- $ 0.6 M Railway Tax Mitigation
- $ 0.5 M Grants in Lieu of Taxes

** The exact amount is determined by variables including assessed values and taxation rates.

Shared Cost Arrangements $9.8 M

- $ 8.7 M Climate Actions Revenue Incentive Program
- $ 0.5 M Local Government Structure Grants
- $ 0.5 M Infrastructure Planning Grant Program

Description of programs:

Bulkley Nechako/ Kitmat Stikine

- The Province signed a 15-year Memorandum of Understanding in 2009 to provide an annual grant in lieu of taxes to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako and Kitimat-Stikine.
- Under the terms of the Province's agreement with Alcan, the Kemano hydroelectric generating facility is exempt from property tax. Similar communities that host or are impacted by BC Hydro-owned generating facilities across the province receive grants in lieu of local government taxation from BC Hydro.
- Starting in 2009/10, CSCD began paying the two regional district a grant equal to what they would receive if the Kemano hydroelectric facility were owned by BC Hydro.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Climate Actions Revenue Incentive Program

- Provide additional support to local governments taking action on climate change.
- Local government signatories to the BC Climate Action Charter who report annually on actions taken to reduce their carbon footprint are eligible for the CARIP conditional grant.
- The Program provides a grant to local governments equal to 100 per cent of their carbon taxes paid the previous year.

Grants in Lieu of Taxes

- In accordance with the Municipal Aid Act, the Province provides a grant-in-lieu of taxes to municipalities that have Crown Provincial land with improvements.
- The grant amount is the product of the net assessed value times the municipal general taxation rate
- The net assessed value is determined by BC Assessment and the taxation rate is set by the municipalities.

First Nations Rail Tax Agreements

- The Province has negotiated agreements with non-treaty First Nations that provide grants equal to the provincial property taxes collected on rail properties adjacent to or through their reserves.

Infrastructure Planning Grant Program

- To assist local governments in developing long-term comprehensive infrastructure plans or studies used for a range of activities related to assessing the technical, environmental and/or economic feasibility of infrastructure projects. The assistance is provided through provincial-only grants of up to $10,000.
- Eligible projects are those that will improve public health and safety, protect the natural environment and strengthen local and regional economies.
- The provision of a study grant demonstrates direct provincial support for local government efforts to plan for construction and replacement of infrastructure, focusing on planning, designing, constructing and managing sustainable community infrastructure.

Local Government Structure Grants

- To assist communities in choosing local government structures that meet local and provincial needs and objectives, including long-term cost savings and service integration.
- The program oversees the restructure of local governments in the province. Restructure can include: incorporation of municipalities; major restructuring of existing municipalities; amalgamation of one or more existing municipalities; extension of municipal boundaries; and restructuring of regional districts.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Railway Tax Mitigation

- The railway property tax reform initiative (introduced in 1995), had the objective of reducing the amount of property taxes paid by the railway companies to improve their competitiveness and to bring the property taxes they paid in British Columbia more into line with those paid in other jurisdictions. The initiative, which was implemented through Bill 55 (1995), was designed to reduce the property taxes (municipal, regional district, school and rural area) that railway companies paid.
- A concurrent objective of rail tax reform was to ensure that no local government was significantly impacted by these changes. A “significant” impact was defined as a property tax revenue loss in excess of six percent, spread over the four years that directly resulted from this initiative.
- Where mitigation measures were needed for significantly impacted municipalities, they were implemented through the provision of a provincial grant.

Small Community Grants

- Grants to municipalities to assist them to provide basic services. Grant amounts are based on a formula that factors in a base amount, population and assessment values.
- These grants generally apply to municipalities with populations up to 19,000.

Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing

- Returns net revenues from traffic violations to municipalities that are directly responsible for paying for policing.
- TFRS grants are based on a municipality’s policing costs relative to the total policing costs paid by all municipalities.
- Rural communities and municipalities with populations under 5,000 who do not pay directly for policing participate in the program through a reduction in the police tax.

Peace River Agreement

- On May 29, 2015, the Peace River Agreement was signed by the Province and the eight local governments in the Peace River area.
- Funding provides a stable source of revenue to local governments in the province’s major oil and gas producing region where most of the industry assets are not subject to municipal property taxation.
- The current agreement will go through to 2035.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Transfers to Arts, Culture, Gaming Grants and Sport

Budget 2016/17

The budget for transfers to Arts, Culture, Gaming Grants and Sport is $182.9 in 2016/17:

Community Gaming Grant $135.0 M

- $66.5 M Human & Social Services
- $28.5 M Sport
- $17.5 M Arts & Culture
- $12.0 M Parent Advisory Councils
- $ 7.5 M Public Safety
- $ 3.0 M Environment

BC Arts Council $24.0 M

- $16.1 M Professional Arts Development
- $ 2.3 M Arts Awards for Individuals
- $ 2.1 M Community Arts Development
- $ 2.1 M Touring Programs
- $ 0.8 M Interactive Digital Media
- $ 0.6 M Publishing Programs

Culture Services $2.3 M

Sport $21.6 M

- $16.2 M viaSport
- $ 2.2 M BC Games & BC Senior Games
- $ 1.0 M Directorate of Agencies for School Health (DASH)
- $ 0.7 M Aboriginal Sports, Recreation and Physical Activity Partners Council
- $ 0.5 M Mid-size events
- $ 0.1 M Federal-Provincial-Territorial payment
- $ 0.9 M Frozen Budget – due to lower fund returns within the Physical Fitness and Amateur Sport fund

Description of programs:

Aboriginal Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity Partners Council

- A non-profit society that develops and oversees the delivery of the Aboriginal Sport Strategy which develops aboriginal coaches and delivers programming to aboriginal youth across the province.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

BC Arts Council

- The Council administers approximately 37 programs that provide operating and project support for British Columbian artists, the arts and cultural organizations.
- Applications for funding are adjudicated through a peer review process in which independent artists and other arts and culture professionals assess grant applications, advise on priorities and make recommendations to the BC Arts Council.

BC Games Society

- Funding is provided to manage the governance and operational matters of the BC Summer Games, BC Winter Games and Team BC Program. Services provided include event management.

Community Gaming Grants

- Community Gaming Grants support the delivery of community organization programs that benefit the citizens of British Columbia.
- Non-profit community organizations that directly deliver programs to their community may be eligible for a program grant.
- Community gaming grants are administered by the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch (GPEB) in the Ministry of Finance, which also regulates gaming in British Columbia.
- GPEB administers the Community Gaming Grants program and determines which organizations will receive grants, the grant amounts and makes grant payments to approved applicants.

Directorate of Agencies for School Health

- DASH is a non-profit society committed to promoting and supporting the creation of healthy schools in B.C. and works in partnership with the Ministry to deliver the After School Sport and Arts Initiative.

Federal-Provincial-Territorial payment

- The Federal-Provincial-Territorial payment is an annual funding contribution for FPT projects and initiatives

viaSport

- viaSport administers government's investment in provincial sport with partnering entities with the goals of increasing the population's participation in sport, increasing the number of active coaches supporting the provinces contribution to Own the Podium.

Crown Corporations		
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2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

Title: Executive Compensation (Crowns)

Revised: February 17, 2016

Issue: Executive compensation in ministry Crown corporations to be reported by Public Sector Employers' Council (PSEC)

Recommended Response:

- Since 2001, the Province has made significant improvements to the transparency and disclosure of financial and performance information.
- As a result, B.C. has become a leader in Canada based on our high standards of reporting that require annual public disclosures of total compensation for executives.
- Taxpayers deserve to know how their money is spent – this is why government made it mandatory to disclose the salaries of executives from Crown agencies, boards and commissions.
- The disclosure process includes all compensation – base pay, pensions and other benefits including health and insurance plans.
- We work to ensure that executive compensation is fair and we believe that they do great work on behalf of British Columbians.
- Providing fair and competitive compensation ensures we can continue to attract and retain highly skilled people who can effectively deliver quality services to British Columbians.

Background/Status:

- In 2008, amendments were made to the *Public Sector Employers Act* (PSEA) requiring employers to disclose their senior executive compensation within six months of their fiscal year end in a form and manner directed by the CEO of PSEC.
- Since 2008, government has publically disclosed executive compensation for public sector employers on an annual basis.
- The compensation that is disclosed includes bonuses/holdbacks, benefits, perquisites, allowances, pension, severances, salary continuance, and any other payments.
- The requirements to disclose apply to all public sector employers', CEOs/Presidents, and the top four executives earning $125,000 or more in base salary.

2016/17 Estimates Note
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: **Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**
Minister Responsible: **Hon. Peter Fassbender**

- Since 2008 executive bonuses have been transitioned to holdbacks. By 2015 bonuses should be obsolete.
- Holdbacks are only for executives and have been phased out below the executive level.
- When new staff or newly-promoted staff move to an executive position which currently has bonus pay available to it, a hold back up to a maximum of 20 per cent of maximum base salary will be employed in place of bonuses.
- In addition, a reduction in the total base salary for senior executives of 10% has been applied. The reduction reflects a reduced amount of pay at risk and compression with CEO compensation.
- Increases in total compensation may be due to legitimate vacation payouts, retirement allowances or other payments.
- To support the principles of expenditure management, since November 2012 Government has:
    - Provided direction to public sector entities on standards of conduct, including post-employment restrictions.
    - Implemented the new taxpayer accountability principles that strengthen accountability, promote cost control, and ensure public sector entities operate in the best interest of taxpayers.
    - Revised the disclosure guidelines for 2013/14 to further clarify and enhance the transparency of the executive compensation paid to CEOs and the top four decision-makers working at public sector entities.
    - Introduced a new executive compensation framework for Crown corporations.

Contact:

Chief Financial Officer	Jim MacAulay	Financial Services Branch	250-387-9179

BRITISH COLUMBIA

JAN 15 2015

Ref: 157128

Ms. Judy Rogers
Chair
BC Assessment Authority
400 - 3450 Uptown Boulevard
Victoria, BC V8Z 0B9

Dear Ms. Rogers:

Re: 2015/16 Mandate Letter

British Columbians have come to expect the high quality products and services delivered by their provincial public sector organizations. The Province is well served by our public sector organizations. It is the responsibility of the boards and senior management teams of these organizations to lead and manage in the best interests of the Province and the taxpayer by strengthening accountability and promoting cost control.

One of government's core values is respect for the taxpayer's dollar. It is critical that public sector organizations operate as efficiently as possible, in order to ensure British Columbians are provided with services at the lowest cost possible. This requires constant focus on maintaining a cost-conscious and principled culture through the efficient delivery of services that stand the test of public scrutiny and help develop a prosperous economy in an environmentally sustainable manner. The foundation of this work is the government's commitment to controlling spending and balancing the budget.

The BC Assessment Authority is mandated to establish and maintain uniform real property assessments throughout British Columbia in accordance with the *Assessment Act*.

The BC Assessment Authority is directed to take the following specific strategic priority actions for 2015/16:

1. Replace the existing ValueBC information system with NextGen ValueBC by 2018 to improve the collection, maintenance and distribution of assessment information.

2. Develop and execute a plan to ensure up-to-date inventory across all property types with the goal of achieving inventory accuracy by 2017.

3. Develop and execute upon a strategy to maintain the average 2015 tax levy on existing taxpayers at levels equivalent to 2014 and ensure any increase on funds generated through non-market change (e.g., new construction) is used to improve customer service.

