

Page 01 of 47

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12 ; s.13 ; s.16

Page 02 of 47

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12 ; s.13

Page 03 of 47 to/à Page 04 of 47

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12 ; s.13 ; s.16

Page 05 of 47

Withheld pursuant to/removal as

s.12

Page 06 of 47

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12 ; s.13

Page 07 of 47

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12 ; s.14

Page 08 of 47

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12

Page 09 of 47

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12 ; s.14



Page 10 of 47

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12 ; s.13 ; s.14 ; s.16

Page 11 of 47 to/à Page 12 of 47

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12 ; s.13 ; s.14

Page 13 of 47 to/à Page 31 of 47

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12

**MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL AND  
MINISTRY RESPONSIBLE FOR HOUSING  
JUSTICE SERVICES BRANCH  
DECISION BRIEFING NOTE**

**Advice to Attorney General**

This document contains information protected from disclosure by one or more of the following:

Solicitor-Client Privilege	<input type="checkbox"/>	Implied Undertaking	<input type="checkbox"/>
Litigation Privilege	<input type="checkbox"/>	FOIPPA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Settlement Privilege	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cabinet Confidentiality	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)	<u>Section 6 appointment Administrative Tribunals Act</u>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

*Disclosure of information in this briefing note may constitute an offence under an enactment, result in the waiver of privilege, prevent government from protecting the information from disclosure or result in a breach of an undertaking to the court.*

**PURPOSE:** For DECISION of Murray Rankin, QC,  
Attorney General and  
Minister Responsible for Housing

**ISSUE:**

In accordance with section 6 of the *Administrative Tribunals Act* (ATA) the Chair of the Surface Rights Board (SRB) must consult with the Minister before making a temporary 6-month term appointment.

**DECISION REQUIRED/ RECOMMENDATION:**

Agree to support the SRB Chair's request to appoint Cheryl Lynn Vickers as Vice Chair, and Erin Lan-Ying Frew, Zahra Hassan Jimale, and Dale B. Pope, QC (full legal name) as members to the SRB for a six-month term to uphold existing service standards.

**SUMMARY:**

- The SRB Vice Chair has resigned, and the SRB is in transition from three long-serving appointees to a set of new Board members. The Board will be conducting a merit-based recruitment process to find qualified candidates to recommend to the Minister.
- In the interim, the Chair is seeking a Vice Chair and three members with legal backgrounds to support arbitrations while working through the recruitment process.
- Cheryl Lynn Vickers is being recommended to serve as a part-time Vice Chair and Erin Lan-Ying Frew, Zahra Hassan Jimale, and Dale B. Pope, QC are being recommended to serve as part-time members, for a term of six months.

**BACKGROUND:**

- SRB's mandate is to determine the right of entry to private land for the development of sub-surface resources and to resolve disputes between landowners and sub-surface rights holders respecting access to land and, in particular, the compensation payable to the landowner.
- In accordance with the *Petroleum and Natural Gas Act*, the Board shall consist of up to nine members with one member designated as Chair and one member designated as Vice-Chair.
- Erin Lan-Ying Frew and Zahra Hassan Jimale are currently appointed as full-time Vice Chairs to the Property Assessment Appeal Board and have been advised that they are not eligible for any additional remuneration with this part-time appointment.
- This recommended appointment is essential to fulfill the Board's legislative mandates.
- Section 6 of the ATA authorizes the Chair to appoint members on a temporary basis for up to 6 months, provided that the Chair consults with the Minister responsible.
- By way of this appointment request (attached as Appendix A), the Chair is fulfilling the consultation requirement.
- CABRO has no concerns with this request, and the ministry supports the request.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

If the Minister agrees with the request, the Chair will issue a temporary appointment letter to Cheryl Lynn Vickers as Vice Chair, and to Erin Lan-Ying Frew, Zahra Hassan Jimale, and Dale B. Pope, QC as part-time members for a six-month period. No Orders in Council are required in this case.

#### **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:**

- SRB is required to mediate and arbitrate disputes within its legislative mandates. Delays in the dispute resolution process may have negative implications for Indigenous Peoples and communities in BC.

