

**Ministry of Justice
2015/16 – 2017/18 Service Plan**

Overview

Goals and Objectives

The Ministry has adopted the goals and objectives from the *Strategic Plan for the Justice and Public Safety Sector, April 2014 – March 2017*, developed by the Justice and Public Safety Council and released in March 2014.

Strategies

The strategies included are those associated with the directions in the Minister's 2015/16 Mandate letter as well as key transformation priorities of the Ministry.

Performance Measures

The following select performance measures are included to indicate progress towards the goals and objectives, while adhering to the new condensed plan format:

- Crime rates (Violent, Property and Other);
- Rates of non-reoffending (Community Corrections and Custody);
- Number of Provincial Policing Standards approved for implementation;
- Traffic fatality and serious injury rates;
- Rates of traffic fatalities and serious injuries involving high-risk driving behaviour (alcohol, drugs, speed and/or distraction) – *new measure*;
- Timeliness of Victim Financial Assistance claim adjudication;
- Timeliness of Disaster Financial Assistance private sector claim adjudication; and
- Compliance rate for liquor store ID checking requirements – *new measure*.

For indicators and other information related to the Provincial Court of British Columbia, readers are referred to: www.provincialcourt.bc.ca/news-reports/court-reports.

For information on Statistics Canada's crime severity index, readers are referred to: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/policeservices/index.htm#crimestats.

Q. Why does your service plan not include the court timeliness measures that you included in previous years?

Note: The following measures were included in previous service plans but not included in the current plan:

1. *Median age of a family application when first order is issued*
2. *Median age of a small claims case at first substantive appearance*

3. *Median age of a small claims case at trial stage*
4. *Median time to conclude Provincial criminal cases (adult and youth)*

A. The Provincial Court of BC publishes regular reports concerning the judicial complement of the Court, caseloads and times to trial in each area of the Court's jurisdiction. The current service plan refers readers to the Provincial Court's website, where these reports are published.

In addition, court timeliness indicators are more appropriately reported as sector-level indicators and we anticipate that in future they will be included in the indicators published by British Columbia's Justice and Public Safety Council.

Ministry of Justice

2015/16 – 2017/18 SERVICE PLAN



For more information on the British Columbia
Ministry of Justice,
see pages 26 – 28.

Ministry of Justice
PO BOX 9044
STN PROV GOVT
VICTORIA, B.C.
V8W 9E2

Visit our website at
www.gov.bc.ca/justice

Published by the Ministry of Justice

Minister Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Justice 2015/16 - 2017/18 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.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "S. Anton".

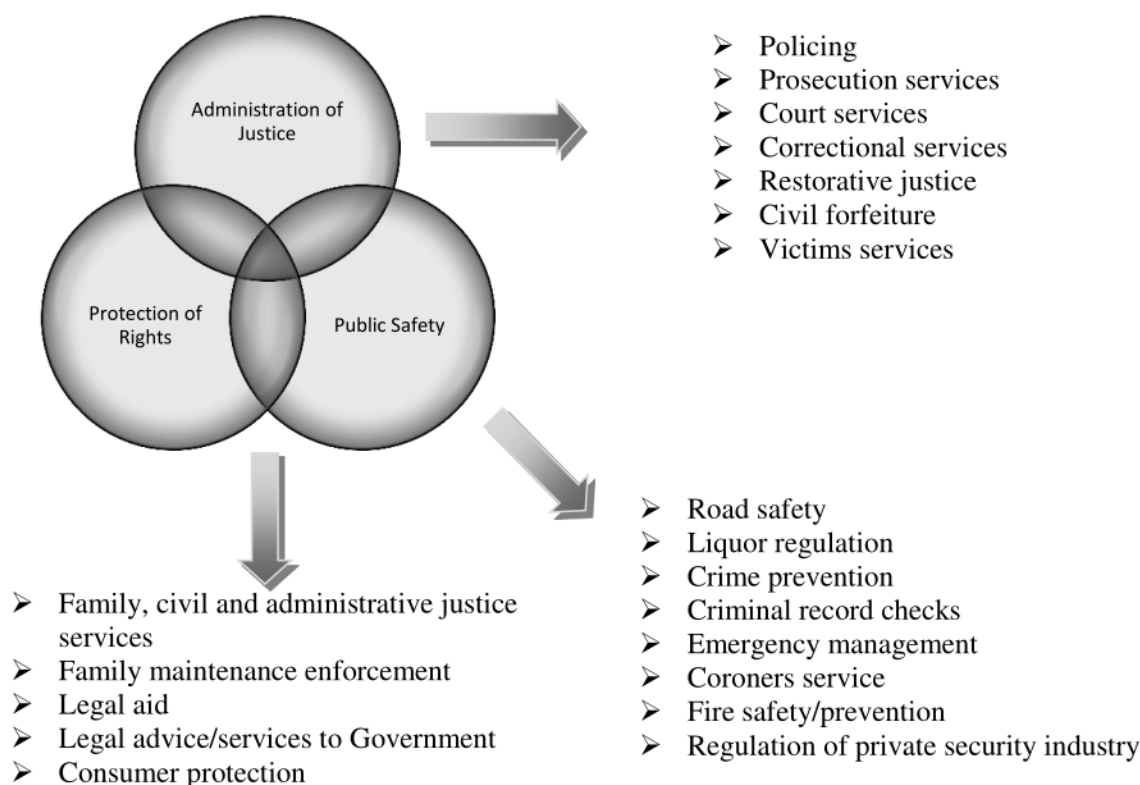
Honourable Suzanne Anton QC
Attorney General
Minister of Justice
February 2, 2015

Table of Contents

Minister Accountability Statement	3
Purpose of the Ministry	5
Strategic Direction and Context	6
Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures	7
Resource Summary	19
Resource Summary Tables	19
Major Capital Projects	22
Appendices	23
Appendix 1: Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia.....	23
Appendix 2: Agencies, Boards and Commissions	24
Appendix 3: Ministry Contact Information and Hyperlinks to Additional Information.....	26

Purpose of the Ministry

The mission of the Ministry of Justice is to administer justice, deliver public safety services and programs, lead emergency management and provide legal advice to Government. We accomplish this through our dedicated and professional workforce, innovation and service excellence in fulfilling the following responsibilities:¹



Our vision is a safe, secure, just and resilient British Columbia.

¹ The Attorney General and Minister of Justice is also responsible for the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia (see Appendix 1), a number of agencies, boards and commissions (see Appendix 2), and the Liquor Distribution Branch. The service plans and annual reports of the Liquor Distribution Branch are available at www.bcldb.com.

Strategic Direction and Context

Strategic Direction

The Ministry of Justice supports Government's commitment to building a strong economy and a secure tomorrow for the citizens of British Columbia, and delivers its responsibilities in accordance with the Taxpayer Accountability Principles that apply to all of British Columbia's public sector organizations.

The Ministry is committed to transforming the justice and public safety sector, working in collaboration with leaders, participants and stakeholders across the sector. This commitment is consistent with the direction provided by Premier Christy Clark to the Attorney General and Minister of Justice in her June 2014 Mandate Letter. The letter established a number of priorities for the Ministry, such as: justice reform; domestic violence; crime reduction; recommendations from the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry; improved courtroom capacity in the Lower Fraser Valley; review of policing structure and funding responsibilities; liquor regulatory reform; and, earthquake preparedness. These priorities are in alignment with the goals and objectives put forward in this service plan and are clearly reflected in the strategies presented.

Strategic Context

There are numerous external factors that affect the Ministry in delivering its responsibilities, including:

- Increased policing and related compensation costs;
- Increased security needs;
- Lengthy, resource intensive major investigations and prosecutions;
- Court decisions that impact what the Ministry can do, and how it must be done;
- Civil and family justice processes impacted by cost, delay and complexity;
- Mental health issues demanding increasing justice system resources; and,
- Increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters.

To manage the impacts associated with these and other external factors, the Ministry proactively identifies risks and opportunities, assesses them in terms of likelihood of occurrence and magnitude of impact, determines response strategies, and monitors progress.

The Ministry is committed to a justice and public safety sector that is innovative and sustainable, and that commitment guides our work now and in the coming years. Sustainability demands that the Ministry: maintains efficient and affordable operations and service delivery; has an effective governance structure; has a robust and evolving plan for transformation; ensures strategic alignment between budget, investments and our transformative goals and objectives; identifies, understands, accepts and manages the risks associated with transformation; and, monitors and measures performance for accountability.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures

The Ministry of Justice has adopted the goals and objectives developed by British Columbia's Justice and Public Safety Council and set out in the *Strategic Plan for the Justice and Public Safety Sector, April 2014 – March 2017*. This first sector-wide strategic plan was developed by the Council based on a wide range of advice, consultation and recommendations from leaders, participants and stakeholders across the justice and public safety sector. These goals and objectives have been identified by the Council as essential to the health of the justice and public safety sector.

To maintain trust, we must ensure fairness. We must protect people, especially those who are most vulnerable. We must manage the sector in an innovative and sustainable way and, finally, we must ensure that the public has confidence in the integrity of the sector.

Strategic Plan for the Justice and Public Safety Sector, April 2014 – March 2017

The goals and objectives are in alignment with Government's priorities of a strong economy and a secure tomorrow, and are consistent with the Taxpayer Accountability Principles.

This section presents the goals and objectives and identifies a set of key strategies to achieve them. The strategies included are those that address the directions provided in the Minister's Mandate Letter, as well as the transformation priorities of the Ministry of Justice. The strategies presented are not an exhaustive list of the many initiatives underway in the Ministry; rather, they reflect the Ministry's key strategic priorities.

Also included in this section are select performance measures used to indicate progress towards the goals and objectives. There have been some changes made to the measures since publication of our last service plan, as we continue working toward strengthening our performance measurement capacity.

These measures represent only a few of the many indicators of performance.² Measuring the performance of justice and public safety programs and processes is complex. Long-term outcomes are affected by many factors and are not under the exclusive control of any program area or ministry. The complex nature of justice and public safety outcomes requires a collective and integrated response from all justice and public safety sector stakeholders and participants.

² Information on Statistics Canada's crime severity index can be found at:

www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/policeservices/statistics/index.htm#crimestats.

Indicators and other information related to the Provincial Court of British Columbia are available at:

www.provincialcourt.bc.ca/news-reports/court-reports.

Goal 1: The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia is fair

Objective 1.1 Accessible

Objective 1.2 Impartial

Objective 1.3 Timely

Strategies

- The *Civil Resolution Tribunal Act* received Royal Assent in May 2012. The legislation provides for the establishment of a Civil Resolution Tribunal. The Tribunal will offer 24/7 access to user-focused services through the use of self-help, online dispute resolution, assessment and triage services that enable cost effective resolution of small claims and strata property disputes. This is just one example of how the Ministry works to maximize the benefits of technology for increased access to justice.
- Tribunal Transformation is about shifting the way British Columbia's 27 administrative tribunals deliver assistance to improve service to the public while streamlining business processes for efficient resource management. By moving service delivery online, integrating support services and systems, streamlining adjudication processes and clustering sector-based tribunals together, we can build the infrastructure for more efficient and effective tribunal services, and create greater accountability and transparency.
- Government is committed to serving the justice needs of communities in the rapidly growing Lower Fraser Valley. The Ministry is working collaboratively with our five municipal partners (Surrey, Township of Langley, City of Langley, Abbotsford and Chilliwack), the judiciary and our justice partners to implement a long-term regional plan for the expansion of court capacity in the region. For more information, see the [final report](#) of the Lower Fraser Valley Regional Plan Court Capacity Expansion Project.
- The Road Safety Initiative is expected to shift traffic disputes out of court, improve police efficiency, and make processes more accessible for citizens. The initiative also includes a new driver intervention and improvement model to more effectively intervene with high-risk driving behaviours. Electronic ticketing, coupled with a faster dispute resolution process, will mean that driver infractions will be recorded against driving records more quickly, thereby enabling interventions for high-risk drivers to be applied soon after habitual high-risk driving is identified. The Ministry will also continue to explore ways to strengthen anti-distracted driver legislation and penalties.

Goal 2: The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia protects people

Objective 2.1	Preventative
Objective 2.2	Protective
Objective 2.3	Systemic Approach

Strategies

- Government launched Violence Free BC in February 2015. This long-term commitment to end violence against women in British Columbia is a roadmap to help ensure women have the supports they need to help prevent violence, to escape from violent situations, and to recover if they have been victims of crime.
- Work is now substantially completed or underway on the major themes of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry report. Progress on the 56 recommendations directed to the Province includes violence-prevention work, improved policing practices, missing persons legislation, and compensation to the children of the murdered and missing women. These actions are outlined in Government's final update report released in December 2014. In addition, effective December 29, 2014, the Ministry implemented a new policy on best practices for supporting adult vulnerable victims and witnesses in criminal prosecutions, to assist them in effectively participating in the criminal justice process.
- The Provincial Domestic Violence Action Plan was launched in February 2014 by the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence, Ministry of Children and Family Development, based on extensive consultations with anti-violence stakeholders and other partners. The plan aims to enhance services and bridge potential service gaps to ensure women, children and all those who have been affected by domestic violence have access to the supports and services they need. As part of the plan, the Ministry of Justice developed a framework for domestic violence courts to provide guidance on best practices in establishing specialized domestic violence court processes in British Columbia. There are now distinct domestic violence court processes in Nanaimo, Duncan, Kelowna, Penticton and Kamloops.
- The Ministry also continues to support the Domestic Violence Units in Vancouver, New Westminster, Abbotsford, Surrey, the Capital Region and Kelowna, bringing together police, community-based victim services and, in some cases, a dedicated social worker from the Ministry of Children and Family Development. Domestic Violence Units are integrated approaches to intervening in high-risk domestic violence cases and providing direct services to victims, children and the perpetrators of domestic violence. Work is underway to establish an additional Domestic Violence Unit in Nanaimo.
- Parliamentary Secretary, Darryl Plecas, and the Blue Ribbon Panel on Crime Reduction submitted their report, Getting Serious about Crime Reduction, to the Attorney General and Minister of Justice at the end of November 2014. The report was publicly released on December 18, 2014. The Panel made six broad recommendations for Government to utilize a more cohesive and collaborative approach aimed at preventing and reducing crime in British Columbia. Several of the

key recommendations can be linked to existing initiatives under the *British Columbia Policing and Community Safety Plan* and other Ministry work. Other recommendations and related action items will require further analysis and consultation.

- Parliamentary Secretary for Corrections, Laurie Throness, consulted with stakeholders in the Corrections field to propose changes and improvements to protecting staff, inmates and the communities in which correctional facilities are located in British Columbia. His final report, *Standing Against Violence*, was released in December 2014 and consists of three parts: a description of the present system; incremental recommendations based on those conclusions; and, suggestions for discussion with respect to transformational directions in the longer term. The report's 20 recommendations include operational improvements, transitional support for inmates and training opportunities, with a focus on being cost-neutral to Government.
- The Ministry conducted a province-wide consultation, chaired by Henry Renteria, former director of California's Office of Emergency Services, on all aspects of earthquake preparedness and response to improve British Columbia's ability to act in the face of a catastrophic seismic event. The review engaged all levels of government as well as the media, businesses, local authorities including First Nations, the academic community, adjoining provincial, federal and state jurisdictions, and non-governmental organizations. The review builds on the work currently underway to fulfil the recommendations in *Catastrophic Earthquake Preparedness*, by the British Columbia Office of the Auditor General. A final report will be publicly released once Government has had an opportunity to thoroughly review it.

Goal 3: The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia is sustainable

Objective 3.1	Focused
Objective 3.2	Managed
Objective 3.3	Effective

Strategies

- The Court Administration Transformation Suite includes the development and implementation of a series of new applications that build upon previous work to create systems and processes that work together more effectively. Projects under this initiative include: Court Clerk Desktop to improve efficiency, increase data quality, and address workload issues for court administration staff; Crown Counsel Scheduling module, which involves the development of an interface to enable timely and efficient communication with the Court to set court appearance dates; Civil e-Documents to enable the electronic creation and distribution of documents in the civil tracking system; Judicial Desktop, which involves development of technology that enables judges and other judicial officers to work electronically; and, Court Services Digital Platform, which provides citizens with the ability to view court files online, electronically file civil court documents, and view daily court lists for certain court matters.
- The Ministry is working in collaboration and consultation with key stakeholders to: define and clarify policing responsibilities at the federal, provincial, and municipal government levels; consider models of policing service delivery, ranging from further integration to the regional delivery of services while retaining local community-focused policing; and, develop options for funding/financing models that reflect each level of government's policing responsibility.
- The Ministry is undertaking Information Management/Information Technology systems modernization to: increase integration and information sharing between justice and public safety business areas; ensure that information is accessible, accurate, complete and secure; and, increase citizen access to, and improve interaction with, justice services.
- The 'Lean' approach has been adopted throughout the Ministry to support improvement of processes and services while also building internal capacity through the elimination of unnecessary rules, processes, activities and non-essential steps. Examples of the many ways Lean is being applied include: improving workflow practices in courthouses; streamlining business processes to admit and discharge inmates from correctional centres and community corrections offices; and, simplifying the application process for the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements Program.

Goal 4: The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia has the public's confidence

Objective 4.1	Adaptive
Objective 4.2	Performance-focused
Objective 4.3	Empowering

Strategies

- The Ministry is a major participant in the Province's justice transformation agenda and has completed many of the recommendations in *A Criminal Justice System for the 21st Century: Final Report to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General*. Prepared by Geoffrey Cowper, QC, the report was based on six months of extensive consultation with the judiciary, Crown counsel, the legal profession, police and members of the public to identify the top issues affecting the justice system and put forward ideas for criminal justice transformation. Sector-wide consultations continue and, in November 2014, the Ministry participated in British Columbia's fourth Justice Summit. The summit brought together about 80 leaders from the judiciary, the legal profession, policing, victim services, corrections, community and advocacy organizations, First Nations groups, the academic community, and the provincial government to identify ways to address issues related to domestic violence and sexual assault.
- Reflecting a commitment to provide early assistance and support early resolution whenever possible, Government is providing dedicated funding of \$6 million over the next three fiscal years to support five Justice Innovation and Transformation Initiatives, to be delivered by the Legal Services Society. Focusing on criminal, family and child protection matters, these pilot projects are designed to support early and out-of-court resolutions where possible and to support individuals in self-representation when court intervention is required.
- The Ministry continues to implement the recommendations put forward in the *B.C. Liquor Policy Review Final Report*, recommendations that stem from extensive stakeholder consultations and one of the Province's most successful public engagements. Parliamentary Secretary John Yap's final report makes 73 common-sense recommendations to change British Columbia's liquor laws so that they reflect current lifestyles, encourage the growth of small businesses and our economy, address calls for consumer convenience, and continue to safeguard health and public safety. Work in this area illustrates how the Ministry continues to build strong legislative, policy and regulatory frameworks for effective service delivery, public safety and citizen interaction.
- Coordinated business intelligence and performance measurement systems are being developed to assist with strategic planning, monitoring and decision-making within the Ministry and across the justice and public safety sector, and to enable better public reporting of progress toward our goals and objectives. The ability to measure performance well is a critical enabler for getting results and achieving goals, and strengthening our business intelligence and performance measurement capacity is a key component of our justice and public safety transformation agenda.

Performance Measure 1: Crime rates

Police-reported crime rates in B.C. (<i>Criminal Code</i> offences per 1,000 persons)	2013 Baseline ¹	2014 Forecast	2015 Target	2016 Target	2017 Target
Violent crime ²	12.6	12.0	11.4	10.8	10.2
Property crime ³	45.7	43.4	41.2	39.1	37.1
Other crime ⁴	16.2	15.4	14.6	13.9	13.2
Overall crime rate	74.5	70.8	67.3	63.9	60.7

Data Source: Crime rates are obtained through the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. Every police agency across Canada participates in this annual survey, which is managed nationally by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, a part of Statistics Canada. Crime rates are based on all police-reported violent crime, property crime and other offences, but do not include offences that are traffic, drug or federal statute related.

¹ The data are reported by calendar year. The most recent year for which data are available is 2013.

² Violent offences include homicide, attempted murder, sexual assaults, non-sexual assaults, firearm offences, robbery, forcible confinement/kidnapping, abduction, extortion, criminal harassment, uttering threats, threatening or harassing phone calls, and other violent offences.

³ Property offences include the offence categories of theft, motor vehicle theft, possession of stolen property, breaking and entering, arson, mischief, and fraud.

⁴ *Criminal Code* offences which are not violent or property related are classified as other offences. These include counterfeiting, offensive weapons, child pornography, prostitution, disturbing the peace, offences related to the administration of justice, and other miscellaneous *Criminal Code* offences.

Discussion

The crime rate is the number of *Criminal Code* offences (excluding drug crimes and traffic-related offences) reported for every 1,000 persons. It is a better measure of trends in crime than is the actual number of offences because it allows for population differences.

Many factors influence police-reported crime rates, including demographic and economic trends and public confidence in the police and justice system. While the Ministry does not control crime rates, crime reduction strategies are a priority of the Ministry, and crime rates are tracked as an indicator of progress toward the goal of protecting people.

The 2014 forecast and the targets established for this measure represent five per cent year-to-year decreases. It is anticipated that 2014 crime rates for British Columbia will be available in late summer or early fall of 2015.

Performance Measure 2: Rates of Non-reoffending

Percentage of adult offenders who are not re-convicted in B.C. within two years of release from custody, commencement of community supervision, or active community supervision.	2013/14 Baseline	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Community Corrections¹	76.7	76.7	77	77.5	78
Custody²	48.7	50	51	51.5	52
Overall rate of non-reoffending³	72.2	72.5	73	73.5	74

Data Source: Corrections Branch. This measure is based on offence date rather than sentence date. That means it includes all individuals, regardless of court date, who are not reconvicted with an offence date that falls within the two-year follow-up period. Therefore, the rates reported may shift slightly over time. The rate is calculated at the conclusion of each fiscal year for the purpose of the Ministry's service plans and annual reports. Each year's rate is based on the cohort two years prior. In other words, the 2014/15 forecast rate is based on offenders admitted and/or released in 2012/13.

¹ The Community Corrections rate is derived from individuals whose supervision was all or mostly in the community. It is the percentage of offenders who do not return to Corrections within two years of commencement or active community supervision.

² The Custody rate is derived from individuals who were released from custody and did not receive follow-up supervision in the community. It is the percentage of offenders who do not return to Corrections within two years of their release from custody.

³ The overall rate of non-reoffending is the percentage of offenders who do not return to Corrections within two years of commencement or active supervision in the community or release from custody.

Discussion

Rates of non-reoffending are used as a litmus test when assessing the overall effectiveness of the justice system in deterring and rehabilitating offenders.

Criminal behaviour is a highly complex phenomenon involving a variety of individual and societal factors and overall rates such as these are slow to change. For this reason, targeting modest gains in the overall rates is appropriate. The effectiveness of specific programs is best assessed through evaluative research.

Each jurisdiction in Canada calculates recidivism using different variables for the follow-up time frame, the indicator of conviction (for example, most use sentencing date while B.C. Corrections uses offence date), and the definition of the sample to track. B.C. Corrections is working on a multi-year project with their provincial, territorial and federal counterparts to standardize a series of definitions, including recidivism.

The Ministry plans to improve rates of non-reoffending by continued focus on evidence-based strategies and through increased collaboration with justice, social and health partners.

Performance Measure 3: Policing Standards

Performance Measure	2013/14 Baseline	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Cumulative number of binding <i>British Columbia Provincial Policing Standards</i> approved for implementation	16	20	30	34	39

Data Source: Results for this measure are derived from records kept by the Policing and Security Branch, Ministry of Justice.

Discussion

The *British Columbia Provincial Policing Standards* serve to set benchmarks against which certain aspects of police activities are measured. They are designed to ensure the safe and effective delivery of policing and to strengthen police accountability.

Currently, the development of new policing standards is undertaken by the Ministry in consultation with an advisory committee comprised of interested stakeholders. Fiscal implications are considered during the development of new standards and significant efforts are made to mitigate costs.

The Ministry continues to work toward developing new standards in response to recommendations from the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Report.

Performance Measure 4: Traffic fatality and serious injury rates

Performance Measure	2008-2012 Baseline ¹	2014 Forecast ²	2015 Target	2016 Target	2017 Target
Number of traffic fatalities per 100,000 population	7.4	5.6	5.4	5.2	5.0
Number of serious traffic injuries per 100,000 population ³	70.8	60.2	57.7	55.3	53.0

Data Source: Data on the number of traffic fatalities is from the Traffic Accident System maintained by the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia. Data on overnight hospitalizations is from the Ministry of Health's Discharge Abstract Database. Population estimates and projections are from BC Stats and are as of July 1st each year. Results are reported by calendar year rather than fiscal year. All numbers have been rounded to the closest tenth.

¹ The baselines for these rates are the average per year from 2008 to 2012.

² The forecast rates for 2014 are based on the most recent available data. They are to be considered preliminary until the various data sources (Police, ICBC, BC Coroners Service, and Ministry of Health Discharge Abstract Database) have been fully reconciled and approved.

³ Serious traffic injuries are defined as those requiring overnight hospitalization.

Discussion

As traffic fatality and serious injury rates are affected by random variations from year to year, trends in the rates are most meaningful when considered over the long term. The influence of factors external to government programs must also be taken into account. Despite these considerations, reductions in fatalities and serious injuries over the long term remain good indicators of road safety improvements.

The targets for these rates are based on annual reductions of three per cent from the 2014 forecasts.

Performance Measure 5: Rate of traffic fatalities and serious injuries involving high-risk driving behaviours

Performance Measure	2013 Baseline	2014 Forecast ¹	2015 Target	2016 Target	2017 Target
The number per 100,000 B.C. population of serious injuries and fatalities resulting from a crash where alcohol, drugs, speed and/or distraction were assessed to be a factor	31.8	30.5	29.6	28.1	26.9

Data Source: Traffic Accident System Q3 2014 extract; BC Statistics (April 2014). Population Estimates and projections as of July 1st each year.

Results are reported by calendar year rather than fiscal year. All numbers have been rounded to the closest tenth.

Police attend all crashes occurring on a public road and resulting in serious injuries or fatalities. At the scene of the crashes, police record in ICBC's Traffic Accident System the factors they believe influenced the crash and assess whether victims have serious or fatal injuries. Fatalities are reconciled with coroner data, but serious injuries are assessed by the officer and may differ from hospitalization counts.

¹ The forecast rate for 2014 is based on the most recent available data. It is to be considered preliminary until the various data sources (Police, ICBC, BC Coroners Service, and Ministry of Health Discharge Abstract Database) have been fully reconciled and approved.

Discussion

The high-risk driving behaviours within the scope of this measure (alcohol, drugs, speed and/or distraction) are the focus of RoadSafetyBC programs, and this measure is an indicator of success in protecting the public from these behaviours.

The targets are based on annual reductions of three per cent from the 2014 forecast.

Performance Measure 6: Timeliness of Victim Financial Assistance claim adjudication

Performance Measure	2013/14 Baseline	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Average number of days to adjudicate claims for financial assistance from victims and others impacted by violent crime	63 ¹	70	70	70	70

Data Source: Results for this measure are derived from the Electronic Victim Information System, taking into account the dates claims were received and the dates they were completed, as well as the cases that remain outstanding.

¹ The 2013/14 baseline was reported as 50 in the *Ministry of Justice 2013/14 Annual Service Plan Report*. It has been updated here based on final data for 2013/14.

Discussion

This measure indicates the level of client service and system efficiency in administering the Crime Victim Assistance Program under the *Crime Victim Assistance Act*.

The 2013/14 baseline represents adjudication of 99 per cent of claims received in 2013/14. The baseline of 63 days for adjudication compares to a 399-day timeframe for adjudication in Ontario in 2012/13 for approximately the same number of applications.

The 2014/15 forecast of 70 days and the subsequent year targets reflect an ambitious effort to maintain this high level of service, which is a significant reduction from the previous target of 150 days. This reduction was achieved through service delivery changes implemented following an internal review process.

To determine claimants' eligibility for benefits, the Ministry must obtain supporting information from third parties, such as police and medical professionals. This reliance on third parties to provide information results in the majority of claims being adjudicated within approximately two months; urgent cases requiring immediate assistance are expedited.

Performance Measure 7: Timeliness of Disaster Financial Assistance private sector claim adjudication

Performance Measure	2013/14 Baseline	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Average number of days from receipt of a complete Disaster Financial Assistance evaluator's report until the claim has been adjudicated and closed	14	13	12	11	11

Data Source: Data to support this measure are compiled from a dedicated Disaster Financial Assistance database that tracks individual applications by event. The measure is based on a five-year rolling average. Use of a five-year rolling average provides a stronger indication of organizational performance and process improvement trends than single year reporting, due to the variability of events and Disaster Financial Assistance applications between years.

Discussion

Disaster Financial Assistance provides financial assistance to help individuals and communities recover from catastrophic events that have resulted in uninsurable property and infrastructure damage. The program operates under the *Emergency Program Act* and the *Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation*.

Community assistance is delivered through the program for local government bodies and individual assistance is delivered for the private sector. There are five categories for individuals: home owners; residential tenants; small business owners; farm owners; and charitable or volunteer organizations. Upon receipt of an eligible private sector Disaster Financial Assistance application, losses are evaluated, a report is completed and reviewed, and payment is processed.

The Recovery and Funding team at Emergency Management BC continues to revise and streamline its processes, resulting in faster and more accurate claims completion. It should also be noted that a significant factor in the timeliness of Disaster Financial Assistance claims adjudication is the volume of claims.

Performance Measure 8: Rate of liquor store compliance with ID-checking requirements

Performance Measure	2013/14 Baseline	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Percentage of inspections of liquor stores where the stores are found to be in compliance with ID-checking requirements	79.6	80.6	82.0	84.0	85.0

Data Source: Results for this measure are based on records kept by the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch, Ministry of Justice. The measure includes inspections of all liquor stores operated by the Liquor Distribution Branch, along with all private liquor stores in the province; bars, restaurants and special occasion licences are not included.

Discussion

Preventing the sale of liquor to minors is a key public safety priority for Government, given the potentially devastating consequences of underage drinking. It is also against the law to sell, serve or supply liquor to a minor.

Under the authority of the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*, the Ministry employs minors to test whether licensees and their staff are selling to minors. The Minors as Agents program is the most cost-effective way to monitor and increase compliance in this critical area.

Resource Summary

Resource Summary Tables

Core Business Area	2014/15 Restated Estimates ¹	2015/16 Estimates ²	2016/17 Plan	2017/18 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Justice Services.....	109,081	109,707	109,849	110,177
Prosecution Services.....	112,867	115,793	116,679	116,949
Court Services.....	97,523	99,426	99,892	100,949
Legal Services.....	17,543	18,005	18,317	19,024
Corrections.....	219,234	220,892	221,790	223,806
Policing and Security	349,682	355,555	356,861	356,942
Victim Services and Crime Prevention.....	40,017	40,143	40,359	40,693
Emergency Management BC.....	26,702	26,756	26,793	26,876
RoadSafetyBC.....	8,815	9,149	9,201	9,075
Liquor Control and Licensing.....	1	1	1	1
Agencies, Boards and Commissions.....	12,979	12,990	12,997	13,014

Core Business Area	2014/15 Restated Estimates ¹	2015/16 Estimates ²	2016/17 Plan	2017/18 Plan
Executive and Support Services.....	30,484	31,538	31,912	33,083
Judiciary.....	68,109	71,118	71,737	71,727
<i>Crown Proceeding Act</i>	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500
Independent Investigations Office.....	7,536	7,544	7,550	7,563
B.C. Utilities Commission.....	1	1	1	1
<i>Emergency Program Act</i> ³	14,478	14,478	14,478	14,478
Statutory Services ⁴	14,785	14,785	14,785	14,785
Total.....	1,154,337	1,172,381	1,177,702	1,183,643
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)				
Executive and Support Services.....	14,572	12,078	22,930	5,800
Judiciary.....	605	590	570	570
Independent Investigations Office.....	352	183	145	0
British Columbia Utilities Commission.....	10	10	10	10
Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account.....	363	363	363	363
Total.....	15,902	13,224	24,018	6,743

Other Financing Transactions (\$000)				
Receipts.....	(2,900)	(2,900)	(2,900)	(2,900)
Disbursements.....	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,900
Total Net Cash Source (Requirements)	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2014/15 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2015/16 Estimates.

² Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

³ The *Emergency Program Act* provides for response to and recovery from emergencies and disasters, and for hazard mitigation initiatives.

⁴ Statutory Services includes Civil Forfeiture Account, Corrections Work Program Account, Criminal Asset Management Fund, Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account, and Victim Surcharge Special Account.

Electoral Boundaries Commission, Environmental Appeal Board and Forest Appeals Commission

While the Board and the Commissions operate independently from the Ministry of Justice, their budget vote is the responsibility of the Ministry. Therefore, they are not considered one of the core business areas accountable to the Attorney General, but they are included in the Resource Summary of this service plan.

Core Business Area	2014/15 Restated Estimates ¹	2015/16 Estimates ²	2016/17 Plan	2017/18 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Electoral Boundaries Commission	2,500	2,000	0	0
Environmental Appeal Board	312	312	312	312
Forest Appeals Commission	310	310	310	310
Administration and Support Services	1,453	1,459	1,463	1,473
Total	4,575	4,081	2,085	2,095

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2014/15 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2015/16 Estimates.

² Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

Major Capital Projects

Representing the largest capital expansion in the history of B.C. Corrections, the Corrections Capital Asset Management Plan (CAMP) was developed to address current and future capacity demands in correctional centres in British Columbia. Since 2007, Government has approved \$460 million in capital funding to expand correctional centre capacity throughout the province.

In addition to these major capital projects, Corrections responded to Government's construction stimulus program with the implementation of \$40 million in Accelerated Infrastructure Projects to increase the ability of existing institutions and offices to safely and securely accommodate offenders. Benefits of the funding to Community Corrections include office changes to ensure staff and client safety, increased office security, and interview rooms that facilitate client-staff engagement in a safe and secure environment. Benefits of the funding to Adult Custody include increased security, and increased staff and inmate safety.

Government's CAMP Phase One approval included a total of \$185 million in capital between 2008/09 and 2013/14 for three separate projects to add 340 new cells to the provincial capacity:

- A 20-cell expansion for women at the Prince George Regional Correctional Centre, completed in December 2010;
- A 104-cell addition at Alouette Correctional Centre for Women, completed in October 2012; and,
- A 216-cell addition to the Surrey Pretrial Services Centre opened in February 2014.

The initial project in CAMP Phase Two was approved in December 2012 – the construction of a 378-cell Okanagan Correctional Centre within the Osoyoos Indian Band's Senkulmen Business Park on Highway 97, seven kilometres north of Oliver. The project is now under construction and is scheduled to be completed in late 2016. It will create up to 500 direct and 500 indirect jobs during construction, and over 240 new, full-time positions upon completion, and will more than double correctional centre capacity in British Columbia's Interior.

Appendix 1: Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia

In 1999, the Organized Crime Agency of British Columbia (OCABC) was developed as an independent Designated Policing and Law Enforcement Unit under the *Provincial Police Act*.

In 2004, the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia (CFSEU-BC) was developed in consultation with the provincial government as an initiative to integrate the OCABC, the municipal police departments and the RCMP.

The Board of Governance for the OCABC also acts as the Board of Governance for the CFSEU-BC. The Board is comprised of the Deputy Commissioner Pacific Region and Commanding Officer “E” Division RCMP, the President of the B.C. Association of Chiefs of Police, the President of the B.C. Association of Municipal Chiefs of Police and the Chief Constable of the Vancouver Police Department. The Board determines the strategic direction of the CFSEU-BC and ensures its operational priorities are aligned with the policing priorities for British Columbia. The CFSEU-BC operates under the RCMP policies and procedures. The board members receive no remuneration.

The Chief Officer in charge of the CFSEU-BC leads an executive team comprised of civilian members in addition to regular RCMP and Municipal officers seconded from across the province. The CFSEU-BC Gang Enforcement Unit, Firearms Enforcement Team and Investigation Teams are just a few of the teams that fall under the responsibility of the CFSEU-BC. Offices for the CFSEU-BC are located in the Lower Mainland, Prince George, Kelowna and Victoria.

The mission of the CFSEU-BC is to facilitate the disruption and suppression of organized crime which affects British Columbians. The mandate is to investigate, prosecute, disrupt and suppress criminal organizations, consistent with local, regional, national and international priorities. The CFSEU-BC also supports other agencies by assisting in organized and major crime investigations.

More information can be found at: www.cfseu.bc.ca/cms.

Appendix 2: Agencies, Boards and Commissions

BC Ferry Commission

The BC Ferry Commission is a quasi-judicial regulatory agency operating under the *Coastal Ferry Act*. The Commission regulates the ferry operator British Columbia Ferry Services Inc. (BC Ferries) on 25 saltwater routes and is independent of both the provincial government and BC Ferries. The primary responsibility of the Commissioner is to regulate ferry fares. The Commissioner sets a price cap on the average level of fares which BC Ferries can charge, the goal of which is to balance the interests of ferry users with the interests of taxpayers while protecting the financial sustainability of the ferry operator. Other key tasks include: monitoring adherence to the terms of the Coastal Ferry Services Contract; approval of major capital expenditures; regulating unfair competitive advantage; and, the approval and monitoring of BC Ferries' customer complaints process.

www.bcferrycommission.com

British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal

The British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal is responsible for accepting, screening, mediating and adjudicating complaints under the *Human Rights Code*. It provides parties the opportunity to resolve complaints through mediation; complaints that are not resolved through mediation proceed to a hearing before the Tribunal. The Tribunal is accountable to the legislature through the Attorney General and functions independently of Government on all matters related to adjudication of complaints. Orders of the Tribunal are enforceable in the British Columbia Supreme Court.

www.bchrt.bc.ca

British Columbia Law Institute

The British Columbia Law Institute was created in January 1997 to: promote the clarification and simplification of the law and its adaptation to modern social needs; promote improvement of the administration of justice and respect for the rule of law; and, promote and carry out scholarly legal research. www.bcli.org

British Columbia Review Board

The British Columbia Review Board conducts hearings to review and assess the mental condition and level of threat to the public posed by mentally disordered accused persons for the purpose of determining whether they should be absolutely or conditionally discharged, or detained in a designated place of custody. www.bcrb.bc.ca

British Columbia Utilities Commission

The British Columbia Utilities Commission operates under and administers the *Utilities Commission Act*, regulating utilities to ensure customers receive safe, reliable and non-discriminatory energy services at fair rates, and that shareholders of those utilities are afforded a reasonable opportunity to earn a fair return on their invested capital. www.bcuc.com

Environmental Appeal Board

The Environmental Appeal Board is an independent agency which hears appeals from certain decisions made by Government officials related to environmental issues. These decisions include water licences, contaminated site remediation orders, pesticide permits and the cancellation of hunting licences, among other things. The Environmental Appeal Board plays a role in ensuring the protection and wise use of the environment by providing a quasi-judicial access point for the public and industry to appeal certain Government decisions. www.eab.gov.bc.ca

Forest Appeals Commission

The Forest Appeals Commission is an independent tribunal established under the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* and continued under the *Forest and Range Practices Act*. The Commission hears appeals from certain decisions made by Government officials related to forests and the environment. www.fac.gov.bc.ca

Independent Investigations Office

The Independent Investigation Office was established to conduct criminal investigations regarding police-related incidents involving death or serious harm. The Office is under the command and direction of the Chief Civilian Director, a position for which one cannot ever have served as a police officer. www.iiobc.ca

Legal Services Society

The Legal Services Society provides legal aid in British Columbia as set out in the *Legal Services Society Act*. Services include legal information and advice to, and representation of, people with low incomes. The Province provides most of the society's funding, but the Legal Services Society remains independent of Government. The society reports its activities to Government through the Attorney General and determines the range of services it will provide within the framework of a memorandum of understanding negotiated with the Attorney General every three years. www.lss.bc.ca

Oil and Gas Appeal Tribunal

The Oil and Gas Appeal Tribunal is an independent quasi-judicial agency that hears appeals from decisions of the Oil and Gas Commission which include certain orders, declarations, findings of contravention, administrative penalties and permitting decisions in relation to an 'oil and gas activity' such as geophysical exploration, the construction or operation of a pipeline, road construction, and the production, gathering, processing, storage or disposal of petroleum, natural gas or both. www.ogat.gov.bc.ca

Police Boards

In British Columbia, independent municipal police departments are overseen by appointed police boards made up of civilian members of the community. The role of police boards is to provide general direction to the department, in accordance with relevant legislation and in response to community needs. www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/policeservices/boards/index.htm

Appendix 3: Ministry Contact Information and Hyperlinks to Additional Information

Domestic Violence Helpline

1-800-563-0808

www.domesticviolencebc.ca

Confidential; Free; 24 hours/7 days; Multiple Languages

Human Trafficking Helpline

1-888-712-7974

Confidential; Free; 24 hours/7 days; Multiple Languages

For assistance with human trafficking cases, including emergency services, and accessing shelter, interpretation and translation services

JusticeBC

www.justicebc.ca

Provides online access to more than 300 pages of information about the criminal and family justice systems, as well as links to other resources and services

VictimLink BC

1-800-563-0808

www.victimlinkbc.ca

Confidential; Free; 24 hours/7 days; Multiple Languages

Provides help and information for victims of family and sexual violence, and all other crimes

For information related to the responsibilities of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, visit our website at www.gov.bc.ca/justice or refer to the following:

Office of the Deputy Attorney General and Deputy Solicitor General

- 250-356-0149

Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch

- 604-660-5199
 - Civil Forfeiture Office www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/civilforfeiture
 - Community Safety and Crime Prevention: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/crimeprevention
 - Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/octip
 - Victim Services: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/victimservices

Consumer Protection BC

- 604-320-1667
- www.consumerprotectionbc.ca

Corrections Branch

- 250-387-5059
- www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/corrections

Court Services Branch

- 250-356-1550
- www.ag.gov.bc.ca/courts

Criminal Justice Branch

- 250-387-3840
- www.ag.gov.bc.ca/prosecution-service

Crowns, Agencies, Boards and Commissions

- A list of Crowns, Agencies, Boards and Commissions with links to their websites may be found at: www.ag.gov.bc.ca/abc. Please also refer to Appendix B.

Dispute Resolution Office

- 250-387-1480
- www.ag.gov.bc.ca/dro

Emergency Management BC

- 250-952-5013
 - BC Coroners Service: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/coroners
 - Office of the Fire Commissioner: www.embc.gov.bc.ca/ofc
 - Emergency Management: www.embc.gov.bc.ca/em

Family Justice Centres and Justice Access Centres

- Family Justice Centres: www.clicklaw.bc.ca/helpmap/service/1019
- Justice Access Centres: www.ag.gov.bc.ca/justice-access-centre

Family Maintenance Enforcement Program

- www.fmep.gov.bc.ca

Justice Services Branch

- 250-356-6582
- www.ag.gov.bc.ca/justice-services/index.htm

Legal Services Branch

- 250-356-8467

Legislation and Ministry Responsibilities

- www.leg.bc.ca/legislation/index.htm

Liquor Control and Licensing Branch

- 250-952-5787
- www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/lclb

Liquor Distribution Branch

- 604-252-3000
- www.bclddb.com

Policing and Security Programs Branch

- 250-387-1100
- Police Services: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/policeservices
- Security Industry Licensing: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/securityindustry

RoadSafetyBC

- 250-387-7747
- www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/osmv

BC Liquor Distribution Branch

2015/16 – 2017/18 SERVICE PLAN



For more information on the BC Liquor Distribution Branch, contact:

2625 Rupert Street, Vancouver, BC V5M 3T5

604-252-3029

communications@bcldb.com

or visit our website at
www.bcldb.com

Accountability Statement

The 2015/16 - 2017/18 BC Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB) service plan was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act* and the BC Reporting Principles. The plan is consistent with Government's strategic priorities and fiscal plan. I am accountable for the contents of the plan, including what has been included in the plan and how it has been reported.

All significant assumptions, policy decisions, events and identified risks, as of January 21, 2015 have been considered in preparing the plan. The performance measures presented are consistent with the LDB's mandate and goals, and focus on aspects critical to the organization's performance. The targets in this plan have been determined based on an assessment of the LDB's operating environment, forecast conditions, risk assessment and past performance.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Blain Lawson', written over a light, textured background.

R. Blain Lawson
General Manager and Chief Executive Officer

Table of Contents

Accountability Statement	3
Strategic Direction and Context	5
Performance Plan	6
Financial Plan	12
Summary Financial Outlook.....	12
Key Forecast Assumptions.....	12
Risk Analysis.....	13
Management Perspective on Future Financial Outlook.....	14
Appendices	15
Appendix A: Hyperlinks to Additonal Information	15

Strategic Direction and Context

Strategic Direction

More than 2.6 billion dollars. That's the amount the BC Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB) is forecasting contributing to Government in the next three years, to help pay for vital public services.

At the heart of the LDB's strategy—and critical in continuing to meet Government revenue targets—is one word: modernization. As the LDB looks toward 2018, this theme undercuts action happening in every area of the business.

Perhaps the most significant transformation will happen on the distribution side, as the LDB works to develop a new warehouse facility to be operational by 2018/19. By taking advantage of the latest technology, business processes and modern supply chain operations, the new facility will vastly improve the LDB's ability to serve wholesale customers efficiently.

Changes stemming from the Liquor Policy Review—which will level the playing field between liquor retailers in spring 2015—will also require the LDB's retail business to modernize in order to succeed in an increasingly competitive marketplace. Moving toward a uniform wholesale price for all retailers, it will be more important than ever for BC Liquor Stores (BCLS) to offer an unparalleled shopping experience. The LDB looks forward to exploring possibilities of extending hours and refrigeration where it makes business sense, and is actively promoting a customer-centric mentality among its 3,600 employees.

Throughout these dynamic times, the LDB will be guided by direction from Government, as laid out in the LDB's 2015/16 Mandate Letter. The Taxpayer Accountability Principles, announced by Premier Christy Clark in June 2014, formalize the LDB's ongoing commitment to operational measures that strengthen accountability and promote cost control in the taxpayers' best interests.

Operating Environment

When a uniform wholesale price and liquor in grocery stores are introduced, the LDB will be operating in an increasingly competitive marketplace. This new market—combined with traditional economic pressures that can impact discretionary spending on alcohol—will necessitate continued monitoring of the marketplace and financial performance to make adjustments as required.

To ensure success in the new model, the LDB is introducing many technical and organizational changes that impact its internal environment. The new warehouse will transform the way LDB employees work and serve wholesale customers. Aging systems are a support and maintenance risk, so the LDB will continue to implement infrastructure and train staff to monitor these risks. A newly developed succession management strategy is also being implemented to ensure highly skilled people will be available to replace a large contingent of the LDB's workforce when they retire in the next five years.

Performance Plan

Goals, Strategies, Measures and Targets

While the LDB is facing increasingly dynamic times, its mission remains the same: To be a customer-centric, profitable retailer and wholesaler of beverage alcohol dedicated to innovation, exemplary service, helpful product knowledge and corporate social responsibility.

To remain successful, the LDB strives toward five goals related to financial performance, workplace quality and employee excellence, customer experience, business effectiveness and corporate social responsibility. These goals are supported by specific strategies and performance measures and underpinned by the Taxpayer Accountability Principles.



The LDB aims for an extraordinary level of service for wholesale and retail customers.

Goal 1: Financial Performance

Meet financial objectives approved by Government.

Strategies

- Grow sales and effectively manage operating expenses.

Performance Measure 1: Net income

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Net income (in \$millions)	877.0	907.6	880.6	895.6	910.2

Data Source: BCLS sales data is collected from computerized point-of-sale cash register systems and stored in Head Office databases. Sales made directly to customers by authorized representatives on behalf of the LDB are transmitted to the LDB and stored in databases. LDB financial statements are audited by the Office of the Auditor General annually. LDB expense data is captured, stored and reported by the LDB's financial system.

Net income is the LDB's contribution to the provincial government from the total sales of beverage alcohol in the province and is audited by the Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia. LDB net income is a significant contributor to provincial government revenues. The 2014/15 forecast

includes a one-time gain due to the sale of the property where the LDB's current warehouse in Vancouver is located. Excluding this gain, the LDB's forecasted net income for 2014/15 is \$870.7 million.

Goal 2: Workplace quality and employee excellence

Create a work environment that encourages greater employee engagement.

Strategies

- Enhance staff skills and engagement through leadership development, employee training and increased communication.
- Implement succession management plans for the organization.
- Provide a safe, healthy and harassment-free workplace.

Empowering employees

"Organizations that focus on supporting their employees to learn and develop secure a competitive advantage in today's marketplace."

—Cary Sheppard, LDB Director of Learning Services

Performance Measure 2.1: Employee engagement

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Employee Engagement	69	n/a	70	n/a	71

Data Source:

BC Stats conducts the employee engagement survey for the LDB.

The LDB measures employee engagement every two years through the Workplace Environment Survey (WES) by asking employees about their work environment. Compared to global workplace engagement averages which typically hover around 60 per cent, the LDB's 2013/14 WES score of 69—slightly below its target score of 70—reflects a healthy work environment. Given the widespread organizational changes that are on the horizon, the LDB believes that aiming for a one per cent increase in employee engagement every two years is a challenging target.

Goal 3: Customer experience

Maintain a high level of wholesale and retail customer satisfaction.

Strategies

- Continuously refresh the store network.
- Continuously provide enhanced customer services.



Performance Measure 3.1: Retail Customer Satisfaction

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Retail customer satisfaction	n/a	90%	n/a	90%	n/a

Data Source:

The LDB contracts with professional survey companies to conduct the retail and wholesale customer service surveys.

Performance Measure 3.2: Wholesale Customer Satisfaction

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Wholesale customer satisfaction	n/a	90%	n/a	90%	n/a

Data Source:

The LDB contracts with professional survey companies to conduct the retail and wholesale customer service surveys.

Every two years, BC Liquor Store retail customers and wholesale customers (bars, restaurants and private retailers) are surveyed by a professional survey company to determine customer satisfaction. Due to the importance of customer satisfaction to the LDB's success, a target of 90 per cent has been set for both retail and wholesale customers. Setting a consistently high bar for customer satisfaction ensures the LDB maintains its customer focus year after year. Achieving 90 per cent customer satisfaction in a retail environment represents a very high level of satisfaction.

Goal 4: Business effectiveness

Maintain operating efficiencies in a climate of constant change.

Strategies

- Maximize the potential efficiencies available through improved distribution operations.
- Increase the use of current and cost-effective technology.

Performance Measure 4.1: BC Liquor Store sales per square foot

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
BC Liquor Store sales per square foot	\$1,222	\$1,303	\$1,190	\$1,215	\$1,240

Data Source:

BCLS sales data is collected from computerized point-of-sale cash register systems and stored in Head Office databases. Sales made directly to customers by authorized product representatives on behalf of the LDB are transmitted to the LDB and stored in databases. LDB financial statements are audited by the Office of the Auditor General annually.

This indicator is based on the annual dollar sales of the store system divided by total store system square footage, which measures how well the LDB converts its floor space into sales. Decreasing targets over the next several years are the result of forecasted changes to the distribution model, where business will be shifted from the retail stores to the wholesale customer centre. The impacts of this shift are expected to be partially offset by the potential for expanded hours and refrigeration in BCLS.

Performance Measure 4.2: Distribution Centre labour cost per case shipped

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Distribution Centre labour cost per case shipped	\$1.68	\$1.74	\$1.75	\$1.76	\$1.77

Data Source:

Orders and shipments processed by the LDB Distribution Centres are captured and stored by computer applications designed for this purpose.

This productivity measure is calculated by dividing Distribution Centre labour expenses by total case shipments. Prior to the construction of a new Distribution Centre, additional warehouse space may need to be leased. As a result, the LDB forecasts additional labour costs per case may be incurred as product moves back and forth between two warehouses.

Performance Measure 4.3: Distribution Centre order fill rate

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Distribution Centre order fill rate	93%	93%	93%	93%	93%

Data Source:

Orders and shipments processed by the LDB Distribution Centres are captured and stored by computer applications designed for this purpose.

This is a measure of the completeness of orders filled by the LDB Distribution Centres and is calculated by dividing the number of ordered items that are filled completely by the total number of items ordered. The calculation excludes products that are not stocked by the LDB Distribution Centres. Setting a consistent target of 93 per cent strikes the right balance between the effective management of inventory and the minimization of product stock-outs.

Goal 5: Corporate social responsibility

Encourage the responsible use of beverage alcohol and minimize the impact of operations on the environment.

Strategies

- Prevent sales to minors or intoxicated persons in BC Liquor Stores through staff education and enforcement of ID-checking requirements.
- Promote awareness of responsible use by continuing co-operative programs with suppliers and other stakeholders.
- Reduce the impact of operations on the environment by reducing waste, increasing recycling rates and achieving carbon neutrality on an annual basis.

Performance Measure 5.1: Store compliance with ID-checking requirements

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Store compliance with ID-checking requirements	82%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Data Source:

LCLB administers an ID compliance checking program and provides the results of BCLS compliance to the LDB.

In fiscal 2011/12, the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) of the Ministry of Justice implemented an ID-checking program for liquor stores that uses underage agents to test compliance. The target of 100 per cent reflects the importance to the LDB of preventing sales to minors.

Performance Measure 5.2: Customer awareness of LDB corporate social responsibility programs

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Customer awareness of LDB corporate social responsibility programs	n/a	90%	n/a	90%	n/a

Data Source:

The LDB contracts with professional survey companies to conduct the retail and wholesale customer service surveys.

The LDB encourages the responsible use of beverage alcohol by use of promotional posters and other materials in stores. Every two years, the LDB measures customer recall of these materials through a survey, with a 90 per cent target set to ensure the LDB develops impactful and relevant messaging. Setting a consistently high target of 90 per cent for customer awareness of social responsibility programs represents a significant and ongoing challenge for the LDB.

Performance Measure 5.3: Waste diversion rate at Head Office and Vancouver Distribution Centre

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Waste Diversion Rate	n/a	70%	75%	80%	80%

Data Source:

Waste diversion rates represent the weight of material diverted from the landfill through composting and recycling as a percentage of the total weight of waste material generated. Rates will be determined based on measured weights reported by a contracted waste and recycling service provider.

In 2013/14, the LDB developed this comprehensive environmental performance measure, which will eventually be expanded to include diversion rates for BC Liquor Stores and the Kamloops Distribution Centre, with intensity-based targets focused on reducing disposable materials and waste generated from LDB operations.

Financial Plan

Summary Financial Outlook

<i>(in \$ millions)</i>	Actual	Forecast	Targets		
	Fiscal 2013/14	Fiscal 2014/15	Fiscal 2015/16	Fiscal 2016/17	Fiscal 2017/18
Sales, net of commissions and discounts	2,745.5	2,808.3	2,842.1	2,900.4	2,959.9
Cost of sales	1,581.4	1,622.3	1,628.4	1,664.1	1,700.4
Operating Expenses - Employment	162.8	172.5	177.0	178.9	180.8
Operating Expenses - Rent	39.7	42.8	45.6	47.9	50.3
Operating Expenses - Administration	97.1	107.8	118.5	121.9	126.2
Other income	12.5	44.7	8.0	8.0	8.0
Net income	877.0	907.6	880.6	895.6	910.2
Capital	12.9	30.4	34.0	64.7	59.5
Debt	0	0	0	0	0
Retained Earnings	0	0	0	0	0

Key Forecast Assumptions

Effective April 1, 2015, the LDB is implementing a new wholesale model with the intent that shelf prices remain relatively unchanged. As well, Government has announced that grocery stores will be permitted to sell alcohol beginning April 1, 2015. Due to these significant changes, the future years' forecast has included the following assumptions:

- Market share and product mix remains stable for all future years;
- The impact of grocery stores has not been included;
- Fiscal 2015/16 overall net sales growth will be flat; and,
- For fiscal 2016/17 and onwards, annual sales will increase by two per cent due to a combination of inflation and volume growth.

Capital requirements reflect expenditures for updating and improving stores, technology-related projects and ongoing equipment replacements.

In August 2014, the property where the LDB's current Vancouver warehouse is located on East Broadway was sold. The LDB has entered into an agreement to lease the current facility until the LDB can relocate the warehouse and distribution operation. Efficiency gains are expected to come from additional size, modern and higher racking, improved aisle access, improved receiving and shipping bays, some automation, and an improved working environment.

Risk Analysis

Beverage alcohol is a highly regulated product and its consumption can be influenced by government decisions such as hours of operation of establishments that sell or serve liquor products and drinking and driving laws. These types of policy decisions can have a significant impact on LDB revenue.

The LDB's financial performance is also affected by economic conditions:

- Changes in the marketplace—it is unknown at this time how the introduction of grocery stores as retailers of beverage alcohol will impact the current retail environment;
- Price competition among suppliers of wine, spirits and refreshment beverages—as mark-up on these products is percentage-based, a reduction in the supplier price will result in less LDB revenue, assuming a constant volume; and,
- Beverage alcohol is a discretionary consumer product and sales are affected by economic conditions—consumer confidence dictates entertainment dollars spent on alcohol.

Weather patterns and timing of statutory holidays are other factors that influence LDB revenue. A hot, dry summer and long weekends result in increased sales, particularly in the refreshment beverage and packaged beer categories. Conversely, adverse weather conditions have a negative impact on liquor sales. The day of the week statutory holidays fall on also have an impact on sales—when they fall on Mondays or Fridays, sales are much stronger than when they fall on Tuesdays or Wednesdays.

The LDB monitors all of these factors, using the best information available to ensure sound decisions on such things as product mix and supply, and the staffing complement required in retail stores.

Cost of Goods Sold

Each percentage change in the cost of products in the wine, spirits and refreshment beverage categories has a direct effect on net income of approximately \$9 million due to the percentage-based mark-up on these products.

Beer has a per litre mark-up and therefore cost of sales as a percentage of sales, will increase with higher beer prices. BC wines have lower gross margins due to the markup policy on direct delivery VQA wines and wines produced from 100 percent BC grapes. As these two categories grow, cost of goods as a percentage of sales will continue to increase.

Management Perspective on Future Financial Outlook

British Columbia's liquor industry will experience some significant changes as it begins to modernize. Many of these changes reflect recommendations identified in the 2013 Liquor Policy Review. Some of these recommendations have changed liquor policies which will likely impact B.C.'s liquor industry, including the LDB, and include:

- Introduction of a single wholesale price for all beverage alcohol retailers in April 2015;
- Expansion of Sunday and statutory holiday openings for BCLS;
- BCLS being allowed to extend hours as required;
- Expansion of refrigeration in BCLS;
- Sales of beverage alcohol in grocery stores; and,
- BCLS being subject to the one kilometre restriction (which previously only applied to private retailers).

A single wholesale price for all retailers (including BCLS) will eliminate the present system's pricing inconsistencies, where varying purchase discount prices apply depending on the type of retailer. BCLS will have to purchase product at the same price as other retailers; however, some current restrictions will be removed and the LDB will be able to consider Sunday and statutory holiday openings, extending hours and refrigeration. This could result in a shift in market share.

In April 2015, grocers that meet the regulatory requirements will be allowed to sell beverage alcohol—a move which could have a profound impact on the retail landscape and force other retailers to be more competitive. Rapid expansion of beverage alcohol in grocery stores will be moderated, though, by current regulations preventing a liquor retailer from moving within one kilometre of another retailer. In addition, the moratorium on new Licensed Retail Store licences has been extended to the year 2022.

The LDB will adapt its operations to meet the changing demands of the retail and wholesale environment. Wholesale and retail operations will be separated and there will be different operational oversight for each division within a common corporate management structure. The LDB will monitor wholesale margins to protect Government's revenue targets. Changes in product mix, especially with the entry of grocery stores, will be closely monitored and adjustments made where appropriate to meet targets.

In order to meet the challenges of the new beverage alcohol landscape, both retail and wholesale operations will have to continually monitor performance, anticipate the direction of the market through the use of predictive analytics and make changes in order to capitalize on the demands of consumers. The new warehouse, which is anticipated to be operational in 2018/19, will drive greater efficiencies in product delivery and will meet the demands of the years ahead.

Appendix A:

Hyperlinks to Additional Information

The LDB's organizational overview and corporate governance structure can be found [here](#).

Legal Services Society

2015/16 – 2017/18 SERVICE PLAN



**Legal
Services
Society**

British Columbia
www.legalaid.bc.ca



For more information on the Legal Services Society, please contact:

Mark Benton, QC

Chief Executive Officer

Legal Services Society

400 – 510 Burrard Street

Vancouver, BC V6C 3A8

604-601-6000

www.legalaid.bc.ca

Accountability Statement

The 2015/16 – 2017/18 Legal Services Society (LSS) service plan was prepared under the Board's direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act* and the BC Reporting Principles. The plan is consistent with government's strategic priorities and fiscal plan. The Board is accountable for the contents of the plan, including what has been included in the plan and how it has been reported.

All significant assumptions, policy decisions, events and identified risks, as of January 1, 2015, have been considered in preparing the plan. The performance measures presented are consistent with Legal Service Society's mandate and goals, and focus on aspects critical to the organization's performance. The targets in this plan have been determined based on an assessment of Legal Service Society's operating environment, forecast conditions, risk assessment and past performance.



Tom Christensen

Chair, LSS Board of Directors

Table of Contents

Strategic Direction and Context.....	5
Strategic Direction	5
Operating Environment.....	5
Performance Plan	7
Goal 1: People with low incomes who have legal issues use LSS services.....	8
Goal 2: People with low incomes get help with related legal issues so they can solve and prevent legal problems.	9
Goal 3: LSS manages resources soundly.	10
Goal 4: LSS provides leadership in justice innovation.	11
Financial Plan.....	12
Summary Financial Outlook 2014-2018 (in \$ millions).....	12
Key Forecast Assumptions	13
Sensitivity Analysis	13
Management Perspective on Future Financial Outlook.....	13
Appendix A.....	14
Hyperlinks to Additional Information	14

Strategic Direction and Context

Strategic Direction

To advance our strategic goals, LSS will be working on three priority actions for 2015/16, as outlined in our mandate letter (<http://www.lss.bc.ca/about/ourMandate.php>). The first is the continued implementation of our new Client Information System (CIS) to improve delivery and management of LSS services. This priority action is aligned with Goal 3 and Taxpayer Accountability Principles (TAP) under service and cost-consciousness. The second is to implement, monitor, and evaluate the five Justice Innovation Transformation Initiatives (JITI) projects. This action is aligned with Goals 1 to 4 and TAP under integrity, cost consciousness, and accountability. The third is to work with the Ministry of Justice, the judiciary, and other key provincial and national stakeholders to identify drivers of, and systemic and sustainable solutions to, the increasing cost and complexity of large criminal cases. This third action is aligned with Goals 3 and 4 and TAP under cost consciousness and accountability. In addition to the priority actions, LSS will continue to work on MyLawBC, an interactive website that guides users to a resolution of their legal issues. Guided pathways to legal information will be at the heart of this new and innovative resource. We will also be working on outreach to smaller communities and defining a vision to enhance services to Aboriginal clients.

Operating Environment

LSS is facing financial pressures from factors beyond our control such as general economic conditions, which remain uncertain and affect revenue. Within the current budget, LSS has restricted capacity to deliver legal aid services, which can compromise our ability to respond to unanticipated service demands. LSS sets strict coverage and financial criteria for all cases due to our budget level, and this means we are only serving about 40% of family applicants. LSS will use operational data and evaluation evidence to ensure that we are allocating our existing limited resources to the most cost-effective services. We also plan to improve the nimbleness and flexibility of LSS business processes to support capacity.

To receive funding for JITI projects beyond the current three year commitment, LSS will need to demonstrate the effectiveness of the projects, including outcome measures and cost efficiencies. However, the small scale of the projects and the short data collection period could constrain our ability to demonstrate the desired client outcomes and justice system efficiencies. LSS will mitigate this risk by maintaining our work with government to ascertain evaluation criteria and to advocate for continued funding.

Transitioning to CIS has been a significant change that requires monitoring and support to users to ensure smooth operational functioning. Areas where we predict challenges include user acceptance and proficiency, data accuracy, and reporting. LSS has a change management committee in place to identify and assess change, work with stakeholders to resolve impacts, and manage and support mitigation activities. LSS will use the CIS governance committee to address ongoing operational issues and anticipated improvements to the new system.

Lawyer dissatisfaction is a concern for LSS because it jeopardizes our ability to serve clients. LSS often has difficulty in finding local lawyers to handle legal aid cases in rural or remote communities.

LSS's projects (CIS, JITI, and MyLawBC) will mean major changes for lawyers, and we will be relying on lawyers to learn and adapt to new systems and practices. The risk is that for some lawyers the changes could be overwhelming, and they may find it difficult to transition. We hope that for most lawyers, CIS will be a positive change that addresses many of their previously expressed concerns. We are mitigating the risk through communication, training, and change management techniques.

The key challenges LSS faces in regards to its workforce in a declining skilled-labour pool include recruitment, retention, succession planning, remuneration levels, and burnout arising from consistently strained capacity. In recognizing the value of our human resources and the pressures currently experienced, LSS has created a framework for addressing and managing these issues with our newly developed Human Resources Strategic Plan and Workplace Engagement Workplan.

Despite some of the challenges LSS is facing, we are looking forward to a number of exciting new projects, as well as working collaboratively with our partners, stakeholders, and the Ministry of Justice to build a better justice system for all British Columbians.

Performance Plan

To advance the LSS vision, we develop goals, strategies, and performance measures that engage LSS staff, our service partners, and our clients in finding timely and lasting solutions to clients' legal issues while managing to budget. Our service plan is aligned with TAP. In particular, our third goal ("LSS manages resources soundly") and associated performance measures are centred around ensuring that we provide effective and efficient services, and providing maximum benefit to clients within the funding and staffing resources available to us. All employees and contractors will review and sign the new Standards of Conduct Policy, introduced in 2014/15 as required under TAP. LSS is also working with the Ministry of Justice on implementing a Strategic Engagement Plan and an Evaluation Plan.

In the 2014/15 – 2016/17 Service Plan, LSS had five goals. This year, we transformed Goal 2 ("People with low incomes participate in solving and preventing legal issues") into a strategy under Goal 1 ("People with low incomes who have legal issues use LSS services") to better reflect our priorities.

LSS conducts four major stakeholder surveys, which provide data for many of our performance measures. LSS develops action plans to address the survey results and implement identified relevant operational and service improvements. The client satisfaction, work environment, and lawyer surveys are conducted triennially, while the public opinion poll is conducted annually. LSS staff develop the survey questions and methodology, and independent research organizations carry out the data collection, analysis, and presentation of a final report. The society also monitors and reports on key internal operational and financial data, which are tested internally. A new CIS will provide opportunities to track and report on new operational measures.

LSS benchmarks its performance against like organizations, where possible, using the Common Measurement Tool (CMT). CMT is an independent client satisfaction benchmarking tool and data service that allows us to compare client satisfaction results against agencies providing similar services. We benchmark our employee engagement score against the BC Public Service and like Crowns using statistics provided by BC Stats. Though legal aid plans across Canada have not yet developed a common method of measuring performance, we regularly share performance and outcome information.

We set survey targets by considering benchmark data and evaluating the level of improvement possible given the strategies and activities planned in the coming period. For operational and financial measures, we set targets based on a reasonable expectation of performance based on historical results. Meeting our targets would demonstrate continuous improvement in stakeholder satisfaction with, support for, and use of our services, as well as financial responsibility, all of which are necessary to achieve our goals.

Goal 1: People with low incomes who have legal issues use LSS services.

LSS needs to ensure our services are accessible, address the needs of clients, are culturally appropriate, and that the public is aware that these services are available.

Strategies

- Make it easier for clients to access legal aid services.
- Partner with Aboriginal and other underserved communities to deliver services that support positive client outcomes.
- Support service partners and front-line workers to deliver effective and efficient services.
- Support clients to be active participants in solving their legal issues.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
a) Percent of clients satisfied with the accessibility of LSS services ¹	N/A	73%	N/A	N/A	76%
b) Percent of clients satisfied with the helpfulness of LSS services ¹	N/A	66%	N/A	N/A	69%
c) Percent of clients satisfied overall with LSS services ¹	N/A	66%	N/A	N/A	69%
d) Percent of clients satisfied with LSS support to help them participate in resolving their legal issues ¹	N/A	63%	N/A	N/A	66%

¹ Data is from the triennial Client Services Survey.

Discussion

Overall client satisfaction with the accessibility and helpfulness of LSS services and support shows that we are providing clients with the services they need when and where they need them, fulfilling our mandate to help people solve their legal problems and to facilitate access to justice. Targets are set based on a reasonable expectation of improvement over results in baselines or the previous survey; see Performance Plan on page 7.

Goal 2: People with low incomes get help with related legal issues so they can solve and prevent legal problems.

Clients' legal problems often arise from or lead to other problems such as health, housing, and debt issues. By working with other service providers to help clients get support for these issues, LSS can improve client outcomes as well as reduce clients' use of justice, health, and social services over the long term.

Strategies

- Collaborate with service partners to assess and refer clients to services for their related legal issues.
- Support front-line workers to assess and refer clients to services for their related legal issues.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
a) Percent of clients satisfied with the level of support LSS gave them to address their related legal issues ¹	N/A	52%	N/A	N/A	55%
b) Percent of lawyers satisfied with LSS support for increasing their ability to help clients address related legal issues ²	N/A	N/A	35%	N/A	N/A
c) Percent of lawyers who support the integrated approach to providing legal aid service ²	N/A	N/A	69%	N/A	N/A

¹ Data is from the triennial Client Services Survey.

² Data is from the triennial Tariff Lawyer Satisfaction Survey.

Discussion

Measures (a) and (b) assess the effectiveness of the support provided by LSS to clients and lawyers to help clients address their legal issues. Measure (c) indicates the level of support from lawyers in advancing this goal. Targets are set based on a reasonable expectation of improvement over results in baselines or the previous survey; see Performance Plan on page 7.

Goal 3: LSS manages resources soundly.

LSS must manage resources effectively and efficiently to ensure we are achieving the optimum benefit for the society's clients within available funding.

Strategies

- Foster employee engagement and organizational communication.
- Engage with and develop stronger relationships with legal aid lawyers.
- Improve information technology systems to respond to a changing environment.
- Improve the nimbleness and flexibility of LSS business processes to support capacity.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
a) Overall average employee engagement ¹	69	N/A	N/A	70	N/A
b) Percent of lawyers satisfied with the overall support provided by LSS ²	N/A	N/A	62%	N/A	N/A
c) Number of new lawyers taking more than three referrals in the first six months ³	73	>60	>60	>60	>60
d) Budget-to-actual expenditure variance ³	-2.26%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
e) Percent of the public that supports the provision of legal aid services ⁴	93%	>90%	>90%	>90%	>90%

¹ Data is from the triennial Work Environment Survey.

² Data is from the triennial Tariff Lawyer Satisfaction Survey.

³ Data is from our client information system and financial database.

⁴ Data is from our annual Public Opinion Poll.

Discussion

High employee engagement in the public sector, tracked by measure (a), is linked to improved service for clients. Measures (b) and (c) qualitatively and quantitatively assess our progress on maintaining a sustainable supply of lawyers to provide services to clients across BC. Maintaining a low budget-to-actual expenditure variance, measure (d), shows that we are effectively managing expenditures. Sustained public support for legal aid, measure (e), reflects public confidence in our services and how well we are managing the organization. Targets are set based on a reasonable expectation of improvement over results in baselines or the previous survey; see Performance Plan on page 7.

Goal 4: LSS provides leadership in justice innovation.

LSS believes that innovation is needed to bring about the fundamental justice system changes required for clients to achieve timely and lasting resolutions to their legal issues.

Strategies

- Promote outcomes-based justice innovation initiatives.
- Pilot evidence-based legal aid initiatives to improve access and outcomes.
- Communicate LSS's strategic direction to stakeholders.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Volume of references to LSS and justice innovation ¹	20	20+	20+	20+	20+

¹ Data is from an annual search of academic literature, stakeholder reports, and media. Our methodology included tracking references to LSS in relation to its justice innovation ideas and projects through Google Scholar, Canadian Newsstand Major Dailies, HeinOnline, and stakeholder websites. The search was limited to a specific set of search terms and conducted manually.

Discussion

A high volume of references to LSS's justice innovation proposals in academic literature, government reports, and the media indicates that LSS's ideas are being reviewed and considered by key justice system decision makers and opinion makers. This reflects the growing reach of LSS's influence. Targets are set based on a reasonable expectation of improvement over results in baselines or the previous survey; see Performance Plan on page 7.

Financial Plan

Summary Financial Outlook 2014-2018 (in \$ millions)

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16 ¹	2016/17 ¹	2017/18 ¹
	Actual	Forecast	Budget	Budget	Budget
Revenue					
Provincial transfers ⁶	68.3	67.3	67.9	68.0	68.1
Large and major cases ^{2/6}	6.9	5.0	4.7	4.7	4.7
Justice transformation initiatives ⁶	-	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Other revenue	4.9	5.2	4.0	4.0	4.0
Total Revenue	80.1	79.5	78.6	78.7	78.8
Expenses					
Tariffs	60.0	56.8	56.0	56.0	55.8
Justice transformation initiatives	-	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Salaries	10.9	11.4	11.7	11.8	11.9
Contracted Services	5.2	5.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
Premises	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Computers	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1
Amortization ³	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.9	1.1
Office	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5
Travel	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Other	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total Expenses ⁵	80.6	79.5	78.6	78.7	78.8
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	(0.5) ⁴	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Accumulated Surplus	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Debt	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Notes

¹ The budgets for the years 2015/16 through 2017/18 inclusive are projections and not yet approved. As per section 18 of the Legal Services Society Act, LSS will seek budget approval from the Attorney General in each of those respective years. LSS will provide tariff services budgeting to the bottom line in each year.