.../2

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Office of the Minister

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9056 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Phone: 250 387-2283
Fax: 250 387-4312

Location:
Room 124
Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

www.gov.bc.ca/cscd

4. Identify and assess emerging assessment policy or methodology issues which could impact the current or future economic viability of existing property types or economic sectors and work with the Ministry and key partners to provide policy, regulatory and legislative solutions to ensure fairness and equity.

These specific strategic priority actions and the Taxpayer Accountability Principles actions are to be included and integrated in your 2015/16 – 2017/18 Service Plan.

As part of the commitment to fiscal responsibility and to ensure the best possible use of government resources, provincial public sector organizations now operate under the Taxpayer Accountability Principles (enclosed) announced by Honourable Christy Clark, Premier, in June 2014. Through the implementation of the Taxpayer Accountability Principles, public sector organizations are developing a cost-conscious sector that strengthens cost management capabilities and fosters a principled culture of efficiency and accountability at all levels. This leadership includes implementing your organization's Code of Conduct which contains conflict of interest provisions and post-employment restrictions.

The BC Assessment Authority is expected to fully adopt the Taxpayer Accountability Principles – cost consciousness (efficiency), accountability, appropriate compensation, service, respect and integrity. The actions, as detailed in the 2014/15 GLE Addendum Letter, are to be completely implemented in 2015/16. For further information on the Taxpayer Accountability Principles, please see: http://gov.bc.ca/crownaccountabilities.

To support the implementation of the Taxpayer Accountability Principles, please ensure all board members sign this 2015/16 mandate letter and that the signed letter is posted publicly on your organization's website.

Government is committed to further strengthening accountability, improving the management of public funds and revitalizing the relationship between government and public sector organizations. This strong focus on improved two-way communication is to ensure a complete understanding of government directions, expectations, accountabilities and alignment with strategic priorities. As such, it is important that each of us advise the other in a timely manner of any issues that may materially affect the business of the BC Assessment Authority and/or the interests of government, including information on any risks to achieving financial forecasts and performance targets.

I look forward to our regular quarterly meetings that focus on strategic priorities, performance against the Taxpayer Accountability Principles, results and working together to protect the public interest at all times.

Sincerely,

Coralee Oakes

Coralee Oakes
Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Enclosure

.../3

Judy Rogers
Chair, BC Assessment Authority

Richard Taylor
Vice Chair, BC Assessment Authority

Sheila Eddin
Director, BC Assessment Authority

Philip Foucher
Director, BC Assessment Authority

Shelley Gilbert
Director, BC Assessment Authority

Ernest M. Jack
Director, BC Assessment Authority

David Mackeigan
Director, BC Assessment Authority

Ronald S. Miles
Director, BC Assessment Authority

Deborah Nelson
Director, BC Assessment Authority

Charlotte A. Salomon
Director, BC Assessment Authority

Josh Smienk
Director, BC Assessment Authority

Ben Vanderhorst
Director, BC Assessment Authority

.../4

pc: Honourable Christy Clark
Premier

Mr. John Dyble
Deputy Minister to the Premier and Cabinet Secretary

Mr. Peter Milburn
Deputy Minister and Secretary to Treasury Board
Ministry of Finance

Ms. Cheryl Wenezenki-Yolland
Associate Deputy Minister
Ministry of Finance

Ms. Rebecca F. Denlinger
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Ms. Connie Fair
President and Chief Executive Officer
BC Assessment Authority

Board Members
BC Assessment Authority

Further information available at: **http://gov.bc.ca/crownaccountabilities**

Cost Consciousness (Efficiency)	Strengthen cost management capabilities and foster a culture of cost-consciousness at all levels of public sector organizations. Provide public services and programs as efficiently and effectively as possible to "bend the cost curve" and support sustainable public policies and programs as a lasting legacy for generations to come.
Accountability	Transparently manage responsibilities according to a set of common public sector principles in the best interest of the citizens of the province. By enhancing organizational efficiency and effectiveness in the planning, reporting and decision making, public sector organizations will ensure actions are aligned with government's strategic mandate.
Appropriate Compensation	Comply with a rigorous, standardized approach to performance management and employee compensation, which reflects appropriate compensation for work across the public sector that is consistent with government's taxpayer accountability principles and respectful of the taxpayer.
Service	Maintain a clear focus on positive outcomes for citizens of British Columbia by delivering cost-efficient, effective, value-for-money public services and programs.
Respect	Engage in equitable, compassionate, respectful and effective communications that ensure all parties are properly informed or consulted on actions, decisions and public communications in a timely manner. Proactively collaborate in a spirit of partnership that respects the use of taxpayers' monies.
Integrity	Make decisions and take actions that are transparent, ethical and free from conflict of interest. Require the establishment of a strong ethical code of conduct for all employees and executives. Serve the citizens of British Columbia by respecting the shared public trust and acting in accordance with the taxpayer accountability principles.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

February 11, 2015

Ref: 157129

Mr. Byron McCorkell
Chair
BC Games Society
400 - 990 Fort Street
Victoria BC V8V 3K2

Dear Mr. McCorkell:

Re: 2015/16 Mandate Letter

British Columbians have come to expect the high quality products and services delivered by their provincial public sector organizations. The Province is well served by our public sector organizations. It is the responsibility of the boards and senior management teams of these organizations to lead and manage in the best interests of the Province and the taxpayer by strengthening accountability and promoting cost control.

One of government's core values is respect for the taxpayer's dollar. It is critical that public sector organizations operate as efficiently as possible, in order to ensure British Columbians are provided with services at the lowest cost possible. This requires constant focus on maintaining a cost-conscious and principled culture through the efficient delivery of services that stand the test of public scrutiny and help develop a prosperous economy in an environmentally sustainable manner. The foundation of this work is the government's commitment to controlling spending and balancing the budget.

The BC Games Society, under the *Societies Act*, has been mandated to provide opportunities for development to athletes, coaches, and officials in preparation for higher levels of competition in multi-sport events; and to provide opportunities for British Columbians to participate in sport and physical activity and celebrate the spirit of community.

The BC Games Society is directed to take the following specific strategic priority actions for 2015/16:

1. Implement shared services opportunities that support the mandate of the Government's Core Review process.
    - The overarching goal of the Core Review process is to help ensure the best possible use of government resources and respect for the interests of taxpayers.

2. In conjunction with Host Organizing Committee, explore options for safe, secure, and fiscally prudent accommodations, transportation and meals for Games participants.
    - Continue to ensure the safety and well-being of the children and young adults competing at the Games, as well as the care and comfort of all spectators.

.../2

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Office of the Minister

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9056 Stn Prov Govt
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Room 124
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Victoria BC V8V 1X4

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3. Review and complete implementation of policies to ensure athletes with a disability are fully integrated in the Games and continue to work with host societies to implement Games accessibility improvements (transportation, venues, etc.) in the community.
    - Continue to ensure the Games are inclusive and all athletes have an equitable opportunity to achieve excellence.

These specific strategic priority actions and the Taxpayer Accountability Principles actions are to be included and integrated in your 2015/16 – 2017/18 Service Plan.

As part of the commitment to fiscal responsibility and to ensure the best possible use of government resources, provincial public sector organizations now operate under the Taxpayer Accountability Principles (enclosed) announced by Honourable Christy Clark, Premier, in June 2014. Through the implementation of Taxpayer Accountability Principles, public sector organizations are leading a change to a cost-conscious sector that strengthens cost management capabilities and fosters a principled culture of efficiency and accountability at all levels. This leadership includes implementing your organization's Code of Conduct which contains conflict of interest provisions and post-employment restrictions.

The BC Games Society is expected to fully adopt the Taxpayer Accountability Principles – cost consciousness (efficiency), accountability, appropriate compensation, service, respect and integrity. The actions, as detailed in the 2014/15 GLE Addendum Letter, are to be completely implemented in 2015/16. For further information on the Taxpayer Accountability Principles, please see: http://gov.bc.ca/crownaccountabilities.

To support the implementation of the Taxpayer Accountability Principles, please ensure all board members sign this 2015/16 Mandate letter and that the signed letter is posted publicly on your organization's website.

Government is committed to further strengthening accountability, improving the management of public funds and revitalizing the relationship between government and public sector organizations. This strong focus on improved two-way communication is to ensure a complete understanding of government directions, expectations, accountabilities and alignment with strategic priorities. As such, it is important that each of us advise the other in a timely manner of any issues that may materially affect the business of the BC Games Society and/or the interests of government, including information on any risks to achieving financial forecasts and performance targets.

I look forward to our regular quarterly meetings that focus on strategic priorities, performance against the Taxpayer Accountability Principles, results and working together to protect the public interest at all times.

Sincerely,

Coralee Oakes

Coralee Oakes
Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Enclosure

.../3

Byron McCorkell
Chair, BC Games Society

Susan Archibald
Director, BC Games Society

Sue Bock
Director, BC Games Society

Kjeld Brodsgaard
Director, BC Games Society

David Calder
Director, BC Games Society

Jamie Choi
Director, BC Games Society

Moira Gookstetter
Director, BC Games Society

Chris Graham
Director, BC Games Society

Wade Loukes
Director, BC Games Society

Donna Mihalcheon
Director, BC Games Society

Simon Whitfield
Director, BC Games Society

Rochelle Winterton
Director, BC Games Society

Sarah Zimmerman
Director, BC Games Society

.../4

pc: Honourable Christy Clark
Premier

Mr. John Dyble
Deputy Minister to the Premier and Cabinet Secretary

Mr. Peter Milburn
Deputy Minister and Secretary to Treasury Board
Ministry of Finance

Ms. Cheryl Wenezenki-Yolland
Associate Deputy Minister
Ministry of Finance

Ms. Rebecca F. Denlinger
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Mr. Kelly Mann
President and Chief Executive Officer
BC Games Society

Board Members
BC Games Society

BRITISH COLUMBIA

JAN 15 2015

Ref: 157130

Ms. Susan Knott
A/Chair
Royal BC Museum
675 Belleville Street
Victoria, BC V8W 9W2

Dear Ms. Knott:

Re: 2015/16 Mandate Letter

British Columbians have come to expect the high quality products and services delivered by their provincial public sector organizations. The Province is well served by our public sector organizations. It is the responsibility of the boards and senior management teams of these organizations to lead and manage in the best interests of the Province and the taxpayer by strengthening accountability and promoting cost control.

One of government's core values is respect for the taxpayer's dollar. It is critical that public sector organizations operate as efficiently as possible, in order to ensure British Columbians are provided with services at the lowest cost possible. This requires constant focus on maintaining a cost-conscious and principled culture through the efficient delivery of services that stand the test of public scrutiny and help develop a prosperous economy in an environmentally sustainable manner. The foundation of this work is the government's commitment to controlling spending and balancing the budget.

The Royal BC Museum was created under the *Museum Act* (2003) to fulfil the Government's fiduciary role as a public trustee of specimens, artefacts, the archives of government and private archival records and other materials that illustrate the natural and human history of British Columbia; to communicate knowledge of human and natural history through exhibitions, research and programs; and to hold collections for current and future generations of British Columbians.

The Royal BC Museum is directed to take the following specific strategic priority actions for 2015/16:

1. Work together with stakeholders to promote the upcoming 2015 Gold Rush exhibit and the importance of the British Columbia Gold Rush to the history of the province.

2. Continue to develop key relationships with partners in China to support research, collections, exhibition touring and increased tourism to British Columbia.