#### **OPTIONS:**

- **Option 1: Support the chair's request (Recommended Option)**

##### Pros:

- Appointments are in accordance with section 6 of the ATA;
- The membership will have the stability it needs to meet its legislative mandate;
- There will be no impact to the current and future year fiscal budget as the appointment of the Vice Chair and one member is a one-for-one replacement while recruitment takes place, and two of the members are cross-appointments, currently appointed as full-time Vice Chairs with the Property Assessment Appeal Board; and
- No backlog will be created.

Cons:

- Section 6 appointments could be perceived as not receiving the same due diligence as a standard appointment.

• **Option 2: Do not support the chair's request**

Pros:

- SRB will follow standard appointment process.

Cons:

- The provision of section 6 of the ATA will not be utilized as intended;
- The board will not have the proper compliment of members to manage the appeals; and
- Delay in appointment may create a backlog.

**OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:**

- Crown Agency and Board Resourcing Office consultation complete – no concerns



Shannon Salter  
Deputy Attorney General and  
Deputy Minister Responsible for Housing

**DATE:**

September 2, 2022

**OPTION 1 APPROVED**



Murray Rankin, QC  
Attorney General and  
Minister Responsible for Housing

**DATE:**

September 6, 2022

**Prepared by:**

Aminta Belloso  
Program Policy and Research Analyst  
Tribunals, Transformation, and Independent  
Offices Division  
778.974.6350

**Approved by:**

Zac Kremler  
A/Executive Director  
Tribunals, Transformation, and  
Independent Offices Division  
250.507.4464

**Approved by:**

Kaleigh Johnston  
A/Director, Strategic Transformation  
Tribunals, Transformation, and Independent  
Offices Division  
604.398.3695

**Approved by:**

Paul Craven  
A/Assistant Deputy Minister  
Justice Services Branch  
778.698.9333

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

Appendix A – Chair Request

This document may contain information that is protected by solicitor client privilege. Prior to any disclosure of this document outside of government, including in response to a request under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the Ministry in possession of this document must consult with the lawyer responsible for the matter to determine whether information contained in this document is subject to solicitor client privilege.



## APPENDIX A – CHAIR REQUEST:



### SURFACE RIGHTS BOARD

Suite 1270 – 605 Robson St.  
Vancouver, BC  
V6B 5J3  
E-Mail: [office@surfacerightsboard.bc.ca](mailto:office@surfacerightsboard.bc.ca)  
Web Site: [www.surfacerightsboard.bc.ca](http://www.surfacerightsboard.bc.ca)

Telephone: 604-775-1740  
Toll-free phone: 1-888-775-1740  
Facsimile: 604-775-1742  
Toll-free Facsimile: 1-888-775-1742

Application Forms and information about the Board are available from any Service BC Centre (Government Agent) and Applications may be delivered to the Board either directly or through Service BC

---

August 22, 2022

Honourable Murray Rankin, Q.C.  
Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4

#### Via Email

Dear Attorney General Rankin:

**Re: Surface Rights Board Request for Appointments**

---

#### Introduction: Cheryl Vickers, Dale Pope, Erin Frew and Zahra Jimale

I am submitting a request for Cabinet consideration to appoint four qualified candidates as Vice Chair and Members to the Surface Rights Board ("Board"). Cheryl Vickers is requested for a re-appoint as Vice Chair, and Dale Pope, Erin Frew and Zahra Jimale are requested for re-appointments as Members; all per s. 6 of the *Administrative Tribunals Act* ("ATA").

#### Background

The Board is in transition from three long-serving appointees to a set of new Board members and requires an additional appointment of members with backgrounds in mediation, arbitration and decision reviews.

In accordance with the *Petroleum and Natural Gas Act* the Board shall consist of up to nine members with one member designated as Chair and one member designated as Vice-Chair.

The Board is required to mediate and, if necessary, arbitrate disputes within its legislative mandates as set out in the *Petroleum and Natural Gas Act*, the *Mineral Tenure Act*, the *Mining Right of Way Act*, the *Coal Act*, and the *Geothermal Resources Act*. The Board is committed to providing excellent dispute resolution services and to decision-making that is impartial, based on evidence, and in alignment with the its various legislative mandates. To achieve this objective, highly skilled members are required. These recommended appointments are essential to fulfill the Board's legislative mandates.