² Budgets for large and major cases are based on ministry approved budgets and may not reflect actual costs. In 2015/16, we estimate that Category B cases will cost \$2.0 million (2013/14 — \$2.2 million) and Category C cases will cost \$3.0 million (2013/14 — \$4.7 million) based on our forecasts as of January 9, 2015. LSS will manage expenditures to the available funding provided by the ministry as in previous years.

³ On December 14, 2012, the board restricted the accumulated surplus to be used for board-directed strategic initiatives. They allocated \$4.3 million for the CIS project as a board strategic initiative. It is anticipated that these costs will be capitalized starting in 2015/16 and will be amortized at an annual cost of \$0.43 million per year for each of the next 10 years.

⁴ The deficit shown in the 2013/14 actuals was approved by the Minister of Finance and the Attorney General and was funded from the accumulated surplus with the approval of Treasury Board.

⁵ Allocation of expenses between various categories is subject to change.

⁶ These revenues are funded by the Provincial Government.

Key Forecast Assumptions

1. The tariff budgets have not been adjusted for any changes to government policy, or new initiatives that may impact the society.
2. The tariff budgets have not been adjusted for higher volumes due to the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) hiring 200 additional social workers.
3. The tariff budgets have not been adjusted for any potential CIS and JITI impacts.
4. The tariff budgets have not been adjusted for any potential clients related to significant events (e.g., public interest demonstrations leading to prosecutions).

Sensitivity Analysis

The tariff budgets are based on our best estimate of volume of applications and referrals, referral rates, and average case costs taking into consideration any known changes to policies, initiatives, historical trends, etc.

Management Perspective on Future Financial Outlook

LSS is dependent on government to finance the majority of its expenditures. It also receives revenue from non-government sources that are tied to interest rates. Should government or interest rate related revenues continue to remain low or decrease, this would negatively impact our ability to provide services.

Appendix A

Hyperlinks to Additional Information

Organizational Overview

Mandate: <http://www.lss.bc.ca/about/ourMandate.php>

Who We Are, Vision, Mission, Values: <http://www.lss.bc.ca/about/Whoweare.php>

Description of Services: http://www.lss.bc.ca/legal_aid/

Legal Aid Service Locations: http://www.lss.bc.ca/legal_aid/legalAidOffices.php

Governance

Board Governance: <http://www.lss.bc.ca/about/ourGovernance.php>

Senior Management: <http://www.lss.bc.ca/about/executiveDirector.php>

British Columbia
JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL

**STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE JUSTICE
AND PUBLIC SAFETY SECTOR**

APRIL 2015 - MARCH 2018

ANNUAL UPDATE, MARCH 2015

CONTENTS

Message from the Chair of the Justice and Public Safety Council	3
Executive Summary	5
The Justice and Public Safety Council	6
Planning requirement	6
Reporting requirement	6
Broadening dialogue: changes to the Council's composition	7
The Council's vision for the sector	7
Goal 1: Our sector is fair	7
Goal 2: Our sector protects people	8
Goal 3: Our sector is sustainable	8
Goal 4: Our sector has the public's confidence	8
Sector characteristics: context for plan renewal	10
Justice Summits held in 2014	15
Updating the strategic plan	18
Scope and limitations of the plan	18
Goals, objectives, and performance gaps	18
Reaffirmation and/or change of plan elements	23
Continuity of vision	23
Sector operational priorities for 2015-16	23
Performance measurement	25
Measuring progress towards goals and objectives	25
Specific performance measures to be published in 2015	25
Continuing development of performance measures	28

JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2015-2018

Ongoing consultation	29
Plan Feedback	30
Appendix I: Values of our sector	31
Appendix II: Justice and Public Safety Council Membership	32

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL



Lori Wanamaker, FCA

As Chair of British Columbia's Justice and Public Safety Council, I am pleased to present the first annual update of the Council's strategic plan for the justice and public safety sector.

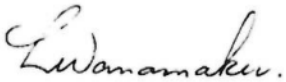
British Columbians are well-served by the broad range of programs within the sector. Professionals in our sector perform many vital services: responding to and preventing crime; applying criminal law; helping families navigate marriage breakdown; helping women who have been victims of violence; supporting the legal foundations of BC business; and working in many other roles which are essential supports and safeguards for our way of life.

In releasing our updated plan, I would like to draw attention to two important developments in the Council's work. First, based on a consultative process conducted over the last year (and continuing in 2015-16), the Council will commence publication of retrospective performance metrics for the sector in September 2015. The specific measures chosen speak to various aspects of our vision for the sector, and are outlined in this document. While the initial set of measures is limited, this begins what is intended to be a lasting dialogue about sector progress, one which will deepen as our familiarity with and trust in performance measurement grows.

Second, our Council needs to evolve to respond to strong interest across the sector in an inclusive and representative planning process. This interest has been reflected in part by the success of the BC Justice Summit process to date, including this past year at the Summits addressing family justice and violence against women. The degree of engagement shown encourages a response. As the Council matures, government needs to be joined by other representative and expert voices around the Council table in planning the next steps for our sector. Accordingly, we have recommended to the Minister of Justice that such a transition begin in the summer of 2015.

JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2015-2018

On behalf of my Council colleagues, I invite you to review this update to the plan and we convey our sincere thanks to all of the people who contributed to the work that went into its preparation.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L. Wanamaker".

Lori Wanamaker, FCA

Chair, Justice and Public Safety Council

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

British Columbia's Justice and Public Safety Council is responsible for setting the strategic direction and vision for the provincial justice system through an annual Justice and Public Safety Plan. This document sets out the first annual update of the three-year plan published on March 31, 2014.

The Council reaffirms its commitment to a vision of British Columbia's justice and public safety sector founded on the rule of law as one which is fair, protects people, is sustainable, and has the public's confidence. The Council also reaffirms its plan and the priority areas identified in 2014 – Aboriginal justice, justice and mental health, and access to justice – as well as continuing to encourage work to combat violence against women, and on creating tools to better understand and control the costs of the sector.

Performance gaps identified in the previous year, considered in light of this vision, are revisited, with additional input from two BC Justice Summits held in 2014, on family justice and on violence against women. A suite of performance measures established through consultation with sector representatives is set out, for subsequent publication with 10-year data in the Council's inaugural performance report in September 2015.

Several long-term trends have implications for management of the sector. 2013 saw the tenth consecutive annual decrease in recorded crime in the province, with the rate now at 49 per cent of the level of crime in the historical peak year of 1991. The relative severity of crime also continues to decrease in the province, as does the number of new criminal cases entering the court system. However, the sector continues to experience challenges controlling costs. Access to justice remains a significant issue across criminal and civil justice.

The Council has recommended to the Minister of Justice that, beginning in the summer of 2015, the Council undergo a transition period in which its composition is altered via Ministerial appointment, complementing government leadership with leaders from elsewhere in the justice and public safety sector, as well as the appointment of "at large" members of appropriate stature.

THE JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL

The Justice and Public Safety Council was established in April 2013, in accordance with the *Justice Reform and Transparency Act*. The Council is responsible for setting the strategic direction and vision for the provincial justice system through an annual Justice and Public Safety Plan, engaging in dialogue with justice and public safety participants and stakeholders, and guiding the way to open, transparent and accountable leadership.

The Council is appointed by British Columbia's Minister of Justice under the terms of the Act. A list of the Council's current membership can be found in Appendix II.

PLANNING REQUIREMENT

The Council is required under the Act to:

- deliver a strategic vision for the justice and public safety sector; and
- produce (and refresh annually) a three-year plan for the sector to achieve progress towards that vision.

In its work, the Council consults broadly within the sector, including leaders, subject matter experts, and participants at British Columbia Justice Summits. By law, the Council's annual plan is delivered at the end of March to the Minister, and is made available to the public at the same time.

REPORTING REQUIREMENT

Under Section 7 of the Act, not yet in force, the Council would be required to report by September 30th each year on the performance of the sector in achieving the objectives of the plan, for the year concluding the previous March. Although the statutory requirement is not currently in force, in anticipation of the requirement and to stimulate sector dialogue on performance, the Council will be issuing an inaugural performance report on a voluntary basis in September 2015.

JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2015-2018

BROADENING DIALOGUE: CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL'S COMPOSITION

On passage of the *Justice Reform and Transparency Act*, Council members were initially appointed from among the senior public officials within the Executive Branch of the provincial government who have responsibility for administering the sector. The Council recognizes that, to plan and achieve transformation of a sector which has broad reach among the people of the province and its many regions, its own membership must more closely reflect the range of people and institutions involved in changing the sector for the better, and those most greatly affected by these changes. The Council has recommended to the Minister that, beginning in the summer of 2015, the Council undergo a transition period in which its composition will be altered via Ministerial appointment, complementing government leadership with leaders from elsewhere in the justice and public safety sector, as well as the appointment of several “at large” members of appropriate stature.

THE COUNCIL'S VISION FOR THE SECTOR

British Columbia is committed to a justice and public safety sector founded on the rule of law. The sector encompasses criminal, civil, family and administrative law. It is **fair**, **protects people**, is **sustainable**, and has the **public's confidence**.

GOAL 1: OUR SECTOR IS FAIR

Objectives

- Accessible – We offer services accessible to all regardless of means or location, provide meaningful redress, and ensure access to justice for vulnerable and marginalized people proactively.
- Impartial – We model integrity, fairness and natural justice in our procedures and in delivering services, treating people equally.
- Timely – We work together to reduce systemic delay in the sector as an impediment to justice; we seek early resolution of individual processes wherever possible.

JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2015-2018

GOAL 2: OUR SECTOR PROTECTS PEOPLE

Objectives

- Preventative – We offer early, appropriate and effective interventions to reduce and redress antisocial behaviour, assisting people in rebuilding healthy, productive lives.
- Protective – We work together to reduce threats to public safety, protect complainants and victims of crime, and prevent re-victimization of the vulnerable by the sector.
- Systemic approach – We work across all levels of government to understand and address root causes of crime, and support and participate in effective innovative interventions.

GOAL 3: OUR SECTOR IS SUSTAINABLE

Objectives

- Focused – Based on measurable demand, we make evidence-based decisions to resource the sector's necessary functions, ensuring that services are delivered efficiently.
- Managed – We allocate resources prudently across the sector according to clear and demonstrated cause and effect.
- Effective – We measure and improve the value realized from public investment, collectively and as institutions.

GOAL 4: OUR SECTOR HAS THE PUBLIC'S CONFIDENCE

Objectives

- Adaptive – We offer services and programs that are nimble; we solicit and respond to the needs of people, respond to changes in communities, and monitor the effectiveness of our programs.
- Performance-focused – We assume collective and respective responsibility for system performance, engaging British Columbians in dialogue as users and observers of the system.

JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2015-2018

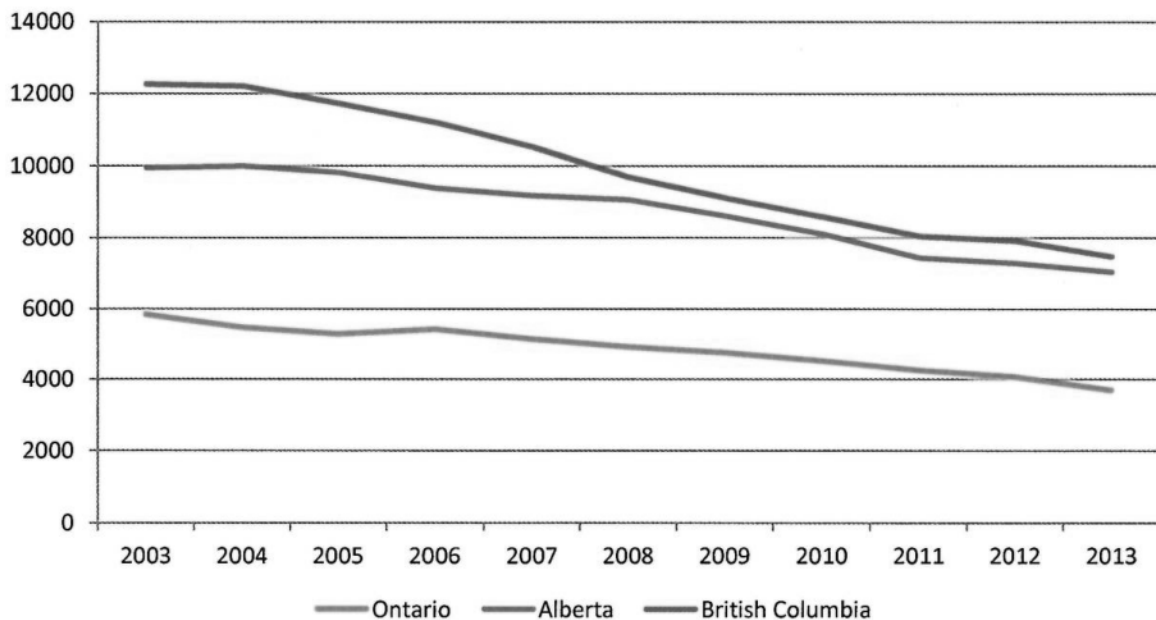
- Empowering – People entering the system have sufficient opportunity and support to learn its rules and practices at their level of need; the public both understands and values the system; we treat the time of every participant as valuable.

SECTOR CHARACTERISTICS: CONTEXT FOR PLAN RENEWAL

In refreshing its plan, the Council continues to track a number of important trends.¹

Consistent with long term national patterns, crime in British Columbia has continued to decline. 2013 saw the tenth consecutive annual decrease, the lowest recorded crime rate since 1969. British Columbia's overall crime rate in 2013 showed a 5.7 per cent decrease from 2012 (and is now at 49 per cent of the recorded rate in the historical peak year of 1991).

Figure 1: Reported crime incidents per 100,000 population (excluding traffic) 2003-2013²



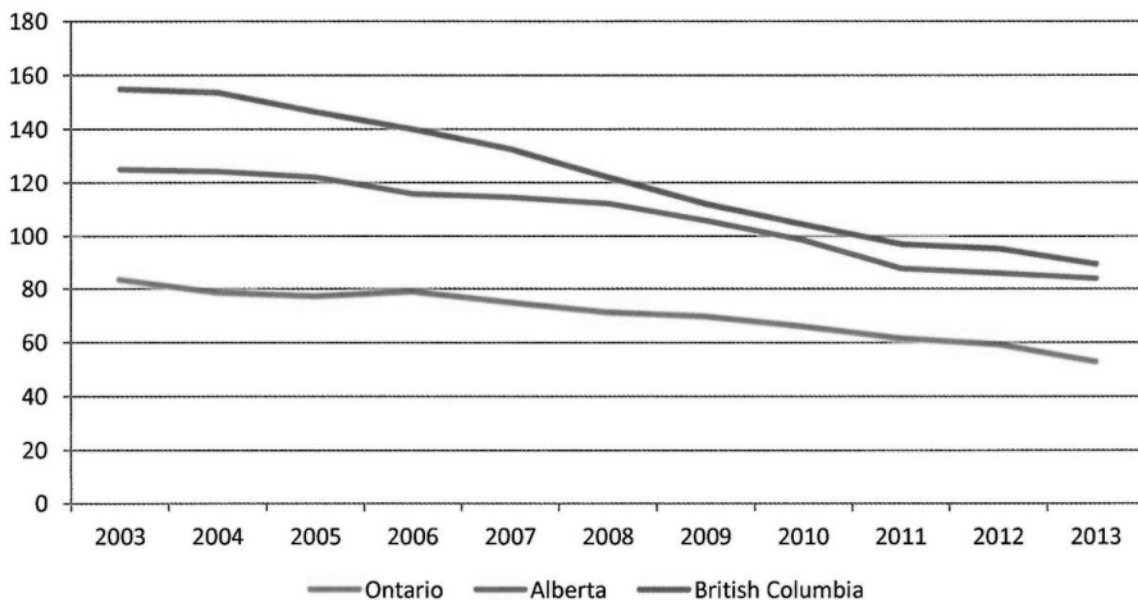
¹ For consistency, all data in this year's Plan is now reported over a ten-year span.

² Source: *Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics*. Most recent data year is calendar 2013. These figures reflected reported crimes. They do not reflect crimes which are for one reason or another unreported to police, and they are therefore necessarily an incomplete picture of criminal occurrences. The rate of victimization, typically determined by population survey, is considered a more accurate picture of total criminal activity. However, victimization rates are currently measured nationally every five years – too infrequently to serve as a useful policy tool – and are not included here. The reader should also note that the crime rate is at best an incomplete measure of police workload, as it does not capture the range of proactive community or public order activity required of police agencies, enforcement of non-criminal statutes (e.g. *Motor Vehicle Act*) or non-criminal requests for service from the public.

JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2015-2018

The vast majority of the reduction in the overall crime rate over the past decade continues to be explained by reduction in reported property crime incidents. Violent crime, and particularly domestic and sexual violence which often involve greater complexity, remains a great concern. Youth crime continues to decline, and the number of youth in provincial custody remains at or near historical lows. However, the benefits of these trends are unevenly distributed, with Aboriginal youth an increasing percentage of the remaining youth custody population. In adult and youth categories, Aboriginal people continue to be over-represented in the justice system as both offenders and victims.

Figure 2: Crime Severity Index trends, 1999-2013³

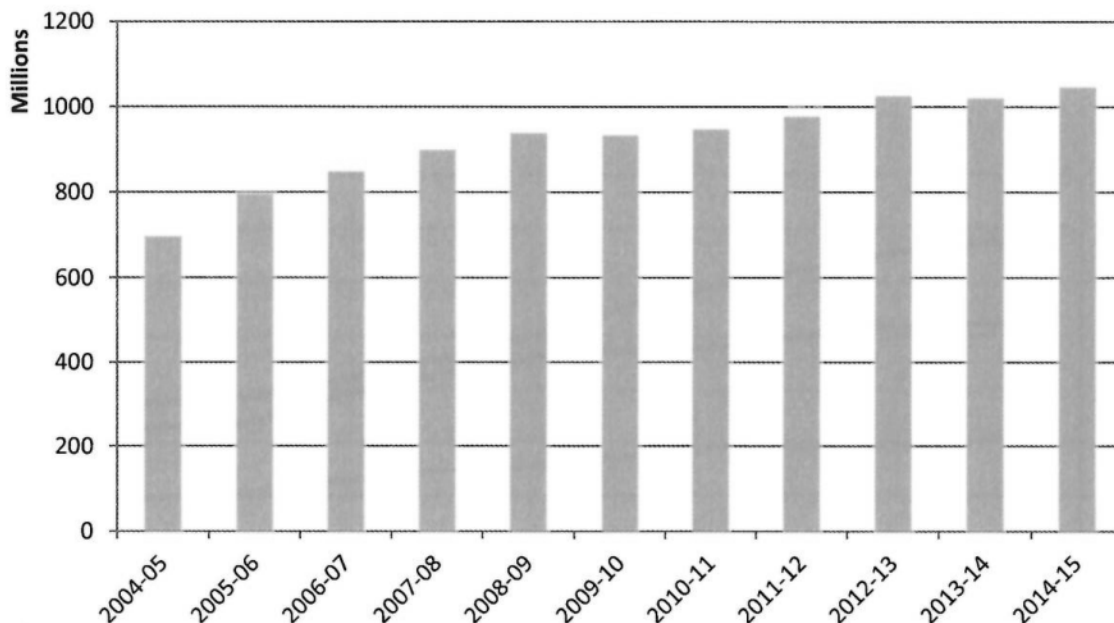


³ Source: *Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics*. Most recent data year is calendar 2013. The Police Reported Crime Severity Index (PRCSI) measures changes in the level of severity of crime in Canada from year to year. In the index, all crimes are assigned a weight based on their seriousness. The level of seriousness is based on actual sentences handed down by the courts in all provinces and territories. More serious crimes are assigned higher weights, less serious offences lower weights. As a result, more serious offences have a greater impact on changes in the index.

JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2015-2018

The relative severity of crime also continues to decrease in the province. In 2013, British Columbia's crime severity index – a measure of the seriousness of criminal offences being committed which addresses some limitations of the traditional "crime rate" measure, specifically its lack of capacity to distinguish differences between, for example, homicide and mischief – declined by 6.1 per cent from the prior year. As in prior years, B.C.'s crime severity remains above that of Alberta and significantly greater than that of Ontario.

Figure 3: Justice and public safety costs (provincial only), 2004/05-2014/15⁴



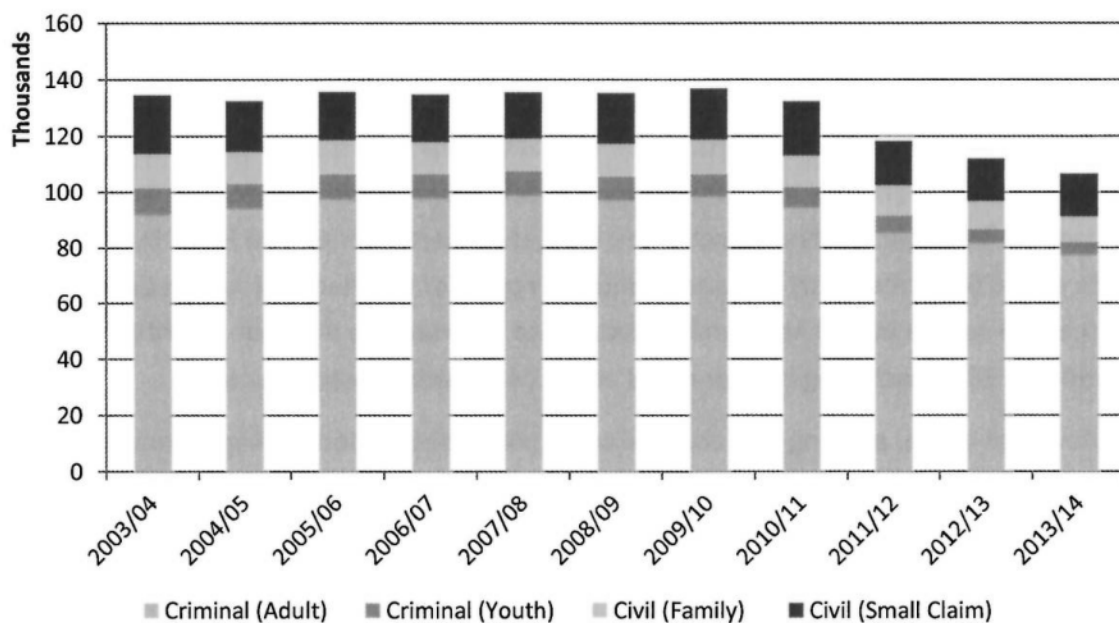
⁴ Source: BC Ministry of Justice, Corporate Management Services Branch. Ministry of Justice data only. Most recent data year is fiscal 2014-15 (figures are estimated, based on projections to year end at March 17, 2015). This chart incorporates budget figures (expenditures) from the B.C. Ministry of Justice and the former ministries of Attorney General and of Public Safety and Solicitor General, and combines salary and operating costs. Figures include amounts for Corrections, the Corrections work program, police services, community safety and crime prevention, the Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles, justice transformation, justice services, Prosecution services, and court services. Figures exclude amounts which have not consistently been funded via the justice and public safety ministry budget(s) for services (government corporate infrastructure and facilities) and programs (for example, liquor control and licensing, and gaming policy and enforcement). The chart also excludes funds for the judiciary and federal and municipal budget figures for justice and public safety, which comprise a significant portion of the total public expenditure in the sector – in particular, the costs of municipal policing and federal enforcement.

JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2015-2018

Questions of financial sustainability remain critical. As in recent years, justice system costs in B.C. continue to increase. In particular, the cost of policing in British Columbia continues to rise. This impacts the provincial budget and those of local governments that bear the majority of the cost of policing. Similarly, human resource costs continue to place upward pressure on the Ministry of Justice budget.

Motor vehicle crashes continue to be a leading cause of death and serious injury for all age groups in British Columbia. Alcohol-related deaths and injuries appear to have reduced significantly and to have held at lower levels since the introduction of more immediate administrative penalties for drinking drivers in 2011.

Figure 4: New Provincial Court cases by type (excluding traffic) 2003/04-2013/14⁵



Beyond road safety, the change in process for impaired driving has also been a major driver in the decline in the annual number of new Provincial Court criminal cases entering the system, which after a previous period of relative stability has fallen by about 23 per cent over the last four years (including adult and youth). New court cases overall,

⁵ Source: BC Ministry of Justice, Court Services Branch.

including civil and family proceedings, have declined by over 22 per cent in the same period. Due perhaps in part to lower volumes, pending cases (“case backlog”) in the Provincial Court have declined significantly over the past year.

Regarding the provincial correctional system, while caseloads have remained high in the community, there has been a decline in inmate counts within provincial correctional centres since 2010. Despite this decline, provincial correctional centres still exhibit capacity pressures and the provincial government is conducting a significant capital expansion of correctional centre capacity. It should also be noted that the number of remanded inmates is now increasing, with the likely future result of an increase in the sentenced population.

Access to justice remains a significant issue for the sector’s leadership to address. Alternatives to current models are being discussed and/or introduced to render services more accessible and/or sustainable where appropriate, including the fostering of para-professional services, unbundling, tiered service delivery, and online services. Funding for both family and criminal legal aid has been identified as a very serious concern by numerous sector organizations. The increase in self-represented litigants has been raised as a concern by judges and many other justice system participants. The focus by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada and the report of the National Action Committee on Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters led to extensive dialogue in British Columbia in 2014, including deliberations at the May Family Justice Summit.

The view that crime, policing and criminal court processes are increasing in complexity continues to be widely held by practitioners, and the Council again identifies the need for further analysis of this issue. Similarly, attention continues to be drawn by police and municipalities to issues of public order and public safety associated with mentally ill offenders, including potentially avoidable criminalization of the mentally ill and/or excessive expenditure of police response resources. Better empirical understanding of this challenge, and of the partnerships and innovation required to address it, remains necessary.

JUSTICE SUMMITS HELD IN 2014

Justice Summits are held at least once a year, by invitation of the Minister of Justice, to encourage innovation and facilitate collaboration across the sector. The Summit is a forum for frank discussion between justice sector leaders about how the system is performing and how it can be improved.

In 2014, the Minister of Justice convened two British Columbia Justice Summits: the first, held May 4-5, took private family law as its theme; the second, held November 28-29, focused on violence against women.

Key themes of the May Summit, **Family Justice**, included the following:

Mandatory participation in a consensual dispute resolution (CDR) process

- The National Action Committee on Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters (NAC) suggests that “there is now sufficient experience with family law mediation and collaborative practice...to confidently assert that, with the appropriate support and protections, they are safe, fair and efficient ways to resolve many family disputes.” British Columbia's experience with the Notice to Mediate (Family) Regulation and in “Rule 5” registries provides an excellent foundation on which to build a more intensive CDR program.

Coordinated early services and triage

- A number of NAC recommendations strongly support expanding front-end assessment, orientation, advice and referral services for families. At the same time, these reports recommend coordination and integration of the courts with non-governmental organizations and family-serving agencies in the community. The three existing Justice Access Centers in British Columbia provide an excellent example of this kind of service. Early resolution services may be coordinated across family, civil and criminal matters for greatest efficiency.

Exploration in British Columbia of a modified judicial role in family matters

- Many reports suggest that the unique nature of family disputes would be better accommodated in a hearing process which allows judges greater managerial

JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2015-2018

involvement and expanded procedural flexibility. Australia has experimented successfully with "less adversarial trials" and many jurisdictions have incorporated some inquisitorial elements into family hearings.

Incorporation of family justice in the Council's vision and planning

- Participants provided feedback that the Council's vision and plan was adequate for criminal justice but was insufficiently reflective of the requirements of family justice.

Key themes of the November Summit, **Better Responses to Violence Against Women**, included the following:

B.C. strategy on sexual violence to improve women's safety and service consistency

- Participants felt that overall response to sexual violence was insufficiently coordinated. Much has been done in the area of domestic violence, but a coordinated provincial policy on sexual violence would represent solid progress.

Aboriginal engagement vital in addressing violence against women and sector reform

- Participants felt strongly that indigenous voices need to continue to be integrated into dialogue about violence against women, and on questions of justice and public safety more generally. Service gaps noted during discussions of Aboriginal women's safety, child protection, and offender management and reintegration, led some participants to call for a Summit to be held specifically on Aboriginal justice issues.

Ensuring cultural competency to improve service provision; importance of diversity

- Participants felt that cultural competency should be incorporated directly in future service delivery to women in the Aboriginal community, in immigrant and refugee communities and in other vulnerable populations.

Expanding effective models of community mobilization to keep women safe

- Participants underscored the value of multidisciplinary teams. The interagency case assessment teams (ICAT) model has shown itself to be successful and requires

JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2015-2018

additional investment for training and expansion, to consolidate success of ICATs and potentially to expand the ICAT mandate.

Improve alignment and coordination of court processes, and improve access

- Participants expressed support for efforts to streamline and/or coordinate multiple court proceedings in situations where criminal proceedings, family law proceedings and/or child protection proceedings occurred simultaneously.

Responses to violence against women should be trauma-informed

- Participants were broadly supportive of incorporating findings from health and psychological research on the effects of trauma into training of first responders and other justice and public safety professionals who work with victims of violence.

Doing more to implement effective approaches and exploit technology

- Participants identified a gap between the ease of learning about promising practices and the challenge of establishing and disseminating “what works” across the sector. Service gaps in First Nations communities and/or remote areas were frequently identified, underscoring the importance of technology in making services available.

Ongoing structure to maintain focus and accountability and report on progress

- Participants expressed considerable support for the idea that a structure be identified to carry forward the ideas of the Summit. To have a means of accounting for and reporting on progress, and to ensure accountability, several models were suggested by participants.

Statement(s) of high-level policy direction and awareness to sustain momentum

- Participants expressed a desire for an overarching government White Paper on Violence against Women to clarify intent and policy objectives and/or a provincial statement and policy on sexual violence, combined with mobilization of public support and awareness.

UPDATING THE STRATEGIC PLAN

This is the first annual update of the three-year strategic plan developed by the Justice and Public Safety Council of British Columbia in March 2014.

The plan was and is based on the Council's vision for the justice and public safety sector. The plan emphasizes the strengths of the sector, and also identifies gaps between where the sector is today and where it should be to meet the needs of citizens, and sets out the basic values which apply to work in the sector.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE PLAN

The plan applies broadly to publicly funded programs and services that contribute to the administration of justice, to the delivery of justice services, and to public safety in British Columbia, within or outside government – referred to collectively as “the sector.” The sector includes:

- The formal justice system, which includes administrative law, civil law, criminal law, court processes, family law, prosecution, and related work.
- The closely related functions of protection of the public, such as policing, corrections, crime prevention, and services to victims of crime.
- Regulatory, protective and/or response functions such as motor vehicle licensing and fines, civil forfeiture, and coroner services.
- The reform of provincial statutes, the modernization of which is of importance, not just to public justice participants, but to users of the justice system.
- The governing and administrative activity – the bureaucracy – which supports all of the justice and public safety work on which British Columbians rely.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND PERFORMANCE GAPS

The Council's plan, set out over the following pages, identifies specific gaps where the current reality of the sector does not match the aspirations of the vision. Against each goal and objective, “performance gaps” are set out, as identified through dialogue among sector participants.

JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2015-2018

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE GAP(S)
OUR SECTOR IS FAIR	Accessible We offer services accessible to all regardless of means or location, provide meaningful redress, and ensure access to justice for vulnerable and marginalized people proactively.	Improved access to justice is needed in civil, family and administrative disputes, in both urban and rural settings. We need to better balance the application of public resources to increase access to justice for accused persons.
	Impartial We model integrity, fairness and natural justice in our procedures and in delivering services, treating people equally.	We require an integrated strategy to address over-representation of Aboriginal people in the court and correctional systems. We need to increase our understanding of barriers to justice among women who are victims of violent trauma.
	Timely We work together to reduce systemic delay as an impediment to justice; we seek early resolution of individual processes wherever possible.	The administration of the court system must be modernized to improve scheduling and decrease unproductive appearances. We need to further incorporate established risk/need-assessment practices beyond corrections, in prosecution and police policy.

JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2015-2018

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE GAP(S)
OUR SECTOR PROTECTS PEOPLE	Prevention We offer early, appropriate and effective interventions to reduce antisocial behaviour, assisting people in rebuilding healthy, productive lives.	Cross-sector, community-based strategies are required to protect vulnerable populations. We need to address the factors associated with prolific offending, and also address the factors that make people more vulnerable to victimization. To improve road safety compliance, we need to better link critical information regarding high-risk drivers, such as driver records, prohibitions, administrative reviews and driver remedial actions.
	Protection We work together to reduce threats to public safety, protect complainants and victims of crime, and prevent re-victimization of the vulnerable by the system.	We need a coordinated, evidence-based framework for managing and supporting sexual and domestic violence cases through the courts, ensuring coordination with family process, and ensuring referrals to support services. We require systemic information-sharing to increase the frequency with which missing persons are located.
	Systemic Approach We work across all levels of government to understand and address root causes of crime, and support and participate in effective alternative interventions and innovation.	Meaningful options need to be available to the courts in support of alternatives to incarceration consistent with <i>R v Gladue</i> . Coordinated efforts are required to ensure appropriate sector response to, and triage of, mentally-disordered individuals, including adequate accommodation and treatment availability.

JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2015-2018

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE GAP(S)
OUR SECTOR IS SUSTAINABLE	Focused efforts Based on measurable demand, we make evidence-based decisions to resource the system's necessary functions, ensuring these services are delivered efficiently.	We need better measures of demand and workload for sector processes around which resource planning can occur. Sustainable models for policing service delivery are required at the provincial, regional and municipal levels.
	Managed resources We allocate resources prudently across the system according to clear and demonstrated cause and effect.	All significant public investments, in cash or in kind, need to be evaluated against expected outcomes identified in advance. Savings or efficiencies created from reforms should be clearly identified through planning and measurement, and be reallocated where resources are most required.
	Effectiveness We measure and improve the return on investment of public resources, collectively and as institutions.	We require a methodology to define the cost per key output for each of the sector's major functions.

JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2015-2018

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE GAP(S)
OUR SECTOR HAS THE PUBLIC'S CONFIDENCE	Adaptive We offer services and programs that are nimble; we solicit and respond to the needs of people and monitor the effectiveness of our programs	We need to establish, to report on, and to respond to feedback loops with sector client populations.
	Performance-focused We assume collective and respective responsibility for system performance, engaging British Columbians in dialogue as users and observers of the system.	Meaningful performance reports on core sector deliverables and services should be regularly published.
	Empowering People entering the system have sufficient opportunity and support to learn its rules and practices at their level of need; the public both understands and values the system; we treat the time of every participant as valuable.	<p>People must be better informed and educated about ways in which the sector can assist them in adapting to change and resolving disputes.</p> <p>More user-needs-driven information should be made available – and provided proactively – at the outset of proceedings.</p>

REAFFIRMATION AND/OR CHANGE OF PLAN ELEMENTS

CONTINUITY OF VISION

For the plan renewal applicable to the period 2015-16 to 2017-18, the Council reaffirms the relevance of its four goals for the sector – **fairness, protection of people, sustainability, and public confidence** – and their enduring relevance to the work of justice and public safety professionals in British Columbia. The Council also reaffirms the 12 objectives derived from these goals.

REVISION OF IDENTIFIED PERFORMANCE GAPS

The Council, in consideration of new information including feedback from two Justice Summits held in 2014, has revisited the way in which three of the stated performance gaps, previously identified, are expressed:

- Fairness (goal)/Impartial (objective): the reference to perceived barriers to justice has been removed and reference to violent trauma added.
- Protects People (goal)/Protection (objective): a reference to ensuring coordination of sexual violence and domestic violence cases with family law processes has been added.
- Protects People (goal)/Systemic Approach (objective): a reference to the need to ensure appropriate sector response to mentally-disordered individuals has been added.

SECTOR OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR 2015-16

The following areas have been reaffirmed by the Council as sector priorities for 2015-16.

1. **Aboriginal Justice.** The experiences of Aboriginal peoples with respect to justice and public safety are well documented. Important issues to be addressed include the level of violence suffered by Aboriginal women and families, and the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in the court and correctional systems. An Aboriginal Advisory Board under the terms of the Act remains an outstanding commitment from last year's plan.

2. **Justice and Mental Health.** The prevalence of police encounters with mentally disordered people in the community, combined with the rates of mental disorder and substance dependency amongst the sentenced population, make clear the need for coordinated work in addressing the needs of mentally disordered British Columbians. The answers are complex, and the sector requires meaningful engagement with health and human services providers, as well as rigorous data to clarify and quantify the provincial situation.
3. **Access to Justice.** Concerns over the ability of people to identify, obtain and afford services, understand and exercise their rights and obligations, and/or participate in proceedings on a level footing have been the focus of extensive discussion amongst sector leaders over the past year. While these concerns are national in scope, the response must primarily be provincial. A coordinated response to these issues, which places British Columbians' access to justice at the centre, remains necessary.

The Council continues to encourage work in two further areas to increase the understanding of challenges and the sector's ability to create positive change.

- With respect to violence against women, including partner violence and sexual violence, it remains an important objective to establish the most effective means of managing criminal cases through the system. Additionally, we still require a means of measuring prevalence and repeat offending when these go unreported, so we may understand and implement what works best in protecting women from violence.
- With respect to the costs of the justice and public safety sector, there are few tools available to measure the efficiency of various processes, and/or the effectiveness of reform efforts in creating savings which might be reinvested where they are most needed. Two requirements should be noted. First, these tools must be developed to allow for productive dialogue about the effects of public investment in the sector. Second, their development should be careful and inclusive, in recognition of the need to ensure accurate and fair accounts of the ways in which the sector works.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

MEASURING PROGRESS TOWARDS GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Council is committed to develop and publish an evidence-based, broadly accepted set of measures which highlight the progress made against its goals and objectives.

Under Section 7 of the Act, not yet in force, the Council would be required to report by September 30th each year on the performance of the sector in achieving the objectives of the plan, for the year concluding the previous March. Although the statutory requirement is not currently present, in anticipation of the requirement and to stimulate sector dialogue on performance the Council will be issuing its inaugural performance report in 2015.

Performance measures have been developed in structured and informal consultation with sector representatives. Structured consultation has included the establishment of a Justice and Public Safety Sector Working Group on performance measures, with representation from the Ministry of Justice and other government and sector participants, and a Justice and Public Safety Sector Performance Measures External Review Committee with membership drawn from senior sector participants outside government, and chaired by Professor Yvon Dandurand of the University of the Fraser Valley.

In advance of the bringing-into-force of Section 7 of the *Justice Reform and Transparency Act*, which would provide that the Council's annual performance report be conducted according to standards established by the provincial Office of the Auditor General, consultation has also occurred between Council representatives and that office.

SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE MEASURES TO BE PUBLISHED IN 2015

In its initial plan published on March 31, 2014, the Council specified performance gaps associated to each identified strategic goal and objective. These performance gaps are outlined and updated on pages 19-22 in this document, above.

The Council also proposed performance measures aligned with the goals the plan, along with the identification of a number of areas in which there was as yet

insufficient data to support performance measurement and dialogue. These latter areas included much of the required work around the goals of Sustainability and Public Confidence.

In 2014-15, the Council was supported in its work on performance measures by the Justice and Public Safety Sector Performance Measures Working Group, with feedback provided by the External Review Committee. On the advice of these bodies, data on the following 11 performance measures will be published by the Council on September 30, 2015. The reader should note that the limited number of measures identified by the Council in March 2014, but not presented below, have not been withdrawn but are in the Council's (and Review Committee's) view not yet in a state of data-readiness and/or supported as consensus items for the sector performance dialogue for the coming year.

The time span for all measures will be 10 years, or as otherwise available if less than 10 years.

Rates of self-representation at Provincial Criminal Court appearances

The number of Court Services Branch (CSB) defined Provincial Court adult criminal and youth case appearances where the defence attendance indicated that an accused appeared in court without legal counsel, expressed as a proportion of total appearances.

Rate of Aboriginal incarceration (remand)

*The rate of remand admissions to a provincial custody centre of individuals who self-report Aboriginal status in comparison to those who not do self-report Aboriginal status.*⁶

⁶ The overall proportion of Aboriginal people incarcerated relative to those incarcerated from the remainder of the population, whether remanded or sentenced, is of direct relevance to ongoing concern in Canada regarding Aboriginal overrepresentation in the justice system. The best known expression of this concern is in the Supreme Court of Canada's landmark 1999 decision in *R. v Gladue*. However, the Council also recognizes that a more detailed analysis of sentences leading to incarceration is required to speak meaningfully about the overall performance of the sector as regards the concerns identified in *Gladue*. Additional measures are accordingly in development for inclusion in the Council's inaugural performance report in September 2015.

Rate of Aboriginal incarceration (sentenced)

The rate of releases of individuals from a custody centre who self-report Aboriginal status in comparison to those who not do self-report Aboriginal status. Excludes release to remand or to other sentence.⁷

Number of criminal cases judicially stayed due to systemic delay

The number of Court Services Branch-defined Provincial and Supreme Court criminal cases judicially stayed due to systemic delay (judicial stay of proceedings, or Askov ruling).

Next available date for a trial in Provincial Court – criminal (adult and youth), civil and family

Estimated time to trial by court class as expressed in number of months, half-day and two-day trials, adjusted for court location case volumes.

Percentage of criminal cases resolved in Provincial Court within 30/60/90 days

The proportion of all Court Services Branch-defined Provincial adult criminal and youth concluded cases where the number of days between their sworn date and case conclusion date is within 30, 60, and 90 days.

Percentage of adult offenders not reconvicted in BC within two years of their release from custody

The percentage of adult offenders who are not reconvicted in B.C. within two years of release from custody, commencement of community supervision, or active community supervision. The sentencing date does not need to be within the two-year window.

Rate of reoffending among higher-volume offenders

The rate of sentenced individuals for each year who have ten or more convictions in the previous ten years that resulted in supervision by B.C. Corrections.

⁷ See note 6.

Percentage of Youth Justice clients receiving first community sentence who are not reconvicted in BC within the following five years

The percentage of Youth Justice clients (ages 12-17) receiving first community sentence who are not convicted of a new offence within the following five years, including offences in adulthood. The sentencing date does not need to be within the five-year window.

Percentage of Youth Justice clients receiving first custody sentence who are not reconvicted in BC within the following five years

The percentage of Youth Justice clients (ages 12-17) receiving first custody sentence who are not convicted of a new offence within the following five years, including offences in adulthood. The sentencing date does not need to be within the five-year window.

Number of police-reported traffic fatalities and serious injuries involving high-risk driving per 100,000 population

The number per 100,000 population in British Columbia of serious injuries and fatalities resulting from a crash where police assess that one or more of the following were a factor: alcohol or drugs; speed; distraction.

CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT OF PERFORMANCE MEASURES

In many areas of the plan, particularly in matters of sustainability and public confidence, serious limitations remain regarding the existence (or readiness) of data useful in measuring progress. As noted in 2014, understanding and measuring progress with respect to the goals of fairness, protection of people and public confidence requires direct learning from the experiences of people most directly affected. Appropriate design and delivery of survey data remains a key enabler in development of the sector's performance dialogue.

Similarly, more development work is required to identify and measure costs, benefits and efficiencies in the sector, in order to create the tools to measure the impact of sector investments fairly and accurately.

JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2015-2018

Finally, it remains necessary for the sector to develop better means of understanding the experience of vulnerable populations, using methodologies which contain appropriate safeguards regarding privacy and which are culturally sensitive.

ONGOING CONSULTATION

To be useful, the measures identified by the Council must be simple, consensus-based, and easily replicated. Some data required to measure sector performance are available, and some key methodologies are agreed. However, in many areas of interest the sector has yet to develop the ability to measure what we know to be important. Consultation over the development and refinement of performance measures will continue as a regular feature of the Council's annual planning and reporting exercise, with standing technical and review committees each contributing to the process in substantive ways.

PLAN FEEDBACK

Comments are encouraged and may be emailed to justicereform@gov.bc.ca. Written communication may be sent to:

The Chair
British Columbia Justice and Public Safety Council
c/o Justice and Public Safety Secretariat
1001 Douglas Street
Victoria, BC V8W 3V3

APPENDIX I: VALUES OF OUR SECTOR

With the publication of its first Plan in March 2014, the Council outlined the essential values which should apply across the work done to ensure justice and public safety. The statement of values was developed in consultation with sector leaders and stakeholders, including consideration at the second B.C. Justice Summit in November 2013.

In a justice and public safety sector within a free and democratic society, the rule of law and principles of fundamental justice must guide the behaviour of the sector. Based on this foundation, the following values apply to work within the sector, such that our actions are:

Fair and equitable

Acting without discrimination with regard to ethnicity, age, religion, gender, gender identification, sexual orientation, belief or socio-economic status

Open and responsive to change

Thinking critically about existing practice, considering information that challenges orthodoxy, and responding actively to environmental changes

Outcome-focused

Setting realistic objectives, assessing our work according to results, and working together to ensure our activities do not have unintended adverse consequences

Accountable

Engaging the public on the effectiveness of our work, and reporting regularly on meaningful aspects of our performance

Evidence-based

Managing operations and innovating through shared collection and analysis of data about what works, and by enabling rigorous research through partnership

Proportionate

Allocating resources in ways that are necessary and reasonable, according to agreed-upon risks, and taking action in consideration of the sector's goals as a whole

Transparent

Making information broadly available about the sector's functions, enabling constructive democratic dialogue about goals, outcomes, services and performance

APPENDIX II: JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Under provisions of the *Justice Reform and Transparency Act*, Council members are appointed by the Minister of Justice. Membership on the Council may include: an individual who is in a senior leadership role in the government and who has responsibility for matters relating to the administration of justice in British Columbia or matters relating to public safety, and includes any other individual the minister considers to be qualified to assist in improving the performance of the justice and public safety sector.

Further to Ministerial Order, the current membership is as follows:

Cavanaugh, Lynda	<i>Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Safety and Crime Prevention, Ministry of Justice</i>
Chalke, Jay	<i>Assistant Deputy Minister, Justice Services Branch, Ministry of Justice</i>
DeWitt-Van Oosten, Joyce	<i>Assistant Deputy Attorney General, Criminal Justice Branch, Ministry of Justice</i>
Faganello, Tara	<i>Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Management Services, Ministry of Justice</i>
Fyfe, Richard (Vice-Chair)	<i>Deputy Attorney General, Ministry of Justice</i>
Jardine, Kevin	<i>Assistant Deputy Minister, Court Services Branch, Ministry of Justice</i>
Merchant, Brent	<i>Assistant Deputy Minister, Corrections Branch, Ministry of Justice</i>
Pecknold, Clayton	<i>Assistant Deputy Minister, Policing and Security Programs, Ministry of Justice</i>
Sadler, Bobbi	<i>Chief Information Officer, Ministry of Justice</i>

JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2015-2018

Sandstrom, Kurt	<i>Assistant Deputy Attorney General, Legal Services Branch, Ministry of Justice</i>
Sieben, Mark	<i>Deputy Minister, Ministry of Children and Family Development</i>
Wanamaker, Lori (Chair)	<i>Deputy Minister and Deputy Solicitor General, Ministry of Justice</i>

**Ministry of Justice
Estimates 2015/16 Briefing Book**

**Justice Services Branch
Table of Contents**

Estimate Notes

1. Legal Aid – Funding and Services
2. Legal Aid – Jurisdictional Comparison
3. Legal Aid – Justice Transformation Initiatives
4. FMEP and Social Assistance
5. Family Compensation Act – Status Update
6. Independent Investigations Office
7. Downtown Community Court
8. Specialized Courts Strategy
9. Protection Orders – Family Law Act

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Legal Aid - Funding and Services

Suggested Response:

- The BC government recognizes the importance of legal aid services for British Columbians.
- Despite challenging economic circumstances, government funding to the Legal Services Society has been stable since 2005, increased by:
 - \$2.1 M in 2012/13 to maintain family and child protection legal aid services;
 - an additional \$2 M in 2014/15 to support the Society to implement justice transformation initiatives; and
 - \$70,000 in 2015/16 for the Economic Stability Mandate related to staff salary increases.
- Total government funding to the Society in 2015/16 is \$74.6 M (2014/15 budget: \$74.5 M).
- The \$2 M for justice transformation initiatives is being used to test an expanded criminal duty counsel model and expand child protection and family legal aid services.

If asked about Increased Case Costs for Child Protection:

- The increase in the volume and cost of child protection cases appears to be ongoing, though at a significantly lower rate than last year. We are working closely with the Society and the Ministry of Children and Family Development to monitor this trend and manage any potential pressures without impacting services to clients.
- A portion of the justice transformation funding will be used for a Parent's Legal Centre to support early resolution in child protection cases and may assist in addressing the potential service delivery pressures. If this pilot is successful it may represent an innovative approach to providing advice and representation for parents engaged in child protection matters pursuant to the Child, Family and Community Services Act.

Background:

Funding

- The Society is an operationally independent organization that provides legal aid services on behalf of government. The Society is governed by the Legal Services Society Act. The Act

requires that the Attorney General and the Society negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding that considers:

- what the level of government funding will be;
- the types of matters for which the Society will provide legal aid;
- the priority assigned thereto;
- those other activities the Society must or must not undertake; and
- how the Society will participate in justice reform initiatives.

The current Memorandum of Understanding expires in 2017.

- The Society provides legal representation to financially eligible clients in criminal matters, serious family and child protection matters, and some immigration, mental health, and prison law matters. It also delivers legal advice and information services. See Attachment A for information on historical funding and caseload volumes.
- The Society will receive a total of \$74.6 M in government funding in 2015/16, broken down into the following categories:

LSS Revenue from Government Sources	\$ Million
Basic Legal Aid Transfer (<i>includes new funding of \$0.070M for ESM</i>)	\$65.088
Justice Transformation (<i>continuing from 2014/15</i>)	\$2.000
Large Case Fund (Category B under the MOU)	\$1.813
Major Cases (Category C under the MOU)	\$2.855
Federal High-Cost Cases	\$0.650
Provincial Immigration and Refugee Legal Aid	\$0.800
Federal Immigration and Refugee Legal Aid (flows through from federal government)	\$0.900
Vancouver Drug Court support	\$0.120
Downtown Community Court support	\$0.370
TOTAL	\$74.596

See Attachment B for definitions of line items.

- Federal legal aid funding is subject to a contribution agreement between Canada and BC.
- Government views legal aid as a continuum of services and legal aid involves more than just services provided by the Society. In addition to Society funding, the government spends approximately \$30 M annually on access to justice services, such as family mediation at family justice centres throughout the province, justice access centres, and the Family Maintenance Enforcement Program.

- Non-government funding (see Attachment A for detail): the Society also receives funding from the Law Foundation, the Notary Foundation, and interest on the Society's investments. Funding from all these sources has decreased over the past several years due to lower interest rates. The Law Foundation announced that it will be reducing its amount of annual funding to the Society by \$605,000 beginning in 2015/16 compared to the 2014/15 budget

Justice Transformation Initiatives

- Ministry and Society staff have collaboratively developed a plan for the \$2 M of justice transformation funding, which includes testing an expanded criminal duty counsel model and increasing child protection and family legal aid services. (See separate Estimates Note: Legal Aid - Justice Transformation Initiatives).

Major Cases – Defence Costs

- Government cannot comment on specific cases that are currently before the courts.
- Total costs associated with each major case can only be released when all legal proceedings have concluded, just as was done with the Pickton and Air India matters.
- Government usually incurs costs relating to the defence in major cases by way of applications by defence counsel on behalf of an accused who cannot fund their own defence.
- The Society's annual budget for the defence costs of large and major cases is \$1.8 M and \$2.855 M respectively. Historically, actual costs have exceeded these budgets. However, due to the uncertainties and variability of forecasts for major cases (from factors such as trial timing, guilty pleas and other unanticipated issues), these budget pressures have been considered to be more suitable for funding through access to contingencies, rather than providing fixed budgets.
- The forecast for major cases is based only on known cases. No provision is normally made to estimate new/unknown cases, due to forecast volatility. Therefore, actual costs could significantly exceed current forecasts.

- The history and preliminary forecasts of total major case defence costs for the Society and Ministry shows its variability:

(\$mil)	Actual 2008/09	Actual 2009/10	Actual 2010/11	Actual 2011/12	Actual 2012/13	Actual 2013/14	Forecast 2014/15	Forecast 2015/16
Major cases (JAG & LSS)	2.8	3.7	3.4	9.3	9.5	6.1	4.3	4.6
Notes:								
1. The 2014/15 forecast amount is as of February 5, 2015.								

- The Ministry provides monthly forecasts to Treasury Board Staff to keep them apprised of the progress of, and costs associated with, major cases.

Federal Funding

- The funding of criminal legal aid services for British Columbians is a responsibility shared by the provincial and federal governments.
- The total direct federal funding contribution to legal aid in BC is budgeted at \$14.598 M for 2014/15 for criminal (\$13.698 M), and immigration/refugee (\$0.900 M). Funding for 2015/16 is to be determined by negotiations this year.
- Federal legal aid funding is subject to the five-year contribution agreement between Canada and the provinces, the Agreement Respecting Adult and Youth Criminal Legal Aid, Immigration and Refugee Legal Aid and Court-Ordered Counsel in Federal Prosecutions, expiring March 31, 2017. Funding is subject to negotiation for the two subsequent years.
- Federal funding of legal aid services for criminal matters has remained at the same nominal level for the past ten years, though demand has increased. Some of the pressures on criminal legal aid programs relate to the following cost drivers:
 - Federal legislative changes such as sentencing and procedural changes in the criminal law increase demand on legal aid in terms of volume (new offences/offenders);
 - Seriousness and complexity of cases (mandatory minimum penalties, anti-terrorism cases); and
 - Population increases, which are up 5.6% nationally from 2003 to the last census in 2011.
- We are working collaboratively with our federal and provincial partners to look at innovative ways to maintain services despite ongoing resource constraints.

Contact: James Deitch, Executive Director	Phone: 250-387-2109	Mobile: 250-580-5612
---	---------------------	----------------------

Attachment A: Financial and Operational Data

Funding History

LSS Revenue (\$m)	Actual 2010/11	Actual 2011/12	Actual 2012/13	Actual 2013/14	Forecast 2014/15	Budget 2015/16	
Gov transfer: budget	\$66.4	\$69.7	\$70.2	\$72.5	\$72.5	\$74.5	
Gov transfer: increase	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$2.1	\$1.0	\$2.0	\$0.1	
Gov transfer: other	\$5.7	\$5.9	\$6.2	\$1.7	\$0.0	\$0.0	
Non-gov revenue	\$4.8	\$5.1	\$5.1	\$4.9	\$4.6	\$4.0	
Total revenue	\$76.9	\$80.7	\$83.6	\$80.1	\$79.1	\$78.6	

Note: Financial data is not considered final for 2014/15 until the release of Public Accounts (end of June / early July 2015).

- Government transfer - increase:
 - 2012/13: \$2.1 M to maintain family and child protection services.
 - 2013/14: \$1.0 M for one-time increases for temporary pressures in the criminal tariff. This does not include \$500,000 used from Society accumulated surplus.
 - 2014/15: \$2.0 M for justice transformation initiatives (expanded criminal duty counsel and child protection and family legal aid services).
 - 2015/16: \$70,000 for the Economic Stability Mandate.
- Government transfers - other: usually provided from access to contingencies for defence costs for major criminal cases.
- Non-government revenue:

LSS Non-Gov Rev (\$m)	Actual 2010/11	Actual 2011/12	Actual 2012/13	Actual 2013/14	Budget 2014/15	Budget 2015/16	1-Year Change
Law Foundation	\$3.7	\$3.9	\$3.8	\$3.7	\$3.6	\$3.0	-\$0.6
Notary Foundation	\$0.5	\$0.5	\$0.5	\$0.5	\$0.5	\$0.5	\$0.0
Investment Income	\$0.6	\$0.6	\$0.6	\$0.4	\$0.4	\$0.4	\$0.0
Other interest	\$0.0	\$0.1	\$0.2	\$0.3	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.0
Total revenue	\$4.8	\$5.1	\$5.1	\$4.9	\$4.6	\$4.0	-\$0.6

- In general, most of the Society's non-government funding is highly dependent on the level of interest rates.

- The overall 2015/16 decrease of \$600,000 compared to the 2014/15 budget is due to the decrease in Law Foundation funding.
- Funding from the Notary Foundation forecast for 2014/15 of \$700,000 is higher than the original \$450,000 budgeted, but for 2015/16 the budget is only slightly higher, at \$500,000.

Expenditure History

LSS Expenditures (\$m)	Actual 2010/11	Actual 2011/12	Actual 2012/13	Actual 2013/14	Forecast 2014/15	1-Year Change¹
Criminal legal aid	\$41.9	\$45.6	\$46.9	\$44.6	\$41.6	-7%
Family legal aid	\$15.1	\$15.8	\$16.7	\$15.8	\$15.0	-5%
Child protection legal aid	\$5.8	\$6.7	\$7.3	\$8.2	\$8.3	1%
Immigration legal aid	\$3.3	\$2.1	\$1.7	\$2.0	\$1.9	-5%
Other programs	\$2.3	\$2.7	\$3.0	\$2.8	\$3.0	7%
Administration	\$8.5	\$7.8	\$8.3	\$7.2	\$9.5	32%
Total expenditures	\$76.9	\$80.7	\$83.9	\$80.6	\$79.3	-2%

1. The 1-Year Change is based on 2014/15 Forecast compared to 2013/14 Actual.

2. Expenditures for administration were unusually low in 2013/14 due to mitigation plans the Society put in effect in order to offset temporary pressures in the criminal tariff that year.

Non-Government funded expenditures:

LSS Non-Gov Exp (\$000)	Forecast 2014/15	Budget 2015/16	1-Year Change
Family LawLine	\$315.0	\$454.0	\$139.0
Tariff/Application process	\$872.0	\$797.0	-\$75.0
Publishing	\$1,920.0	\$944.0	-\$976.0
Community Engagement	\$937.0	\$955.0	\$18.0
Aboriginal Services	\$556.0	\$595.0	\$39.0
Administrative	\$0.0	\$293.0	\$293.0
Total expenditures	\$4,600.0	\$4,038.0	-\$562.0

2014/15 forecast is tentative as of February 2015.

Volume of Referrals (Legal Representation)

	2013/14		2012/13		2011/12	
Type of legal problem	Applications	Referrals	Applications	Referrals	Applications	Referrals
Criminal	25,214	19,569	25,662	19,636	26,594	20,117
Family	9,364	3,708	9,451	4,337	9,332	4,086
CFCSA	3,262	2,544	2,836	2,294	2,721	2,174
Immigration	865	638	1,186	857	1,653	1,056
Total	38,705	26,459	39,135	27,124	40,300	27,433

Volume of Legal Advice

Service	Number of client visits/calls handled		
	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12
Criminal duty counsel client visits ¹	69,596	68,770 ²	74,724
Immigration duty counsel client visits	1,153	1,308	1,196
Family duty counsel and advice lawyer client visits ³	37,794	36,733	36,473
Brydges Line calls handled	18,834	23,450	26,016 ⁴
Aboriginal advice service client visits ⁵	755	494 ⁶	319
Family LawLINE ⁵ calls handled	4,996	4,806	2,675
Total	133,128	135,561	141,403

1 Includes duty counsel at circuit courts. In 2013/14, circuit court accounted for 1,147 client visits.

2 This number has been restated from 68,906 in the previous annual report as it included Aboriginal criminal advice services, which has now been moved to the Aboriginal advice service client visits line.

3 This includes advice services provided by family advice lawyers (2,365), at Sheway/Fir Square (210), and in family circuit court (327).

4 This number has been restated from 23,887 to 26,016 due to a reporting error.

5 Includes advice services provided to Aboriginal communities through First Nations Court and expanded duty counsel in Williams Lake and Port Hardy.

6 This number has been restated from 361 to 494 as it did not previously include Aboriginal criminal advice services.

Attachment B: Government Funding to the Legal Services Society

Basic Legal Aid Funding – (\$65.088 M) – this includes funding for all tariff services such as criminal, family, child protection, mental health and prison law representation and advice services as well as administrative and operational expenses. (This includes the 2012/13 \$2.1 M increase to maintain family and child protection services, and the 2015/16 increase for the Economic Stability Mandate).

Justice Transformation – (\$2.000 M) – this is the second year of funding provided to the Society dedicated for justice transformation initiatives that will be used to test an expanded criminal duty counsel model and increase child protection and family legal aid services.

Large Case Fund – (\$1.813 M) – this includes funding for all cases exceeding \$75,000 and up to \$175,000 plus all court ordered and state-funded counsel cases. (Category B under the MOU)

Major Cases – (\$2.855 M) – this includes funding for all cases exceeding \$175,000 or cases where counsel are paid at a rate that exceeds the regular Society tariff rate. Historically, costs exceeding this budgeted amount have been provided through access to contingencies. (Category C under the MOU)

Federal High-Cost Cases – (\$0.650 M) – this includes funding for all cases exceeding \$50,000 that are prosecuted by the federal government (Public Prosecution Service of Canada).

Provincial Immigration and Refugee Legal Aid – (\$800,000) – this funding is the provincial government's contribution for immigration and refugee cases.

Federal Immigration and Refugee Legal Aid – (\$900,000) – this funding is the federal government's contribution for immigration and refugee cases.

Vancouver Drug Court – (\$120,000) – this includes funding for contract defence counsel to assist individuals appearing before the Drug Court in Vancouver. This is a part-time position at 0.6FTE.

Downtown Community Court – (\$370,000) – This includes funding for a full-time contract defence counsel, a full-time Legal Information Outreach Worker, and the duty counsel roster at the Downtown Community Court in Vancouver.

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE**Legal Aid - Jurisdictional Comparison****Suggested Response:**

- The BC government recognizes the importance of legal aid services for British Columbians.
- Access to justice is more than access to court. It involves a variety of services that provide citizens with assistance and support to prevent problems where possible reach early resolution where appropriate and use the court system only when necessary.
- The Legal Services Society is the main provider of legal aid services in the province. The LSS provides legal representation to financially eligible clients in criminal matters, serious family and child protection matters and some immigration, mental health, and prison law matters. It also delivers legal advice and information services.
- Despite challenging economic circumstances, government funding to the Legal Services Society has been stable since 2005, and increased by \$2.1 M in 2012/13. We have also increased funding to the Society by an additional \$2 M to support the implementation of five justice transformation initiatives in 2014/15. These initiatives will be funded through fiscal year 2016/17 and then evaluated.
- Total government funding to the Society in 2015/16 is \$74.6 M.
- The funding of criminal legal aid services for British Columbians is a responsibility shared by the provincial and federal governments.

If asked about how BC ranks in per capita spending on legal aid:

- BC is currently ranked eighth among the provinces in per-capita spending on legal aid.
- Legal aid expenditures consist of direct costs for legal services such as legal representation, legal advice and provision of information, as well as other expenditures such as administrative costs.
- Government also supports access to justice by providing over \$30 M for other justice services. This amount is not included for the purpose of these rankings because comparison is difficult. However, it is recognized that BC is a leader in front end dispute resolution.

Data in the tables below are from Statscan: numbers for fiscal year 2013/14 were released in April 2015.

Table 1: Per Capita Expenditures

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Change from 09/10	
						\$	%
Per capita expenditures for all PT legal aid plans	\$ 22.42	\$ 21.90	\$ 22.44	\$ 23.13	\$ 22.91	\$ 0.49	2%
BC's per capita legal aid expenditures	\$ 17.76	\$ 17.08	\$ 17.79	\$ 18.32	\$ 17.39	-\$ 0.37	-2%
BC's rank among Provinces in per capita spending	7	8	7	8	8	n/a	14%

Note: this uses Statscan's recently updated Population estimates, including retroactive restatements, as 2011 is the only year when an official Census was conducted).

Table 2: Funding by Source (\$)

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Change from 09/10	
						\$	%
Total Fed funding provided to all PT legal aid plans	112	112	112	112	112	0	0%
Total PT funding provided to all legal aid plans	546	563	590	658	643	97	18%
Total revenue from non-gov sources (plug)	63	61	75	65	68	5	8%
Total funding (gov & non-gov) rec'd by PTs for legal aid	721	736	777	835	823	102	-1%

Table 3: Funding by Source (%)

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Change from 09/10	
						\$	%
Percent of total funding from Fed gov	16%	15%	14%	13%	14%	n/a	-2%
Percent of total funding from PT gov	76%	76%	76%	79%	78%	n/a	2%
Percent of total Fed + PT funding	91%	92%	90%	92%	92%	n/a	1%
Percent of total funding from non-gov sources	9%	8%	10%	8%	8%	n/a	-1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	n/a	0%

Table 4: BC Revenue

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Change from 09/10	
						\$	%
BC's revenue for legal aid (LSS only)	76	77	81	84	80	4	5%
Total revenue for all PT legal aid plans	721	736	777	835	823	102	14%
BC's revenue as a % of total revenue	11%	10%	10%	10%	10%	n/a	n/a

Table 5: BC Expenditures

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Change from 09/10	
						\$	%
BC's expenditures for legal aid (LSS only)	79	77	81	84	81	2	3%
Total expenditures for all PT legal aid plans	762	752	780	817	814	52	7%
BC's expenditures as a % of total expenditures	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	n/a	n/a

Table 6: Legal Aid Applications Received

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Change from 09/10	
						#	%
BC's legal aid applications received	40,732	42,101	40,290	39,135	38,705	- 2,027	-5%
Total applications for all PT legal aid plans	744,867	670,159	743,202	724,789	717,943	- 26,924	-4%
BC's legal aid applications as a % of total	5%	6%	5%	5%	5%	n/a	n/a

Table 7: Legal Aid Applications Approved

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Change from 09/10	
						#	%
BC's legal aid applications approved for full service	26,518	27,802	27,347	27,040	26,367	- 151	-1%
Total applications for PT plans approved for full service	494,521	476,312	487,738	474,580	465,356	- 29,165	-6%
BC's approved applications as a % of total	5%	6%	6%	6%	6%	n/a	n/a

Table 8: Lawyers Providing Legal Aid Services

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Change from 09/10	
						#	%
BC's number of private & staff lawyers providing service	929	974	992	996	1,007	78	8%
Total number of all PT lawyers providing services	9,944	10,266	10,456	10,039	10,265	321	3%
BC's number of lawyers as a % of total	9%	9%	9%	10%	10%	n/a	n/a

If asked about Tariff rates in BC

- Legal aid tariff rates in BC have stayed the same since 2005 with the exception of the creation of the Exceptional Responsibility Premium in 2010.

Tier	Years of call	Block fees	Hourly rate
1	Less than 4 years	Amount specified in tariff item (Jr. counsel: 75% of amount*)	\$83.90 (Jr. counsel \$62.93)
2	4 or more years and less than 10 years	Applicable Tier 1 rate plus 5%	\$88.10 (Jr. counsel \$66.07)
3	10 or more years	Applicable Tier 1 rate plus 10%	\$92.29 (Jr. counsel \$69.22)

* Exception: Junior counsel receives 100% of the amount for legal services provided in court when the senior counsel is not in attendance.

Enhanced Fee Rates (fees in excess of the tiered rates LSS normally pays to counsel):

Enhanced fees	Hourly rate
Senior counsel	\$125.00
Junior counsel	\$62.93 — \$83.90**

** LSS will determine the rate after considering the junior counsel's experience, qualifications, and the tasks assigned to junior counsel in the case.

Exceptional Responsibility Premium: a 15% increase in any tiered rates and/or enhanced fees that LSS pays to counsel pursuant to the *Enhanced Fees and Exceptional Premium* policy: i.e., Senior counsel rate of \$125.00 plus 15% = \$143.75. This rate applies when it is confirmed that Crown counsel are receiving a pay increase under Article 31 of the Crown Counsel Agreement.

Articled students

	Block fees	Hourly rate
Articled students	Amount specified in tariff item	\$62.93

If asked about Legal Aid Referrals in BC

- Legal Services Society (LSS) tracks the number of lawyers accepting referrals by geographical areas of BC.
- LSS currently has 1,590 active lawyers. A lawyer is considered active if they:
 - submitted an invoice to LSS in the past four years; or
 - had a referral since April 1, 2008; or
 - had a system 'id' created for him or her by LSS; and
 - has not been blocked in their system.

- In 2014/15, 1,041 lawyers accepted a referral from LSS.

Region	Total Lawyers in LSS database	Total Active Lawyers	Lawyers who took a referral in 2013/14	Lawyers who took a referral in 2014/15	% of Lawyers who took referrals vs Lawyers active
Interior/East Kootenays	280	121	89	84	69%
North	184	63	47	50	79%
North West	87	36	29	30	83%
Okanagan/West Kootenays	366	117	86	81	69%
Out Of Province	57	10	6	7	70%
Surrey/Fraser Valley	753	302	204	215	71%
Vancouver Island	1,035	322	218	209	65%
Vancouver/Sunshine Coast	1,931	619	368	365	59%
Total	4,693	1,590	1,047	1,041	66%

(Note: some number may vary slightly from Statscan data as LSS provides numbers for all inter-provincial services but Statscan, as a federal /cross-Canada report, eliminates them in order to avoid double-counting).

Contact: James Deitch	Phone: 250-387-2109	Mobile: s.17
-----------------------	---------------------	------------------------

Per Capita Spending on Legal Aid - Supporting Detail

	Per Capita Rank					Per Capita Expenditures (= Expenditures / Population)					
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	4Y Change
Nunavut	Territories excluded from rankings as they operate under a different funding model than provinces.					\$ 185.60	\$ -	\$ 239.39	\$ 262.71	\$ 267.49	\$ 81.89
Northwest Territories						\$ 118.24	\$ -	\$ 122.27	\$ 120.16	\$ 129.52	\$ 11.27
Yukon						\$ 49.54	\$ 50.73	\$ 53.73	\$ 55.33	\$ 57.78	\$ 8.24
Newfoundland & Labrador	4	3	3	4	1	\$ 20.78	\$ 23.62	\$ 24.40	\$ 23.92	\$ 28.16	\$ 7.39
Ontario	1	1	1	1	2	\$ 28.30	\$ 27.31	\$ 27.81	\$ 27.62	\$ 27.33	-\$ 0.97
Manitoba	2	2	4	2	3	\$ 25.99	\$ 23.62	\$ 23.77	\$ 26.53	\$ 25.73	-\$ 0.26
Nova Scotia	3	4	2	3	4	\$ 22.92	\$ 23.12	\$ 24.68	\$ 24.49	\$ 24.70	\$ 1.78
Saskatchewan	6	5	5	5	5	\$ 20.62	\$ 19.85	\$ 20.50	\$ 20.32	\$ 20.31	-\$ 0.31
Quebec	8	7	6	6	6	\$ 17.06	\$ 18.21	\$ 17.79	\$ 19.94	\$ 19.52	\$ 2.46
Alberta	5	6	8	7	7	\$ 20.67	\$ 18.91	\$ 17.75	\$ 18.35	\$ 18.83	-\$ 1.84
British Columbia	7	8	7	8	8	\$ 17.76	\$ 17.08	\$ 17.79	\$ 18.32	\$ 17.39	-\$ 0.37
Prince Edward Island	9	9	9	9	9	\$ -	\$ 12.76	\$ 12.48	\$ 12.52	\$ 12.69	\$ 12.69
New Brunswick	10	10	10	10	10	\$ -	\$ 9.84	\$ 10.22	\$ 11.39	\$ 11.12	\$ 11.12
Canada						\$ 22.42	\$ 21.90	\$ 22.44	\$ 23.13	\$ 22.91	\$ 0.49

Expenditure and population figures are per Statscan: expenditures at Mar 31 annually; population estimated at July 1 annually.

Expenditures (from Statscan Table 258-0007)					Population (from Statscan Table 051-0001)				
2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
\$ 6,199,000	\$ -	\$ 8,307,000	\$ 9,300,000	\$ 9,790,000	33,400	34,200	34,700	35,400	36,600
\$ 5,120,000	\$ -	\$ 5,331,000	\$ 5,263,000	\$ 5,647,000	43,300	43,500	43,600	43,800	43,600
\$ 1,714,000	\$ 1,796,000	\$ 1,945,000	\$ 2,014,000	\$ 2,109,000	34,600	35,400	36,200	36,400	36,500
\$ 10,845,000	\$ 12,399,000	\$ 12,858,000	\$ 12,635,000	\$ 14,842,000	522,000	525,000	526,900	528,200	527,000
\$ 371,740,000	\$ 362,163,000	\$ 372,943,000	\$ 374,244,000	\$ 373,895,000	13,135,100	13,263,500	13,410,100	13,550,900	13,678,700
\$ 31,737,000	\$ 29,138,000	\$ 29,720,000	\$ 33,573,000	\$ 32,988,000	1,220,900	1,233,700	1,250,500	1,265,400	1,282,000
\$ 21,589,000	\$ 21,837,000	\$ 23,319,000	\$ 23,093,000	\$ 23,283,000	942,100	944,500	944,800	942,900	942,700
\$ 21,675,000	\$ 21,165,000	\$ 22,295,000	\$ 22,477,000	\$ 22,853,000	1,051,400	1,066,300	1,087,300	1,106,200	1,125,400
\$ 135,285,000	\$ 145,786,000	\$ 143,867,000	\$ 162,624,000	\$ 160,334,000	7,929,400	8,007,700	8,084,800	8,154,000	8,214,700
\$ 77,158,000	\$ 71,675,000	\$ 69,035,000	\$ 73,521,000	\$ 77,598,000	3,732,600	3,790,200	3,888,600	4,007,200	4,121,700
\$ 79,312,000	\$ 76,857,000	\$ 80,789,000	\$ 83,940,000	\$ 80,558,000	4,465,900	4,499,100	4,542,500	4,582,600	4,631,300
\$ -	\$ 1,838,000	\$ 1,814,000	\$ 1,822,000	\$ 1,856,000	141,700	144,000	145,300	145,500	146,300
\$ -	\$ 7,437,000	\$ 7,732,000	\$ 8,607,000	\$ 8,382,000	753,000	755,500	756,800	755,600	753,900
\$ 762,374,000	\$ 752,091,000	\$ 779,955,000	\$ 813,113,000	814,135,000	34,005,400	34,342,600	34,752,100	35,154,100	35,540,400

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE**Legal Aid - Justice
Transformation Initiatives****Suggested Response:**

- We are providing the Legal Services Society (LSS) with an additional \$2 M a year from 2014/15 to 2016/17 — bringing our total commitment to \$74.5 M for 2015/16.
- The extra \$6 M over the three years is being used to deliver five pilot projects that focus on increasing access to justice and services that promote early resolution of legal issues.
- We worked collaboratively with LSS to develop these pilot projects to provide low-income British Columbians with increased access to legal information and advice to help them resolve their legal problems as quickly and efficiently as possible, and out of court where feasible and appropriate.
- These initiatives align closely with the Ministry's strategic goal of enhancing access to justice and improving system outcomes through early assistance to citizens.