3. Continue implementation of the comprehensive new learning strategy.

.../2

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Office of the Minister

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Location:
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Victoria BC V8V 1X4

www.gov.bc.ca/cscd

4. Commence the implementation of the Royal BC Museum revitalization plan to provide more opportunities to expand programs and exhibits; diversify and increase revenue opportunities. The scale of the redevelopment is contingent on the Royal BC Museum's capacity to fund the changes internally or through public support.

These specific strategic priority actions and the Taxpayer Accountability Principles actions are to be included and integrated in your 2015/16 –2017/18 Service Plan.

As part of the commitment to fiscal responsibility and to ensure the best possible use of government resources, provincial public sector organizations now operate under the Taxpayer Accountability Principles (enclosed) announced by Premier Christy Clark in June 2014. Through the implementation of the Taxpayer Accountability Principles, public sector organizations are developing a cost-conscious sector that strengthens cost management capabilities and fosters a principled culture of efficiency and accountability at all levels. This leadership includes implementing your organization's Code of Conduct which contains conflict of interest provisions and post-employment restrictions.

The Royal BC Museum is expected to fully adopt the Taxpayer Accountability Principles – cost consciousness (efficiency), accountability, appropriate compensation, service, respect and integrity. The actions, as detailed in the 2014/15 GLE Addendum Letter, are to be completely implemented in 2015/16. For further information on the Taxpayer Accountability Principles, please see: http://gov.bc.ca/crownaccountabilities.

To support the implementation of the Taxpayer Accountability Principles, please ensure all board members sign this 2015/16 mandate letter and that the signed letter is posted publicly on your organization's website.

Government is committed to further strengthening accountability, improving the management of public funds and revitalizing the relationship between government and public sector organizations. This strong focus on improved two-way communication is to ensure a complete understanding of government directions, expectations, accountabilities and alignment with strategic priorities. As such, it is important that each of us advise the other in a timely manner of any issues that may materially affect the business of the Royal BC Museum and/or the interests of government, including information on any risks to achieving financial forecasts and performance targets.

I look forward to our regular quarterly meetings that focus on strategic priorities, performance against the Taxpayer Accountability Principles, results and working together to protect the public interest at all times.

Sincerely,

Coralee Oakes

Coralee Oakes
Minister of Community Sport and Cultural Development

Enclosure

.../3

Susan Knott
A/Chair, Royal BC Museum

David B. Adams
Director, Royal BC Museum

Daphne Corbett
Director, Royal BC Museum

Heidi E. Dale-Johnson
Director, Royal BC Museum

Garth M. Evans
Director, Royal BC Museum

Wendy King
Director, Royal BC Museum

Mark Palmer-Edgecumbe
Director, Royal BC Museum

Raymond Protti
Director, Royal BC Museum

Terry Segarty
Director, Royal BC Museum

Angela Wesley
Director, Royal BC Museum

.../4

pc: Honourable Christy Clark
Premier

Mr. John Dyble
Deputy Minister to the Premier and Cabinet Secretary

Mr. Peter Milburn
Deputy Minister and Secretary to Treasury Board
Ministry of Finance

Ms. Cheryl Wenezenki-Yolland
Associate Deputy Minister
Ministry of Finance

Ms. Rebecca F. Denlinger
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Mr. Jack Lohman
Chief Executive Officer
Royal BC Museum

Board Members
Royal BC Museum

Further information available at: http://gov.bc.ca/crownaccountabilities

Cost Consciousness (Efficiency)	Strengthen cost management capabilities and foster a culture of cost-consciousness at all levels of public sector organizations. Provide public services and programs as efficiently and effectively as possible to "bend the cost curve" and support sustainable public policies and programs as a lasting legacy for generations to come.
Accountability	Transparently manage responsibilities according to a set of common public sector principles in the best interest of the citizens of the province. By enhancing organizational efficiency and effectiveness in the planning, reporting and decision making, public sector organizations will ensure actions are aligned with government's strategic mandate.
Appropriate Compensation	Comply with a rigorous, standardized approach to performance management and employee compensation, which reflects appropriate compensation for work across the public sector that is consistent with government's taxpayer accountability principles and respectful of the taxpayer.
Service	Maintain a clear focus on positive outcomes for citizens of British Columbia by delivering cost-efficient, effective, value-for-money public services and programs.
Respect	Engage in equitable, compassionate, respectful and effective communications that ensure all parties are properly informed or consulted on actions, decisions and public communications in a timely manner. Proactively collaborate in a spirit of partnership that respects the use of taxpayers' monies.
Integrity	Make decisions and take actions that are transparent, ethical and free from conflict of interest. Require the establishment of a strong ethical code of conduct for all employees and executives. Serve the citizens of British Columbia by respecting the shared public trust and acting in accordance with the taxpayer accountability principles.

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
Estimates Debate 2016/2017

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Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
2016/17 – 2018/19 Service Plan Questions & Answers

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Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
2016/17 – 2018/19 Service Plan Questions & Answers

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1. What are the Ministry's goals?

Goal 1: Communities and regions are effectively governed

Goal 2: Communities and regions are vibrant and sustainable

Goal 3: Communities are culturally rich and foster sustainable jobs, economic growth and a vibrant social fabric

Goal 4: The provincial sport sector is robust and supports increased participation and athletic achievement

Goal 5: Eligible non-profit societies are supported by community gaming grants to provide programs that benefit communities

2. What are the Ministry's performance measures?

Performance Measure 1: Number of municipalities collecting at least 90 per cent of their current year taxes (p. 9)

Performance Measure 2: Local governments' ability to obtain low-cost, long-term capital financing (p. 9)

Performance Measure 3: Percentage of local governments taking action to reduce their carbon footprints (p. 11)

Performance Measure 4: Career development opportunities provided to help grow the creative economy and workforce (p. 12)

Performance Measure 5: Geographic reach of BC Arts Council funding (p. 13)

Performance Measure 6: Percentage of B.C. athletes on national teams (p. 15)

3. What changed between the 2015/16– 2017/18 and the 2016/17 – 2018/19 versions of the plan?

The goals, objectives, and performance measures have primarily been carried forward from the 2015/16 – 2017/18 Service Plan. Key changes include:

- The former PM 3 "Percentage of British Columbians served by drinking water systems that meet emerging treatment standards for the protection of drinking water quality" was deleted.

  The measure was intended to be retired when the water filtration plant and tunnels for Seymour-Capilano came on line. Because remaining water systems are small or privately operated, future results would have been very incremental.

- The former Objective 3.1 "Creative people, places, and experiences exist throughout B.C." and 3.2 "The next generation of skilled workers are creative, collaborative and innovative thinkers" were consolidated into a single Objective.

  The resulting new Objective 3.1 "Implement initiatives to grow B.C.'s creative economy and workforce" better reflects the Arts and Culture Branch's work to support the creative economy.

- A new PM (PM 4) was added under the new Objective 3.1, also reflecting the Ministry's work to grow the creative economy.

  PM 4: "Career development opportunities provided to help grow the creative economy and workforce".

- The former PM 5 "Percentage of B.C.'s major cultural organizations that maintain or improve their net financial position compared to the previous year" was deleted because the results were not directly attributable to the Ministry's work. During the 2015/16 Estimates debate, this measure was challenged.

- A new Goal and Objective were added – Goal 5 "Eligible non-profit societies are supported by community gaming grants to provide programs that benefit communities" and Objective 5.1 "Enhance client service experience of the Community Gaming Grant program".

- Strategies and the Service Plan as a whole have been edited to be up-to-date and to reflect the Minister's Mandate Letter commitments and Government priorities.

Ministry of
Community, Sport and Cultural Development

2016/17 – 2018/19
SERVICE PLAN



For more information on the British Columbia Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development contact:

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
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VICTORIA, B.C.
V8W 9N7

or visit our website at
www.gov.bc.ca/cscd

Published by the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Minister
Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development 2016/17 - 2018/19 Service Plan was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.



Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
Minister Responsible for TransLink
February 3, 2016

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Resource Summary Table **18**

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Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development brings together key government services and supports which help to make B.C. communities great places to live, work, visit and invest. The Ministry takes leadership in supporting local governments, non-profit organizations and residents to build vibrant and healthy communities that are well governed, liveable, safe, economically resilient, socially and environmentally responsible and full of opportunities for participation in sport and the arts.

The Ministry oversees the following Crown corporations, agencies, boards and commissions, which are integral to achieving the Ministry's mission: the BC Arts Council, the BC Assessment Authority, the BC Games Society, the Board of Examiners, the Islands Trust Fund, the Property Assessment Appeal Board and the Royal BC Museum. The Ministry also oversees the Office of the BC Athletic Commissioner and the University Endowment Lands, administers the annual Property Assessment Review Panel process and supports the Audit Council for the Auditor General for Local Government. The Ministry is also responsible for TransLink.

In addition, the Ministry works in close partnership with provincial, federal and municipal governments and agencies, as well as private and not-for-profit organizations. Some of these key partners include: Infrastructure Canada, the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia, the Local Government Management Association, the Government Finance Officers Association of BC, the Municipal Insurance Association of BC, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and TransLink.

The effective delivery of the Ministry's mandate relies on key legislation, including: the *Local Government Act*, the *Community Charter*, the *Vancouver Charter*, the *Arts Council Act*, the *Assessment Act*, the *Gaming Control Act*, the *Athletic Commissioner Act*, the *Auditor General for Local Government Act* and the *South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Act*.

Strategic Direction and Context

Strategic Direction

Premier Christy Clark's Mandate Letter to Minister Peter Fassbender outlines key expectations for the ministry, including implementing expense limits for local government elections, working with the federal government to secure infrastructure funding, implementing an action plan to grow B.C.'s creative economy, making recommendations to Cabinet on ways to improve transit in Metro Vancouver, and balancing the ministry's budget. The letter also directs the ministry to continue to work collaboratively with the Ministry of Natural Gas Development to ensure communities facing growth due to LNG development are provided support to manage and mitigate the impacts of significant economic development and population growth. In addition, the ministry contributes to the success of government priorities of a strong economy and a secure tomorrow, including through working to advance the BC Jobs Plan, reducing red tape and building partnerships with First Nations.

The ministry and the associated agencies, boards and commissions adhere to the Taxpayer Accountability Principles, which outline standards of fiscal responsibility and transparency across government.

Strategic Context

British Columbia is a vibrant and diverse province, with a wealth of natural and human resources, whose residents enjoy a rich quality of life. For some B.C. communities, shifting global markets and a changing environmental context have resulted in challenges, including diminished local government tax revenues from industrial downsizing. In other parts of the province, communities are responding to changes stemming from increased industrial growth. As it works to create jobs and grow the economy, government will have an opportunity to address these dynamics through focusing on strong relationships with communities and First Nations and engaging the federal government on priority programs, such as public transit and green infrastructure.

B.C. is a culturally rich province that is home to a world-renowned creative sector. A vibrant arts and culture sector is a key factor in attracting skilled workers and corporate investment as well as enhancing quality of life in B.C. communities. Like many growing sectors, the arts and culture community faces human resource and volunteer management challenges. However, the use of technology, which broadens markets, allows forengagement of audiences in new ways, and eases administrative burdens of arts organizations, offers many opportunities for the sector. The increased recognition of the importance of the arts for community-building represents another opportunity for continued growth.