Page 2

---

The appointments are for 'as and when needed' part-time members, while recruitment is conducted for a qualified Vice Chair/Members, with appropriate experience and background. There will be no impact to the current and future year fiscal budget as these members are 'as and when needed' and two members are cross-appointments, currently appointed as full-time Vice Chairs with the Property Assessment Appeal Board.

### Reappointment Requests

I request the reappointment of Cheryl Vickers as part-time Vice Chair and Dale Pope, Erin Frew and Zahra Jimale as part-time members for a term of six months in accordance with s. 6 of the ATA. Remuneration, where applicable, to be provided as per Treasury Board Directive 1/20.

#### **1. Cheryl Vickers**

Cheryl Vickers served as Chair of the Surface Rights Board from July 2007 until December 2021. She also served as Chair of the Property Assessment Appeal Board (2003 to 2015), Vice-Chair of the Property Assessment Appeal Board (1995-2002), and Member of the Property Assessment Appeal Board (1993-1995). Cheryl also currently serves as a Member of the Hospital Appeal Board.

Cheryl was active in the development of the British Columbia Council of Administrative Tribunals (BCCAT), and has served as a member of that organization's Board of Directors including as Secretary from 1996 to 1998 and as President from 2004 to 2006. Cheryl has assisted in curriculum development for BCCAT courses offering training to appointees of quasi-judicial boards and tribunals, Staff Foundations, and Advanced Decision Writing courses. She has delivered workshops on Case Management and Alternate Dispute Resolution for Tribunals at Annual Conferences of BCCAT and the Council of Canadian Administrative Tribunals.

#### **2. Dale B. Pope, Q.C.**

Dale Pope is a senior member of the Bar. He has practised in litigation, appearing at all levels of courts in British Columbia, Alberta and the Yukon, as well as making appearances in the Federal Trial and Appeal Court and an occasional appearance in the Supreme Court of Canada.

Mr. Pope was appointed Standing Agent of the Attorney General of Canada for prosecutions on October 17, 1995 and has acted as the presiding officer in many investigations under the Competition Act. Mr. Pope was appointed Queen's Counsel on December 20, 2002.

Mr. Pope was appointed a member of the Property Assessment Appeal Board in 2010 and the Mental Health Review Board in 2012. He was appointed Chair of the Sumas First Nation Property Assessment Review Board in 2014. He continues to be active on all three Boards.

#### **3. Erin L. Frew**

Page 3

---

Erin Frew was appointed Acting Chair of Property Assessment Appeal Board in August 2022 and as Vice Chair in 2016. Erin received her Juris Doctor from the University of British Columbia and was admitted to the BC Bar in 2011. Prior to her appointment to the Property Assessment Appeal Board, Erin gained experience in quasi-judicial proceedings as an Arbitrator for the Residential Tenancy Branch and as a Review Officer with WorkSafeBC. In the past, Erin was an associate lawyer at a national tax firm and assisted judges and legal officers at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Erin is on the Education and Conference Committees for the British Columbia Council of Administrative Tribunals.

#### 4. Zahra H. Jimale


Zahra H. Jimale is a Vice Chair at the Property Assessment Appeal Board. Previously Ms. Jimale was a Quality Manager and a Senior Policy and Legal Advisor for WorkSafeBC, Director of Law Reform for West Coast LEAF, and an Associate Faculty in the School of Humanitarian Studies at Royal Roads University. Active in her community, Ms. Jimale is the President of the Canadian Association of Black Lawyers - BC Chapter, Member and the former Chair of the Access to Justice Committee CBABC and a Board Director for the International Institute for Child Rights and Development. Ms. Jimale holds a Master of Laws from Osgoode Hall Law School, Bachelor of Laws from the University of Victoria, and a Restorative Justice Certificate from Simon Fraser University.

#### Conclusion

I am aware that government is committed to ensuring diversity with the public service, as well as in government reappointments. I can confirm that this commitment was a key consideration during the reappointment process to ensure diversity in tribunal reappointments.