Supporting Facts:

- The first pilot was implemented last fall when LSS hired a full-time family duty counsel at the Victoria Justice Access Centre.
- LSS also expanded the Family LawLINE, which eligible clients can call from anywhere in the province for family law advice.
- A third pilot involves referring eligible clients with family matters concerning property, debt, spousal support or related issues to Mediate BC for up to six hours of free mediation, and additional services on a sliding scale if needed.
- In March, LSS opened a Parents Legal Centre for child protection matters at Robson Square in Vancouver.
- Also in April, LSS launched an expanded criminal duty counsel service in Port Coquitlam.

If asked why a larger investment is not being made:

- It is important that we test whether an investment in early resolution services for family, child protection and criminal legal aid can help reduce overall justice system costs while increasing services to clients.

Background:

- In 2012 LSS provided advice to the previous Minister about legal aid initiatives that could contribute to broader justice system transformation in its report Making Justice Work.
- In February 2013, the government released the White Paper on Justice Reform, Part Two, in which it committed to supporting LSS to test an expanded criminal duty counsel model and to expand the family legal aid services it currently provides.
- The Minister's 2013/14 mandate letter directed that the Ministry work with LSS to prepare a plan for an additional \$2 M for criminal and family legal aid services beginning in 2014/15.
- Ministry and LSS staff collaboratively developed a plan for the transformation funding. The plan includes the five initiatives implemented in 2014/15.

Expanded Criminal Duty Counsel

- LSS currently provides duty counsel to assist individuals in Provincial Court who have been charged with a crime and have not yet been granted a legal aid referral. Duty Counsel provides summary advice and appears in court to handle simple matters that can be completed that day. They do not retain conduct of files.
- In an expanded model, a specific lawyer is assigned to the same court on a continuing basis. Counsel retains conduct of non-complex files for a set amount of time. They receive instructions from clients, obtain disclosure, and take steps to resolve matters where appropriate. If cases cannot be resolved and clients qualify for legal aid, clients are referred to a private bar lawyer.
- The principle objective of the model is to support continuity of service and early resolution in less complex criminal cases. The model aligns well with the Criminal Justice Branch Crown File Ownership project and the Provincial Court Scheduling Project.
- LSS reviewed similar expanded criminal duty counsel programs in Nova Scotia, Alberta, and Manitoba to outline this model in its report, Making Justice Work. LSS found that the programs in other provinces have been effective in promoting early resolution and can be less expensive depending on the tariff rates paid to lawyers.
 - Based on results from Nova Scotia's program, the analysis noted a reduction in appearances and time to resolution. At the lower end of the range, LSS estimated the model could result in a 27% reduction in appearances and time to resolution.

- An evaluation of Alberta's model found that the cost for providing legal services under the expanded duty counsel model was about 33% less than similar cases under the block tariff. However, LSS concluded that given its block tariff rates, it does not expect that the expanded criminal duty counsel model will generate similar savings in legal aid service delivery costs in BC.

Expanded Family Duty Counsel at the Victoria Justice Access Centre (JAC)

- A full-time lawyer and administrative assistant coordinate duty counsel and legal advice services in Victoria to offer more consistent advice service to family clients. The model replicates the services currently available at the Vancouver JAC.
- Legal advice services offered at the JAC help people resolve legal matters earlier and outside of court where possible. It helps address a gap in service in Victoria where client volumes are high. This service has been successful at the Vancouver JAC.

Family LawLINE

- Family lawyers provide legal advice to qualifying clients across the province over the telephone through Family LawLINE. LSS expanded Family LawLINE hours to assist more clients, enhanced the use of technology, and expand the service model to allow clients to have greater continuity of service (from the same lawyer) and more hours of advice (from 3 hours to 6 hours) than was previously available.
- This initiative builds on existing services and uses technology to provide clients across the province with legal advice services to assist them in resolving their family legal matters.

Family Mediation Referrals

- LSS is collaborating with Mediate BC to test an integrated family mediation referral model, which provides funding for 6 hours of mediation services with a sliding scale payment approach for services after that. LSS provides referrals to clients for a mediator through the Mediate BC roster.
- The pilot supports families in reaching resolution of legal problems outside of court where possible. A key component of the pilot involves ensuring that services are complementary to existing Family Justice Counsellor services, provided by the Ministry.

Parents Legal Centre for Child Protection Cases

- A lawyer and an advocate provide continuing service to parents who are involved with the Ministry of Children and Family Development or a Delegated Aboriginal Agency. Service is provided both prior and after removal proceedings and assists parents up to the conclusion of the presentation hearing. Paralegal support assists parents to engage community and

family supports, participate in programming, and participate in mediation without necessarily requiring counsel to attend.

- This service allows parents who are involved in child protection matters to receive continuing legal advice services to support them in reaching a resolution through consensual resolution processes when possible and appropriate, which is consistent with the Ministry of Children and Family Development service plan.

Contact: James Deitch	Phone: 250-387-2109	Mobile: .s.17
-----------------------	---------------------	---------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

FMEP and Social Assistance

Suggested Response:

- Currently 5,800 families in receipt of income assistance are enrolled in the Family Maintenance Enforcement Program.
- Each month, about \$1.4 M is disbursed through the Program to these families, the majority of which is for child support.
- Until September 1, 2015, child support received is deducted from income assistance payments, but this will change to enable parents to keep all child support paid that is received.
- This will provide a direct and real benefit for children living in low-income families – the average family will have about \$2,500 more each year to provide for their children.
- The Program will continue to be available to families who have support orders or agreements, and will take all steps available to ensure that support obligations are complied with.
- The Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation are working together to reduce the impacts on families as a result of the closing of the Family Maintenance Program at MSDSI. Notably MSDSI is committed to continuing to retain lawyers for social assistance recipients who wish to obtain a support order.

Background:

- From 1997, families in receipt of income assistance were required to assign their rights to family support to the Crown, and enrol in the Program.
- Payments received through the Program were subject to deduction from income assistance payments.
- The Program has recovered \$88.2 M over the past 5 years for families on income assistance, resulting in a significant savings to government.
- Most of the money recovered was for child support – a small number of cases are receiving spousal support.
- Starting on September 1, 2015, child support payments will not be deducted from income assistance payments, providing additional funds for parents to support their children.

- The average family will see a gain of about \$2,500 per year under the new policy.
- Staff working for the Family Maintenance Program at MSDSI provided a number of services to families receiving income assistance – with the closure of the FMP, some of these services will be lost.
- Ministry of Justice staff are working with SDSI to identify any service gaps, the full extent of which will not be known for several more weeks.
- The Ministry has not committed to taking on new services – at new, additional costs. Rather, Ministry staff are working with MSDSI staff to wherever possible ensure a continuation of the existing services.

Contact: Chris Beresford	Phone: 604-660-2528	Mobile: s.17 _ _ _ _ . _ _ _ _
--------------------------	---------------------	--------------------------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Family Compensation Act – Status Update

Suggested Response:

- The Ministry has done some work on the Family Compensation Act but no final decisions have been made about reforming the Act.
- Previous consultations on a Green Paper in 2007 revealed uncompromising and opposing policy positions from many stakeholders on the scope of reforms to the Act.
- Stakeholders continue to lobby government for reforms to the Act; however, there is no consensus amongst stakeholders on the scope of reforms.
- Any changes to the Act to increase damage awards or expand who is eligible to claim damages ^{s.13}
s.13

Background:

- BC's Family Compensation Act is outdated in comparison to wrongful death legislation in other provinces.
- All Canadian jurisdictions except BC, North West Territories and Nunavut have modernized their wrongful death legislation to include bereavement damages, meaning damages for grief and loss of guidance, care and companionship of the deceased person which are awarded to eligible family members. Most recently, in April 2014, Yukon amended its legislation to include bereavement damages.
- It is the contrast between the damages available when a person survives an accident caused by the wrongful act of another and those available when a victim is killed that forms the basis of the criticism of BC's existing legislation. Actions by plaintiffs surviving an accident can include claims for pecuniary damages, such as out-of-pocket expenses, and non-pecuniary damages, such as damages for pain and suffering, while actions by family members of a victim wrongfully killed can only claim for limited pecuniary damages, such as lost financial support, funeral expenses, and medical expenses incurred on behalf of the deceased.
- In June 2007, the Ministry issued a Green Paper entitled Reforming British Columbia's Family Compensation Act. It yielded rigid, polarized feedback from stakeholders. The Trial Lawyers Association of BC (TLABC), Coalition Against No-Fault Insurance (CANF), and victims' groups opposed the changes, believing that they did not go far enough to allow

greatly increased damage awards for plaintiffs. Insurers and government, who are defendants of wrongful death claims, opposed far-reaching reforms due to concerns with increased costs and insurance rates. The TLABC and CANF continue to advocate for far-reaching reforms to the Act. These changes are more extensive than any other jurisdiction in Canada.

- In its 2013 platform document to government, and again in its October 2014 submission to government, the Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch, has advocated for reforms to the Act to include bereavement damages with statutory caps which is similar to Alberta's legislation. The concept of statutory caps is strongly opposed by the TLABC and CANF.
- s.12,s.13,s.14
-
-
- In 2011, MLA Ralph Sultan introduced a private member's bill based on Alberta's legislation. It did not proceed past first reading.

Contact: Renée Mulligan	Phone: 250-387-9546	Mobile: s.17
-------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Independent Investigations Office

Suggested Response:

- Our government created the Independent Investigations Office (IIO) to ensure that all investigations of death or serious harm involving police officers in British Columbia are dealt with promptly, competently and independently.
- Creation of the IIO is intended to bring more transparency and accountability to policing in BC.
- The IIO has an extremely challenging mandate and does a very difficult job and the government has confidence in the investigative work the organization does.
- The budget for the IIO is \$7.536 M for 2014/15.

Special Committee to Review the IIO:

- Section 38.13 of the Police Act required that by January 2015 a Special Committee of the Legislative Assembly Committee review:
 - the administration and general operations of the IIO; and
 - the Chief Civilian Director's (CCD) progress towards a goal of having an office that is staffed entirely with people who have never served as officers or members of a police or law enforcement agency.
- The bipartisan Committee was established on February 25, 2014, and consulted with the IIO, the Ministry of Justice and a wide range of interested parties.
- The Committee heard a variety of views including support for the legislation and the work of the IIO, as well as concerns about organizational culture, leadership, and operating policies. Some stakeholders suggested amendments to the Act and policy changes.
- On February 23, 2015 the Committee released its report, which contains the results of its consultations and the following seven recommendations:
 1. Government support for continued civilianization of the IIO;
 2. Discretion for the CCD to appoint investigators with police experience in BC in the past five years;
 3. Comprehensive statutory review of the IIO by the legislature every six years;
 4. Continued close review by the Ministry of human resource practices at IIO;

5. Public report in one year by the Ministry on human resource issues at IIO;
 6. Civilian monitor reports to be made public; and
 7. Implementation of police use of body-worn cameras (BWC).
- The Committee's recommendations are not binding on government - special legislative committees do not have the authority to cause the government to take any specific action.
 - The Ministry has received the report and will take the time necessary to consider the recommendations.
 - The review and the timing of the review were mandated by the 2011 amendments to the Police Act and were unrelated to the current Public Service Agency investigation.

Public Service Agency (PSA) investigation:

- The PSA is responsible for personnel management in the public service, including providing formal advice and direction to ministries.
- The PSA has expertise and processes for handling personnel matters.
- The Deputy Attorney General (DAG) received two complaints from former IIO employees and asked the PSA to investigate concerns related to workplace issues at the IIO, and provide him with advice and recommendations.
- PSA investigations are carried out fairly and objectively, and handled on a case-by-case basis, specific to each situation.
- The PSA will provide advice to the DAG about what steps, if any, may be necessary to ensure that personnel practices and procedures in the IIO are in accordance with the law.
- The DAG will decide whether any further action is warranted.
- Government is unable to comment on personnel issues which are protected by privacy legislation.
- The Ministry has full confidence that the mandate of the IIO continues to be met.

Information publically released by the IIO through requests under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA) as well as regular releases of information:¹

- *IIO-2014-0001 – Released January 12, 2015:*
 1. **Yearly training costs from 2012 to present** – This represents all training costs across all program areas although heavily weighted in the investigative area. Year one represents the initial training at JIBC for start-up. Year two represents some training for new staff at JIBC and specialized training for team commanders and forensics.
 - Fiscal 2012/13 - \$204,672.95
 - Fiscal 2013/14 - \$107,097.47
 - Fiscal 2014/15 - \$29,764.74 to date
 2. **Total cost of the Mark Jette report** – The cost for the civilian monitor’s report was \$20,345.81.
 3. **Total cost of the [Tony] Belcher review** – Mr. Belcher’s review for the Deputy Attorney General cost \$12,475.90.
 4. **Salary of the new CAO** – This position is classified in the Strategic Leadership stream with a salary range of \$83,190.17 to \$116,465.77, and was posted publicly (LinkedIn, wowjobs.ca, etc.) and on BC Government Jobs website. The competition is in progress.
 5. **Total cost to date of the executive coaching provided to Richard Rosenthal** –
 - Fiscal Year 2013/2014 - \$9,150.00 (December 2013 to March 2014)
 - Fiscal Year 2014/2015 - \$3,000.00 (June to December 2014)
 6. **Total cost of the Justice Institute report** – The cost was \$21,000.00.
- *IIO-2014-0001 – Released January 30, 2015*

In response to the information access request regarding severance paid out to former IIO investigators, the IIO provided the following:

 - 2012/2013 - \$83,978.45
 - 2013/2014 – \$26,990.75

¹ This is only information released by the IIO. It does not include responses to earlier requests handled by Information Access Operations of the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens’ Services, which originally managed the requests received by the IIO. The Ministry of Justice also received requests from several individual and media applicants seeking information about the operations of the IIO. These requests have been processed according to the requirements of FOIPPA. Several large packages of information have been released, and others are being reviewed for release. FOIPPA allows an applicant to request a review by the Information and Privacy Commissioner of a decision to withhold release of information, and such review requests are in progress.

- 2014/2015 - \$61,129.45
- These amounts reflect amounts paid out, up to and including the date of the information request of November 3, 2014.

The applicant subsequently requested this information “by investigator” and the response was \$172,198.66 paid out to 5 employees.

- *IIO-2014-00007 – Released March 6, 2015*

In response to the information access request regarding severance paid out to former IIO employees and costs for executive coaching and repairs to a vehicle, the IIO provided the following information:

- 2012/2013 - \$83,978.45
- 2013/2014 - \$26,990.75
- 2014/2015 - \$78,335.96
- \$189,305.17 paid out to six (6) employees between March 2012 and December 9, 2014.

Executive coaching has been provided for the Chief Civilian Director of the IIO, with the following costs from September 2012 to the date of the request:

- Fiscal Year 2013/14 - \$9,150.00 (December 2013 to March 2014)
- Fiscal Year 2014/15 - \$3,000.00 (June to December 2014)

The Directors of the IIO are eligible, through the Public Service Agency, to receive executive coaching online or via telephone at no direct cost to the IIO.

Cost of repairs to a vehicle damaged by John Larkin: approximately \$430.00.

Other materials also to be released include emails between the CCD and Larkin related to the hiring of Larkin, as well as the emails between the CCD and Jette – much is redacted.

Mandate of the IIO:

- The IIO has a mandate to investigate incidents of death or serious harm involving police officers in BC. Serious harm is defined as “an injury that may result in death, cause serious disfigurement, or cause substantial loss or impairment of mobility of the body as a whole or the function of any limb or organ.”

- Some members of the public have raised concerns that the Office's mandate is too narrow and should be expanded to include other offenses, particularly sexual assault, which is within the mandate of the Office's counterpart in Ontario, the Special Investigations Unit.
- The Act provides the government with regulation-making authority to expand the mandate of the Office to include other provisions of the Criminal Code. To date, regulations have not been enacted.
- In special circumstances, section 38.02 (1) (c) and 44 of the Act allow the Minister of Justice or the Director of Police Services to order an IIO investigation in circumstances that are outside the current scope of the IIO's mandate.
- The special Legislative Committee considered public and stakeholder submissions on the matter of expanding the mandate of the IIO.
- The Committee did not make a formal recommendation regarding the mandate.
- In the body of its report, the Committee states that it is too early to expand the IIO's mandate as it would require additional expertise and resources, and could divert the IIO from its primary goal of ensuring effective investigations. The Committee suggests that the Ministry may want to consider changes to the IIO's mandate, as appropriate, during the course of the Ministry's planned review of the IIO in 2016.

Background:

- The IIO is an independent, civilian-led body established by the Act to investigate incidents of death or serious harm involving municipal police and RCMP officers on and off duty in BC. It has been operational since September 10, 2012.
- The IIO was established within the Ministry of Attorney General (as it was then called) and has its own vote appropriation. The Historical Estimates Budget and Actual Expenditures for the Office are as follows:

	2012/13 ¹	2013/14	2014/15 ³	2015/16	1-year Change \$	1-year Change %
Estimates Budget	\$9.30M	\$10.10M	\$7.536M	\$7.544M	\$0.008M	0.01%
Actual/Forecast²	\$6.61M	\$7.20M	\$7.197M	\$7.544M	\$0.347M	4.82%
Surplus	\$2.69M	\$2.90M	\$0.339M	\$0.00M	(\$0.339M)	N/A

¹ Represents a partial year of operation as the Office became operational in September 2012.

² The forecast for 2014/15 is from February 2015, which is subject to adjustments prior to finalization with the release of public accounts in June/July 2015.

³ The 2014/15 budget has been restated from \$8.1 M as presented in Budget 2014 for comparability to a budget transfer in Budget 2015 to MTICS for facilities and related costs of approximately \$600,000. This is in alignment with the centralization processes that are already in place for other areas of the ministry and does not reflect a change in the level of resources or services for the IIO.

- The IIO is headed by the CCD, Richard Rosenthal who, pursuant to the legislation, has never served as a police officer. Rosenthal started in the CCD position on January 9, 2012.
- In 2015/16, the Office is forecast to employ 55 FTEs, which include management staff, investigators, legal counsel, and administrative staff.
- There are 32 investigator positions, of which 25 are currently filled, with 15 (60%) being held by civilians and 10 (40%) being held by former police officers who immediately prior to their appointment to the IIO had not served in BC within the past five years or were not a current member of a police or law enforcement agency outside of BC.

Contact: James Deitch	Phone: 250-387-2109	Mobile: s.17
-----------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Downtown Community Court

Suggested Response:

- The Downtown Community Court (DCC) brings together justice, health and social services agencies to address the criminal, health and social circumstances of offenders.
- When it was created, the DCC, the first of its kind in Canada, aimed to improve justice efficiency, offender outcomes, reduce recidivism and increase public confidence in the justice system.
- The Province's continued commitment to supporting innovative justice solutions is evident in this year's budget which includes base funding for the DCC, which was previously funded through contingencies.

If asked about whether other community courts will be established

- The Ministry is in the process of finalizing a Specialized Courts Strategy, which will provide an evidence-based framework for how new and existing courts are managed in the province.

If asked about governance

- A new governance model is under development led by the DCC Executive Board and will be announced once it is finalized.

If asked about further evaluation

- Government continues to study the outcomes of the court to ensure provincial funds are providing effective delivery of justice services.
- Following completion of a full evaluation last year, which found the DCC was successful in reducing recidivism for certain high needs offenders, additional research is taking place to determine whether the improved outcomes identified in the evaluation extend to the whole DCC cohort.

Background:

- The DCC opened in Vancouver in September 2008 and has a designated intake area in Downtown Vancouver; it hears all cases from this area where Crown counsel decides to proceed summarily. The DCC is a disposition court meaning any cases proceeding to trial would be heard at the Vancouver Provincial Court at 222 Main Street.
- The DCC was developed as a partnership with the Provincial Court and in collaboration with 14 justice, health and social service agencies in response to a recommendation of the Justice Review Task Force and its Street Crime Working Group.
- The operation of the DCC, including budget management, is the responsibility of Court Services Branch. Evaluation and policy are managed by Justice Services Branch. Corrections Branch and other government and non-government agencies provide services to the DCC clients.

Funding for DCC

- Following the submission of a report to the Chair of Treasury Board as required, the Ministry received approval for base budget funding to support the DCC's operations as part of Budget 2015.
- Ministry funding requirements for the DCC are estimated to be \$2.4M per year, including \$0.050M for ongoing research.

STOB	Description	Total Required
FTEs		21.05
50	Salaries	1,436,963
51	Supplementary Salary	2,000
52	Benefits	359,241
57	Travel	10,000
60	Professional Services	75,000
63	Information Systems	7,000
65	Office & Business	91,600
70	Operating Equip	4,000
73	Amortization	0
80	Transfers	415,000
		2,400,804

- Partner agencies' investment in the Downtown Community Court is estimated at \$2.6M annually, including Corrections Branch.

- Ministry capital investment to renovate the court facility was \$6.225M, and is now fully amortized. See Appendix for further details at the branch and expenditure level for the DCC.

Final Evaluation

- The final evaluation, which was publically released on March 5, 2014, concluded:
 - The Court is not more efficient than traditional courts in BC. The efficiency analysis was completed by the Ministry with advice from the key stakeholders and independently reviewed by R.A. Malatest & Associates Ltd, a private evaluation company.
 - The Court shows promising results in reducing recidivism among a sub-set of offenders, those with high needs for health and social services and a significant history of criminal offences. The study was completed by a research team from Simon Fraser University's Faculty of Health Sciences, and has been peer reviewed.
 - The Court collaborates with many government and community service providers, the business community, residents in the area and others. A series of survey reports that inform about the court's engagement with the community was completed by a team from Simon Fraser University's School of Criminology.
- Costs of the studies were as follows:
 - Offender outcome evaluation - \$50,000;
 - R.A. Malatest & Associates Ltd review of the efficiency evaluation - \$33,000; and
 - Overall evaluation design and community engagement research - \$250,000 over six years.

		Court Services - Vancouver Coastal Region							
STOB	Description	TOTAL	Criminal Justice	Corrections	Justice Services	Sheriffs	DCC	Court Admin	Total for Vancouver
FTEs		21.05	3.50	1.50	0.00	8.05	5.00	3.00	16.05
50	Salary	1,436,963	464,780	85,969		437,988	317,275	130,952	886,214
51	Supplementary Salary	2,000				2,000			2,000
52	Benefits	359,241	116,195	21,492		109,497	79,319	32,738	221,554
57	Travel	10,000					10,000		10,000
60	Professional Services	75,000		25,000	50,000				
63	Information Systems	7,000					7,000		7,000
65	Office & Business	91,600	6,400				85,200		85,200
70	Operating Equip	4,000		4,000					
73	Amortization	0							
80	Transfers	415,000		45,000	370,000				
		2,400,804	587,375	181,462	420,000	549,485	498,793	163,690	1,211,968
	Rounded	2,400,000	585,000	183,000	420,000	549,000	499,000	164,000	1,212,000

Contact: Jamie Deitch	Phone: 250-387-2109	Mobile: s.17
-----------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Specialized Courts Strategy

Suggested Response:

- In the White Paper Part Two, government committed to work with the judiciary and other justice partners to develop an evidence-based, integrated and strategic approach for specialized courts by March 2015.
- The Specialized Courts Strategy is nearing completion and will outline an approach to ensure specialized courts are effective and decision-making about whether to establish or continue a specialized court is evidence based and transparent.
- Early indicators suggest specialized court processes are promising in terms of providing more innovative justice solutions. The Specialized Courts Strategy will ensure that there is a consistent and effective approach to specialized courts in BC, and is ultimately intended to improve the outcomes of specialized courts.

Background:

- In recent years, the number of specialized courts in BC has grown. There are domestic violence courts, First Nations Courts, the Downtown Community Court and Drug Treatment Court in Vancouver, and the integrated court in Victoria.
- A number of BC communities, as well as some justice system participants, have indicated strong support for the establishment of new specialized courts as an innovative and more effective response to justice system and community challenges.
- However, despite positive anecdotal results from offenders and stakeholders indicating high levels of satisfaction with specialized courts, there are limited research studies available to confirm their effectiveness. There is also currently no province-wide approach to specialized courts, as they tend to be established through local championship, expertise and resources. Some have never been evaluated. This presents a challenge for a planned and coordinated allocation of finite resources to advance effective justice solutions.
- Development of the strategy is in its final stages. Work completed to date includes:
 - **Identification of four best practices** following a literature review of academic, peer-reviewed research and evaluations;
 - Research and informational interviews conducted to create a **Specialized Court Inventory** providing information about the key elements of each of the 12 specialized courts in BC considered in scope for the purposes of the strategy; and

- Two in-person **external consultations** were held in Victoria and Vancouver in addition to several one-on-one meetings to solicit input from key stakeholders. Work on the strategy was also guided by a Ministry Advisory Committee formed in November 2014.

The strategy presents a three-pronged approach based on the identified best practices:

1. A **Governance Model** for strategic level decision-making based on principles agreed to by both the Ministry and Judiciary. The Ministry continues to pursue strategic level engagement with the Provincial Court Judiciary to confirm this model.
2. **Needs Assessment and Business Case Requirement** for community proposals for new specialized courts which are anticipated to have a significant impact on resources, policies and processes.
3. Development of an **Assessment Framework** for existing specialized courts to ensure they are meeting their stated objectives.

Contact: James Deitch	Phone: 250-387-2109	Mobile: s.17
-----------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Protection Orders – Family Law Act

Suggested Response:

- Family Law Act protection orders limit contact and communication between family members where there is risk of family violence. Breaches of Family Law Act protection orders are enforceable through the Criminal Code.
- The Provincial Office of Domestic Violence leads an on-going cross-ministry coordinating group on protection order implementation. There are members from all areas of government, including Justice Services Branch, Criminal Justice Branch, Court Services Branch, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, police, and victim services.
- We are monitoring how protection orders are being used as a new tool to protect vulnerable families and to help identify system challenges and potential improvements within the new regime.

Background:

- The Family Law Act protection orders replace restraining orders under the previous Family Relations Act. The purpose of protection orders is to limit contact and communication where there is risk of family violence.
- The Family Law Act protection order scheme is intended to improve the effective enforcement of safety-related orders in family law cases by allowing breaches of these orders to be enforced through section 127 of the Criminal Code. This underscores the seriousness of family violence and is intended to deter breaches of protection orders.
- These orders are preventative in nature; therefore, the number of charges and prosecutions for breaches is only one measure of effectiveness. The increased sanction (criminal versus civil enforcement) is intended to provide a deterrent to breaches, and a more effective justice system response to breaches that do occur.
- The Ministry is monitoring protection orders and has collected data respecting the numbers of protection orders made and the numbers related to charges for breaches. An overview of the first 12 months of data concerning Family Law Act protection orders was published online in a Ministry of Justice Factsheet, Protection Orders under the Family Law Act. See Attached Ministry of Justice Factsheet, Protection Orders under the Family Law Act.

- The Ministry also participated in a collaborative project with justice system partners and the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence to map the pathway of protection orders from the point of application to the enforcement of breaches. Experience with these orders suggests there are some areas that can be improved to make obtaining orders easier and enforcing orders more effective. For example, the Ministry is considering options for serving protection orders on respondents who are not present in court when the order was made, to enhance safety and facilitate successful prosecution if the order is later breached. The results of the review will inform our work in continuing to improve on this form of order.
- The Family Law Act increased the court's ability to deal with family violence. It:
 - defines family violence to include physical, sexual and psychological abuse;
 - makes safety and the impact of family violence a key part of the best interests of the child test;
 - provides guidance for judges to assess family violence;
 - requires people who are applying for guardianship of a child to provide information about their criminal and child protection history to ensure judges have the information needed to make decisions about the care of vulnerable children; and
 - requires family dispute resolution professionals to screen for and take training about family violence.
- The expanded definition of family violence and the introduction of protection orders in the Family Law Act respond to numerous reports, including the Keeping Women Safe report and the Representative for Children and Youth's reports, Honouring Christian Lee, and Honouring Kaitlynn Max and Cordon. The Ministry meets periodically with the Representative for Children and Youth to discuss the effectiveness of protection orders.
- The issue of family violence crosses over a number of branches of the Ministry including the Justice Services Branch, Criminal Justice Branch, and Court Services Branch.

Contact: Shannan Knutson	Phone: 250-356-7521	Mobile: s.17
--------------------------	---------------------	--------------

Protection Orders under the *Family Law Act*

History behind protection orders

There are a variety of mechanisms available under criminal and family law that help protect people experiencing or at risk of family violence. The protection order available under the *Family Law Act* (FLA) was developed in response to frustrations with restraining orders that were made under the previous *Family Relations Act* (FRA).

Restraining orders were only available in limited circumstances, and the enforcement mechanisms were confusing and sometimes ineffective. Enforcement was further compromised because the duration of the orders was often unclear and the terms of the orders were not always directly related to safety.

Protection orders now available under the FLA:

- are available to a broader range of family members;
- may be applied for at any time, including on a stand-alone basis;
- only include safety-related terms to emphasize the seriousness of the order and improve enforcement;
- expire one year after being made unless the court orders otherwise;
- are enforced under the Criminal Code as a criminal offence, which underscores the seriousness of family violence and is intended to deter breaches of protection orders.

Who should apply for an FLA protection order?

Individuals need to evaluate which of the following options is the best response in their family situation: an FLA protection order, a peace bond, or another remedy under the Criminal Code. More information about peace bonds and FLA protection orders is available in *For Your Protection: Peace Bonds and Family Law Protection Orders* at

<http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/victimservices/shareddocs/pubs/peace-bonds-english.pdf>.

What do we know about FLA protection orders after one year?

Protection orders have been available since the FLA was implemented on March 18, 2013. The first 12 months of data concerning FLA protection orders is now available. Similar to FRA restraining orders, the overall number of FLA protection orders remains relatively small compared to the total number of protective orders made in the family, child protection and criminal justice systems combined.

Caution should be used when comparing FRA restraining orders with FLA protection orders as the two types of orders are not directly equivalent. The characteristics and the enforcement mechanisms for each differ and the data is difficult to efficiently or accurately collect. FRA restraining orders made prior to the FLA continue to be enforceable and this provides the basis for a limited comparison between the two. Also, it should be recognized that the first several months after the FLA was implemented was a transition period. The numbers in this fact sheet include data from that period when FLA protection orders were first available.

Number of family orders sent to the

Protection Order Registry: In fiscal year 2013/14, 1,930 general family orders were granted and sent.¹ Of these, 1,403 were from Provincial Court and 527 were from Supreme Court. In comparison, 2,726 general family orders were granted and sent to the Protection Order Registry in fiscal year 2011/12. The smaller number for fiscal 2013/14 is to be expected due to the fact that prior to the introduction of protection orders under the FLA, a wider array of orders were sent to the Protection Order Registry, some of which were not directly related to safety.

¹ These figures count all new, varied and cancelled general family orders that contain at least one protective term granted under the FLA or FRA, and sometimes other family Acts like the Family Maintenance Enforcement Act (FMEA). General family orders exclude orders granted under the Child Family and Community Services Act (CFCSA).

Number of Reports to Crown counsel (RTCCs) sent from police to Crown counsel for alleged breaches of FLA protection orders:

In fiscal 2013/14, a total of 70 RTCCs for FLA protection orders were sent, with the first being received in June 2013, approximately three months after the FLA was implemented. In the same time period, Crown counsel received 35 RTCCs for FRA restraining orders, with the majority received in the first half of the time period and only 1 received in the final quarter.

Number of charges approved by Crown counsel for alleged breaches of protection orders²: Of the 70 RTCCs for breaches of FLA protection orders that Crown Counsel received, 49 (70%) were approved for charges. Another 8 (11%) were returned to police for more information. Only 12 (17%) of the requested charges were not approved. In comparison, 20 (57%) of the 35 FRA RTCCs received were not approved.

CFCSA orders³: In fiscal 2013/14, the Provincial Court granted 208 CFCSA orders that were sent to the Protection Order Registry, compared to 187 orders made during fiscal year 2011/12. Crown counsel received a total of 18 RTCCs for breaches of CFCSA protection orders in fiscal 2013/14, and approved 11 (61%) of these to court.

Outcomes of cases: It is challenging to provide reliable data on the outcomes of these cases, as the numbers are relatively small and many are still before the court. Of the 49 RTCCs for breaches of FLA protection orders that were approved for charges, 24 were still before the court as of July 22, 2014. Given the small number of these cases, it is too early to draw conclusions in this area.

² Charge assessment decisions are made by Crown counsel in accordance with Criminal Justice Branch's charge assessment guidelines policy, which requires both a substantial likelihood of conviction and that the public interest requires a prosecution.

³ These figures count all new, varied and cancelled child protection orders made in Provincial Court under the CFCSA that contain at least one protective term.

Other orders: FLA protection orders are only one means for providing protection in family violence cases. Other mechanisms available within the criminal justice system include peace bonds and bail conditions, probation orders and conditional sentences with no-contact conditions. In fiscal 2013/14, there were 37,264 orders made in Adult and Youth criminal court that had protective conditions, which included orders related to both family and non-family violence. During this same period Crown Counsel received a total of 14,453 spousal violence-related RTCCs (designated as "K" files). Of these, 1,051 RTCCs were received for applications for s.810 Criminal Code peace bonds.

Overall trends: The number of new family files generally has been decreasing (25,147 in 2009/10 to 20,897 in 2013/14). Though reports to Crown counsel sent to the BC Ministry of Justice Criminal Justice Branch have declined in the last year⁴ (see B.C.'s Prosecution Service Annual Report, page 11 at http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/prosecution-service/pdf/CJB_Annual_Report_2013_2014.pdf) the number and percentage of reports to Crown counsel for spousal violence (designated as "K" files) has increased (14,297 and 22% of all RTCCs received in 2012/13 to 14,453 and 23% of all RTCCs received in 2013/14).

Ongoing work

The Ministry of Justice has undertaken a review of FLA protection orders based on interviews with justice system stakeholders. Experience with these orders suggests there are some areas that can be improved to make obtaining orders easier and enforcing orders more effective. For example, the Ministry is considering options for serving protection orders on respondents who are not present in court when the order was made, to enhance safety and facilitate successful prosecution if the order is later breached. The results of the review will inform our work in continuing to improve on this form of order.

⁴ Reports to Crown Counsel submitted to the Public Prosecution Service of Canada for drug related and other offences are not included within these figures.

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Civil Resolution Tribunal

Suggested Response:

- The Civil Resolution Tribunal will help citizens resolve common strata disputes and small claims outside the traditional courtroom.
- Canada's first online tribunal will provide access to online tools and resources 24/7, helping British Columbians to resolve matters early instead of going to court. If the parties are unable to agree to settle, a member of the Civil Resolution Tribunal will speedily and fairly decide the matter.
- The Tribunal is expected to begin operating later in 2015. The Tribunal has consulted extensively with the public and stakeholder groups and is using the input received to establish the human resource and technology infrastructure necessary to begin operations.

If asked about Implementation of the Civil Resolution Tribunal and/or Funding

- Government is committed to improving access to justice through the Civil Resolution Tribunal and we expect the technology necessary to support implementation of the Tribunal will be in place in 2015. The Office of the Chief Information Officer has identified \$5.2 M in one time capital for the Tribunal's technology infrastructure.
- By sharing its processes and technology with other tribunals, the Civil Resolution Tribunal will support transformation across BC's administrative justice system.
- We will be implementing this new tribunal gradually as we carefully introduce this new technology and way of doing business into the justice system. The next step in implementation of importance to the public will be the launch of the first phase of the Online Dispute Resolution technology. This will be a voluntary guided pathway to help people define their legal dispute and resolve it by agreement. This will be launched later this year.

Background:

- **Legislation:** The Civil Resolution Tribunal Act was enacted in May 2012. When brought into force in 2015, the Act will provide the Civil Resolution Tribunal (CRT) with voluntary jurisdiction over strata disputes and small claims, meaning all parties to a dispute must agree to have their matter proceed to the CRT in order for the CRT to take jurisdiction. Disputes not resolved by agreement will be resolved by order of the Tribunal's independent, expert members. That order will be enforceable through the courts.

- The Legislature recently passed Bill 19, the Civil Resolution Tribunal Amendment Act, 2015. When brought into force, the Act will make participation in the tribunal mandatory for parties to most common strata property disputes and will require that almost all small claims go through the CRT before any party can take the dispute to Provincial Court. It is anticipated that those amendments will be brought into force late 2016, after the Tribunal has addressed any issues that arise during the implementation of the initial, voluntary model.
- **Capital** of more than \$2.1 M has been spent to date on designing and developing the technology solutions necessary to support the CRT and the Tribunal Transformation Initiative. The design of the technology and the Tribunal processes has been influenced by the input of potential end users, through a “service design” or user-focused approach.
- **Key CRT service measure** targets include 24/7 online service, overall average time from filing to disposition of 60 days, positive user satisfaction ratings, and continuous improvement.
- **Key milestones:** In July 2014, CRT Chair Shannon Salter was appointed to the Tribunal and, in January 2015, the first staff member, CRT Executive Director/Registrar Richard Rogers, was hired. s.12,s.13
s.12,s.13
In the spring of 2015, the first part-time members of the CRT will be appointed and, in the summer of 2015, a “beta” version of the CRT’s Solution Explorer expert system should be ready for testing. It is currently anticipated that the development, user testing and implementation of the technology platform will enable the CRT to begin operations late in 2015.
- **CRT and Provincial Court:** The implementation of the mandatory model for the CRT (Bill 19) will enable the Provincial Court to take on greater civil jurisdiction, in phases scheduled to reach s.12,s.13
When Bill 19 is brought into force, it will establish a model where the CRT will provide intake and facilitation services for almost all small claims, but will only adjudicate cases up to s.12,s.13
s.12,s.13
Parties to cases adjudicated by the CRT will be entitled to request a Provincial Court trial. If its jurisdiction is increased, the Provincial Court will also adjudicate cases over \$25,000 that are not resolved through the CRT’s early resolution processes.
- **Business case:** s.12,s.13
s.12,s.13
s.12,s.13
However, operating costs will exceed savings and revenue by up to \$2.3 M during each of the first four years.

- s.12,s.13

- Anticipated implementation schedule: The following is the expected roll-out of the various stages of CRT implementation:

s.12,s.13

Contact: David Merner, JSB	Phone: 250-387-6888	Mobile: s.17
----------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Tribunal Transformation Initiative

Suggested Response:

- Government is committed to reducing cost, complexity, and delay for tribunal users by investing in user-focused dispute resolution processes and innovative technology.
- In 2015, government will launch Canada's first-ever online tribunal, the Civil Resolution Tribunal (CRT). The CRT's technology platform will enable us to transform BC's \$80M administrative justice system by enhancing online resolution and adjudication services.
- Government is also committed to consolidating tribunal expertise and services, by supporting the integration of many of BC's 29 tribunals into tribunal clusters that share staff, services, and facilities, in addition to a common technology platform.
- Government intends to gradually implement Tribunal Transformation over a number of years, within the current budget allocation of the existing tribunals and the Ministry of Justice. Savings generated will support re-investments in service enhancements for tribunal users.
- By leveraging the technology developed for the Civil Resolution Tribunal, government will enhance access to tribunal services for all British Columbians.

Background:

- Action Item 2 in the 2013 White Paper on Justice Reform included these commitments:
 1. "Government will enable tribunals to reduce costs, complexity, and delay for tribunal users by investing in user-focused dispute resolution processes and technology supports."
 2. "Government will work with justice system participants to explore opportunities to align the province's tribunals into clusters based on similar mandates and stakeholders."
- The priority in 2015/16 will be to develop a common technology platform that will improve access to justice services and enhance online services provided by British Columbia's tribunals. That technology will be implemented at the CRT first, followed by the Residential Tenancy Branch.

- Justice will also work with tribunals and ministries to identify what tribunals should be part of which clusters, in order to operate more effectively and efficiently. Justice will assess the costs and benefits of those proposed clusters, in developing project plans and timelines for implementing the clusters.
- The technology platform developed for the CRT will be applied, to the extent appropriate, across the administrative justice sector through the Tribunal Transformation Initiative. The platform is being developed in modules and modules may be adopted or not by each tribunal, depending on the mandate and operational requirements of each tribunal.
- Capital of nearly \$1.4M has been spent to date on systems architecture, business modelling and technology solutions necessary to implement the Civil Resolution Tribunal-Tribunal Transformation Initiative. Technology costs will be offset by tribunal sector efficiencies, achieved through sharing resources, such as staff, office space, and the costs of supporting a common technology platform. By concentrating resources and achieving economies of scale, the Government is able to fund this investment.

- s.12,s.13

- s.12,s.13

Contact: David Merner JSB	Phone: 250-387-6888	Mobile: s.17
---------------------------	---------------------	--------------

**Ministry of Justice
Estimates 2015/16 Briefing Book**

**Criminal Justice Branch
Table of Contents**

Estimate Notes

1. Special Prosecutions – Bountiful, Braidwood, Multicultural Strategic Outreach Plan
2. Vulnerable Victims and Witnesses – Adult Policy

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Special Prosecutions - Bountiful, Braidwood, Multicultural Strategic Outreach Plan

Suggested Response:

- Special Prosecutors are appointed by the Assistant Deputy Attorney General of the Criminal Justice Branch, and make their decisions independently of both government and the BC Prosecution Service.
- In order to protect the integrity and independence of the Special Prosecutor system, it would not be appropriate for me as Attorney General to comment on, or discuss an ongoing matter that is being managed by a Special Prosecutor.

Background:

Bountiful

- On January 13, 2012, Assistant Deputy Attorney General Robert Gillen appointed Peter Wilson in relation to an ongoing investigation into potential offences involving individuals associated with the community of Bountiful.
- Mr. Gillen made this appointment after receiving a written direction from the then Attorney General that a Special Prosecutor be appointed respecting the possible prosecution of sexual exploitation, and other alleged offences against minors, in relation to conduct of members of Bountiful from the early 1980's to the present.
- Mr. Wilson's mandate was expanded in January 2012 to include consideration of polygamy offences. Mr. Wilson was to provide advice to police as and when requested, and review any investigative report which might be forwarded by police recommending charges.
- On August 13, 2014, the Criminal Justice Branch announced that Mr. Wilson had approved criminal charges against a number of individuals. Winston Kaye Blackmore and James Marion Oler each face charges of polygamy, contrary to section 293 of the Criminal Code.
- Blackmore's lawyer has brought a petition in Supreme Court seeking to have Mr. Wilson's appointment as Special Prosecutor set aside by the Court. Hearing of the petition is scheduled for early June. Next scheduled appearance on the polygamy charges is June 25, 2015, for election.
- James Marion Oler also faces a charge for the alleged unlawful removal of a child from Canada

with the intention that an act be committed outside Canada that would be an offence contrary to section 153 of the Criminal Code in Canada.

- Brandon James Blackmore and Emily Ruth Crossfield/Blackmore face charges for the alleged unlawful removal of a child from Canada with the intention that an act be committed outside Canada that would be an offence contrary to section 151 or 152 of the Criminal Code in Canada.
- Brandon James Blackmore, Emily Ruth Crossfield/Blackmore and James Oler have elected trial by Supreme Court Judge sitting without a jury on the removal of a child charges, and by consent have been committed for trial in Supreme Court. The matter was set for an appearance May 4, 2015 to fix a trial date.

Braidwood Commission Perjury Allegations

- On June 18, 2010, following the release of the report of the Braidwood Inquiry into the death of Robert Dziekanski at Vancouver Airport, Assistant Deputy Attorney General Robert Gillen appointed Richard Peck to determine whether the original Branch decision not to charge the RCMP officers involved should be revisited, and if so to conduct that review.
- On June 29, 2010, the Branch announced Mr. Peck's conclusion that the original decision should be reviewed, noting that there was additional material not available to the Branch at the time of the original assessment.
- Mr. Peck's mandate included undertaking the review, which was to include the officers' original conduct in relation to Mr. Dziekanski, as well as their participation in the subsequent investigation and their testimony at the Braidwood Inquiry.
- On May 6, 2011, the Branch announced that Mr. Peck had concluded that the four RCMP officers in the case should be charged with perjury and that the matters should proceed by way of separate Direct Indictments against each officer.
- Mr. Peck also concluded that there was no substantial likelihood of conviction in relation to any potential charges arising from the circumstances of the physical altercation with Mr. Dziekanski or the subsequent investigation into his death.
- Bill Bentley, the first officer who proceeded to trial for perjury was found not guilty in July 2013. The Special Prosecutor filed an appeal in that case. The appeal was heard in April 2015 and decision was reserved.
- On February 20, 2015 Cst. Kwesi Millington was found guilty of perjury. Sentencing is scheduled for May 7, 2015.

- On March 20, 2015 Benjamin Monty Robinson was found guilty of perjury. Sentencing is scheduled for June 16, 2015.
- On April 30, 2015 Cst. Gerry Rundel was found not guilty.

Multicultural Strategic Outreach Plan and Alleged Violations of Elections Act

- On August 29, 2013, following a request from the RCMP, Assistant Deputy Attorney General Joyce DeWitt-Van Oosten appointed David Butcher in relation to an ongoing investigation into matters arising out of the Review of the Draft Multicultural Strategic Outreach Plan, as well as alleged infractions of the Elections Act.
- On September 8, 2014, the Branch announced that Mr. Butcher had approved charges under the British Columbia Election Act against a corporation and two individuals. The charges arise out of conduct alleged to have occurred during the Port Moody-Coquitlam provincial by-election in 2012.
- Charges were sworn September 8, 2014, in Provincial Court in Vancouver against Brian Ashly Bonney, Mark Robertson, and 0750837 BC Ltd. dba Mainland Communications.
- First appearances were October 14, 2014, in Vancouver. May 26, 2015 is currently set as a fix date appearance.
- The Branch also announced that the police investigation was continuing and that the Special Prosecutor did not expect to receive the final results of the continued investigation until early 2015.
- Mr. Butcher will release the decisions that he has made as a result of his review, once he has completed reviewing the whole of the material provided by police. The Branch anticipates issuing a Media Statement approved by Mr. Butcher and announcing his decisions, at an appropriate time following completion of the review process.

Contact: Neil MacKenzie	Phone: 250-387-5169	Mobile: s.17
-------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Vulnerable Victims and Witnesses - Adult Policy

Suggested Response:

- Effective December 29, 2014, the Criminal Justice Branch implemented a new policy on best practices for supporting adult vulnerable victims and witnesses in criminal prosecutions.
- The new policy is responsive to the recommendations from The Report of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry and identifies best practices for Crown Counsel in assisting these persons to effectively participate in the criminal justice process. This includes:
 - identifying and assigning prosecution files that require victim and witness support early in the process;
 - reducing the number of prosecutors who have conduct of a file over time to ensure continuity of file ownership;
 - seeking appropriate protective conditions as part of any bail order;
 - actively engaging with vulnerable victims and witnesses through the prosecution to encourage their ongoing participation;
 - bringing timely applications for access to the Criminal Code's various support provisions for victims and witnesses;
 - cross sector consultation with other justice system agencies to access support;
 - assisting with Victim Impact Statements; and
 - seeking appropriate protective conditions as part of any orders made at sentencing.

Background:

- In The Report of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, Commissioner Wally Oppal recommended that a policy be put in place "to provide guidance on the prosecution of crimes of violence against vulnerable women, including women engaged in the sex trade".
- Following release of this Report, the Criminal Justice Branch undertook a review of the policies and practices it had in place for supporting victims and witnesses.
- Ultimately, the Branch decided to develop a tailored policy, recognizing that for cases involving allegations of serious personal injury, in particular, vulnerable victims and

witnesses require ongoing support throughout the prosecution. This support is needed to ensure that all victims and witnesses, regardless of vulnerabilities, have an equal opportunity to participate in the criminal justice process.

- The Vulnerable Victims and Witnesses - Adult policy was developed in consultation with senior Crown Counsel who have extensive experience and specialized expertise in prosecutions involving vulnerable participants, and took into account recognized best practices in this area to ensure an informed set of guidelines.
- All policies that are developed by the Branch and guide the exercise of prosecutorial discretion are public documents and are available online.
- These policies assist Crown Counsel in carrying out their responsibilities under the Crown Counsel Act. As a matter of general practice, Branch policies are subject to ongoing review and revision to accommodate changes in the law, or respond to social and systemic issues.

Contact: Richard de Boer	Phone: 250-356-0284	Mobile: s.17
--------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Workplace Fatalities - Prosecution

Suggested Response:

- In 2014, the Criminal Justice Branch declined to approve charges and initiate prosecutions arising out of the Babine and Lakeland mill explosions.
- The Branch determined, on the available evidence, that there was no substantial likelihood of conviction.
- Since then, considerable changes have been implemented to the way in which WorkSafeBC will investigate significant cases involving workplace fatalities.
- Processes have also been put in place to enhance communication between WorkSafeBC and the Criminal Justice Branch for the purpose of WorkSafe.
- The specifics of the changes made to WorkSafeBC's investigative practices are not for me to comment on as Attorney General.
- I can tell you that when a Report to Crown Counsel is brought to the Criminal Justice Branch, recommending charges in a case involving a workplace fatality, the Branch has senior Crown Counsel available with specialized expertise to conduct the charge assessment and any resulting prosecution.
- This includes a solid understanding of the Westray amendments that introduced changes to the federal Criminal Code on the issue of corporate liability.

Background:

- On January 20, 2012, a fire and explosion occurred at the Babine mill in Burns Lake, killing 2 workers and injuring 20 others.
- On April 23, 2014, another explosion occurred at the Lakeland mill in Prince George, killing 2 workers and injuring 22 others.
- WorkSafeBC investigated the explosions and submitted Reports to Crown Counsel to the Criminal Justice Branch, recommending charges for provincial, regulatory offences.
- Charges were not recommended for Criminal Code offences

- In both cases, the Branch declined to approve charges on grounds that the available evidence did not support a substantial likelihood of conviction.
- The Branch publicly released Clear Statements explaining the “no charge” decisions.
- The Clear Statement on the Babine mill explosion was released on January 10, 2014.
- The Clear Statement on the Lakeland mill explosion was released on April 14, 2014.
- In both Statements, the Branch explained that some of the evidence gathered by WorkSafeBC was not admissible in court because it had been gathered without search warrants, and/or not in compliance with other rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- After the Branch released its Clear Statement on the Babine mill explosion, the Deputy Minister to the Premier conducted a review of the circumstances surrounding WorkSafeBC’s submission of a Report to Crown Counsel.
- As a result of the review, Mr. Dyble made a number of recommendations to enhance the working relationship between the Criminal Justice Branch and WorkSafeBC.
- The Criminal Justice Branch accepted the recommendations and they have now been implemented.
- This includes the development of a protocol between the Branch and WorkSafeBC which clarifies the requirements of a Report to Crown Counsel and encourages ongoing, pro-active communication between these two organizations to assist in providing legal advice during the course of major investigations.
- Both WorkSafeBC and police can bring Reports to Crown Counsel to the Criminal Justice Branch recommending charges relating to workplace fatalities.
- These Reports are assessed by the Branch in accordance with its well-established Charge Assessment Guidelines (CHA 1).
- Senior Crown Counsel with expertise in workplace incidents are available to do the charge assessment and conduct any resulting prosecution.
- These prosecutors are familiar with the Westray amendments (Bill C-45), which made it a legal duty under the Criminal Code for employers, managers and supervisors to take reasonable steps to prevent bodily harm arising from work or tasks (s.217.1).

- It is up to the Branch, in the independent exercise of its discretion, to determine whether charges should be approved based on the available evidence.
- Each Report to Crown Counsel is assessed individually, in light of the evidence that has been gathered by the investigators and the legal requirements of recommended offences.

Contact: M. Joyce DeWitt-Van Oosten, CJB	Phone: 250-387-5174	Mobile: s.17
--	---------------------	--------------

**Ministry of Justice
Estimates 2015/16 Briefing Book**

**Corrections Branch
Table of Contents**

Estimate Notes

1. Auditor General's Report on Adult Custody
2. Parliamentary Secretary Report on Corrections
3. Female Remands – Vancouver Island
4. Okanagan Correctional Centre
5. Inmate Counts and Capacity Pressures
6. Correctional Centre Safety and Violence Statistics
7. Surrey Pretrial Expansion
8. WorkSafeBC Inspections of Correctional Centres
9. Electronic Supervision

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Auditor General's Report on Adult Custody

Suggested Response:

- We've accepted all eight of the Auditor General's recommendations and will be using the report, along with the recent report by Parliamentary Secretary Laurie Throness, as our road map for moving forward, as we continue to ensure the safety of our inmates and staff.
- There are a number of good news pieces that I took away from this report. For example, while we're always aware of overcrowding concerns, our inmate count has been declining since the report.
- In addition, the Auditor General recognized that BC Corrections places the highest importance on the safety and security of inmates and staff, and we regularly monitor, assess and follow up on safety and security issues.
- That said, we need to make sure that we are meeting capacity demands for the future which is why we are also increasing our capacity. We've invested capital funds in the Okanagan Correctional Centre, which is scheduled to be complete in 2016.
- As well, we recognize there's more we can do to prepare inmates for release and to prevent reoffending and that's why we've committed to working more closely with post-secondary institutions on job training for inmates while they're incarcerated.
- BC Corrections is recognized as a leader internationally and continually seeks ways to improve the delivery of its programs and services for the citizens of British Columbia.

Background:

- The audit focused on:
 - Planning for, and providing, the facilities needed to deliver safe and secure custody;
 - Planning for, and providing, the programs inmates needed to reduce criminal behaviour; and
 - Providing inmates with access to facilities and programs that are consistent with current policies and legislation.

Response to Recommendations:

Recommendation 1: Develop and implement a complete performance management framework of goals, objectives, strategies, performance measures and targets to achieve safe and secure custody, and reduce criminal behaviour. This would include defining appropriate capacity levels for correctional centres.

The Adult Custody Division:

- Will implement a performance management framework to add measures and targets to our strategic plans and project objectives to achieve safe and secure custody, and reduce criminal behavior;
- Will examine research based methods for determining appropriate occupancy levels for our correctional centres;
- Has launched a new strategic plan with specific outcomes identified; and
- Has used existing key indicators to guide our decision making process.

Recommendation 2: Periodically assess trends in safety and security within and across correctional centres to understand how differences in operation, design or capacity contribute to incidents and use the results to reduce the risk of reoccurrence.

BC Corrections:

- Regularly assesses safety and security incidents to identify trends and indicators that point to factors that contribute to safety incidents occurring and use the results to reduce the risk of reoccurrence;
- Will explore research based methods for factors that contribute to safety incidents occurring and use the results to reduce the risk of reoccurrence; and
- Has activated an executive dashboard of incident based key indicators.

Recommendation 3: Develop and implement an approach to forecasting facility space and program needs that accounts for the complexity of the inmate population, such as changes in population groups or shifts in population trends.

See Recommendation 4 for the response.

Recommendation 4: Ensure that decisions regarding facility space and programs fully reflect key characteristics of the inmate population such as security designation, population classification, legal status, etc.

In Response to recommendations three and four, BC Corrections:

- Will continue to refine our forecasting techniques for facility space and program needs. We will explore what factors could forecast shifts in the complexity of the inmate population; and, where such factors can be established, we will use that forecast information to inform decisions regarding facility space and program needs; and
- Have enhanced our short-term forecasting methodology. As a result, we ended the year within 2% of our forecasted count.

Recommendation 5: Periodically assess the effectiveness of all programs intended to reduce re-offending and use the results to identify and implement improvements in programming.

BC Corrections:

- Will continue to assess the effectiveness of all core programs which are intended to reduce reoffending and use the results to identify and implement improvements in programming, as we have done in previous evaluations; and
- Will strengthen our process of documenting how the results are used to identify and implement improvements in programming.

Recommendation 6: Implement a quality assurance system across correctional centres to monitor and continuously improve the classification and case management of inmates.

BC Corrections:

- Will implement a case management quality assurance system to monitor classification and improve the case management of inmates;
- Will refine our inspections process to include quality assurance of classification and case management activities; and
- Has completed the expansion of the integrated Offender Management program.

Recommendation 7: Examine the impact of housing sentenced and non-sentenced inmates together and implement an appropriate approach for meeting the requirements of the Correction Act Regulation.

The Adult Custody Division:

- Will look at ways to examine the impact of housing sentenced and non-sentenced inmates together and ensure our approach meets the requirements of the Correction Act Regulation; and
- Has followed the Correction Act Regulation.

Recommendation 8: Review the case management process to identify and address the barriers to offenders getting timely access to programs they need to reduce criminal behaviour. This would include evaluating and improving the reliability of the risk/needs assessment used to identify programs for offenders.

The Adult Custody Division:

- Will use the performance management framework and the case management quality assurance system to identify and address barriers to offenders getting timely access to programming that reduces criminal behavior;
- Will review the risk/needs assessment used to identify programs for offenders; and
- Will enhance our Case Management system to support linking of risk/needs to case plans and referral to core programs.

Contact: Dana Tadla	Phone: 250-356-5868	Mobile: s.17 _ _ _ _ _
---------------------	---------------------	------------------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE**Parliamentary Secretary
Report on Corrections****Suggested Response:**

- Parliamentary Secretary Throness consulted with Corrections officials and stakeholders, and delivered a report on BC's correctional system that will help to guide our actions and the Ministry is working on an action plan for how to move forward.
- The report includes suggestions for improving safety for corrections staff, inmates and the communities where they are located and we are committed to exploring each recommendation, further supplementing the work already underway.
- A key recommendation government is acting on in the immediate-term is increasing collaboration between BC Corrections and provincial post-secondary institutions to expand job training options for offenders and better support their re-integration into society.
- The report also outlines options for discussion to bring about long-term, transformational change as a way to address the root causes of recidivism which is a key priority for BC Corrections.
- We will continue taking steps to enhance safety, both in custody and in the community, help offenders with mental health and substance use issues, create new options for offenders to become job-ready and ease their transition back into the community.
- BC Corrections is considered an international leader in terms of its innovative and evidence-based approaches to reducing reoffending and does an excellent job ensuring a safe and secure environment for staff, inmates and our communities.
- That said, BC Corrections recognizes there is always more that can be done and is committed to continuing leading best practices in all aspects of meeting its mission to reducing reoffending and protecting communities.

Background:

- Between late-July and mid-September 2013, MLA Laurie Throness toured all nine provincial correctional centres, met with the management team of each centre, and conducted interviews with staff and inmates.
- Community roundtable consultation meetings were held with stakeholder groups which included representatives from police, local government, community advisory boards, health, social services, community and centre service providers, First Nations and others.

- In total, over 50 stakeholders attended the community roundtable consultation meetings.
- Work is well underway to address the 20 recommendations resulting from this review. An action plan has been developed to implement each of the recommendations that are short-term, long-term, and currently in progress. See Appendix A, Response to Recommendations, for a complete list.

Contact: Dana Tadla	Phone: 250-356-5868	Mobile: s.17
---------------------	---------------------	--------------

Appendix A: Response to Recommendations

1a) It is recommended that classification officers receive ongoing training to more effectively manage the risk associated with inmates who share cells, that access to risk and safety-related information by BC Corrections staff be improved.

- BC Corrections will enhance classification officer training modules and amend related policy.
- BC Corrections will also continue to develop the CORNET and CorrPoint information systems to provide staff with improved access to risk and safety related information.

1b) It is recommended that access to information in CORNET by selected law enforcement personnel be enhanced to increase safety in custody and in the community.

- BC Corrections will work with partners to revise, as necessary, information sharing agreements, electronic access agreements and privacy impact assessments.
- BC Corrections will also continue to develop the CORNET information system to enhance the risk and safety related information available to law enforcement personnel.

2a) It is recommended that ongoing structural safety improvements continue.

- BC Corrections will work with Shared Services BC to develop building improvement and maintenance Performance Indicators that support prioritizing structural safety improvements in our correctional facilities.

2b) It is recommended that personal temperament and verbal de-escalation skills be prioritized in the screening requirements for the hiring of officers and demonstrated through role-plays.

- BC Corrections will incorporate new tools into the hiring process that test for verbal de-escalation skills.

3) It is recommended that the capacity levels of inmate units and the opening and closing of those units be adjusted accordingly to mitigate safety issues.

- BC Corrections will ensure that decisions to open or close units include consideration of the make-up of current inmate population (type and complexity), rates of violence incidents and regional count pressures to mitigate safety issues.

- 4) It is recommended that inmates be warned and signs be placed that indicate that violence and the threat of violence will be not be tolerated.
 - BC Corrections will develop information posters that will be posted in inmate areas.
- 5) It is recommended that a second and subsequent aggressor be treated more severely than the first.
 - BC Corrections will work with the Legal Services Branch to consider amendments to the Correction Act Regulation.
- 6) It is recommended that officials examine alternatives to methadone that are effective, but less marketable, addictions treatments in order to reduce drug contraband.
 - BC Corrections will consult with the Ministry of Health to facilitate a review of the latest research in addictions treatment to ensure the safest and most effective methods of delivery are provided.
- 7) It is recommended that inmates with ten or more disciplinary hearings be subject to more intensive programming within provincial institutions.
 - BC Corrections will work with the Legal Services Branch to consider amendments to the Correction Act Regulation.
- 8) It is recommended that BC Corrections establish a social enterprise corporation to seek out and execute self-sustaining subcontracts at commercial rates to provide more work opportunities within correctional centres.
 - BC Corrections will develop a business plan to explore methods of growing commercial work opportunities with BC business owners that will provide skill development opportunities for inmates.
- 9) It is recommended that BC Corrections explore certifiable trades training within correctional institutions with nearby learning institutions, including training in shorter-term certificates to equip more transitory inmates with job-ready skills, and that staff reach out to employers in a systematic way to help inmates find work.
 - BC Corrections will develop a strategy to provide inmates with job-ready skills.

- 10)** It is recommended that BC Corrections institutions offer to host regular meetings on their premises or in some more convenient place, so that all community stakeholders can better coordinate their independent activities, including transition planning.
- BC Corrections will identify and engage the appropriate stakeholders to convene regular meetings.
- 11)** It is recommended that government collaborate more closely with non-governmental organizations to assemble transition plans for all those released for a year in an attempt to reduce recidivism to the point where government resources are adequate to routinely offer transition plans to all.
- BC Corrections will explore opportunities to work with non-governmental organizations to enable transition plans in preparation for release from custody.
- 12)** It is recommended that staff regularly assist inmates, beginning upon admission, to prepare for release by helping to prepare documents that will help them live independently.
- BC Corrections will enhance the case management and release planning process to further prepare inmates for release back in the community. (Recommendations 10 and 11 will also support this recommendation).
- 13)** It is recommended that open custody serve as a transition to society for selected inmates by allowing daily work or study in the community followed by custody each night.
- BC Corrections will conduct a feasibility study to determine the efficacy of this approach and if appropriate, develop criteria in consultation with community stakeholders.
- 14)** It is recommended that a 'Right Living Unit' be established in every provincial institution.
- BC Corrections has incorporated this recommendation into the Adult Custody Division Strategic Plan.
- 15)** It is recommended that the ministries of Health and Justice collaborate to adopt the Vancouver Intensive Supervision Unit (VISU) model in selected urban communities for the treatment of non-violent clients with severe mental health needs.
- BC Corrections will determine if there is a financial cost necessary to implement this recommendation.

- 16)** It is recommended that the Ministry of Health establish and support mental health units within correctional institutions, to better serve inmates with mental disorders leading to violence.
- BC Corrections will continue work underway to develop recommendations to the Deputy Ministers of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health that will explore short and long term options for inmates requiring involuntary treatment.
- 17)** It is recommended that minor improvements be made to the security of Community Corrections offices.
- Community Corrections will develop a list of security requirements and develop an implementation plan.
- 18)** It is recommended that the Corrections Branch regularly review and update privacy training for their staff.
- BC Corrections will continue to regularly review and update privacy training for staff.
- 19)** It is recommended that the Province enhance support for restorative justice programs throughout BC, perhaps by drawing on the Victim Surcharge Special Account, the Civil Forfeiture Program, or funds obtained through the Criminal Asset Management Act.
- BC Corrections will assist the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch to expand and enhance targeted restorative justice initiatives in the province as effective alternatives to the traditional court-based criminal justice processes in appropriate cases. This will include consideration of the development of protocols, pilot projects and consultation with key stakeholders.
- 20)** It is recommended that the Skilled Trades Employment Program (STEP) and the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training provide training to probation officers so that they might be fully aware of the ways they can help their clients become job-ready and find employment.
- BC Corrections will consult with the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training to provide probation officers with the tools and/or training needed to assist inmates with employment opportunities.

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Female Remands – Vancouver Island

Suggested Response:

- All inmates need to be treated properly and our goal is for them to stay in police cells for as short a time as possible, prior to being transferred.
- While we are not considering a female remand centre for Vancouver Island, we have invested significant capital funds to expand capacity at the Alouette Correctional Centre for Women, and to add a women's wing at Prince George Regional Correctional Centre.
- A women's wing is also being added at the new Okanagan Correctional Centre, which is slated for construction completion in 2016.
- For female inmates, there are specific standards while they are in police custody – they must be provided meals, have access to a bed, a toilet and wash basin or shower, receive medical assistance, be monitored and kept separate from male inmates.
- The Corrections Branch, in cooperation with police agencies and the Court Services Branch, makes the effort to reduce the number of provincial inmates in police lock-ups through the use of video court appearances, more frequent inmate transport schedules, and increased hours of admission at correctional centres.
- Since 2011, female offenders made an average of 1,608 video court appearances each year from a correctional centre, which minimizes the impact of having to stay in police lock-ups.
- On average, there is less than one Corrections Branch adult female prisoner held in the Victoria Police Department lock-up per day, representing an annual cost to the Branch of approximately \$16,000.
- The Corrections Branch continues to collaborate with Court Services and Police Services to look for mutual solutions where they may be needed.

Background:

- The Corrections Branch examined the feasibility of opening a unit in the closed Victoria Youth Custody Services Centre, or renovating a unit at Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre for female inmates. The number of female inmates remanded on Vancouver Island does not justify the expense of either option.

- In fiscal 2014/15, there were 231 admissions of female inmates (one woman may have more than one admission) to a correctional centre who had been remanded by a provincial court located on Vancouver Island.
- When planning for new correctional facilities, regional demand and economies of scale are always key considerations. We took this into account with the design of the new Okanagan Correctional Centre by incorporating a unit that will house female inmates.

Contact: Kirsten Peters	Phone: 250-387-6005	Mobile: s.17
-------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Okanagan Correctional Centre

Suggested Response:

- Scheduled for construction completion in 2016, the Okanagan Correctional Centre will be a state-of-the-art, high-security centre with 11 living units and 378 cells, delivering on our government's commitment to enhance public safety and build safer communities.
- The Okanagan Correctional Centre project is now well underway, on time and on budget, and providing a boost to the local economy and creating family-supporting jobs generating approximately 1,000 direct and indirect jobs during construction.
- BC Corrections is also preparing for an additional 240 new, full-time correctional positions offering information sessions to British Columbians interested in becoming correctional officers. So far, approximately 800 people have taken part.
- The construction of the Okanagan Correctional Centre is the next important step in our government's historic, multi-phase investment in correctional facilities that has already seen us commit \$185 M to improve capacity in our existing facilities.
- There is a demonstrated need for a correctional centre in the Okanagan region, and it will address a number of challenges including current and projected capacity pressures across the province, transportation costs and facilitation of court appearances.
- Ultimately, the building of a new correctional centre in the Okanagan will make for a safer work environment throughout the system.

Background:

- In December 2010, the then Solicitor General asked local governments in the Okanagan to identify viable sites for a secure correctional centre.
- By June 2011, four communities identified sites within our area of interest: the Osoyoos Indian Band, Lumby, Summerland, and the Penticton Indian Band. The City of Penticton withdrew its proposal after a public opinion poll.
- A number of factors were considered in the evaluation of prospective sites. These included evaluation of project costs, zoning, environmental impacts, accessibility to major transportation routes and the projected completion date.

- In February 2012, the Minister and the Premier announced the selection of the Osoyoos Indian Band site in the Senkulmen Business Park on Highway 97 north of Oliver.
- In December 2013, the procurement process completed, and Plenary Justice was selected as the preferred private partner for the project.
- In March 2014, the BC government and Plenary Justice signed a fixed-price, performance-based agreement to design, build and partially finance the construction, and provide facilities management services for the Centre for the next 30 years.
- The procurement process has resulted in significant savings from funding estimates originally approved for the project, both in terms of the capital construction cost, and the operating costs over the life cycle of the facility.
- The government will retain ownership of the asset and correctional employees will manage and staff the centre.
- Through its design, the Centre is expected to provide a healthy working environment for staff with abundant natural light and improved indoor air quality and reduced energy consumption and water use which will also lower operating costs over time.
- In addition, aligning with the BC government's commitment to green and energy efficient buildings, the correctional centre will be designed to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification.
- Construction of the centre will cost \$192.9 M, with a total capital cost of about \$220 M.
- Construction began in 2014 and will be complete in fall 2016, with a phased in approach to occupy the Centre beginning early 2017.

Contact: Dave Friesen	Phone: 250-952-7301	Mobile: s.17
-----------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Inmate Counts and Capacity Pressures

Suggested Response:

- On any given day in 2014/15 there was an average of 2,403 inmates in our provincial correctional centres.
- Although the sentenced counts have declined over the past few years, the Adult Custody Division continues to face capacity pressures as the remand counts have increased 24% in the last year¹. On April 12, 2015, the capacity, as measured by the ratio of inmates to cells, was 124%.
- What this means is that on average, 84% of inmates were single bunked, and 16% of inmates shared a cell.
- Analysis of the inmate counts over the last 40 years, and the projected growth of the BC population, suggest that counts will rise by 1 to 2 percent each year, increasing capacity pressure. Recent remand growth, however, surpasses that forecast.
- The Corrections Branch has been acting on the need for new cells for nearly a decade and this important investment will continue.
- We have recently completed the first phase of our \$185 M historic capital plan to enlarge our correctional facilities, adding 340 new cells to our capacity. This includes 216 cells at the recently expanded Surrey Pretrial Services Centre, 104 new cells at Alouette Correctional Centre for Women and 20 cells at Prince George Regional Correctional Centre.
- We are also in the process of building a new, state-of-the-art correctional centre in the Okanagan with 378 secure cells that will more than double capacity in the interior.
- It's important to remember that despite capacity levels at any rate, violence can and does occur, even on units with the fewest inmates and with significant security measures and staff training. This is a reflection of a changing offender profile which includes a significant number of individuals with mental health needs and substance abuse issues.

¹ As of April 1, 2014 remand count was 1,141; April 1, 2015 remand count was 1,414, an increase of 24%.

Background:

Average Daily Inmate Count	Remand	Sentenced	Remand and Sentenced	Immigration Hold	Waiting for Transfer to CSC	Total
FY2008-2009	1,440.1	1,198.0	102.5	29.1	34.0	2,803.7
FY2009-2010	1,417.4	1,164.2	88.3	43.7	27.5	2,741.2
FY2010-2011	1,363.6	1,165.6	91.0	171.6	24.5	2,816.3
FY2011-2012	1,302.7	1,174.8	93.6	37.0	24.1	2,632.2
FY2012-2013	1,211.3	1,152.0	79.5	27.7	24.8	2,495.4
FY2013-2014	1,173.0	1,124.5	79.3	24.8	23.6	2,425.2
FY2014-2015	1,287.8	988.6	72.7	28.1	23.2	2,403.1

- Current capacity levels are manageable but not sustainable.
- The expanded Surrey Pretrial Services Centre, as well as the new Alouette Correctional Centre for Women and the 20 cells at Prince George Regional Correctional Centre delivers on our commitment to increase safety for staff and inmates at BC correctional centres in the communities where these centres are located.
- This 216-cell expansion project more than doubled capacity at Surrey Pretrial Services Centre and accounts for nearly two-thirds of the 340 cells built to date under the first phase of our capital expansion plan. In addition, 20 new cells at Prince George Regional Correctional Centre opened in December 2010 and 104 cells at Alouette Correctional Centre for Women opened in October 2012.
- The cornerstone piece of phase 2 in BC Corrections' historic capital expansion plan is the Province delivering on a promise to build a new, state-of-the art correctional centre in the Okanagan.
- Approved in December 2012, construction has begun on the 378-cell Okanagan Correctional Centre and is scheduled to be complete in late 2016.
- The project will create up to 500 direct and 500 indirect jobs during construction and over 240 new, full-time positions upon completion and will more than double correctional centre capacity in BC's Interior.

- These additions build on the 174 interim beds that were added previously across the province to ease capacity pressures.