Provincial funding supports a robust sport system that encourages British Columbians of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to enjoy the health and social benefits of active lifestyles and helps B.C. communities succeed as great places to live, work, visit and invest. B.C.'s changing demographics—including an aging and diversifying population—mean that the sport system must continue to evolve in order to meet the needs of British Columbians. The Ministry will continue working with sport and

multi-sector partners to help the sector address those needs and to further reduce barriers to participation.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures

This Service Plan outlines the ministry's goals and objectives for the 2016/17 – 2018/19 fiscal years and identifies key strategies the ministry intends to pursue to achieve them. Over the next three years, the Ministry will work towards achieving the following outcomes:

- Goal 1: Communities and regions are effectively governed
- Goal 2: Communities and regions are vibrant and sustainable
- Goal 3: Communities are culturally rich and foster sustainable jobs, economic growth and a vibrant social fabric
- Goal 4: The provincial sport sector is robust and supports increased participation and athletic achievement
- Goal 5: Eligible non-profit societies are supported by community gaming grants to provide programs that benefit communities

The Ministry operates under the Taxpayer Accountability Principles that strengthen accountability to the citizens of B.C. by providing a common platform of compensation and accountability across the public sector. The six principles—cost-consciousness (efficiency), accountability, appropriate compensation, service, respect, and integrity—are integrated into the Ministry's operations and reflected through the goals and objectives of this Service Plan.

Goal 1: Communities and regions are effectively governed

Objective 1.1: A sound governance system that balances local government autonomy and provincial responsibilities for the benefit of citizens

Strategies

- Review and monitor the policy, legislative and regulatory framework and propose changes, so that local governments can govern effectively and meet citizens' needs. Included in these efforts will be the development of the next phase of local government election reforms, including the implementation of expense limits, targeted for use in the 2018 local government elections.
- Encourage citizen-local government engagement in decision-making, including by providing advice and resolving problems on governance, finance, land use and other matters of interest to citizens, as well as developing public information and furthering education with partner-organizations.
- Support communities in assessing their local and regional governance—including with respect

to services and organization—and, where appropriate, support communities in changing local government structure by contributing to a shared understanding of the facts and implications of proposed restructuring.

- Work to ensure that recent changes to TransLink's governance model continue to empower the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation and support broader representation on TransLink's board of directors.
- Review the recommendations made by Chris Trumpy to improve the operations of the office of the Auditor General for Local Government and provide options for reform.
- Work to ensure there is a fair, accountable and transparent property assessment system, including an independent appeal process to encourage economic growth in British Columbia.
- Support local governments in building respectful relationships with First Nations including by contributing funding to the Community to Community Forum program which enables local governments and their First Nations neighbours to come together locally to build mutual understanding.
- Work to ensure that the annual Union of British Columbia Municipalities convention provides a comprehensive exchange of ideas between government and its municipal partners.

Objective 1.2: Local governments are able to meet the service needs of their residents

Strategies

- Enable local governments to maintain core human resource capacity by providing stable, predictable and timely funding to small and medium sized local governments through the administration of Small Community and Regional District Grants.
- Work with the federal government to participate in, and benefit from, new infrastructure programs and funding for B.C. communities, including for transportation in Metro Vancouver.
- Facilitate existing infrastructure funding to enable local governments to provide services to residents and create the conditions needed for economic growth.
- Provide targeted funding for policing, crime prevention and community safety by returning net traffic fine revenues to local governments.
- Support local governments to make effective, integrated and collaborative service provision choices, including through problem solving, guidance and program support for delivery of local and regional services such as water, recreation and economic development.
- Provide leadership as TransLink works with the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation, to deliver efficient and accountable transportation services for Metro Vancouver and make recommendations on ways to improve transit and transportation in that region.
- Encourage strong fiscal and asset management practices to encourage the development of sustainable infrastructure and amenities to accelerate economic development for communities.

- Partner with organizations such as Asset Management BC, Government Finance Officers Association of BC, Local Government Leadership Academy, Local Government Management Association, Planning Institute of BC, and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities to educate and build capacity in local governments.

Performance Measure 1: Number of municipalities collecting at least 90 per cent of their current year taxes

Performance Measure	2015/16 Forecast	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Number of municipalities collecting at least 90 per cent of their current year taxes.	152	155	155	155

Data Source: Local governments provide the ministry with financial data at the end of the fiscal year. The ministry's reporting requirements are comprehensive and the data received is highly accurate. There were 161 municipalities in B.C. in January 2015.

Discussion:

Property taxes are the main source of annual municipal revenues and are therefore crucial in enabling municipalities to provide services to their residents. By monitoring the number of municipalities that collect at least 90 per cent of their current year taxes, the ministry is able to focus efforts on communities that may need assistance in assessing their financial capacity and addressing challenges. Ministry efforts include the development and promotion of financial best management practices, along with other decision support guidance documents, as well the provision, where needed, of direct financial planning assistance and advice.

Performance Measure 2: Local governments' ability to obtain low-cost, long-term capital financing

Performance Measure	2015/16 Forecast	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Municipal Finance Authority's Credit Rating.	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA

Data Source: Municipal Finance Authority. Ratings provided by the Moody's, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch rating agencies.

Discussion:

The cost of borrowing is a critical concern for local governments when planning capital projects. The Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia (MFA) was created in 1970 to act as a collective borrowing agency for local governments to provide access to low-cost financing.

The ministry supports the MFA in obtaining a high credit rating and low rates for borrowing through: the administration of the *Municipal Finance Authority Act*; setting local government borrowing limits; reviewing and approving loan authorization bylaws; setting financial reporting requirements; and ensuring local government financial data is available to the MFA and the financial community.

Objective 1.3: Local governments support a positive environment for business and economic development

Strategies

- Work with partners to ensure property tax on industrial and business properties promotes competitiveness and investment while maintaining local government capacity.
- Encourage local governments to engage with the business sector and other stakeholders to create policies, processes and actions to enable economic growth.
- Promote the reduction of "red tape", in conjunction with the Ministry of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction, to decrease the regulatory burden on citizens and businesses.
- Work with the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training to assist local government efforts to create and implement economic development strategies, policies and actions.

Goal 2: Communities and regions are vibrant and sustainable

Objective 2.1: Communities benefit from the long-term economic, regional and social opportunities that emerge from major industrial growth, including liquefied natural gas

Strategies

- Assist local governments to build the capacity needed to respond to the demands and opportunities for sustained regional economic growth from major industrial activity.
- Build a framework that can serve to leverage the social, economic and community dividends that result from the expansion of industrial activity in the province.

Objective 2.2: Communities have effective water and waste management

Strategies

- Provide targeted funding to local governments to help them achieve provincial water and waste management objectives.
- Provide tools and resources to local governments to assist them in conserving and protecting water resources.
- Encourage local governments to use liquid and solid waste as a resource and maximize the recovery value.
- Promote the use of the best, lowest life-cycle cost approaches for local government infrastructure projects.

Objective 2.3: Local governments are implementing strategies to improve community sustainability

Strategies

- Update ministry infrastructure funding programs to encourage local governments to innovate, integrate and prioritize those projects that deliver environmental, economic and/or social benefits.
- Provide guidance, advice and tools to help local governments meet their commitments under the *British Columbia Climate Action Charter*.
- Encourage local governments to facilitate the development of more affordable market housing options near transit.
- In partnership with the federal government and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, continue to implement the Federal Gas Tax Transfer Fund that came into effect on April 1, 2014.
- Provide tools and resources for local governments to integrate land use planning and management decisions with transportation, infrastructure and financial planning and decision-making.
- Promote the effective development, adoption and implementation of Regional Growth Strategies by providing advice throughout the process and assistance for resolving disputes.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, assist communities in implementing priority infrastructure projects that support sustainable service deliver under the New Building Canada-Small Communities Fund Program, a joint federal/provincial infrastructure-funding program.

Performance Measure 3: Percentage of local governments taking action to reduce their carbon footprints

Performance Measure	2015/16 Forecast	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Percentage of local governments taking action to reduce their carbon footprints.	92%	96%	96%	96%

Data Source: Local governments' annual Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) reports. The measure reflects the percentage of local governments (including the Islands Trust) submitting CARIP reports, which outline local governments' actions to reduce their carbon footprint.

Discussion:

Actions taken by local governments to increase energy efficiency or reduce their corporate and community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are key to creating sustainable communities and regions. Local governments are also using planning tools and making more sustainable land use decisions to create complete, compact and energy efficient communities and regions with more diverse housing, greenspace and renewable energy and transportation.

Goal 3: Communities are culturally rich and foster sustainable jobs, economic growth and a vibrant social fabric

Objective 3.1: Implement initiatives to grow B.C.'s creative economy and workforce

Strategies

- Assist B.C.'s creative workers in developing their careers through programs offered by BC Creative Futures, the BC Arts Council and partners.
- Provide funding to encourage the development of more collaborations, creative clusters and co-locations of artists and cultural organizations.
- Invest in strengthening the capacity of Aboriginal artists.
- Create opportunities for the cultural sector to access new markets, including by showcasing artists internationally, in order to support success in the province's trade, investment and tourism strategies.
- Maximize public and private investment in the arts by demonstrating the value of public and private partnerships as well as philanthropy.
- Realize the full potential of the creative sector in communities by investing in cultural events and by enhancing partnerships with local governments.
- Foster creativity in children and youth through the programs outlined in the BC Creative Futures strategy.

Performance Measure 4: Career development opportunities provided to help grow the creative economy and workforce

Performance Measure	2015/16 Forecast	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Number of career development opportunities provided.[1]	80	200	210	100[2]

Data Source: Arts and Culture Branch and the BC Arts Council.

[1] For the purpose of this measure, career development opportunities are defined as the number of participants in:

- the BC Arts Council's BC Early Career Development programs
- Training for Aboriginal artists
- the ArtsVest sponsorship training
- the Arts Legacy Fund showcasing project

[2] The lower 2018/19 target is the result of the ArtsVest program completing in 2017/18. This and other targets may be adjusted upward in the future as plans for additional programs or spaces are finalized.

Discussion:

The government's plan to grow the creative economy aims to drive innovation, productivity and entrepreneurship throughout the province. Developing B.C.'s creative workforce is one of the strategy's key pillars, which the Ministry supports through a number of programs to provide artists and other creative workers with career development opportunities ranging from business training, to opportunities for mentorship, to the showcasing of artists and their work.

Objective 3.2: British Columbia's arts and culture sector is vibrant, resilient and recognized for artistic excellence

Strategies

- Foster artistic excellence in all art forms and practices by investing in artistic exploration and innovation and the strength of arts and culture organizations through programs offered by the BC Arts Council.
- Strengthen engagement in the arts by increasing the opportunities for British Columbians to participate in the arts and providing leadership to increase community engagement.
- Support the richness of Aboriginal artists and communities in B.C. by acknowledging the contribution of Aboriginal artists and their culture and supporting Aboriginal artists and organizations to help them participate in a wide range of artistic and cultural activities.
- Develop the artistic and adaptive capacity of the arts and culture sector in B.C.
- Engage audiences and artists reflective of the diverse demographics of the province.

Performance Measure 5: Geographic reach of BC Arts Council funding

Performance Measure	2015/16 Forecast	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Number of communities and regional districts where cultural and artistic activities are supported with BC Arts Council funding.[1]	More than 200 communities; 27 Regional Districts	More than 205 communities; 27 Regional Districts	More than 210 communities; 27 Regional Districts	More than 215 communities; 27 Regional Districts

Data Source: BC Arts Council.

[1] For the purpose of this measure, communities are defined as municipalities and unincorporated settlements.

