

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Estimates 2016/17 Briefing Book**

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Estimates 2016/17 Briefing Book**

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
2016/17 Budget Briefing**

**Budget Highlights**

**Issue Summary**

- Our budget is a product of good fiscal management.
- The overall budget for the ministry is \$681.3 million, which is up \$13.2 million or 2 per cent from last year. This includes:
  - \$10.3 million in additional funding provided for the new Okanagan Correctional Centre;
  - \$1.5 million increase is the Budget 2015 incremental amount for the Economic Stability Mandate;
  - \$1.3 million increase is the Budget 2015 incremental amount for the RCMP contract pension increase;
  - \$700,000 increase for the Economic Stability Dividend; and
  - \$200,000 increase for the new Minister's Office.

**Background**

- These funding increases clearly show our government's strong commitment to maintaining safe communities for BC families.
- We are working hard to find savings and efficiencies and continue our justice reform efforts aimed at making the justice and public safety system more effective, timely and balanced.

**Highlights of significant changes by Branch**

- Corrections Branch: \$10.276 million funding provided for the new Okanagan Correctional Centre.
- Policing and Security Programs: \$1.27 million increase is the Budget 2015 incremental amount for the RCMP contract pension increase.

### Three Year Service Plan Comparison

(\$ millions)	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
<b>2015/16 Plan*</b>	\$668.653	\$671.465	\$675.123	\$675.123
<b>2016/17 Plan**</b>	\$668.098	\$681.337	\$708.344	\$711.528
<b>Plan over Plan Change</b>		\$9.872	\$33.221	\$36.405
<b>Plan over Plan % Change</b>		1.5%	4.9%	5.4%
<b>Year over Year Change</b>		\$13.239	\$27.007	\$3.184
<b>Year over Year % Change</b>		2%	4%	0%

*\*post reorganization*

*\*\*2015/16 year restated*

#### Plan over Plan Changes

- Primarily due to new funding for the Okanagan Correctional Centre (\$10.28 million in 2016/17, and \$32.78M million in each of 2017/18 and 2018/19);
- Increase of \$0.73 million annually for the Economic Stability Dividend salary increases for unionized staff, effective Feb 1, 2016; and
- \$0.23 million annually provided for the new Minister's Office.
- This is offset by a reduction of \$0.84 million reflecting a cross government benefit rate adjustment.

#### Year over Year Changes in 2016/17 Plan

Year over year changes include the new funding decisions reflected above in the plan over plan changes, as well as funding decisions in prior years. Year over year includes:

- New decision for the Okanagan Correctional Centre of \$10.28 million in 16/17, increasing by \$22.50 million in 17/18, and flatlined onward.

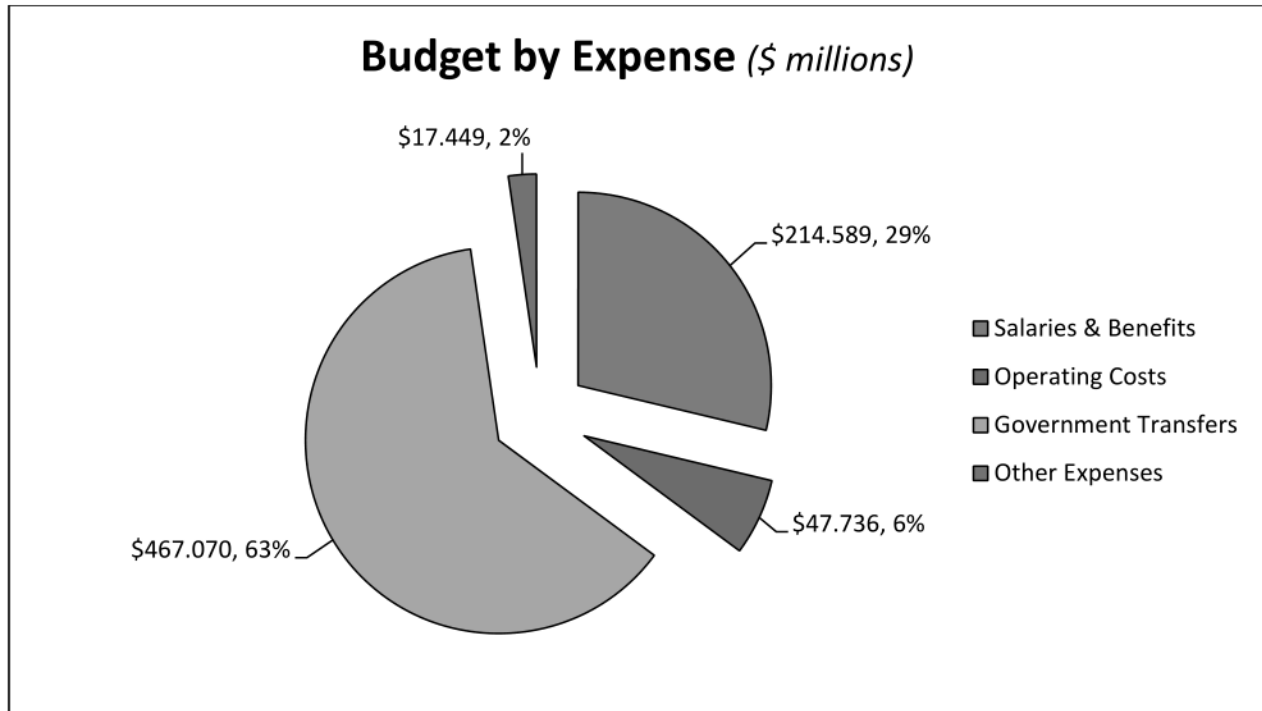
- Prior funding decision for the Economic Stability Mandate in 16/17 \$1.54 million, 17/18 \$3.90 million and new funding 18/19 \$3.18 million;
- Prior decision for RCMP pension increase in 16/17 of \$1.27 million flatlined;
- New decision for Economic Stability Dividend in 16/17 \$0.73 million flatlined; and
- New decision for Minister's Office \$0.23 million in 16/17 and flatlined.
- This is offset by cross government benefit rate adjustment in 16/17.