Contact: Carmen Gress	Phone: 250-387-5361	Mobile: s.17
-----------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Correctional Centre Safety and Violence Statistics

Suggested Response:

- Correctional officers have a very challenging job. I want to commend these peace officers for the incredibly hard work they do every day, on behalf of all British Columbians.
- Both the safety of inmates and the safety of staff are a top priority for BC Corrections. We take all incidents at correctional centres extremely seriously.
- I'm pleased to say that the number of assaults against staff has been on the decline over the last few years. There were 72 incidents in 2014 compared to 105 in 2012.
- With respect to what constitutes an assault, it's important to understand that the majority of incidents do not result in cases of serious injury. For example, an assault can involve an officer being pushed, or sustaining inadvertent injuries when force is required to deal with an inmate who refuses to comply with orders.
- In addition, it's important to understand that the majority of these incidents occurred when the number of staff present was equal to or greater than the number of inmates. For example, when multiple officers have to forcibly extract an inmate from a segregation cell.
- The security measures, building design and staffing models in place at all nine correctional centres throughout BC contribute to the safe management of inmates and the protection of staff.
- Correctional officers are supported at all times by other officers, program staff and supervisors, as well as by officers in control rooms and through the use of technology.
- Staffing decisions are based on risk assessments, which take into consideration the histories and needs of those being supervised, and the physical design of the living unit.
- Through risk assessments, BC Corrections appropriately houses inmates in living units and the staff-to-inmate ratios in those units are set to minimize risk.
- If a violent incident does occur, BC Corrections can charge the inmate internally and police may be contacted to conduct a criminal investigation, which may lead to new criminal charges.

- BC Corrections staff do everything they can to maintain a safe and secure living environment. That said, given the criminal histories of those in custody, and the large number of people with addiction and mental health issues, occasional violent outbursts are a reality.

Background:

- The number of assaults on staff has decreased over the past two years. There were 82 incidents in 2013 and 72 in 2014, compared to 105 in 2012.
- The average number of assaults on staff over the past ten years is 65.
- There is an internal classification process and risk assessment for all incarcerated offenders in order to maximize compatibility and harmony in correctional centre living units and to provide appropriate levels of supervision.
- Inmates who have demonstrated they are high risk can be assigned to an enhanced supervision unit.
- Risk assessments are also conducted on the workplace environment to identify and make recommendations about existing or potential risks of violence in the workplace in order to eliminate or minimize those risks. Risk assessments are conducted proactively and in accordance with the WorkSafeBC Occupational Health and Safety Regulation.
- All BC provincial correctional centres have occupational health and safety committees, with both employer and union representation, where concerns about staff safety at the centre-level are discussed.
- If staff injury occurs, management and union personnel conduct a joint investigation and the results are forwarded to the local occupational health and safety committee, as per WorkSafeBC regulations.
- To date, WorkSafeBC has found our workplaces to be safe; they recently completed inspections of all centres, and all of the orders have been implemented.
- BC Corrections has hired almost 220 additional staff during the first phase of its capital expansion plan, bringing the total of new staff hired since 2007 to 440. That number will increase by 240, for a total of 680, when the Okanagan Correctional Centre is completed.

Incidents of Inmate Assault and Violence on Staff or Other Inmates

Calendar Year	Incidents of Inmate Assaults on Staff	Other Incidents of Inmate Violence Involving Staff ¹	Incidents of Inmate on Inmate Violence	Total Incidents of Violence
2014	70	80	816	966
2013	82	88	1000	1170
2012	105	66	838	1009
2011	82	50	878	1010
2010	39	31	762	832
2009	52	40	731	823
2008	54	22	789	865
2007	61	Not available	976	
2006	53	Not available	1,070	
2005	50	Not available	980	
2004	62	Not available	1,010	

1 Threats, attempted assaults, inmate-on-inmate fights (staff injured responding to incident)

Incidents of Inmate Assaults on Staff by Correctional Centre

Correctional Centre	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Alouette Correctional Centre for Women	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	8	13
Ford Mountain Correctional Centre	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Fraser Regional Correctional Centre	5	4	5	4	1	11	7	14	10	12	5
Kamloops Regional Correctional Centre	6	3	6	9	10	7	5	12	12	15	7
Nanaimo Correctional Centre	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
North Fraser Pretrial Centre	21	26	10	16	14	7	14	30	33	31	9
Prince George Regional Correctional Centre	14	8	18	12	9	5	4	7	21	9	10
Surrey Pretrial Services Centre	9	4	4	12	8	10	3	6	15	3	20
Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre	7	5	9	8	11	9	6	13	10	4	6

Other Incidents of Inmate Violence Involving Staff ¹ by Correctional Centre

Correctional Centre	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Alouette Correctional Centre for Women	Not available				1	0	0	0	1	7	20
Ford Mountain Correctional Centre	Not available				0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fraser Regional Correctional Centre	Not available				3	13	3	10	10	13	6
Kamloops Regional Correctional Centre	Not available				5	6	5	15	22	24	8
Nanaimo Correctional Centre	Not available				0	4	1	1	1	1	0
North Fraser Pretrial Centre	Not available				3	4	7	7	11	18	5
Prince George Regional Correctional Centre	Not available				3	10	7	10	15	12	19
Surrey Pretrial Services Centre	Not available				3	2	5	3	4	5	16
Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre	Not available				4	1	3	4	2	8	6
Provincial Total	Not available				22	40	31	50	66	88	80

1 Threats, attempted assaults, inmate-on-inmate fights (staff injured responding to incident)

Incidents of Inmate-On-Inmate Violence by Correctional Centre

Correctional Centre	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Alouette Correctional Centre for Women	2	5	18	24	20	11	9	15	9	43	30
Ford Mountain Correctional Centre	5	25	21	14	12	13	8	10	7	8	4
Fraser Regional Correctional Centre	162	164	215	176	108	168	141	162	172	187	117
Kamloops Regional Correctional Centre	109	104	119	125	98	85	113	123	74	94	92
Nanaimo Correctional Centre	20	17	37	24	33	47	39	35	31	25	24
North Fraser Pretrial Centre	163	150	158	257	264	196	199	221	215	311	137
Prince George Regional Correctional Centre	96	118	240	141	90	97	91	99	115	114	108
Surrey Pretrial Services Centre	209	200	103	97	69	62	112	118	98	90	186
Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre	244	197	159	118	95	52	50	95	117	128	118
Provincial Total	1,010	980	1,070	976	789	731	762	878	838	1000	816

Contact: Myrna Luknowsky

Phone: 250-387-8672

Mobile: s.17

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Surrey Pretrial Expansion

Suggested Response:

- As part of phase one in our historic capital expansion plan, extensive renovations were made to the Surrey Pretrial Services Centre on time and on budget.
- This state-of-the-art project was completed in 2013 and added 216 new secure cells, bringing the total number to 365, as well as a new health care unit and inmate program space. Renovations were also made to the existing facility.
- This project was one of three Capital Asset Management Plan Phase 1 projects with an approved capital value of \$185 M, adding a total of 340 cells across the province. Other projects included:
 - 20 cell women's unit in Prince George which opened in 2010 (\$11.5 M); and
 - 104 cell secure facility at the Alouette Correctional Centre for Women in Maple Ridge which opened in 2012 (\$43.5 M).
- In addition to dramatically increasing high-security capacity for remanded inmates, the expansion includes a state-of-the-art layout and security features to further enhance the safety of inmates and staff.

Background:

- In 2009 the Metro Vancouver Mayors Committee undertook a site review process which identified four proposed sites to provide additional correctional capacity in the Lower Mainland. The sites were evaluated and in October 2009 an expansion to the existing Surrey Pretrial Services Centre was publically announced.
- The Surrey Pretrial Services Centre expansion project was the Ministry's first public-private partnership in which the private partner, Brookfield Infrastructure Partnerships Surrey, designed, constructed and partially financed the project, and will provide facility maintenance for a 30-year period.
- The project was completed on schedule as follows:
 - Construction of the expansion was completed in November 2013;
 - Renovation of existing facility was completed in early 2014; and
 - Inmate occupancy was phased in over the first few months of 2014.

- The project consisted of three key components:
 - Construction of 216 high security cells organized within six living units, each containing 36 cells, plus new segregation and health care areas;
 - Renovations and upgrades to food services, programs, staff services, administration, visiting, and admission/discharge areas; and
 - Facilities maintenance services for both the existing centre and the expansion.
- The project was completed within the budget approved by Treasury Board:
 - Capital budget approved at \$112.5M (reflecting a \$17.5 M saving from the original \$130 M capital estimate approved by Treasury Board);
 - Estimated total capital cost of \$103M;
 - Ongoing annual Corrections operating cost of \$15.3 M, as approved; and
 - Total staffing of 130 new correctional FTEs, as approved.

Approved Capital Costs (\$M)	Total
Non P3 Capital - Procurement, Insurance, Labour and Disbursements	s.21
P3 Contract - Brookfield Infrastructure Partnerships Surrey	
Provincial Treasury progress payments	
Specialized correctional equipment	
Project Reserve	
Interest During Construction on Provincial Capital	
Total Approved Capital Costs	112.5 ¹
Approved Annual Operating Costs (\$M)	
Ministry of Justice:	
Salaries and Benefits	905
Inmate Services	5.0
Administrative and Other Operating	0.8
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services:	
Facility Costs	9.7
Total Approved Annual Operating Costs	24.9

1 Actual costs as of April 30, 2014 were \$103 M.

Contact: Dave Friesen	Phone: 250-952-7301	Mobile: s.17
-----------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

WorkSafeBC Inspections of Correctional Centres

Suggested Response:

- Between October 2012 and December 2013, WorkSafeBC conducted inspections of all of BC's nine correctional centres, resulting in 59 orders being issued.
- BC Corrections has complied with all 59 orders issued by WorkSafeBC, using the recommendations as an opportunity to further enhance and fine-tune their already high standards.
- All of BC's correctional centres have an active Occupational Health and Safety Committee with representation from both the employer and the union, which meets monthly to address any concerns with safety.
- BC Corrections is committed to working with the BCGEU to ensure our work environments are as safe and secure, as possible, for all employees.

Background:

- WorkSafeBC completed the inspection of all nine provincial correctional centres in December 2013. A total of 59 orders were issued and all have been implemented.
 - Fraser Regional Correctional Centre – 11 orders (Inspected in October 2012).
 - Surrey Pretrial Services Centre – 8 orders (Inspected in November 2012).
 - Ford Mountain Correctional Centre – 8 orders (Inspected in February 2013).
 - North Fraser Pretrial Centre – 9 orders (Inspected in April 2013).
 - Alouette Correctional Centre for Women – 5 orders (Inspected in June 2013).
 - Kamloops Regional Correctional Centre – 6 orders (Inspected in September 2013).
 - Prince George Regional Correctional Centre – 7 orders (Inspected in October 2013).
 - Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre – 3 orders (Inspected in November 2013).
 - Nanaimo Correctional Centre – 2 orders (Inspected in December 2013).
- The goal of WorkSafeBC's inspections was to assist the centres in achieving regulatory compliance.

- The inspections focused on the following three key areas:
 1. Workplace accountabilities, responsibilities, and supervision;
 2. Violence in the workplace; and
 3. Blood and body fluid (infectious disease) exposure.
- The orders written at the centres inspected were primarily concerned with:
 - Reviewing and updating violence in the workplace risk assessments;
 - Completion of an exposure control plan for biological agents;
 - Completion of accident/ incident reports without delay; and
 - Ensuring workers receive the associated training required to safely perform their duties.

Contact: Myrna Luknowsky	Phone: 250-387-8672	Mobile: s.17 _ _ _ _ _
--------------------------	---------------------	------------------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Electronic Supervision

Suggested Response:

- Ministry staff recently delivered a report to me, providing an overview of North American best practices, as well as recommendations for the future of electronic monitoring in BC.
- Based on the results of this internal report, we are exploring potential options for improving our current model and I am committed to sharing any actions that may come as a result of this review.
- BC Corrections uses electronic monitoring to assist in the supervision of offenders when it is a court-ordered condition.
- The court imposes conditions based on the risks associated with the individual, as well as other factors.
- Generally, electronic supervision is used to monitor an individual's compliance with curfew or house arrest conditions.

Background:

- On any given day in Fiscal Year 14/15, there was an average of 53 persons on electronic monitoring, of which 40 were serving conditional sentences and 13 were bail clients. ^{s.15}
- Typically, electronic supervision is a condition of a community sentence imposed by the court.
- The table below provides the average daily number of clients in BC under electronic supervision over the past six fiscal years.

Fiscal Year	Clients Daily Average
2009/10	172
2010/11	146
2011/12	119
2012/13	82
2013/14	75
2014/15	52

- The number of electronic supervision cases has declined, though no studies have been conducted to determine why. This may be due to a variety of reasons such as changes to the Criminal Code relating to conditional sentence orders, judicial sentencing practices and the decline in the number of people who have been sentenced to a period of community supervision. There have been no changes to the program's availability over this time period.
- An RFP will be completed by May 1, 2015 to replace older electronic monitoring technology with a suite of new tools, including GPS enabled devices and programmable no-go zones.
- Electronic supervision using GPS devices does not stop someone determined to commit a crime. The ability of police to respond to after-hours alarms indicating a high risk offender has entered a no-go zone will be based on available police resources.
- The costs of electronic supervision technology have come down in the past few years. Pricing estimates provided by vendors are approximately s.17
s.17
- The average annual cost for the existing Electronic Monitoring Program, exclusive of taxes and expenses, is \$463,637 per annum. This figure does not include staffing or facility costs for the Central Monitoring Unit.

Contact: Bill Young	Phone: 250 387-1563	Mobile: s.17
---------------------	---------------------	--------------

**Ministry of Justice
Estimates 2015/16 Briefing Book**

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

Estimate Notes

1. Civil Forfeiture – Recover Targets
2. Administrative Forfeiture
3. Human Trafficking
4. Victims of Crime Act – Victim Surcharge Account
5. Victim Services and Crime Prevention Fact Sheet
6. Domestic Violence Units
7. Procurement Strategy for Contracted Programs

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Civil Forfeiture – Recovery Targets

Suggested Response:

- The Civil Forfeiture Office, similar to all branches of government, is assigned a budget at the start of each fiscal cycle.
- The Office's budget specifically covers both recoveries from forfeitures and expenditures to run the program. The Office is legally required to be self-sustaining, so setting a budget ensures the Office is fiscally disciplined and can support its operations and staff from year to year.
- All recoveries from forfeitures are deposited to the Civil Forfeiture Account.
- Forfeited funds which are recovered in excess of the budget are available to be used for additional grants beyond what was originally assigned in the budget which is currently set at \$1.282 M.
- Due to the overall success of the program, the Office has consistently been able to operate within budget.

Background:

- The Civil Forfeiture Act was passed in 2005 with the purpose of removing the tools and proceeds of unlawful activity and to return a portion of these funds back to communities in BC who are impacted by criminal activity.
- The Office has been in operation since 2006 and to date has forfeited over \$53 M, primarily houses, cash and cars involved in organized crime and drug trafficking activity.
- To date, the Office has disbursed over \$21 M in Crime Prevention Grants and Victim Compensation payments. On April 7, 2015, the Minister announced the disbursement of \$5 M in grants for fiscal 2014-15. In total, this represents more than \$1 in every \$3 forfeited.
- s.12

Contact: Lynda Cavanaugh	Phone: 604-660-5272	Mobile: s.17
--------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE**Administrative Forfeiture****Suggested Response:**

- Our Civil Forfeiture Office accepts referrals from police and targets the profits and tools of unlawful activity.
- There are significant checks and balances in place to ensure fairness, including oversight from the courts on all settlements and decisions.
- Administrative forfeiture is a streamlined, more cost-effective alternative to the full civil forfeiture process that greatly reduces the Province's legal costs, making it more viable to pursue low-value items and small amounts of cash commonly seized from drug dealers, gang members and other organized criminals.
- Disputing a claim of administrative forfeiture in BC simply requires a sworn Affidavit, that the property in question was obtained lawfully, be mailed back to the Civil Forfeiture Office within two months.
- Unlike other provinces, British Columbia has set an upper limit of \$75,000 on its administrative forfeiture process.

Background:

- The administrative forfeiture became law in July 2011.
- The administrative forfeiture process operates as follows:
 - Police refer a file involving seized assets valued at less than \$75,000 in total;
 - The Office reviews and accepts the file in accordance with their file acceptance policy;
 - A registered letter is sent to all known claimants to the assets including the necessary forms and instructions on how to file a dispute within the required time period;
 - An ad is placed in a local newspaper where the items were seized providing details of the seizure and instructions on how to dispute;
 - A claimant may file a dispute by returning a sworn statement outlining the basis of their claim to the Office;

- The Office reviews the dispute and available file information and determines whether to terminate forfeiture proceedings or refer the matter to legal counsel to pursue civil forfeiture through the courts.
- To date: over 1,100 Administrative Forfeitures totalling more than \$5.6 M.

Contact: Lynda Cavanaugh	Phone: 604-660-5272	Mobile: s.17
--------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Human Trafficking

Suggested Response:

- BC is a national leader in the fight against human trafficking and takes its commitment to combating human trafficking seriously.
- In 2013, we launched BC's Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking, which set our priorities and actions for the next three years, and in July 2014, we reported on our progress. The second year status update will be released in spring/summer 2015.
- BC is making significant progress on raising the public's awareness of human trafficking and has the most accessible training in Canada for service providers involved in combating human trafficking and assisting trafficked persons.
- In 2014, the Province launched a second edition of BC's Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons online training course Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune, which means more service providers have received training in this important area.
- The Office is dedicated to working in partnership to assist and protect trafficked persons and has been providing advice and support to communities and agencies regarding human trafficking since 2007.

Background:

B.C.'s Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking

- Publically released on March 15, 2013, the Action Plan focuses on preventing and addressing trafficking of youth for sexual exploitation; vulnerable workers; and the domestic trafficking of Aboriginal youth and women.
- The Plan highlights actions to raise awareness; provide training and education; foster community-led responses and improve service coordination to trafficked persons. The development of the Plan was informed by stakeholder consultations, recent reports, research and the Office's history coordinating BC's response to human trafficking.
- On July 21, 2014, a one year status report was released on the Office's website to provide information on Office's activities in 2013/14 to meet short term outcomes identified in the plan.

- The Status Report outlines the progress that has been made after one year of implementation of the Action Plan. Some highlights include:
 - Public launch of the second edition of the Office's online training course Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune (April 2014);
 - "Train the Trainer" workshops on human trafficking in six BC communities, reaching over 90 service providers (April 2013-March 2014); and
 - \$1 M in funding to communities for projects that prevent the sexual exploitation of youth and human trafficking (March 2014).
- Many of the activities contained in the Status Report were supported through grant funding from civil forfeiture. Additional funding was leveraged with support from the Federal Department of Justice Victims Fund, Public Safety Canada, the Canadian Women's Foundation, and WelcomeBC.
- The second year status report will outline the progress made to implement longer term actions identified in the plan.

Key Highlights

- Since 2011, the Office has provided more than \$1.4 M to organizations in BC to address issues of human trafficking and sexual exploitation through civil forfeiture proceeds. This year, Civil Forfeiture Office grant funding was targeted at a number of initiatives related to addressing violence against women, including dedicated funding to support community projects that prevent sexual exploitation and human trafficking of vulnerable girls and women, in particular, the prevention of domestic trafficking of Aboriginal girls and women.
- The Province provides more than \$70 M in annual funding to programs across BC that provide assistance to victims of crime, women and children impacted by violence, and trafficked persons. Staff of the VictimLink BC phone line have been trained on indicators of human trafficking and respond to calls for assistance from trafficked persons and service providers province-wide.

Prevalence of Human Trafficking

- The RCMP continues to investigate cases of human trafficking in BC.
- Due to the hidden nature of the crime, most human trafficking activities are undetected or unreported.
- However, the Office has assisted in more than 200 cases involving potentially trafficked persons since July 2007. For example, providing information about temporary residence permits, coordinating shelter and medical care, and liaising with RCMP's Human Trafficking Coordinator.

Recent Human Trafficking Court Cases

- On September 14, 2014, Reza Moazami was found guilty of 30 offences related to the prostitution, exploitation and sexual assault of eleven young women in the Lower Mainland of BC. The case included BC's first human trafficking conviction under the Criminal Code of Canada for recruiting, transporting and controlling the movements of one of the young women for the purposes of sexual exploitation. The judge found that Mr. Moazami created an atmosphere of fear among the girls who worked for him as prostitutes, maintaining strict control over their movements and behaviours, including making them fear police. Further, the judge found that one of the young women was essentially a "piece of property that belonged to him." Sentencing is expected later this year.
- The Orr/Huen trial, which involved allegations of human trafficking of a nanny from the Philippines into Canada (domestic servitude), was concluded in June 2013 with a conviction by jury. It is the first time in Canada where a person has been convicted of human trafficking involving domestic servitude. Recently Mr. Orr has been granted a new trial by the BC Court of Appeal.
- Recently, the BC Human Rights Tribunal awarded a live-in caregiver \$55,000 for lost wages and injury to dignity for discrimination on the basis of a number of enumerated grounds in the BC Human Rights Code for a case of human trafficking that involved both forced labour and sexual services perpetrated by a BC family.

Changes in the Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons

- An operational decision was made in July 2011, to integrate the Office into the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch. The \$300,000 budget has been absorbed into the operational budget of the Branch and will continue to be used to support the Office's work going forward. The budget for the Office was not cut.
- The Office remains a distinct entity with its own mandate within the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch.
- Supports such as finance, administration, policy and human resources are now provided by Branch staff, which allows the specialized Office team to focus on human trafficking prevention, protection and prosecution
- A significant number of Branch staff have completed the Office's online training course "Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune" to further integrate the issue into Branch operations and additional staff have committed to complete the training by the end of 2014/15.

Contact: Lynda Cavanaugh	Phone: 604-660-5272	Mobile: s.17
--------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Victims of Crime Act – Victim Surcharge Account

Suggested Response:

Victim Surcharge Account

- There is a balance in the Victim Surcharge Account, and it is being drawn down incrementally every year. The balance has decreased from a peak of \$47.140 M on March 31, 2009 to \$39.132 M as of March 31, 2015.
- In fiscal year 2015/16 it is estimated that \$12 M will flow into the Victim Surcharge Account while \$13.504 M will be expended from the account.
- While there remains a balance in the Account, the annual budget provided for services to victims of crime far exceeds the annual revenue and balance of the account. The government of BC provides over \$70 M annually in funding for service to support victims of crime including women and children impacted by domestic violence.

Victim Surcharge Increase on Criminal Code Offences (federal legislation)

- In October 2013, the federal government made amendments to the Criminal Code to double the federal victim surcharge on Criminal Code offences from the current 15% to 30% and to ensure the surcharge is automatically applied in all cases.
- Preliminary analysis suggests there is a modest 26% increase in federal victim surcharges in 2014/15 compared to 2013/14.
- The federal victim surcharge currently accounts for only 5.4% of all victim surcharges collected (\$636,593 of the \$11.770 M collected in 2014/15). The rest of the victim surcharge comes from provincial surcharges, primarily on provincial fines such as traffic tickets (\$10.765 M in 2014/15).
- Any increased funds will continue to be collected into the Victim Surcharge Account to support services and initiatives that benefit victims of crime in BC.

Provincial Fine Option Program to Pay Off Victim Surcharges

- BC does not have a provincial fine option program that allows offenders to satisfy a financial penalty by earning credits for work.

- We recognize there are situations where someone will be unable to pay the surcharge. If an offender is unable to pay, they may apply to the court to extend the time period in which to pay, or ask to serve a period of time in custody in lieu of paying the surcharge.
- Regarding the rationale for any changes to judges' discretion to impose the surcharge, we would refer you to the federal government.

Background:

- In 1996, the Victim Surcharge Special Account was established under the Victims of Crime Act to receive victim fine surcharges levied on criminal offences and on fines imposed for violations of provincial offences, such as motor vehicle offences.
- The Act specifies that funds in the Account are to be used to provide services and initiatives that benefit victims of crime and further the goals of the Act.
- Approved annual spending of victim fine surcharge revenue is \$13.504 M for the following:
 - \$9.816 M allocated to frontline services for victims;
 - \$1.688 M to Criminal Justice Branch for the processing of victim impact statements; and
 - \$2.0 M to the Rick Hansen Foundation as required by the British Columbia Neurotrauma Fund Contribution Act for spinal cord injury research.
- Historically, revenues into the Account exceeded approved annual expenditures and as a result, a significant balance accumulated.
- Accessing the balance in the Account has historically been challenging because, like other special accounts, expenditures from the Account's accumulated surplus are considered part of the Ministry's operating budget. As a result, increased spending from the Account directly impacts the Ministry's fiscal position. Any plan to spend from the Account's prior year surplus balance requires Treasury Board approval.

Contact: Lynda Cavanaugh	Phone: 604-660-5272	Mobile: s.17
--------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Victim Services and Crime
Prevention Fact Sheet

2015/16 Total Operating Budget \$40.143 M¹ with 84 FTEs

CRIME VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	BUDGET – \$12.343 M
Crime Victim Assistance Program	Annual funding of \$12.343 M is allocated for providing financial assistance and other benefits to victims of crime, their immediate family members, and witnesses to help them with costs and physical and emotional recovery.

VICTIM SERVICE PROGRAMS	BUDGET – \$12.435 M
Victim Service Programs (excludes Provincial Services, see p. 3)	<p>Annual funding of \$12.435 M² is provided to 164 victim service programs, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 91 police-based victim service program (\$4.866 M) provide services to victims of all crime • 70 community-based victim service programs (\$6.878 M) provide services primarily to victims of family and sexual violence • 2 province-wide telephone helplines including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VictimLink BC Helpline (\$515,000) ○ BCCEAS Elder Support Helpline (\$70,000) • The Provincial Protective Measures Unit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vancouver Police Board (\$70,000); and ○ Family Services of Greater Vancouver (\$36,000).

¹ Includes \$9.817 M in internal recoveries and \$300,000 in external recoveries. Actual approved expenditures are therefore closer to \$50.260 M.

² Excludes budgeted negotiated wage increases related to 2014-2019 community social services collective agreements.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PROGRAMS	BUDGET – \$16.511 M
Counselling Programs	<p>Annual funding of \$12.964 M³ is provided to 185 programs that provide counselling to women fleeing violence in their relationships and children who witness abuse including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 94 Stopping the Violence Counselling Programs (\$7.914 M) provide individual and/or group counselling for women who have experiences childhood abuse, sexual assault and violence in their relationships • 86 Children Who Witness Abuse Counselling Programs (\$5.050 M) provide group and individual counselling for children ages 3 – 18, who have witnessed abuse, threats or violence in the home
Outreach Programs	<p>Annual funding of \$3.547 M⁴ is provided to 66 Outreach Service Programs to identify and connect women in crisis with the supports they need. Outreach Services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55 Outreach Service Programs (\$2.485 M) help women identify and access the services they need by providing supportive counselling, information and referrals, and accompaniment and transportation to other necessary services • 11 Multicultural Outreach Service Programs (\$1.062 M) provide services to 10 communities in up to 24 languages to ensure immigrant and visible minority women receive assistance by workers who speak their own language and are familiar with their culture

³ Excludes budgeted negotiated wage increases related to 2014-2019 community social services collective agreements.

⁴ Excludes budgeted negotiated wage increases related to 2014-2019 community social services collective agreements.

PROVINCIAL SERVICES	BUDGET – \$774,000 ⁵
Provincial Services (including Provincial Associations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual funding of \$221,000 is provided to the Ending Violence Association of BC to provide support and information to community-based victim service programs, stopping the violence counselling programs and outreach and multicultural outreach services in BC. • Annual funding of \$116,000 is provided to Police Victim Services of BC to provide support and information to police-based victim service programs in BC. • Annual funding of \$97,000 is provided to the BC Society of Transition Houses to provide support and information to CWWA programs in BC. • Annual funding of \$320,000 is provided to the Ending Violence Association of BC for the Community Coordination for Women's Safety program, which works with communities province-wide to ensure coordination of women's safety initiatives. • Annual funding of \$20,000 is available through Legal Services Society to provide legal representation for victims when defence counsel requests access to victim records.

⁵ Excludes budgeted negotiated wage increases related to 2014-2019 community social services collective agreements.

CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY	BUDGET – \$375,000
Division-funded Crime Prevention Programs/Initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Crime Prevention Association • MAP Van for Sex Trade Workers • BC Crime Stoppers • Block Watch Society of BC 	Annual funding of \$375,000 is provided as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$134,000 • \$200,000 • \$14,000 • \$27,000
Federal partnerships on Crime Prevention Programs/Initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Crime Stoppers (Tip Line) 	Funding of \$50,000 is leveraged as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$50,000 (RCMP; Division recovery)
Community-based Restorative Justice Programs (Community Accountability Programs)	Funding of \$150,000 supports approx. 50 ongoing volunteer community-based restorative justice programs.

CIVIL FORFEITURE GRANT FUNDING PROGRAM	2014/15 Funding – \$5 M to support 292 initiatives
Grant Funding (through civil forfeiture) was provided in 2014/15 to support the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violence Free BC (Addressing Violence Against Women) • Restorative Justice • Community and Youth Crime Prevention • Police Education, Training and Specialized Crime Prevention Equipment 	Grant funding of \$5 M was provided in 2014/15 to support 292 crime prevention and crime remediation initiatives across the province: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3.4 M (175 grants) • \$112,000 (9 grants) • \$742,000 (42 grants) • \$757,000 (66 grants)

VICTIM SURCHARGE SPECIAL ACCOUNT	BUDGET – \$13.504 M
<p>2015/16 Victim Surcharge Special Account (VOCA) Operating Budget: \$13.504 M</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$9.816 M to fund victim service programs • \$2.000 M to Rick Hansen Foundation – BC Neurotrauma Fund • \$1.688 M to Criminal Justice Branch for salaries/operating costs <p>Amount in VOCA Account on March 31, 2015: \$39.132 M Estimated amount in VOCA Account on March 31, 2016: \$37.866 M</p> <p>In 2015/16, expenditures from the VOCA Account are anticipated to exceed revenues into the account by \$1.504 M, further drawing down the balance in the account.</p>	

Contact: Lynda Cavanaugh	Phone: 604-660-5272	Mobile: s.17
--------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Domestic Violence Units

Suggested Response:

- Our government understands that domestic violence constitutes a serious and complex criminal problem that has adverse impacts on families and communities across BC. We are taking steps to ensure women and children are protected when domestic violence occurs.
- Government supports several specialized responses to domestic violence, including Domestic Violence Units.
- Units take on the highest-risk domestic violence cases, providing an integrated approach to supporting victims and holding offenders accountable.
- This model brings together, in one location, police, community-based victim services and, in some communities, a child protection worker, to improve coordination and collaboration in the highest risk cases.
- With the recent opening of Nanaimo and Surrey's newly integrated Domestic Violence Unit, the number of existing Units in the province is now seven.
- Domestic Violence Units are an excellent example of community and police working in partnership to support victims who are at risk.
- In 2014, organizations received over \$1 M in civil forfeiture funding to support existing and new Domestic Violence Units in the province.
- In 2015, organizations received over \$75,000 in civil forfeiture funding to develop or enhance existing Domestic Violence Units in the province and over \$148,000 to develop or enhance Inter-agency Case Assessment Teams and other coordinating committees on violence against women in relationships.

If asked about ongoing funding for Domestic Violence Units

- Government committed to expanding the number of Domestic Violence Units in BC. Since the summer of 2014, we have supported the opening of three new units in Kelowna, Surrey and Nanaimo. We now have Units in seven communities: Vancouver, New Westminster, Abbotsford, Kelowna, the Capital region, Nanaimo and Surrey.
- Government will continue to contribute funding to support the successful operation of Domestic Violence Units in BC.

If asked about Interagency Case Assessment Teams

- Interagency Case Assessment Teams bring together service providers from various sectors (police, victim services, Ministry of Children and Family Development, transition houses and others) to share information, identify risks and safety plan for specific high risk domestic violence cases. There are over 20 Teams across BC.
- Because they are usually located in smaller communities which do not have the same volume of domestic violence cases as urban centres, Teams do not involve physically co-locating police, community-based victim services (unlike Domestic Violence Units). Instead the team comes together as/when required.
- In January 2014, through funding from the Federal Government, the Province provided \$90,000 in grants for Teams in communities across the province to engage immigrant and refugee communities, and settlement service providers in response to high risk cases of domestic violence.

If asked about the difference between a Domestic Violence Unit and an Interagency Case Assessment Team

- Both are a system of response to highest risk domestic violence cases.
- Domestic Violence Units are typically best suited to communities with a larger population and a workload that merits day-to-day co-location of partners.
- Unit staff, which are comprised of police, community-based victim service workers and in some cases Ministry of Children and Family Development child welfare workers, typically work out of the local police department/detachment, which allows immediate triage of incoming cases to ensure coordinated safety planning and system response.
- Interagency Case Assessment Teams are usually located in smaller communities which do not have the same volume of domestic violence cases as urban centres. They do not involve physically co-locating partners and instead, a team of people comes together as and when required.

If asked about why DVUs are not in every region

- DVUs are suitable for larger urban areas where the population size warrants a dedicated unit, whereas ICATS serve smaller centres appropriately as teams can work together as needed.
- There are enhanced DV responses in most communities through DVUs, ICATS and other coordinating committees on violence against women in relationships.

- Community Coordination for Women's Safety (CCWS) program (\$320,000 annually), which assists BC communities to develop new models or improve upon existing models of cross-sectoral coordinated responses to violence against women including domestic violence and sexual violence.
- CCWS is currently working with government/ministry and police partners to develop a Best Practices Guide for ICATS.

Background:

- Numerous reports and coroner's inquests have called on the justice system to work in a more integrated fashion, with some reports specifically referencing the establishment of Domestic Violence Units.
- The government of BC publically committed to supporting Domestic Violence Units in the White Paper on Justice Reform, the Provincial Plan on Domestic Violence and, more recently, in the Violence Free BC Strategy.
- In high risk cases of domestic violence, where there is significant potential of serious bodily harm or death, Units are widely recognized as a best practice for supporting victims and holding offenders accountable.
- Unit staff typically work in the same room together, which allows immediate triage of incoming cases to ensure coordinated safety planning and system response.

Contact: Lynda Cavanaugh	Phone: 604-660-5272	Mobile: s.17
--------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Procurement Strategy for Contracted Programs

Suggested Response:

- We recognize the dedication and hard work of contracted community service providers, and the value of the supports they provide to victims of crime.
- Contracts for these services must be awarded in a fair, transparent, and accountable manner that is aligned with government procurement policy and best meets the needs of victims of crime in BC.
- The Ministry of Justice is undertaking a multi-phase consultation initiative to prepare contracted service providers who deliver victim service and violence against women programs for the process of open procurement.
- We are working to ensure service providers are informed and prepared for the upcoming changes:
 - We've met in-person with service providers across BC to hear their thoughts, concerns, and input.
 - We have committed to posting a draft procurement plan for additional feedback and comments in the spring of 2015.

If asked about Service Providers' Questions or Concerns about the Ministry's Procurement Plans

- This is exactly the kind of information we hoped the consultation phase would identify and it's why feedback from the service providers is such an important part of this process.
- We recognize this will be a change for many service providers, but we also know that the vast majority of them are well-versed in open procurement – as it is the standard across government.
- We're deliberately taking it slow so that we get it right. Service providers will have an opportunity to comment on the draft Procurement Plan and we are phasing the procurement itself over three years.
- Throughout this process we are committed to ensuring the best possible services for victims of crime in our province.

If asked about Why We Are Going to Open Procurement Now

- In recent years, the majority of contracts for these services have been direct awarded to agencies without an open process.
- In order to align with government procurement policy, we are moving towards a process to ensure contracts for these services are awarded in a fair, transparent and accountable manner.

If asked if there Will Be Help for Organizations Through This Process

- We know that many organizations have concerns about procurement and as part of the consultation process we will listen to these concerns. We are committed to ensuring all organizations are informed and prepared for future procurement processes.

If asked about Who Will Be Able to Bid on Contracts

- There are no restrictions on who can bid on contracts.
- Successful proponents will be required to demonstrate their capacity and experience to deliver the services as well as identify their experience in providing services within the service area.

If asked about Why This Process Also Involves the Development of a New Funding Formula

- A new funding formula will ensure that funding is fairly and equitably distributed across the province and that it is allocated in a manner that is responsive to demand for services.
- Challenges have been identified with the way in which funding is currently distributed across the province.

If asked about Whether This Process will Result in the Elimination of Services

- No services will be eliminated as a result of this process.

Background:

- The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch is leading the Services to Victims of Crime initiative, a three-phase project that will lead to the development of a procurement strategy for over 400 contracted victim service and violence against women counselling and outreach programs operated by nearly 200 service providers in the province.
- Phase 1 of the initiative commenced with an online survey of 200 contracted service providers in May 2014.
- Phase 2 involved a series of eight regional, in-person consultation sessions held in October, November and December 2014 across the province. The ADM and Program Director, along with several support staff, hosted each session.
- These sessions were focused on getting further feedback from contracted service providers on specific issues pertaining to program design and service delivery, a new funding formula for contracted programs, and plans for open procurement.
- The sessions were well attended and the dialogue was informative and often spirited, with service providers offered the opportunity to raise concerns about the process. Ministry staff were able to address many of these concerns, and committed to continuing open dialogue and transparency throughout the process.
- The evaluation feedback received at the end of each session was very positive, indicating that the sessions were well received. Consistently, comments indicated that:
 - Information presented was clear, informative and helpful towards understanding the process;
 - The opportunity to have questions answered and concerns addressed was appreciated; and,
 - The chance to meet face to face with Ministry representatives and other service providers from across the region was valuable.
- As with the Phase 1 survey, staff prepared a summary report of the Phase 2 regional consultation sessions highlighting what was heard from service providers.
- In Phase 3, staff are currently developing a draft procurement plan, which will incorporate feedback heard from the previous phases and include the following information:
 - Draft Request for Proposal documents;
 - Proposed procurement timeframes and activities; and
 - A new draft funding formula.

- The Ministry expects to have a draft plan developed and distributed for comment in the spring of 2015, giving another opportunity for service providers to provide input. Any final input/feedback will be considered when finalizing the procurement plan.

Contact: Lynda Cavanaugh	Phone: 604-660-5272	Mobile: s.17
--------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Final Update Report

Suggested Response:

General

- Under the leadership of Premier Christy Clark, our government made an immediate commitment to consider all of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry's recommendations directed at the Province.
- On December 4, 2014, we released a final update report on the recommendations of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry and work is now substantively completed or underway on the major themes of the missing women report, including:
 - Compensation and Healing;
 - Improvements to Policing;
 - Safety for Vulnerable Women; and
 - Supports in Missing Person's Investigations
- Meaningful investment, collaboration, violence prevention work, improved policing practices and compensation to the children of the murdered and missing women are hallmarks of our action to date.
- We've focused our efforts on the recommendations that are action-oriented and while this may be our final official update, we are very clear that this work must not end – it will continue and is actively underway.

If asked about how this can be the final update report

- While this may be our final official update report, we want to be very clear that this work will continue and must not end.
- We remain committed to moving forward and continually improving the situation for vulnerable women in our province.

- Examples of our continuing action include: review of how policing is structured and funded; development of justice-specific cultural competency training, and integrating cultural competency and bias-free policing training into training curricula, development of provincial policing standards on missing persons investigations, major case management and others.
- Government's response to the recommendations is also connected to other work that remains ongoing, such as the BC Policing and Community Safety Plan, Provincial Domestic Violence Action Plan, and the recently released Violence Free BC Strategy.

If asked about how many of the recommendations are completed

- Work is underway or completed on over 75 per cent of the recommendations and on most of the major themes of the report which were compensation, improvements to policing, safety for vulnerable women, and supports for missing persons.
- The reality is that the recommendations from the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry report require systemic change, which cannot happen overnight.
- We've focused our efforts on the recommendations that are action-oriented. While this may be our final official update, I want to be very clear that this work must not end and we will continue to put in place structures and supports to help ensure something like this tragedy never happens again.
- We know more can and must be done. That's why, this year we followed through on our commitment to introduce a long-term, comprehensive strategy to move towards to address violence against women with the release of the Violence Free BC Strategy.

If asked about recommendations we are not pursuing

- We prioritized those recommendations that support responsive action, such as expanding services, enhancing policy and practice and increasing service provider knowledge.
- The approach has helped to maximize the effectiveness of response given the breadth and scope of the recommendations, the most complex of which will take several years to implement.
- There are a few recommendations that we will not be pursuing.
- For example, some recommendations for more research won't be pursued.
- We have a large amount of information already from the Inquiry and other reports and so we will continue to focus specifically on those recommendations that are action-oriented.

- Other recommendations we won't pursue are being addressed through work currently underway in other areas of the Ministry.
- For example, there are recommendations to create a provincial partnership committee. While we won't be setting up a partnership committee, we are working collaboratively in areas such as provincial policing standards on missing persons investigations by consulting with a standing Advisory Committee on policing standards.

If asked about Transportation along Highway 16

- See separate Estimates note on Highway 16 – Status Update.

Background:

- On December 17, 2012, Forsaken – The Report of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry (MWCI Report) was released. The MWCI Report discusses the findings of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry and outlines a series of recommendations for action.
- Since the release of the report, a substantial amount of work has been undertaken to implement the recommendations and to ensure the safety and security of vulnerable women in BC.
- In November 2013, the BC government released a status report on activities in response to the recommendations and continued to build on that work.
- On December 4, 2014, the final update report on the recommendations of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry was released. The report details progress made on the report recommendations.
- Actions on the recommendations in the MWCI Report include the following:
 - Passing legislation that will improve police access to relevant information to help locate a missing person sooner. (Missing Persons Act).
 - Developing provincial standards on missing persons' investigations, major case management, inter-agency cooperation and bias-free policing. A standing Advisory Committee on Provincial Policing Standards comprised of police and non-police stakeholders including Union of BC Municipalities, Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the BC Civil Liberties Association, has been established to provide input.

- Providing funding to the Justice Institute of British Columbia to facilitate the integration of cultural competency and bias-free policing core values throughout training curricula for police. (\$205,000).
- Training victim support workers across BC to enhance supports to families of missing and murdered persons.
- Enhancing services for vulnerable women including funding for organizations delivering drop-in and outreach programs that serve vulnerable populations (e.g. WISH) and prevention workshops on sexual exploitation and human trafficking of Aboriginal Youth, including information about the risk factors associated with moving to an urban setting.

Contact: Lynda Cavanaugh, CSCPB	Phone: 604-660-5272	Mobile: s.17
---------------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE**Highway 16 – Status Update****Suggested Response:**

- The Province recognizes the importance of continued effort to improve the safety of travel along northern routes, including Highway 16.
- I understand the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has met with mayors and council, local government representatives, and First Nations leaders in communities along the Highway 16 corridor, to better understand residents' transportation challenges.
- The engagement process revealed that there is no single solution to address transportation issues along the corridor, and a "one size fits all" approach isn't the answer.
- The Missing Women Commission of Inquiry recommendation identifies the need for safer transportation options on our northern highways, including Highway 16.
- Much has been done to accomplish this goal, including:
 - Government continues to invest \$4.5 M annually in public transportation options (including the health bus);
 - The expansion of cell phone service along BC Highways – including nearly 160 kilometers along Highway 16 since 2009;
 - Funding provided for ongoing safety workshops; and
 - Hitchhiking awareness programs.
- Thanks to the efforts of northern communities and our government, B.C. is a safer place than it was 15 years ago, and our northern highways are safer than they were 15 years ago.

Background:

- The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) has engaged in a number of activities to determine how best to address the need for safe and reliable transportation between communities along Highway 16. This included face-to-face meetings in summer 2014 with over 80 leaders representing communities, First Nations, local governments and municipalities along the Highway 16 corridor between Prince George and Prince Rupert – to find practical ways to connect residents with services and amenities in major centres.

- As a result of these meetings and previous discussions with stakeholders, MoTI is working with stakeholders to implementing practical, affordable and sustainable solutions to the transportation challenges, and will continue to support local governments to provide local solutions. Actions to date include:
 - A new comprehensive web-based portal, consolidating transportation related information for communities along with Highway 16 corridor into one central location, linking to service providers. The site provides residents with easy access to information on transit, medical transportation, inter-city bus, rail and community-based transportation services.
 - \$75,000 in one time funding to Carrier Sekani Family Services to support increased access to driver education, safe driver, and driver licensing programs for First Nations to ensure more licensed drivers are available to operate vehicles or support existing transportation services in communities. During meetings with leaders, MoTI heard that First Nations communities have access to community vehicles, but lack licensed drivers to operate these vans or buses.

Additional Progress

- Increased individual and community safety through funding to support community-led prevention and awareness activities:
 - Since 2006, \$150,000 in funding has been provided to support implementation of Highway of Tears Symposium Report recommendations, including:
 - development of a new community coordinator position;
 - hosting of Aboriginal youth forums focusing on safety and violence prevention;
 - delivery of key workshops to engage youth on the risks associated with hitch-hiking; and
 - the creation of a youth safety toolkit.
 - Since 2012, \$350,000 has been provided to Carrier Sekani to raise awareness through a media campaign, and to develop, deliver and enhance community safety workshops along Highway 16, which include discussions about safe transportation options.
 - In 2013/14, the Ministry of Justice helped to secure \$54,000 in federal funding for Carrier Sekani to undertake a community consultation on the needs of victims and family members of missing and murdered women along the Highway of Tears.
 - In March 2014, a \$110,000 in grant funding was allocated to further support the safety of vulnerable Aboriginal women and girls during their transition from rural to urban communities.

- Earlier intervention through targeted RCMP engagement and outreach to hitchhikers:
 - Members of the RCMP in BC now engage with hitchhikers they see while on duty, stopping to interact with and distribute safety information kits to all hitchhikers observed along the highway.
 - Since 2011, RCMP North District in Prince George has implemented unique and detailed directives on hitchhiking in order "to enhance the prevention of crime, early detection of missing persons, and public safety through the proactive identification of persons hitchhiking" in that region.
- Enhanced police response through improved investigative resources and tools:
 - Since 2005, \$20 M in funding has been allocated to the Provincial Unsolved Homicide Unit in order to review 18 historical cases of disappearances and murders of women along highways in BC between 1969 - 2006. Almost one-third of these cases have been solved.
 - In response to the 2012 MWCI Report, the Ministry of Justice introduced and recently passed the Missing Persons Act (March 2014), which provides police with the tools necessary to find missing people sooner in cases where there is no criminal connection.
- Safer transitions along northern highways through exploration and expansion of infrastructure:
 - A significant amount of new cellular coverage has been added – nearly 160 kilometers since 2009 – to Highway 16. To date, Highway 16 has approximately 69% cell coverage, allowing drivers and people to use their cell phones to call for emergency services and support if needed.
 - University of Northern BC and the RCMP have a joint study underway to come up with recommendations for hitchhikers, police and communities on how to improve safety, and identify alternatives to hitchhiking.
 - Government commits \$1.5 M per year to BC Transit to partner with local communities for local bus service throughout the week. BC Transit is offering to work with other local governments or First Nations who might wish to partner in a cost-share for similar services.
 - The Northern Health Authority operates a subsidized shuttle service to provide safe transportation to individuals travelling to medical appointments outside their home communities.

Contact: Lynda Cavanaugh, CSCP	Phone: 604-660-5272	Mobile: s.17
--------------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy

Suggested Response:

General:

- Violence against women isn't only a women's issue, it's everyone's issue. It affects entire families and communities.
- The Vision for a Violence Free BC strategy is our path to creating a province where all women have the supports they need to help prevent violence, escape from violent situations, and recover if they've been victims of crime.
- This strategy is our roadmap going forward, combining immediate actions with a long-term vision to end the violence, and to support women whose lives and well-being have been impacted by violence.
- This strategy builds on our work already underway, including an annual investment of more than \$70 M for prevention and intervention services for victims of crime and the completion of the major themes of the missing women's report.
- Our action in 2015 starts with \$5 M in civil forfeiture funding to support anti-violence and prevention initiatives, with a priority focus on violence against women.
- We're also making an ongoing commitment to dedicate a portion of civil forfeiture funds to support the Vision for a Violence Free BC strategy in future years.
- Government recently launched the Say Something campaign – a public awareness social media campaign to encourage British Columbians to take action to stop violence against women.
- Our focus over the next decade will be on priorities that:
 - Challenge beliefs and behaviours;
 - Ensure services are responsive, innovative and coordinated;
 - Support women to rebuild their lives;
 - Address violence against Aboriginal women; and
 - Foster strong relationships and new partnerships.

If asked about funding commitment for the strategy

- This year, our action starts with a \$5 M in civil forfeiture funding to support anti-violence and prevention initiatives with a priority focus on violence against women.
- We have also committed to dedicate a portion of civil forfeiture funds to support the Vision for a Violence Free BC strategy in future years.
- Our government will also continue to leverage other funding opportunities as they arise.

If asked about when actions will be implemented and how we will report out on progress

- Achieving a violence free BC is a bold and ambitious undertaking. The strategy document is a first step towards a longer term objective.
- Over the next decade, we are committed to leading the strategic actions outlined in the strategy to make change and progress in our five priority areas.
- Some of the actions we are starting with this year include: supporting school-based prevention programming, launching a public awareness campaign and supporting Aboriginal communities in efforts to promote healing from the impacts of violence against women
- We are committed to providing strong leadership and making meaningful progress.
- We have established a cross-government leadership committee, chaired by the Ministry of Justice, to be accountable for moving forward and achieving the objectives in this strategy.
- The Committee will identify and prioritize emerging issues, work with partners to develop new actions to support Vision for a Violence Free BC, monitor progress, and help ensure sustained momentum on the issue of violence against women in B.C.
- The work of the Committee will include involving a broad range of partners to shape this work going forward. These partners would include the anti-violence sector, Aboriginal groups, private sector, business and industry.
- The frequency and method of reporting has not yet been determined, however, we have been pleased to report out on our progress to date including:
 - \$5 M in civil forfeiture funding to support anti-violence and prevention initiatives, with a priority focus on violence against women;
 - Launch of the Say Something campaign; and

- The recently announced \$1 M in funding for programming for perpetrators of domestic violence under the three- year Domestic Violence plan which continues momentum on one of the priorities in our Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy, that being, changing attitudes and behaviours.
- We continue to report out on our progress on the plan at significant milestones.

If asked about the development of the strategy

- The Ministry coordinated development of the Strategy in partnership with the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, and the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence which is part of the Ministry of Children and Family Development.
- Development of the Vision for a Violence Free BC strategy was informed by:
 1. A large body of reports and recommendations received by government in recent years (e.g., Highway of Tears Symposium Report; Representative for Children and Youth's Lee and Schoenborn Reports; MACAW's Taking Action report; Violence Against Women and their Children in BC: 33 Years of Recommendations; etc);
 2. Input from a dialogue session with key stakeholders in June 2014;
 3. Stakeholder sessions held in preparation for the Provincial Domestic Violence Plan, BC's Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking, BC's Together to Reduce Elder Abuse Strategy, and the BC Policing and Community Safety Plan; and
 4. Input from cross-ministry partners, including:
 - Ministry of Advanced Education;
 - Ministry of Community, Sport, and Cultural Development;
 - Ministry of Education;
 - Ministry of Health;
 - Ministry of Natural Gas Development (Housing);
 - BC Housing; and
 - Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation.

If asked about the types actions government will take to move towards a violence free BC

- The five key priorities for moving toward a violence free BC, and examples of actions government will focus on to stop violence against women, include:
 1. Challenging beliefs and behaviours.
 - Action: Target new investment in school-based prevention programming to shift attitudes and behaviour around the issue of violence against women and girls.
 2. Ensuring services are responsive, innovative and co-ordinated.
 - Action: Work with post-secondary institutions to explore best practices and approaches to better prevent and respond to the issue of sexual violence.
 3. Supporting women to rebuild their lives.
 - Action: Ensure women who are fleeing abuse and receiving assistance through BC's Employment and Assistance Program are eligible for moving supplements, even when they are living in transition homes.
 4. Addressing violence against Aboriginal women.
 - Action: Work with the signatories to the MOU regarding Stopping Violence Against Aboriginal Women and Girls to establish a joint partners' table to oversee implementation of the MOU commitments.
 5. Fostering strong relationships and new partnerships.
 - Action: Target investments to support innovative partnerships that raise awareness and take action on violence against women, and increase service delivery collaboration and co-ordination, such as through Inter-agency Case Assessment Teams, Domestic Violence Units, Child Advocacy Centres and mobile sexual assault response teams.

If asked about Civil Forfeiture Office funding for this year and priority focus on violence against women

- In February 2015, we committed to starting action on Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy with up to \$3 M in civil forfeiture funding to support anti-violence initiatives, with a priority focus on violence against women.
- Up to \$3 M is available through civil forfeiture funds this year to support anti-violence and prevention initiatives, with a priority focus on violence against women.
- We were pleased to be able to make \$5 M in civil forfeiture funds available.
- Nearly 70% of the available grant funding, or \$3.4 M, has been allocated to support projects through 175 grants that align with the Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy's key priorities including:

- Training and education for service providers - \$777,557 (46 grants);
- School-based prevention programs - \$745, 902 (42 grants);
- Innovative partnerships to address violence against women - \$1,012,688 (40 grants);
- Healing and rebuilding after violence for aboriginal women - \$436,580 (25 grants); and
- Preventing exploitation and human trafficking of women and girls - \$457,445 (22 grants).
- Other civil forfeiture funding streams included:
 - Serving victims through restorative Justice - \$111,921 (9 grants);
 - Community/youth crime prevention - \$74,592 (42 grants)
 - Police education, training and specialized equipment - \$756,601 (66 grants)

If asked about the Say Something campaign

- In support of one of the actions in the Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy, government launched a new awareness campaign on March 6, 2015, to focus attention on the serious issue of violence – specifically domestic violence.
- The campaign - #Say Something – focuses on social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, and offers practical advice and tips to encourage everyone, especially bystanders, to speak up.
- A new website, saysomethingbc.ca, has been created to provide valuable information and resources to users under the categories: I need help, Where to get help, and I want to help.
- The campaign's goals are consistent with the objective of Vision for a Violence Free BC, including raising awareness, changing societal attitudes, linking to existing services, and highlighting government investments in responding to domestic violence.

Background:

- In the February 2014 Throne Speech, government committed to developing a long-term, comprehensive strategy to ensure all women have the supports they need to prevent violence, escape from violent situations and recover from victimization.
- The Vision for a Violence Free BC strategy was released on February 6, 2015, alongside a commitment of \$5 M in civil forfeiture funding in 2014/15 to support anti-violence and prevention initiatives, the opening of a newly integrated Domestic Violence Unit in Surrey, and a recently launched awareness campaign on domestic violence.

CROSS 4

- Implementation of Vision for a Violence Free BC strategy will be led by a newly established cross-government leadership committee, chaired by the Ministry of Justice.
- This committee will identify and prioritize emerging issues, work with partners to develop new actions to support Vision for a Violence Free BC, monitor progress, and help ensure sustained momentum on the issue of violence against women in BC.

Contact: Lynda Cavanaugh, CSCP	Phone: 604-660-5272	Mobile: s.17
--------------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE**Domestic Violence Plan -
Provincial****Suggested Response:**

- Our government recognizes the devastating impact of domestic violence on families and communities and is taking action to ensure women and children are protected when domestic violence occurs.
- In recent years, our government has taken significant steps to strengthen our response to domestic violence. We also recognize that there is always more that can be done to deal with complex issues such as domestic violence.
- We recently released A Vision for a Violence Free BC, a long term strategy to address violence against women in British Columbia. The strategy builds on numerous targeted plans and initiatives developed in recent years to address violence against women, including the Provincial Domestic Violence Plan.
- Released in February 2014, the three-year Provincial Domestic Violence Plan delivers on government's commitment to make BC a safer place for anyone affected by domestic violence.
- Coordinated by the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence, the Plan includes a \$5.5 M commitment to strengthen approaches to addressing domestic violence.
- The Ministry is on track to complete its commitments under the Plan:
 - We have provided more than \$1 M in Civil Forfeiture grants to support Domestic Violence Units. This funding has assisted in the development of new Units in Kelowna, Surrey and Nanaimo as well as the enhancement of existing Units in Vancouver, New Westminster, Abbotsford and the Capital Region.
 - We opened a third Justice Access Centre in Victoria over a year ago.
 - We have finalized a framework for domestic violence courts, which is informing the development of a broader strategy for specialized courts in the province.
 - This past year we provided an additional \$2 M to support justice transformation initiatives with the Legal Services Society. This funding has supported the launch of five legal aid pilot projects aimed at expanding criminal duty counsel and child protection and family legal aid services.
 - We have identified and implemented improvements in communications between Police and Crown Counsel at the charge assessment stage.

- We continue to work with the Community Coordination for Women's Safety program to provide ongoing support to cross-sector initiatives including the development of Interagency Case Assessment Teams, which respond to highest risk domestic violence cases. There are currently over 20 fully operational Teams in the province.
- On April 14, 2015, as part of Prevention of Violence Against Women Week, the provincial government announced a \$1 M investment to provide support and intervention for perpetrators of domestic violence in order to hold them accountable and support changes in behaviours and attitudes.
 - Funding of \$800,000 was provided to Stroh Health Care to develop programming for perpetrators of domestic violence to help them before the conviction or sentencing stage of the criminal justice process.
 - Funding of \$200,000 was provided to the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres to enhance and evaluate culturally appropriate programs for perpetrators of domestic violence.

Ministry of Justice relationship with the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence

- To better coordinate the cross-government response to domestic violence the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence was established in the Ministry of Children and Family Development in March 2012.
- The Provincial Office of the Domestic Violence is responsible for monitoring, evaluating and regularly reporting progress as well as consultation with stakeholders to support a coordinated, systematic approach to domestic violence.
- One of the areas of responsibility for the Ministry of Justice is victim services and violence against women programming and as such, we work closely with the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence to ensure a coordinated response.
- This includes regular reporting on our progress as we work toward completing our specific commitments.

Background:

- The three-year provincial plan was a commitment in the Taking Action on Domestic Violence in British Columbia report, released in October 2012. That report was developed in response to the recommendations made in the Representative for Children and Youth's March 2012 report "Honouring Kaitlynn, Max and Cordon: Make Their Voices Heard Now."

- The Provincial Domestic Violence Plan commits funding of \$5.5 M as follows:
 - \$1 M to help with the development and implementation of additional specialized domestic violence units, which will provide direct services to high-risk families;
 - \$2 M to develop and deliver programs specifically for Aboriginal women, men and children affected by domestic violence;
 - \$1 M to provide support and intervention for perpetrators to hold them accountable and support changes in behaviour and attitude prior to involvement in the criminal justice system; and
 - \$1.5 M in direct supports to women and children for housing and transportation in rural and remote communities.
- The Provincial Office of Domestic Violence coordinated the development of the Provincial Plan, which also includes an Aboriginal response and specific approaches to address the unique needs of immigrant and refugee women and women with disabilities.
- The Ministry of Justice, along with the Ministries of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation; Children and Family Development; Education; Health; Social Development and Social Innovation; and BC Housing, all had an opportunity to contribute to the Plan. In addition, community anti-violence partners and the general public had opportunities to provide input into the development of the Plan.
- The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch coordinated the Ministry of Justice's input into the Provincial Plan and is coordinating the Ministry's quarterly reporting on progress.

Contact: Lynda Cavanaugh, CSCP	Phone: 604-660-5272	Mobile: s.17
--------------------------------	---------------------	--------------

**Ministry of Justice
Estimates 2015/16 Briefing Book**

**RoadSafetyBC
Table of Contents**

Estimate Notes

1. DriveABLE
2. Immediate Roadside Prohibition Program
3. Responsible Driver Program and Ignition Interlock Program Direct Awards
4. Distracted Driving
5. BC Coroners Report on Youth Fatalities – Response

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

DriveABLE

Suggested Response:

- Introduced in BC in 2005, DriveABLE is a functional driver cognitive assessment methodology specifically designed to help determine if drivers with a suspected cognitive impairment are fit to continue driving.
- We realize having to retire your license can result in significant lifestyle changes, so it is not something we take lightly. The Superintendent of Motor Vehicles makes it a priority to balance fairness with his responsibility to assess the medical fitness of BC drivers.
- Two types of assessments are used to determine cognitive impairment, an in-office assessment and an on-road evaluation.
- In concert with the screening tools used by medical practitioners, DriveABLE is currently the main functional assessment tool used to assess a driver's cognitive function as it relates to driving.
- In November 2013, in a meeting with Opposition MLA Nicholas Simons, I indicated that RoadSafetyBC is reviewing the DriveABLE program to ensure it remains a cost-effective and appropriate assessment tool. This work is continuing.
- There are over 3.2 million drivers in BC. In 2014, just over 1,500 drivers were referred to DriveABLE. This number is down from 3,000 in 2013, following a review of the screening requirements.

Background:

- In 2012, a competitive procurement process for the delivery of functional driver cognitive assessment services was conducted, and a three-year contract (to March 1, 2016) was signed with Insight Driving Solutions Inc. (Insight) to deliver assessment services using DriveABLE methodology in BC.
- The administrative services offered by Insight includes scheduling appointments, coordinating payments, setting up remote service locations, and managing relationships with sub-contractors such as healthcare professionals and driving schools.
- Government covers the cost of all in-office and on-road assessments for clients referred by RoadSafetyBC.

- In 2012, a number of program delivery improvements were made to improve the DriveABLE assessment for seniors, clients and stakeholders. These included:
 - Time allocated to in-office assessments was increased from 60 to 90 minutes;
 - Provision for a companion to accompany the driver for the initial orientation was added;
 - Number of communities where DriveABLE assessments were available increased from 15 to 28; and
 - Those who fail the in-office assessment are now offered the opportunity to take an on-road evaluation.

Contact: Corey Bowness	Phone: 250-953-3330	Mobile: s.17
------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Immediate Roadside Prohibition Program

Suggested Response:

- Our goal is to protect public safety and save lives by reducing drinking and driving in BC.
- On September 20, 2010, the Immediate Roadside Prohibition Program was implemented in BC to combat drinking and driving. BC's Immediate Roadside Probation laws – the toughest in Canada when they were introduced – will continue to help ensure more British Columbians get home to their families alive.
- Our groundbreaking approach both deters people from drinking and driving and allows police to immediately remove those drivers who are affected by alcohol from our roads.
- Between September 2010 and June 2014, alcohol-related fatalities have decreased by an unprecedented 54 per cent, compared to the prior five year average. This represents 227 lives saved.
- We committed to reducing alcohol-related motor vehicle fatalities by 35% in three years and we've shattered that goal.
- The BC Court of Appeal has confirmed that the purpose of the Program is to enhance public safety and does not supplant the Criminal Code.
- Bill 15, the Motor Vehicle Amendment Act 2015, passed on April 15, 2015. To be phased in over the next 6 to 12 months, this legislation will maintain the effectiveness of the Province's comprehensive approach to drinking and driving by strengthening Immediate Roadside Prohibition reviews and supporting programs, responding to legal recommendations and court rulings, and making minor housekeeping changes.

Background:

- The Immediate Roadside Prohibition Program requires police to immediately prohibit drivers who have provided a breath sample for analysis by an Approved Screening Device that resulted in the Device registering a 'warn' or 'fail'. Police may also immediately prohibit drivers who fail or refuse, without a reasonable excuse, to provide a breath sample for analysis by a Device. This means that drivers with a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of 0.05 or over (warn), 0.08 (fail) or drivers who fail or refuse to provide a breath sample are subject to the following administrative sanctions:
 - Warn – escalating 3, 7 and 30-day prohibitions for BAC of 0.05 and above;

- Fail – 90-day prohibitions for BAC of 0.08 and above or refusing or failing to provide a breath sample;
 - An administrative penalty up to \$500, and a licence reinstatement fee of \$250;
 - Vehicle impoundment which is mandatory for 30-day and 90-day IRP; and
 - Possible referral by the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles, following a review of the driver's record, to one or both of the remedial programs – Responsible Driver Program and the Ignition Interlock Program.
- Drivers can request a review of the Immediate Roadside Prohibition (IRP), based on grounds prescribed by legislation.
 - On November 30, 2011, Justice Sigurdson upheld the Province's authority to pass the legislation. However, the Court found that the 'fail' Blood Alcohol Concentration provisions infringed s.8 of the Charter because when weighed against the severity of the sanctions, the legislation did not provide a driver with a meaningful opportunity to challenge the Blood Alcohol Concentration test result.
 - Legislative amendments to the Program were passed and came into force on June 15, 2012. These changes applied to both 'warn' and 'fail' IRPs, require the officer to perform additional steps at the roadside, and provide additional grounds for review.
 - Currently, there is a legal challenge of the June 15, 2012, amendments pending.
 - On July 12, 2012, there was a remedies decision in which no remedies were ordered. This decision has been appealed but no hearing date is scheduled as of yet.
 - The appeal of the November 30, 2011, decision with respect to the constitutionality of the Program was heard by the BC Court of Appeal in March 2013. The Court of Appeal released its decision on March 3, 2014, confirming the previous Supreme Court decision.

The BC Court of Appeal determined the legislation was within the Province's jurisdiction, that its purpose and effect is to regulate highways and enhance public safety, and did not infringe on the Federal jurisdiction over criminal law.

- While the Court of Appeal decision did not reverse the finding of a Charter breach to the earlier version of the legislation, this earlier legislation has since been amended and this appeal did not address the amended legislation.
- In September 2014, Justice MacCauley of the BC Supreme Court found that the amended legislation addressed the issue of s.8 of the Charter that was identified in the court decision

of November 30, 2011. He found the 2012 amendments made the legislation fair, the review process robust and the Approved Screening Devices valid instruments.

- On November 27, 2014, the Supreme Court of Canada granted leave for appeal of the Charter challenge and for appeal of an IRP judicial review decision. It is anticipated that this appeal will be held in May 2015.

Contact: Corey Bowness	Phone: 250-953-3330	Mobile: s.17
------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Responsible Driver Program and Ignition Interlock Program Direct Awards

Suggested Response:

- The Responsible Driver Program and the Ignition Interlock Program are part of government's groundbreaking approach to drinking and driving, which has resulted in 227 lives saved and a 54% reduction in alcohol-related motor vehicle fatalities. These are both remedial programs for drivers who have received certain alcohol or drug related prohibitions.
- The current contracts with Stroh Health Care for the Responsible Driver Program and Alcolock Canada for the Ignition Interlock Program are set to expire this year, in the middle of June and the end of September, respectively.
- RoadSafetyBC has indicated its intent to issue one-year contracts to Stroh Health Care and Alcolock Canada to continue to administer the Province's remedial driving programs
- As the Province is considering possible changes to these remedial programs over the next year, these contract extensions will ensure continued service.
- As part of the government's open and fair review process, a Notice of Intent will be posted and any objections to this will be received.
- Our expectation is that we will proceed with a full procurement process in early 2016.

Background:

The Responsible Driver Program

- The Responsible Driver Program is a remedial program for drivers focussed on delivering education and counselling to drivers with certain alcohol or drug related prohibitions or convictions. Screening of drivers determines which component of the program each driver will participate in:
 - An 8-hour education session in a classroom setting, or
 - A 16-hour group counselling program, scheduled over an eight week period.

- The contract with Stroh Health Care was entered into in 2005 after a full procurement process including a Request for Information and Request for Proposals. The initial contract was for a seven year term, ending June 15, 2012. An option to renew for another three year term was utilized; the contract will now expire June 15th, 2015.

Ignition Interlock Program

- The Ignition Interlock Program is a remedial program that involves the installation of an ignition interlock device into a vehicle's ignition system. This device requires the driver of the vehicle to provide a breath sample before attempting to drive, and then at random intervals while the vehicle is turned on. The sample must register an alcohol-free breath or the vehicle will not start. The device records all activity, including attempts to disconnect, bypass or tamper with it.
- In 2005, the Ministry posted a Notice of Intent to directly award Alcolock (formerly Guardian Interlock Systems) the contract for installation, removal and maintenance of Ignition Interlock devices in the Province of BC. At the time Alcolock held numerous patents for interlock devices in Canada and thus no other vendor was capable of meeting the contract requirements. The initial contract was entered into in 2005 for a seven year term, ending September 30, 2012. An option to renew for another three year term was utilized; the contract will now expire September 30, 2015.

Contact: Corey Bowness	Phone: 250-953-3330	Mobile: s.17
------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE**Distracted Driving****Suggested Response:**

- Our goal is to have the safest roads in North America by 2020.
- In recent years, our government has toughened penalties for excessive speeding and distracted driving, banned new drivers from using electronic devices, expanded the use of intersection safety cameras, created integrated road safety units, and enhanced graduated licensing.
- Despite the clear dangers, evidence shows distracted driving continues to be a significant problem in BC.
- I have directed the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles to develop options for addressing distracted driving and I have publicly committed to taking steps to address the problem.
- On October 20 last year, the penalty points increased from zero to three for all drivers caught talking on a handheld device while driving.
- We want people to know these new penalties are more than the cost of a ticket. There are long-lasting effects from having points accrue on a driver's record, including paying a Penalty Point Premium to ICBC or receiving sanctions through the Driver Improvement Program.
- We continue to look at increased fines and other sanctions for distracted driving.
- Government will be reviewing the Motor Vehicle Act's overall fine structure, to ensure all fines are set at the appropriate levels.

Background:

- Research shows that drivers who talk on an electronic device increase their crash risk by at least 3 to 4 times, and that those who text or email while driving increase their crash risk by as much as 23 times.
- Distracted driving has overtaken alcohol and drugs as the second leading contributing factor of traffic fatalities in BC and the Minister has publicly committed to strengthening the penalties for distracted driving.

- The Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators carried out a national survey in September 2012, to determine the prevalence of electronic device use by drivers across Canada.
 - The study found 4.6% of drivers were talking or texting on a hand-held electronic device. In BC, this number was 5.4% of drivers, slightly higher than the national average.
 - Of the BC drivers observed using a hand-held electronic device, this study found that 40% were texting or typing.
- The number of tickets issued for distracted driving has risen every year since the legislation was implemented, from 21,580 violation tickets in 2010 to 54,600 tickets in 2014.
- Financial penalties for electronic device use in Canadian jurisdictions that have distracted driving laws range from a low of \$154 in Quebec and a high of \$578.95 in Nova Scotia. Fines in BC are \$167.
- In addition to the fines, most provinces, including BC, also issue penalty points along with fines. Penalty points vary widely across the provinces.
 - Current driver penalty points, including those for distracted driving, can result in additional sanctions to the driver through ICBC Driver Penalty Premiums, which start at \$175 for 4 penalty points.
 - an assessment through the Driver Improvement Program based on the number of penalty points they accumulate over a two-year period:
 - Experienced drivers may receive warning letters at 9 points and probation letters or prohibitions at 15 points.
 - Drivers in the Graduated Licensing Program face stronger sanctions to ensure that they develop safe driving habits. Prohibitions may be issued after 2 points. Therefore, one distracted driving ticket may result in a prohibition.
 - Although the point thresholds are based on a two-year period, Driver Improvement Program adjudicators may consider a driver's five-year driving history.

Contact: Corey Bowness	Phone: 250-953-3330	Mobile: s.17
------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

BC Coroners Report on Youth Fatalities - Response

Suggested Response:

- I want to thank the Coroners Service, and the many experts who contributed to this review, for their interest in preventing future tragedies on our roads.
- In recent years, our government has toughened penalties for excessive speeding, distracted driving, and drinking and driving, banned new drivers from using electronic devices, expanded the use of intersection safety cameras, created integrated road safety units, and enhanced graduated licensing.
- In turn, we've seen a reduction in the death toll on BC roads, including among young drivers – and our goal is to have the safest roads in North America by 2020.
- We are taking time to consider the report fully, assess the recommendations and advise the Coroner of future plans.

Background:

- On February 11, 2015, the BC Coroners Service Child Death Review Panel released “A Review of Young Driver Deaths, 2004-13.” Citing motor vehicle crashes as the leading cause of death among teens, and speed as a contributing factor in 28% of the 106 young driver deaths it covers, the review contains three recommendations, one directed in part to the Ministry.
- Specifically, recommendation 3 calls on the Ministry, by February 2016, to review the requirements for conducting a pilot project of automated speed enforcement measures, such as “time and distance” and/or “speed on green”, in areas identified as high-risk for crashes, including those involving young drivers. Recommendation 3 also calls on the Ministry, by February 2017, to develop and implement a pilot automated speed enforcement project to evaluate whether automated speed enforcement measures result in a reduction in the number and severity of crashes.
- Automated traffic enforcement is most commonly used in physical environments where it may be difficult, unsafe and/or resource-intensive to conduct traditional enforcement by deploying officers at roadside. Forms of automated enforcement now in place in BC include intersection safety cameras that generate photo-tickets when drivers run red lights at 140 high-crash locations, and automated licence plate recognition (ALPR) in 49 police vehicles,

which identifies to officers when an adjacent vehicle has expired insurance, is stolen or is owned by a prohibited driver. Automated speed enforcement in BC, in the form of photo radar, ended in 2001.

- The CDRU has also called for a review by ICBC of BC's Graduated Licensing Program (GLP). Introduced in 1998, this program was enhanced in 2003, when the time new drivers must spend in GLP was increased and novice stage restrictions were strengthened. In 2010, a ban on the use of electronic devices was added for GLP drivers.
- RoadSafetyBC led the development of the "British Columbia Road Safety Strategy 2015," a framework to reduce fatalities and injuries on BC's roads, with a goal of becoming the safest jurisdiction in North America by 2020.