Discussion:

The BC Arts Council's mandate is to engage all British Columbians in a healthy arts and cultural community recognized for excellence. By targeting the vast majority of B.C. communities and all 27 regional districts, this measure indicates the degree of the Council's success in being inclusive of all British Columbians, regardless of whether they live in rural areas, small cities or large urban centers.

Goal 4: The provincial sport sector is robust and supports increased participation and athletic achievement

Objective 4.1: Individuals have more opportunities to participate in sport in order to be more physically active, healthier and achieve their personal goals

Strategies

- Promote opportunities for British Columbians to participate and achieve personal goals in organized sport by supporting programs, services and organizations, such as provincial and multi-sport organizations.
- Provide support to initiatives that reduce geographic, financial and other barriers to participation and achievement in sport (e.g. Accessibility 2024 initiatives, KidSport BC).
- Improve health, social and educational outcomes for youth through school-based and community sport.
- Support the Parliamentary Secretary for Youth Sport to promote and advance youth participation in sport, with an initial focus on First Nations and Aboriginal youth. The Parliamentary Secretary will work with First Nations, Aboriginal leaders and youth to co-create a new Premier's Award for Aboriginal Youth Athletic Achievement, with a goal of completing the first round of nominations, selection, and award in 2016.
- Increase coach and leadership development opportunities and support organizations and programs that promote safe experiences and skill development in sport.
- Work with the provincial sport sector to streamline operations to create savings available for reinvestment into community programming.

Objective 4.2: Athletes have more opportunities to achieve excellence in sport to inspire greater participation in their home communities

Strategies

- Help B.C. athletes excel by providing resources during their development (e.g. provincial and regional coaching, sport science expertise).
- Support B.C. athletes as they progress and pursue excellence at higher levels of competition (e.g. BC Games, Canada Games, Olympic and Paralympic Games and other major events).

Performance Measure 6: Percentage of B.C. athletes on national teams

Performance Measure	2015/16 Forecast	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Percentage of B.C. athletes on national teams.[1]	30.1%	greater than 25%	greater than 25%	greater than 25%

Data Source: Canadian Sport Institute Pacific.

[1] National teams include those athletes who represent Canada at events such as Olympic, Paralympic, or Commonwealth Games and/or World Championships or who are supported through the Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) in the current year. Other indicators related to this measure that will be monitored are the number of BC Games and Team BC athletes on national teams; medals won at Games and world championships; Team BC performance at Canada Games, Western Summer Canada Games, and North American Indigenous Games. Sports included in the measure are those that have been targeted for enhanced performance support funding. Nineteen such sports were included in the measure in 2014/15.

Discussion:

This measure reflects the health of B.C.'s sport system—including its organizations, coaches, athlete development programs and facilities—and the value of the Province's investment in the system. More than 30 per cent of national team members are B.C. athletes—more than double B.C.'s share of Canada's population (13 per cent). This represents the effectiveness of B.C.'s sport system in supporting our athletes to excel.

Objective 4.3: Major events support sport, economic and community development

Strategies

- Launch new elements of the Sport, Arts and Culture Hosting Program, such as additional toolkit components, a "live support" resource, and knowledge transfer mechanisms.
- Invest in major hosting opportunities, such as the BC Games, the 2016 Canada Cup of Wheelchair Rugby, the 2016 Women's World Softball Championships, the 2016 World Women's Hockey Championships and the 2016 World Rugby Sevens (men and women).
- Support a wide range of regional sport events province-wide through the Hosting BC program that bring significant social and economic benefits to communities across B.C.
- Provide oversight to the BC Athletic Commissioner (BCAC), an independent office that regulates the conduct of professional boxing and mixed martial arts (MMA) as well as amateur MMA, kickboxing, Muay Thai and pankration events throughout British Columbia.

Goal 5: Eligible non-profit societies are supported by community gaming grants to provide programs that benefit communities

Objective 5.1: Enhance client service experience of the Community Gaming Grant program

Strategies

- Continue to ensure gaming grants eligibility criteria result in positive distributions to communities.
- Deliver community presentations on gaming grant guidelines.
- Update the community gaming grant website to improve user-experience and enhance clarity. This may include, for example, video tutorials to assist applicants in addressing frequently asked questions.
- Support community groups such as the BC Association for Charitable Gaming and BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centers to assist other not-for-profit organizations in the application process.
- Provide community gaming grants staff with skills training in customer service and deliver annual customer surveys to clients, beginning in 2016.

Resource Summary

Core Business Area	2015/16 Restated Estimates[1]	2016/17 Estimates	2017/18 Plan	2018/19 Plan
Operating Expenses ($000)				
Local Government[2]	148,607	178,640	183,730	183,786
Integrated Policy, Legislation and Operations	2,789	2,797	2,823	2,843
Arts, Culture, Gaming Grants and Sport[3]	46,705	46,728	46,771	46,802
Transfers to Crown Corporations and Agencies	11,866	11,866	11,866	11,866
Executive and Support Services	5,861	5,906	5,976	6,039
Ministry Totals	215,828	245,937	251,166	251,336
Special Accounts				
BC Arts and Culture Endowment special account	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Physical Fitness and Amateur Sports Fund	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700
University Endowment Lands Administration Account	8,442	8,442	8,442	8,442
Total	228,470	258,579	263,808	263,978
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) ($000)				
Executive and Support Services				
Total	**1,288**	**1,074**	**402**	**2**

[1] For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2015/16 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2016/17 Estimates.

[2] Local Government includes University Endowment Lands (UEL), Assessment Services, and Assessment Policy and Support.

[3] Arts, Culture, Gaming Grants and Sport includes $135M for Community Gaming Grants and ($135M) of offsetting Recoveries.

*All amounts exclude approved access to Contingencies.

*Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates."

Appendices

Appendix A: Ministry Contact Information

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Further information on the various programs and services provided by the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development can be found at www.gov.bc.ca/cscd.

To contact a specific person or program in the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, please refer to the B.C. Government Directory.

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

2014/15 – 2016/17
ANNUAL SERVICE PLAN REPORT



For more information on the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, contact:

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or visit our website at

www.gov.bc.ca/cscd/

Minister's Message and Accountability Statement



Vibrant communities build a strong foundation for a successful British Columbia. For most British Columbians, local communities provide a sense of identity, familiarity and security. I note with pleasure that funding for our Ministry's community-based programs in 2014/2015 continued to support the success and viability of British Columbia's diverse and unique communities.

The Ministry worked in partnership with 189 local governments (162 municipalities and 27 regional districts) in the province to help build strong communities throughout British Columbia that are sustainable and prepared for economic growth. The Province also assists local governments by building partnerships that make significant federal investment in local communities possible. As a result of the finalization of negotiations between the Province, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and the federal government over the past year, the Gas Tax program will invest $2.76 billion in B.C. local governments over the next ten years – and the Small Communities Fund under the New Building Canada Fund represents a $327 million investment over the next decade.

The Ministry sustained strong support for the arts, artists and cultural organizations in communities across the province, investing more than $60 million in arts and culture, including a record-high $24 million for the BC Arts Council, our government's key development and funding agency for the arts. The Ministry provided significant support for sports in British Columbia through an investment of approximately $50 million. Programs such as Hosting BC, BC Sport Participation and the Local Sport Program Development Fund supported a diverse range of sports events and competitions, as well as encouraging all British Columbians to enjoy a healthy lifestyle through participation in sport.

Every year, British Columbia hosts outstanding sport and cultural events. The B.C. Government approved the development of a five-year Sport, Arts and Culture Event Strategy to build a stronger link between event hosting and tourism promotion. We continue to develop the strategy with partners in other ministries and the BC Arts Council, BC Games Society, ViaSport, and Destination BC.

Through an agreement with the Ministry of Finance, the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch implemented an annual investment of $135 million in community gaming grants. Over 5,000 local organizations, representing virtually every community in British Columbia, received gaming grants. Our ongoing support for local governments, arts and culture, sport and gaming grants help communities throughout British Columbia succeed as great places to live, work, visit and invest.

The *Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development 2014/15 – 2016/17 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the Ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in the *2014/15 – 2016/17 Service Plan*. I am accountable for those results as reported.

Honourable Coralee Oakes
Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

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Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development brings together key government services and supports needed to make B.C. communities great places to live, work, visit and invest. The Ministry supports local governments, non-profit organizations and residents to build vibrant and healthy communities that are well governed, liveable, safe, economically resilient, socially and environmentally responsible and full of opportunities for participation in sport and the arts.

The Ministry oversees the following Crown corporations, agencies, boards and commissions, which are integral to achieving the Ministry's mission: the Royal BC Museum, the BC Assessment Authority, the BC Arts Council, the BC Games Society, the Board of Examiners, the Islands Trust Fund, and the Property Assessment Appeal Board. The Ministry also oversees the Office of the BC Athletic Commissioner and the University Endowment Lands, administers the annual Property Assessment Review Panel process and provides secretariat support to the Audit Council for the Auditor General for Local Government. Please see Appendix B for more information.

In addition, the Ministry works in close partnership with provincial, federal and municipal governments and agencies, as well as private and not-for-profit organizations. Some of these key partners include: the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia, the Local Government Management Association, the Government Finance Officers Association of BC, the Municipal Insurance Association of BC and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM).

The effective delivery of the Ministry's mandate relies on key legislation, including: the *Local Government Act*, the *Community Charter*, the *Vancouver Charter*, the *Arts Council Act*, the *Assessment Act*, the *Gaming Control Act* and the *Athletic Commissioner Act*.

Strategic Direction and Context

Strategic Direction

The Minister's June 10, 2013 mandate letter from Premier Christy Clark outlined key expectations for the Ministry in 2014/15, such as the implementation of local government election changes, the creation of the framework for the rural dividend for communities, working with the UBCM on a framework for implementing the federal infrastructure program, and engaging with sport and cultural development communities to make recommendations on how we can better provide provincial support to these organizations.

In addition to the strategic priorities outlined in the Minister's June 2013 mandate letter, the introduction of the Taxpayer Accountability Principles (TAP) in June 2014 provided a framework to enhance greater strategic engagement between the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and its associated Crown corporations. The Ministry worked with its Crown corporations to implement the TAP to strengthen accountability, promote cost control and support strategic alignment so that these public sector agencies can continue to be effective and efficient in their service delivery, while doing so with integrity and respect and in the best interests of taxpayers.

In 2014/15, the Ministry also worked on growing sport participation, sustaining and enhancing B.C.'s tradition of sport excellence and maintaining the Province's reputation as a premier sports event destination. To encourage hosting activities and events and to fulfill one of the Minister's mandate

commitments, the Ministry, in partnership with the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour, explored opportunities to support event hosting within the province.

Strategic Context

Factors such as shifting global markets and changing environmental dynamics have contributed to growing challenges for B.C.'s rural communities, including diminished local government tax revenues from industrial consolidation on the one hand and growth prospects on the other. The Ministry continued to work in partnership with local governments and other ministries to help communities prepare for investment and growth by identifying opportunities and barriers to economic development and to foster job creation throughout the province.

One of government's key priorities is to drive economic growth and prosperity in emerging markets, such as technology, mining, agrifoods and liquefied natural gas (LNG). The Ministry continues to play an important role in helping local governments prepare for growth opportunities by being ready to provide critical services, core infrastructure and cultural and sporting opportunities within their communities. Also, the Municipal Finance Authority has maintained its triple A credit rating, providing market stability and allowing local governments continued access to low rates of financing, furthering their ability to respond to current infrastructure needs and capitalize on the economic opportunities that lie ahead.