(\$ millions)	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
<i><u>Budget 2016 Decisions</u></i>			
Crown / Legal Counsel Compensation (BC Coroners)	0.037	0.044	0.051
Employee Benefit Chargeback Rate Reduction	(0.843)		
Economic Stability Dividend	0.732	0.732	0.732
Economic Stability Mandate			3.177
Minister's Office	0.225	0.225	0.225
OCC Operating Costs	10.276	32.775	32.775
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>10.427</b>	<b>33.776</b>	<b>36.960</b>
Budget transfer from MTICS	0.644	0.644	0.644
Amortization budget transfer to JAG (reorg)	(1.199)	(1.199)	(1.199)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.872</b>	<b>33.221</b>	<b>36.405</b>

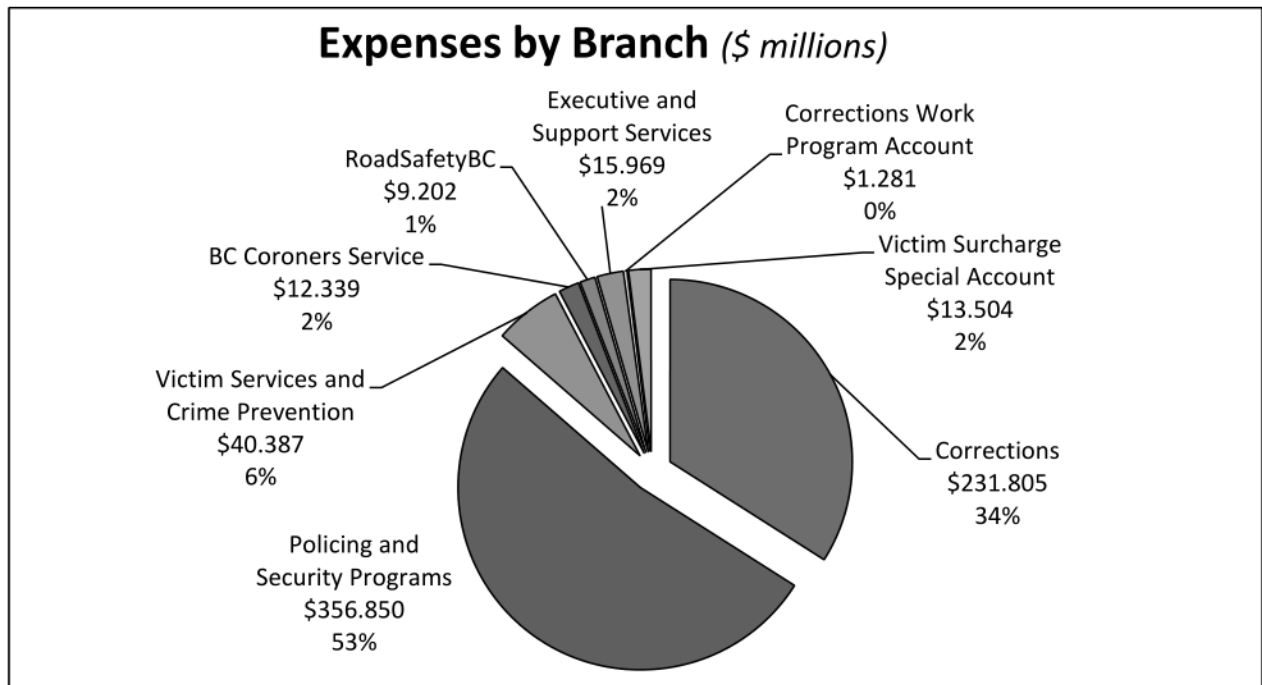
## Capital Budget

The Budget is \$16.342 million, an increase of \$7.089 million from the previous year. The increase is primarily the unspent funding of the Road Safety Initiative IMIT project in 15/16 being moved to 16/17, as well as the cyclical replacement funding of heavy equipment vehicles with required fit ups. For administrative purposes, capital provided to the Ministry is centralized in Executive and Support Services.