Contact: Corey Bowness	Phone: 250-953-3330	Mobile: s.17
------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Road Safety Initiative

Suggested Response:

- As part of the Ministry's Justice Reform initiative, and as identified in the February 2013, White Paper (Part Two), Government is designing and implementing the Road Safety Initiative to shift traffic disputes out of court, improve police efficiency, and make the process more accessible for citizens.
- The Road Safety Initiative is led by RoadSafetyBC in conjunction with the Ministry's Information Systems Branch. The project will be implemented in two phases:
 - Phase 1:
 - Electronic roadside ticketing, also called e-ticketing, and online payment;
 - s.12,s.13
 -
 - Phase 2:
 - Introduction of driver notices and implementation of an administrative justice model to remove disputes from courts;
 - Development of business intelligence for more effective enforcement, open data and evidence-based policy development;
 - Risk based fine revenue; and
 - Implement a new driver intervention and improvement model to more effectively intervene with high risk drivers.
- The Initiative is expected to free up court time for higher priority matters, with the following outcomes:
 - improve public safety;
 - provide more effective, timely and efficient access to justice for citizens;
 - allow online payments for citizens;
 - increase enforcement capacity without increasing human resources; and

- improve productivity of staff.

Background:

- Legislative amendments to support the Road Safety Initiative were made in May 2012 (Bill 52). These changes are not in force.

s.12,s.13,s.14

- Implementation of phase 1 will commence in 2015.

Contact: Corey Bowness, RSBC	Phone: 250-953-3330	Mobile: s.17
------------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Mill Explosion Deaths - Inquests

Suggested Response:

- After lengthy discussions with those most closely involved in these distressing deaths, the Chief Coroner determined that community and family needs outweighed other considerations regarding the inquest location, and announced her decision to hold two inquests – one into the two deaths at the Babine Forest Products Mill in Burns Lake, and one into the two deaths at the Lakeland Sawmill in Prince George.
- Public inquest have long been valued as the best way to ensure that the questions that family, survivors and the communities have will be answered, and provide an opportunity for careful and thoughtful recommendations from the inquest juries as to what steps might be taken to prevent future deaths in similar circumstances.
- The first inquest, into the Lakeland explosion, began on March 2, 2015, in Prince George with Chief Coroner Lapointe presiding. The inquest was adjourned at the end of March so that all parties could consider new evidence which had arisen as a result of the questioning of witnesses at the inquest. The inquest will resume on May 11, 2015.
- The Lakeland inquest has so far heard from 47 witnesses, including family members, workers at the site when the explosion occurred, workers who had expressed concerns about the condition of the mill prior to the explosion, mill management, WorkSafe Occupational Health and Safety Officers, Fire Services personnel, explosion experts, academics and many others.
- The second inquest, into the Babine Forest Products explosion, will begin on July 13, 2015, in Burns Lake with Resource Industry Coroner Newell presiding.
- It should be noted that in many ways, a Coroner's Inquest is better equipped to provide answers than is a public inquiry as persons subpoenaed as witnesses at an inquest are required to testify about what they know, and cannot decline to do so. I would strongly encourage the Steelworkers to return to the inquest and continue to participate.

Background:

- Robert Luggi and Carl Charlie died following the explosion at the Babine Forest Products sawmill in Burns Lake on January 20, 2012.
- Glenn Roche and Alan Little died following the explosion at the Lakeland Mills sawmill in Prince George on April 24, 2012.

- The Steelworkers Union withdrew its participation in the inquest in late March to argue that a public inquiry should be held instead. In support of their call for a public inquiry, the Steelworkers Union is circulating a petition to mill workers and communities across the province.

Contact: Lisa Lapointe, Coroners Service	Phone: 250-356-9210	Mobile: s.17
--	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE**Remains of Victims of
Robert Pickton –
Disposition of****Suggested Response:**

- The great majority of the remains of the victims in the Pickton case were returned to their relatives by the Coroners Service in 2010.
- Unfortunately, for unexplained reasons, some small specimens which primarily consisted of powdered bone residue arising from DNA analysis were not returned to the family members of those victims at that time.
- The failure to return these remains in a timely manner has had no impact whatsoever on the criminal process that resulted in the conviction of Mr. Pickton on six counts of first-degree murder in 2007.
- Police and Crown counsel were aware of the existence of these remains throughout, the identified remains were always properly and securely stored, and there is no question that identification of each deceased – accomplished through DNA analysis – was definitive.
- The Coroners Service has made efforts to contact those family members for whom not all remains were returned in 2010 and has extended its apologies to those families that have been contacted.
- Changes have also been made to the practice and policy in the Coroners Service to ensure that this problem could not arise again in future cases.

Background:

- As a result of concerns raised by a family member of one of Pickton's victims, the Coroners Service undertook a thorough review in 2013 of its management of all human remains associated with the investigation.
- This review indicated that some of the remains of six Pickton victims were still being stored by the Coroners Service despite the conclusion of the criminal investigation and the release of custody by police. The remains consisted of miniscule bone fragments and powdered bone.

- To date, there has been contact by the Coroners Service with four of the families. The Coroners Service has been unable to contact the remaining two families.
- There is no satisfactory explanation for the delay in return of all of the remains of all victims which should have been returned to families once identification of the deceased was confirmed and the police investigation was concluded.
- The Coroner with original jurisdiction in the investigation left the agency in September 2012, leaving no information to suggest all of the remains had not been returned. Those connected to the Pickton investigation are no longer with the Coroners Service and the current Chief Coroner and both Deputies were appointed after 2010.

Contact: Lisa Lapointe, Coroners Service	Phone: 250-356-9210	Mobile: s.17
--	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Road Closures following Major and/or Fatal Crashes

Suggested Response:

- No one is happy when any major roadway in the province must be closed for an extended period of time to accommodate a major or fatal motor vehicle incident investigation. This is particularly problematic when the road closed is one for which there is no easy alternative for motorists.
- Investigation of such crashes normally involves the police, one or more Traffic Analysts or Reconstructionists from the RCMP or municipal police force, and, sometimes, other agencies such as WorkSafeBC and/or Commercial Vehicle inspectors. The Coroner is involved when the accident includes fatalities.
- Although it has been suggested that stationing a Coroner in a larger number of communities could reduce the length of road closures, this is unlikely to have any impact on highway closure periods.
- A review of fatal motor vehicle collisions in the Revelstoke/Golden area has found that the period of time taken by the Coroner to arrive at the scene and conduct an investigation had no impact on the road closure period. The police Traffic Analyst investigation was still in progress when the Coroner left the scene.
- The analysis undertaken by police Traffic Analysts/ Reconstructionists is a complex process requiring that all critical scene information is gathered, and as such invariably exceeds the amount of time it takes a Coroner to reach a scene and conduct their more limited scene investigation. It is this police analysis which determines the length of the road closure, and the time or distance travelled by the Coroner is incidental.
- The best answer to the problem of road closures is to reduce the number of serious and fatal collisions that occur on those stretches of road, and this is our government's aim through a variety of initiatives such as the Immediate Roadside Prohibitions and improvements to the Fitness to Drive program.

Background:

- After several traffic fatalities along Highway 1 between Three Valley Gap and Golden, the Mayor of Revelstoke expressed concern about the lengthy highway closures which followed these crashes.

- This is a stretch of highway for which there is no acceptable detour when Highway 1 is closed.
- The Coroners Service reviewed its 2014 cases and found that coroners attended a total of six motor vehicle incidents in the Revelstoke area.
- In all cases, it was found that at no time did the coroners' attendance time/scene investigation time delay the reopening of the highway during these incidents.

Contact: Lisa Lapointe, Coroners Service	Phone: 250-356-9210	Mobile: s.17
--	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Child Death Investigations

Suggested Response:

- The BC Coroners Service has a robust child death investigation and review process supported by a specialized Child Death Review Unit.
- In 2013, the Service expanded its model of child death review to encompass a multidisciplinary panel of experts to participate in the reviews and assist in developing recommendations to prevent future deaths.
- The multidisciplinary panel consists of senior level professionals from policing, medicine, public health, child welfare, First Nations health, education, mental health, and injury prevention. Subject matter experts are also added to the panel as needed.
- All child deaths are investigated and reviewed in addition to the aggregate review of deaths undertaken by the multidisciplinary panels. This represents a multi stage process to consider whether or not recommendations would be appropriate in potentially preventing similar deaths in the future.
- Four full multidisciplinary panels have been held since April 2013. These panels function in a collaborative fashion in order to make meaningful and achievable recommendations to the Chief Coroner in support of prevention of death and public safety.
- The current model incorporating the multidisciplinary approach of experts is consistent with the recommendations of the Honourable Ted Hughes.
- Coroners do not make recommendations in every case and frequently find no need to do so where their investigation shows that the agency in question is already addressing issues that have been brought forward in a specific case.

Background:

- The Coroners Service investigates the deaths of approximately 300 children annually and issues a report in each of those cases.
- The four multidisciplinary panels that have taken place included reviews of 91 youth suicides between 2008 and 2012, analysis of 117 unexpected infant deaths between 2008 and 2012, a review of 35 cases involving accidental drowning occurring between 2007 and 2013, and most recently a review of 104 cases of deaths of young drivers occurring between 2004 and 2013. Feedback from agencies participating in the panels as well as stakeholders has been overwhelmingly positive.

- Agencies which receive recommendations are asked to respond to them in writing, and the responses are posted on the Coroners Service website.

Contact: Lisa Lapointe, Coroners Service	Phone: 250-356-9210	Mobile: s.17
--	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Coroners' Autopsy Rate

Suggested Response:

- In 2014, post mortem examinations, which included autopsies and/or toxicology testing, were ordered in 45% of the deaths that the BC Coroners Service investigated.
- Autopsies were conducted in 30% of these cases.
- An autopsy is always done when necessary to determine the medical cause of death of a deceased person reported to the Coroners Service.
- Expedited toxicology testing, unique to BC, can sometimes determine cause of death without the need for an autopsy.

Background:

- An autopsy will always be done when necessary; however, an autopsy is only one piece of a coroner's investigation and is undertaken when it is necessary to provide information not already known.
- Better investigations of the scene of a death, visual examination of the body, and a detailed remote and recent history of the individual involved has led to the Coroner being able to determine a reasonable cause of death in an increasing number of cases without need to resort to autopsy.
- In addition, BC's Provincial Laboratory will provide expedited toxicology analysis to the Coroners Service, which allows confirmation of cause of death without the need for autopsy.
- Autopsy rates are fairly consistent across Canada averaging about 35%. Ontario's autopsy rate, for example, is 33%. No other jurisdiction has the advantage of expedited toxicology testing.

Contact: Lisa Lapointe, Coroners Service	Phone: 250-356-9210	Mobile: s.17
--	---------------------	--------------

**Ministry of Justice
Estimates 2015/16 Briefing Book**

**Court Services Branch
Table of Contents**

Estimate Notes

1. Lower Fraser Valley Court Expansion Project
2. Provincial Court Judge Appointments
3. Provincial Judicial Complement Determination
4. Child Protection Cases in the Courts
5. WiFi in Courthouses – Access to Justice
6. Kelowna Courthouse Security
7. Civil Hearing Day Fees
8. Surrey Criminal Justice Task Force – Surrey Community Court

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Lower Fraser Valley Court Expansion Project

Suggested Response:

- Timely access to justice is a priority for this government.
- This government is committed to servicing the justice needs of communities in the rapidly growing Lower Fraser Valley and worked collaboratively with our five municipal partners to identify the most effective way to address courtroom pressures at the local level. This project has created a coherent vision for future growth and will help maximize the province's investments in BC's justice system.
- This report, which proposes ways court capacity can be expanded in one of the fastest growing regions of the province, is only one step in the process.
- This plan takes into account projected growth in service demand generated from each community within the region for matters going before the Provincial and Supreme Courts, while considering the future impact of justice reform initiatives underway within the Ministry of Justice

s.13

Background:

Lower Fraser Valley Regional Plan:

- The Lower Fraser Valley includes the municipalities of Surrey, Township of Langley, City of Langley, Abbotsford and Chilliwack.
- In April 2013, the BC government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with these cities. On behalf of this consortium, Abbotsford was granted \$600,000 to fund the development of the 20-year court expansion plan. Working with the Ministry of Justice, the five municipalities have completed the plan and provided it to government to guide

future capital funding priorities.

- The plan was based on demographic and court demand analysis over the next 20 years.
- The Lower Fraser Valley is predicted to experience an increasingly high rate of population growth; which in turn will increase demand on court facilities.
- The plan identifies a requirement for up to 29 additional courtrooms by 2033.
- The plan recommends as top priority projects expansion of the Surrey courthouse, construction of a new courthouse in Abbotsford, and the subsequent transfer of the Chilliwack Supreme Court to Abbotsford.
- Long-term projects also recommended to be considered for future consideration include:
 - A new five-courtroom provincial courthouse in Langley;
 - Further expansion of Surrey's courthouse by three provincial courtrooms; and
 - Expansion of Chilliwack's courthouse by two provincial courtrooms.
- Government committed to accept the recommendations in the plan with the exception that it would maintain a Supreme Court presence at Chilliwack.

Surrey Provincial Courthouse Expansion:

- The Ministry of Justice, in conjunction with the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services, requested Treasury Board approval to access \$24.3 M in Capital to expand the Surrey Courthouse by three courtrooms and two hearing rooms.
- Based on the March 2015 Project Status Report, construction is planned to begin March 2016 and ready for occupancy in September 2017.

s.12,s.13

Abbotsford Courthouse Replacement:

- On Sept. 25, 2014, the City of Abbotsford posted a Request for Proposals on BC Bid to engage a consulting team to create a pre-design study for a new Abbotsford courthouse. The plan will offer options for delivering a new courthouse, provide a cost estimate and recommend funding models including a P3 option.
- Milestones:
 - Oct. 15, 2014: RFP closed;
 - Oct. 24, 2014: RFP evaluated and contract awarded to NORR Consulting;
 - Dec. 19, 2014: Draft concept paper submitted;
 - Dec. 2014-Jan. 2015: Review and revision of concept plan; and
 - Winter, 2015: Final draft concept plan submitted to the City of Abbotsford.
- s.12,s.13
-
- s.13
-
- s.12,s.13

Provincial role vs. Judicial role in situating the Court

- The Attorney General determines where registries for courts are going to be and designates the courtrooms.
- Once the Attorney General has made those determinations, it is within the purview of the Judiciary to determine what will be heard and where.
- The vast majority of cases in BC are heard in Provincial Court. Over 70,000 cases annually are heard in Provincial Court while Supreme Court hears fewer than 1,000.

- The Provincial Court is the first level of trial court in British Columbia and hears criminal, criminal youth, family, child protection, small claims, and traffic cases.
- The Supreme Court is the superior trial court for the province and hears both civil and criminal cases, as well as some appeals from the Provincial Court.

Contact: Brenda Miller	Phone: 250-356-1525	Mobile: s.17
------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Provincial Court Judge Appointments

Suggested Response:

- Timely and accessible justice is a priority for the Ministry.
- The Ministry will continue to discuss judicial appointments to the Provincial Court with the Chief Judge and make appointments, as appropriate, to address matters such as judicial vacancies and case backlog.
- Since January 2012 to the most recent appointment in April 2015, thirty one judges have been appointed to the Provincial Court to fill vacancies and address backlog. Two more appointments were recently announced and will take effect at the end of April 2015.
- The decision to appoint a judge cannot be made in isolation and must factor the need for court administration staff, Crown counsel, Legal Aid and security. The total cost of an appointment is approximately \$1.4 M per judge.
- Today, the time to trial for Provincial criminal court cases, which account for more than 40% of all cases before the Provincial Court, is the shortest it's been in almost a decade.
- Improving access to justice is not just about adding more money or judges. It includes providing access to services to resolve disputes at the earliest possible stage and potentially avoid litigation.
- Like an emergency room, the courtroom is the most expensive place to resolve a dispute.
- Citizens want resolution to their disputes yet only some matters require access to a court to do this. The Ministry is actively working on strategies that will provide citizens with tools to assist them in solving their disputes and access to mediators and adjudicators should they need further assistance.
- The Ministry is reviewing, on a case by case basis, the need to make judicial appointments and will continue to make these decisions as and when needed, subject to funding being available for supporting resources.

Background:

- The Provincial Court tracks and publishes the total judicial complement on their website and in the Time to Trial Report (previously known as the Justice Delayed Report). This report has consistently identified the required judicial fulltime equivalent (JFTE) for the

Provincial Court as 143.65 JFTEs, which was the complement in December 2005.

- The Office of the Chief Judge (OCJ) has provided numbers that show the total number of Provincial Court Judges in BC decreased by six from 148 (March 31st 2005) to 142 (January 31st 2015.)
- The full time equivalent of these positions has declined by 17.85 JFTE (approximately 13% decrease), going from 138.65 (March 31st 2005) to 120.08 (March 31st 2015).
- The number of part-time judges (i.e. senior judges) increased over the same time period by 22, going from 17 to 39. A full time judge may elect to work part time once he or she reaches the age of 55 under the authority of Section 9 of the Provincial Court Act. The majority of judges now elect to serve as part time when eligible.

Provincial Court Judge Complement

	Mar. 31, 2005	Sept. 30, 2010	Mar. 31, 2015	Change from 2005
Total Judges	148	145	142	-6
Full Time	131	111	103	-28
Part Time	17	34	39	+22
Total Judicial Full Time Equivalent Positions	138.65	126.3	120.08	-17.85

- The decrease in judicial capacity is just one of many variables that impact the case backlog and time to disposition. Many other factors exist such as complexity and number of appearances.
- The appointment of new judges has resourcing implications beyond the judiciary. For example additional Crown counsel, defence counsel, court administration staff and sheriffs as well as facility availability (chambers and courtrooms) must be considered with the addition of any new judges.
- As of April 2015, 40 full time Provincial Court judges have been appointed since the first Justice Delayed Report was published by the Provincial Court in September 2010.
- Over the past 15 years, the total number of Provincial Court cases has declined by 27% - from more than 268,000 cases in 2000 to more than 197,000 in 2014.
- Over the same period, the total number of Provincial Court sitting hours has declined by 21% - from more than 128,000 hours in 2000 to more than 101,000 in 2014.

- The wait for half day and two-or-more-day adult criminal trial has improved considerably from 2010 and remains below the Office of the Chief Judge (OCJ) standard.
 - The time to trial for half-day adult criminal trials is now about five months as compared to seven months in 2005. The OCJ standard is eight months; and
 - The time to trial for two-day adult criminal trials is now about seven months as compared to about nine months in 2005. The OCJ standard is eight months.
- We have implemented new, innovative approaches to help take cases out of the courts, such as:
 - Immediate Roadside Prohibition program;
 - Dispute Resolution Regulations; and
 - Civil Resolution Tribunal in 2015.

Contact: Rob Richardson	Phone: 250-356-9566	Mobile: s.17
-------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE**Provincial Judicial
Complement Determination****Suggested Response:**

- Timely and accessible justice is a priority for the Ministry.
- We have well over 250 Justices and Judges working in our Courts today in BC and this does not include the more than 25 Masters and Judicial Justices of the Peace who also provide important judicial functions in BC's courts.
- Since January 2012 to the most recent appointment in April 2015, thirty one judges have been appointed to the Provincial Court to fill vacancies and address backlog. Two more appointments were recently announced and will take effect at the end of April 2015.
- We are continuing the important justice reform work recommended in Geoffrey Cowper's report, including determining a fixed judicial complement for Provincial Court judges.
- The Justice Reform and Transparency Act, which received Royal Assent on March 14, 2013, addressed Mr. Cowper's recommendation and discussions are underway with the Office of the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court to develop a methodology for determining the complement.

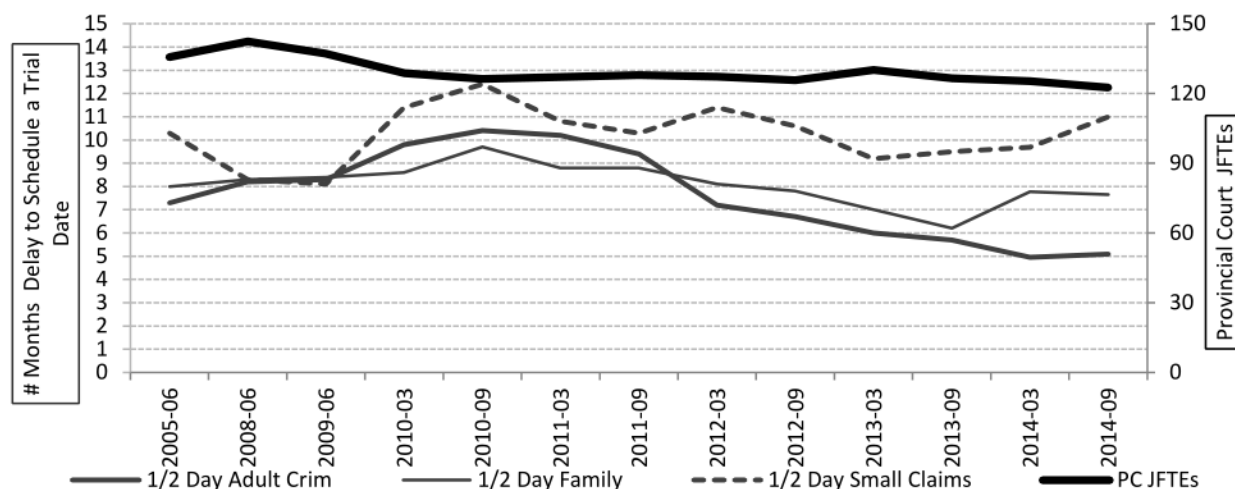
Background:

- Historically, there has not been a set number established for the number of Provincial Court judges. This is in contrast with the Supreme Court for which the judicial complement is established by statute.
- In his report on the BC Criminal Justice System, Geoffrey Cowper recommended that the Provincial Government amend the Provincial Court Act to "Provide for a specific judicial complement, subject to review every three to five years."
- The Justice Reform and Transparency Act which received Royal Assent on March 14, 2013, addressed Cowper's recommendation.
- The Act gives the authority to the Lieutenant Governor in Council to:
 - Prescribe the factors that will determine the judicial complement. These factors could include the workload of the court; trends in workload; and the capacity of the existing judicial complement. Additional factors to determine the judicial

complement can be prescribed by regulation;

- Prescribe the number of judges to constitute the court; and
- At least once every three years, review the number of judges that constitute the judicial complement and amend as required.
- The April 3, 2013, Memorandum of Understanding between the Attorney General and the three Chiefs commits them to deliver information to the Attorney General concerning the workload of his or her Court, trends in that workload, and the capacity of the existing judicial complement in his or her Court to address that workload.
- s.13,s.17
- The Provincial Court tracks and publishes the total judicial complement on their website and in the Time to Trial Report (formerly known as the Justice Delayed Report). This report has consistently identified the required judicial fulltime equivalent (JFTE) for the Provincial Court as 143.65 JFTEs, which was the complement in December 2005. When the first Justice Delayed Report was published in September 2010, the complement was 126.3, which is four percent higher than the current complement of 120.8 JFTEs, as of March 2015.
- The most recently published Time to Trial Report identifies gradual declines in the time it takes to schedule a trial in criminal court since September 2010. In family court, the gradual decline ended in 2013 with delays gradually increasing again. In small claims court, the delays started to increase slightly in 2014 and are continuing. The report also indicates that from 2010 to 2014 there has been a reduction of almost 50% in the number of adult criminal cases pending for more than 180 days. It is important to note that the number of new adult criminal cases has dropped by 22% over the same period. One contributing factor to this caseload decrease is the impact of the Immediate Roadside Prohibition issued to impaired drivers.

Trial Scheduling Delays and the Relation to Provincial Court Judicial FTEs



Justice Reform and Transparency Act

6.1 (1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council

(a) must prescribe the factors on which the number of judges that is to constitute the judicial complement of the court is to be determined, which factors may but need not include the following:

- (i) the workload of the court;
- (ii) trends in the workload;
- (iii) the capacity of the existing judicial complement to address the workload;
- (iv) any other factors that the Attorney General and the chief judge agree will assist in that determination,

(b) after the factors are prescribed under paragraph (a), must, in accordance with the prescribed factors, prescribe the number of judges that is to constitute the judicial complement of the court, and

(c) after the judicial complement is prescribed under paragraph (b) or this paragraph, must, if under subsection (2) the Attorney General recommends a change to the judicial complement,

- (i) consider that recommendation, and
- ii) if the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers that a change to the judicial complement is appropriate, prescribe the number of judges that is to constitute the judicial complement of the court.

(2) At least once every three (3) years, the Attorney General must, in accordance with the prescribed factors, review the number of judges that is to constitute the judicial complement of the court, and if, on the basis of that review, the Attorney General considers that it is appropriate that the judicial complement be changed, the Attorney General must recommend that change to the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

(3) After the judicial complement is prescribed under subsection (1), the Attorney General must publish a summary, in a manner that can reasonably be expected to bring the summary to the attention of the public, of the information on which the judicial complement was determined.

Contact: Rob Richardson	Phone: 250-356-9596	Mobile: s.17
-------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Child Protection Cases in the Courts

Suggested Response:

- In the civil justice system, child protection is an area with strict legislated timelines.
- In BC's Provincial Family Court, child protection cases are required by statute to have a presentation hearing held within seven days from when a child is removed and a court file is opened.
- Inability to meet legislated timeframes could indicate resource or capacity issues, the need for clearer direction on the intent of the legislation, improved communication of the policy and procedure, or additional staff training.
- The number of child protection family court cases meeting statutory guidelines has steadily increased over the last five years.

Background:

- In 2014, over 98% of child presentation hearings involving removals had their first court appearance within seven days of case initiation, meaning that just less than 2% of cases were not meeting statutory requirements. This is the highest percentage compliance since the civil case tracking system was implemented in 2004.
- Another measure of how successful the system has been in the management of child protection cases is the proportion of those cases that have an order granted at the first presentation hearing appearance.
- In 2014, orders were granted in 41% of first presentation report appearances, compared to 43% in 2012 and 45.8% five years ago.
- Fiscal 2014/15 data will be available in July 2015, though preliminary data shows similar trends in compliance and new child protection cases.

Contact: Rob Richardson	Phone: 250-356-9566	Mobile: s.15 _ _ _ _ _
-------------------------	---------------------	------------------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

WiFi in Courthouses – Access to Justice

Suggested Response:

- The Ministry is committed to making British Columbia's courthouses more accessible and will be implementing Shaw Communications' Go WiFi service for use by all courthouse participants.
- It has been implemented first at the Victoria Law Courts and lessons learned from that implementation will be used to prioritize and plan implementation at other sites.
- The new WiFi service is being implemented at no cost to the justice system or BC taxpayers.
- The new service will provide legal counsel, self-represented litigants and other court participants with broadband Internet access from their mobile device.
- The Superior and Provincial Court judiciaries expressed support for the prior WiFi initiatives and are being kept apprised of implementation.

If asked what's different about this project from others that have been tried in the past

- The Ministry has overcome the barriers of the past, of which the largest was the fee based service.
- Shaw will be utilizing existing fibre optic infrastructure to enable broadband connectivity, and the service is provided at no cost to government and no user fees.

If asked why Shaw was chosen for this initiative

- The Ministry initially held discussions with two internet service providers and Shaw's proposal was accepted following a withdrawal of interest from the other provider.
- This is a non-exclusive service contract and service offerings from other interested WiFi vendors could be considered in the future.

Background:

- On behalf of the Court Services Branch, the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services reached an agreement on October 31, 2014, to partner with Shaw to

install and support WiFi services in about 30 courthouses in BC, which has the potential to make the justice system more accessible for British Columbians.

- The first installation took place in Victoria at the end of January 2015, at the Victoria Law Courts. The remaining installations will occur in subsequent months.
- Making the Internet available to all court participants will benefit civil counsel, defence counsel, self-represented litigants and the general public.
- There have been previous attempts to add WiFi service to BC courthouses but those pilot projects could not overcome challenges such as cost, logistics and user fees. The Shaw proposal can be implemented at virtually no cost to the Province or to members of the public who would access the service.
- The service is not intended to be used for core business connectivity purposes, nor does it share the SpanBC infrastructure, resulting in no performance degradation on the government network. The plan is to bring the service to all staffed court locations with the possible exemption of Terrace, Smithers, Prince Rupert, Port Hardy, Powell River, Rossland and Sechelt, which lack the broadband network infrastructure to support the service.
- Commercial Arrangement: A contract has been signed between Shaw and the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services. Shaw will provide the entire service and any costs incurred in the implementation. The Court Services Branch will not incur any direct costs to support the service, other than to direct the public to information provided by Shaw. Shaw will provide signs and brochures to promote the service.
- The Victoria Courthouse was first to be implemented and lessons learned from that implementation will be used to prioritize and plan the subsequent implementation schedule for the remaining sites.

Contact: Brenda Miller	Phone: 250-356-1525	Mobile: s.17 _ _ _ _ _
------------------------	---------------------	------------------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Kelowna Courthouse Security

Suggested Response:

- Courthouse security is critical to protecting the safety of those attending courthouses and the integrity of the judicial process.
- While the Ministry does not publicly disclose detailed information around security planning, investments are being made to accommodate high security trials at the Kelowna courthouse.
- Courthouse security is the responsibility of the BC Sheriff Services which routinely evaluates the threat level associated with court appearances and strategically deploys resources to meet the security need.

If asked about the cost of these upgrades

- Shared Services BC has allocated significant capital dollars of more than \$3M for these upgrades.
- The final cost will depend upon the agreed upon scope of work.

If asked about the timeline

- These upgrades are a priority, and should be substantially complete by the fall of 2015.

If asked if the new courtroom is being done for the Jonathan Bacon case

- BC Sheriff Services conducted a security assessment and determined that a security upgrade would allow the courthouse to accommodate a broader range of criminal matters.
- That said, we anticipate that this work will be completed in time to accommodate the matter in question.

If asked why the Jonathan Bacon case is being heard in Kelowna

- As a matter of general principle, prosecution occurs in the community or district in which the offence was committed.
- The decision not to move the case to another venue was made by the Associate Chief Justice of the BC Supreme Court and the reasoning is subject to a publication ban.

Background:

s.15

- The Ministry currently has five high-security courtrooms: one at Surrey Provincial Court, two at Vancouver Law Courts and two at New Westminster.
- Construction will take place between July 2015 and January 2016, with February 2016 set aside for dealing with deficiencies and commissioning.
- To the extent practical, construction will take place outside of normal court-sitting hours in an attempt to minimize any impact on court operations. As would be expected, Courtroom 1, the courtroom to be upgraded to the high security standard, will have to be “handed over to” the contractor for a significant period to undertake the renovations. Improvements elsewhere within the courthouse should not have any significant impact on day-to-day courthouse operations.

s.15

Contact: Brenda Miller	Phone: 250 356-1525	Mobile: s.17
------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Civil Hearing Day Fees

Suggested Response:

- The Supreme Court of Canada's ruling in *Vilardell v. Dunham* regarding civil hearing fees is a significant decision impacting the Province.
- The Court found that the provinces have the authority to levy hearing fees as long as there is an exemption for those who would face undue hardship.
- The Court left it up to government to create a new civil hearing fee scheme that revises the exemption rule.
- The Ministry is taking time to review the decision and consider its implications and next steps.
- It is significant to note that the Court acknowledged that hearing fees paid by litigants who can afford them may be a justifiable way of making resources available for the justice system and increasing access to justice overall.

If asked about the financial impact of no longer collecting fees

- Prior to 2012, BC collected approximately \$1.5 M in civil hearing fees annually.
- In May 2012, government suspended the collection of hearing day fees pending the outcome of appeals.
- No revenue has been collected since this time.

If asked who would revise the exemption rule

- The process for amending the court rules involves the Attorney General consulting with the Chief Justice and the Supreme Court Rules Committee before recommending amendments to Cabinet.

If asked whether people will be reimbursed for fees paid prior to the ruling

- That issue remains before the courts. As such, it would be inappropriate to comment further.

Background:

s.13,s.16

- On October 2, 2014, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that current civil court hearing fees can deprive people of access to resolutions in superior courts.
- It ruled that the current exemption for the "impoverished" is too narrow because some non-impoverished people cannot reasonably afford the hearing fees. Even if not impoverished, some litigants may sacrifice reasonable expenses to bring claims which effectively prevent access to the courts.
- The Supreme Court of Canada ruling left it to the BC government to enact a new, constitutionally-compliant hearing fee scheme as the current exemption criteria does not provide sufficient discretion to the trial judge to exempt litigants from having to pay hearing fees in the appropriate circumstances.
- Concurrently, MacIsaac & Company brought a class proceeding for civil hearing fees which was put on hold pending the outcome of the Supreme Court of Canada decision. This case continues before the court.

Chronological Case History:

- In May 2012, the BC Supreme Court decided (*Vilardell v. Dunham*) that civil court hearing fees are unconstitutional. The judge ruled the fees are a government-imposed barrier to access to the judiciary, which creates a "constitutionally untenable appearance of hierarchy" whereby litigants with more money have better access to the courts.
- The Province appealed that decision and in May 2012, the Court Services Branch suspended the collection of hearing day fees pending the outcome of the appeals.
- In February 2013, the BC Court of Appeal unanimously allowed the Province's appeal and set aside the order striking the hearing fees provision. This means when a litigant applies to be relieved of fees, courts will continue to use their discretion to determine whether a

litigant is impoverished to the point that they'd qualify for an exemption as set out in the Rules of Court.

- In April 2014, the Supreme Court of Canada heard an appeal by the Trial Lawyers Association of the BC Court of Appeal decision that found civil hearing fees constitutional. The Association believes civil fees are a barrier to justice and that the BC Court of Appeal decision paves the way for other provinces to begin charging fees.

Hearing Fees

- Prior to 2012, it's estimated that B.C. collected approximately \$1.5 M per year in hearing day and civil jury fees.
- The **fees** are a very small part of the total cost of litigation and are as follows:
 - \$0 for first three days;
 - \$500 for days four to 10; and
 - Each day over 10 is \$800.
- Court fees in BC were revised in 2010 to be revenue neutral. Individuals who may not be able to afford hearing day fees may make an application to the court to waive the fees and the judge decides whether they qualify.
- The current model requires parties to litigation to pay a portion of the costs through court fees, while taxpayers fund the balance of the cost. Litigants who win their cases generally receive the benefit of an order requiring the unsuccessful party to pay costs, which would include the hearing date fees.
- The Yukon, Northwest Territories and Saskatchewan are the only other jurisdictions with the hearing fees. Other provinces charge the parties less and ask taxpayers to subsidize the system more.

Contact: Ted Stevens	Phone: 250-356-9469	Mobile: .s.17
----------------------	---------------------	---------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Surrey Criminal Justice Task Force – Surrey Community Court

Suggested Response:

- The Ministry continues to work with our justice partners to ensure British Columbians have timely, appropriate and accessible justice services.
- Last year, we worked with the City of Surrey to establish the Surrey Criminal Justice Task Force which was struck to find home-grown solutions to persistent crime problems in Surrey.
- The Task Force delivered a final report recommending the development of an Integrated Services Network of social, health and justice service providers in a single location to provide a coordinated, collaborative approach aimed at reducing crime in Surrey.
- The creation of an Integrated Services Network will be led by the City of Surrey and help to ensure safe communities for everyone.

If asked about whether Surrey will get a community court

- The Task Force members concluded in their final report that a community court would not address the particular problems in Surrey and recommended instead enhancements to service integration.
- Decisions on any future community courts will be determined by the Provincial Specialized Court Strategy, which is scheduled to be completed by March 2015.
- It's important to ensure that solutions are evidence-based and respond to the specific justice needs of the community.

Background:

- The recommendation was the key result of the Surrey Criminal Justice Task Force, a 12 member group, established in March 2014, after concerns were raised by Surrey's former Mayor, Dianne Watts, during the fall of 2013. She had been lobbying for a community court since 2006 to address persistent crime problems in the community.

- Members of the Task Force included: Ministry staff from Court Services, Criminal Justice, Justice Services, and Corrections branches, the RCMP, representatives from the City of Surrey, Surrey Fire Department and the Office of the Chief Judge. Kevin Jardine, Assistant Deputy Minister of Court Service Branch, chaired the task force.
- The Task Force organized a two-day workshop on September 29 and 30, 2014. The workshop included key stakeholders from the city, the judiciary, Surrey RCMP, and government and community agencies.
- The workshop reviewed relevant data and current best practices in BC and other jurisdictions to identify problems and potential opportunities.
- Interviews were conducted with users of the system to bring their experiences and perspectives to the workshop. This provided an evidence-based understanding of the challenges Surrey faces.
- The workshop summary report was presented to the task force summarizing the discussion and recommendations from the workshop.

Findings from the Task Force

- Increased collaboration between existing organizations in the justice, health and social service sectors is the most promising response to current crime-related challenges. By focusing on better use of existing resources, the Network would likely require minimal additional investment.

Recommendations from the Task Force

- Creation of an Integrated Services Network, a single location for all agencies involved in the delivery of programs and services aimed at reducing crime in Surrey. The initial phase would establish an administrative hub for offices in the justice, health and social service sectors.
- The Integrated Services Network would have the potential to provide front end services to clients, increasing access for people with complex needs. Establishing a location that is understood by and accessible to clients may increase the likelihood that front-line staff are able to reach those clients who may otherwise be hard to reach, and reduces the likelihood that clients will be turned away and redirected for other services located elsewhere.
- The Task Force recommended that the Integrated Services Network be developed with priority focus on domestic violence, mental health and substance misuse and prolific offenders.

Next Steps

- The City of Surrey will take the lead on implementation.

Contact: Brenda Miller	Phone: 250-356-1526	Mobile: s.17 _____
------------------------	---------------------	--------------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Family Court Case Timeliness

Suggested Response:

- A priority of the Ministry of Justice is to increase access to justice by providing viable alternatives to court for resolving family law disputes.
- For families, out-of-court dispute resolution is generally cheaper, quicker and less acrimonious than court proceedings and the outcomes are better and more sustainable.
- The number of new family cases in Provincial Court has trended downward over the past 15 years, from approximately 15,000 to less than 10,000.

If asked about what we are doing to improve timeliness:

- We implemented the Family Law Act in March 2013 which encourages out of court resolution – where appropriate – of family disputes.
- We have 21 Family Justice Centres and three Justice Access Centres. Family justice counsellors assist people experiencing separation and divorce to make decisions about parenting arrangements, guardianship, and child support.
- The focus in recent years with the new Family Law Act is on settling more cases out of court. This may provide one reason for the longer-to-resolve court matters because in those harder-to-resolve cases the issues are either more complex or the participants are more intransigent. Naturally that will have an impact on our projections.
- Our justice partners share our goals around improving timeliness for family matters.
- Starting in 2014/15 the Ministry is providing an additional \$2 M per year for three years to the Legal Services Society for justice transformation initiatives, including three that are focused on family legal aid and involve providing enhanced legal advice, early out-of-court resolution services, and coaching on advocacy and self-representation.
- In September 2014 the Expanded Family Duty Counsel project was launched with the hiring of a full-time duty counsel at the Victoria Justice Access Centre.
- In October 2014 the existing province-wide Family LawLINE telephone advice service was expanded with an increase in service hours for eligible clients.
- Also launched in October 2014, a new mediation referral service provides eligible recipients with a referral to MediateBC for up to six hours of mediation services.

- I am confident that the judiciary regards timeliness as important when making decisions around the scheduling of judicial resources.
- The Ministry is working with the Provincial Court judiciary on reviewing the (Family) Rules with the objective of improving the family court process. We believe that processes could be streamlined to increase timeliness.

If asked about the Family LawLINE:

- The Family LawLINE is a free telephone service that provides eligible people with low incomes free legal advice about these family law issues:
 - parenting time or contact / access;
 - guardianship / custody;
 - child support;
 - spousal support;
 - property division;
 - family agreements;
 - adoption; and
 - court procedures.
- Eligible clients can have dedicated appointments and receive up to six hours of advice.
- In 2013/2014, the Family LawLINE handled 4,996 calls.

Background:

- Since 2010, it has generally taken less time to get a family trial scheduled.
- Over the same period of time, the number of court hours devoted to family cases has increased. Family court hours increased by 14% over the last five years.
- The service plan measure is only one of the many measures related to timeliness of family matters. Others include:
 - actual time to a hearing or trial;

- number of new family cases entering the system;
 - number of subsequent applications; and
 - number of appearances each matter takes and number of hours that the court devotes to family matters.
- We know the impact of early resolution options on the court system. Fewer cases go on to court, for example, when people meet with a family justice counsellor or attend a parent education session. Justice Access Centres and services offered in 21 Family Justice Centres across the province are playing a role in that success.
 - A survey of those who used the services at the Vancouver Justice Access Centre indicated:
 - Half of 105 said they did not need to go to court after using Justice Access Centre services and they were highly satisfied with the outcome; and
 - Those that went on to court most commonly reported that they were compelled to do so by the other party; wished to have an unresolved issue settled; or filed an agreement to support enforcement at a later date if necessary.
 - Each of these measures have relevancy to the larger picture.
 - The Ministry service plan shows that over the last five years, it takes longer to get an order in Provincial Court on family law issues such as parenting time, contact or child support. However this year we have seen a 9% improvement on median application age. In 2013 the median was 121 days and in 2014 the median was 110 days.
 - The Provincial Court's September 30, 2014 Time to Trial report indicates decreasing delays for the time for Family Trials this could be linked to the increasing percentage of court hours devoted to family matters.
 - The Provincial Court standard for Family Trials is one month from initial filing to the fix date, one month from the fix date to the case conference, and four months from the case conference to the first available hearing date (cumulative standard of six months from initial filing to first available hearing date).
 - Compared to the Provincial Court standard of six months, the current delay for one-half day family trial is 7.65 months. It should be noted that a similar trend in delay exists for two day family trials as well as half day and two day trials for child protection matters. As of September 2014:
 - 2 day family trial (OCJ standard 6 mo.) – current delay 10 months;

- ½ day child protection trial (OCJ standard 5 mo.) – current delay 7.5 months; and
- 2 day child protection trial (OCJ standard 6 mo.) – current delay 10 months
- Fiscal 2014/15 data will be available in July 2014. Preliminary results show an anticipated decrease in the time it takes to get a family order in Provincial Court in 2014/15. Family applications filed in 2014/15 are expected to take 109 days to get an order.
- Key elements of family case processing timeliness include capacity, participant readiness, the implementation of more efficient processes, alternatives to court, and overall caseload trends.
- Participant readiness is playing a significant part in family court timeliness, with parties enrolling in Parenting After Separation courses after filing an application, failing to appear at hearings, or changing counsel. The proportion of judicial resources devoted to criminal, civil and family matters may also be impacting family court timeliness.

Contact: Rob Richardson, CSB	Phone: 250-356-9566	Mobile: s.17
------------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2014/15 ESTIMATES NOTE**Criminal Court Case
Timeliness****Suggested Response:**

- Improving court case timeliness is one of our key priorities for justice reform.
- Significant progress is already happening on this front.
- The delay in the Provincial criminal courts, which accounts for more than 40 per cent of all cases, is the shortest it's been in almost a decade.
- The wait for half day and two-or-more-day adult criminal trials has improved considerably from 2010 and remain below the Office of the Chief Judge standard.
- The time to trial for half-day adult criminal trials is now about five months as compared to seven months in 2005.
- This shows that the downward trend observed since the Court began publishing its reports in September 2010 is continuing.
- Justice reform measures that have supported improvements in timeliness include:
 - BC's tough drinking and driving penalties, by removing matters from criminal courts;
 - Court backlog projects; and
 - From January 2012 to the most recent appointment in April 2015, thirty one judges have been appointed to the Provincial Court to fill vacancies and address backlog. Two more appointments were recently announced and will take effect at the end of April 2015.

If asked about Backlog Projects

- We have been working collaboratively with the Provincial Court to address the backlog.
- Times to trial for criminal matters continue to decrease to the point at which they are now largely within the standard set by the Office of the Chief Judge.

If asked about Askov Stays (Judicial Stays Due to Systemic Delay)

- While any stay resulting from system delay is a concern, the numbers show a continued decline.

- Provincial court criminal adult and youth stays were down to 15 in 2014 from a high of 109 in 2011.
- The significant reduction in the number of provincial court judicial stays due to delay is very encouraging.

Background:

Backlog

- On October 20, 2014, a presentation on the results of the court backlog projects so far went to the Protocol Committee, whose members are Richard Fyfe, Lori Wanamaker, Kevin Jardine, Joyce DeWitt-Van Oosten, Jay Chalke, ACJs Nancy Phillips and Gurm Gill and Chief Judge of the Provincial Court Thomas Crabtree.
- The Committee met on November 24, 2014. It has not been determined whether or not the results will be made public as this is up to the Office of the Chief Judge.
- Concern over court backlogs emerged from widespread criticism in the Cowper Report of the justice system being too slow and others such as the annual "A Report of the Provincial Court of British Columbia Concerning Judicial Resources," which first appeared in September 2010.
- The court backlog projects were launched in direct response to the Ministry's White Paper 1 and to support the implementation of the new provincial court scheduling project in Port Coquitlam. In order to measure the effectiveness of the scheduling program there needed to be no backlog.
- The projects consisted of providing additional judicial resources to court locations with backlogs in criminal matters. In total, 85 judicial days for criminal matters were provided to nine designated court locations.
- The court backlog reduction projects began in the spring of 2013 in Port Coquitlam, Kamloops, Kelowna, Terrace and Nanaimo. Additional locations were added during the project, including: Surrey, Victoria, Abbotsford and Vancouver Robson Square.
- Once the backlog is cleared or significantly reduced, the court will be able to more effectively implement the Provincial Court scheduling project.

Askov Stays (Judicial Stays Due to Systemic Delay)

- There are a number of factors beyond the availability of court and judicial resources that can contribute to a judicial stay, including delays in evidence disclosure, witness and defence availability and the complexity of the prosecution.
- This year, as of April 2015, there have been five judicially stayed cases due to systemic delay in provincial adult criminal and youth court, and two Supreme Court judicial stays.

Askov Stays

	BC Provincial Adult Criminal and Youth Court	Supreme Court
2014	15	3
2013	23	3
2012	66	2

- In 2011, the number of provincial adult and youth criminal cases with judicial stays due to delay almost doubled from the previous year, from 56 in 2010 to 109 in 2011, attributable to trial delay and case backlog.
- The decrease in the backlog is most likely a consequence of a reduction of the total number cases in the court system. Some of which can be attributed to the Immediate Roadside Prohibition program.

Contact: Rob Richardson, CSB	Phone: 250-356-9566	Mobile: s.17
------------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Court Administration Transformation Suite

Suggested Response:

- The Court Administration Transformation Suite refers to a series of service-focused initiatives that will allow court matters to be conducted more efficiently both inside the courtroom and between justice system participants.
- The Suite will build on existing court technologies and processes to create an electronic environment where court information can be entered, accessed and shared more quickly and accurately among justice and safety sector partners.
- Examples include:
 - Court Clerk Desktop – new technology that will allow Court Clerks to more quickly and accurately record details of court appearances, allowing for the immediate production and sharing of post-court documents with justice agencies.
 - Civil e-Documents – will enable the electronic creation and distribution of documents in the civil tracking system, allowing the Protection Order Registry to immediately receive a court order, which in turn can be shared more quickly with police, affording greater safety for victims of domestic violence.
 - Provincial Court Scheduling System – new technology that will replace the out-dated electronic scheduling system used in the Provincial Court. The new system will improve trial scheduling, the allocation of court rooms and use of judicial resources.
 - Court Services Online - provides citizens with the ability to view court files online, electronically file civil court documents, and view daily court lists for certain court matters. Better security of data, increased accessibility, faster processing, and smart automation of data checking will make Court Services Online a foundational digital web platform for additional Court Services Branch's core work.
 - Crown Counsel Scheduling System Project - working in partnership with the Criminal Justice Branch to create a new Crown Counsel electronic scheduling system that allows prosecutors and administrative support staff to properly manage schedules and improves coordination between justice partners. The new system will result in more continuous and integrated service to citizens by enabling the Provincial Court to more easily schedule court matters knowing the availability of an assigned Crown Counsel. The system will be built on and will align with the Provincial Court Scheduling System technology and model, creating considerable savings over an independent build. The research phase for the scheduling system is complete and design and development is underway, with provincial implementation targeted for summer 2015.

- Uncontested Divorce Project - will explore opportunities to make the divorce process in British Columbia easier for citizens, including options for a “do-it-yourself” online process for uncontested divorces in Supreme Court through Court Services Online. We are working with citizens, the Judiciary, Crown Counsel and Court Services staff to identify opportunities. Recommendations for a new process will be developed in consultation with the Central Registry of Divorce Proceedings (federal government) and a prototype for Court Services Online enhancements will be developed in Spring 2015,

Background:

- Court Administration Transformation Suite is the foundation on which other justice partners, such as the judiciary, Crown and private Bar members, can develop innovative business processes, achieve new efficiencies and enhance their service environments.
- The increased reliance on computers, smart phones and other electronic devices, along with the public’s expectation that services are available on-line, 24 hours 7 days a week, are influencing the evolution of court technologies and processes.
- The Suite will build upon the success of prior investments, such as the Integrated Court Electronic Documents for sending documents electronically to our justice partners, Court Services Online for filing and viewing court documents online and the Digital Audio Recording System for capturing the official court record.
- The Court Administration Transformation Suite initiative is not expected to directly provide increased revenue or reduced expenditures for government or the courts. Instead, the initiative is critical to avoiding future cost increases, resource demands or reduced services. In light of the challenges posed by fiscal restraint, the effective use of technology provides a means by which to enhance service levels while enabling a court infrastructure that meets all constitutional requirements.

Contact: Rob Richardson, CSB	Phone: 250-356-9566	Mobile: s.17
------------------------------	---------------------	--------------

**Ministry of Justice
Estimates 2015/16 Briefing Book**

**Emergency Management BC
Table of Contents**

Estimate Notes

1. Mill Explosion Deaths – Inquests (Coroners)
2. Remains of Victims of Robert Pickton – Disposition of (Coroners)
3. Road Closures following Major and/or Fatal Crashes (Coroners)
4. Child Death Investigations (Coroners)
5. Coroners' Autopsy Rate (Coroners)
6. Disaster Financial Assistance Program – EMBC
7. Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements – Federal
8. Flood Protection Program – Overview
9. Flood Protection Program Supplemental Project Information
10. Flood Protection Lower Mainland Structures Supplemental Information
11. Climate Change and Natural Hazards
12. Tsunami Notification – Provincial Emergency Notification System
13. Ground Search and Rescue Funding
14. Road Rescue Service Delivery
15. Earthquake Preparedness
16. English Bay Vessel Oil Spill - Response

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Disaster Financial Assistance Program - EMBC

Suggested Response:

- British Columbia has a program to help those impacted by a disaster cope with the cost of repairs and recovery from uninsurable disaster-related property damage for those events specifically designated as eligible for Disaster Financial Assistance.
- Since 2000, BC has paid about \$47 M in Disaster Financial Assistance to individuals and local governments. (See Table below: DFA Payments Since 2000.)
- For large events, BC can recover a portion of its disaster response and recovery costs from the federal government through the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements. (See Estimates note: Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements - Federal.)

Background:

- The Disaster Financial Assistance Program is delivered under the Emergency Program Act and the ensuing Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation. The Program is obliged to provide compensation in compliance with this legislation.
- Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) eligibility criteria, as defined in the Act and the Regulation, have been applied consistently and fairly throughout the province since 1995.
- DFA can pay 80% of the amount by which the accepted claim exceeds \$1,000, to a maximum accepted claim of \$300,000. There is no maximum for local governments.
- DFA is not insurance. The purpose of DFA is to provide assistance for uninsurable losses to individuals for their principal residence and to help farmers and small business owners when their livelihood is at risk.
- For local governments DFA can reimburse 80% of costs to repair essential infrastructure to its pre-disaster condition.

Recent significant events

- 2014 October flooding in Kamloops.
 - 52 residents applied for financial assistance.
 - To date EMBC has paid over \$117,000 to help residents recover from this flood.
 - Public infrastructure damage is estimated at \$20,000.
- 2014 November flooding in North and West Vancouver.
 - 66 residents applied for financial assistance.
 - To date EMBC has paid over \$512, 000 to help residents recover from this flood.
 - Public infrastructure damage is estimated at \$1.7 M.
- 2014 December flooding on Vancouver Island and Lower Mainland.
 - 44 local governments and 9 First Nations were impacted.
 - 89 residents applied for financial assistance.
 - To date EMBC has paid over \$586,000 to help residents recover from this disaster.
 - Public infrastructure damage is estimates at \$3.3 M.
- 2015 February flooding and landslides in Southeast and Central areas of BC.
 - 12 local governments and 4 First Nations were impacted.
 - 14 residents applied for financial assistance to date. More applications are expected as the 90 day application deadline is June 1, 2015.
 - To date EMBC has paid over \$289,000 to help residents recover from this disaster.
 - Public infrastructure damage is expected to be minimal. As of April 14, no local government has provided any estimate or cost recovery plan.
- See Table below: DFA Events Since 2002 for a full list.

DFA payments since 2000

Fiscal Year	Event	DFA payments made to date
2014/15	General	1,495,857
	2013 June	1,703,609
2013/2014	General	264,674
2012/2013	General	3,044,981
	2012 Freshet	2,437,678
2011/2012	General	377,811
	2011 June Flooding	3,062,351
2010/2011	General	1,009,403
	2010 September Flooding	2,903,510
2009/2010	General	1,814,371
2008/2009	General	84,961
	2009 Extreme Weather	7,621,038
2007/2008	General	8,074,791
	2007 Freshet	2,614,212
2006/2007	General	1,705,376
	2006 November Weather	726,631
2005/2006	General	509,481
2004/2005	General	264,887
	2005 Jan Severe Weather	1,739,690
2003/2004	General	4,096
	2003 Fall Flooding	2,212,001
2002/2003	General	2,022,197
2001/2002	General	482,472
	Pink Mountain/Halfway River	284,156
	Dawson Creek/McBride	259,225
2000/2001	General	664,841
		47,384,298

Major DFA events eligible for federal cost-sharing under the DFAA are **bolded**. Other DFA events during the year are combined as a single line item under 'General'.

DFA Events Since 2012

Event Type	Date	Geographic Locations
Flood	Dec 8-12, 2014	City of Delta, Douglas First Nation, Fraser Valley Regional District, Town of Gibsons, Village of Lions Bay, Mount Currie Nation, City of North Vancouver, District of North Vancouver, Village of Pemberton, City of Richmond, Samahquam First Nation, District of Sechelt, Skatin First Nation, Squamish Lillooet Regional District, District of Squamish, Sunshine Coast Regional District, District of West Vancouver, Resort Community of Whistler
Landslide	Dec 8-12, 2014	Alberni Clayoquot Regional District, City of Campbell River, Comox Valley Regional District (Areas A,B,C), Town of Comox, City of Courteney, Village of Cumberland, Hupacasath First Nation, Nanaimo Regional District (All Areas), City of Nanaimo, City of Parksville, City of Port Alberni, Powell River Regional District (Area A,B,C), City of Powell River, Town of Qualicum Beach, Snuneymuxw First Nation, Strathcona Regional District (Areas A,D), Tsehaht First Nation
Flood	Dec 8-12, 2014	Alberni Clayoquot Regional District, City of Campbell River, Comox Valley Regional District (Areas A,B,C), Town of Comox, City of Courteney, Village of Cumberland, Hupacasath First Nation, Town of Ladysmith, Nanaimo Regional District (All Areas), City of Nanaimo, City of Parksville, City of Port Alberni, Powell River Regional District (Area A,B,C), City of Powell River, Town of Qualicum Beach, Snuneymuxw First Nation, Strathcona Regional District (Areas A,D), Tsehaht First Nation
Flood	Nov 3-4, 2014	District of North Vancouver, District of West Vancouver, City of North Vancouver
Flood	23-Jul-15	City of Kamloops, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation (incl. Sun River Estates)
Flood	March 4-11, 2014	Regional District of East Kootenay (Electoral Areas A,B,C,E), City of Kimberley, City of Cranbrook, Village of Canal Flats, City of Fernie, St. Mary's Band
Flood	May 20 - July 13, 2013	Village of Lumby, Regional District of North Okanagan (Electoral Areas D, E & F)
Flood	June 19-21, 2013 <i>This event is eligible for federal DFAA</i>	Regional District of Central Kootenay, East Kootenay Regional District, District of Sparwood, District of Elford, Columbia Shuswap Regional District (Electoral Area A), Town of Golden, City of Castlegar, Town of Creston, Village of Kaslo, Village of Nakusp, City of Nelson, Village of New Denver, Village of Salmo, Village of Silverton, Village of Slocan, Village of Canal Flats, City of Cranbrook, City of Kimberley, City of Fernie, Town of Invermere, Village of Radium Hot Springs, St. Mary's Band
Landslide	July 15-16, 2012	Fairmont Landslide: Regional District of East Kootenay (Electoral Area F).
Flood	June 4 - July 5, 2012	City of Armstrong, District of Coldstream, City of Enderby, Village of Lumby, City of Vernon, Township of Spalumcheen, North Okanagan Regional District (Electoral Areas A, B, C, D, E, and F)
Flood	July 17-18, 2012	City of Castlegar, City of Nelson, City of Trail, Regional District of Central Kootenay (Electoral Areas E, F, H, I, and J), Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (Electoral Area B)
Landslide	July 12, 2012	Landslide Johnsons Landing and surrounding area
Flood	June 3-12, 2012	Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (Electoral Area E), Regional District of Central Kootenay (Electoral Area A, B, C and D), Regional District of East Kootenay (Electoral Area F), Columbia Shuswap Regional District (Electoral Area A), Town of Golden, Town of Creston
Flood	June 18 - July 8, 2012 <i>This event is eligible for federal DFAA</i>	District of Sicamous, City of Salmon Arm, Columbia Shuswap Regional District (Electoral Areas C, E and F), Little Shuswap Indian Band, Village of Chase, Regional District Fraser Fort George, Electoral Areas F and H (including Village of Valemont, Village of McBride and City of Prince George) Peace North Electoral Area, Regional District of East Kootenay, Regional District of Central Kootenay, Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (including all member municipalities), Squamish Lillooet Regional District (Tyaughton Road, Electoral Area A), Fraser Valley Regional District - Electoral Areas B (Laidlaw), C and G (Nicomen Island area), Metro Vancouver Regional District (Barnston Island, Electoral Area A), District of Maple Ridge, District of Hope, District of Kent, District of Mission, City of Abbotsford, City of Chilliwack, City of Surrey, City of Pitt Meadows, Township of Langley, Village of Harrison Hot Springs, First Nations Communities: Cheam, Kwikwetlem and Shxwowhamel, Katzie Indian Reserve #1 (Pitt Meadows), Katzie Indian Reserve #2 (Township of Langley), Katzie Indian Reserve #3 (Barnston Island), Mount Currie (Squamish Lillooet Regional District), Chawathil First Nation, Matsqui Prairie/Sumas Prairie, Seabird Island, Kwantlen (Township of Langley), Leq'a:mel (Fraser Valley Regional District, Nicomen Slough), City of Kamloops
Flood	June 6 - July 1, 2012	City of Kelowna
Flood	June 8-10, 2012	Daylu Dena Council, Lower Post, Unincorporated Stikine
Flood	Apr 24-28, 2012	Recreational Community of Tulameen
Flood	Apr 23-27, 2012	City of Kimberley, Village of Kaslo, RD East Kootenay, Electoral Area E; RD Kootenay Boundary, Electoral Area E; RD Central Kootenay, Electoral Area A
Flood	Apr 25-28, 2012	City of Kelowna and District of West Kelowna, Westbank First Nation

Contact: Johanna Morrow	Phone: 250-952-4912	Mobile: s.17
-------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2014/15 ESTIMATES NOTE

Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements - Federal

Suggested Response:

- The federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements are designed to assist provinces with the costs of dealing with a disaster where those costs would otherwise place a significant burden on the provincial economy and would exceed what provinces might reasonably be expected to fully bear on their own.
- Since 2000, BC has spent over \$640 M to respond to and recover from major disasters and expects to recover about \$430 M of these costs via the federal Arrangements.
- The Arrangements funding formula provides for a progressively higher share of federal funding when the Province's disaster response and recovery costs exceed \$3 per capita of the provincial population. BC's population is approximately 4.7 million.
- This formula changed on February 1, 2015. The previous formula, in place since 1960, placed the Arrangements threshold at \$1 per capita.
- BC has requested Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements for the 2014 wildfires. Response and recovery costs to fight wildfires fires that placed communities at risk are estimated at \$70 M. If approved BC could recover about \$50 M through the Arrangements.

Background:

- To request the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements, the provincial Minister responsible for emergency management sends a letter to the federal Minister of Public Safety. Approval is granted via a federal Order in Council.
- When a provincial disaster event is eligible for Arrangements, Emergency Management BC (EMBC) reimburses other ministries for their disaster response and recovery costs. EMBC then gathers these costs along with its own response and Disaster Financial Assistance recovery costs and submits a claim to Public Safety Canada for BC's proportional share of the federal Arrangements.

- Other Ministry stakeholders include: Transportation and Infrastructure; Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations; and Environment
- Typical Arrangements eligible costs include: operating provincial and local emergency operation centres; providing food and shelter for evacuated residents; compensating individuals, local authorities, and small businesses for uninsurable losses (see Estimates Note Disaster Financial Assistance - EMBC); providing sandbags and temporary dikes; fighting wildfires that place communities at risk; repairing provincial roads, bridges, parks and range fencing; and restoring fish bearing streams and rivers.

Table A: Summary of Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements Eligible Disaster Events since 2000 and the Federal Recoveries.

Eligible Damage	Event	Total Expenditure	Federal Share
Flooding	2013 June Flooding	20,150,868 *1	8,000,000 *2
Flooding	2012 Spring Flooding	20,273,618 *1	7,900,000 *2
Flooding	2011 September Flooding	21,139,119 *1	8,500,000 *2
Flooding	2011 June Flooding	69,968,504 *1	52,000,000 *2
Flooding	2010 September Flooding	59,854,477 *1	43,000,000 *2
Wildfire	2010 Fire Season	50,918,140 *1	36,600,000 *2
Wildfire	2009 Fire Season	104,914,904	85,000,000 *2
Flooding	2009 Extreme Weather	15,459,712	4,600,000 *2
Flooding	2007 Freshet	17,875,029	4,500,000 *2
Flooding	2006 November Weather	5,745,090	709,633
Flooding	2005 Jan Severe Weather	13,153,845	4,337,646
Flooding	2003 Fall Flooding	18,460,715	8,958,966
Wildfire	2003 Fire Storm	185,722,186	159,052,448
Flooding	Pink Mountain Flooding	29,303,211	10,682,445
Flooding	Dawson Creek/McBride	14,634,931	2,614,742
	Total	647,574,349	436,455,880

*1 Estimated costs until all recovery work has been completed

*2 Accounts Receivable until final payment is received

Table B: Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements Eligible Cost Sharing Formula:

Eligible provincial expense thresholds (per capita of population)		Federal share (percentage)
Original formula	Revised formula	
First \$1 (first \$4.7 M)	First \$3 (first \$14.1 M)	0%
Next \$2 (next \$9.4 M)	Next \$6 (next \$28.2 M)	50%
Next \$2 (next \$9.4 M)	Next \$6 (next \$28.2 M)	75%
Remainder	Remainder	90%

Contact: Johanna Morrow	Phone: 250-952-4912	Mobile: 250-952-4912
-------------------------	---------------------	----------------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Flood Protection Program - Overview

Suggested Response:

How does the Flood Protection Program support public safety?

- The Ministry of Justice is responsible for implementing the provincial Flood Protection Program.
- Mitigation works protect communities, reducing personal, social and economic losses and provincial response and recovery costs in the event of a flood. The return on investment for flood protection works generally ranges from 1:3 to 1:10.
- The Flood Protection Program provides funds for permanent flood protection works and administers the Fraser River Debris Trap.
- The Province, federal government and local communities have committed over \$173 M for 167 flood protection projects across the province since 2007. The Program approved 26 new Flood Protection Projects which were announced on May 2, 2014.
- Emergency Management BC works closely with other ministries and local governments to coordinate and integrate planning, response and recovery activities related to flooding.

Background:

Structural / Permanent Flood Protection Works

- The Flood Protection Program administers funding to local governments for permanent flood mitigation works to lessen the incidence and severity of flooding. The Program is cost shared equally by federal, provincial and local governments resulting in the Province leveraging 3:1 dollar contributions.
- The federal funding of \$55 M is made available through Infrastructure Canada's Building Canada Plan, and is accessible to the Province by matching funding. The defined term of the federal Plan funding program is from 2008/09 through 2015/16.
- With the conclusion of the current Infrastructure Canada Building Canada Plan on March 31, 2016, the federal government has announced two new programs to support flood and natural hazard mitigation efforts.

- The 2014 Federal Budget included the announcement of \$200 M over 5 years for the new National Disaster Mitigation Program. The Province is currently negotiating the Terms and Conditions of the Program.
- The new Federal Infrastructure Plan includes provisions for Disaster Mitigation and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is leading negotiations regarding the proposed federal program and its associated funding.

Fraser River Sediment Management Program

- The Fraser River Sediment Management Program was established to maintain the existing flood profile by preventing the build-up of river bed materials through the removal of sediment equal to the amount deposited annually which is approximately 230,000 cubic metres.
- Sediment management is an accepted flood mitigation technique; however, the effectiveness for flood mitigation on the Fraser River has recently been challenged due to new scientific information becoming available.
- The Flood Protection Program is reviewing the new information with technical experts from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to determine next steps. Accordingly, no sediment removal was scheduled for 2014/15 fiscal year, and planning for removal in the 2015/16 fiscal year is pending confirmation of the program's efficacy.

Fraser River Debris Trap

- The Fraser River Debris Trap captures up to 100,000 cubic metres of debris annually. A cost-benefit analysis conducted in 2006 concluded that for every dollar spent on the operation of the trap, \$12 in downstream infrastructure damage costs are avoided.
- Emergency Management BC assumed management of the Trap in 2011 from the Fraser Basin Council.
- The annual cost of operating the Trap is approximately \$623,000. Operating contributions are provided from provincial ministries and historically from Port Metro Vancouver.
- In 2013, Port Metro Vancouver opted out of their annual contribution, requesting that a new long-term agreement with additional external funders be adopted before any new contributions would be considered.
- The Flood Protection Program is working with the provincial funding partners to determine options for funding the Trap and engaging Port Metro Vancouver and external stakeholders.

- Historically, the Trap has been accessed across a Shxw'ōwhámel First Nation (SFN) Indian Reserve and a portion of the Reserve is used for the operation of the Trap.
- Emergency Management BC has been negotiating with the SFN since 2013 to establish a long term access and land use agreement for the continued operation of the Trap.
- The protracted negotiations caused a delay in debris removal from the Trap this year, resulting in the use of an alternate removal method and approximately 55,000 cubic metres of debris piled on Crown Land.
- Emergency Management BC is working with the contractor, partner ministries and relevant stakeholders to determine the best options for managing the 55,000 cubic metres of piled debris and to develop and install an alternative access location.
- Negotiations with SFN regarding long term use of Indian Reserve lands are ongoing.

Contact: Carol Loski	Phone: 250-952-5063	Mobile: s.17
----------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES

Flood Protection Program Supplemental Project Information

Flood Protection Program – Structures

There are three categories of projects under the Flood Protection Program - Structures:

1. Base Fund: projects funded under the Building Canada Plan – Base Funding Agreement, which has equal federal, local government, and provincial funding targeted to communities with a population over 100,000.
2. Communities Component: projects funded under the Building Canada Fund - Communities Component, which has equal federal, local government, and provincial funding targeted to communities with a population under 100,000.
3. Strategic: provincial funded projects, generally used for smaller scale, high risk projects that do not qualify for federal funding but are cost shared between the Province and local government.

Base Fund and Communities Component Flood Protection Projects Currently Under Construction

Base Fund – Under Construction (2014/15 & 2015/16)			
Local Authority	Project Name	Total Approved Cost	Provincial Cost Portion
City of Abbotsford	Barrowtown Pump Station – Circuit Breaker	\$200,000	\$66,666
City of Burnaby	Fraser River Dike (Reach 1, 6, 9)	\$5,040,000	\$1,680,000
City of Chilliwack	East Dike Upgrades	\$2,340,000	\$780,000
City of Coquitlam	Scott Creek and Hoy Creek Bypass Sediment Trapping Facilities	\$465,000	\$155,000
<i>City of Kelowna (withdrawn)</i>	<i>Mill Creek Enhancement Diversion Enhancement Project</i>	<i>\$35,000</i>	<i>\$11,666</i>
City of Richmond	Bath Slough Drainage Pump Station Upgrade	\$3,770,000	\$1,020,000
City of Surrey	Fraser River Flood Protection Works (Phase 2)	\$7,680,000	\$2,560,000
7 Projects	Base Fund Total	\$19,530,000	\$6,273,332

Note: Above highlighted project withdrawn as unable to meet the criteria and timeline for completion

Communities Component – Under Construction (2014/15 & 2015/16)			
Local Authority	Project Name	Total Approved Cost	Provincial Cost Portion
Cowichan Valley Regional District	Duncan - Koksilah Industrial Area Dike Construction	\$4,133,529	\$1,377,843
District of North Cowichan	North Cowichan & Duncan Dikes and Pump Station - Phase 3	\$6,693,118	\$2,231,039
Port Alberni	Dry Creek Improvements	\$2,736,500	\$912,166
City of Langford	Willing Park Stormwater Detention Pond Construction	\$1,098,399	\$366,133
City of Chilliwack	Collinson Pump Station Upgrade	\$2,500,000	\$833,333
Corporation of Delta	Delta - Beach Grove Dike Foreshore Protection	\$1,000,000	\$333,333
Dewdney Area Improvement District	Mission - Hatzic Valley Pumping Station Upgrade	\$625,002	\$208,334
Village of Harrison Hot Springs	Miami River Dike Pump Station Replacement	\$1,720,800	\$573,600
District of Hope	Hope - Wastewater Treatment Plan Outfall Protection	\$461,160	\$153,720
Nicomen Island Improvement District	Athey Road Dike Protection/Bank Stabilization Phase 2	\$307,058	\$102,352
Pemberton valley Dyking District	Ayers Dike Upgrade	\$611,763	\$203,921
District of Squamish	Squamish River Dike Raising - Phase 2	\$1,810,551	\$603,517
District of North Vancouver	Mackay Creek Dike Flood Mitigation	\$1,423,352	\$474,450
Fraser Valley Regional District	Cultus Lake - Frosst Creek Sediment Basin Upgrades	\$374,900	\$124,966
City of Enderby	Regent Avenue Lift Station Upgrade	\$1,000,000	\$333,333
City of Vernon	Okanagan Landing Flood Protection - Phase 2	\$2,141,001	\$713,667
City of Castlegar	North Lagoon Berm Armouring	\$401,000	\$113,666
East Kootenay Regional District	Fairmont Hot Springs - Fairmont Creek Debris Flow Mitigation	\$467,329	\$155,776
District of Elkford	Boivin Creek Dike and Bank Improvements	\$2,381,000	\$793,291
City of Kimberley	Mark Creek Flume Stream Rehabilitation	\$3,102,873	\$1,034,291

City of Prince George	Slope Erosion Protection	\$1,187,000	\$395,666
Kitimat-Stikine Regional District	Dutch Valley Upstream Bank Stabilization and Erosion Protection	\$75,477	\$25,159
<i>District of Vanderhoof (withdrawn)</i>	<i>Berm Construction</i>	<i>\$1,153,701</i>	<i>\$384,567</i>
23 Projects	Communities Component Fund Total	\$37,405,513	\$12,468,498
		Total Approved Cost	Provincial Cost Portion
Total Base Fund and Communities Component Projects Under Construction (2014-15 & 2015/16)		\$56,935,513	\$18,741,828

Strategic and Communities Component Projects Completed

Strategic Projects – Projects Completed (2014/15)			
Local Authority	Project Name	Total Approved Cost	Provincial Cost Portion*
District of Kelowna	MacDougall Creek	\$510,000	\$231,230
Pemberton Valley Dyking District	Lillooet River Warning System	\$30,000	\$30,000
2 Projects	Strategic Subtotal	\$540,000	\$261,230
Note: provincial portion reflects actual cost, may not reflect one third of approved cost due to savings at completion			
Communities Component – Projects Completed (2014/15)			
Local Authority	Project Name	Total Approved Cost	Provincial Cost Portion*
Town of Princeton	Burton Flats Dike Upgrades (Similkameen River)	\$315,000	\$104,997
1 Project	Communities Component Total	\$315,000	\$104,997
Note: provincial portion reflects actual cost, may not reflect one third of approved cost due to savings at completion			

		Total Approved Cost	Provincial Cost Portion
Total Strategic and Communities Component Projects Completed (2014-15)		\$855,000	\$366,227

Contact: Carol Loski	Phone: 250-952-5063	Mobile: s.17
----------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE**Flood Protection Lower
Mainland Structures
Supplemental Information****Suggested Response:**

Would Greater Vancouver withstand a flood event similar to the Calgary event in June 2013?

- Determining the flood risk of any area is complex and a comparison to other areas and events is problematic. The physical geography of the area dictates that flooding may be caused from several different or a combination of sources, some of which cannot be easily predicted. Rapid snow melt, high precipitation, tidal influences and storm surges can occur individually or in combination to cause widespread flooding.
- The most frequent flood threat in the Lower Mainland is freshet flooding, which occurs in the spring, as a result of snowpack melt combined with heavy spring rains. Freshet flooding tends to be gradual, normally taking weeks and in some cases months to occur compared to the rapid nature of flooding seen in Calgary.
- In addition to freshet flooding, BC's economic and critical infrastructure such as commercial, rail, and port operations can also be vulnerable to flooding from sea level rise and storm surges. Emergency Management BC is working with infrastructure stakeholders regarding these risks.
- The Province takes the threat of flooding very seriously. In addition to ongoing support to local governments prior to, during and after a flood event, BC has taken significant flood mitigation actions.
- The Flood Protection Program was established in 2007 to fulfill government's commitment to provide flood mitigation funding of \$100 M over 10 years to local communities across the province.
- Since Emergency Management BC was established in 2006, the Province has partnered with the federal and local governments to fund 78 flood mitigation projects worth nearly \$90 M dollars in the Lower Mainland Fraser River area. Twenty-eight of these projects were completed in 2007 as part of the urgent mitigation works initiative and the remaining 50 projects were contributed to by Emergency Management BC's Flood Protection Program. The Province's total contribution to these cost shared projects in the Lower Mainland is nearly \$40 M dollars.