The Province benefits from many cultural assets that enhance the visitor experience and help strengthen B.C.'s world reputation as a tourist destination. With a focus on arts and culture as an economic and social catalyst, the Ministry continued to help build healthy and vibrant communities across British Columbia. The BC Arts Council renewed its strategic plan and launched a multi-year implementation plan to deliver on all commitments.

The 2015 Canada Winter Games (February 13 - March 1, 2015) brought an estimated 15,000 visitors and over 3,400 participants from across Canada to Prince George. As the largest multi-sport and cultural event ever held in northern British Columbia, these Games were a catalyst for development in the region and generated an estimated economic impact of $70 million to $90 million.

Report on Performance

Over the past year, the Ministry worked with local governments and partner ministries to successfully accomplish its mandate items. Key successes included:

- Balanced the Ministry's 2014/15 budget.
- Contributed $1 million in planning grants to northwestern communities to plan for LNG development.
- Supported core grants for local governments and worked with communities and regions across B.C.
- Worked with the UBCM and federal government to secure a 10-year renewed agreement on the federal Gas Tax Fund to support the development of public infrastructure across B.C.
- Modernized local government elections by introducing the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, which was subsequently passed in the legislature.
- The 2015 Canada Winter Games brought together thousands of visitors and participants from across Canada to Prince George and promoted northern career and educational opportunities.

- Together with the BC Arts Council, supported festivals and events around the province that built community pride and volunteerism and sustained a diverse and strong economy.
- Provided $2 million to double the After School Sports and Arts Initiative for children who may not otherwise have an opportunity to participate in organized activities in their community.

The creative economy is one of the most rapidly growing sectors in the world and the Ministry recognizes that creative people help drive growth in all sectors of the economy. B.C. is a culturally rich province with the highest number of artists per capita in Canada. In 2014/15, the Ministry developed a plan to grow B.C.'s creative economy and creative workforce; worked with the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour to ensure that cultural assets are maximized to drive tourism opportunities in the province; and prepared a five-year hosting strategy to further promote B.C. as a world-class event hosting destination. New partnerships were developed between leaders who manage cultural assets, Visitor Centres and Chambers of Commerce to provide greater access to the growing market for cultural tourism. In addition to the Super Natural BC experience, visitors can enjoy unique arts and cultural experiences in communities across the province.

In 2014/15, the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development also undertook a number of key actions to advance the Taxpayer Accountability Principles across its Crown corporations and to foster a principled culture of efficiency and accountability at all levels. This included the development of TAP Engagement Plans to formally establish a schedule of regular meetings between ministers, board chairs, deputy ministers and Chief Executive Officers to discuss relevant and current corporation business, including reviewing achievement of the goals, objectives, performance measures, financial targets and risk assessments identified in the Crown corporation's Service Plan. The TAP Engagement Plans also promoted increased communication with respect to government direction; promoted actions and decisions that are consistent with government's mandate and priorities; and increased responsiveness to taxpayers' needs. Each Crown corporation developed and posted a comprehensive Code of Conduct that reflects the TAP and Ministry Crown Boards and executives have been informed and trained in the TAP.

Going forward, the Ministry and its Crown corporations will develop annual Evaluation Plans to report on performance against the TAP. Performance measures will be confirmed in 2015/16 and will be publicly reported as part of the 2015/16 Annual Service Plan Reports. The Ministry will continue working with our Crown corporations to support red tape reduction strategies and citizen focus as priority commitments of government.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

The purpose of this annual report is to provide the performance results for the goals, objectives, strategies and performance measures included in the Ministry's *2014/15 – 2016/17 Service Plan*. Consistent with its mandate letter direction, over the past fiscal year the Ministry worked towards achieving the following broad goals:

Goal 1: Communities and regions are effectively governed.

Goal 2: Communities and regions are vibrant and sustainable.

Goal 3: Communities are culturally rich and foster sustainable jobs, economic growth and a vibrant social fabric.

Goal 4: The provincial sport sector is robust and supports increased participation and athletic achievement.

Goal 1: Communities and Regions are Effectively Governed

Objective 1.1: A Sound Governance System that Balances Local Government Autonomy and Provincial Responsibilities for the Benefit of Citizens

Strategies

Key strategies in 2014/15 included:

- Reviewing and monitoring the policy, legislative and regulatory framework, and proposing changes, so that local governments can govern effectively and meet citizen needs. An example was the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, which provided greater transparency and accountability for the November 15, 2014 local government elections.
- Encouraging citizen-local government engagement in decision-making. This includes providing advice and problem solving on governance, finance, land use and other matters of interest to citizens; developing public information; and furthering education with partner organizations. An example was intensive work with Elections BC, the Local Government Management Association, the UBCM, the BC School Trustees Association and others to provide elections education for the 2014 local government general election to election administrators, candidates, elector organizations and the public.
- Supporting communities with changes to local government structure by helping to build a shared understanding about the facts and implications of municipal incorporation, boundary extension or other proposed restructuring. In 2014/15, this included completing five boundary extensions/corrections, creating new electoral areas in the Fraser Valley Regional District, converting an improvement district to a regional district service and reclassifying Maple Ridge from a district municipality to a city.
- Maintaining a fair, accountable and transparent property assessment system, including an independent appeal process to encourage economic growth in British Columbia.
- Assisting local governments to build respectful relationships with First Nations by supporting the Community-to-Community (C2C) Forum Program; encouraging collaboration and cooperation on matters of mutual interest; and supporting local governments in dealing with changes resulting from treaty negotiations. In 2014/15, 39 C2C forums were held in communities throughout the province.
- Encouraging transparency of local governments for citizens. This includes facilitating local government partnerships to open up local government data. In addition, the Auditor General for Local Government will continue its work conducting performance audits of local government operations.
- Facilitating provincial approvals essential to sustain the stability and financial viability of the local government system. This includes working with local governments and other provincial

agencies to better integrate local, regional and provincial interests on matters such as economic development, land use, and public health and safety.

Objective 1.2: Local Governments are Able to Meet the Service Needs of their Residents

Strategies

Key strategies in 2014/15 included:

- Supporting local governments with core human resource capacity by providing stable, predictable and timely funding through the administration of Small Community and Regional District Grants. The Province paid $54 million in fiscal 2014/15 to support good governance in 27 regional districts, the Islands Trust, and 131 smaller municipalities throughout B.C.
- Providing infrastructure funding development and planning support through a range of Ministry grant programs that enabled local governments to provide services to residents and create the conditions needed for economic growth.
- Distributing targeted funding for policing, crime prevention and community safety by returning net traffic fine revenues to local governments. The Province paid nearly $60 million in fiscal 2014/15 to 75 B.C. municipalities to support community safety initiatives.
- Supporting local governments to make effective service provision choices by encouraging regional and sub-regional services; providing advice on the variety of ways to deliver local services; and advising and providing tools to assist in resolving differences.
- Encouraging strong fiscal and asset management practices to support the development of sustainable infrastructure and amenities to accelerate economic development for communities. For example, encouraging local governments to participate in Asset Management BC.
- Furthering education through partner organizations such as the Local Government Management Association, the Government Finance Officers Association of BC, the Planning Institute of British Columbia, the Local Government Leadership Academy (LGLA) and the UBCM. The LGLA held eight Elected Officials Seminars throughout B.C. in February 2015, for those newly elected and returning from the 2014 local government elections, with 721 local government elected officials and staff attending.

Performance Measure 1: Number of Municipalities Collecting at Least 90 Per Cent of their Current Year Taxes

Performance Measure	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Number of municipalities collecting at least 90 per cent of their current year taxes	149	149	154	151	155	155

Data Source: Local governments provide the Ministry with their financial data at the end of their fiscal year. The Ministry's reporting requirements are comprehensive and the data received

is highly accurate. In 2014/15, B.C. had 161 municipalities collecting taxes.

Discussion: Property taxes constitute the majority of municipalities' annual revenues and are therefore crucial in enabling municipalities to provide key services to their residents. By monitoring the number of municipalities that collect at least 90 per cent of their current year taxes, the Ministry is able to focus efforts on communities that may need guidance to assess their financial capacity and address challenges. Ministry efforts may include planning assistance and advice, municipal boundary alterations, land use bylaws, or grant funding.

Overall, the results for this measure have been increasing since 2009/10 when 142 municipalities were reported as having collected at least 90 per cent of their current year taxes. While the 2014/15 result was slightly lower than anticipated, Ministry assistance to communities requiring support has contributed and will continue to contribute to the overall success of this measure. This trend is expected to continue over the next few fiscal years.

Performance Measure 2: Local Governments' Ability to Obtain Low-Cost, Long-Term Capital Financing

Performance Measure	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Municipal Finance Authority's Credit Rating	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA

Data Source: Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia (MFA).

Discussion: The MFA was created in 1970 to contribute to the financial well-being of local governments throughout B.C. The MFA pools the borrowing and investment needs of B.C. communities through a collective structure and is able to provide a range of low-cost and flexible financial services to its clients equally, regardless of the size of the community. The Ministry works collaboratively with the MFA and local governments to ensure low cost and flexible financial services are available to all local governments.

The Ministry supports the MFA in obtaining a high credit rating and low rates for borrowing through: administration of the *Municipal Finance Authority Act*; setting local government borrowing limits; reviewing and approving loan authorizations and setting financial reporting requirements; and ensuring local government financial data is available publically and to the MFA.

Objective 1.3: Local Governments Support a Positive Environment for Business and Economic Development

Strategies

Key strategies in 2014/15 included:

- Working with local governments, the UBCM and the business sector to ensure property tax on industrial and business properties promotes competitiveness and investment while maintaining local government capacity. In accordance with both local governments' financial planning and annual reporting, all local governments must report on their tax policy decisions including their apportionment of municipal taxes between various property classes.

- Encouraging local governments to engage with the business sector and other stakeholders to create policies, processes and actions to enable economic growth.
- Promoting the refinement of regulatory requirements across B.C. communities and regions to reduce the regulatory burden on citizens and business.
- Supporting the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour in their efforts to connect communities to the *BC Jobs Plan*, providing guidance on best practices and assisting local governments to create and implement economic development strategies, policies and actions.

Goal 2: Communities and Regions are Vibrant and Sustainable

Objective 2.1: Communities Benefit from the Long-Term Economic, Regional and Social Opportunities that Emerge from Major Industrial Growth, including Liquefied Natural Gas

Strategies

Key strategies in 2014/15 included:

- Assisting local governments to plan and create local capacity to respond to the demands and opportunities for sustained regional economic growth from major industrial activity. This included $500,000 in grants for restructure projects in local governments, $500,000 for infrastructure planning grants, and $1 million dedicated to northwest communities for land-use planning and asset management projects.
- Collaborating with ministries and agencies across government to support local communities in their efforts to create and implement economic and social development strategies, policies and best practices to prepare for industrial growth.
- Building a framework to leverage the social, economic and community dividends that result from the expansion of industrial activity in the province.

Objective 2.2: Communities have Effective Water and Waste Management

Strategies

Key strategies in 2014/15 included:

- Providing targeted funding to local governments to help them achieve provincial water and waste management objectives, which include those identified in the Action Plan for Safe Drinking Water in B.C., Living Water Smart, the *Drinking Water Protection Act*, the Municipal Wastewater Regulation and Liquid Waste Management Planning. This included announcement of the first intake of the $327 million New Building Canada Fund – Small Communities Fund for local infrastructure in communities with populations under 100,000.
- Providing tools and resources to local governments to assist them in conserving and protecting water resources, including guidelines for the development of water conservation plans; Model

Well Regulation Bylaws and an Implementation Guide; and the Water Conservation Calculator for local governments.
- Encouraging local governments to use liquid and solid waste as a resource and maximize the recovery value by providing tools like the Integrated Resource Recovery Guide.
- Promoting the use of the best, lowest life-cycle cost approaches for local government infrastructure projects.