## 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)	2015/16	2016/17	Change	Change
	Restated	Estimates	(\$)	(%)
	Estimates <sup>1</sup>			
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000 000)</b>				
Ministry Operations	653.313	666.552	13.239	2.03%
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%
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%
<b>Total</b>	<b>668.098</b>	<b>681.337</b>	<b>13.239</b>	<b>1.98%</b>
Capital Expenditures	9.253	16.342	7.089	76.61%

### Operations Budget - Core Business Summary

(\$ millions)	2015/16	2016/17	Change	Change
	Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	Estimates	(\$)	(%)
<b>Ministry Operations</b>				
Corrections	220.892	231.805	10.913	4.94%
Policing and Security Programs	355.555	356.850	1.295	0.36%
Victim Services and Crime Prevention	40.143	40.387	0.244	0.61%
BC Coroners Service	12.319	12.339	0.020	0.16%
RoadSafetyBC	9.149	9.202	0.053	0.58%
Executive and Support Services	15.255	15.969	0.714	4.68%
<b>Ministry Operations Subtotal:</b>	<b>653.313</b>	<b>666.552</b>	<b>13.239</b>	<b>2.03%</b>
Corrections Work Program Account	1.281	1.281	0.000	0.00%
Victim Surcharge Special Account	13.504	13.504	0.000	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>668.098</b>	<b>681.337</b>	<b>13.239</b>	<b>1.98%</b>

## **Budget Summary by Branch**

### **Corrections**

A \$10.913 million increase has been provided for a combination of operating budget for Okanagan Correctional Centre, the Economic Stability Dividend and incremental amount for Economic Stability Mandate.

### **Policing and Security Programs**

A \$1.295 million increase is a combination of the incremental amount for the RCMP pensions increase and the Economic Stability Mandate.

### **Victim Services and Crime Prevention**

A \$244,000 increase has been provided for the incremental amount for the Economic Stability Mandate.

### **Executive and Support Services**

A \$714,000 increase has been provided for establishing the new Minister's Office, an incremental amount for the Economic Stability Mandate and corporate support for the Okanagan Correctional Centre.

## Operations Budget by Group Account Classification

(\$ millions)	2015/16	2016/17	Change	Change
	Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	Estimates	(\$)	(%)
Salaries & Benefits	203.459	214.589	11.130	5.47%
Operating Costs	43.742	47.736	3.994	9.13%
Government Transfers	461.625	467.070	5.445	1.18%
Other Expenses	13.640	17.449	3.809	27.93%
Recoveries	(12.737)	(18.017)	(5.280)	41.45%
Recoveries External	(41.631)	(47.490)	(5.859)	14.07%
<b>Total</b>	<b>668.098</b>	<b>681.337</b>	<b>13.239</b>	<b>1.98%</b>

### Salaries & Benefits

Increase of \$11.130 million is a combination of the funding provided for Okanagan Correctional Centre (\$7.531 million), incremental lift for the Economic Stability Mandate (\$1.280 million), the Economic Stability Dividend (\$0.698 million), and the Minister's Office (\$0.225 million), as well as internal reallocation of budget to Salaries & Benefits.

### Operating Costs

Increase of \$3.994 million reflects central costs charged to Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General that will be recovered from the Ministry of Justice (\$2.070 million), as well as funding provided for the Okanagan Correctional Centre (\$2.145 million). Additionally recoverable gross lifts for Civil Forfeiture Office (\$1.198 million) were offset by internal reallocation in Corrections Branch.

### Government Transfers

Increase of \$5.280 million reflects an adjustment to the Road Safety Initiative (\$1.833 million), incremental increase for the RCMP pension increase (\$1.270 million), additional recoverable grants for the Civil Forfeiture Office (\$1.718 million), funding for the Okanagan Correctional Centre (\$330,000), and incremental Economic Stability Mandate funding of (\$260,000).

### Other Expenses

Increase of \$3.809 million is reflects the corporate support provided to Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General by the Ministry of Justice (\$3.209 million), funding for the Okanagan Correctional Centre (\$0.270 million), and additional recoverable expenses for the Civil Forfeiture Office (\$0.369 million).

**Recoveries**

Increase of \$5.28 million reflects the recoveries from Ministry of Justice for corporate support and actual costs provided and received by Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (\$5.279 million).

**Recoveries External**

Increase of \$5.859 million reflects the additional recoveries of the Civil Forfeiture Office (\$3.508 million) and the Road Safety Initiative (\$1.833 million).

External recoveries in the ministry total \$47.49 million:

	<b>(\$millions)</b>
Corrections Branch	5.545
Policing and Security Programs	30.109
Victim Services and Crime Prevention	0.300
BC Coroners Service	0.002
Road Safety BC	4.035
Executive Support Services	0.002
Civil Forfeiture Account	7.497
	<hr/>
	47.490
	<hr/>