What are the current diking standards in the Lower Mainland?

- In addition to undertaking emergency planning and local response activities, local governments are responsible for land use, permitting development, identifying vulnerable or high hazard areas, designating flood plain bylaws and providing mapping.
- The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations' Water Stewardship and Inspector of Dikes is responsible for establishing and regulating dike standards in BC.
- The Province began supporting local governments with funding for the construction of a comprehensive system of flood defence in the 1970's. Emergency Management BC's Flood Protection Program is continuing this work by providing federal and provincial funding to local governments.
- There are approximately 350 km of dikes located in the Lower Mainland owned by 30 diking authorities that manage over 50 separate dikes.
- The flood of record in the Lower Mainland occurred in 1894 and represents a 1:500 year return period event. This 1:500 standard is the current design flood profile level that Lower Mainland dikes should be constructed to withstand.
- Approximately 250 km of dikes in the Fraser Valley were re-constructed between 1970 and 1990 to a relatively uniform standard under the Fraser River Flood Control Program. Although the intention of the Program was to construct the dikes to withstand a recurrence of the 1894 flood, the flood profile developed in the 1960's was approximately 1 metre below the current profile for the 1894 event, which has been developed using improved hydrological modelling techniques. Therefore most of the Fraser Valley dikes are vulnerable to failure during events smaller than the design event.
- The flood of 1948 was smaller than the flood of 1894, but caused far more damage due to increased floodplain development. The widespread flooding occurred due to dike breaches caused by both over topping and seepage failures. The extensive work on the diking system in the Fraser Valley protects vast amounts of land. During periods of concern, dikes are patrolled and inspected to identify areas of high risk and to provide emergency work if necessary. However, unknown deficiencies could lead to unexpected dike failure.

What is the status of flood forecasting in BC?

- The watershed feeding the Fraser River is roughly equal to half the size of California, making forecasting very complex. BC's River Forecast Centre dedicates between 30 to 50 per cent of its resources to forecasting the Fraser River. This is in addition to the hydraulic modelling of the river undertaken by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

- The Fraser River is continuously monitored by the River Forecast Centre and during periods of increasing flow, five day forecasts are provided, with the frequency of forecasts increasing as necessary. During period of heightened concern, the Centre can produce forecasts up to several times a day. Generally, forecasts of high reliability can be produced two to three days in advance.
- BC has an excellent working relationship with Environment Canada's meteorologists. Weather systems are continuously monitored and potential extreme weather events are effectively communicated with provincial partners and externally with local governments and stakeholders through EMBC's dedicated flood coordination readiness calls.

Background:

- Designing a dike for overtopping is only one of many aspects of dike design. Of the more than 50 known dike failures in BC, the majority of failures have been caused by other factors such as erosion, seepage, stability, recreational use damage, tree collapse, flood box and pump station failure. Dikes are also vulnerable to seismic damage during earthquake events.
- The current system of more than 50 dikes in the Fraser Valley is unique with respect to its design and construction history. Many have deficiencies and areas of concern, particularly with respect to seepage and stability.
- A dike is only as strong as its weakest section. While the diking system of defence is substantial, many dikes need to be updated to meet current standards. Lower Mainland dikes met the design standards when constructed in the past, but due to morphological / hydrological changes, may not continue to meet current standards.
- Due to the dynamic nature of the Fraser River, climate change and sea level rise, the flood profile of the Fraser River can change. The most recent flood profile developed and published in summer 2014, confirmed that most dikes located on the Lower Fraser River do not meet current standards. Sea level rise and larger flood flows due to climate change are expected to increase flood risk in the future.
- Sea level rise and the increased frequency of storms are of particular concern for our coastal areas. Current diking projects with a design life of approximately 100 years are incorporating design provisions to allow flexibility for upgrades or modifications to account for sea level rise of at least one meter.
- Emergency Management BC, its partner ministries and local governments are working together to identify areas of regional concern or risk.

Contact: Carol Loski

Phone: 250-952-5063

Mobile: s.17

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Climate Change and Natural Hazards

Suggested Response:

- Climate change has been demonstrated to contribute to severe storms, drought and sea level rise.
- Recent trends indicate that the frequency and magnitude of severe weather events due to climate change is increasing. This may add to the current risk for flooding, debris flows, avalanches and landslides.
- Prolonged, dry periods and loss of vegetation due to climate related issues such as infestation of the Pine Beetle may contribute to increases in wildfires.
- Sea level rise and storm surges will also impact coastal and low lying areas of the province.
- Emergency Management BC is working closely with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Climate Change Action Secretariat at the Ministry of Environment to identify options to support local governments in addressing risks associated with climate change.
 - The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations can provide additional detail on recent design standard changes for diking infrastructure to account for sea level rise, on updates to land use guidelines for development in coastal areas and on the fuel suppression program to limit wildfire damage.
 - The Ministry of Environment's Climate Action Secretariat can provide detailed information on joint research on Atmospheric Rivers, Sea Level Rise and other hazard related climate items.
- The Province takes the threat of flooding very seriously. In addition to ongoing support to local governments prior to, during and after a flood event, BC has taken significant flood mitigation actions.
- The Flood Protection Program was established in 2007 to fulfill government's commitment to provide flood mitigation funding of \$100 M over 10 years to local communities across the province.

Contact: Carol Loski	Phone: 250-952-5063	Mobile: s.17
----------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Tsunami Notification – Provincial Emergency Notification System

Suggested Response:

- It is important coastal communities at risk, key stakeholders, and the media be notified of a potential tsunami as quickly as possible.
- Communities require notification to ensure that they can activate their emergency plans to protect the public.
- Emergency Management BC's notification system is a key tool in ensuring local authorities and public safety partners receive timely notification of any tsunami threats.
- The National Tsunami Warning Centre is the earthquake and potential tsunami threat notification source for all pacific coastal authorities, including those in BC.
- Upon Emergency Management BC receiving Centre notification of a potential tsunami threat to BC, Emergency Management BC utilises the Provincial Emergency Notification System to notify emergency management contacts in all coastal communities.
- Emergency Management BC initiated the Provincial Emergency Notification System Renewal project in 2014 with the goal of decreasing the time to issue a notification, ensuring the right people are notified at the right time, ensuring that the alerting process is resilient and reliable, and providing a notification system that is more efficient and easier to launch.
- The new PENS became operational in March 2015.

Background:

- The Provincial Emergency Notification System (PENS) sends notifications to emergency management, local authority and first responder contacts. These notifications are in the form of recorded telephone messages to over 600 phones, faxes to over 300 fax machines, and emails to over 450 email addresses.
- Following the Japan 2011 earthquake and tsunami, Emergency Management BC (EMBC) established a new public information website, EmergencyInfoBC, which makes use of social media tools to further educate and alert the public, and integrates with PENS.

- EMBC utilized PENS, in conjunction with its social media tools, for both the October 2012 and January 2013 earthquake and tsunami events near the BC coastline.
- EMBC tests PENS regularly to ensure the notification process functions effectively.
- There are currently longer term national initiatives exploring comprehensive alerting and notification tools. This includes the National Alert Aggregation and Dissemination System. BC is actively participating with provinces, territories and federal partners to develop and operationalize this system.

Responsibilities

- The Emergency Program Act outlines the roles and responsibilities of local authorities for emergency planning and management. Local authorities are responsible for the direction and control of their jurisdiction's emergency plan and response.
- EMBC is responsible to notify local authorities and key public safety and media stakeholders in the event of a tsunami threat.
- Local authorities are responsible to notify their residents of any tsunami threat as they are familiar with local hazards and risk areas, and can identify, target and alert citizens who may be at risk and direct them to areas of safety.
- Local authorities may receive earthquake and tsunami information and notifications directly from the National Tsunami Warning Centre, as well as forwarded Centre information from a number of other recognised sources which may include EMBC, Environment Canada and/or the Canadian Coast Guard.

Contact: Chris Duffy	Phone: 250-952-4544	Mobile: s.17
----------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Ground Search and Rescue Funding

Suggested Response:

- We recognize the value of Ground Search and Rescue to the province, and all British Columbians are thankful for the services these dedicated, local teams provide.
- Because of this recognized value, the Province invests over \$5 M in funding to pay for operational costs of search and rescue deployments, their Workers Compensation Board coverage, liability insurance and funding towards their training and equipment.
- The Province works collaboratively with the BC Search and Rescue Association to find solutions needed to maintain the efficiency and effectiveness of search and rescue in BC.
- BC.'s search and rescue volunteers are heroes and I think the recent move by the federal government to give them a tax credit that brings them in line with volunteer firefighters is a fitting recognition of the work they do.
- Dialogue between the Association and the Province is ongoing.

Background:

- BC has 80 Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR) teams and 2,500 volunteers, and these teams take part in over 1,300 missions each year compared to roughly 2,000 in all of Canada.
- The Province recognizes GSAR teams as a critical resource in BC through over \$5 M in funding last year:
 - \$3.4 M in support of operational tasks (equipment repair/replacement, helicopter costs, mileage and meals;
 - \$1.9 M from gaming funds (equip and training);
 - \$250,000 GSAR training via the JIBC contract;
 - \$35,000 to support administrative functions in the BC Search and Rescue Association (BCSARA) which is new this fiscal;
 - \$25,000 to support travel for the annual BCSARA board meeting; and
 - \$208,000 in Algoma Liability Insurance for Volunteer Search and Rescue Directors.

- On an ongoing basis, GSAR groups and their members provide feedback directly to BCSARA specifically focused on the many challenges that they experience operationally and administratively. In 2012, BCSARA led a Federal Search and Rescue New Initiatives Fund (SAR-NIF) project, titled 'Leveling the Playing Field to obtain a provincial perspective on these challenges, the project consisted of bringing together representation from GSAR groups, SAR partner agencies, and BCSARA to identify existing best practices, challenges and gaps in the delivery of GSAR services.
- One of the major challenges identified was the amount of time volunteers and BCSARA have to commit to fund raising and administration, while trying to maintain training and response capability.
- The Alternate Funding Model for Ground and Inland Search and Rescue in British Columbia, Discussion Paper that has been submitted by BCSARA highlighted the following points:
 - BC has one of the best Ground and Inland Water Search and Rescue services in North America. The current system utilizes paid responsible agency staff with trained volunteers (unpaid professionals), and a high degree of interagency co-operation to effect searches and technical rescues in often difficult terrain. This system has been developed and enhanced over many years, in response to the appropriately 1,300 SAR incidents annually, which is more than the rest of Canada combined.
 - While the 2,500 plus dedicated search and rescue volunteers in BC are willing to evolve, it is becoming difficult to maintain even current service due to increasing funding needs, static funding levels, and onerous processes to access funding. This is further exacerbated as non-operational funding comes from many different sources and, albeit most welcome, is often one time, not recognizing the need for maintenance and recertification.
- BCSARA recommends that a different overall funding model in BC needs to be implemented to sustain the current program and capacity. Specifically, BCSARA recommends the following model, adopted by several SAR programs in the US:
 - Through legislation, the development and implementation of a provincial Search and Rescue Fund. Funding would flow from various sources, and a board would oversee the distribution. In Colorado funding comes from fishing and hunting licences, a standalone wildlife habitat stamp, off-highway vehicle registration, and through voluntary purchase of Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue Cards available at retailers and on-line.
- BCSARA also indicates that there is precedent in BC for such a model; the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund established under the Wildlife Act receives revenue collected from surcharges on hunting, fishing and other licenses. These funds, along with donations, are administered by the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation.

- EMBC is participating in a two year pilot project, with an optional one year renewal, with Vernon Search and Rescue to determine the utilization of helicopter winch rescue in Search and Rescue. The pilot is nearing the end of the first year and a report will be provided at the end of the pilot project.
- EMBC is currently reviewing a proposal, in conjunction with RCMP and the BCSARA, for Unmanned Aerial Vehicle use in Search and Rescue that has been presented by Coquitlam Search and Rescue.

Contact: Chris Duffy	Phone: 250-952-4544	Mobile: s.13
----------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Road Rescue Service Delivery

Suggested Response:

- I am aware of the issues associated with the ability of local authority fire departments and road rescue groups to replace road rescue vehicles and equipment which directly impacts the provision of road rescue services outside of municipal boundaries across the province.
- In response to these challenges, Emergency Management BC collaborated with the Fire Chief's Association of British Columbia to establish new road rescue reimbursement rates which cover operational expenses and were implemented in the fall of 2013.
- Emergency Management BC revised the road rescue policy in July of 2014 which created a more equitable policy and compensation framework across all three categories of road rescue services providers.
- The Province is continuing to work with internal and external stakeholders to identify a more permanent and sustainable solution to the issues of governance and funding associated with road rescue within the province to protect public safety.

Background:

- There are approximately 50,000 motor vehicle accidents in BC each year. There are 133 registered road rescue organizations in BC that respond to motor vehicle accidents outside of jurisdictional boundaries. These organizations consist of six search and rescue groups; eight road rescue societies and 119 fire departments including career, paid/on call and volunteer departments.
- There is no provincial legislation governing the provision of road rescue services in BC. It is a discretionary service delivered by a combination of fire departments and volunteer road rescue groups throughout the province. The Province has no mandate or budget to lease or purchase road rescue equipment.
- Some road rescue groups have been successful in securing provincial gaming grants to support the purchase of new road rescue trucks and equipment. This funding is not guaranteed or sustainable and applications are assessed on their own merit and within the context of available funding.
- Many local authorities recognize this service as a community investment or civic responsibility and support directly or through mutual aid partnerships.

- The continued provision of road rescue services by fire departments and road rescue groups has been challenged by a lack of capacity/funding to support ongoing vehicle and equipment replacement.
- To ensure the sustainability of road rescue services to protect motorists and the public travelling on highways in BC, Emergency Management BC will engage with the broader stakeholders to identify strategic governance and possible funding mechanisms to help sustain road rescue services in BC.

Contact: Gordon Anderson	Phone: 250-952-5048	Mobile: s.17
--------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Earthquake Preparedness

Suggested Response:

- In March 2014, I announced an extensive stakeholder consultation initiative regarding earthquake preparedness to be chaired by Henry Renteria, former head of California's Office of Emergency Services.
- This consultation engaged federal, First Nations, provincial and local levels of government, as well as the media, business, adjoining provincial and state jurisdictions and non-governmental organizations.
- Mr. Renteria's final report, including recommendations, was submitted to government in December, 2014. It was publicly released in March 2015.
- This report:
 - Reinforces the principle that emergency management is a shared responsibility between all levels of government, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and the public;
 - Recognizes that significant work is underway at the provincial level to enhance preparedness;
 - Provides government with a number of sensible ideas for enhancing earthquake preparedness in British Columbia over the long term; and
 - Provides valuable input towards the Emergency Management BC annual strategic plan update for 2015/16 and will be a key reference as continuous preparedness enhancements are undertaken. It would not have been possible without the thoughtful contributions of stakeholders from across British Columbia.
- The following significant actions, many set out as deliverables within Emergency Management BC's strategic plan, demonstrate concrete action consistent with the report's recommendations and have been undertaken, or will be underway shortly.

Notifications

- An upgrade to the Provincial Emergency Notification System provides new efficiencies to get tsunami notifications more quickly into the hands of emergency managers in BC's coastal communities and media so that they may alert citizens faster.
- Participation in the development and implementation of the Alert Ready national public alerting system allows authorized users, such as Emergency Management BC, to formulate and post alerts to a dedicated system for mass broadcast by media.

- This spring, the Province will begin undertaking an analysis of the future of 911 call answer service throughout BC. This will include consulting various stakeholders on how best to leverage emerging communication technologies, and to streamline and coordinate a sustainable, resilient, province-wide system of emergency communications services.

Preparedness

- Increased capacity for provincial level emergency logistics and operational co-ordination (10 staff).
- Increased capacity to support future provincial-level catastrophic event training and exercises (2 staff).
- The launch this spring of a public education campaign called “Prepared BC: In It Together” to inform and empower British Columbians to be prepared for emergencies and disasters, in collaboration with local authorities, First Nations and emergency management professionals.
- Increased focus on prevention and mitigation across government which is reflected, for example, in the evolution of the current flood protection program into a broader mitigation approach.
- The first iteration of the British Columbia Earthquake Immediate Response Plan has been prepared in co-operation with key stakeholders, with its anticipated release to the broader public later in 2015.
- Provision of \$50,000 to Ocean Networks Canada to support research for tsunami inundation maps, to assist long-term planning in vulnerable coastal communities in British Columbia.
- Providing tsunami preparedness tips and information on the Emergency Info BC blog, along with details on how to sign up for tsunami alerts and connect with EMBC's social media channels. Through this blog, individuals can also access a variety of preparedness-themed awareness campaigns.
- Updates to the Earthquake and Tsunami Smart Manual, which includes important information for British Columbians to help get themselves prepared for a major earthquake or tsunami. It is available online at: <http://bit.ly/1E0ZFDa>.
- The report also provides the provincial government and other partners with an invaluable path forward as continuous improvement on earthquake preparedness is made and new initiatives are developed.

- I would like to thank Mr. Renteria for his work, and thank all those stakeholders who contributed their time and input.

Background:

The Earthquake Preparedness Consultation

- In March 2014, the Office of the Auditor General Report released a report focussed on Emergency Management BC (EMBC), titled “Catastrophic Earthquake Preparedness.” This report concluded that EMBC was not adequately prepared for a catastrophic earthquake, and made a number of recommendations. Government accepted the Auditor General’s recommendations, and noted that action was already underway to address them. Government also noted that long term action on earthquake preparedness would have to be informed by input from a wide range of stakeholders.
- To this end, in March 2014, the Ministry of Justice contracted with Henry Renteria, former head of California’s Office of Emergency Services, to conduct an extensive stakeholder consultation on the topic of earthquake preparedness, and to report back to government with recommendations on how British Columbians could become more prepared. This consultation engaged all levels of government as well as the media, business, First Nations, academia, adjoining provincial, and state jurisdictions and non-governmental organizations.
- During the consultation process, April to July 2014, stakeholders highlighted concerns with many aspects of British Columbia’s disaster preparedness. These concerns, combined with Renteria’s own assessments, are reflected in his report and its recommendations which were submitted to government in December 2014. The report was publicly released in March 2015. See Attachment A for a list of recommendations.

Chair Henry Renteria: Appointment and Contract

- The earthquake consultation was announced on March 11, 2014. Originally, the earthquake consultation was to be led by two co-chairs, Henry Renteria and John Les. On March 12, 2014, it was announced that the contract with John Les was cancelled and that Henry Renteria would chair the consultation. Henry Renteria’s original contract provided for a contract maximum of \$100,000 in fees and \$30,000 in expenses. Consistent with procurement policy, this contract was a direct award, due to urgency.
- Henry Renteria submitted his report to government in December 2015, fulfilling the terms of his original contract. On December 23, 2014, his contract was extended to March 31, 2015, in order for Mr. Renteria to assist government with its review of the report, and preparations for its release to the public. The value of the contract remains unchanged.

Actual fees incurred for completion of the report were approximately \$74,000. See “Project Budget” below for actual expenditures.

Project Budget

- An incremental budget envelope of up to \$430,000 was established for this initiative through the Emergency Program Act, consistent with section 4(2)(d) of the Act whereby the Minister may enter into agreements and make payments to person(s) or organizations to provide services in development or implementation of emergency plans or programs. However, the Ministry has sought opportunities to reduce costs and use existing resources wherever possible.

Project Cost Summary

Cost Category	Actual Costs*
Chair	\$73,868
Chair Expenses	\$5,638
Chair and staff travel booked by Ministry	\$30,892
Facilitation, facilities, other incremental costs	\$7,800
Team Leader incremental cost	\$7,212
Subtotal: Project Incremental Cost	\$125,410
Staff costs (team lead, manager, admin support)	\$179,563
Total project costs, including staff time	\$297,761
* Project costs up to report delivery. Minimal costs have been incurred since.	

Appendix A: Henry Renteria Report Recommendations

Recommendation #1:	Leadership, Authority and Responsibility
The provincial government must provide Emergency Management BC (EMBC) with additional resources and the authority required to effectively deliver emergency management leadership to provincial crown agencies and local authorities. Further, EMBC must be positioned within government in such a fashion that its authority is greatly enhanced.	
Recommendation #2:	Funding and Accountability
The provincial and federal governments must implement a funding program to support local authority preparedness efforts, and leverage emergency management funding to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase emphasis on planning and mitigation; and, • Increase local authority accountability. 	
Recommendation #3:	Intergovernmental and Inter-Agency Coordination
Federal, provincial, and local authorities, as well as other entities, such as those in the private sector, must ensure that they have the integrated plans and capacities in place to deal with a catastrophic event.	
Recommendation #4:	Public Education, Awareness and Engagement
EMBC together with significant agencies at all levels of government and private sector partners must launch a long term and coordinated earthquake preparedness public education and awareness campaign. New funding and staff will be required.	
Recommendation #5:	Private Sector and Non-government Organizations
The province must prepare and resource a strategy for further engagement of the private sector in emergency management planning, including mandated requirements for private sector entities.	
Recommendation #6:	Training and Exercising
The provincial government must resource EMBC with additional staff and funding to develop and implement comprehensive training and exercise strategies with partners.	
Recommendation #7:	Province Wide Risk Analysis
In the long term, EMBC and its partners must develop a strategy for enhanced hazard risk and vulnerability analysis, and increasing the availability of emergency management risk data for use by local authorities, the private sector, First Nations and the public.	
Recommendation #8:	Emergency Management Capability Priorities
Federal, provincial, and local governments must invest in emergency management capability enhancements in such areas as alerting, logistics, urban search and rescue, rapid damage assessment, and 911.	

Contact: Pat Quealey	Phone: 250-952-5023	Mobile: s.17
----------------------	---------------------	--------------

2014/15 ESTIMATES NOTE

English Bay Vessel Oil Spill – Response

Suggested Response:

Clean Up

- The source of the spill was confirmed as the MV Marathassa. This vessel was inspected, the sources found and addressed.
- Clean up operations are now transitioning to longer term monitoring. Work is complete regarding cleaning and decontaminating equipment and vessels.
- Specialized shoreline clean up teams were deployed and over 60 km of potentially impacted shoreline was assessed. Non-continuous impacts were noted at locations covering about 6 km. A variety of groups and agencies participated in cleanup operations and longer-term monitoring is underway in case of isolated impacts.
- Approximately 20 – 30 potentially impacted birds were identified and a small number were captured for cleaning. A wildlife stabilization site was established for cleaning wildlife at HMCS DISCOVERY in Stanley Park. Two birds were euthanized, one was found dead and three were cleaned and released.
- Shellfish sampling was conducted and results are being analyzed to check for any possible health or ecological impacts. A shellfish and ground fish harvesting ban is currently in place.
- Owners of the MV Marathassa have been cooperating. They will be responsible for all costs association with the spill, clean-up and long-term monitoring. They have posted a \$300,000 bond to ensure their continued engagement. Long-term monitoring and recovery planning is underway.

If asked about response coordination

- In the early stages of the response, there was inadequate leadership from the Coast Guard, with respect to coordinating responses from various agencies within the unified command structure.
- Since those initial challenges; however, the leadership and response coordination improved. All agencies worked constructively and efficiently during the response and clean up phases and continue to do so as activities transition to long-term monitoring.

If asked about world class spill response

- The Province has been clear that we need to improve our spill preparedness and response. World-class marine spill response and preparedness is one of BC's five conditions that must be met before support for any heavy oil pipeline project can be considered. Our insistence for a world-class marine response regime is only strengthened by this event.

Background (as of April 23, 2015):

- The province's Emergency Coordination Centre received a spill report from the Canadian Coast Guard at 5:22 PM on April 8 and notified Ministry of Environment (MoE) at 5:27 PM.
- Based on the initial information reported, the situation was not categorized as a significant incident. Results of a flyover showed the spill was larger than anticipated and at approximately 8:50 PM Western Canada Marine Response Corporation (WCMRC) was dispatched to respond to the spill. The Corporation has been on scene since 9:30 PM the night of the incident, skimming oil and recovering the spilled product.
- The Coast Guard had stated approximately 80% of oil was cleaned up within 36 hours and the source had been completely contained. Total fuel spilled was estimated at 2700 litres. Water below the surface and the sea floor bottom were being examined for oil.
- The fuel is bunker fuel which is a toxic type of crude oil used as fuel for large cargo vessels. It will initially float but may sink as it weathers or interacts with sediment. It typically has a high viscosity which makes it very sticky and hard to remove from shorelines, marine birds, etc.
- The source of the spill was the MV Marathassa and they are considered the responsible party. As the Responsible Party, they contracted Polaris Applied Sciences to assist with clean-up. Under both federal and provincial polluter-pay legislation, the owners of the Marathassa will be responsible for costs associated with the spill and cleanup.
- Coast Guard is the lead agency for marine spills and is working in unified command with Port Metro Vancouver, Transport Canada, Environment Canada, Western Canada Marine Response Corporation, City of Vancouver and MoE to respond to this spill.
- Ministry of Environment's Environmental Emergency Program launched its Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Techniques (SCAT) Team to assess and clean-up any affected beaches. Initial assessment began April 9 and shoreline cleanup activities are continuing. Planning with other partner agencies to determine next steps and endpoints for cleanup is also ongoing.
- MoE also deployed staff to address wildlife impacted by the oil. Along with ministry specialists, the Canadian Wildlife Service and the Oiled Wild Life Society worked to develop

this oiled wildlife plan. Focus Wildlife and Vancouver Aquarium marine biologists assisted with wildlife observations and planning as well.

- In total, the Province had 20 staff stationed at the incident command post or participating in field activities. These included:
 - 1 Provincial Incident Commander;
 - 1 Deputy Provincial Incident Commander;
 - 1 Environmental Unit Leader;
 - 5 Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Techniques team members;
 - 1 Waste Management specialist;
 - 1 Oiled Wildlife specialist;
 - 5 Emergency Management BC staff providing liaison and other ICP functions;
 - 4 Conservation Officers; and
 - 1 GCPE Communications Officer.

Contact: Pat Quealey	Phone: 250-952-5023	Mobile: s.17
----------------------	---------------------	--------------

**Ministry of Justice
Estimates 2015/16 Briefing Book**

**Liquor Control and Licensing Branch
and
Liquor Distribution Branch
Table of Contents**

Estimate Notes

1. Liquor Policy Review Implementation
2. Liquor in Grocery
3. Liquor Wholesale Pricing
4. Social Responsibility
5. Special Occasion Licensing
6. Minors as Agents Program
7. Liquor Distribution Branch Governance
8. Liquor Distribution Branch Vancouver Distribution Centre Sale and Relocation

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Liquor Policy Review Implementation

Suggested Response:

- The BC government continues to move forward on implementing recommendations coming out of the Liquor Policy Review, with many changes still to come or in progress including a complete re-write of the Liquor Control and Licensing Act that was introduced in the Legislature this spring.
- We are continuing to reduce red-tape for the people of this province to save time, make things more efficient, and increase choice and convenience for consumers, while not losing sight of health and public safety.
- More than one third of the Liquor Policy Review recommendations are focused on health, safety, social responsibility, enforcement and education.
- As of April 1, government has implemented 34 recommendations.
- Some of the milestone changes to date include:
 - allowing liquor sales at farmers' markets;
 - allowing minors in pubs so they can join their families for a meal;
 - the introduction of happy hours with minimum pricing to encourage the responsible consumption of alcohol; and
 - removing the requirement for fencing around beer gardens at festivals and special events provided there are no public safety concerns.

Background:

- As of April 1, government has implemented 34, or 47%, of the recommendations.

Highlights of Liquor Policy Review Recommendations Implemented To Date

- **Liquor sales at farmers' markets** – wine, beer, cider and spirit manufacturers are now able to sell and serve samples of their products at farmers' markets, as long as the market and the municipality approve.
- **Minors in pubs** – liquor primary establishments can apply to accommodate minors so that families can have brunch at a local pub or enjoy a meal together at their local legion.

- **Happy hour** – licensees selling drinks by the glass, such as pubs, restaurants and lounges, may alter their liquor prices throughout the course of the day.
- **Minimum pricing** – minimum drink prices have been put in place to encourage responsible consumption in response to recommendations from health advocates.
- **Beer garden fencing** – government has removed the requirement for fencing around beer gardens at family-friendly festivals and special events provided there are no public safety concerns.
- **Mixed-spirit drinks** are now allowed at Special Occasion Licence events, like festivals, as well as at arenas and stadiums.
- **Moving special occasion licensing online** – a pilot launched in Vancouver/Burnaby in February will test out a new, online system, aiming to launch province wide in spring 2015.
- **Serving it Right has been enhanced and expanded** to include everyone who sells/serves alcohol in BC, as of September 2015. A shortened version of the program, called Special Event Server certification, is also in development.
- **Mandatory social responsibility materials will be posted in licensed establishments**, as the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch works with Ministry of Health and other partners to encourage healthy decisions around alcohol use, following targeted industry consultations.
- **Homemade and UBrew/UVin beer, wine or cider** can be served by hosts of family Special Occasion License events offering further flexibility for consumers. Also, owners of UBrews and UVins, as well as their family members, are now permitted to own other liquor related establishments, an out-of-date rule that has been updated under modernized liquor policies.
- **Cutting red tape** – licensees may now transfer small amounts of liquor between similar types of establishments. Also, licensees may also store liquor in secure, off-site locations, subject to notifying the Branch.
- **Benefitting the tourism industry** – ski hills and golf courses can apply for a permanent licence endorsement to extend their licensed activities to outdoor areas on their property until 10:00 pm, up to 26 times a calendar year, rather than having to apply and pay separately for each extension.

LIQUOR 1

- **Creating safe environments for minors** – liquor-primary establishments can offer more all-ages, no liquor events, such as concerts and dances. All events will continue to be flagged, using a simple online notification application, for the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch.
- **Licensed wine stores and private liquor stores may sell their products at food and beverage festivals** licensed under a Special Occasion License.

Contact: Doug Scott, LCLB	Phone: 250-952-5791	Mobile: s.17
---------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Liquor in Grocery

Suggested Response:

- The public spoke and we listened. Liquor in grocery stores was the single most popular idea throughout the liquor policy review.
- Our unique, two-part model for liquor sales in grocery stores, which took effect April 1, will promote BC products, support convenience, jobs and economic growth and safeguard health and public safety.
 - The “store within a store” model will allow for same-cart shopping and the sale of beer, wine and spirits through separate cashiers, safeguarding health and safety, and ensuring restricted access to alcohol by minors.
 - The “wine on shelves” model will allow existing VQA and independent wine stores to relocate or transfer their licence to an eligible grocery store to sell 100% BC wine.
- To coincide with the grocery model:
 - The five-kilometre rule has been eliminated, allowing for more flexibility around the movement of licences.
 - The one-kilometre rule will remain in place for private liquor stores and has been expanded to include BC Liquor Stores in the interest of protecting health and safety.
 - Independent wine stores, liquor manufacturer stores and VQA licences will continue to be exempt from the one-kilometre restrictions under BC’s new grocery model.
 - Independent wine stores will be able to convert to LRS’s subject to the one kilometer rule.
- Government is maintaining a moratorium on licensee retail stores.
- Grocery stores must meet minimum size requirements and be focused on food service to ensure the premises have sufficient space to dedicate to a reasonably sized liquor store.
- Government is setting the regulatory framework but leaving it to industry to determine how many stores will take advantage of the opportunity to move into grocery.
- In regard to the sale of BC wine on grocery store shelves, only a very limited number of store licences will be issued and this will happen later this year.

Background:

- The initiative was a recommendation in the Liquor Policy Review report.
- Licensee Retail Store (LRS) licence relocations are no longer constrained by the “5km rule”.
- LRS licence relocations continue to be subject to the “1km rule” which now include Government Liquor Stores, who are also subject to it.
- LRS licence relocation applications are being processed following a lottery held on April 1.
- LRS and Wine Store licences (VQA and Independent stores) may relocate into, and/or co-brand with, an eligible grocery store.
- Grocery store is defined by 10,000 square feet, and 70% food sales.
- LRS licences in grocery stores will only have the option of subscribing to the “store within a store” model.
- Wine Store licences will also have the option of the “wine on the shelf” model, with wine selection limited to 100% BC product.
- Note: These changes do not address the intention to issue a limited number of licences for the sale of 100% BC wine on grocery store shelves. Legislative changes are required to implement this.

Contact: Doug Scott, LCLB	Phone: 250-952-5791	Mobile: s.17
---------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE**Liquor Wholesale Pricing****Suggested Response:**

- Underpinning many of our liquor changes, including our wholesale pricing model, is the concept that government needs to get out of the way and leave more to market forces.
- As of April 1, all retailers, including BC Liquor Stores, will purchase their products at a common wholesale price.
- The model was designed to collect approximately the same amount of revenue for government from each product category as exists today to ensure that government revenue is protected and used to support health and social programs in the province.
- Within each wholesale category, some products go up in price and some go down. For the vast majority of products, the change is very minor in either direction.
- The Liquor Distribution Branch has worked very hard to ensure stakeholders understand the changes that are being implemented by delivering presentations, webinars, written material and answering hundreds of phone calls and answering over 1,500 questions through a dedicated email address.

Background:

- In conjunction with the Liquor Policy Review, the BC Government announced that the Liquor Distribution Branch will separate its wholesale and retail businesses and introduce a wholesale pricing structure.
- Currently, private liquor retailers (private liquor stores, rural agency stores and independent wine stores) purchase their product for a discount off of the BC Liquor Store display price and BC Liquor Stores received their product at cost.
- Beginning April 1, 2015, under the wholesale pricing structure all retailers, including BC Liquor Stores, will purchase a product at a common wholesale price.
- The Branch was instructed to ensure they could continue to meet revenue targets, therefore the wholesale pricing model was constructed to generate about the same revenue in each of the product categories (spirits, wine, beer, refreshment).
- The Branch contracted the services of Ernst & Young to assist with the modelling for this complex undertaking.

LIQUOR 3

Contact: Audrey Wong, LDB	Phone: 604-252-3035	Mobile: s.17
---------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Social Responsibility

Suggested Response:

- More than one third of the Liquor Policy Review recommendations are focused on health, safety, social responsibility, enforcement and education.
- Mandatory social responsibility materials for posting have been sent to more than 10,000 establishments that serve or sell alcohol throughout BC, as the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch works with government and industry stakeholders to encourage healthy decisions around alcohol use.
- Serving it Right has been enhanced and will be expanded to include everyone who sells or serves alcohol in BC, as of September 2015. A shortened version of the program, Special Event Server certification, is also in development.
- For more than a decade, the Support Dry Grad campaign in BC Liquor Stores has been an integral part of the Liquor Distribution Branch's efforts to prevent underage drinking. Since its inception, the campaign has raised more than \$5.4 M.
- To help create more safe environments for minors, liquor-primary establishments can now offer more all-ages, no liquor events, such as concerts and dances. All events will continue to be flagged for the Branch, using a simple online notification application.
- The Liquor Control and Licensing Act's authority to require the mandatory display of social responsibility material in all establishments that sell or serve liquor is now in place, effective December 2014. Topics will likely include:
 - Alcohol Sense, a resource to assist parents of minors in talking to their children about responsible consumption;
 - The low risk drinking guidelines; and
 - Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.
- The Branch is working with RoadSafetyBC on the feasibility of implementing a "last drink" program, which will allow the Branch to follow up where police identify licensed establishments that are over-serving.
- The Branch is also in the process of obtaining funding to develop in-person licensee education program to educate licensees about liquor laws and how to operate their establishments in a responsible manner.

- These new social responsibility initiatives are intended to increase public safety, increase public awareness about responsible drinking, and ensure licensees and their staff are educated about liquor laws.

Background:

- The Liquor Policy Review recommendations represent an expansion of the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch's role in social responsibility.
- Over the past 4 years, the Branch has partnered with the Ministry of Health, Liquor Distribution Branch and other agencies to develop and implement the following social responsibility initiatives:
 - Promotion of Canada's Low Risk Drinking Guidelines (launched Nov 2011).
 - Development and promotion of a provincial dry grad resource, Life Starts Now, aimed at secondary school students and parents (launched April 2012);
 - Development of an anti-binge drinking social marketing campaign (BingeDrinking.ca) to implement one of the recommendations stemming from the Stanley Cup Riot Review (ran from April 23 to June 3, 2012).
 - Development of Municipal Alcohol Policies, aimed at local government owned/operated facilities to ensure responsible operation of their licensed premises and public festivals and events (launched in 2012).
- In 2011, the Branch created a new Responsible Alcohol Consumption page on the Branch's website, with links to these jointly developed resources and other materials. In addition, social responsibility issues are often featured in the Liquor Line newsletter.
- For the Liquor Distribution Branch's part, they facilitate the annual Dry Grad campaign that raises money for graduating high school students to hold non-alcohol events to celebrate their success.
- Throughout the year, BC Liquor Stores deliver a number effective in-store awareness campaigns to alert consumers to the risks associated with alcohol consumption and promote responsible use.

Contact: Doug Scott, LCLB	Phone: 250-952-5791	Mobile: s.17
---------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE**Special Occasion Licensing****Suggested Response:**

- Government has implemented several successful changes over the past year related to Special Occasion Licences, including introduction of whole site licensing and allowing homemade beer and wine to be served at family Special Occasion License events.
- The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch is rolling out the online Special Occasion License application system with the goal of moving more than 25,000 applications per year. Once fully implemented, this will save more than 100,000 pieces of paper annually, while saving applicants time and resources.
- With roll-out currently underway, the new application will streamline three separate approval processes into one speeding up approvals for small, low-risk events, many of which will be able to receive their online stamp of approval immediately.
- The online process will accept multi-day and multi-venue events applications saving organizers the hassle, for example, of sending in three separate applications for a three-day festival that happens over one weekend.
- From a public safety perspective this is a win as well, as all information for Special Occasion Licenses will be available to public safety officials in real-time enabling police and liquor inspectors to run searches on their computers or mobile devices at any time.
- More than double the expected number of event organizers applied online during the pilot for Special Occasion Licenses. These promising results show that applying online will be much more convenient for applicants while supporting public safety authorities with the information they need.
- High risk events, such as large festivals, will continue to face review by a variety of public safety authorities, including police, the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch, local governments / First Nations and other agencies.

Background:

- Approximately 25,000 Special Occasion Licenses are issued each year in British Columbia for family, non-profit and community events as well as for promotional liquor tastings. Special Occasion Licenses allow liquor to be served or sold in locations that are not permanently licensed.

- Licenses were previously issued at BC Liquor Stores on behalf of the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch. The paper application can require up to three separate packages and may involve several trips to police, local governments, liquor inspectors and approval from the Branch's licensing division.
- Most events are for one-time family gatherings or for private members' events. These events are usually low risk. Approximately 1,000 events each year are considered higher risk and are reviewed by liquor inspectors and police to ensure sufficient safety planning is in place.
- The Special Occasion License Online Project is currently underway to transform the application and review processes for these licences. The project cost is \$500,000 and is estimated to save government and applicants more than \$4 M over the next five years. Online applications will also result in significant time savings for customers and environmental benefits through reduced paper use and travel.

Contact: Doug Scott, LCLB	Phone: 250-952-5791	Mobile: s.17
---------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE**Minors as Agents
Program****Suggested Response:**

- No one wants to see liquor sold to underage youth and initiatives such as the Minors as Agents program are lowering the chances of that happening.
- This Liquor Control and Licencing Branch's successful program employs youth under 19 to monitor the illegal sales of liquor to minors.
- Using this approach, the compliance rate has risen from 29% before the program to over 70%.
- The Minors as Agents program began in liquor stores, and has since been expanded to include other venues such as licensed restaurants and Special Occasion Licence events and will soon be expanded to include grocery stores.
- The Program inspection data indicates that the program is having a positive impact but also that there is more work to do on the part of both industry and government to prevent the sale of liquor to minors at licensed establishments and liquor stores.
- The law is clear, it is illegal to sell alcohol to a minor and we expect all licensees, including government and private liquor stores, bars and restaurants, to follow it. As long as customers are asked for and present proper ID, licensees will not face fines.
- All of our agents go through rigorous training for their safety is top priority. At all times, the agents will have at least one adult liquor inspector accompany them during inspections. The inspector always ensures the agent feels safe and comfortable.

Background:

- The Minors as Agents Program contracts minor agents to attempt liquor purchase from liquor retail outlets and licensed establishments to test and promote compliance with the prohibition on supplying liquor to a minor and decrease the commercial availability of alcohol to youth.
- The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch focuses inspections on those establishments that are the subject of complaints and information obtained in the community about high risk activities where there is a greater likelihood of a sale to a minor.

- The compliance rates for the past two years have fallen. Reasons for the overall compliance rate dropping are likely because:
 - the program expanded to include licence classes that were not previously tested such as restaurants and some Special Occasion Licences. See attached tables for breakdown; and
 - the Branch focuses inspections on high risk establishments where there is a greater likelihood of a sale to a minor.
- The penalty for a first contravention of selling liquor to a minor is between \$7,500 to \$10,000 or a 10 to 15 day suspension.
- Due diligence is available as a defence to enforcement action taken as a result of selling to a minor and several licensees have successfully used it. The licensee may argue a full defence to the contravention if it can be demonstrated that all reasonable steps were taken to prevent the contravention from happening.

**MAP Enforcement Activity
Fiscal Year 2013-2014**

Contravention Notices Issued	70
Notices of Enforcement Action (NOEA) Issued	78
Notices of Enforcement Action Withdrawn	1
Waivers signed	52
Proceeding by way of an enforcement hearing	19
Licensee has not yet decided how to proceed (i.e., by signing a waiver or attending a hearing)	7
Hearing decision pending	3
Hearing decision issued (proven)	15
Hearing decision issued (not proven)	1**

** contravention proven but licensee successful in due diligence defence

**MAP Compliance Statistics
Fiscal Year 2013-2014
Results by Store Type**

2013/14	BC Liquor Store	Licensee Retail Store	Rural Agency Store	Special Occasion Licence	Food primary	Liquor primary	Wine Store	Total
Total Inspections	33	130	11	1	50	26	2	253
Sales to a minor	6	28	1	0	22	12	1	70
Non- compliance rate	18%	22%	Too small a data set	Too small a data set	44%	46%	Too small a data set	28%
Compliance Rate	82%	78%	Too small a data set	Too small a data set	56%	54%	Too small a data set	72%

Compliance Rate by Year and Licence Class

Compliance Rate By Year	BC Liquor Store	Licensee Retail Store	Rural Agency Store	Special Occasion Licence	Food primary	Liquor Primary	Manu- facturer / Wineries	Average
2011/ 12	96%	83%	too small a data set	no data	no data	no data	too small a data set	86%
2012/ 13	92%	72%	68%	too small a data set	49%	too small a data set	too small a data set	71%
2013/ 14	82%	78%	too small a data set	too small a data set	56%	54%	too small a data set	72%

Contact: Doug Scott, LCLB

Phone: 250-952-5791

Mobile: s.17

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE**Liquor Distribution
Branch Governance****Suggested Response:**

- In following through with my mandate direction to look at alternative governance options for the Liquor Distribution Branch, we continue to explore whether there is a model that would better service British Columbians.
- As it currently stands, our liquor retail model will remain status quo.
- The Liquor Distribution Branch will continue to generate revenue that will help pay for the social services, education and health care that British Columbians enjoy.

Background:

- In the Minister's 2013 mandate letter, Minister of Justice Suzanne Anton was asked to "consider and present options to convert the Liquor Distribution Branch into either a Crown agency or Crown Corporation with its own Board of Directors".
- This is separate from the recent liquor policy review led by Parliamentary Secretary John Yap, relating to modernizing BC's liquor legislation and regulations. The Liquor Review Terms of Reference excluded Liquor Distribution Branch governance.

Contact: Anita Nadziejko, CPPO	Phone: 250-387-4842	Mobile: s.17
--------------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE**LDB Vancouver
Distribution Centre
Sale and Relocation****Suggested Response:**

- The decision to sell the Vancouver warehouse provides the Liquor Distribution Branch with an opportunity to relocate to a new, larger facility and realize efficiencies and productivity gains.
- While the Branch continues to look for a suitable site and work on the design of the new facility, they are leasing their existing warehouse from the new owners for three years with two, one-year options to renew.
- In the meantime, business as usual will carry on at the Vancouver warehouse. Staff are not impacted by the property transfer.
- The Branch expects to be fully operational in a new location by 2018.

Background:

- On Feb. 14, 2013, the BC Government announced its plan to sell the property where the Liquor Distribution Branch's current Vancouver Distribution Centre is located on East Broadway and relocate the operation to an updated facility at a new location.
 - The Branch is recommending that it lease the new facility at an approximate lease rate of \$11.5 M per year. Leasing represents a savings of approximately \$5.6 M per year when compared to the cost of owning, and the lease cost would be allocated to annual operating expenses.
 - If approved to do so, the Branch, with the assistance of commercial real estate firms, will look for a suitable site within Metro Vancouver.
- The Branch contracted the services of Sedlak Management Consultants in Sept, 2013 and has been working with them on identifying the design specifications of the facility that will house upgraded warehouse technology and material handling equipment.
- It is not possible to state what staffing impacts there will be until the design work of the new facility is complete; however, the Branch will respect all collective agreement provisions.

Contact: Audrey Wong, LDB

Phone: 604-252-3035

Mobile: s.17

**Ministry of Justice
Estimates 2015/16 Briefing Book**

**Consumer Protection
Table of Contents**

Estimate Notes

1. Payday Lending
2. Debt Settlement
3. Home Inspectors
4. Guide and Service Dogs
5. Funeral Services on Haida Gwaii

2014/15 ESTIMATES NOTE

Payday Lending

Suggested Response:

- It is one of the Premier's platform commitments to reduce the maximum fees payable on payday loans from \$23 per \$100 borrowed to \$17 per \$100 borrowed.
- Ministry staff are working on a proposal for a review of the Province's payday lending regulations.
- This industry is rapidly evolving and we're always looking for new ways to help protect consumers.
- BC's payday lending laws protect consumers in a variety of ways – including limiting the amount they are charged for a loan, prohibiting certain lending practices detrimental to borrowers, and ensuring that consumers are aware of their rights prior to entering into a loan.
- Consumer Protection BC licenses payday lenders, conducts regular inspections, investigates and enforces the pay day lending law through compliance orders and financial penalties.

Background:

- The Federal Criminal Code prohibits interest charges that exceed an annual rate of 60%.
- A 2007 amendment to the Criminal Code allows payday lenders to operate legally if a province regulates the industry and sets maximum rates.
- In November 2009, the BC Payday Loans Regulation came into force requiring all payday lenders doing business in BC to be licensed with Consumer Protection BC (CPBC).
- A payday loan is defined as a "loan of money with a principal of \$1,500 or less for a term of 62 days or less".
- Borrowers are required to have a bank account and a regular source of income. They provide a cheque or pre-authorized debit for the full amount of the loan, plus fees, to be repaid on payday.
- Payday lending regulations for the Province are administered by CPBC.
- Payday lending rates in BC are designated by regulation and can be amended by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

- When the regulation was introduced, government committed to a review of the regulations.

Cash Store Financial Compliance Order

- In November 2010, CPBC found that Cash Store Financial Inc. was not complying with BC's payday lending regulations by charging for cash cards and charging fees that exceed the maximum allowable rate of 23% of the amount borrowed.
- In March 2012, CPBC completed a reconsideration of the 2010 Compliance Order and upheld the original decision.
- In January 2014, the BC Supreme Court rendered a decision regarding Cash Store's Judicial Review application, which upheld CPBC's 2010 finding.
- Cash Store Financial must refund unlawful fees charged to their customers since late 2009. This amount is expected to exceed \$1 M.
- Cash Store Financial is responsible for implementing the refund process and is required to:
 - Notify eligible consumers by providing notice on their website, posters in their branch locations, advertisements, as well as a mail-out notification package to all payday lending customers eligible for refunds.
 - Mail a refund cheque to the address provided on the refund claim form within 15 days of receipt of the claim.
- Cash Store Financial must also pay a \$25,000 penalty from the original decision and reimburse CPBC more than \$21,000 for investigation costs.

Lines of Credit

- Cash Store Financial is the largest payday lender in Canada and currently operates roughly 40% of all payday lending stores in BC. They are beginning to offer new 'line of credit' products in BC.
- These new products may not fall within current federal or provincial payday loan regulations.
- The total cost of these loans may exceed the prescribed maximum of \$23 per \$100 for payday loans. They would also not be subject to rollovers, concurrent loans, loan discounting, tied selling and other payday lending prohibited practices.
- BC will be looking at this issue in any review of Payday Lending regulations.

Contact: Toby Louie, CPPO	Phone: 250-356-6389	Mobile: s.17
---------------------------	---------------------	--------------

Appendix A: Payday Lending Maximum Charges by Jurisdiction

PAYDAY LENDING	
Jurisdiction	Maximum Charges (%)
BC	23
Alberta	23
Saskatchewan	23
Manitoba	17
Ontario	21
N.S.	25
P.E.I.	Proposed max rate of 25
N.B.	Rate has yet to be set
Quebec	No Payday lending permitted
NFLD	Do not Regulate
Yukon	Do not Regulate
NWT	Do not Regulate
Nunavut	Do not Regulate

2014/15 ESTIMATES NOTE

Debt Settlement

Suggested Response:

- While BC's current legislation provides protections for consumers around deceptive practices, it is our intention to enhance that protection.
- Amendments to the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act were passed in March and will come into force later this year.
- The amendments will require all debt settlement companies operating in BC to be licensed by Consumer Protection BC. They will also:
 - prohibit upfront fees and restrictions on clients communicating with their creditors;
 - require debt settlement companies to inform their clients if a creditor has refused a proposal; and
 - prohibit debt settlement companies from offering loans, credit or incentives to clients.
- Ministry staff consulted with our counterparts in other provinces as well as our consumer protection authority, Consumer Protection BC, and industry stakeholders on these legislative changes.
- The regulation of the debt settlement industry will be consistent with and build upon the current model for debt poolers in BC, which requires all debt pooling companies to be licensed and inspected for compliance with regulatory requirements.
- The government is committed to regulating debt settlement companies and establishing specific requirements to better protect consumers from harmful business practices.

Background:

- Debt collection companies are regulated and licensed in BC under the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act and the Debt Collection Industry Regulation.
- Currently the legislation only requires three industry groups defined in the Act (Bailiffs, Collection Agents, and Debt Poolers) to be licensed.
- Debt settlement companies offer to negotiate lump-sum settlements with creditors for an amount significantly less than a consumer's outstanding, unsecured debts. This varies from

traditional credit counselling services (debt poolers), which aim to set up low-interest repayment plans that assist consumers in paying off the full debt principal over time.

- Debt settlement companies are currently not licensed or regulated in BC and they employ a number of practices that can be considered deceptive and harmful to consumers.
- Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba license and prohibit debt settlement companies from charging upfront fees. Legislation in Ontario will come into force in July 2015. Legislation in Nova Scotia is awaiting proclamation.
- Consumer Protection BC has received numerous inquiries about debt settlement companies:
 - 2011 – Total of **157**
 - 2012 – Total of **52**
 - 2013 – Total of **137**
 - 2014 – Total of **71**
 - 2015 – **8** (up to Feb 23)
- The most common inquiries were whether the business was legal and allowed to operate in BC; whether the business needed a license; and what the consumer's contract cancellation rights were. However, consumers in BC are now generally more familiar with the practices of debt settlement companies than before.
- The debt settlement companies operating in BC that were inquired about the most in calls to Consumer Protection BC were:
 - Cambridge Life Solutions
 - Canadian Debt Services
 - Debt Free Solutions
 - Pacific Debt Canada

Contact: Toby Louie, CPPO	Phone: 250-356-6389	Mobile: 250-356-6389
---------------------------	---------------------	----------------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE**Home Inspectors****Suggested Response:**

- Home inspectors have been licensed in BC since April 1, 2009, when BC became the first province to regulate the sector.
- At present, BC and Alberta are the only provinces that license and regulate home inspectors.
- The BC government is strengthening home inspector licensing and protections for home buyers in the province.
- The Minister responsible for Housing is leading the initiative to improve home inspection licensing. Industry stakeholders and Ministry of Justice staff and Consumer Protection BC are participating in this work.
- Responsibility for home inspector licensing will remain with Consumer Protection BC.
- Enhanced protections for consumers and a common professional standard will be established for all home inspectors.

Background:

- Home inspection in BC is regulated under the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act and Home Inspector Licensing Regulation.
- Consumer Protection BC issues licenses to home inspectors. Home inspectors who meet the qualifications of one of four home inspector associations, designated by Consumer Protection BC, are eligible for a Provincial license.
- There are currently approximately 500 licensed home inspectors in BC.
- As long as minimum education and accreditation requirements are met, each association sets its own educational requirements, evaluation methods, standard of practice and complaints-handling process. These differences have led to confusion for consumers and antagonistic rivalry among the associations.
- Consultations conducted in 2013 indicate broad support for strengthening licensing requirements and protections for consumers. In the future, association membership will no longer be required in order to be licensed by Consumer Protection BC.

- Regulatory changes will be developed in 2015 and the new standards are anticipated to be ready in time for license renewals in March 2016.
- Neither Consumer Protection BC nor the four designated associations have authority to award damages if a home inspector has not fulfilled their obligation to identify visible defects during an inspection. Damages can only be assessed by the courts.

Contact: Anita Nadziejko, CPPO	Phone: 250 387 4842	Mobile: s.17
--------------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Guide and Service Dogs

Suggested Response:

- As part of the Province's Accessibility 2024 Strategy, the Ministry of Justice intends to modernize BC's guide and service dog program.
- A review of the guide animal legislation and program will ensure they reflect modern realities in the training and use of guide and service dogs.
- Our strategy includes proposed legislative changes, program changes and working with stakeholders to raise public awareness.
- The proposed Guide Dog and Service Dog Act has been introduced in the legislature. It intends to safeguard access for guide and service dog users while ensuring clarity and safety for other members of the public.
- Specifically, the Guide Dog and Service Dog Act, together with its regulations, would:
 - limit certification to dogs and no other animals, for greater certainty;
 - recognize both guide dogs for the visually impaired and service dogs for individuals with other disabilities;
 - require a high training standard for certified dogs;
 - provide an option for dogs to be tested by a designated third party if they were not trained at an accredited facility;
 - extend public access rights to certified dogs in training;
 - extend tenancy rights to include strata properties and retired certified dogs that continue to reside with their handlers; and
 - increase the existing penalties and create a new offence of falsely purporting to be a certified team.
- If the GDSDA is passed, it will replace the Guide Animal Act and come into force later this year. We will continue to work with stakeholders on developing the regulations to bring it into force.

Background:

- Two key changes are underway for the guide animal program:
 - transfer of program administration from the Corporate Policy and Planning Office to the Security Programs Division both of which are within the Ministry of Justice; and
 - proposed legislation to replace the Guide Animal Act.
- Day-to-day program delivery has been transferred to the Security Programs Division within the Policing and Security Branch as it has the infrastructure to seamlessly deliver the Program. The Security Programs Division is already responsible for certifying security dogs under the Security Services Act.
- The Corporate Policy and Planning Office will maintain responsibility for program policy and legislation.
- A total of approximately 200 dogs have been certified, with about 10 to 15 new dogs certified each year.

Contact: Toby Louie, CPPO	Phone: 250-356-6389	Mobile: s.17
---------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE**Funeral Services
on Haida Gwaii****Suggested Response:**

- We are committed to explore options for funeral services that can assist the Haida Gwaii community.
- I've had a conversation with the Mayor of the Village of Queen Charlotte and understand there are challenges for families who lose loved ones on Haida Gwaii.
- Ministry staff and Consumer Protection BC are exploring ways to better service small and remote communities and ensure there are resources available.

Background:

- On March 24, 2015, Ministry staff and members of Consumer Protection BC met with representatives from the BC Funeral Association to discuss, amongst other items, service delivery for small and remote communities. There was agreement to continue the dialogue.

s.13

Helping Families and Friends

- There is no prohibition for individuals to help their families and friends with funeral arrangements.
- Also, the Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act permits an unlicensed individual to assist in the transfer process, but that person must not receive any payment for this service. Consumer Protection BC must issue a private transfer permit to the family.

- Many funeral homes will assist families with funeral arrangements and support families who wish to do their own transfer and ceremony. In such cases, the family will often contact the funeral home by phone to authorize the home to perform the initial arrangements. This will include preparing the paperwork for the family, such as the death registration, burial permit and private transfer permit. The family can then perform the transfer to the cemetery or crematorium for final disposition.

Contact: Anita Nadziejko	Phone: 250-387-4842	Mobile: s.17
--------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Mandate Letter Actions

Balance the Ministry's budget

- We balanced the Ministry's budget in 2013/14. We will balance the budget in 2014/15 as well.

Implement Liquor Policy Reforms

- We are continuing to reduce red-tape to save time, make things more efficient, and increase choice and convenience for consumers, while not losing sight of health and public safety.
- More than one third of the Liquor Policy Review recommendations are focused on health, safety, social responsibility, enforcement and education.
- As of April 1, government has implemented 34, or 47%, of the recommendations.
- Some of the milestone changes to date include:
 - allowing liquor sales at farmers' markets;
 - allowing minors in pubs so they can join their families for a meal;
 - introducing happy hours with minimum pricing to encourage the responsible consumption of alcohol; and
 - removing the requirement for fencing around beer gardens at festivals and special events – provided there are no public safety concerns.
- Our unique, two-part model for liquor sales in grocery stores – which takes effect April 1 – will promote BC products, support convenience, jobs and economic growth and safeguard health and public safety.
- The wholesale pricing model came into effect on April 1 – meaning all retailers, including BC Liquor Stores, will purchase their products at the same price from one distributor, the Liquor Distribution Branch.

Re-write the Liquor Control and Licensing Act

For introduction in the spring 2015 legislative session.

- The new Liquor Control and Licensing Act was introduced on March 26, 2015.

Continue Justice Reform Agenda

Continue our justice reform agenda, including integration and court efficiencies as envisioned in the Cowper Report.

- We are committed to improving timeliness and efficiency in the justice system.
- We have made meaningful progress toward achieving the reforms envisioned in Cowper's report and completed the vast majority of the report recommendations, including:
 - Established the Justice Reform and Transparency Act;
 - Created the Justice and Public Safety Council;
 - Signed MOUs with the Judiciary;
 - Released the first justice and public safety plan by the Justice and Public Safety Council on March 31, 2014; and
 - Held four Justice Summit – with the last one, in November 2014, focussed on domestic and sexual violence.
- We'll be launching an online civil-resolution tribunal that will help British Columbians settle strata and small-claims disputes quickly and easily online. The Civil Resolution Tribunal Chair, Shannon Salter, was appointed in July 2014.
- Implementation of Legal Services Society's Justice Innovation and Transformation Initiatives began in September 2014 with the launch of the first of five three-year pilots aimed at enhancing criminal and family duty counsel and child protection services that will support early resolution.

Develop and Implement Violence Free BC

Working with the Ministry of Children and Family Development and Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, support the provincial domestic violence unit and develop and implement Violence Free BC.

- The Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy lays out a long-term vision of ending violence against women.
- This strategy builds on our work already underway, including an annual investment of more than \$70 M for prevention and intervention services for victims of crime and the completion of the major themes of the missing women's report.
- Our action in 2015 starts with up to \$5 M in civil forfeiture funding to support anti-violence and prevention initiatives, with a priority focus on violence against women.

- We're also making an ongoing commitment to dedicate a portion of civil forfeiture funds to support the Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy in future years.
- Over the next decade, our focus will be on priorities that:
 - Challenge beliefs and behaviours;
 - Ensure services are responsive, innovative and co-ordinated;
 - Support women to rebuild their lives;
 - Address violence against Aboriginal women; and
 - Foster strong relationships and new partnerships.
- We have provided more than \$1 M in Civil Forfeiture grants to support Domestic Violence Units. This funding has assisted in the development of new Units in Kelowna, Surrey and Nanaimo as well as the enhancement of existing Units in Vancouver, New Westminster, Abbotsford and the Capital Region.

Lower Fraser Valley Courtroom Capacity

Begin the implementation of the long term plan to improve courtroom capacity and access to justice for residents in the Lower Fraser Valley.

- Timely access is a priority for this government.
- We worked with Lower Fraser Valley communities to identify the most effective way to address courtroom pressures at the local level.
- On March 19, 2015, a \$24.3 M expansion was announced, including the addition of three courtrooms and two hearing rooms for the Surrey Courthouse, which has the largest criminal caseload in the province.
- The project was identified as the top priority in the Lower Fraser Valley Regional Plan: Court Capacity Expansion Project released in February 2014

Policing Structure and Funding Committee

Create a Policing Structure and Funding Committee to define federal, provincial and municipal policing funding responsibilities.

- In 2014, the Ministry established an Expert Committee on Police Structure and Funding with representatives from First Nations, local government, the Union of BC Municipalities, the RCMP, independent police forces, a designated policing unit and the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development.
- In the fall of 2014, the Expert Committee met several times and discussed responsibility, service delivery and funding challenges for a variety of police services.
- The Ministry is consolidating the findings from the Expert Committee meetings and developing next steps.

Implement Options to Improve Policing Integration

Work with communities in the Lower Mainland, Greater Victoria and Central Okanagan regions to examine and implement options to improve policing integration.

- At the request of CRD mayors, a review of integrated police teams that operate in the capital region was completed. The report details the complex factors that influence police agency decisions to join, continue with, or withdraw from integrated police teams in the capital region.
- We have also commenced work in collaboration with key stakeholders and a committee of external experts to define and clarify policing responsibilities at the federal, provincial and municipal levels, and to review police service delivery models and funding arrangements.
- As part of this work, an analysis and review of the structure of policing in other provinces has been completed and includes an environmental scan of police services that are currently being delivered in British Columbia.
- In the fall of 2014, the Expert Committee met several times and discussed s.13
s.13
- s.13
- To further support this endeavour, Bill 4, the Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2014, was introduced in the Legislature on October 23, 2014. The changes clarify government's authority within the Police Act to sustain and expand integrated policing teams and other specific, specialized policing services. This not only responds to issues raised by the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry regarding coordination of policing across multiple

jurisdictions, but also strengthens government's ability to ensure an adequate, effective level of policing is maintained throughout BC.

Blue Ribbon Panel Report on Crime Reduction

Receive and make recommendations to Cabinet on the report by Parliamentary Secretary Darryl Plecas and his Blue Ribbon Panel Report on crime reduction.

- The Blue Ribbon Panel report on crime reduction was delivered to me last year, and it was publicly released in December 2014.
- As part of government's initial response to this report, we will consider a regional, integrated community safety partnership pilot project.
- This would bring together local, relevant government and non-government agencies in identifying and prioritizing community safety goals, focusing resource allocations and programs accordingly, and measuring and evaluating the outcomes.

Parliamentary Secretary Report on Corrections

- Parliamentary Secretary Laurie Throness consulted with corrections officials and stakeholders, and delivered a report on BC's correctional system.
- The report includes suggestions for improving safety for corrections staff, inmates and the communities where they are located.
- Work is well underway to address the 20 recommendations resulting from this review. An action plan has been developed to implement each of the recommendations that are short-term, long-term, and currently in progress.
- A key recommendation government is acting on in the immediate-term is increasing collaboration between BC Corrections and provincial post-secondary institutions – to expand job training options for offenders and better support their re-integration into society

Okanagan Correctional Centre

Complete the construction of the new Okanagan Correctional Centre on time and on budget.

- The Okanagan Correctional Centre project is now one year into construction and is meeting both budget and schedule targets. Significant progress has been made on prefabricated cells, walls and building components.
- Construction completion is scheduled for fall 2016.

- The Centre will be a state-of-the-art, high-security centre with 11 living units and 378 cells, delivering on our government's commitment to enhance public safety and build safer communities.

Continue Implementation of Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Recommendations

- The final report on our response to the recommendations outlines the work that is substantively completed or underway on the major themes of the missing women report, including:
 - Healing and Compensation, including a compensation fund for all children of the missing women;
 - Improvements to policing practices;
 - Support for vulnerable women; and
 - Supports for missing persons
 - Missing persons Unit
 - Missing persons legislation
- Overall, government's response, in partnership with the anti-violence community, is advancing the safety of vulnerable women in profound ways.

Designated Driver Liability Legislation

Work with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to review and make recommendations on how to improve designated driver liability legislation.

- Staff in the Ministries of Justice and Transportation have been jointly considering the need to improve designated driver legislation.
- Their work so far indicates that consideration should be given to exploring non-legislative options to address concerns about designated driver liability.

Anti-distracted Driver Legislation and Penalties

Review and make recommendations on how to strengthen anti-distracted driver legislation and penalties.

- Our goal is to have the safest roads in North America by 2020. Distracted driving is a significant contributing factor in motor vehicle fatalities on BC roads – and we're taking steps to change people's behaviour.
- Road Safety BC is exploring options for addressing distracted driving.

- In October 2014, the penalty points increased from zero to three for drivers caught talking on a handheld device while driving – in addition to a \$167 fine.
- We continue to look at increased fines and other sanctions for distracted driving.

Election Act

Consider and present options to Cabinet on an updated Election Act.

- Bill 20, the Election Amendment Act, was introduced to the House on March 24, 2015. These amendments respond to recommendations of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Report on Provincial Earthquake Preparedness

Work with the Chair of the Earthquake Preparedness Consultation and present options to Cabinet on how to strengthen provincial earthquake preparedness once the report is received by government.

- Mr. Renteria has completed his comprehensive consultation with British Columbia stakeholders on the topic of earthquake preparedness and has submitted his report to government.
- The report publicly released on March 26, 2015.
- The Ministry will use the report as a long term point of reference for continuing to improve British Columbia's catastrophic disaster preparedness.

Contact: Toby Louie, CPPO	Phone: 250-356-6389	Mobile: s.17
---------------------------	---------------------	--------------



June 10, 2014

Honourable Suzanne Anton
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia
V8V 1X4

Dear Suzanne:

On behalf of the province of British Columbia, I would like to thank you for the contributions made by you and your ministry over the past year to provide a strong economy and secure tomorrow for our citizens.

The past year has seen significant achievements by our government: the successful delivery of the first balanced budget since the global economic downturn of 2008 which was followed by the introduction of a second balanced budget in February; continued progress to secure a new LNG industry in British Columbia; the development and release of BC's Skills for Jobs Blueprint; and successfully concluded long-term and affordable labour agreements with our valued public servants.

While these accomplishments are significant, we all acknowledge there is more to do to ensure all citizens are able to enjoy the promise of our province.

The Speech from the Throne delivered in February charted the course for our government for the year ahead. As you know, the speech was consistent with the policies contained in our election platform and outlines the steps we are taking to ensure development opportunities are seized in the province where they make economic and environmental sense.

The only way to secure long-lasting prosperity is to ensure that private sector investments are welcomed and encouraged in our province. That is the path we have chosen and that is the path upon which we will continue for the remainder of our term.

Last June, you were assigned a number of initiatives that were to be accomplished over the course of our term in office.

Office of the
Premier

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

First and foremost was the need to control spending to the levels committed in Balanced Budget 2013. I am pleased that according to the third quarterly report issued with the budget, you are on track to successfully achieving this goal.

I would like to congratulate you and your team for the following achievements that have been made over the past year, recognizing that this list is only a selection and not a full accounting of the ministry's work:

- With Parliamentary Secretary John Yap led the province's largest and most successful public consultation on provincial liquor reforms.
- Implemented the majority of recommendations of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry including the provision of financial compensation to children of the victims and funding further enhancements from revenues generated by the Civil Forfeiture Office.
- Successfully defended a court challenge against the province's aggressive Immediate Roadside Prohibition program.
- Appointed additional provincial court judges to improve access to justice services in British Columbia.
- Opened the Victoria Justice Access Centre.
- Provided an additional \$2 million to the Legal Services Society to expand criminal and family legal aid services in the province.

The mandate letter provided to you last June was designed to be an ongoing workplan for your ministry that would be 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. Implement the recommendations of the report by Parliamentary Secretary John Yap on provincial liquor regulatory reform.
3. Re-write the Liquor Control and Licensing Act for introduction in the Spring 2015 legislative session.
4. Continue our justice reform agenda including integration and court efficiencies as envisioned in the Cowper Report.
5. Working with the Ministry of Children and Family Development and Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, support the provincial domestic violence unit and develop and implement Violence Free BC.

6. Begin the implementation of the long term plan to improve courtroom capacity and access to justice for residents in the Lower Fraser Valley.
7. Create a Policing Structure and Funding Committee to define federal, provincial and municipal policing funding responsibilities.
8. Work with communities in the Lower Mainland, Greater Victoria and Central Okanagan regions to examine and implement options to improve policing integration.
9. Receive and make recommendations to Cabinet on the report of Parliamentary Secretary Darryl Plecas and his Blue Ribbon Panel on crime reduction.
10. Receive and make recommendations to Cabinet on the report by Parliamentary Secretary Laurie Throness on changes to the provincial correctional system.
11. Complete the construction of the new Okanagan Correctional Centre on time and on budget.
12. Continue the implementation of the recommendations of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry.
13. Work with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to review and make recommendations on how to improve designated driver liability legislation.
14. Review and make recommendations on how to strengthen anti-distracted driver legislation and penalties.
15. Consider and present options to Cabinet on an updated Election Act.
16. Work with the Earthquake Review Board and present options to Cabinet on how to strengthen provincial earthquake preparedness once the report is received by government.

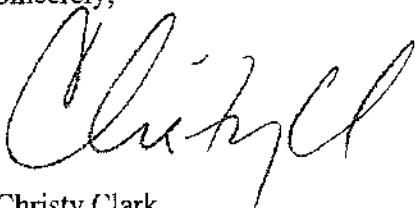
In addition, as discussed and approved by Cabinet, our government is committed to ensuring a common platform of compensation and accountability principles is implemented across our broader public sector. Taxpayers expect that the agencies they fund and support through their tax dollars adhere to the same standards of fiscal responsibility and transparency as the government they elect.

Please find attached a document containing these new common public sector principles and accompanying instructions for implementing these principles across the public sector organizations and agencies that fall under your ministerial responsibility.

These principles will require you and your deputy to spend additional time meeting with the chairs and boards of these organizations to ensure complete understanding of the expectations that government and taxpayers have of them in their roles as our representatives and their need to protect the public interest at all times.

While much has been accomplished in the first 12 months of our mandate, much work remains to ensure the promises of both a strong economy and secure tomorrow are met for British Columbians. I look forward to working with you in the next year of our mandate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christy Clark', written in a cursive style.

Christy Clark
Premier

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

RCY Recommendations to Ministry – Status Update

Suggested Response:

- We have made significant progress on the Representative's recommendations to date.
- Our government recognizes the devastating impact of domestic violence on families and communities and is taking steps to ensure that women and children are protected when domestic violence occurs.

If asked how many recommendations we have fulfilled:

- Of the 14 recommendations directed to the Ministry of Justice, 10 have been implemented, two are underway, one is under consideration, and one has been re-directed to the Ministries of Education and Social Development and Social Innovation.

Background:

- Since 2008, the Representative of Children and Youth has directed 14 recommendations to the Ministry of Justice (and former Ministries of Attorney General and Public Safety and Solicitor General).
- Achievements to date in response to these recommendations include the following:
 - There are currently five BC communities with distinct specialized domestic violence court processes: Nanaimo, Duncan, Kelowna, Penticton and Kamloops.
 - We have developed a framework for domestic violence courts as part of our Provincial Domestic Violence Plan that provides guidance on best practices for specialized domestic violence court processes in BC.
 - The new framework will help communities develop effective support systems if, or when, domestic violence court processes are implemented.
 - The framework will form part of the Provincial Strategy for Specialized Courts – an evidence-based approach for specialized courts that will be finalized in March 2015.
 - It is also part of the three-year Provincial Domestic Violence Plan.
 - Each year we commit more than \$70 M in prevention and intervention services and programs to better protect BC families dealing with domestic violence and other crimes.

- There are Domestic Violence Units in Vancouver, New Westminster, Abbotsford, Surrey, the Capital Region and Kelowna, and work is underway to establish an additional Unit in Nanaimo. Domestic Violence Units are an integrated approach to intervening in high-risk domestic violence cases and providing direct services to victims, children and the perpetrators of domestic violence.
- By bringing the Family Law Act into force, the Ministry satisfied the Representative's recommendation to standardize information placed before judicial decision makers when considering the custody of a child.
- We have developed guidelines to assist police in identifying when an accredited translator may be necessary.
- We have also produced an annual report on the outcomes of criminal prosecutions where a child was a victim of violence.
- See Appendix A for a complete Status Update on Recommendations for the Representative of Children and Youth.