Performance Measure 3: Percentage of British Columbians Served by Drinking Water Systems that Meet Emerging Treatment Standards for the Protection of Drinking Water Quality

Performance Measure	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Percentage of British Columbians[1] served by drinking water systems that meet emerging treatment standards for the protection of drinking water quality[2]	36%	36.3%	59.3%	59.6%	N/A	N/A

Data Source: Contractual requirements between the Province and grant recipients include quarterly progress reports tied to claim payments. Additional information is obtained through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and the Gas Tax Fund.

[1] Population percentages are calculated using BC Stats Population Estimates and are updated annually.

[2] This measure estimates the percentage of the provincial population served by systems meeting emerging standards. The Ministry does not collect data relating to communities served by private systems.

- This measure demonstrates the progress that is being made to serve British Columbians in meeting growing community needs and improved water standards. This year's progress is reflected by the increase of 23.3 percentage points in population receiving drinking water from systems that have completed works to meet higher treatment standards. Regional Health Authorities encourage service providers to meet higher water treatment standards to achieve increased certainty about drinking water quality. In some cases, these higher standards include the dual treatment of drinking water through disinfection and filtration (rather than disinfection alone), thus creating a second barrier of protection against the transmission of pathogens.
- Meeting these standards sometimes requires local governments to upgrade their existing water treatment facilities or construct new ones. The Ministry provides funding for these projects through the Building Canada Fund – Communities Component.
- In 2014/15 approximately 1,073,400 additional British Columbians were served by drinking water systems that received Ministry funding. The majority (>90 per cent) of these are a result of the completion of the tunnels for Metro Vancouver's Capilano-Seymour Drinking Water Filtration Plant Project.

Objective 2.3: Local Governments are Implementing Strategies to Improve Community Sustainability

Strategies

Key strategies in 2014/15 included:

- Updating Ministry infrastructure funding programs to encourage local governments to innovate, integrate and prioritize projects that deliver environmental, economic and/or social benefits.
- Providing guidance, advice and tools to help local governments meet their commitments under the *British Columbia Climate Action Charter*, including ongoing partnership with the UBCM through the Green Communities Committee (GCC), the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP), the GCC Climate Action Recognition Program, the UBCM Community Excellence Awards (Leadership & Innovation, Climate Action) and new Carbon Neutral tools (e.g., Forestry profile).
- Encouraging local governments to develop effective approaches to increase the supply of affordable entry-level market housing near transit.
- In partnership with the federal government and the UBCM, continued implementation of the current Federal Gas Tax Transfer Fund (Gas Tax Fund) and successfully negotiated the permanent Gas Tax Fund.
- Providing tools and resources for local governments to integrate land use planning and management decisions with transportation, infrastructure and financial planning and decision-making.
- Promoting the effective development, adoption and implementation of Regional Growth Strategies by providing advice throughout the process and assistance in resolving disputes.
- Making tools and resources available to help local governments understand the impacts of climate change and take action to adapt, including best practices for sustainable land use and infrastructure.

Performance Measure 4: Percentage of Local Governments Taking Action to Reduce their Carbon Footprint

Performance Measure	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Percentage of local governments taking action to reduce their carbon footprint	92%	92%	95%	86%[1]	96%	96%

Data Source: Local governments' annual CARIP reports.

[1] Based on reports received as of May 6, 2015. Final reports will be available July 31, 2015.

- Local governments across British Columbia continue to take actions to reduce their corporate and community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Their efforts are key to creating vibrant, sustainable communities and regions. Interim reporting as of May 6, 2015 shows that the percentage of local governments taking action to reduce their carbon footprint in 2014 was 86 per cent. Receipt of final reports is expected to increase the 2014/2015 actual result, although probably not to the forecasted 95 per cent. The main reason for the anticipated variance from the forecast appears to be that smaller local governments, while undertaking carbon reduction initiatives, are opting not to submit CARIP reports because the grant dollar amounts are limited compared to the resources they put toward applying for the grants. The new online CARIP reporting format launched in 2014 provides the opportunity to further simplify the reporting process for small local governments, which may encourage smaller local governments to opt back into the CARIP grant process and increase the number of local governments submitting reports.

Goal 3: Communities are Culturally Rich and Foster Sustainable Jobs, Economic Growth and a Vibrant Social Fabric

Objective 3.1: Creative People, Places, and Experiences Exist throughout B.C.

Strategies

Key strategies in 2014/15 included:

- Building capacity for creative economic activities by improving public awareness, training, and support for artists, creators and creative organizations.

- Engaging with the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour and Destination BC to enhance art and culture content on HelloBC and to encourage visitors to take advantage of B.C.'s arts and cultural experiences.
- Investing in a healthy not-for-profit cultural sector:
    - $24 million through 1,372 BC Arts Council grants in 230 communities across B.C.; and,
    - $135 million Community Gaming Grants to approximately 5,000 non-profit organizations in 273 communities.
- Continuing to engage stakeholders on gaming grant processes to effectively provide support to charities and not-for-profit groups and undertaking stakeholder engagement with organizations such as the BC Association for Charitable Gaming and sector-specific umbrella organizations.
- Raising awareness within B.C. of the importance of a creative environment and how it contributes to innovation and economic growth.
- Connecting and engaging communities from all regions and continuing to create awareness of our capital city by supporting festivals and events in the Capital, including continuation of the Capital for Kids Travel Program.
- Initiating a pilot Democracy in Action youth conference to promote youth civic engagement.
- Exploring opportunities to support the rapidly growing creative economy and workforce by improving access to markets and building awareness of the creative sector's critical role in encouraging people to live, work and invest in B.C. communities.

Objective 3.2: The Next Generation of Skilled Workers are Creative, Collaborative and Innovative Thinkers

Strategies

Key strategies in 2014/15 through the *BC Creative Futures* strategy launched in 2013 included:

- Building on existing expertise in the creative sector and funding projects that supported new approaches to youth engagement in the arts to grow the workforce and develop the next generation of creative, collaborative and innovative thinkers.
- Preparing our children and youth to excel in the knowledge-based economy and training skilled workers in alignment with the *BC Jobs Plan*.
- Increasing access to scholarships and co-op placements in the arts and culture sector:
    - $3.5 million in Youth Engagement Programs including 310 grants to 61 school districts; and,
    - $2 million in youth scholarships, co-op placements, internships, residency and mentorship opportunities.
- Enabling children and youth to participate in the arts both in the classroom and during after school-hours by investing $2 million for the After School Sport and Arts initiative, which supported programs in 151 schools in 14 school districts across the province.
- Continuing to establish collaborative partnerships with community stakeholders and delivery agents such as Art Starts in Schools, the BC Touring Council and First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC).

Objective 3.3: British Columbia's Arts and Culture Sector is Vibrant, Resilient and Recognized for Artistic Excellence

Strategies

Key strategies in 2014/15 included:

- Fostering artistic excellence through investments in individual artists and grants to cultural organizations.
- Strengthening engagement in the arts by helping to build relationships between artists and their communities.
- Developing the artistic and adaptive capacity of the sector.
- Supporting the unique role of Aboriginal artists and communities in B.C.'s artistic and cultural life by investing in Aboriginal artists and cultural organizations and by working with FPCC, delivering 89 Aboriginal Arts Development Awards totaling $735,000 on behalf of the BC Arts Council through five program streams.

Performance Measure 5: Percentage of B.C.'s Major Cultural Organizations that Maintain or Improve their Net Financial Position Compared to the Previous Year[1]

Performance Measure	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Percentage of organizations that maintain or improve their financial position	64%	64%	64%	68%[2]	64%	64%

Data Source: CADAC (Canadian Arts Data / Donnés sur les arts au Canada) and BC Arts Council records.

[1] As the Ministry funds cultural organizations through Community Gaming Grants and the BC Arts Council, it contributes to the financial success of cultural organizations. This measure is an indicator of the health of the sector as a whole and reflects the financial stability of arts and cultural organizations in the cultural economy of the Province.

[2] The 2014/15 result of 68 per cent exceeded the target, demonstrating a healthy sector. An increase of 4 percentage points is not considered statistically significant given the small sample.

Discussion: Each year, 25 cultural organizations with the highest revenues for the year are reviewed and their working capital reported in their financial statements is compared to the previous year. The number of organizations that have maintained or improved their position against the total of 25 is calculated as a percentage and reported above. The target of 64 per cent reflects a desire to see stability and resilience in the sector.

Performance Measure 6: Geographic Reach of BC Arts Council Funding

Performance Measure	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Number of communities[1]	214	215	More than 200	230[2]	More than 200	More than 200
Number of regional districts (RDs)	All 27	All 27	All 27	All 27	All 27	All 27

Data Source: BC Arts Council grant management database.

[1] For the purpose of this measure, communities are defined as municipalities and unincorporated settlements.

[2] The 2014/15 result of 230 exceeded the target, demonstrating the broad geographic reach of the programs. As the target was exceeded by 15 percentage points, this improvement is statistically significant and can be explained by the addition of new programs offered since 2012/13.

Discussion: This measure indicates the number of communities in which individuals or organizations successfully accessed funding through the programs of the BC Arts Council. Exceeding the target number of communities is an indicator of the inclusiveness of the programs for all British Columbians, regardless of where they live in the province.

Goal 4: The Provincial Sport Sector is Robust and Supports Increased Participation and Athletic Achievement

Objective 4.1: Individuals have more Opportunities to Participate in Sport in Order to be More Physically Active, Healthier and Achieve their Personal Goals

Strategies

Key strategies in 2014/15 included:

- Promoting opportunities for British Columbians to participate and achieve personal goals in organized sport by supporting organizations, programs and services, such as provincial and multi-sport organizations (e.g., the BC Soccer Association, 55+ BC Games, and the BC Blind Sports and Recreation Association).

- Building on support to sport organizations with initiatives that reduce financial, geographic and other barriers to participation and sport excellence. Examples of these initiatives include KidSport BC™, the After-School Sport and Arts Initiative, the BC Sport Participation Program, and PacificSport Centres' programs and services.
- Supporting programs that target specific populations (e.g., Aboriginal, seniors, girls and women, persons with a disability, and new immigrants), which also makes sport more affordable and accessible for families.
- Improving health and educational outcomes for children by bringing together various interests that enable the increased physical activity of children through school-based sport and community sport.
- Increasing coach and leadership development opportunities and supporting organizations and programs that ensure safe experiences and skill development in sport.
- Working with the provincial sport sector to streamline administrative services to create savings that can be reinvested into community programming.

Objective 4.2: Athletes have More Opportunities to Achieve Excellence in Sport to Inspire Greater Participation in their Home Communities

Strategies

Key strategies in 2014/15 included:

- Supporting B.C.'s elite athletes at all levels in their pursuit of excellence by supporting events such as the BC Summer and Winter Games, athletes' participation in Team BC, and centres such as the Canadian Sport Institute Pacific.
- Building on this support by helping B.C. athletes excel through providing resources to athletes at various points in their development (e.g., provincial and regional coaching, and sport science expertise) as they progress to more advanced levels of competition.
- Supporting Team BC's participation at Canada Games through funding to provincial sport organizations, training mission staff, and overseeing program logistics.