Thank you for your consideration. If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at: 250 889-5871 and/or [Jacqueline.Beltgens@surfacerightsboard.bc.ca](mailto:Jacqueline.Beltgens@surfacerightsboard.bc.ca)

Yours truly,



Jacqueline Beltgens  
Chair  
Surface Rights Board

CC: Vanessa Geary, Senior Executive Lead  
Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office, Ministry of Finance

**MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL AND  
MINISTRY RESPONSIBLE FOR HOUSING  
JUSTICE SERVICES BRANCH  
DECISION BRIEFING NOTE**

**Advice to Attorney General**

This document contains information protected from disclosure by one or more of the following:

Solicitor-Client Privilege	<input type="checkbox"/>	Implied Undertaking	<input type="checkbox"/>
Litigation Privilege	<input type="checkbox"/>	FOIPPA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Settlement Privilege	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cabinet Confidentiality	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Section 6 appointment Administrative Tribunals Act	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

*Disclosure of information in this briefing note may constitute an offence under an enactment, result in the waiver of privilege, prevent government from protecting the information from disclosure or result in a breach of an undertaking to the court.*

**PURPOSE:** For DECISION of Murray Rankin, KC,  
Attorney General and  
Minister Responsible for Housing

**ISSUE:**

In accordance with section 6 of the *Administrative Tribunals Act* (ATA) the Chair of the British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal (BCHRT) must consult with the Minister before making a temporary 6-month term appointment.

**DECISION REQUIRED/ RECOMMENDATION:**

Agree to support the BCHRT Chair's request to appoint Kylie Jeanette Buday, Ryan Scott Goldvine, and Marlene Kathryn Tyshynski as members to the BCHRT for a six-month term to ensure operational continuity for the Tribunal.

**SUMMARY:**

- The BCHRT has been given access to emergency funding for the current fiscal year to manage its appeals backlog.
- The BCHRT has conducted a merit-based recruitment process and has recommended two candidates for Order in Council appointment and plans to onboard them in November.
- In the interim, the Chair of the BCHRT is seeking to appoint three members with legal background to manage caseloads.
- Kylie Jeanette Buday, Ryan Scott Goldvine, and Marlene Kathryn Tyshynski are being recommended to serve as part-time members, for a term of six months.



## **BACKGROUND:**

- BCHRT is facing significant caseload increases, some of which are directly related to the mask and vaccine mandates, but case volumes have also increased since the re-establishing of the Human Rights Commission and amendments to the Human Rights Code.
- These recommended appointments are essential to fulfill the Board's legislative mandates.
- Section 6 of the ATA authorizes the Chair to appoint members on a temporary basis for up to 6 months, provided that the Chair consults with the Minister responsible.
- By way of this appointment request (attached as Appendix A), the Chair is fulfilling the consultation requirement.
- CABRO has no concerns with this request, and the ministry supports the request.

## **DISCUSSION:**

If the Minister agrees with the request, the Chair will issue a temporary appointment letter to Kylie Jeanette Buday, Ryan Scott Goldvine, and Marlene Kathryn Tyshynski as part-time members for a six-month period. No Orders in Council are required in this case.

## **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:**

- BCHRT provides access to justice for Indigenous Peoples and communities in BC. Delays in the complaint processing may be having negative implications in those communities.

## **OPTIONS:**

- **Option 1: Support the chair's request (Recommended Option)**

### Pros:

- Appointments are in accordance with section 6 of the ATA;
- The membership will assistance to manage their backlog of appeals; and
- There will be no budget impact as the BCHRT has received emergency funding for the current fiscal year to increase member capacity.

### Cons:

- Section 6 appointments could be perceived as not receiving the same due diligence as a standard appointment.

- **Option 2: Do not support the chair's request**

### Pros:

- BCHRT will follow standard appointment process.

**Cons:**

- The provision of section 6 of the ATA will not be utilized as intended; and
- The BCHRT will not have the assistance to manage their backlog of appeals.

**OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:**

- Crown Agency and Board Resourcing Office consultation complete – no concerns



Shannon Salter  
Deputy Attorney General and  
Deputy Minister Responsible for Housing

**DATE:**

September 20, 2022

**OPTION 1 APPROVED**



Murray Rankin, KC  
Attorney General and  
Minister Responsible for Housing

**DATE:**

September 20, 2022

**Prepared by:**

Aminta Belloso  
Program Policy and Research Analyst  
Tribunals, Transformation, and Independent  
Offices Division  
778.974.6350

**Approved by:**

Zac Kremler  
A/Executive Director  
Tribunals, Transformation, and  
Independent Offices Division  
250.507.4464

**Approved by:**

Kaleigh Johnston  
A/Director, Strategic Transformation  
Tribunals, Transformation, and Independent  
Offices Division  
604.398.3695

**Approved by:**

Paul Craven  
A/Assistant Deputy Minister  
Justice Services Branch  
778.698.9333

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

Appendix A – Chair Request

**This document may contain information that is protected by solicitor client privilege. Prior to any disclosure of this document outside of government, including in response to a request under the**

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the Ministry in possession of this document must consult with the lawyer responsible for the matter to determine whether information contained in this document is subject to solicitor client privilege.**

## APPENDIX A – CHAIR REQUEST:

From: Ohler, Emily AG:EX  
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 4:41 PM  
To: Valentine-Pickett, Alanna AG:EX <[Alanna.ValentinePickett@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Alanna.ValentinePickett@gov.bc.ca)>; Rasmussen, Hilary AG:EX <[Hilary.Rasmussen@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Hilary.Rasmussen@gov.bc.ca)>

Subject: Section 6 member appointment consultation

Good morning Alanna,

I am requesting consultation regarding 2 section 6 appointments following on from our recent member competition.

As you know, the Tribunal is managing a three-fold increase in complaint volume. Among other things, this has resulted in a substantial backlog at all stages of our process, including hundreds of unassigned applications awaiting member decision. At the same time, we are working to implement standardized systems to more efficiently and accessibly manage all aspects of the Tribunal's workflow, including the assignment and output of decisions for members.

In recognition of the Tribunal's current crisis and its to support its work in managing it, we have been given access to emergency funding for the current fiscal year. As part of the Tribunal's overall backlog management strategy this fiscal, the funding allows us to onboard 2 additional members, each on a .8 basis, under s. 6 of the ATA, in addition to the 2 OICs we are seeking to fill vacancies. This will give the Tribunal much needed increased member capacity to manage its caseloads while also providing the flexibility needed to manage budget uncertainty.

The candidate profile declaration and CVs for each of the Members are attached. They were selected through a rigorous competitive process. I do not anticipate that this will impact on our budget as we have forecast for these Members' onboarding in October.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Thanks, and best regards,  
Emily

Emily Ohler [she/her]  
Chair  
Tel: 604.775.2000  
TTY: 604.775.2021 | [www.bchrt.bc.ca](http://www.bchrt.bc.ca)



British Columbia  
Human Rights  
Tribunal

The British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal acknowledges the traditional territories of the many diverse Indigenous peoples in the geographic area that we serve. The Tribunal's office is located on traditional unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the x'məθk'wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and salilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

This email and any attachments may contain confidential information or information that is protected by privilege. If you received this email in error please delete it and any attachments immediately and notify me. Thank you.



From: Ohler, Emily AG:EX <[Emily.Ohler@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Emily.Ohler@gov.bc.ca)>  
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 3:19 PM  
To: Johnston, Kaleigh AG:EX <[Kaleigh.Johnston@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kaleigh.Johnston@gov.bc.ca)>; Belloso, Aminta AG:EX <[Aminta.Belloso@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Aminta.Belloso@gov.bc.ca)>; Park, Jin AG:EX <[Jin.Park@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jin.Park@gov.bc.ca)>

Subject: Section 6 consultation

Good afternoon,

Further to our conversation this morning, I am requesting consultation regarding 1 section 6 appointment to support the tribunal's backlog management plan.

As you know, the Tribunal is managing a three-fold increase in complaint volume. Among other things, this has resulted in a substantial backlog at all stages of our process, including hundreds of unassigned applications awaiting member decision. At the same time, we are working to implement standardized systems to more efficiently and accessibly manage all aspects of the Tribunal's workflow, including the assignment and output of decisions for members.

The Tribunal is in the process of onboarding new tribunal members following a competition. In the meantime however, the Tribunal needs experienced members who can quickly move through interim procedural issues while also issuing more complex interim decisions without the need for training. The Tribunal onboarded a former Tribunal Member, Marlene Tyshinski, last year for this purpose. She worked together with a dedicated Case Manager to develop an efficient system for managing COVID-related complaints, which accounted for roughly 30% of the Tribunal's volume increase. The Tribunal is looking to again welcome Ms. Tyshinski back on a temporary basis to support its backlog strategy at the interim-decision stage on a part-time basis.