Contact: Shelley Eisler, CPPO	Phone: 250-387-5918	Mobile: s.17
-------------------------------	---------------------	--------------

**Appendix A: Status Update on Recommendations of the
Representative of Children and Youth**

Report Title (Release date)	Recommendation	Ministry of Justice Actions to Date
1. Amanda, Savannah, Rowen and Serena: From Loss to Learning (Apr/08)	That the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General examine the feasibility of developing a specialized investigation resource to provide training, consultation and assistance to police investigating suspicious deaths of children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented
2. Kids, Crime and Care: Youth Justice Experiences and Outcomes (Feb/09)	That the Ministries of Attorney General and Public Safety and Solicitor General examine policies and practices to ensure that youth in care are not being charged in situations where adolescents living with their families would not be charged.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented • CJB has Charge Assessment Guidelines in place that apply to all youth equally, irrespective of their living situation (CHA 1). • CJB's policy on the use of Extrajudicial Measures is also equally available. Application of the policy is informed by the individual circumstances of each case (YOU 1.4). • CJB has a specific policy in place to guide the exercise of prosecutorial discretion for crimes that are committed against children and vulnerable youth (CHI 1), with an emphasis on the use of specialized, supporting practices where appropriate. • Prosecution policy review, amendments and updating where necessary is an ongoing responsibility of CJB.
3. Kids, Crime and Care: Youth Justice Experiences and Outcomes (Feb/09)	That the social policy ministries of government (Education, Health, MCFD, MHSD, Healthy Living, Attorney General, PSSG) produce a cross-Ministry plan that identifies an interlocking network of services to support and assist children, youth and families through the developmental stages (from	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-directed • MoE and SDSI are lead

	prenatal to adulthood).	
4. Honouring Christian Lee – No Private Matter: Protecting Children Living with Domestic Violence (Sept/09)	That the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General take the lead in a special initiative that focuses on the issue of safety of children and youth in domestic violence situations, by ensuring a coordinated, effective and responsive system in Greater Victoria and throughout British Columbia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented • PODV current lead on Domestic Violence Framework • MoJ led 2010 Domestic Violence Action Plan. • PODV led 2012 Short Term Action Plan on Domestic Violence, followed by three-year Provincial DV plan. Extensive Ministry commitments in both plans. • Released Violence Free BC in February 2015, which is a blueprint for a long term vision on preventing, responding to and rebuilding after violence, including domestic violence.
5. Honouring Christian Lee – No Private Matter: Protecting Children Living with Domestic Violence (Sept/09)	That the Ministry of Attorney General undertake a review and enact necessary changes to improve the administration of justice in criminal matters involving domestic violence, including establishment of domestic violence courts, to better protect the safety of children and their mothers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented • Numerous enhancements to improve the administration of justice in criminal matters involving domestic violence since 2010 (see above), including increasing the number of Domestic Violence Units. • Domestic Violence Units are operational in Vancouver, New Westminster, Abbotsford, Surrey, the Capital Region and Kelowna, and work is underway to establish an additional unit in Nanaimo. • Domestic Violence Units bring together police, community-based victim services and, in some cases, a dedicated social worker from the Ministry of Children and Family Development. They are an integrated approach to intervening in high-risk domestic violence cases, and provide direct services to victims, children and the perpetrators of domestic violence. • Work underway to develop a Domestic Violence Courts framework which addresses principles and best practices for Domestic Violence Court processes, or specialized dockets and processes.
6. Honouring Christian Lee – No Private Matter: Protecting Children	That the Ministry of Attorney General undertake a review and enact necessary changes to improve administration of justice in family law matters in domestic violence cases, to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented • Coming into force of <i>Family Law Act</i> (in particular enhancements to the best interests of the child test and implementation of protection orders) and changes to Provincial and Supreme Court Rules.

Living with Domestic Violence (Sept/09)	better protect the safety of children and their mothers, and to ensure that the perspective of the child is considered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincial Court (Family) Rules project is underway to further examine ways to improve the court process for families.
7. So Many Plans, So Little Stability: A Child's Need for Security (Sept/11)	That the Ministry of Attorney General recommend to Government that in amendments to the <i>Family Relations Act</i> or, if it proceeds, in the proposed new <i>Family Law Act</i> , standard information be placed before judicial decision-makers in every case where a non-parent is applying for custody of a child, even if the application is by consent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented Coming into force of <i>Family Law Act</i> and changes to Provincial and Supreme Court Rules.
8. Honouring Kaitlynne, Max and Cordon: Make Their Voices Heard Now (Mar/12)	That the Ministry of Justice develop and implement a plan to improve legal processes related to domestic violence cases and successful prosecutions of such cases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented PODV published final report on the 2012 short term Action Plan in August 2014. Three-year Provincial Domestic Violence Plan launched in 2014. Domestic Violence Safety Planning (online training for front line staff) implemented in 2012. Victim Safety Planning took place at November 2012 Crown Counsel conference. CJB has Resource Counsel with expertise on spousal violence, victims and vulnerable witnesses. Provides support to Crown Counsel across the province. In some areas of the province (depending on resource capacity), CJB has Crown Counsel who are dedicated to domestic violence cases, and/or manage these cases within the context of established, specialized dockets. Assessing Risk and Safety Planning in Domestic Violence Investigations (DVII) template launched in 2013 and serves to consistently document police efforts in front line risk assessment, streamline bail processes and assist Crown, police, and risk assessors when identifying high risk files. DVII is mandatory for

		<p>all members. Nearly 5,300 have taken it since launch in 2013.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In December, 2014, CJB implemented a policy specific to increasing support for vulnerable victims and witnesses in serious cases. Many of the suggested practices were already being utilized, and reflected in CJB's policy on Spousal Violence (SPO1). • CJB is currently in the process of reviewing the entirety of its Crown Counsel Policy Manual to ensure that it appropriately responds to, and reflects, the public interest.
9. Special Report: The Impact of Criminal Justice Funding Decisions on Children of BC (Mar/12)	That the Ministry of Justice develop a policy that requires that Senior Crown Counsel review all cases where a prosecution affecting the welfare of safety of a child could be adversely affected by procedural or investigatory barriers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented • CJB has established policies, procedures and practices in place that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure prosecution files with child victims are flagged in JUSTIN for early identification; ○ Facilitate Crown file ownership on these cases for pro-active case management and supportive testimonial practices (CHI 1); and ○ Necessitate file review in identified circumstances to ensure compliance with trial readiness requirements.
10. Special Report: The Impact of Criminal Justice Funding Decisions on Children of BC (Mar/12)	That the Ministry of Justice ensure a reliable and appropriately funded system of access to accredited translation and interpretive services is available throughout all stages of an investigation and prosecution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented • In December 2012, CJB and police implemented an amendment to British Columbia's MOU on Disclosure that clarifies when a translator may be required for witness statements; what credentials may be necessary; and how access to translation can be facilitated.
11. Special Report: The Impact of Criminal Justice Funding Decisions on Children of BC (Mar/12)	That the Ministry of Justice produce an annual aggregate report on the outcomes of criminal prosecutions where a child has been a victim of violence, including cases that are stayed or otherwise terminated prior to trial.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented • This is an ongoing commitment on behalf of CJB and a report is released annually. • CJB's 2013/14 Annual Report contained data on children and you victims, including aggregate data on outcomes.

12. When Talk Trumped Service: A Decade of Lost Opportunity for Aboriginal Children and Youth in B.C. (Nov/13)	That the government of British Columbia, with the leadership of the Attorney General, develop an explicit policy for negotiation of jurisdictional transfer and exercise of governmental powers over child welfare.	s.13
13. Lost in the Shadows: How a Lack of Help Meant a Loss of Hope for One First Nations Girl (Feb/14)	That the Attorney General of B.C. review the reasons for a lack of enforcement of the Child Family and Community Services Act in the province and take steps to promote compliance, if necessary.	s.13
14. Finding Forever Families: A Review of the Provincial Adoption System (Jun/14)	Attorney General to ensure that when the court requires legal counsel be appointed to represent children and youth, such a program will be available to ensure the views of children be presented and that their best interests be carefully considered by the court in the annual review.	s.13

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE**Liquor Distribution
Branch Governance****Suggested Response:**

- In following through with my mandate direction to look at alternative governance options for the Liquor Distribution Branch, we continue to explore whether there is a model that would better service British Columbians.
- As it currently stands, our liquor retail model will remain status quo.
- The Liquor Distribution Branch will continue to generate revenue that will help pay for the social services, education and health care that British Columbians enjoy.

Background:

- In the Minister's 2013 mandate letter, Minister of Justice Suzanne Anton was asked to "consider and present options to convert the Liquor Distribution Branch into either a Crown agency or Crown Corporation with its own Board of Directors".
- This is separate from the recent liquor policy review led by Parliamentary Secretary John Yap, relating to modernizing BC's liquor legislation and regulations. The Liquor Review Terms of Reference excluded Liquor Distribution Branch governance.

Contact: Anita Nadziejko, CPPO	Phone: 250-387-4842	Mobile: s.17
--------------------------------	---------------------	--------------

Ministry of Justice
Estimates 2015/16 Briefing Book

Table of Contents

	TAB
Overview	1
Justice Transformation.....	2
Cross Sector Issues.....	3
Justice Services	4
Criminal Justice.....	5
Court Services.....	6
Legal Services	7
Corrections	8
Policing and Security.....	9
Community Safety and Crime Prevention	10
Emergency Management BC	11
RoadSafetyBC	12
Liquor	13
Consumer Protection	14

**Ministry of Justice
Estimates 2015/16 Briefing Book**

Estimates Notes Index by Tab

TAB

Justice Transformation.....	2
1. Justice Transformation (JPSS)	
2. Justice System Trends, Statistics and Performance Measures (JPSS)	
3. Family Court Case Timeliness (CSB)	
4. Criminal Court Case Timeliness (CSB)	
5. Court Administration Transformation Suite (CSB)	
6. Civil Resolution Tribunal (JSB)	
7. Tribunal Transformation Initiative (JSB)	
8. Road Safety Initiative (RSBC)	
Cross Sector Issues.....	3
1. Mandate Letter Actions (CPPO)	
2. Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Final Update Report (CSCP)	
3. Highway 16 –Update Report (CSCP)	
4. Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy (CSCP)	
5. Domestic Violence Plan – Provincial (CSCP)	
6. Workplace Fatalities - Prosecution (CJB)	
7. RCY Recommendations to Ministry – Status Update (CPPO)	
8. s.14,s.16	
Justice Services Branch.....	4
1. Legal Aid - Funding and Services	
2. Legal Aid - Jurisdictional Comparison	
3. Legal Aid - Justice Transformation Initiatives	
4. FMEP and Social Assistance	
5. Family Compensation Act – Status Update	
6. Independent Investigations Office	
7. Downtown Community Court	
8. Specialized Courts Strategy	
9. Protection Orders – Family Law Act	
Criminal Justice Branch	5
1. Special Prosecutions – Bountiful, Braidwood, Multicultural Strategic Outreach Plan	
2. Vulnerable Victims and Witnesses – Adult Policy	

Court Services Branch	6
1. Lower Fraser Valley Court Expansion Project	
2. Provincial Court Judge Appointments	
3. Provincial Judicial Complement Determination	
4. Child Protection Cases in the Courts	
5. WiFi in Courthouses – Access to Justice	
6. Kelowna Courthouse Security	
7. Civil Hearing Day Fees	
8. Surrey Criminal Justice Task Force – Surrey Community Court	
Legal Services Branch	7
1. s.14	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
Corrections Branch.....	8
1. Auditor General’s Report on Adult Custody	
2. Parliamentary Secretary Report on Corrections	
3. Female Remands – Vancouver Island	
4. Okanagan Correctional Centre	
5. Inmate Counts and Capacity Pressures	
6. Correctional Centre Safety and Violence Statistics	
7. Surrey Pretrial Expansion	
8. WorkSafeBC Inspections of Correctional Centres	
9. Electronic Supervision	
Policing and Security Branch	9
1. Parliamentary Secretary for Crime Reduction and Blue Ribbon Panel	
2. BC Policing and Community Safety Plan	
3. Regional Policing	
4. RCMP Funding	
5. E-PANA Funding - RCMP	
6. Biology Casework Analysis	
7. s.14,s.16	
8. Integrated Teams	
9. Employment Police Record Checks – OIPC Report Response	
10.1 Surrey Crime and Officer Complement	
10.2 Crime and Safety in Surrey	
11 Medical Marijuana Dispensaries	

Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch..... 10

1. Civil Forfeiture – Recovery Targets
2. Administrative Forfeiture
3. Human Trafficking
4. Victims of Crime Act – Victim Surcharge Account
5. Victim Services and Crime Prevention Fact Sheet
6. Domestic Violence Units
7. Procurement Strategy for Contracted Programs

Emergency Management BC..... 11

1. Mill Explosion Deaths - Inquests (Coroners)
2. Remains of Victims of Robert Pickton – Disposition of (Coroners)
3. Road Closures Following Major and/or Fatal Crashes (Coroners)
4. Child Death Investigations (Coroners)
5. Coroners’ Autopsy Rate (Coroners)
6. Disaster Financial Assistance Program - EMBC
7. Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements - Federal
8. Flood Protection Program - Overview
9. Flood Protection Program Supplemental Project Information
10. Flood Protection Lower Mainland Structures Supplemental Information
11. Climate Change and Natural Hazards
12. Tsunami Notification – Provincial Emergency Notification System
13. Ground Search and Rescue Funding
14. Road Rescue Service Delivery
15. Earthquake Preparedness
16. English Bay Vessel Oil Spill - Response

RoadSafetyBC 12

1. DriveABLE
2. Immediate Roadside Prohibition Program
3. Responsible Driver Program and Ignition Interlock Program Direct Awards
Procurement
4. Distracted Driving
5. BC Coroners Report on Youth Fatalities - Response

Liquor	13
1. Liquor Policy Review Implementation (LCLB)	
2. Liquor in Grocery (LCLB)	
3. Liquor Wholesale Pricing (LDB)	
4. Social Responsibility (LCLB)	
5. Special Occasion Licensing (LCLB)	
6. Minors as Agents Program (LCLB)	
7. Liquor Distribution Branch Governance (CPPO)	
8. Liquor Distribution Branch Vancouver Distribution Centre Sale and Relocation (LDB)	

Consumer Protection	14
1. Payday Lending	
2. Debt Settlement	
3. Home Inspectors	
4. Guide and Service Dogs	
5. Funeral Services on Haida Gwaii	

**Ministry of Justice
Estimates 2015/16 Briefing Book**

Estimates Notes Index Alphabetical

Topic:	Tab	Note #
s.14	7	LSB 4
Administrative Forfeiture	10	CSCPB 2
Auditor General's Report on Adult Custody	8	CORR 1
BC Coroners Report on Youth Fatalities - Response	12	RSBC 5
BC Policing and Community Safety Plan	9	PSB 2
s.14	7	LSB 2
Biology Casework Analysis	9	PSB 6
Child Death Investigations (Coroners)	11	EMBC 4
Child Protection Cases in the Courts	6	CSB 4
s.14,s.16	3	CROSS 8
Civil Forfeiture – Recovery Targets	10	CSCPB 1
Civil Hearing Day Fees	6	CSB 7
Civil Resolution Tribunal (JSB)	2	JUSTRA 6
Climate Change and Natural Hazards	11	EMBC 11
Coroners' Autopsy Rate (Coroners)	11	EMBC 5
Correctional Centre Safety and Violence Statistics	8	CORR 6
Court Administration Transformation Suite (CSB)	2	JUSTRA 5
Crime and Safety in Surrey	9	PSB 10.2
Criminal Court Case Timeliness (CSB)	2	JUSTRA 4
s.14	7	CSB 5
Debt Settlement	14	CONPRO 2
Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements – Federal	11	EMBC 7
Disaster Financial Assistance Program – EMBC	11	EMBC 6
Distracted Driving	12	RSBC 4
Domestic Violence Plan – Provincial (CSCPB)	3	CROSS 5
Domestic Violence Units	10	CSCPB 6
Downtown Community Court	4	JSB 7
DriveABLE	12	RSBC 1
Earthquake Preparedness	11	EMBC 15
Electronic Supervision	8	CORR 9
Employment Police Record Checks – OIPC Report Response	9	PSB 9
English Bay Vessel Oil Spill – Response	11	EMBC 16
E-PANA Funding – RCMP	9	PSB 5
Family Compensation Act – Status Update	4	JSB 5
Family Court Case Timeliness (CSB)	2	JUSTRA 3
Female Remands – Vancouver Island	8	CORR 3
Flood Protection Lower Mainland Structures Supplemental	11	EMBC 10

Topic:	Tab	Note #
Information		
Flood Protection Program – Overview	11	EMBC 8
Flood Protection Program Supplemental Project Information	11	EMBC 9
FMEP and Social Assistance	4	JSB 4
Funeral Services on Haida Gwaii	14	CONPRO 5
Ground Search and Rescue Funding	11	EMBC 13
Guide and Service Dogs	14	CONPRO 4
Highway 16 –Update Report(CSCPb)	3	CROSS 3
Home Inspectors	14	CONPRO 3
Human Trafficking	10	CSCPb 3
Immediate Roadside Prohibition Program	12	RSBC 2
s.14	7	LSB 1
Independent Investigations Office	4	JSB 6
Inmate Counts and Capacity Pressures	8	CORR 5
Integrated Teams	9	PSB 8
Justice System Trends, Statistics and Performance Measures (JPSS)	2	JUSTRA 2
Justice Transformation (JPSS)	2	JUSTRA 1
Kelowna Courthouse Security	6	CSB 6
Legal Aid - Funding and Services	4	JSB 1
Legal Aid - Jurisdictional Comparison	4	JSB 2
Legal Aid - Justice Transformation Initiatives	4	JSB 3
Liquor Distribution Branch Governance (CPPO)	13	LIQUOR 7
Liquor Distribution Branch Vancouver Distribution Centre Sales and Relocation (LDB)	13	LIQUOR 8
Liquor in Grocery (LCLB)	13	LIQUOR 2
Liquor Policy Review Implementation (LCLB)	13	LIQUOR 1
Liquor Wholesale Pricing (LDB)	13	LIQUOR 3
Lower Fraser Valley Court Expansion Project	6	CSB 1
Mandate Letter Actions (CPPO)	3	CROSS 1
s.14	7	LSB 3
Medical Marijuana Dispensaries	9	PSB 11
Mill Explosion Deaths – Inquests (Coroners)	11	EMBC 1
Minors as Agents Program (LCLB)	13	LIQUOR 6
Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Final Update Report (CSCPb)	3	CROSS 2
Okanagan Correctional Centre	8	CORR 4
Parliamentary Secretary for Crime Reduction and Blue Ribbon Panel	9	PSB 1
Parliamentary Secretary Report on Corrections	8	CORR 2
Payday Lending	14	CONPRO 1
Procurement Strategy for Contracted Programs	10	CSCPb 7
Protection Orders – Family Law Act	4	JSB 9
Provincial Court Judge Appointments	6	CSB 2
Provincial Judicial Complement Determination	6	CSB 3

Topic:	Tab	Note #
RCMP Funding	9	PSB 4
RCY Recommendations to Ministry – Status Update (CPPO)	3	CROSS 7
Regional Policing	9	PSB 3
Remains of Victims of Robert Pickton – Disposition of (Coroners)	11	EMBC 2
Responsible Driver Program and Ignition Interlock Program Direct Awards	12	RSBC 3
Road Closures Following Major and/or Fatal Crashes (Coroners)	11	EMBC 3
Road Rescue Service Delivery	11	EMBC 14
Road Safety Initiative (RSBC)	2	JUSTRA 8
Social Responsibility (LCLB)	13	LIQUOR 4
Special Occasion Licensing (LCLB)	13	LIQUOR 5
Special Prosecutions – Bountiful, Braidwood, Multicultural Strategic Outreach Plan	5	CJB 1
Specialized Courts Strategy	4	JSB 8
Surrey Crime and Officer Complement	9	PSB 10.1
Surrey Criminal Justice Task Force – Surrey Community Court	6	CSB 8
s.14,s.16	9	PSB 7
Surrey Pretrial Expansion	8	CORR 7
Tribunal Transformation Initiative (JSB)	2	JUSTRA 7
Tsunami Notification – Provincial Emergency Notification System	11	EMBC 12
Victim Services and Crime Prevention Fact Sheet	10	CSCP 5
Victims of Crime Act – Victim Surcharge Account	10	CSCP 4
Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy (CSCP)	3	CROSS 4
Vulnerable Victims and Witnesses – Adult Policy	5	CJB 2
WiFi in Courthouses –Access to Justice	6	CSB 5
Workplace Fatalities – Prosecution (CJB)	3	CROSS 6
WorkSafeBC Inspections of Correctional Centres	8	CORR 8

**Ministry of Justice
Estimates 2015/16 Briefing Book**

**Overview
Table of Contents**

Budget

1. Budget Briefing
 - a. Budget Highlights
 - b. Ministry Budget by Expense Type and by Branch
 - c. Budget Summary by Appropriation
 - d. Operations Budget – Core Business Summary
 - e. Budget Summary by Branch
 - f. Operations Budget by Group Account Classification (GAC)
2. Three Year Resource Summary
3. Top Three Issues from Budget Day Questions and Answers
4. Ministry Estimates by Vote
5. Ministry Estimates Pages

Service Plans and Strategic Plans

1. Overview: Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures
2. Ministry Service Plan
3. Liquor Distribution Branch Service Plan
4. Legal Services Society Service Plan
5. Justice and Public Safety Sector Strategic Plan

Budget Highlights

Operating Budget

The Budget, net of recoveries, is \$1,172.380 million which is a \$18.044 million increase over the prior year (2014/15 – Restated).

1. The \$18.044 million increase is primarily due to budget lifts in Policing and Security Programs, Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles ,and Corrections Branch:

- \$7.082 million increase for Economic Stability Mandate
- s.16,s.17
- \$2.689 million for additional pressure within the Judiciary, Criminal Justice and RoadSafetyBC
- \$2.400 million increase for Downtown Community Court

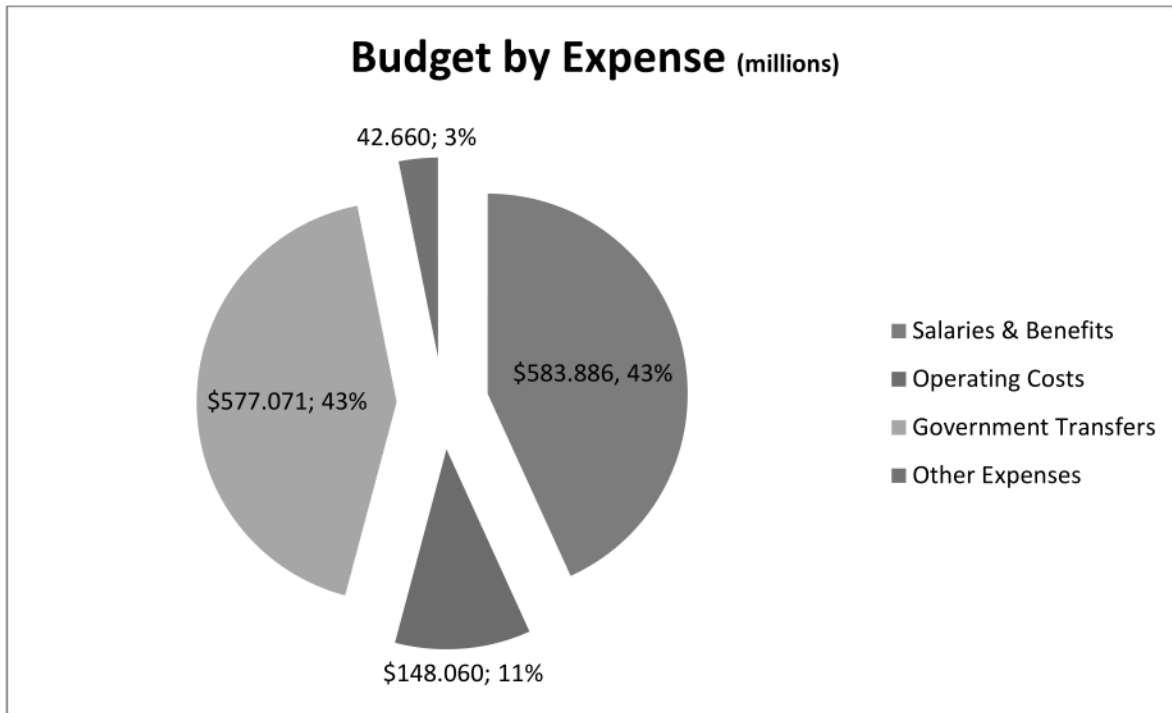
2. External recoveries in JAG total \$89.577 million:

	(\$millions)
Justice Services	3.502
Court Services	2.852
Legal Services	0.300
Corrections Branch	5.544
Policing and Security Programs	27.758
Victim Services and Crime Prevention	0.300
Emergency Management BC	5.122
Office of Superintendent of Motor Vehicles	4.035
Liquor Control and Licensing	11.499
Agencies, Boards and Commissions	0.846
Executive Support Services	0.002
Special Accounts	21.102
Others	6.715
	<u>89.577</u>

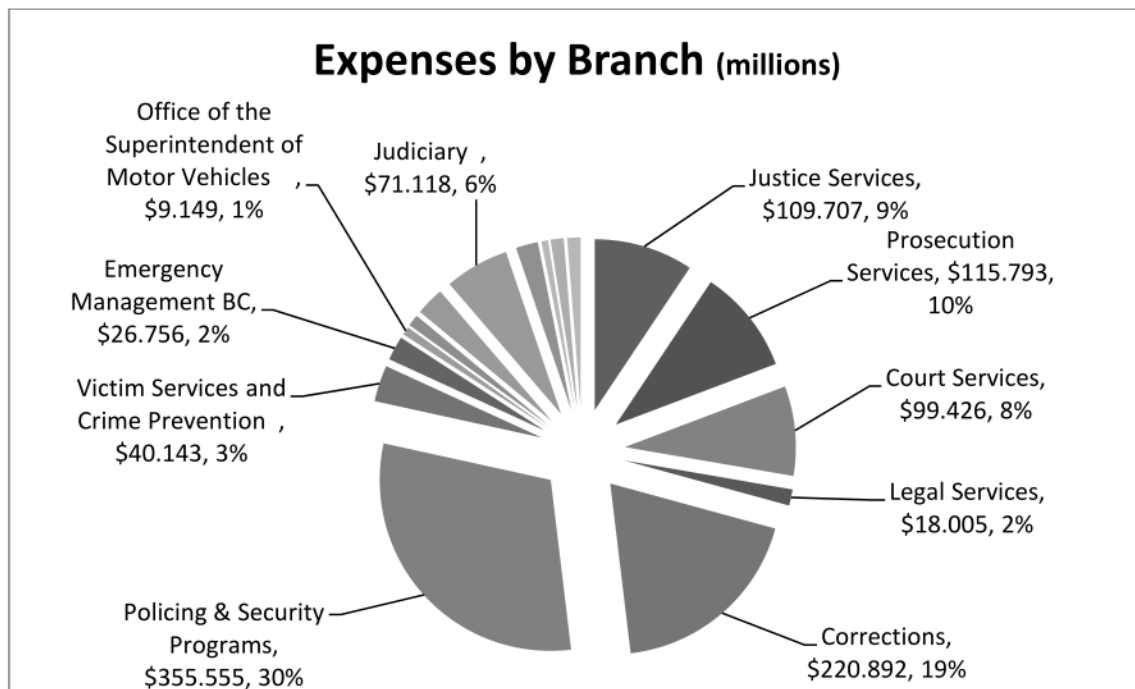
Capital Budget

The Budget is \$13.224 million, a decrease of \$2.678 million from the previous year. The decrease is primarily due to the reprofiling of IMIT project funding as well as the cyclical funding of heavy equipment vehicles and required fit ups. For administrative purposes, most capital provided to the Ministry is centralized in Executive and Support Services, with the exception of capital held for the Judiciary, Public Guardian and Trustee, BC Utilities Commission and the Independent Investigations Office.

Ministry Budget by Expense Type and by Branch



¹Expenses by Cost Type do not include recovery offsets



²Total expenses by branch are net of recoveries

Budget Summary by Appropriation

(\$ millions)	2014/15	2015/16	Change	Change
	Restated	Estimates	(\$)	(%)
	Estimates ¹			
Operating Expenses (\$000 000)				
Ministry Operations	1,024.928	1,039.955	15.027	1.5%
Judiciary	68.109	71.118	3.009	4.4%
Crown Proceeding Act	24.500	24.500	0.000	0.0%
Independent Investigations Office	7.536	7.544	0.008	0.1%
B.C. Utilities Commission	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.0%
Emergency Program Act	14.478	14.478	0.000	0.0%
Civil Forfeiture Account Special Account	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.0%
Corrections Work Program Account Special Account	1.281	1.281	0.000	0.0%
Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.0%
Crime Asset Management Fund Special Account	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.0%
Victim Surcharge Special Account	13.504	13.504	0.000	0.0%
Total	1,154.337	1,172.381	18.044	1.6%
Capital Expenditures	15.902	13.224	(2.678)	0.0%

Operations Budget - Core Business Summary

(\$ millions)	2014/15	2015/16	Change	Change
	Restated	Estimates	(\$)	(%)
	Estimates ¹			
Ministry of Justice Operations				
Justice Services	109.081	109.707	0.626	0.6%
Criminal Justice	112.867	115.793	2.926	2.6%
Court Services	97.523	99.426	1.903	2.0%
Legal Services	17.543	18.005	0.462	2.6%
Corrections	219.234	220.892	1.658	0.8%
Policing and Security Programs	349.682	355.555	5.873	1.7%
Victim Services and Crime Prevention	40.017	40.143	0.126	0.3%
Emergency Management BC	26.702	26.756	0.054	0.2%
Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles	8.815	9.149	0.334	3.8%
Liquor Control and Licensing	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.0%
Agencies, Boards and Commissions	12.979	12.990	0.011	0.1%
Executive and Support Services	30.484	31.538	1.054	3.5%
Subtotal	1,024.928	1,039.955	15.027	1.5%
Judiciary	68.109	71.118	3.009	4.4%
Crown Proceeding Act	24.500	24.500	0.000	0.0%
Independent Investigations Office	7.536	7.544	0.008	0.1%
B.C. Utilities Commission	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.0%
Emergency Program Act	14.478	14.478	0.000	0.0%
Statutory Services	14.785	14.785	0.000	0.0%
Total	1,154.337	1,172.381	18.044	1.6%

Budget Summary by Branch

Criminal Justice

A \$2.926 million increase has been provided for Salary and Benefit (CCA predominantly) and Downtown Community Court.

Court Services

A \$1.903 million increase reflects a reallocation of resources to Court Services as well as Downtown Community Court.

Corrections

Economic Stability Mandate for BCGEU staff accounts for most of the \$1.658 million increase to Correction's budget.

Policing and Security Programs

s.16,s.17

Executive and Support Services

Reallocation of resources within Justice accounts for the \$1.054 million increase in budget, as well as funding provided for business case development.

Judiciary

The increase of \$3.009 million reflects funding provided for judicial compensation and operating pressures.

Operations Budget by Group Account Classification (GAC)

(\$ millions)	2014/15	2015/16	Change	Change
	Restated	Estimates	(\$)	(%)
	Estimates ¹			
Salaries & Benefits	567.651	583.886	16.235	2.86%
Operating Costs	150.420	148.060	(2.360)	-1.57%
Government Transfers	569.789	577.071	7.282	1.28%
Other Expenses	42.354	42.66	0.306	0.72%
Recoveries	(87.050)	(89.719)	(2.669)	3.07%
Recoveries External	(88.827)	(89.577)	(0.750)	0.84%
TOTAL	1154.337	1172.381	18.044	6.80%

Salaries and Benefits

Increase of \$16.235 million is a combination of the funding provided for the Economic Stability Mandate, increase in internal counsel for natural gas development, downtown community court and changes related to the Adult Guardianship.

Operating Costs

Decrease of \$2.360 million is the net impact of increased of internal legal services counsel offset by transfers for building occupancy costs

Government Transfers

Increase of \$7.282 million of which \$5.820 million is for increased RCMP costs, including Budget 2013 recruitment and training and pension increases, as well as funding for downtown community court and additional transfers under agreement for assessment services provided within Roadsafety BC

Other Expenses

Increase of \$0.306 million is related to the allocation of funding to Ministry initiatives.

Recoveries

Increase of \$2.669 million reflects a re-balancing of legal services and corresponding recoveries across the government.

Recoveries External

Increase of \$0.750 million is for implementation of changes stemming from the legislative change to the Adult Guardianship Act.

ANNUAL SERVICE PLAN						
Core Business	Restated Budget 2014/15	2015/16 Estimates	2016/17 Plan	2017/18 Plan	2015/16 Changes	2015/16 Changes
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	%
Justice Services	109,081,000	109,707,000	109,849,000	110,177,000	626,000	1%
Criminal Justice	112,867,000	115,793,000	116,679,000	116,949,000	2,926,000	3%
Court Services	97,523,000	99,426,000	99,892,000	100,949,000	1,903,000	2%
Legal Services	17,543,000	18,005,000	18,317,000	19,024,000	462,000	3%
Corrections	219,234,000	220,892,000	221,790,000	223,806,000	1,658,000	1%
Policing and Security Programs	349,682,000	355,555,000	356,861,000	356,942,000	5,873,000	2%
Victim Services and Crime Prevention	40,017,000	40,143,000	40,359,000	40,693,000	126,000	0%
Emergency Management BC	26,702,000	26,756,000	26,793,000	26,876,000	54,000	0%
RoadSafetyBC	8,815,000	9,149,000	9,201,000	9,075,000	334,000	4%
Liquor Control and Licensing	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0%
Agencies, Boards and Commissions	12,979,000	12,990,000	12,997,000	13,014,000	11,000	0%
Executive and Support Services	30,484,000	31,538,000	31,912,000	33,083,000	1,054,000	3%
Judiciary	68,109,000	71,118,000	71,737,000	71,727,000	3,009,000	4%
Crown Proceeding Act	24,500,000	24,500,000	24,500,000	24,500,000	0	0%
Independent Investigations Office	7,536,000	7,544,000	7,550,000	7,563,000	8,000	0%
BC Utilities Commission	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0%
Emergency Program Act	14,478,000	14,478,000	14,478,000	14,478,000	0	0%
Special Accounts	14,785,000	14,785,000	14,785,000	14,785,000	0	0%
TOTAL	1,154,337,000	1,172,381,000	1,177,702,000	1,183,643,000	18,044,000	2%

Ministry of Justice is responsible for Electoral Boundaries Commission, Environmental Appeal Board and Forest Appeals Commission, but they are presented separately in Estimates (in Other Appropriations).

Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund)							
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Core Business Area	Restated	Estimates	Plan	Plan	Changes	Changes	Changes
Executive and Support Services	\$14,572,000	\$12,078,000	\$22,930,000	\$5,800,000	(\$2,494,000)	\$10,852,000	(\$17,130,000)
Judiciary	\$605,000	\$590,000	\$570,000	\$570,000	(\$15,000)	(\$20,000)	\$0
Independent InvestigationS Office	\$352,000	\$183,000	\$145,000	\$0	(\$169,000)	(\$38,000)	(\$145,000)
BC Utilities Commission	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Public Guardian and Trustee (Special Account)	\$363,000	\$363,000	\$363,000	\$363,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$15,902,000	\$13,224,000	\$24,018,000	\$6,743,000	(\$2,678,000)	\$10,794,000	(\$17,275,000)

2015/16 Operating Budget Changes:

- Budget lift for Police Services Division management RCMP contract
- Budget lift for Economic Stability Mandate
- Budget lift for Judiciary, Criminal Justice and RoadsafetyBC pressures
- Budget lift for Downtown Community Court

2015/16 Capital Budget Changes:

- Decrease in budget is due in part to cyclical change in heavy equipment vehilce and upfitting costs
- Decrease also attributable to the reprofiling of IMIT projects

JAG Top 3 Budget 2015 Issues

1. Justice Budget Changes

Potential Questions: What has caused the budget to increase for Justice? Why is Okanagan Correctional Centre not included in the budget?

Ministry Responses:

The \$18.0 million net increase is due to:

- s.16,s.17
- \$1.0 million is to address historical structural funding issues of the Superior Judiciary.
- \$2.4 million is for base budget funding of the Downtown Community Court, which was previously funded from the Contingencies Vote.
- \$0.25 million increase in RoadSafetyBC to address cost pressures.
- \$0.25 million increase for a review of the Judiciary's budget requirements; this funding is in Executive and Support Services.
- \$7.08 million increase is for scheduled compensation increases, including \$1.95 million for Judiciary Compensation, \$1.3 million for Crown Counsel Agreement, \$0.07 million for Legal Services Society and \$3.76 million for other compensation increases (BCGEU, CSSEA, Schedule A and non PSA OICs).

Why is Okanagan Correction Centre not included in the budget?

Capital funding for the OCC is included in the budget for the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizen's Services. Operating costs will not start until 2016/17. Given uncertainties such as projected inmate occupancy and facility service commencement, the operating requirements have not been finalized. OCC will be included in Budget 2016.

2. Liquor Policy Review

Potential Questions:

What is the status of the Liquor Policy Review?

Ministry Response:

The Ministry continues to implement the recommendations put forward in the *BC Liquor Policy Review Final Report*, recommendations that stem from extensive stakeholder consultations and one of the

Province's most successful public engagements. Parliamentary Secretary John Yap's final report makes 73 common-sense recommendations to change British Columbia's liquor laws so that they reflect current lifestyles, encourage the growth of small businesses and our economy, address calls for consumer convenience, and continue to safeguard health and public safety. Work in this area illustrates how the Ministry continues to build strong legislative, policy and regulatory frameworks for effective service delivery, public safety and citizen interaction.

3. Recent Reports on Crime Reduction (Plecas) and Corrections (Throness)

Potential Questions:

What is the status of the Ministry's response to the two Parliamentary Secretary reports on Crime Reductions and Corrections?

Ministry Response:

Parliamentary Secretary, Darryl Plecas, and the Blue Ribbon Panel on Crime Reduction submitted their report, *Getting Serious about Crime Reduction*, to the Attorney General and Minister of Justice at the end of November 2014. The report was publicly released on December 18, 2014. The Panel made six broad recommendations for Government to utilize a more cohesive and collaborative approach aimed at preventing and reducing crime in British Columbia. Several of the key recommendations can be linked to existing initiatives under the British Columbia Policing and Community Safety Plan and other Ministry work. Other recommendations and related action items will require further analysis and consultation to determine if additional resources would be required for their implementation.

Parliamentary Secretary for Corrections, Laurie Throness, consulted with stakeholders in the Corrections field to propose changes and improvements to protecting staff, inmates and the communities in which correctional facilities are located in British Columbia. His final report, *Standing Against Violence*, was released in December 2014 and consists of three parts: a description of the present system, incremental recommendations based on those conclusions; and, suggestions for discussion with respect to transformational directions in the longer-term. The report's 20 recommendations are aimed at improving safety for staff and inmates through operational improvements, transitional support for inmates and training opportunities, with a focus on being cost-neutral to Government.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE (\$000)

VOTE 32 Ministry Operations

Description	Total 2014/15 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Justice Services	109,081	13,303	—	3,299	—	16,602	—	176	12	598	191	348	—	—	—
Prosecution Services	112,867	83,555	548	20,722	—	104,825	1,779	1,342	—	4,667	153	2,598	—	—	375
Court Services	97,523	67,166	890	16,852	—	84,908	1,928	1,364	—	2,227	1,834	2,852	—	—	1,040
Legal Services	17,543	41,098	485	10,242	—	51,825	20	856	—	33,544	602	2,013	—	127	—
Corrections	219,234	124,192	3,651	30,920	—	158,763	—	1,252	1,431	3,704	1,582	2,373	—	—	9,095
Policing and Security	349,682	6,981	25	1,731	—	8,737	—	184	264	1,048	473	646	—	—	518
Victim Services and Crime Prevention	40,017	5,121	74	1,270	—	6,465	—	100	36	505	116	207	—	—	—
Emergency Management BC	26,702	10,424	26	2,585	—	13,035	55	198	43	5,897	639	423	—	—	49
RoadSafetyBC	8,815	7,020	6	1,741	—	8,767	—	45	445	83	112	134	—	—	—
Liquor Control and Licensing	1	7,042	20	1,746	—	8,808	—	221	147	300	525	300	—	—	5
Agencies, Boards and Commissions	12,979	2,609	4	647	—	3,260	978	81	—	728	29	146	—	2	—
Executive and Support Services	30,484	17,878	45	4,464	54	22,441	—	399	932	431	4,071	471	—	12	5
Minister's Office	1,062	416	—	123	54	593	—	144	—	—	—	40	—	—	3
Corporate Services	29,422	17,462	45	4,341	—	21,848	—	255	932	431	4,071	431	—	12	2
Total	1,024,928	386,389	5,774	96,219	54	488,436	4,760	6,218	3,310	53,732	10,327	12,511	—	141	11,087

VOTE 33 Judiciary

Description	Total 2014/15 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Judiciary	68,109	50,827	95	12,606	—	63,528	1,953	1,424	—	228	1,418	1,450	—	3	90
Superior Courts	14,350	10,478	65	2,599	—	13,142	—	136	—	71	1,211	545	—	—	16
Provincial Courts	53,759	40,349	30	10,007	—	50,386	1,953	1,288	—	157	207	905	—	3	74
Total	68,109	50,827	95	12,606	—	63,528	1,953	1,424	—	228	1,418	1,450	—	3	90

VOTE 34 Crown Proceeding Act

Description	Total 2014/15 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Crown Proceeding Act	24,500	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	24,500	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2015/16 Operating Expenses
56	—	655	1	2,037	158	—	95,526	95,684	—	—	86	86	—	(1,200)	(1,200)	(10)	(3,492)	(3,502)	109,707
88	—	260	300	11,562	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,094	1,094	(1,688)	—	(1,688)	—	—	—	115,793
1,493	—	3,293	611	16,642	—	—	—	—	—	—	728	728	—	—	—	—	(2,852)	(2,852)	99,426
—	—	93	—	37,255	—	—	—	—	—	—	395	395	—	(71,170)	(71,170)	(290)	(10)	(300)	18,005
1,006	—	7,517	135	28,095	—	—	39,623	39,623	—	—	430	430	—	(475)	(475)	—	(5,544)	(5,544)	220,892
101	—	215	4	3,453	72	—	372,556	372,628	—	—	80	80	—	(1,585)	(1,585)	(1)	(27,757)	(27,758)	355,555
—	—	155	—	1,119	125	12,343	30,197	42,665	—	—	11	11	(9,816)	(1)	(9,817)	—	(300)	(300)	40,143
128	—	67	6	7,505	—	—	13,884	13,884	—	—	26	26	—	(2,572)	(2,572)	(1)	(5,121)	(5,122)	26,756
—	—	6	1	826	—	—	2,951	2,951	—	—	641	641	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(4,034)	(4,035)	9,149
170	—	49	88	1,805	—	—	—	—	—	—	887	887	—	—	—	—	(11,499)	(11,499)	1
—	—	30	—	1,994	—	—	—	—	8,577	—	6	8,583	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(845)	(846)	12,990
155	—	1,694	636	8,806	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,503	1,503	—	(1,210)	(1,210)	(1)	(1)	(2)	31,538
—	—	5	—	192	—	—	—	—	—	—	269	269	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,054
155	—	1,689	636	8,614	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,234	1,234	—	(1,210)	(1,210)	(1)	(1)	(2)	30,484
3,197	—	14,034	1,782	121,099	355	12,343	554,737	567,435	8,577	—	5,887	14,464	(11,504)	(78,215)	(89,719)	(305)	(61,455)	(61,760)	1,039,955

70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2015/16 Operating Expenses
70	—	649	—	7,285	4	—	175	179	—	—	126	126	—	—	—	—	—	—	71,118
4	—	400	—	2,383	—	—	—	—	—	—	37	37	—	—	—	—	—	—	15,562
66	—	249	—	4,902	4	—	175	179	—	—	89	89	—	—	—	—	—	—	55,556
70	—	649	—	7,285	4	—	175	179	—	—	126	126	—	—	—	—	—	—	71,118

70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2015/16 Operating Expenses
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24,500	24,500	—	—	—	—	—	—	24,500
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24,500	24,500	—	—	—	—	—	—	24,500

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
(\$000)

VOTE 35 Independent Investigations Office

Description	Total 2014/15 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Independent Investigations Office	7,536	4,677	—	1,347	—	6,024	—	161	50	111	171	208	—	—	4
Total	7,536	4,677	—	1,347	—	6,024	—	161	50	111	171	208	—	—	4

VOTE 36 British Columbia Utilities Commission

Description	Total 2014/15 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
British Columbia Utilities Commission	1	2,662	231	706	—	3,599	436	87	—	1,612	244	249	—	25	—
Total	1	2,662	231	706	—	3,599	436	87	—	1,612	244	249	—	25	—

VOTE 37 *Emergency Program Act*

Description	Total 2014/15 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
<i>Emergency Program Act</i>	14,478	697	300	300	—	1,297	—	150	5	3,000	190	71	—	—	2,051
Total	14,478	697	300	300	—	1,297	—	150	5	3,000	190	71	—	—	2,051

Special Account(s)

Description	Total 2014/15 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Civil Forfeiture Account	—	462	—	115	—	577	—	43	1,873	—	24	40	—	22	—
Corrections Work Program Account	1,281	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	41	—	—	475
Criminal Asset Management Fund	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account	8,577	16,231	169	4,025	—	20,425	—	133	—	2,060	1,366	654	—	14	26
Victim Surcharge Special Account	13,504	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	23,362	16,693	169	4,140	—	21,002	—	176	1,873	2,060	1,404	735	—	36	501

70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2015/16 Operating Expenses
100	—	314	381	1,500	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,544
100	—	314	381	1,500	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,544

70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2015/16 Operating Expenses
—	—	1	456	3,110	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	7	—	—	—	—	(6,715)	(6,715)	1
—	—	1	456	3,110	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	7	—	—	—	—	(6,715)	(6,715)	1

70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2015/16 Operating Expenses
1,880	—	134	—	7,481	150	5,299	250	5,699	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	14,478
1,880	—	134	—	7,481	150	5,299	250	5,699	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	14,478

70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2015/16 Operating Expenses
—	—	—	—	2,002	1,282	—	—	1,282	—	—	131	131	—	—	—	—	(3,992)	(3,992)	—
115	—	60	—	705	—	—	476	476	—	—	100	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,281
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	625	—	4,878	—	—	—	—	—	—	384	384	—	—	—	—	(17,110)	(17,110)	8,577
—	—	—	—	—	2,000	—	—	2,000	11,504	—	—	11,504	—	—	—	—	—	—	13,504
115	—	685	—	7,585	3,282	—	476	3,758	11,504	—	615	12,119	—	—	—	—	(21,102)	(21,102)	23,362

VOTE 51 Electoral Boundaries Commission

Description	Total 2014/15 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Electoral Boundaries Commission	2,500	282	—	70	—	352	140	33	—	727	65	680	—	2	—
Total	2,500	282	—	70	—	352	140	33	—	727	65	680	—	2	—

70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2015/16 Operating Expenses
—	—	—	—	1,647	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,000
—	—	—	—	1,647	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,000

OTHER APPROPRIATIONS (\$000)

VOTE 52 Environmental Appeal Board and Forest Appeals Commission

Description	Total 2014/15 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Environmental Appeal Board and Forest Appeals Commission	2,075	826	3	217	—	1,046	309	46	—	246	147	79	—	18	5
Environmental Appeal Board	312	—	—	—	—	—	168	16	—	105	—	15	—	8	—
Forest Appeals Commission	310	—	—	—	—	—	140	15	—	125	—	20	—	10	—
Administration and Support Services	1,453	826	3	217	—	1,046	1	15	—	16	147	44	—	—	5
Total	2,075	826	3	217	—	1,046	309	46	—	246	147	79	—	18	5

70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2015/16 Operating Expenses
—	—	—	175	1,025	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	12	—	(1)	(1)	—	(1)	(1)	2,081
—	—	—	—	312	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	312
—	—	—	—	310	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	310
—	—	—	175	403	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	12	—	(1)	(1)	—	(1)	(1)	1,459
—	—	—	175	1,025	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	12	—	(1)	(1)	—	(1)	(1)	2,081

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

The mission of the Ministry of Justice is to administer justice, deliver public safety services and programs, lead emergency management, and provide legal advice to government.

MINISTRY SUMMARY

(\$000)

	Estimates 2014/15 ¹	Estimates 2015/16
VOTED APPROPRIATIONS		
Vote 32 — Ministry Operations.....	1,024,928	1,039,955
Vote 33 — Judiciary.....	68,109	71,118
Vote 34 — <i>Crown Proceeding Act</i>	24,500	24,500
Vote 35 — Independent Investigations Office.....	7,536	7,544
Vote 36 — British Columbia Utilities Commission.....	1	1
Vote 37 — <i>Emergency Program Act</i>	14,478	14,478
STATUTORY APPROPRIATIONS		
Civil Forfeiture Account Special Account.....	—	—
Corrections Work Program Account Special Account.....	1,281	1,281
Criminal Asset Management Fund Special Account.....	—	—
Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account Special Account.....	8,577	8,577
Less: Transfer from Ministry Operations Vote.....	(8,577)	(8,577)
Victim Surcharge Special Account.....	13,504	13,504
OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>1,154,337</u>	<u>1,172,381</u>
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES ²	15,902	13,224
LOANS, INVESTMENTS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS ³	—	—
REVENUE COLLECTED FOR, AND TRANSFERRED TO, OTHER ENTITIES ⁴	—	—

NOTES

¹ For comparative purposes, figures shown for the 2014/15 operating expenses; capital expenditures; loans, investments and other requirements; and revenue collected for, and transferred to, other entities are restated to be consistent with the presentation of 2015/16 Estimates. Schedule A presents a detailed reconciliation of the restatement of operating expenses and capital expenditures.

² Details of capital expenditures are presented in Schedule C.

³ Details of loans, investments and other requirements are presented in Schedule D.

⁴ Details of revenue collected for, and transferred to, other entities are presented in Schedule E.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
CORE BUSINESS SUMMARY
(\$000)

	2014/15	2015/16 ESTIMATES		
OPERATING EXPENSES	Net	Gross	External Recoveries	Net
Core Business				
Justice Services.....	109,081	113,209	(3,502)	109,707
Prosecution Services.....	112,867	115,793	—	115,793
Court Services.....	97,523	102,278	(2,852)	99,426
Legal Services.....	17,543	18,305	(300)	18,005
Corrections.....	219,234	226,436	(5,544)	220,892
Policing and Security.....	349,682	383,313	(27,758)	355,555
Victim Services and Crime Prevention.....	40,017	40,443	(300)	40,143
Emergency Management BC.....	26,702	31,878	(5,122)	26,756
RoadSafetyBC.....	8,815	13,184	(4,035)	9,149
Liquor Control and Licensing.....	1	11,500	(11,499)	1
Agencies, Boards and Commissions.....	12,979	13,836	(846)	12,990
Executive and Support Services.....	30,484	31,540	(2)	31,538
Judiciary.....	68,109	71,118	—	71,118
<i>Crown Proceeding Act</i>	24,500	24,500	—	24,500
Independent Investigations Office.....	7,536	7,544	—	7,544
British Columbia Utilities Commission.....	1	6,716	(6,715)	1
<i>Emergency Program Act</i>	14,478	14,478	—	14,478
Civil Forfeiture Account Special Account.....	—	3,992	(3,992)	—
Corrections Work Program Account Special Account.....	1,281	1,281	—	1,281
Criminal Asset Management Fund Special Account.....	—	—	—	—
Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account Special Account.....	—	17,110	(17,110)	—
Victim Surcharge Special Account.....	13,504	13,504	—	13,504
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES.....	1,154,337	1,261,958	(89,577)	1,172,381

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	Net	Disbursements	Receipts	Net
Core Business				
Executive and Support Services.....	14,572	12,078	—	12,078
Judiciary.....	605	590	—	590
Independent Investigations Office.....	352	183	—	183
British Columbia Utilities Commission.....	10	10	—	10
Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account Special Account.....	363	363	—	363
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES.....	15,902	13,224	—	13,224

LOANS, INVESTMENTS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS	Net	Disbursements	Receipts	Net
Core Business				
Executive and Support Services.....	—	2,900	(2,900)	—
TOTAL LOANS, INVESTMENTS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS.....	—	2,900	(2,900)	—

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

Estimates
2014/15Estimates
2015/16

VOTE 32 — MINISTRY OPERATIONS

This vote provides for ministry programs and operations described in the voted appropriations under the following twelve core businesses: Justice Services; Prosecution Services; Court Services; Legal Services; Corrections; Policing and Security; Victim Services and Crime Prevention; Emergency Management BC; RoadSafetyBC; Liquor Control and Licensing; Agencies, Boards and Commissions; and Executive and Support Services.

JUSTICE SERVICES

Voted Appropriation

Justice Services.....	109,081	109,707
-----------------------	---------	---------

Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for the administration, management, and transformation of justice services throughout the province, including administrative justice reform; public, criminal, civil, and family law reform; and broad justice system policy development to support a more accessible, efficient, and effective justice system. This sub-vote also provides for legal aid, human rights, and other publicly-funded legal counsel services; development and management of legislation; access to justice services; support for the federal/provincial/territorial process for discussion of national justice issues and negotiations between the various levels of government; the investigations of matters relating to the administration of the *Correction Act* and court services; maintenance enforcement and services associated with inter-jurisdictional support court orders; alternative-to-court dispute resolution services for separating and divorcing parents and their children; parenting after separation programs; developing and promoting non-adversarial dispute resolution options within the justice system and throughout the government; and public legal education and information coordination. Costs may be recovered from ministries, the Legal Services Society, and the federal government for services described within this sub-vote.

PROSECUTION SERVICES

Voted Appropriation

Prosecution Services.....	112,867	115,793
---------------------------	---------	---------

Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for the operation of Crown counsel services, including approval and conduct of criminal prosecutions and appeals of offences; advice to government on all criminal law matters; and responsibility for all other matters mandated by the *Crown Counsel Act*. Costs may be recovered from the Victim Surcharge Special Account to enable compliance with the *Victims of Crime Act*.

COURT SERVICES

Voted Appropriation

Court Services.....	97,523	99,426
---------------------	--------	--------

Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for court registry operations, court administration, prisoner escort, and court security support to the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court, and Provincial Court. Costs may be recovered from the federal and municipal governments for costs related to ticket enforcement, circuit courts, and other justice related initiatives; from contracted bailiffs for civil execution services; and from parties or the public for costs associated with services described within this sub-vote.

LEGAL SERVICES

Voted Appropriation

Legal Services.....	17,543	18,005
---------------------	--------	--------

Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for legal and related services, including legal advice; representation in civil litigation; and drafting, preparing, filing, and publishing statutes, regulations, and Orders in Council to the province and various agencies, boards and commissions, and other organizations. This sub-vote also provides for administration of Orders in Council and appeals to the Executive Council. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, boards and commissions, and other organizations for legal and related services described within this sub-vote.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

	Estimates 2014/15	Estimates 2015/16
CORRECTIONS		
Voted Appropriation		
Corrections.....	219,234	220,892
Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for the management of remanded and sentenced adult offenders in custody and in the community, immigration detainees, and for the planning and management of correctional programs. Costs may be recovered from ministries for purposes including medical sessions, systems-related costs, and supervision of offenders; from other levels of government for purposes which include housing and supervision of federal offenders and immigration detainees; and from other jurisdictions for community supervision of offenders, the Vancouver Drug Treatment Court, and the Native Courtworker Program for services described within this sub-vote.		
POLICING AND SECURITY		
Voted Appropriation		
Policing and Security.....	349,682	355,555
Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for superintending policing and law enforcement in the province, management of contract policing, and developing and delivering initiatives to maintain safe and secure communities. This sub-vote also provides for security industry regulations and other protective programs. Costs may be recovered from ministries for the enhanced policing of highway maintenance zones and forest service recreation sites; for criminal record reviews of public sector employees; and from other levels of government, the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, and organizations and individuals covered by the <i>Criminal Records Review Act</i> for services described within this sub-vote.		
VICTIM SERVICES AND CRIME PREVENTION		
Voted Appropriation		
Victim Services and Crime Prevention.....	40,017	40,143
Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for direct services to support victims of crime, counselling and outreach services for women and children impacted by violence, and financial assistance and benefits to assist victims in their recovery from the impacts of violent crime. This sub-vote also provides for support to communities to prevent crime, violence, and victimization. Costs may be recovered from the Victim Surcharge Special Account for victim service programs and crime prevention initiatives, from ministries for special public safety initiatives, and from other levels of government for services described within this sub-vote.		
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC		
Voted Appropriation		
Emergency Management BC.....	26,702	26,756
Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for costs related to provincial emergency planning, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery activities, including flood, fire, and other hazard mitigation; assurance of critical infrastructure; promotion of emergency management capacity within British Columbian communities; and business continuity and integrated public safety planning readiness for response to multiple fatality incidents. This sub-vote also provides for the Office of the Fire Commissioner, which implements fire safety regulations and activities, promotes fire safety, and oversees major fire investigations and the response to major wildland urban interface fire emergencies; and for the BC Coroners Service, which provides for investigations of unnatural, sudden, and unexpected deaths in the province, ensuring that the relevant facts are made a matter of public record, identifying and advancing recommendations aimed at prevention of death in the future under similar circumstances, and reporting on issues affecting public health and safety, and reviewing child deaths. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, other levels of government, and other organizations for services described within this sub-vote.		

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

	Estimates 2014/15	Estimates 2015/16
ROADSAFETYBC		
Voted Appropriation		
RoadSafetyBC.....	8,815	9,149
Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for programs and activities of RoadSafetyBC, including leading and supporting government traffic safety initiatives, administration of driver regulatory and traffic safety programs, setting driver licensing policy, monitoring and regulating unfit drivers, conducting appeals of driving prohibitions and conducting hearings and reviews of the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia decisions respecting driver licence sanctions, driver training schools, driver trainer licences, and other driver related programs. This sub-vote also provides for expenses related to participation in national organizations and reimbursements for programs administered by RoadSafetyBC. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown corporations, boards and commissions, other levels of government, organizations, and from appeal fees and program fees for services described within this sub-vote.		
LIQUOR CONTROL AND LICENSING		
Voted Appropriation		
Liquor Control and Licensing.....	1	1
Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for the overall policy development, administration, licensing, and enforcement in support of the <i>Liquor Control and Licensing Act</i> and regulations, including administrative oversight of retail liquor outlets appointed under section 18(5) of the <i>Liquor Distribution Act</i> , and to establish and operate an on-going program to reduce the incidence of underage drinking. Costs may be recovered from licensing applications, renewal and change request fees, and from the Liquor Distribution Branch for services described within this sub-vote.		
AGENCIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS		
Voted Appropriation		
Agencies, Boards and Commissions.....	12,979	12,990
Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for the costs of the British Columbia Ferry Commission, British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal, British Columbia Review Board, Oil and Gas Appeal Tribunal, and partial funding of the Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account. The British Columbia Ferry Commission serves to regulate British Columbia Ferry Services Inc. The British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal provides parties the opportunity to resolve complaints of discrimination through mediation and hearings under the <i>Human Rights Code</i> of British Columbia. The British Columbia Review Board conducts hearings pursuant to the <i>Criminal Code</i> of Canada, to review and assess the mental condition and level of threat to the public posed by mentally disordered accused persons to determine whether they should be absolutely or conditionally discharged or detained in a designated place of custody. The Oil and Gas Appeal Tribunal is an independent agency that was established to hear appeals from certain determinations issued by the Oil and Gas Commission (or its designate) under the <i>Oil and Gas Activities Act</i> , as well as certain review decisions issued by a review official. Costs may be recovered from ministries, agencies, boards and commissions, and other organizations for services described within this sub-vote.		
EXECUTIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES		
Voted Appropriations		
Minister's Office.....	1,062	1,054
Corporate Services.....	29,422	30,484
	30,484	31,538
Voted Appropriations Description: This sub-vote provides for the office of the Minister of Justice, including salaries, benefits, allowances, and operating expenses for the minister and the minister's staff; executive direction of the ministry, including the Deputy Attorney General's and the Deputy Solicitor General's offices; the Parliamentary Secretary for Corrections; the Parliamentary Secretary for Liquor Policy Review; general services to support program delivery; policy development; and management services for the ministry, including financial administration, facilities management, organizational development, information and systems management, and service planning. This sub-vote also provides for policy development and other initiatives sponsored by the Minister of Justice and the ministry, including oversight of delegated consumer protection agencies. Costs may be recovered pursuant to court and consent orders, for costs associated with consumer restitution; and from ministries, Crown agencies, boards and commissions, other levels of government, organizations, and individuals for services described within this sub-vote.		
VOTE 32 — MINISTRY OPERATIONS	1,024,928	1,039,955

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

Estimates
2014/15Estimates
2015/16

VOTE 33 — JUDICIARY

This vote provides for programs and operations described in the voted appropriations under the core business: Judiciary.

JUDICIARY

Voted Appropriations

Superior Courts.....	14,350	15,562
Provincial Courts.....	53,759	55,556
	<u>68,109</u>	<u>71,118</u>

Voted Appropriations Description: This sub-vote provides for administrative and support services for the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court located in the province and provides for the operational budget for the Provincial Court of British Columbia.

VOTE 33 — JUDICIARY

68,109

71,118

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

Estimates
2014/15Estimates
2015/16**VOTE 34 — CROWN PROCEEDING ACT**

This vote provides for programs and operations described in the voted appropriation under the core business: *Crown Proceeding Act*.

CROWN PROCEEDING ACT**Voted Appropriation**

<i>Crown Proceeding Act</i>	24,500	24,500
-----------------------------------	--------	---------------

Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for the payments made under the authority of the *Crown Proceeding Act*.

VOTE 34 — CROWN PROCEEDING ACT

24,500

24,500

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

Estimates
2014/15Estimates
2015/16**VOTE 35 — INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE**

This vote provides for programs and operations described in the voted appropriation under the core business: Independent Investigations Office.

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE**Voted Appropriation**

Independent Investigations Office.....	7,536	7,544
--	-------	-------

Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for the operation of the Independent Investigations Office which conducts investigations into deaths and incidents of serious harm involving on and off duty municipal police, Royal Canadian Mounted Police in British Columbia, and on duty special provincial constables. When such investigations result in Crown counsel laying charges under the *Criminal Code* of Canada or any other statute, the Independent Investigations Office supports prosecution of the charges. The Independent Investigations Office operates under the *Police Act* which provides for the prescription of additional offences to be investigated and for issuance of public reports as necessary and as required.

VOTE 35 — INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE

7,536

7,544

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

Estimates
2014/15

Estimates
2015/16

VOTE 36 — BRITISH COLUMBIA UTILITIES COMMISSION

This vote provides for programs and operations described in the voted appropriation under the core business: British Columbia Utilities Commission.

BRITISH COLUMBIA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Voted Appropriation

British Columbia Utilities Commission.....	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
--	----------	----------

Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for the operation of the commission as outlined under the *Utilities Commission Act* and the *Insurance Corporation Act*. Costs of the commission may be recovered from regulated entities, hearing and project applicants, and parties external to government for services described within this sub-vote.

VOTE 36 — BRITISH COLUMBIA UTILITIES COMMISSION

1

1

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

Estimates
2014/15Estimates
2015/16**VOTE 37 — EMERGENCY PROGRAM ACT**

This vote provides for programs and operations described in the voted appropriation under the core business: *Emergency Program Act*.

EMERGENCY PROGRAM ACT**Voted Appropriation**

<i>Emergency Program Act</i>	14,478	14,478
------------------------------------	--------	--------

Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for ministry programs and operations described in the *Emergency Program Act*, which provides for response to and recovery from emergencies, disasters, and for hazard mitigation initiatives.

VOTE 37 — EMERGENCY PROGRAM ACT

14,478

14,478

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

Estimates
2014/15Estimates
2015/16

STATUTORY — SPECIAL ACCOUNTS

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

CIVIL FORFEITURE ACCOUNT

Statutory Appropriation

Civil Forfeiture Account.....	—	—
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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

CORRECTIONS WORK PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Statutory Appropriation

Corrections Work Program Account.....	1,281	1,281
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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

CRIMINAL ASSET MANAGEMENT FUND

Statutory Appropriation

Criminal Asset Management Fund.....	—	—
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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

PUBLIC GUARDIAN AND TRUSTEE OPERATING ACCOUNT

Statutory Appropriation

Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account.....	8,577	8,577
Less: Transfer from Ministry Operations Vote.....	(8,577)	(8,577)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Statutory Appropriation Description: This statutory appropriation provides for the Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account which is governed under the *Public Guardian and Trustee Act*.

VICTIM SURCHARGE SPECIAL ACCOUNT

Statutory Appropriation

Victim Surcharge Special Account.....	13,504	13,504
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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

MINISTRY GROUP ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY

GROUP ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION

Salaries and Benefits	567,651	583,886
Operating Costs	150,420	148,060
Government Transfers	569,789	577,071
Other Expenses	42,354	42,660
Internal Recoveries	(87,050)	(89,719)
External Recoveries	(88,827)	(89,577)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES.....	<u>1,154,337</u>	<u>1,172,381</u>

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

SPECIAL ACCOUNT¹

(\$000)

	Estimates 2014/15	Estimates 2015/16
CIVIL FORFEITURE ACCOUNT		
This account was established by the <i>Civil Forfeiture Act</i> in 2005. The purpose of the account is to suppress economic incentives resulting from unlawful activities and to fund crime prevention, crime remediation, and victim compensation initiatives. The fund is established to distribute proceeds of assets forfeited to the Crown under the Act. Revenue represents any excess of recoveries to expenditures in a given fiscal year. Expenses are limited to those permitted within the scope of the Act and include administration of the Act. Costs may be recovered from proceeds from judgments or settlements of concluded legal proceedings.		
SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR ².....	6,072	7,105
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Revenue.....	1,033	1,033
Expense.....	(3,992)	(3,992)
Internal and External Recoveries.....	3,992	3,992
Net Revenue (Expense).....	1,033	1,033
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS		
Receipts.....	—	—
Disbursements.....	—	—
Capital Expenditures.....	—	—
Net Cash Source (Requirement).....	—	—
PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR ².....	7,105	8,138

NOTES

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

² The Projected Spending Authority Available represents the cash and temporary investments projected to be available at the end of the fiscal year. The Spending Authority Available at the beginning of the fiscal year 2014/15 is based on the *2013/14 Public Accounts*.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

SPECIAL ACCOUNT¹

(\$000)

Estimates 2014/15	Estimates 2015/16
----------------------	----------------------

CORRECTIONS WORK PROGRAM ACCOUNT

This account was established by the *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No.2)* in 1987 and is governed under the *Correction Act*. The purpose of the account is to assist inmates in acquiring skills and to encourage them to develop good work habits. Revenue represents proceeds from the sale of goods and services produced by inmates. Expenses are for supplies and costs related to the Corrections Work Program. Administration costs are funded through the ministry's voted appropriations.

SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR ²	3,138	3,153
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Revenue.....	650	650
Expense.....	(1,281)	(1,281)
Transfer from Ministry Operations Vote.....	700	700
Net Revenue (Expense).....	69	69
Difference Between 2014/15 Estimates and Projected Actual Net Revenue (Expense).....	(114)	
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS		
Receipts.....	—	—
Disbursements.....	—	—
Capital Expenditures.....	—	—
Net Cash Source (Requirement).....	—	—
Working Capital Adjustments and Other Spending Authority Committed ³	60	60
PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR ²	3,153	3,282

NOTES

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

² The Projected Spending Authority Available represents the cash and temporary investments projected to be available at the end of the fiscal year. The Spending Authority Available at the beginning of the fiscal year 2014/15 is based on the *2013/14 Public Accounts*.

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

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

SPECIAL ACCOUNT¹

(\$000)

	Estimates 2014/15	Estimates 2015/16
CRIMINAL ASSET MANAGEMENT FUND		
The Forfeited Crime Proceeds Fund account was established by the <i>Special Accounts Appropriation and Control Act</i> in 1988, as amended by the <i>Attorney General Amendment Act</i> in 1989. This account was continued in 2012, under the name Criminal Asset Management Fund, by the <i>Criminal Asset Management Act</i> . The purpose of this account is to use the proceeds that government obtains from criminal forfeitures and certain fines for certain criminal justice purposes. Revenue represents money received by government from proceeds of crime provided by certain other governments, money paid as a fine under a provision of the <i>Criminal Code</i> of Canada or under similar legislation, and money forfeited under certain sections of the <i>Criminal Code</i> of Canada. Revenue also represents money realized from the disposition of forfeited property governed by the Act and other money, interest, and income provided for in the Act. Expenses are for compensation of eligible victims, crime prevention and remediation, administration of the Act, and other prescribed purposes. Administrative costs may be funded through the ministry's voted appropriations.		
SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR ²	1,086	2,331
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Revenue.....	—	—
Expense.....	—	—
Net Revenue (Expense).....	—	—
Difference Between 2014/15 Estimates and Projected Actual Net Revenue (Expense).....	1,245	
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS		
Receipts.....	—	—
Disbursements.....	—	—
Capital Expenditures.....	—	—
Net Cash Source (Requirement).....	—	—
PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR ²	2,331	2,331

NOTES

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

² The Projected Spending Authority Available represents the cash and temporary investments projected to be available at the end of the fiscal year. The Spending Authority Available at the beginning of the fiscal year 2014/15 is based on the *2013/14 Public Accounts*.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

SPECIAL ACCOUNT¹

(\$000)

	Estimates 2014/15	Estimates 2015/16
PUBLIC GUARDIAN AND TRUSTEE OPERATING ACCOUNT		
This account was established as a special account by the <i>Public Trustee Amendment Act</i> in 1989 and is governed by section 24 of the <i>Public Guardian and Trustee Act</i> . The account's revenue sources are transfers from the Ministry Operations Vote. Approved expenses provide for services to clients and for the administration of the Public Guardian and Trustee. Costs may be recovered from clients and parties external to government and from fees, commissions, and charges earned.		
SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR ²	25,602	25,873
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Revenue.....	—	—
Expense.....	(24,585)	(25,687)
Internal and External Recoveries.....	16,008	17,110
Transfer from Ministry Operations Vote.....	8,577	8,577
Net Revenue (Expense).....	—	—
Difference Between 2014/15 Estimates and Projected Actual Net Revenue (Expense).....	9	
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS		
Receipts.....	—	—
Disbursements.....	—	—
Capital Expenditures.....	(363)	(363)
Net Cash Source (Requirement).....	(363)	(363)
Working Capital Adjustments and Other Spending Authority Committed ³	625	625
PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR ²	25,873	26,135

NOTES

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

² The Projected Spending Authority Available represents the cash and temporary investments projected to be available at the end of the fiscal year. The Spending Authority Available at the beginning of the fiscal year 2014/15 is based on the *2013/14 Public Accounts*.

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

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

SPECIAL ACCOUNT¹

(\$000)

	Estimates 2014/15	Estimates 2015/16
VICTIM SURCHARGE SPECIAL ACCOUNT		
This account was established by the <i>Victims of Crime Act</i> in 1996. The purpose of the account is to fund services to victims of crime as provided for in the Act. Revenue represents proceeds from a victim surcharge levy on fines from all provincial offences, both court-imposed fines and those which result in a violation ticket. Revenue also includes proceeds from the federal victim surcharge levy on offences imposed by the court under the <i>Criminal Code</i> of Canada and interest earned on the balance of the fund. Expenses are for justice system obligations to victims of crime under the Act, including administration costs for the Ministry of Justice. Any remaining funds may be expended on initiatives which may benefit victims of crime. Administration costs are funded through the ministry's voted appropriations.		
SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR ²	40,874	39,370
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Revenue.....	12,000	12,000
Expense.....	(13,504)	(13,504)
Net Revenue (Expense).....	(1,504)	(1,504)
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS		
Receipts.....	—	—
Disbursements.....	—	—
Capital Expenditures.....	—	—
Net Cash Source (Requirement).....	—	—
PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR ²	39,370	37,866

NOTES

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

² The Projected Spending Authority Available represents the cash and temporary investments projected to be available at the end of the fiscal year. The Spending Authority Available at the beginning of the fiscal year 2014/15 is based on the 2013/14 *Public Accounts*.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

LOANS, INVESTMENTS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS BY CORE BUSINESS
(\$000)

	Estimates 2014/15	Estimates 2015/16
EXECUTIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES		
INTEREST ON TRUSTS AND DEPOSITS — Interest earnings are credited (disbursed) to certain trust funds and deposits belonging to third parties, which are held by and are under the general administration or trusteeship of the province, on the basis of earnings received (receipts) from the investment of these funds or as specified by provincial statutes. Administration costs are funded through the ministry's voted appropriations.		
Disbursements.....	2,900	2,900
Receipts.....	<u>(2,900)</u>	<u>(2,900)</u>
Net Cash Requirement (Source).....	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>

VOTE 51 — ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION
(Minister of Justice and Attorney General)

This vote provides for the operation of the Electoral Boundaries Commission. The Commission, in consultation with the public, will make recommendations for electoral boundaries under the current electoral system.

OPERATING EXPENSES

Electoral Boundaries Commission.....	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,000</u>
--------------------------------------	--------------	--------------

VOTE 52 — ENVIRONMENTAL APPEAL BOARD AND FOREST APPEALS COMMISSION
(Minister of Justice and Attorney General)

This vote provides for the operation, administrative, and support services for the Environmental Appeal Board and the Forest Appeals Commission. The Environmental Appeal Board hears appeals from decisions made under environmental legislation and provides for the hearings of appeals under other legislation. The Forest Appeals Commission hears appeals from decisions made under forest and range legislation. This vote also provides for the operation and administration of other tribunals. Costs may be recovered from ministries, other levels of government, and organizations for services described within this vote.