Performance Measure 7: Percentage of B.C. Athletes on National Teams

Performance Measure	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Percentage of B.C. athletes on national teams.[1]	34.7%	33.7%	Greater than 25%	34.8%	Greater than 25%	Greater than 25%

Data Source: Canadian Sport Institute Pacific.

[1] National teams are defined through sport-specific criteria as those athletes who represent

Canada at events such as Olympic, Paralympic, or Commonwealth Games and/or World Championships or who are supported through the Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program in the current year. Sports included in the measure are those that have been targeted for enhanced performance support funding (19 sports in 2014/15). Other indicators related to this measure that will be monitored are the number of BC Games and Team BC athletes on national teams; medals won at Games and world championships; Team BC performance at Canada, Western Canada Summer, and North American Indigenous Games; as well as the number of coaches and athletes benefitting from the Integrated Performance System. Provided by Canadian Sport Institute Pacific as of January 6, 2015.

Discussion: The Ministry provides support to high-performance athletes through funding for coaching, sport medicine and science professionals, events and training opportunities. The performance of our athletes on the international and national stage is a strong indication of the overall health of the sport system. Competitive results measure the strength of B.C.'s community facilities, events, coaches, organizations, officials, technical expertise, volunteers and other key "ingredients" of success.

This measure demonstrates the impact the Ministry's efforts have had on sports excellence in B.C. This target has been set at 25 per cent, which shows the strong representation that B.C. athletes have on national teams, even though British Columbia's population is only 13 per cent of Canada's total population. Since 2010, these targets have been exceeded and the Ministry expects this trend to continue.

Objective 4.3: Major Events Support Sport, Economic and Community Development

Strategies

Key strategies in 2014/15 included:

- Developing a strategy to attract more marquee events to British Columbia – events that bring economic and social benefits to B.C. families and their communities, and help promote B.C. as an attractive place to live and invest.
- Investing in major hosting opportunities, such as the BC Games, 2014 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games, 2015 Canada Winter Games and the FIFA Women's World Cup Canada 2015.
- Supporting a wide range of regional sport events province-wide through the Hosting BC program, which bring significant social and economic benefits to communities across B.C.

Financial Report

Management Discussion and Analysis

This Management Discussion and Analysis reports on the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development's financial results for the year ended March 31, 2015 and should be read in conjunction with the Financial Report Summary Table provided below.

Operations

- This year, the Ministry realized savings in certain program areas (see table and notes below), which were used to offset the costs of providing support through Arts, Culture, Gaming Grants and Sport for additional cultural and commemorative events.

- The Province accelerated payments of $40 million in Small Community/Regional District and Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing grants into 2014/15. These grants were previously scheduled to be paid in 2015/16 and 2016/17. The acceleration provides local governments with access to provincial contributions earlier, enabling them to commence work and provide services sooner. The cost associated with accelerating these payments was funded through access to government`s centrally held Contingencies Vote. In addition, the Arts, Culture, Gaming Grants and Sport Division was able to provide increased, one-time funding to community organizations through access to the Contingencies Vote at year end.

- In 2014/15, costs associated with supporting the University Endowment Lands (UEL) exceeded the estimated budget. The primary driver of the overage was a retroactive wage increase to firefighters as a result of an arbitration ruling. The Ministry received a $2 million budget increase in 2015/16 for the UEL Special Account related to infrastructure planning and engineering; and water usage fees and Block F rezoning costs. These additional expenditures will be fully cost-recovered through a combination of property taxes and user fees.

Capital Projects

- The Ministry made $83,000 in capital expenditures in the development of the Local Government Information System (LGIS) in fiscal 2014/15. LGIS is the Ministry's information systems initiative that will deliver an integrated solution for grant and regulatory tracking programs for the local governments. The Ministry has budgeted $1.29 million towards LGIS development in 2015/16.

3 Year Outlook

- The Ministry's notional budget allocation from 2015/16 through 2017/18 is stable with sufficient appropriation to continue core program delivery.

Financial Report Summary Table

	Estimated	Other Authorizations[1]	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance[2]
Operating Expenses ($000)					
Local Government	143,565	44,454	188,019	187,875	(144)
Integrated Policy, Legislation and Operations	2,779		2,779	2,441	(338)
Arts, Culture, Gaming Grants and Sport	46,683	4,979	51,662	52,157	495
Transfers to Crown Corporations and Agencies	11,866		11,866	11,866	-
Executive and Support Services	5,825		5,825	5,812	(13)
Ministry Totals	210,718	49,433	260,151	260,151	-
Special Accounts					
BC Arts and Culture Endowment Special Account	2,500		2,500	2,500	-
Physical Fitness and Amateur Sports Fund Special Account	1,700		1,700	900	(800)
University Endowment Lands Administration Account Special Account	6,442	685	7,127	7,127	-
Sub-Total	**221,360**	**50,118**	**271,478**	**270,678**	**(800)**
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual[3]				(65)	(65)
Total	**221,360**	**50,118**	**271,478**	**270,613**	**(865)**
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) ($000)					
Executive and Support Services	833	0	833	83	(750)
Total	**833**	**0**	**833**	**83**	**(750)**

[1] "Other Authorizations" include Supplementary Estimates, Statutory Appropriations and Contingencies. Amounts in this column are not related to the "estimated amount" under sections 5(1) and 6(1) of the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act* for ministerial accountability for operating expenses under the Act.

Other Authorizations:	$50,118
Contingencies Access	
Local Government	
Traffic Fine Revenue Program	$ 21,000
Small Community Grants Program	$ 19,000
Community Infrastructure Projects	$ 4,454
Arts, Culture, Gaming Grants and Sport	
Grants to Community Organizations	$ 4,979
Statutory Appropriation – Special Account	$ 685

[2] Explanations of Variances:

Integrated Policy, Legislation and Operations: Savings from hiring lags in this branch have been used to offset pressures in Arts, Culture, Gaming Grants and Sport.

Arts, Culture, Gaming Grants and Sport: Increased expenditures related to grants to community organizations for cultural and commemorative events.

Physical Fitness and Amateur Sport Fund: Reduced expenditures driven by lower return on the investments in the Physical Fitness and Amateur Sport fund.

Capital: A significant portion of the Ministry's Capital Budget is allocated to the development of the Local Government Information System (LGIS). The 2014/15 budget has been re-profiled into 2015/16 to better match the budget to anticipated capital expenditures.

[3] The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual of $0.065 million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

Appendix A: Contact Information and Hyperlinks

Contact Information

Minister's Office
Honourable Coralee Oakes
PO Box 9056 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
Email: CSCD.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Deputy Minister's Office
Becky Denlinger
Deputy Minister
Telephone: (250) 387-4104
Fax: (250) 387-7973
Email: CSCD.DeputyMinister@gov.bc.ca

University Endowment Lands
5495 Chancellor Boulevard
Vancouver, BC V6T 1E2
Telephone: (604) 660-1810
Fax: (604) 660-1874
Email: uel@gov.bc.ca
www.universityendowmentlands.gov.bc.ca

Further information on the various programs and services provided by the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development can be found at www.gov.bc.ca/cscd

To contact a specific person or program in the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, please refer to the B.C. Government Directory.

Appendix B: List of Crowns, Agencies, Boards and Commissions

CROWNS

BC Assessment Authority
400-3450 Uptown Boulevard
Victoria, BC V8Z 0B9
Telephone: 1-866 valueBC (1-866-825-8322)
www.bcassessment.ca

BC Games Society
200-990 Fort Street
Victoria, BC V8V 3K2
Telephone: (250) 387-1375
Fax: (250) 387-4489
E-mail: info@bcgames.org
www.bcgames.org

Royal BC Museum
675 Belleville Street
Victoria, BC V8W 9W2
Telephone: (250) 356-7226
E-mail: receptionist@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca
royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

AGENCIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Audit Council of the Auditor General for Local Government
www.aglg.ca/about-the-audit-council

BC Arts Council
Street Address:
2nd Floor, 800 Johnson Street,
Victoria, BC

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9819, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9W3
Telephone: (250) 356-1718
Fax: (250) 387-4099
Email: BCArtsCouncil@gov.bc.ca
www.bcartscouncil.ca

BC Athletic Commissioner
PO Box 9823, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9W3

Telephone: (250) 952-6735
Toll Free: 1-855-952-6760
Fax: (250) 387-8703
Email: Athletic.Commissioner@gov.bc.ca
www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/bcathleticcommission

Board of Examiners
Fax: (250) 387-7972
E-mail: BoardofExaminers@gov.bc.ca
www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/gov_structure/board_examiners/index.htm

Islands Trust Fund
Victoria Office
200-1627 Fort Street
Victoria, BC V8R 1H8
Telephone: (250) 405-5151
www.islandstrust.bc.ca

Salt Spring Office
1–500 Lower Ganges Road
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2N8
Telephone: (250) 537-9144

Northern Office
700 North Road
Gabriola Island, BC V0R 1X3
Telephone: (250) 247-2063

Property Assessment Appeal Board
Suite 10, 10551 Shellbridge Way
Richmond, BC V6X 2W9
Telephone: (604) 775-1740
Toll-free phone: 1-888-775-1740
Fax: (604) 775-1742
Toll-free fax: 1-888-775-1742
E-mail: office@paab.bc.ca
www.assessmentappeal.bc.ca

Property Assessment Review Panels
Office of the Administrator
PO Box 9361, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9M2
Telephone: (250) 356-7535 or (250) 356-5268
Fax: (250) 356-6924
E-mail: parp@gov.bc.ca
www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/parp

Appendix C: Minister's Mandate and Actions Summary

In Premier Christy Clark's annual mandate letter to the Minister dated June 10, 2013, the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development received direction on strategic priorities for the 2014/15 fiscal year. These priorities and the Ministry's resulting actions are summarized below:

Mandate Letter Direction	Ministry's Action
1. Balance the ministerial budget in order to control spending and ensure an overall balanced budget for the province of British Columbia.	The 2014/2015 budget for the Ministry reported a modest surplus at the end of the fiscal year as a result of prudent management controls to help the Province achieve its fiscal objective.
2. Create the framework for the rural dividend for communities in the northwest that will be impacted by the opportunities and challenges that will arise from the LNG opportunity.	Continued to collaborate with the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, the Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development, and the newly created Rural Advisory Council to provide advice on rural community capacity building, including the Rural Dividend.
3. Work with the Union of BC Municipalities on a framework for implementing the upcoming federal infrastructure program to maximize provincial benefit opportunities.	Worked with the UBCM and federal government to secure a 10-year extension on the federal Gas Tax Fund to support the development of public infrastructure across B.C.
4. Implement local government election changes in time to be used for the November 2014 local government elections.	Passed the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* in the Spring 2014 legislative session.
5. Work with the sport and cultural development communities to make recommendations on how we can better provide provincial support to these organizations recognizing that we remain in a very difficult financial position.	Provided $2 million to double the After School Sports and Arts Initiative for children who may not otherwise have an opportunity to participate in organized activities in their community. BC Creative Futures strengthened opportunities for creativity, particularly through increasing engagement in the arts, as well as on-the-job skills training in the creative sector. Additional funding totaling $150,000 was provided to ArtsVest, which focused on sponsorship training and a matching incentive program, through partnerships with Business for the Arts, Canadian Heritage, and the Province.