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

<b>ANNUAL SERVICE PLAN</b>						
<b>Core Business</b>	<b>Restated Budget 2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17 Estimates</b>	<b>2017/18 Plan</b>	<b>2018/19 Plan</b>	<b>2016/17 Changes</b>	<b>2016/17 Changes</b>
	<b>\$ millions</b>	<b>\$ millions</b>	<b>\$ millions</b>	<b>\$ millions</b>	<b>\$ millions</b>	<b>%</b>
Corrections	220.892	231.805	256.779	258.903	10.913	4.9%
Policing and Security Programs	355.555	356.850	356.967	357.056	1.295	0.4%
Victim Services and Crime Prevention	40.143	40.387	40.747	41.112	0.244	0.6%
BC Coroners Service	12.319	12.339	12.398	12.486	0.020	0.2%
RoadSafetyBC	9.149	9.202	9.111	9.241	0.053	0.6%
Executive and Support Services	15.255	15.969	17.557	17.945	0.714	4.7%
Special Accounts	14.785	14.785	14.785	14.785	0.000	0.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>668.098</b>	<b>681.337</b>	<b>708.344</b>	<b>711.528</b>	<b>13.239</b>	<b>2.0%</b>

**2016/17 Operating Budget Changes:**

- Budget lift for the Okanagan Correctional Centre operating budget (\$10.276 m).
- Incremental lift from Budget 2015 for Economic Stability Mandate (\$1.540 m).
- Incremental lift from Budget 2015 for RCMP Pension Increase (\$1.270 m).
- Budget lift for Economic Stability Dividend effective Feb 1, 2016 (\$0.732 m).
- Budget lift for new Minister's Office (\$0.225 m).
- Offset by the cross government benefit rate decrease from 24.8% to 24.3% (-\$0.843 m).

<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$ millions)</b>							
	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>
<b>Core Business Area</b>	<b>Restated</b>	<b>Estimates</b>	<b>Plan</b>	<b>Plan</b>	<b>Changes</b>	<b>Changes</b>	<b>Changes</b>
Executive and Support Services	9.253	16.342	14.164	12.864	7.089	(2.178)	(1.300)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9.253</b>	<b>\$16.342</b>	<b>\$14.164</b>	<b>\$12.864</b>	<b>\$7.089</b>	<b>(\$2.178)</b>	<b>(\$1.300)</b>

**2016/17 Capital Budget Changes:**

- Increase in budget is due in part to the reprofiling of Road Safety Initiative IMIT project.
- Increase is also attributable cyclical replacement in heavy equipment vehicle and equipment for the Okanagan Correctional Centre.

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Top 3 Budget 2016 Issues**

**1. Okanagan Correctional Centre**

Potential Questions:

What is the impact of the Okanagan Correction Centre on the budget?

Suggested Response:

- The Okanagan Correctional Centre is under construction and will be completed in September 2016. The project will be completed on time and on budget.
- Operating costs will start in 2016/17. Total operating funding for 2016/17 is \$22.3 million, including \$10.28 million for the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, and \$12.02 million for the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services.
- Capital funding for the Centre is included in the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizen's Services capital budget.
- It will be a state-of-the-art, high-security centre with 11 living units and 378 cells. The Centre will employ about 240 new, full-time correctional positions.
- The Centre will provide much-needed capacity in the region and across the province, and reduce the cost of transporting inmates to and from court.

**2. Potential Downloading of Police Costs to Municipalities**

Potential Questions:

Has the Province downloaded policing costs onto local government? How do you justify increased DNA costs for municipalities? What is the Province doing about settling that deal with the federal government and giving municipalities in BC some certainty with their budget planning?

Suggested Response:

- The increase to DNA costs was imposed by the federal government, which said it would no longer provide DNA analysis to the Province at the old flat rate.
- BC led discussions with the federal government for over 2 years to minimize impacts on BC and our communities and we were the last to sign on to the change.

- In BC, municipalities are responsible for policing costs; police control demand for DNA services. Police pay for investigative tools such as forensic ID services, wiretaps, police dogs, equipment – DNA is no different.
- The federal decision places a burden on municipalities so BC is making a significant financial contribution – over \$3 million this fiscal year (\$1.7 million more than historically).
- BC will continue to subsidize DNA usage each year with \$1.3 million.
- The new Biology Casework Analysis Agreement is now signed/final and the funding formula reflects actual costs.
- It is understandable that municipalities have concerns and they should raise those concerns with the federal government as UBCM did by writing to the federal minister.
- If not satisfied with services by the federal government, municipalities can explore alternatives as we are doing.
- Municipalities are speaking out against the heavy burden of the RCMP contract. They point to increasing costs everywhere they look. The new RCMP headquarters in Surrey Green Timbers is a case in point.
- We are focused on paying our fair share of costs related to the Green Timbers. We have been negotiating toward that goal in good faith.
- We understand municipalities need some certainty when it comes to budget planning and we certainly will work together with the new federal government to create an equitable funding agreement.

### **3. UBCM Commitment**

#### Potential Questions:

What is the status of the Premier's commitment at UBCM? How is it reflected in the budget?

#### Suggested Response:

- Investments in the provincial anti-gang strategy, community safety and policing have been successful in driving down crime in BC with youth and violent crime at historical lows but more needs to be done.