OPERATING EXPENSES

Environmental Appeal Board.....	312	312
Forest Appeals Commission.....	310	310
Administration and Support Services.....	1,453	1,459
	<u>2,075</u>	<u>2,081</u>

**Ministry of Justice
Estimates 2015/16 Briefing Book**

**Justice Transformation
Table of Contents**

Estimate Notes

1. Justice Transformation
2. Justice System Trends, Statistics and Performance Measures
3. Family Court Case Timeliness
4. Criminal Court Case Timeliness
5. Court Administration Transformation Suite
6. Civil Resolution Tribunal
7. Tribunal Transformation Initiative
8. Road Safety Initiative

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Justice Transformation

Suggested Response:

- Our government is committed to improving timeliness and efficiency in the justice system.
- BC is actively pursuing justice reform measures to address challenges in the justice system, such as rising costs and court delays, even though crime rate is at its lowest in four decades.
- In spring 2013, we brought the Justice Reform and Transparency Act into force, which supports justice system reform and transparency.
- BC has made significant progress on recommendations from Geoffrey Cowper's independent review of the justice system such as:
 - Established a Justice and Public Safety Council, responsible for coordination of collaborative planning in the sector.
 - Instituted an ongoing Justice Summit process to facilitate dialogue across the sector and to create an effective forum for justice leaders to consider our most pressing challenges.
 - Commenced significant reforms of the administrative justice sector through tribunal transformation, including the Civil Resolution Tribunal which as Canada's first-ever online tribunal will help citizens resolve common strata disputes and small claims outside the traditional courtroom.
 - Commenced significant efforts, in partnership with the courts, to modernise court administration, including improved information systems, improves provincial court scheduling and coordination with prosecution scheduling, and improved citizen access to court documents.
 - Continuing to work towards better access to justice, alternatives to court and early resolution in family matters.

If asked about Justice and Public Safety Council and its Plan

- Through the passage of the Justice Reform and Transparency Act in 2013, government established a Justice and Public Safety Council responsible for setting the strategic vision for the justice system which will enable justice partners to plan together and work more collaboratively.
- The Province's first justice and public safety strategic plan was released on March 31, 2014, and an update was released on March 31, 2015.

- As outlined in its plan, the Council will begin publishing performance reports on a number of key justice indicators in September 2015, including measures of court case timeliness, rates of incarceration of Aboriginal persons, reoffending rates, and traffic safety.
- As the Council is now well-established, as outlined in its most recent Plan the membership has recommended to me that future appointments might begin to incorporate representatives from outside government to enhance representation from the broader justice and public safety sector. We are actively studying this recommendation.

If asked about Justice Summits

- Further to the provisions of the Justice Reform and Transparency Act, government now holds a regular Justice Summit including the three levels of British Columbia courts, justice system leaders, subject matter experts and key stakeholders. The Summits are intended to facilitate collaboration among all justice participants to discuss changes in directions or new justice reform initiatives.
- To date, we have held four Justice Summits with justice partners where the focus was developing a plan to ensure our justice system remains fair, protects British Columbians, is sustainable, and retains the confidence of the public.
 - The first two Justice Summits in 2013 focused on the Criminal Justice System, as well as on creating understanding and support of the Summit process.
 - The May 2014 Summit took Family Justice as its focus.
 - The November 2014 Summit focused on better responses to Violence Against Women.
- The Summit process is still developing, but the four held so far have already made a significant impact.
 - The dialogue about performance measurement in the sector has advanced to the stage where we will see this year the publication of indicators which are derived from consultation across the sector.
 - We have held rich discussions on Family Law, continuing to advance the goals of early resolution and alternatives to court, such as enhanced use of mediation.
 - Our most recent Summit, on Violence Against Women, shared important new science about the psychological impact of trauma with those leading operational responses to sexual violence and domestic violence.

If asked about other substantive system reforms specific to Branch-led such as Court Administration Transformation, Tribunals, Family Law Act

- Refer to Branch subject-specific Estimates Notes

Contact: Allan Castle, JPSS	Phone: 250-356-0111	Mobile: s.17
-----------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE**Justice System Trends,
Statistics and
Performance Measures****Suggested Response:**

- Consistent with long term national patterns, crime in British Columbia has continued to decline.
- Violent crime, and particularly domestic and sexual violence which often involve greater complexity, remains a great concern.
- Youth crime continues to decline, and the number of youth in provincial custody remains at or near historical lows. However, the benefits of these trends are unevenly distributed, with Aboriginal youth an increasing percentage of the remaining youth custody population.
- In adult and youth categories, Aboriginal people continue to be over-represented in the justice system as both offenders and victims.
- New court cases continued to decline overall.
- Justice system costs in BC continue to increase.
- The Justice and Public safety Council's publication this fall of an initial suite of eleven system performance indicators, stretching back over a decade's worth of data, will take our justice system into a new era of common, public performance metrics.

If asked about Court case volumes

- The change in process for impaired driving has been a major driver in the decline in the annual number of new Provincial Court criminal cases entering the system.
 - After a previous period of relative stability, new cases have fallen by about 23 per cent over the last four years,(including adult and youth.
 - New court cases overall, including civil and family proceedings, have declined by over 22 per cent in the same period.
 - Due perhaps in part to lower volumes, pending cases, or "case backlog", in the Provincial Court have declined significantly over the past year.

If asked about crime rates and/or crime severity

- 2013 saw the tenth consecutive annual decrease, the lowest recorded crime rate since 1969. British Columbia's overall crime rate in 2013 showed a 5.7 per cent decrease from 2012 and is now at 49% of the recorded rate in the historical peak year of 1991.
- The relative severity of crime also continues to decrease in the province. In 2013, British Columbia's crime severity index declined by 6.1% from the prior year.
- Crime severity is a measure of the seriousness of criminal offences being committed which addresses some limitations of the traditional "crime rate" measure, specifically its lack of capacity to distinguish differences between, for example, homicide and mischief.
- The vast majority of the reduction in the overall crime rate over the past decade continues to be explained by reduction in reported property crime incidents.

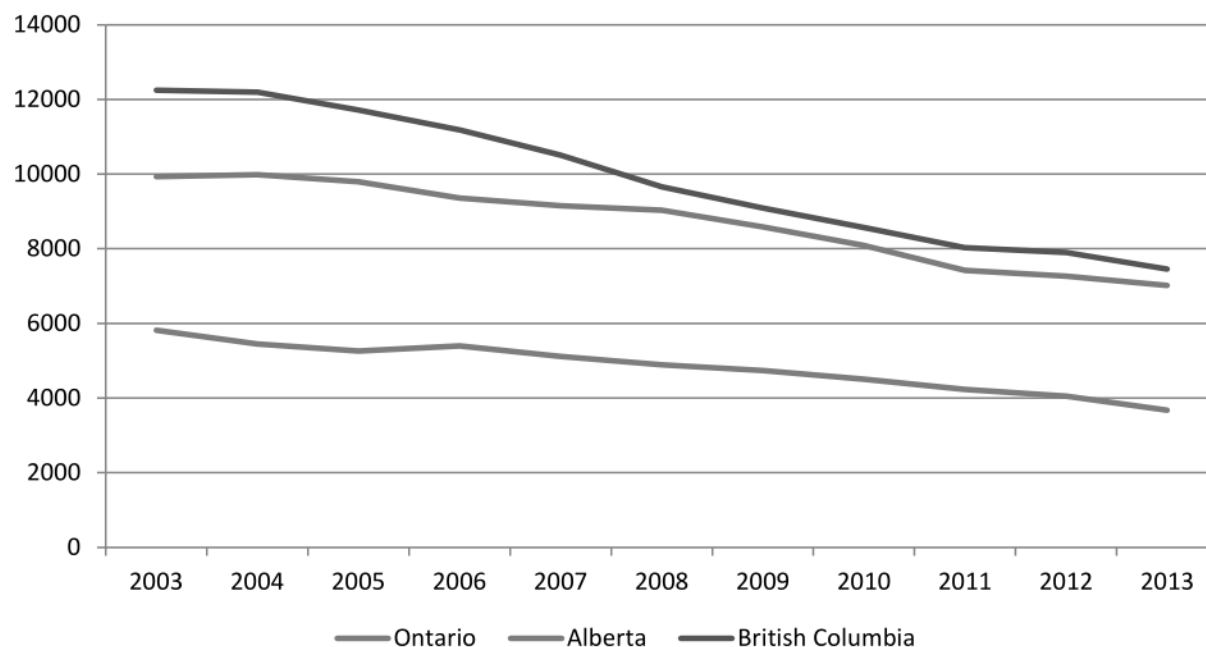
If asked about performance measures

- The Justice and Public Safety Council's publication this fall of an initial suite of eleven system performance indicators will take our justice system into a new era of common, public performance metrics.
- The measures were established by the Council in consultation with an external review committee drawn from Justice Summit participating organizations
- The external review committee was comprised of representatives from the Elizabeth Fry Society, Public Legal Education, the private criminal bar, police, legal aid experts, academics, federal Crown, and Aboriginal organizations. The judiciary were represented as observers to the process.
- Performance measures will be reported publicly and will incorporate ten years' worth of data (where available)
- Performance measures included in the initial suite of indicators are as follows:
 - Rates of self-representation at Provincial Criminal Court appearances;
 - Rate of Aboriginal incarceration (remand);
 - Rate of Aboriginal incarceration (sentenced);

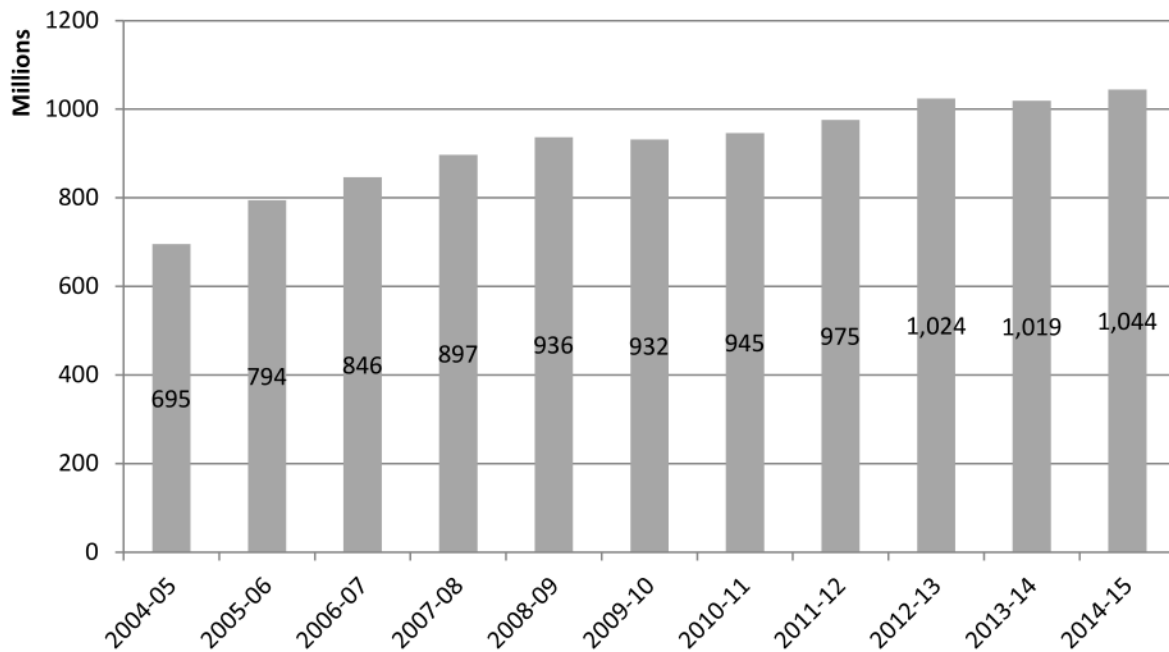
- Number of criminal cases judicially stayed due to systemic delay;
- Next available date for a trial in Provincial Court – criminal (adult and youth), civil and family;
- Percentage of criminal cases resolved in Provincial Court within 30/60/90 days;
- Percentage of adult offenders not reconvicted in BC within two years of their release from custody;
- Rate of reoffending among higher-volume offenders;
- Percentage of Youth Justice clients receiving first community sentence who are not reconvicted in BC within the following five years;
- Percentage of Youth Justice clients receiving first custody sentence who are not reconvicted in BC within the following five years; and
- Number of police-reported traffic fatalities and serious injuries involving high-risk driving per 100,000 population.

Sub Section: Summary Charts

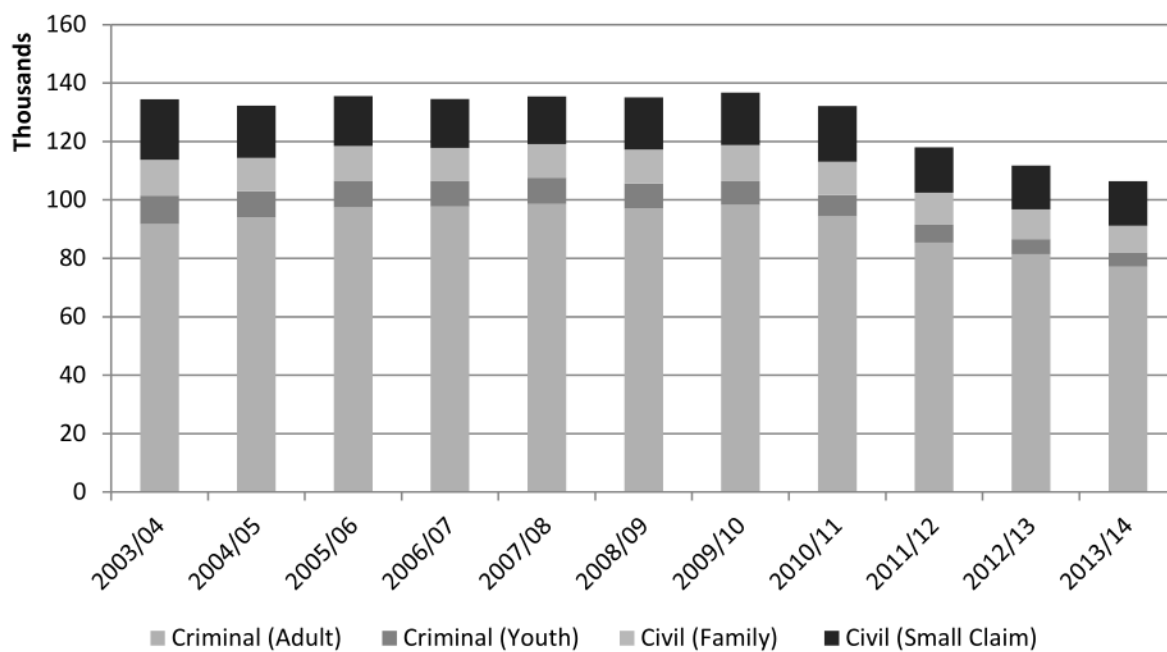
Figure 1: Reported crime incidents per 100,000 population (excluding traffic) 2003-2013¹



¹ Source: *Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics*. Most recent data year is calendar 2013. These figures reflected reported crimes. They do not reflect crimes which are for one reason or another unreported to police, and they are therefore necessarily an incomplete picture of criminal occurrences. The rate of victimization, typically determined by population survey, is considered a more accurate picture of total criminal activity. However, victimization rates are currently measured nationally every five years – too infrequently to serve as a useful policy tool – and are not included here. The reader should also note that the crime rate is at best an incomplete measure of police workload, as it does not capture the range of proactive community or public order activity required of police agencies, enforcement of non-criminal statutes (e.g. *Motor Vehicle Act*) or non-criminal requests for service from the public.

Figure 2: Justice and public safety costs (provincial only), 2004/05-2014/15²

² Source: BC Ministry of Justice, Corporate Management Services Branch. Ministry of Justice data only. Most recent data year is fiscal 2014-15 (figures are estimated, based on projections to year end at March 17, 2015). This chart incorporates budget figures (expenditures) from the B.C. Ministry of Justice and the former ministries of Attorney General and of Public Safety and Solicitor General, and combines salary and operating costs. Figures include amounts for Corrections, the Corrections work program, police services, community safety and crime prevention, the Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles, justice transformation, justice services, Prosecution services, and court services. Figures exclude amounts which have not consistently been funded via the justice and public safety ministry budget(s) for services (government corporate infrastructure and facilities) and programs (for example, liquor control and licensing, and gaming policy and enforcement). The chart also excludes funds for the judiciary and federal and municipal budget figures for justice and public safety, which comprise a significant portion of the total public expenditure in the sector – in particular, the costs of municipal policing and federal enforcement.

Figure 3: New Provincial Court cases by type (excluding traffic) 2003/04-2013/14³

Contact: Allan Castle, JPSS

Phone: 250-356-0111

Mobile: s.17

³ Source: BC Ministry of Justice, Court Services Branch.

**Ministry of Justice
Estimates 2015/16 Briefing Book**



**Cross Sector Issues
Table of Contents**

Estimate Notes

1. Mandate Letter Actions
2. Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Final Update Report
3. Highway 16 –Update Report
4. Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy
5. Domestic Violence Plan – Provincial
6. Workplace Fatalities – Prosecution
7. RCY Recommendations to Ministry – Status Update
8. s.14,s.16

Page 410

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14;s.16

Page 411

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14;s.16;s.17

**Ministry of Justice
Estimates 2015/16 Briefing Book**

**Legal Services Branch
Table of Contents**

Estimate Notes

1. s.14
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Page 413

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14

Page 414

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14;s.17

Page 415 to/à Page 425

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14

Page 426

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14;s.17

Page 427

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14

Page 428

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14;s.17

Page 429

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14

Page 430 to/à Page 431

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14;s.17

**Ministry of Justice
Estimates 2015/16 Briefing Book**

**Policing and Security Branch
Table of Contents**

Estimate Notes

1. Parliamentary Secretary for Crime Reduction and Blue Ribbon Panel
2. BC Policing and Community Safety Plan
3. Regional Policing
4. RCMP Funding
5. E-PANA Funding – RCMP
6. Biology Casework Analysis
7. s.14,s.16
8. Integrated Teams
9. Employment Police Record – OIPC Report Response
- 10.1 Surrey Crime and Officer Complement
- 10.2 Crime and Safety in Surrey
11. Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

Statistics

1. Police Services and Community Safety Statistics

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Parliamentary Secretary for Crime Reduction and Blue Ribbon Panel

Suggested Response:

- Dr. Darryl Plecas, MLA for Abbotsford South, was appointed as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General for Crime Reduction on June 7, 2013, with a mandate to chair a Blue Ribbon Panel to study crime reduction opportunities.
- The Blue Ribbon Panel on Crime Reduction has completed its mandate and released its report, *Getting Serious About Crime Reduction*, on December 18, 2014.
- Noting that existing programs and strategies are already addressing, to varying degrees, many issues raised in its consultations, the expert panel made six broad recommendations for government to use a more cohesive, collaborative approach to prevent and reduce crime.
- The Ministry generally supports the recommendations but they are complex, broad in scope and require further consultation with other ministries and with other branches within the Ministry of Justice.
- Areas of focus include reducing recidivism by prolific offenders, expanding and better coordinating services to offenders dealing with addiction and mental health issues, broadening use of restorative justice, and “designing out” opportunistic crime.

• s.13,s.16

- The vision for this initiative includes the development of a guiding protocol agreement that would bring together all relevant government and non-government agencies under a structured and supported program to:
 - Identify and prioritize community safety goals and targets;
 - Share information;
 - Focus resource allocations and programs accordingly; and
 - Measure and evaluate outcomes.

• s.13,s.16

Background:

- The Terms of Reference (see Appendix A) stated that the Blue Ribbon Panel for Crime Reduction will work with the Parliamentary Secretary of Crime Reduction:
 - Through consultation with stakeholders, review existing crime reduction initiatives and identify potential gaps, challenges and issues;
 - Make recommendations for crime reduction opportunities and next steps including a plan for implementation; and
 - Deliver a report to the Minister of Justice in June of 2014. (Note: This date was extended to fall 2014).
- From January 8, 2014 to February 28, 2014, Regional roundtable consultations were held in fourteen communities: Victoria; Nanaimo; Campbell River; Cranbrook; Kelowna; Abbotsford; Prince George; Fort St. John; Prince Rupert; Kamloops; Williams Lake; Surrey; Maple Ridge; and Vancouver.
- Stakeholders invited to roundtables included: police agencies, police boards, Union of British Columbia Municipalities, non-governmental and non-profit organizations, First Nations, treatment & addictions service providers, school districts, mayors & council, chairs of regional districts, Members of the Legislative Assembly and provincial ministries. See Appendix B for full list of organisations represented.
- The Panel spoke to approximately 600 stakeholders through the roundtable sessions and individual consultations.

Blue Ribbon Panel Recommendations

- The Panel made six broad recommendations for government to utilize a more cohesive and collaborative approach aimed at preventing and reducing crime in BC. See Appendix C for detailed recommendations.
 1. Manage prolific and priority offenders more effectively. The Panel heard a widely held view that a significant reduction in crime can be achieved by focusing on the few prolific offenders that commit the most crimes. The Panel recommends a comprehensive, province-wide Integrated Offender Management Program.
 2. Make quality mental health and addiction services more accessible. While the Panel acknowledged the cost associated with the expansion of mental health and addiction services, it also noted that such investments lead to significant future savings, as well as improved outcomes.

3. Make greater use of restorative justice. The Panel reiterated Geoffrey Cowper's recommendation that the government develop a province-wide plan for diversion, including restorative justice.
4. Support an increased emphasis on "designing out" crime. Research shows that opportunistic crimes can be prevented through activities such as improved security, surveillance and planning. The Panel highlighted the need to facilitate a systematic application of such methods.
5. Strengthen Inter-agency Collaboration. The Panel consistently heard about a need for improved coordination and leadership across a range of crime reduction initiatives in BC. The Panel highlighted the need for a province-wide interagency collaboration model that supports the development of local partnerships.
6. Re-examine funding approaches to provide better outcomes. The Panel recommends that some existing funding could be redirected to support new approaches aimed at dealing with and supervising offenders in the community.

Contact: Lisa Anderson	Phone: 604-660-1741	Mobile: s.17
------------------------	---------------------	--------------

Appendix A: Blue Ribbon Panel on Crime Reduction – Terms of Reference

Background

Implementation of justice reforms to ensure a cost-effective justice system that has the confidence of the public is a key priority of government. One aspect of that reform agenda is crime reduction.

Crime reduction programs generally have two goals: to reduce crime and disorder, and to increase public confidence in the ability of the justice system to keep communities safe.

In Geoffrey Cowper's report *A Criminal Justice System for the 21st Century*, he recommended the development of a province-wide crime reduction plan. Crime reduction is identified as a priority item in *White Paper Part Two: A Timely and Balanced Justice System*, as well as in the proposed *BC Policing and Community Safety Plan*.

Specifically, Action Item #8 of the *BC Policing and Community Safety Plan* states: In support of enhancing community safety, the Ministry of Justice will work with stakeholders to develop strategies to: a) support crime prevention efforts; b) support province-led crime reduction initiatives; and c) support further development of civil/administrative law strategies to enhance community safety.

At present, there are three strands of crime reduction activities in BC:

- Those led by municipalities. For example, the City of Surrey Crime Reduction Strategy, which is based on extensive consultation and collaboration with partners across the government and law enforcement agencies.
- Crime reduction initiatives led by police. Many of these initiatives target 'hot spots' or geographic areas with high crime and disorder activities, while others focus on apprehending prolific offenders.
- Crime reduction initiatives led by the provincial government, such as the Prolific Offender Management program and Vancouver's Downtown Community Court.

Name of Committee

Blue Ribbon Panel for Crime Reduction (referred to as 'The Panel')

Purpose and Scope

On June 7, 2013, Dr. Darryl Plecas was appointed as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General for Crime Reduction. His mandate is to chair a blue-ribbon panel to study crime reduction opportunities. The Blue Ribbon Panel for Crime Reduction will:

- Through consultation with stakeholders, review existing crime reduction initiatives and identify potential gaps, challenges and issues;
- Make recommendations for crime reduction opportunities and next steps including a plan for implementation; and
- Deliver a report to the Minister of Justice by June 14th 2014.

Membership

The Panel will be chaired by Parliamentary Secretary for Crime Reduction, Darryl Plecas.

The Panel consists of the following 5 members:

- Beverley Busson;
- Gary Bass;
- Jean Fournier;
- Yvon Dandurand; and
- Geri Ellen Bemister

Mandate/Responsibilities

The primary functions of panel members are to:

- Conduct a series of roundtables to elicit feedback from around the Province;
- Provide advice and recommendations to the Parliamentary Secretary for Crime Reduction about possible evidence led crime reduction opportunities;
- Identify individuals with subject matter or other expertise that could assist and provide advice to the panel members;
- Liaise with Ministry staff as required; and
- Create and approve a report and recommendations regarding crime reduction opportunities.

The roundtables will bring together relevant stakeholder groups to discuss crime reduction opportunities, as well as current initiatives, approaches (such as environmental design that contributes to crime reduction), successes, gaps or challenges. Roundtable participants will be invited based on their specialized backgrounds and interests in this topic.

The Panel's work will inform the content of a report, from the Chair to the Minister of Justice that includes the following:

- Results from the stakeholder consultation;
- Identification of opportunities for effective evidence-led crime reduction initiatives;
- An overview of current crime reduction initiatives around the province and other jurisdictions; and
- Recommendations for crime reduction opportunities.

Meetings

Regular meetings of the Panel on Crime Reduction will be held at least once a month for the duration of the project until June 2014 at the call of the Chair.

Support such as arranging meeting date and times, agendas, minutes and distribution of documents to Panel members will be coordinated by Ministry staff.

Communication and Confidentiality

Unless otherwise authorized, Panel members will not publically share sensitive information about the Panel's work. Requests to release information must be directed to Ministry staff.

Support

The Ministry of Justice will provide appropriate support to the Blue Ribbon Panel for Crime Reduction.

The Ministry of Justice will reimburse travel expenses to members of The Panel for their attendance at meetings and roundtables, in accordance with applicable Treasury Board directives.

Appendix B: Blue Ribbon Panel on Crime Reduction - Organizations Consulted

Abbotsford Community Services Society
Abbotsford Downtown Business Association
Abbotsford Police Department
Abbotsford Restorative Justice and Advocacy Association
Aboriginal Community Justice Councils
ACR Programs Ltd.
Alano Club of Courtenay A&D Committee
Alert Bay Community Justice Program
Aspirational Youth Partners Association
BC Association of Community Response Networks
BC Association of Police Boards
BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS
BC Community Corrections
BC Crime Prevention Association
BC Crime Prevention Association (New Westminster Police)
BC Housing Management Commission
BC Hydro
BC Institute of Technology
BC Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
BC Ministry of Child and Family Development
BC Ministry of Children and Family Development, Youth Probation
BC Ministry of Education
BC Ministry of Education School Districts
BC Ministry of Health
BC Ministry of Justice
BC Ministry of Justice, Correctional Centres
BC Ministry of Justice, Aboriginal Programs & Relationships
BC Ministry of Justice, Community Safety and Crime Prevention
BC Ministry of Justice, Community Corrections BC Ministry of Justice, Corrections Branch
BC Ministry of Justice, Criminal Justice Branch
BC Ministry of Justice, Security Programs Division
BC MLA Liberal Caucus
BC MLA NDP Caucus
BC Schizophrenia Society
BDO Consulting
BMO
Business Improvement Associations
Canadian Bankers Association
Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse
Canadian Mental Health Association
Capital Region Action Team

Cariboo Action Training Society
Cedars at Cobble Hill
Centre for Safe Schools and Communities, UFV
Chambers of Commerce
Children and Youth BC
Children of the Street Society
Chilliwack Restorative Justice and Youth Advocacy Association
Circle of Eagles Lodge Society
City of Abbotsford
City of Burnaby
City of Campbell River
City of Coquitlam
City of Courtenay
City of Cranbrook
City of Fort St. John
City of Ladysmith
City of Langley
City of Pitt Meadows
City of Port Coquitlam
City of Prince George
City of Richmond
City of Surrey
City of Surrey Fire Services
City of Terrace
City of Vernon
City of Victoria
City of White Rock
City of Williams Lake
CKR Global
CKR Global Risk Solutions
Communities Embracing Restorative Action
Comox Valley Citizens on Patrol
Comox Valley Restorative Justice Society
Correctional Service Canada
Cowichan Tribes
Cowichan Women Against Violence
Crime Stoppers Advisory Board - BC
Delta Police Department
District 69 Family Resource Association
District of Central Saanich
District of Delta
District of Kent
District of Maple Ridge
District of North Vancouver

Douglas College
Downtown Community Court Team/Mental Health Program
Duncan Youth Inclusion Program
East Kootenay Addiction Services Society
Edgewood
Elizabeth Fry Society
Ending Violence Association of BC
Esk'etemc First Nation
Esketemc Restorative Justice Program
Fraser Health Authority
Government of Saskatchewan
Haida Health Centre
Harvest Discovery Homes
Institute for Canadian Urban Research Studies and School of Criminology, SFU
Insurance Corporation of BC
Interior Health Authority
John Howard Society
Justice Institute of British Columbia
K4K Nanaimo
Kinghaven Treatment Centre
K'omoks First Nation
Ktunaxa Nation Council
Kwadacha Band
Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Langara College
Legislative Assembly of BC
London Drugs
Lower Similkameen Indian Band
Lulumexun (Lands & Governance)
McCreary Centre Society
Metro Vancouver CrimeStoppers
Mount Royal University
Nak'azdli Alternative Justice Centre
Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of BC
Nelson Police Department
New Westminster Police Board
New Westminster Police Service
Nisga'a Lisims Government
North Island College
North Island Crisis and Counselling Centre Society
North Peace Justice Society
Northern Health Authority
Northern Lights College
Oak Bay Police Department

Office of International Diplomacy
Pacific Centre Family Services
Police Victim Services of British Columbia
Port Kells Community Association
Port Moody Police Department
Port of Vancouver
Prince George Activators
Prince George Native Friendship Centre
Prince George Urban Aboriginal Justice Society
Prince Rupert Aboriginal Justice Program
Private Family Practice MD
Private Law Firms
Provincial Association of Residential and Community Agencies
Provincial Office of Domestic Violence
Public Safety Canada
RCMP "D" Division
RCMP "E" Division Head Quarters
RCMP Districts and Detachments in BC
Regional Domestic Violence Unit
Restorative Justice Society of North Okanagan
Restorative Justice Victoria
Ridge Meadows Youth Diversion Program
Saanich Police Department
Secwepemc Community Justice Program
Simon Fraser University
South Coast BC Transportation Authority Police Service
South Okanagan Restorative Justice Program
Stepping Stones Recovery , Alano Club
Stl' Atl' Imx Tribal Police Service
Surrey Board of Trade
TD Bank Group
The M2/W2 Association
Thompson Rivers University
Tillicum Lelum Aboriginal Society
Tl'azt'en "Healing Circle" Justice Program
Town of Comox
Township of Esquimalt
Township of Langley
Township of Spallumcheen
Tsilhqot'in Community Justice Program
UCL Jill Dando Institute of Security and Crime Science, UK
Union of BC Municipalities
University of the Fraser Valley
Vancouver Board of Trade

Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
Vancouver Foundation
Vancouver Island Therapeutic Community
Vancouver Police Department
Victoria Police Board
Victoria Police Department
Village of Ashcroft
VisionQuest Recovery Society
Welcome Home Society
Wet'suwet'en Nation
White Buffalo Aboriginal and Metis Health Society
Wilfred Laurier University
Williams Lake Band
Women's Contact Society
YMCA/YWCA

CONFIDENTIAL

Appendix C – Detailed Blue Ribbon Panel Recommendations

Recommendation #1: Manage prolific and priority offenders more effectively.

A relatively small proportion of habitual or “career” criminals accounts for the majority of offences committed. While there is variation across samples, most evidence supports the Pareto principle that about 80 per cent of offences are committed by 20 per cent of offenders. In fact, it is likely that this 80:20 ratio is an underestimate due to experienced offenders’ abilities to evade detection. Using U.S. data, Cohen estimated that “the average costs imposed on society by one male high-rate chronic offender is greater than \$1.5 million.” In other words, targeting prolific offenders can improve public safety while reducing total costs to society.

In 2008, the Province launched a pilot Prolific Offender Management Program in Prince George, Williams Lake, Kamloops, Surrey, Greater Victoria and Nanaimo. Bringing together resources from enforcement agencies (police, corrections and Crown) and health and social services, the project focused on a small group of prolific offenders, providing more intensive supervision and timely interventions, including links to public services. An independent evaluation of the program by Simon Fraser University found a “significant association” between the program and reduced recidivism. It also found that offenders increased their use of physical-health services, housing and other social services, while having fewer negative police contacts and spending less time in custody. In the first-year follow-up period, the overall re-offence rate fell by 40 per cent.

The Province has made a commitment to continue the best practices learned in the pilot and incorporate them throughout British Columbia. The Panel strongly supports this direction and urges the government to take decisive action to ensure co-ordinated supervision, enforcement and access to services for chronic and other priority offenders. Specifically, the Panel recommends a comprehensive, province-wide Integrated Offender Management (IOM) program that builds on the success of efforts to date, bringing together criminal justice agencies, local authorities, health services and the voluntary sectors – for use as an alternative to short sentences or to help offenders reintegrate with communities after serving their time.

Successful crime reduction initiatives and programs require strong and effective partnerships, as well as close collaboration and the integration of appropriate services. British Columbia is a leader in the area of police integration. An early and crucial initiative in that area was the implementation of BC PRIME, the police records management system mandated by law and used by all police agencies in the province. B.C. is the only jurisdiction in North America to have achieved this degree of integration. For nearly 20 years, it has supported the establishment of integrated police teams to deal with a wide variety of serious and organized crimes and, by all accounts, it has been a spectacular success. It is based, in part, on the realization that not every police agency can afford to achieve and maintain the high levels of expertise required for certain complex and relatively rare types of investigation and intervention. Integration makes it possible to maintain a specialized and highly effective team of personnel to face these unique situations. Through this approach a high standard of effective policing is achieved while realizing considerable efficiencies for individual municipalities. This kind of integration together with greater coordination with other service providers will help ensure greater success in crime reduction in British Columbia.

In developing a province-wide IOM program, the Panel urges the Province to:

- develop a comprehensive, evidence-based model for sentencing, managing, rehabilitating and supervising offenders, and supporting them to change their behaviour
- improve rehabilitation and treatment programs for offenders serving time in provincial institutions
- increase the effectiveness of pre-release programs and re-entry management interventions
- make wider use of proven, cost-effective methodologies such as electronic monitoring
- advocate for amendments to the *Criminal Code of Canada* that increase flexibility for judges
- support and encourage police throughout B.C. to build on their success and prioritize information-led, intelligence-led, proactive, problem-solving, offender-focused crime reduction, in partnership with other provincial and community-level service providers
- consistent with the current trend, amend the *Police Act* to require all police forces to participate in integrated services and offender management programs.

Recommendation #2: Make quality mental health and addiction services more accessible.

A high proportion of criminal activity is related to substance abuse, either directly or indirectly. And the link between mental illness and addiction is now so undeniable that many professionals consider addiction a form of mental illness and no longer draw clear distinctions between the two. Regardless of their diagnoses, a significant proportion of addicts cannot work, which means that criminal activity becomes their primary revenue source. From the victim's perspective, this is particularly costly. Addicts can spend anywhere from \$70 to \$1,000 per day on their substance of choice; supporting that habit through stolen property drives them to steal goods worth up to 10 times that amount.

Drug treatment is also expensive. However, according to the US National Institute on Drug Abuse, "every dollar invested in addiction treatment programs yields a return of between \$4 and \$7 in reduced drug-related crime, criminal justice costs, and theft. When savings related to healthcare are included, total savings can exceed costs by a ratio of 12 to 1."

Therefore, while there would be a cost to expanding mental health and addiction services, the evidence suggests that these investments would lead to significant savings in the future. To help ensure that service enhancements would help reduce crime, the Panel urges the Province to:

- enhance the treatment options available in the community, including to offenders in custody
- increase access to Aboriginal-led treatment programs for Aboriginal offenders
- prioritize funding for programs focused on sustainable long-term recovery
- develop provincial guidelines and standards for addiction treatment providers
- establish a taskforce, representing relevant ministries and agencies, to identify ways to address the issues related to unlicensed recovery homes.

Recommendation #3: Make greater use of restorative justice.

In his report to the Minister of Justice, Geoffrey Cowper recommended that the government develop a province-wide plan for diversion, including restorative justice, along with education, quality assurance and control, performance measures, reporting and evaluation. The Panel reiterates that recommendation and urges the Province to consider making greater use of restorative justice (RJ) in particular.

For some offenders, a formal criminal sanction is neither necessary nor useful to facilitate their social integration and prevent reoffending. Other, more effective and less stigmatizing interventions are possible in the community, including diversion programs that redirect offenders from the criminal justice process to more appropriate interventions.

In B.C., restorative justice is most commonly used for less serious offences such as mischief, assault and theft. However, it can be used in any case where harm has occurred, the offender is willing to make amends, and the victim would like an opportunity to be heard, to have questions answered, or to seek restitution.

There are currently about 50 RJ programs across B.C., taking on low-risk cases referred to them by local police departments, schools, First Nations and Crown counsel. The Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) and many other stakeholders would like to see this approach used more widely. The Panel concurs and, after reviewing a number of different models, believes that RJ is a cost-effective and promising approach.

Evidence is limited, but recent reviews indicate that, “a focus on reoffending outcomes alone fails to capture the extent of other benefits, such as victim satisfaction, offender responsibility for actions and increased compliance with a range of orders, among others”. A review of restorative justice conferencing using face to face meetings of offenders and victims showed that, on average, this approach can cause a modest but highly cost-effective reduction in repeat offending, with substantial benefits for victims. In other words, like expanded access to mental health and addiction treatment programs, any further investment in RJ is likely to produce savings in the long-term.

The Panel recommends that the government develop, in collaboration with the UBCM, province-wide standards to govern the implementation and management of diversion and restorative justice programs.

Recommendation #4: Support an increased emphasis on designing out crime.

Many types of crime, particularly property crimes, are opportunistic and can be prevented through activities such as improved security, surveillance and planning. The growing body of research and evidence about this approach, known as “situational crime prevention,” tells us that success relies on a systematic analysis of current and emerging crime problems and the application of proven measures in selected spaces. Much more could easily be done in the province, to disseminate information on best practices to all concerned and to facilitate the systematic application of these methods where warranted.

Some broader planning initiatives, including “crime prevention through environmental design” (CPTED) and urban renewal projects, can also have a significant impact on certain types of crime. The B.C. Association of Chiefs of Police, for instance, is strongly suggesting that a civil

process be implemented for ensuring that problem premises, which create a focal point for criminal activity and a safety risk, are dealt with. Bringing the *Community Safety Act* into force would respond to that recommendation.

The Panel heard about the dramatic and alarming rise in internet-based crime as it relates to identity theft as well as thefts and frauds against banking institutions and their customers. It is important to develop effective crime reduction strategies that target these very serious and disruptive criminal activities. Partnerships with the banking industry and financial community will be essential to the success of these strategies.

Recommendation #5: Strengthen inter-agency collaboration.

Perhaps the clearest message that came through in consultations was the need for improved collaboration and coordination across the wide range of crime reduction initiatives across B.C. While the Panel saw examples of integrated teams working together in some communities, significant gaps in interagency collaboration remain. There is clearly a need for a province-wide interagency collaboration model that supports the development of local partnerships.

Governments should actively work to break down bureaucratic silos, remove non-legally required barriers to information-sharing and concerted action, and promote greater and more effective cooperation in crime reduction activities at the provincial and community levels.

It is also clear to the Panel that B.C. needs a structured and appropriately resourced body to lead this work. While it would be logical to locate this new body in the Ministry of Justice, a range of possible approaches could be followed.

However the government chooses to proceed, the Panel urges the Province to appoint a senior crime reduction leader to improve interagency collaboration across the wide range of crime reduction activities in B.C.

As an important first step, the Panel recommends establishing an Interagency Community Partnership (ICP) pilot project in a designated community. Spearheaded by the new crime reduction leader, the project would bring together around a common table, on a regular basis, professionals and specialists from a dozen or more departments and agencies to deal with high-risk social and personal situations that cannot be addressed by a single agency and which, left unattended, would likely lead to criminal offending and victimization.

Simply put, the goal is to stop crime before it happens and keep individuals out of the criminal justice system. The focus would be on effective prevention, risk assessment, information sharing and collaboration to deliver real-time solutions along with better outcomes, greater efficiencies and significant cost savings.

ICP partner departments and agencies would:

- identify at-risk individuals in the community
- connect them promptly to appropriate services and effective interventions to manage and mitigate risk
- establish clear rules and procedures for appropriate information sharing
- draw on the knowledge and experience of local community leaders, and
- evaluate the pilot project after two years with a view to expanding it to other communities.

The crime reduction leader could also develop a centre of excellence (publicly accessible through a web presence) that would provide leadership, best practices, research on collaboration models in other jurisdictions and support or training for communities wishing to further improve interagency collaboration mechanisms and practices.

Finally, the crime reduction leader could play an important role in the development of a few, high-level crime reduction targets. In any event, the Panel strongly believes that a system for measuring crime reduction outcomes should be developed to help guide future investments.

Recommendation #6: Re-examine funding approaches to provide better outcomes.

In the current fiscal environment, it is imperative to change the way we allocate resources to reduce crime. For example, the Panel heard many examples of one-off or time-limited funding approaches that left communities frustrated. Some existing funding could be redirected to support new approaches to dealing with persistent offenders, managing short incarceration sentences and supervising offenders in the community – all of which have significant potential to reduce costs over time.

Several jurisdictions are working on this type of reinvestment process. For example, the UK is taking a new approach to managing offenders. It relies on private sector service providers, paying them in full only if they successfully reduce reoffending. In addition to providing performance incentives, this approach is expected to deliver savings, which will be directed to expanding rehabilitation support for offenders.

Closer to home, the Justice Policy Centre at the Urban Institute in Washington D.C. has developed a “justice reinvestment toolkit” for local leaders in which jurisdictions align the use of scarce criminal justice resources with public safety priorities. These and other tools could be helpful in prioritizing funding for crime-reduction initiatives in British Columbia.

All stakeholders need to reaffirm their commitment to an evidence-based crime reduction approach, supported by program evaluations and the dissemination of evaluation results.

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

BC Policing and Community Safety Plan

Suggested Response:

- The BC Policing and Community Safety Plan outlines a modernized policing and law enforcement framework for British Columbia. Although designed to guide reform over the next three, five and ten years, the Plan is a living document, reviewed every year by the Ministry of Justice through the ministry's annual planning and budget cycle, and updated as needs emerge.
- The Plan is grounded in an understanding of the province's policing history, current policing issues and anticipated, future challenges. It is also influenced by broader trends in policing and government today such as greater expectations for accountability and cost-effectiveness, and addresses some related issues such as crime reduction and mental health.
- The Plan was informed by the recommendations in the report of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry; as well, British Columbians shared their vision of policing in a series of roundtables and focus groups.
- The Plan sets the direction, strategic framework, performance expectations and accountability mechanisms for policing so it can meet demands now and into the future.
- Pursuant to Action Item 1 in the Plan, in November 2013, government announced the beginning of a multi-phase project to examine how policing is currently structured and funded.
- This project has engaged municipal leaders and police agencies, working to better define federal, provincial and municipal policing responsibilities, including funding. It will lay the groundwork for exploring new service delivery models while retaining local, community-focused policing.
- Examples of other actions in the Plan include: a comprehensive review of the Police Act; development of provincial policing standards on missing person investigations, major case management, inter-agency cooperation, and bias-free policing; introduction of the Missing Persons Act and development of associated regulations; and a partnership project with the Ministry of Health examining contact between police officers and persons experiencing a mental health and/or substance use crisis.
- In creating the Plan, we fully recognize the current fiscal pressures in the Ministry and are aware of avoiding impacts on the existing fiscal plan.

- Where we have commitments for actions, these will be managed as resources become available and within existing Ministry resources. Other initiatives are aspirational and will be done as resources are available in the future.
- The Plan is posted on the Ministry's website.

Background:

- Publicly released in December 2013, the Plan is BC's long-term, strategic plan for policing.
- The Plan was built using citizen engagement and stakeholder consultation to provide communities and interested parties with opportunities to assist in defining priorities, developing solutions, and influencing the development process.
- The development of the Plan was also influenced by broader global trends, drivers of change unique to BC as well as emerging complexities facing policing today. In addition, the recommendations from the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry were released during the development of the Plan and therefore influenced its direction significantly, as did the justice system reform efforts identified in White Paper Part 2: A Timely, Balanced Justice System.
- Overall, the Plan is organized around five themes, within which 16 Action Items are identified. In short, it is envisioned that policing in BC should be:
 - Rational and Equitable (policing is structured, governed and funded in a rational and equitable manner);
 - Accountable (police are accountable to communities and civil authorities);
 - Collaborative (police, governments and communities work collaboratively to meet justice and community safety goals);
 - Protective of vulnerable persons (police and government are committed to protecting vulnerable and marginalized persons); and
 - Effective (police have modern tools, information and training).

Contact: Sophie Mas	Phone: 604-660-4451	Mobile: s.17
---------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Regional Policing

Suggested Response:

- As part of the BC Policing and Community Safety Plan, which was released for public consultation earlier this year, the Ministry of Justice committed to working in collaboration and consultation with local governments, other key stakeholders, and a committee of external experts to consider models of police service delivery. Integration is a focus in this process.
- The focus of these discussions will include an exploration of a range of models including further integration of services and the regional delivery of services, while at the same time retaining local community-focused policing.
- Per the first action item in the BC Policing and Community Safety Plan and also in the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry recommendations, the Ministry is working in collaboration and consultation with local governments and others to develop a range of models, from regional delivery of policing services to further integration.
- It's always the responsibility of the Province to ensure adequate and effective policing and that includes decisions around the structure of policing.
- That said, the amendments passed just last November, to clarify government's authority to enhance and structure the delivery of specialized policing services, are enabling and our preference is co-operation first.
- The Ministry consulted with UBCM during the creation of our Police Act amendments and, if it becomes necessary to use this legislation, the impacted municipalities would be involved in those discussions at that point as well.

Background:

- The provincial government has responded to the increasingly cross-jurisdictional nature of crime by taking a leadership role in the integration of police services and working with police agencies on the consolidation and integration of services throughout the province. For further information see the Estimates Note on Integrated Teams.

- Regionalization of policing has been discussed in BC for several decades. In 1994, Justice Wally Oppal conducted a Commission of Inquiry into Policing in BC and ultimately did not recommend regional police services due to the lack of public interest and political will. He concluded that the main objective of regionalization was to improve efficiency in the delivery of police services, a goal which he recommended be achieved through the regional integration of specific services such as communication systems and major crime.
- During the 2012 Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, Justice Oppal reviewed the structure of policing in the Lower Mainland. He concluded that a regional police force is required for the Greater Vancouver area, while at the same time acknowledged that regionalized policing is a controversial issue with ardent supporters and detractors.
- Local governments have very different opinions on regionalization of policing and there is no clear consensus either for or against regionalization.
- In 2012 Justice Oppal recommended that the provincial government provide the direction and commitment required for the creation of a Greater Vancouver regional police force, including consultation with stakeholders and independent experts. He did not recommend a particular model; he stated that careful consideration of models is required to ensure that the underlying interests of all municipalities can be addressed and a commitment to community policing retained.

Contact: Sophie Mas	Phone: 604-660-4451	Mobile: s.17
---------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

RCMP Funding

Suggested Response:

- BC residents receive policing from a number of different police services: the RCMP federal force, the RCMP provincial force, 62 RCMP municipal forces, 11 municipal police departments, and one First Nations Administered Police Service.
- Various policing agreements detail the calculation of the cost base and cost sharing between the Province or BC municipality, and the federal government.

Background:

Federal Force

- The RCMP is Canada's national police force. As the federal police force in BC, the RCMP enforces federal statutes across the province and is responsible for border integrity and national security, drugs and organized crime, financial crime and international policing.
- The federal police force is 100% funded by the federal government.

Provincial Force

- As the provincial police force, the RCMP provides local detachment policing services to rural and unincorporated areas.
- The provincial force also maintains the provincial police infrastructure which has the capacity and expertise to resolve high risk incidents; target organized crime, gang violence, and serial crimes; respond to existing and emerging crime trends. It also includes capital-intensive items such as boats and planes, and the Provincial Operational Communications Centres which provide dispatch services to all provincial and municipal police units outside of the Lower Mainland District.
- The Province pays 70% of the cost-base as described in the Provincial Police Services Agreement and the federal government covers the remaining 30%. s.16

First Nations Policing

- Dedicated policing for First Nations communities is primarily provided by the RCMP under the First Nations Community Policing Services (FNCPS) program.

- The Province pays 48% of the policing costs for First Nations policing, and the federal government covers the remaining 52%. s.16

Municipal Forces

- In 2013, 63 municipalities contracted with the provincial government for RCMP municipal police services.
- Per the Municipal Police Unit Agreement, costs are shared between RCMP policed municipalities and the federal government as follows:
 - Municipalities with populations between 5,000 and 14,999 pay 70% of the RCMP cost-base and the federal government covers the remaining 30%.
 - Municipalities with 15,000 population and over pay 90% of the RCMP cost-base and the federal government covers the remaining 10%.
 - Municipalities are responsible for 100% of certain costs, such as accommodation for the detachment and support staff.
- 12 municipalities in BC are policed by 11 independent municipal police departments: Vancouver, West Vancouver, Victoria (also polices Esquimalt), Saanich, Central Saanich, Oak Bay, New Westminster, Abbotsford, Delta, Port Moody, and Nelson.

Contact: Perry Clark	Phone: 250-356-8146	Mobile: s.17
----------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

E-PANA Funding - RCMP

Suggested Response:

- The RCMP remains committed to Project E-PANA and to the families of the 18 women and girls who were murdered or are missing, and with whom they have built strong relationships over the course of their investigation.
- Specific budget reductions were informed by consultations with the RCMP.

Background:

- The flexibility remains, with significant provincially funded major crime personnel, to respond to information and evidence to move any investigations forward, and scale resources up or down as required. In fact, the RCMP has been very clear about their ability to continue forward with their current budget.
- E-PANA forms one part of E Division Major Crime Section, dedicated towards solving missing persons and/or unsolved homicides within the province.
- With over s.15 in the Major Crime Section the RCMP have the ability to expand and respond to information and evidence as required to move any of our investigations forward.
- s.15
-
-
- The victims' families are regularly kept up-to-date on the operational and administrative evolution of the file.

Contact: Perry Clark	Phone: 250-356-8146	Mobile: s.17
----------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE**Biology Casework
Analysis****Suggested Response:**

- DNA analysis is an investigative service provided by the RCMP via the national police service under the stewardship of the Commissioner of the RCMP. It impacts all police in the province including the RCMP and independent municipal police.
- The federal government has said it will no longer provide DNA analysis to the Province through the RCMP at the old flat rate of \$1.366 M annually and that as of April 1, 2014, if BC didn't agree to pay considerably more; the RCMP would significantly reduce its forensic DNA analysis services.
- After much discussion, BC has recently signed a new ten year Biology Casework Analysis Agreement with the federal government. After a three year escalation period, the actual costs will be shared 54%/46%, with the federal government paying the smaller share.
- In 2014/15, we compensated for this change by transferring \$1.177 M out of the funding for the provincial RCMP, to ensure continued DNA analysis services to BC police.
- The provincial government will continue to contribute the historical flat rate towards the costs of this service, as it has since 2004.

Background:

- Through the Criminal Code of Canada, the federal government is responsible for the scope of offences for which DNA samples can be collected and held in the National DNA Databank. DNA analysis and the databank are critical tools that enable police to solve crimes and link crimes to offenders.
- Since 2004, BC has contributed \$1.366 M per year to Canada under the previous Biology Casework Analysis Agreements. Recently, this represented less than 20% of the actual costs of providing the service. The Province's previous flat rate agreement with the federal government for the provision of DNA analysis expired on March 31, 2014.

- In the RCMP Progress Report and Action Plan from September 2012, it stated that the current framework and financial situation of National Police Services (NPS) is unsustainable. To help alleviate cost pressures on NPS, Public Safety Canada asked the provinces and territories (PTs) that use RCMP FS&IS Labs for DNA analysis to contribute actual costs under a new agreement, instead of the historical flat rate. All PTs have signed a new agreement, committing to the contribution of actual costs based on actual usage at a cost share of 54% (PT)/46% federal.
- Under the new agreement, BC's costs will escalate over a three year phase in period from the previous fixed amount of \$1.366 M to include an additional \$1.177 M in 2013/14, \$2.267 M in 2014/15, and \$3.538 M in 2016/17. These increases are based on 28%, 40%, and 54% of actual costs respectively.
- Beginning in 2017/18, BC will be responsible for 54% of the actual costs of delivering DNA services. The cost will be calculated based on the average actual costs of the previous two years and BC's usage of the service. Currently, BC police agencies account for approximately 31% of service requests processed by the RCMP laboratories.

Contact: Kimberly McLean	Phone: 250-387-2787	Mobile: s.17
--------------------------	---------------------	--------------

Page 458 to/à Page 459

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14;s.16

Page 460

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14;s.16;s.17

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Integrated Teams

Suggested Response:

- The provincial government continues to respond to the increasingly cross-jurisdictional nature of crime by taking a leadership role in the integration of police services and working with police agencies on the consolidation and integration of services throughout the province.
- Integration helps communities stretch their policing budgets by giving their police access to sophisticated equipment and expertise, and is supported by the BC Association of Chiefs of Police, including the RCMP.
- We are working with local governments and other stakeholders to consider service delivery models ranging from further integration to regional service delivery, while retaining local, community-focused policing.
- Our priority is to ensure we have the best police structure for all of British Columbia and to this end, government strongly supports police integration.
- Integrating specialized police services is a critical way to approach policing and we are in fact looking for further opportunities as we know the effectiveness and efficiency of integration eliminates duplication and increases the sharing of expertise and information among police agencies.
- Integrated teams and operations avoid duplication and optimize efficiency. The Province contributes more than \$70 M annually for over 20 integrated teams.

Background:

- There are a number of integrated teams in the province. Integrated teams provide specialized police services to more than one policing jurisdiction and may be “integrated” in one or more ways:
 - They are comprised of police officers from more than one police agency or from at least two levels of policing such as federal, provincial, municipal; and/or
 - Multiple policing jurisdictions contribute to funding the team.
- The goal has been to create service delivery models that centralize those services that are highly technical, capital intensive and specialized, while at the same time decentralizing those functions that provide service directly to the public. Integration optimizes

operational efficiencies, improves effectiveness, and facilitates the provision of a seamless, integrated professional police service.

- Based upon mandate and funding protocols, integrated teams in BC can be generally divided into three categories: provincial, regional and federal. Federal, provincial and municipal governments contribute human and/or financial resources to the teams at a level commensurate with their policing responsibilities.
- As part of the BC Policing and Community Safety Plan, the Ministry of Justice committed to working in collaboration and consultation with local governments, other key stakeholders and a committee of external experts to:
 - Define and clarify the structure of policing, including the policing responsibilities of each level of government;
 - Explore a range of models, including further integration of services and the regional delivery of services, while at the same time retaining local community-focused policing; and
 - Develop options for funding/financing models.
- The provincial government also continues to negotiate with Public Safety Canada with respect to including major crime integrated teams (Integrated Homicide Investigation Team and Vancouver Island Integrated Major Crimes Unit) under the provincial cost share as a means of mitigating escalating costs for over 15,000 population municipalities that participate in these teams.
- See Appendix A for a list of integrated teams in BC, including financial contributions and strength figures.

Contact: Kimberly McLean	Phone: 250-387-2787	Mobile: s.17
--------------------------	---------------------	--------------

Page 463

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.16;s.15

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Employment Police Record Checks – OIPC Report Response

Suggested Response:

- We carefully considered the privacy commissioner's report last year, and worked collaboratively with police agencies to develop model policy guidelines that would ensure a more appropriate balance of public safety interests and citizens' rights.
- The BC Association of Chiefs of Police voluntarily endorsed these guidelines last fall.
- The goal of the model policy guidelines for police is to ensure that they only disclose information consistent with the needs of the sector in which the requestor seeks to work.
- BC's approach acknowledges that for those working with children and vulnerable adults, disclosing more than charge and conviction information can have significant public safety value.

Background:

- In April 2014, the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) issued a report expressing concern about the extent of information disclosed in police information checks for employment or volunteering, including mental health information and adverse contact such as police investigations into criminal code offences that did not lead to a charge or conviction.
- In response, government consulted police leaders and the OIPC to arrive at new, voluntary guidelines, which come into effect as soon as individual police agencies adopt them. The OIPC had wanted mandatory requirements established in legislation as the Police Act does not currently authorize setting a binding provincial standard. However, even if BC enacted such a law, the RCMP as a federal entity would not be required to follow it.
- Under the guidelines, those seeking to work with children or vulnerable adults will receive a vulnerable sector check that:
 - Discloses outstanding warrants, charges, convictions and adverse contact, including contact involving the threat or use of violence – but without disclosing mental health status.
 - Includes information on a sexual assault conviction, even if a pardon or record suspension has been granted.

- Does not disclose apprehensions under section 28 of the Mental Health Act, or youth offences unless provided for under the Youth Criminal Justice Act.
- Those seeking work outside the vulnerable sector will receive a check that:
 - Discloses outstanding warrants, charges and convictions.
 - Does not disclose adverse contact, mental health related calls including apprehensions under the Mental Health Act, or youth offences unless provided for under the Youth Criminal Justice Act. Pardoned offences will not show for those not working with the vulnerable sector.
- Nothing in the new guidelines prevents a police agency from disclosing information under either a statutory or common law duty to provide warnings where anyone's health, safety or well-being is at risk of significant harm.
- The BC Association of Chiefs of Police and police boards signaled that all of BC's police agencies, municipal and RCMP, were willing to voluntarily adopt the guidelines and on October 7, 2014, the Director of Police Services wrote to BC's police leaders, providing the Model Policy Guidelines and proposing that police agencies across the province review and adopt them.

About Police Information Checks

- Police information checks are conducted for organizations with employees or volunteers not covered by the BC Criminal Records Review Act, such as private-sector employers.
- Organizations not covered by the Act may make their own arrangements, through their local police or RCMP detachment, to conduct police information checks for background screening checks.
- Non-conviction information typically results when a police investigation of a serious incident does not lead to a charge or conviction for a variety of reasons, such as procedural issues or the unwillingness or inability of witnesses to testify.

Contact: Sandra Sajko	Phone: 250-387-1387	Mobile: s.17
-----------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Surrey Crime and Officer Complement

Suggested Response:

- s.13
- This is a problem that needs leadership from all levels of government – local, provincial and federal – and from the community itself.
- The Province has been directly involved throughout:
 - Spoken with Mayor Hepner numerous times and I also recently met with Deputy Commissioner Craig Callens.
 - The provincial anti-gang agency (CFSEU) is fully engaged, and working in coordination with:
 - Surrey RCMP;
 - Delta police, and
 - the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team.
 - Regarding Surrey's request for 100 more RCMP officers, I have signed the letter to the federal government and will encourage them to act on that request as a priority.
 - The Director of Police Services has also been in direct contact with RCMP and Delta Police.
- s.13 700 people came to a forum and even more attended another.

- s.13

Come forward

- I'm confident police are doing everything possible to put an end to these shootings.
- s.13

- s.13
- There is a 24/7 tipline at 604-915-6566; or, if you wish to remain anonymous, Crimestoppers – or visit www.endganglife.ca
- If someone wants to find out how to get out of gang life – or help your loved one get out – you can visit www.endganglife.ca

Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit investments

- We are working hard in the fight against gangs and organized crime – in fact, about \$60 million a year is provided to the RCMP in BC for the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU) and anti-gang initiatives.
- This supports front-line efforts to keep young people out of gangs and remove gangsters, their associates and illegal weapons from our streets so it is a very big focus for us.
- CFSEU-BC is the largest integrated joint forces police unit in Canada, and it draws and develops highly-specialized officers from federal, provincial and municipal agencies around the province.
- With headquarters in Surrey and offices in the Kelowna, Victoria and Prince George areas,
s.13
- In addition to its gang-related suppression and enforcement efforts, CFSEU-BC, in collaboration with its government and policing partners, is also leading the way in gang prevention and education with its End Gang Life campaign (www.endganglife.ca) and other public engagement initiatives.

More RCMP officers

- Last September, Surrey's request for 30 more officers was approved by the federal public safety minister (Blaney) – the RCMP had up to a year to fill those positions.
- s.13
-

- Surrey has Canada's largest RCMP detachment and its officer caseload is in line with the average caseload (64) for the RCMP-policed municipalities 15,000 population and over.

Investments in combating gangs in Surrey

- Since 2011/12, government has provided nearly \$3.2 M (\$3,192,867) in civil forfeiture grants to help prevent youth involvement in gangs in communities throughout BC.
- Since 2011/12, government has provided nearly \$1.1 M (\$1,060,671) in civil forfeiture grants to local anti-violence and crime prevention programs in Surrey – s.13
s.13
- A recent example is \$20,000 in support of the Surrey Wrap program – one of Canada's leading youth gang intervention programs.
- s.13 the Premier has committed a total of \$270,000 this year s.13
s.13
 - Wrap currently serves 60 youth and the new contribution will support an additional 15 to 20 individuals.
 - The funding will reduce the current waitlist by more than half and improve supports to students and families already in the program.
- Surrey Wrap was launched in 2009 to help youth at risk of gang involvement, by strengthening their ties with school, family, the community and their peers.
- Of note, Surrey RCMP's 10 school liaison officers include supervisors and two Wrap officers working in the Surrey school district.
- Surrey school district itself has established many anti-gang programs like Surrey Wrap through partnerships with the city, the RCMP, government and community organizations.
- s.13
 - The Diverse Youth Gang Prevention Program, which delivers "wrap-around" support and individual case-management for youth whom police and the school district have assessed as at high-risk of gang or criminal involvement.
 - An alternative suspension program that provides a supportive, supervised atmosphere to students who are experiencing academic and behavioural challenges and who may be at risk of dropping out of school.

Obstruction charges for reluctant witnesses

- For Criminal cases, the courts have set rules that police must abide by to ensure the information they collect is admissible in court.
- I have confidence police understand the need to ensure the evidence they gather is admissible and in accordance with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE

Crime and Safety In Surrey

Suggested Response:

Policing

- Though violent crime in Surrey has been on a downward trend in the past ten years – averaging 13.5 murders per year – in 2013 the number of murders spiked to 25.
- Recent crime reporting by Surrey RCMP shows a 32% decrease in homicides in 2014. Violent crime was slightly higher (7%) in 2014, but this followed an 8% decrease in violent offences in 2013.
- Surrey continues to work to address the root causes of homicide in the city, design and implement multi-pronged tactics and strategies to address these root causes, and to establish partnerships and policies to reduce the likelihood of future spikes.
- As part of this response, the City of Surrey has requested increases in its officer complement:
 - 2014 – May 2014 requested +30 positions (Sept 2014 received federal approval) = 703 authorized strength*
 - 2013 – April 2013 requested +12 positions (July 2013 received federal approval) = 673 authorized strength
 - 2012 – May 2012 requested +10 positions (Aug. 2012 received federal approval) = 661 authorized strength
 - 2011 – March 2011 requested +10 positions (Nov 2011 received federal approval) = 651 authorized strength
- The 2014 total of 703 also includes Community Safety Officers and crime analysts.
- s.16
 - s.16 The Provincial Force also participates in these teams, which is of benefit to the City and all municipalities participating in the Lower Mainland Integrated Teams.
- Surrey has Canada's largest RCMP detachment and its officer caseload is in line with the average caseload of 64 for the RCMP-policed municipalities 15,000 population and over.

- In addition, the Province continues to support municipalities such as Surrey by providing significant Provincial Policing infrastructure such as air and marine assets and other support services to support communities in BC. The Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU) and related guns and gangs initiatives are also a part of this infrastructure. Annually, approximately \$60 M is provided to the RCMP for CFSEU-BC and organized crime/anti-gang initiatives. CFSEU-BC operates throughout the province from four offices, with its main office located in Surrey. The City of Surrey continues to benefit directly from the successes of CFSEU and the provincial government's contributions to these initiatives.

Collaborative Initiatives

- The Province is actively collaborating with the City of Surrey on a number of initiatives aimed at improving community safety issues in the city. One example of this is the Surrey Criminal Justice Task Force which the previous Surrey mayor, Her Worship Dianne Watts created in February 2014.

Domestic Violence Unit

- In February 2015, Premier Christy Clark unveiled a new Violence Free BC strategy to combat violence against women. In 2015, government action starts with up to \$5 M in civil forfeiture funding to support anti-violence and prevention initiatives.
- With the release of the Violence Free BC strategy, the opening of a newly integrated Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) was announced.
 - In March 2014, Surrey RCMP and the Surrey Women's Centre Society received close to \$200,000 in civil forfeiture proceeds to help establish a newly integrated DVU
 - The Surrey DVU brings together in one location Surrey RCMP police investigators, community-based victim services, and a Ministry of Children and Family Development child protection worker to co-ordinate and collaborate on the highest-risk domestic violence cases.
- The Province has committed to dedicating a portion of civil forfeiture funds to support the Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy in future years.
- Other commitments in the strategy include new investments in school-based prevention programs, developing a provincial sexual assault policy and an upcoming campaign to raise awareness of violence against women.

Background:Surrey RCMP 2014 Fourth Quarter Crime Statistics (released on January 30, 2015):**Homicide**

- This year, Surrey saw a 32% decrease in homicides over 2013. Continued work targeting high risk locations throughout the City has helped reduce the number of locations where this kind of criminal activity is likely to occur. The majority of homicides in 2014 were either domestic related or involving those in high risk lifestyles.

Violent Crime

- Violent crime was slightly higher in 2014 in Surrey (7%). Personal street robberies continue to be an issue across the Lower Mainland with the increasing popularity of portable electronic devices. The Surrey RCMP Robbery Unit and High Risk Target Team continue to identify, track, and arrest offenders responsible for these crimes.

Property Crime

- Property crime was on the rise across the Lower Mainland, with Surrey seeing a 22% increase that is largely being driven by motor vehicle crimes.
- IMPACT (Integrated Municipal Provincial Auto Crime Team) is working with police agencies across the region, including Surrey, to tackle this spike and focus on the most prolific offenders.

Surrey Criminal Justice Task Force

- In February 2014, the previous Surrey mayor, Her Worship Dianne Watts and the Minister of Justice and Attorney General Suzanne Anton created the Surrey Criminal Justice Task Force. The Task Force was charged with exploring the unique justice needs and challenges in Surrey and making recommendations to address these challenges.
- On September 29 and 30, 2014 the Task Force held a Surrey Criminal Justice Workshop at Surrey City Hall with key representatives from the justice, health and social service sectors. The workshop included presentations from all sectors to set the context and create understanding of both Surrey's challenges and existing remediation initiatives.
- On January 9, 2015, the Task Force was presented with a final report summarizing their recommendations that stemmed from the workshop. This report was presented to the Mayor of Surrey and the Minister of Justice.
- Based on the evidence presented at the workshop, the Task Force determined that increased communication and collaboration promised to be a more effective response to the identified challenges than creating a specialized or community court. The Task Force recommended the creation of an integrated services network for administrative offices of

justice, health and social services agencies with the potential to directly deliver some services to clients.

- With the submission of this report the work of the Task Force was completed. However, if the recommendations of this report are accepted, a reconstituted working group led by the City of Surrey, with support from the Province, will be required to move this initiative forward.

Contact: Lisa Anderson	Phone: 604-660-1741	Mobile: s.17
------------------------	---------------------	--------------

2015/16 ESTIMATES NOTE**Medical Marijuana
Dispensaries****Suggested Response:**

- The legislative responsibility for controlled drugs and substances, including marijuana, lies with the federal government. The federal Controlled Drugs and Substances Act provides for the control, import, production, export, distribution and possession of psychoactive substances in Canada.
- If medical marijuana businesses are operating contrary to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, that is a matter for the police.
- If medical marijuana businesses, including dispensaries, are operating contrary to a municipal bylaw, it is up to the municipality to deal with any contravention.

Background:

- Under the existing Marihuana Medical Access Regulations (MMAR) there are three types of licences: authorization for individuals to possess marijuana for medical purposes; personal use production; and designated person production. Due to many concerns related to the MMAR, the federal government created a new regulatory regime - the Marihuana for Medical Purposes Regulation (MMPR) – to phase out the existing production licenses and introduce a system of commercial production.
- Commercial production of marijuana for medical purposes under the proposed MMPR is intended to reduce the risks to public health, security, and safety of citizens; and will require licenced producers to notify local governments, police, and fire of the location of the commercial production facilities to help ensure that the operations and facilities are compliant with federal and provincial legislation and local bylaws.
- On March 31, 2014, the MMAR was due to be repealed to complete the transition to the new MMPR, thus ending all personal use and designated person production licences. However, an injunction was granted on the repeal of the MMAR based on the allegation that it was unconstitutional to prevent individuals from producing their own marijuana. The two programs now run concurrently and will continue to do so until a court decision is rendered.
- Neither the MMAR nor the MMPR allow for store front operations that sell marijuana to the public. Under the MMPR, patients who are authorized to purchase medical marijuana will receive their product through the mail, directly from the commercial producer.

- On April 22, 2015, the City of Vancouver issued a news release announcing that it intends to propose a framework to regulate marijuana-related businesses.
- The proposal will involve the creation of a new business licence category as well as clear zoning requirements to which all retail marijuana-related businesses would be required to adhere.
- The news release cites a growth rate of 100 per cent per year in marijuana-related businesses in Vancouver.

Contact: Lisa Anderson	Phone: 604-660-1741	Mobile: s.17
------------------------	---------------------	--------------

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total # of Officers (authorized):	8,928	9,095	9,340	9,398.5	9,412.5	9,742	9,778
● <i>Independent Municipal</i>	2,262	2,294	2,391	2,399	2,412	2,413	2,414
● <i>RCMP Municipal</i>	3,129	3,187	3,296	3,352	3,349	3,388	3,429
● <i>RCMP Provincial</i>	2,306	2,306	2,306	2,306	2,306	2,602	2,602
● <i>First Nations Administered</i>	12	10	10	10	8	8	9
● <i>First Nations Community Policing Service</i>	107	107	107	108.5	108.5	108.5	108.5
● <i>SCBCTA (Transit Police)</i>	121	153	169	167	167	167	167
● <i>Vancouver International Airport</i>	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
● <i>RCMP Federal</i>	964	1,011	1,034	1,029	1,035	1,028	1,021
Cost:	\$ 1,325,593,659	\$ 1,429,970,623	\$ 1,508,374,693	\$ 1,554,271,509	\$ 1,631,525,466	\$ 1,710,135,963	\$ 1,707,409,171
● <i>Municipal (Independent)</i>	\$ 347,745,929	\$ 373,733,350	\$ 393,121,376	\$ 413,551,679	\$ 427,371,833	445,226,106	454,018,271
● <i>Municipal (RCMP)</i>	\$ 416,861,041	\$ 455,098,877	\$ 492,836,207	\$ 512,701,377	\$ 551,537,980	579,194,428	586,834,866
● <i>RCMP Provincial</i>	\$ 276,252,542	\$ 299,448,469	\$ 314,870,109	\$ 310,189,844	\$ 325,812,379	338,391,905	344,431,982
● <i>Federal Share of Policing Contracts</i>	\$ 172,734,147	\$ 175,689,927	\$ 184,547,001	\$ 189,828,609	\$ 197,803,274	231,323,524	207,124,052
● <i>RCMP Federal</i>	\$ 112,000,000	\$ 126,000,000	\$ 123,000,000	\$ 128,000,000	\$ 129,000,000	116,000,000	115,000,000
<i>First Nations Policing</i>							
● <i>FNAPS - Federal</i>	\$ 826,800	\$ 712,400	\$ 712,400	\$ 676,000	\$ 676,000	712,400	712,400
● <i>FNAPS - Provincial</i>	\$ 763,200	\$ 657,600	\$ 657,600	\$ 624,000	\$ 493,200	657,600	657,600
● <i>FNCPS - Federal</i>	\$ 7,586,779	\$ 8,273,196	\$ 8,745,287	\$ 10,116,157	\$ 9,399,427	9,144,923	9,392,234
● <i>FNCPS - Provincial</i>	\$ 7,003,180	\$ 7,636,796	\$ 8,072,573	\$ 9,337,991	\$ 8,676,395	8,441,666	8,669,754
● <i>Vancouver International Airport</i>	\$ 2,868,713	\$ 3,119,332	\$ 2,977,727	\$ 3,563,528	\$ 3,545,406	3,519,220	3,830,841
● <i>SCBCTA</i>	\$ 18,004,476	\$ 22,050,758	\$ 26,766,574	\$ 27,943,452	\$ 27,351,437	28,160,271	30,494,787
Integrated operations/officers/teams:							
● <i>Officers</i>	1045	1,088	1,085	1,085.5	1,100.5	1,108	1,011
● <i>Teams</i>	20	26	27	27	28	29	26
Crime rate/offences per 1,000*:	105.1	96.6	90.9	85.7	80.3	79	74.5
● <i>Violent</i>	17.9	17	16.9	15.9	14.9	14.1	12.6
● <i>Property</i>	68.1	61.4	55.9	51.9	47.8	47.9	45.7

• Other	19.1	18.2	18.1	17.9	17.7	17.1	16.2
---------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

****Note**** Statistics for 2014 are not available until late 2015 at the earliest.

Authorized Strengths and costs are obtained from Police Services Division's *Police Resources in BC* publication.

In 2009 the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics introduced changes to the way crime statistics in Canada are presented. Crime data continues to be categorized as violent, property and other Criminal Code offences; however, there have been some revisions to the list of offences included in each category:

- Violent Crimes offence category has been revised to include a number of offences which were previously considered "Other Criminal Code" offences, such as Criminal Harassment, Sexual Offences against Children, Forcible Confinement or Kidnapping, Extortion, Uttering Threats, Threatening or Harassing Phone Calls.
- Property Crimes offence category has been revised slightly to include a number of offences which were previously considered "Other Criminal Code" offences, such as Mischief and Arson.
- Other Crimes offence category consists of all the remaining non-traffic Criminal Code violations not classified in violent property crimes offence categories. The Total Criminal Code offences remain the same.

The number of offences for each of these categories have been revised back to 1998 to reflect these changes in categorization. 2009 Crime rates were updated to reflect 2009 crime rates as reported in the Crime Statistics in BC, 2010 publication