Ms. Tyshinski's candidate profile declaration and CV are attached. I do not anticipate that this will impact on our budget as we have forecast for her onboarding in October.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Best regards,

Emily Ohler [she/her]  
Chair  
Tel: 604.775.2000  
TTY: 604.775.2021 | [www.bchrt.bc.ca](http://www.bchrt.bc.ca)



British Columbia  
Human Rights  
Tribunal

The British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal acknowledges the traditional territories of the many diverse Indigenous peoples in the geographic area that we serve. The Tribunal's office is located on traditional unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the x'məθk'əyám (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səllwataʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

This email and any attachments may contain confidential information or information that is protected by privilege. If you received this email in error please delete it and any attachments immediately and notify me. Thank you.



**MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL AND  
MINISTRY RESPONSIBLE FOR HOUSING  
JUSTICE SERVICES BRANCH  
INFORMATION BRIEFING NOTE**

**PURPOSE:** For INFORMATION for Murray Rankin, KC,  
Attorney General and  
Minister Responsible for Housing

**ISSUE:**  
Briefing Materials for Quarterly Meeting with Legal Aid BC (LABC) CEO

**SUMMARY:**

- On September 16, 2022, LABC provided Ministry staff with their monthly budget forecast which included s.17 for fiscal 2022/23.
- In alignment with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the BC Government and LABC, the MAG/LABC Working Group have discussed s.13; s.17 s.13; s.17

**BACKGROUND:**

- Section 18 of the *Legal Services Society Act* states that LABC must provide a budget for the Attorney General's approval when directed.
- Each year, the Attorney General sends a letter to the LABC Board Chair outlining the approved budget for the year and requesting a comprehensive Budget Management Plan (BMP). Some of the key elements in this plan include:
  - A proposed allocation of the approved budget across tariff services and administrative expenditure categories (e.g. departmental budgets, capital and amortization forecast, technology spending);
  - A detailed listing of all LABC programs with costing for each;
  - A forecast of caseload volumes for the year (i.e. estimated legal aid applications/contracts); and
  - A budget pressure mitigation plan with options to manage any pressures, giving priority to tariff services ahead of administrative spending.
- Once approved by the Attorney General, the BMP sets the foundation for all budget management activities and the MAG/LABC Working Group (composed of staff from the Ministry and LABC) monitor any service delivery or budget related issues throughout the year.
- The role of the Working Group and its budget management related procedures are detailed in the MOU; this includes providing direction for how the Working Group should engage "if, in any fiscal year, it appears that a deficit or a surplus is likely to result from the provision of provincially funded services".

**DISCUSSION:**

- LABC had struggled for many years with a lack of funding and with a shared objective to improve access to justice, the BC Government has provided significant funding increases in recent years to help restore services cut by the previous government with a total increase of \$40.297M over LABC's 2016/17 budget; This includes an increase of \$7.469M in fiscal 2022/23 alone.
- However, the COVID-19 Pandemic and the associated court slowdowns have continued to impact the demand for legal aid services.
- On September 16, 2022, LABC provided Ministry staff with their monthly budget forecast which included the following details:

s.17

- In alignment with Sections 43 of the MOU, the MAG/LABC Working Group held a session on September 22, 2022, to discuss s.13; s.17

s.13; s.17

s.13; s.17

*Next Steps*  
s.13; s.17

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:**

- N/A

**OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:**

- N/A

**Prepared by:**

Tania Betiku  
Director  
Justice Services Branch  
778-698-3886

**Approved by:**

Natalie Barnes  
A/Assistant Deputy Minister  
Justice Services Branch  
250 356-6527

**Approved by:**

Wendy Jackson  
Executive Director  
Justice Services Branch  
778-974-3680

This document may contain information that is protected by solicitor client privilege. Prior to any disclosure of this document outside of government, including in response to a request under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the Ministry in possession of this document must consult with the lawyer responsible for the matter to determine whether information contained in this document is subject to solicitor client privilege.