- At the September 2015 UBCM conference, the Premier announced a \$5 million investment over two years to address three priority areas:
  - Targeting prolific, violent and gang-affiliated offenders;
  - Getting tough on the roots of crime through education and outreach; and
  - Strengthening safety for First Nation communities and vulnerable women.
- As this investment rolls out over the next two years, some of the specific programs the Province is exploring include:
  - a gang-exit program;
  - increased investments in education and outreach projects focused on at-risk and Aboriginal youth; and
  - community-focused crime prevention.
- To further tackle crime, the Province will also launch a regional, integrated community safety pilot project, which will bring together local government and non-government agencies. Through this pilot, the Province will prioritize community safety goals, focus resources and programs accordingly, and measure and evaluate the outcomes.
- The government is committed to this investment.

# MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

(\$000)

## VOTE 39 Ministry Operations

Description	Total 2015/16 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Corrections	220,892	132,245	3,901	32,256	—	168,402	—	1,302	1,431	3,744	2,092	2,623	—	—	9,890
Policing and Security	355,555	7,292	25	1,772	—	9,089	—	184	264	1,048	568	673	—	—	518
Victim Services and Crime Prevention	40,143	5,164	74	1,255	—	6,493	—	75	26	505	116	207	—	—	—
BC Coroners Service	12,319	5,718	21	1,389	—	7,128	55	105	5	4,270	460	225	—	—	40
RoadSafetyBC	9,149	7,091	6	1,723	—	8,820	—	45	445	83	112	134	—	—	—
Executive and Support Services	15,255	11,047	27	2,719	67	13,860	—	227	225	150	52	241	—	—	5
Minister's Office	325	216	—	78	67	361	—	65	—	—	20	25	—	—	3
Corporate Services	14,930	10,831	27	2,641	—	13,499	—	162	225	150	32	216	—	—	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>653,313</b>	<b>168,557</b>	<b>4,054</b>	<b>41,114</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>213,792</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>1,938</b>	<b>2,396</b>	<b>9,800</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>4,103</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>10,453</b>

## Special Account(s)

Description	Total 2015/16 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Civil Forfeiture Account	—	641	—	156	—	797	—	30	3,000	—	25	55	—	90	—
Corrections Work Program Account	1,281	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	41	—	—	475
Criminal Asset Management Fund	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Victim Surcharge Special Account	13,504	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,785</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>475</b>

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 2016/17 Operating Expenses
1,076	—	5,617	965	28,740	—	—	39,980	39,980	—	—	703	703	—	(475)	(475)	(1)	(5,544)	(5,545)	231,805
101	—	215	4	3,575	72	—	375,659	375,731	—	—	149	149	—	(1,585)	(1,585)	(1)	(30,108)	(30,109)	356,850
—	—	140	—	1,069	175	12,343	30,414	42,932	—	—	10	10	(9,816)	(1)	(9,817)	—	(300)	(300)	40,387
40	—	10	1	5,211	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	12,339
—	—	6	1	826	—	—	2,951	2,951	—	—	641	641	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(4,034)	(4,035)	9,202
155	—	5	3,350	4,410	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,839	3,839	—	(6,138)	(6,138)	(1)	(1)	(2)	15,969
—	—	5	—	118	—	—	—	—	—	—	69	69	—	—	—	—	—	—	548
155	—	—	3,350	4,292	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,770	3,770	—	(6,138)	(6,138)	(1)	(1)	(2)	15,421
1,372	—	5,993	4,321	43,831	247	12,343	449,004	461,594	—	—	5,345	5,345	(9,816)	(8,201)	(18,017)	(5)	(39,988)	(39,993)	666,552

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 2016/17 Operating Expenses
—	—	—	—	3,200	3,000	—	—	3,000	—	—	500	500	—	—	—	—	(7,497)	(7,497)	—
115	—	60	—	705	—	—	476	476	—	—	100	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,281
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	2,000	—	—	2,000	11,504	—	—	11,504	—	—	—	—	—	—	13,504
115	—	60	—	3,905	5,000	—	476	5,476	11,504	—	600	12,104	—	—	—	—	(7,497)	(7,497)	14,785

## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

The mission of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General is to deliver public safety services and programs.

### MINISTRY SUMMARY

(\$000)

	Estimates 2015/16 <sup>1</sup>	Estimates 2016/17
<b>VOTED APPROPRIATION</b>		
Vote 39 — Ministry Operations.....	653,313	666,552
<b>STATUTORY APPROPRIATIONS</b>		
Civil Forfeiture Account Special Account.....	—	—
Corrections Work Program Account Special Account.....	1,281	1,281
Criminal Asset Management Fund Special Account.....	—	—
Victim Surcharge Special Account.....	13,504	13,504
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<u>668,098</u>	<u>681,337</u>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES <sup>2</sup></b>	9,253	16,342
<b>LOANS, INVESTMENTS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS <sup>3</sup></b>	—	—
<b>REVENUE COLLECTED FOR, AND TRANSFERRED TO, OTHER ENTITIES <sup>4</sup></b>	—	—

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> For comparative purposes, figures shown for the 2015/16 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 2016/17 *Estimates*. Schedule A presents a detailed reconciliation of the restatement of operating expenses and capital expenditures.

<sup>2</sup> Details of capital expenditures are presented in Schedule C.

<sup>3</sup> Details of loans, investments and other requirements are presented in Schedule D.

<sup>4</sup> Details of revenue collected for, and transferred to, other entities are presented in Schedule E.

## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

## SUMMARY BY CORE BUSINESS

(\$000)

	2015/16	2016/17 ESTIMATES		
OPERATING EXPENSES	Net	Gross	External Recoveries	Net
<b>Core Business</b>				
Corrections.....	220,892	237,350	(5,545)	231,805
Policing and Security.....	355,555	386,959	(30,109)	356,850
Victim Services and Crime Prevention.....	40,143	40,687	(300)	40,387
BC Coroners Service.....	12,319	12,341	(2)	12,339
RoadSafetyBC.....	9,149	13,237	(4,035)	9,202
Executive and Support Services.....	15,255	15,971	(2)	15,969
Civil Forfeiture Account Special Account.....	—	7,497	(7,497)	—
Corrections Work Program Account Special Account.....	1,281	1,281	—	1,281
Criminal Asset Management Fund Special Account.....	—	—	—	—
Victim Surcharge Special Account.....	13,504	13,504	—	13,504
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES.....</b>	<b>668,098</b>	<b>728,827</b>	<b>(47,490)</b>	<b>681,337</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Net</b>
<b>Core Business</b>				
Executive and Support Services.....	9,253	16,342	—	16,342
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES.....</b>	<b>9,253</b>	<b>16,342</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>16,342</b>

# MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

## VOTED DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

Estimates  
2015/16

Estimates  
2016/17

### VOTE 39 — MINISTRY OPERATIONS

This vote provides for the programs and operations described in the voted appropriations under the following core businesses: Corrections, Policing and Security, Victim Services and Crime Prevention, BC Coroners Service, RoadSafetyBC, and Executive and Support Services.

#### CORRECTIONS

##### Voted Appropriation

Corrections.....	220,892	231,805
------------------	---------	---------

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

#### POLICING AND SECURITY

##### Voted Appropriation

Policing and Security.....	355,555	356,850
----------------------------	---------	---------

**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, Crown agencies, boards and commissions, other levels of government, and other parties both internal and external to government for services described within this sub-vote.

#### VICTIM SERVICES AND CRIME PREVENTION

##### Voted Appropriation

Victim Services and Crime Prevention.....	40,143	40,387
---	--------	--------

**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, from ministries for special public safety initiatives, and from other levels of government for services described within this sub-vote.

#### BC CORONERS SERVICE

##### Voted Appropriation

BC Coroners Service.....	12,319	12,339
--------------------------	--------	--------

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

#### ROADSAFETYBC

##### Voted Appropriation

RoadSafetyBC.....	9,149	9,202
-------------------	-------	-------

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

## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

## VOTED DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

	Estimates 2015/16	Estimates 2016/17
<b>EXECUTIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES</b>		
<b>Voted Appropriations</b>		
Minister's Office.....	325	548
Corporate Services.....	14,930	15,421
	<u>15,255</u>	<u>15,969</u>
<p><b>Voted Appropriations Description:</b> This sub-vote provides for the office of the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, including salaries, benefits, allowances, and operating expenses for the minister and the minister's staff; executive direction of the ministry, including the Deputy Solicitor General's office; the Parliamentary Secretary for Corrections; general services to support program delivery; policy development; and management services for the ministry and the Ministry of Justice, including financial administration, facilities management, organizational development, service planning sponsored by the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the ministry, including oversight of delegated consumer protection agencies. Costs may be recovered 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.</p>		
<b>VOTE 39 — MINISTRY OPERATIONS</b>	653,313	666,552

## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

## STATUTORY DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

Estimates  
2015/16Estimates  
2016/17

## 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, 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*.

## 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 .....	203,459	214,589
Operating Costs .....	43,742	47,736
Government Transfers .....	461,625	467,070
Other Expenses .....	13,640	17,449
Internal Recoveries .....	(12,737)	(18,017)
External Recoveries .....	(41,631)	(47,490)
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES.....</b>	<u>668,098</u>	<u>681,337</u>



## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS<sup>1</sup>

(\$000)

	Estimates 2015/16	Estimates 2016/17
<b>CIVIL FORFEITURE ACCOUNT</b>		
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.		
<b>SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR <sup>2</sup>.....</b>	<b>7,191</b>	<b>7,191</b>
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Revenue.....	1,033	—
Expense.....	(3,992)	(7,497)
Internal and External Recoveries.....	3,992	7,497
Net Revenue (Expense).....	1,033	—
Difference Between 2015/16 Estimates and Projected Actual Net Revenue (Expense).....	(1,033)	
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS		
Receipts.....	—	—
Disbursements.....	—	—
Capital Expenditures.....	—	—
Net Cash Source (Requirement).....	—	—
<b>PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR <sup>2</sup>.....</b>	<b>7,191</b>	<b>7,191</b>

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> 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*.

<sup>2</sup> The Spending Authority Available at the Beginning of the Fiscal Year 2015/16 is based on the 2014/15 *Public Accounts*. The Projected Spending Authority Available at the End of the Fiscal Year represents the cash and temporary investments projected to be available at the end of each fiscal year.

## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS<sup>1</sup>

(\$000)

	Estimates 2015/16	Estimates 2016/17
<b>CORRECTIONS WORK PROGRAM ACCOUNT</b>		
This account was established by the <i>Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No.2)</i> in 1987 and is governed under the <i>Correction Act</i> . The purpose of the account is to assist inmates in acquiring skills and to encourage them to develop good work habits. Revenue represents proceeds from the sale of goods and services produced by inmates. Expenses are for supplies and costs related to the Corrections Work Program. Administration costs are funded through the ministry's voted appropriations.		
<b>SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR <sup>2</sup>.....</b>	<b>3,197</b>	<b>3,276</b>
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Revenue.....	650	650
Expense.....	(1,281)	(1,281)
Transfer from Ministry Operations Vote.....	700	700
Net Revenue (Expense).....	69	69
Difference Between 2015/16 Estimates and Projected Actual Net Revenue (Expense).....	(50)	
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS		
Receipts.....	—	—
Disbursements.....	—	—
Capital Expenditures.....	—	—
Net Cash Source (Requirement).....	—	—
Working Capital Adjustments and Other Spending Authority Committed <sup>3</sup> .....	60	60
<b>PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR <sup>2</sup>.....</b>	<b>3,276</b>	<b>3,405</b>

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> 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*.

<sup>2</sup> The Spending Authority Available at the Beginning of the Fiscal Year 2015/16 is based on the 2014/15 *Public Accounts*. The Projected Spending Authority Available at the End of the Fiscal Year represents the cash and temporary investments projected to be available at the end of each fiscal year.

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

## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS<sup>1</sup>

(\$000)

	Estimates 2015/16	Estimates 2016/17
<b>CRIMINAL ASSET MANAGEMENT FUND</b>		
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.		
<b>SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR <sup>2</sup>.....</b>	<b>2,401</b>	<b>5,431</b>
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Revenue.....	—	—
Expense.....	—	—
Net Revenue (Expense).....	—	—
Difference Between 2015/16 Estimates and Projected Actual Net Revenue (Expense).....	3,030	
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS		
Receipts.....	—	—
Disbursements.....	—	—
Capital Expenditures.....	—	—
Net Cash Source (Requirement).....	—	—
<b>PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR <sup>2</sup>.....</b>	<b>5,431</b>	<b>5,431</b>

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> 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*.

<sup>2</sup> The Spending Authority Available at the Beginning of the Fiscal Year 2015/16 is based on the 2014/15 *Public Accounts*. The Projected Spending Authority Available at the End of the Fiscal Year represents the cash and temporary investments projected to be available at the end of each fiscal year.

## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS<sup>1</sup>

(\$000)

	Estimates 2015/16	Estimates 2016/17
<b>VICTIM SURCHARGE SPECIAL ACCOUNT</b>		
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 both the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. Any remaining funds may be expended on initiatives which may benefit victims of crime. Administration costs are funded through the ministry's voted appropriations.		
<b>SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR <sup>2</sup>.....</b>	<b>39,163</b>	<b>37,659</b>
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).....	—	—
<b>PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR <sup>2</sup>.....</b>	<b>37,659</b>	<b>36,155</b>

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> 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*.

<sup>2</sup> The Spending Authority Available at the Beginning of the Fiscal Year 2015/16 is based on the 2014/15 *Public Accounts*. The Projected Spending Authority Available at the End of the Fiscal Year represents the cash and temporary investments projected to be available at the end of each fiscal year.

**Justice and Public Safety Sector  
2016/17 – 2018/19 Service Plan  
Overview**

**Goals and Objectives**

- The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General have adopted the goals and objectives developed by the Justice and Public Safety Council, as set out in the *Strategic Plan for the Justice and Public Safety Sector, April 2014 – March 2017*, and reaffirmed in the first annual update to the plan released in March 2015.
- These same goals and objectives were first presented in the Ministry of Justice's 2015/16 – 2017/18 Service Plan.
  - Goal 1: The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia is fair [accessible; impartial; timely]
  - Goal 2: The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia protects people [preventative; protective; systemic approach]
  - Goal 3: The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia is sustainable [focused; managed; effective]
  - Goal 4: The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia has the public's confidence [adaptive; performance-focused; empowering]

**Strategies**

- The strategies included in the service plan are consistent with the mandate letter directions for the ministries, as well as the ministries' transformation priorities.

**Performance Measures**

- Seven performance measures are included. The first six have been brought forward from the Ministry of Justice's 2015/16 – 2017/18 Service Plan; the last measure is a new addition.
  1. Crime rates (violent, property and other)
  2. Rates of non-reoffending (community corrections and custody)
  3. Traffic fatality and serious injury rates
  4. Rate of traffic fatalities and serious injuries involving high-risk driving behaviours (alcohol, drugs, speeding and/or distraction)
  5. Timeliness of Victim Financial Assistance claim adjudication
  6. Policing Standards (number of standards approved for implementation)
  7. Average child and family support payments per case per year recovered through the Family Maintenance Enforcement Program
- Work is underway to increase the capacity of both ministries to measure performance, and additional indicators will be included in future service plans.

**Q.** Why was a joint service plan produced for the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General?

**A.** The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General comprise the justice and public safety sector within the provincial government. The two ministries share the same goals and objectives and will work together to achieve them.

**Ministry of Justice  
and  
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

**2016/17 – 2018/19  
SERVICE PLAN**



For contact information and hyperlinks to additional information about the  
Ministry of Justice  
and the  
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General,  
see pages 32 – 33

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Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General



## **Attorney General and Minister of Justice**

### **Accountability Statement**



This joint *2016/17 - 2018/19 Service Plan* for the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 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 cursive script, appearing to read 'S. Anton'.

Honourable Suzanne Anton QC  
Attorney General  
Minister of Justice

February 5, 2016

## **Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

### **Accountability Statement**



This joint *2016/17 - 2018/19 Service Plan* for the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the Ministry of Justice 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 cursive script, appearing to read 'Mike Morris'.

Honourable Mike Morris  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

February 5, 2016

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## Purpose of the Ministries

The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General comprise the justice and public safety sector within the Government of British Columbia. The ministries work together to administer justice, deliver public safety services and programs, and provide legal services to government.<sup>1</sup> They accomplish this through dedicated and professional staff, and through innovation and service excellence in fulfilling the following responsibilities:



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

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<sup>1</sup> In December 2015, the Ministry of Justice became two ministries: the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. In August 2015, responsibility for Emergency Management BC moved from the former Ministry of Justice to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. Also at that time, the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch and responsibility for the Liquor Distribution Branch were transferred to the Ministry of Small Business, Red Tape Reduction and Responsible for the Liquor Distribution Branch.

The Attorney General and Minister of Justice and the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General are also responsible for a number of agencies, boards and commissions (see Appendix 2).

# Strategic Direction and Context

## Strategic Direction

As the justice and public safety sector, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General share the same goals and objectives, as identified in this joint service plan, and will work together to achieve them.

The ministries support government's commitment to building a strong economy and a secure tomorrow for the citizens of British Columbia, and they deliver their responsibilities in accordance with the Taxpayer Accountability Principles.

The ministries are 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 in her December 2015 mandate letters to the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Suzanne Anton, and the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Mike Morris. The letters established a number of priorities for the justice and public safety sector, and these priorities are reflected in this service plan.

## Strategic Context

Numerous external factors affect the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General in delivering their responsibilities and shape the transformation agenda of the justice and public safety sector, including:

- Increasing service delivery demands and costs;
- The national dialogue on the need to improve access to justice;
- Mental health and addiction issues demanding increasing resources;
- Over-representation of Aboriginal people in the justice system, as both victims and offenders;
- Violence against women remaining a significance concern, despite general declines in crime;
- Rapidly changing technology and increasing expectations for digitized services;
- Federal government commitments that impact the province;
- External audits, reviews and commissions of inquiry; and,
- Court decisions impacting service delivery.

The ministries are committed to a justice and public safety sector that is innovative, sustainable and accountable. This demands that the ministries: maintain efficient and affordable operations and service delivery; have effective governance structures; have a robust and evolving plan for transformation; ensure strategic alignment between budget, investments and transformative goals and objectives; identify, understand, accept and manage the risks associated with transformation; and, monitor and measure performance for accountability.

# Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures

The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General have jointly adopted the goals and objectives developed by British Columbia's Justice and Public Safety Council, as set out in the *Strategic Plan for the Justice and Public Safety Sector, April 2014 – March 2017* and reaffirmed in the *first annual update* to the plan released in March 2015. This 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 in British Columbia. These goals and objectives have been identified by the Council as essential to the health of the 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*

This section presents the goals and objectives and identifies the strategies to achieve them underway and planned in the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. The strategies presented are not an exhaustive list of the many initiatives underway; rather, they reflect the Ministers' mandate letter directions and the justice and public safety transformation priorities of the ministries.

Also included in this section are select performance measures used to indicate progress towards the goals and objectives. These measures represent only a few of the many potential indicators of performance. Work is underway to increase the capacity of both ministries to measure performance and thereby improve accountability and transparency.

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 one 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.

## 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

#### Ministry of Justice

- The *Civil Resolution Tribunal Amendment Act* received Royal Assent in May 2015. The legislation provides for the establishment of a mandatory Civil Resolution Tribunal for most small claims and strata property disputes. Following a competitive process, 18 tribunal members were appointed to decide strata property and small claims cases at British Columbia's Civil Resolution Tribunal, Canada's first online tribunal. The tribunal is one example of the many ways the Ministry of Justice works to maximize the benefits of technology for increased access to justice.
- Tribunal transformation is about shifting the way British Columbia's administrative tribunals deliver services to the public while streamlining business processes for efficient resource management. The *Administrative Tribunals Statutes Amendment Act*, which was brought into force in December 2015, enables the clustering of British Columbia's administrative tribunals. It gives tribunals the authority to make use of early dispute resolution methods – such as online dispute resolution – mandatory and enhances the accountability of tribunals through new reporting requirements. These practical changes will give British Columbians easier, quicker and more affordable access to justice. By moving service delivery online, integrating support services and systems, streamlining dispute resolution processes and clustering sector-based tribunals together, the infrastructure can be built for more efficient and effective tribunal services, and greater accountability and transparency.
- The federal *Canadian Victims Bill of Rights*, and other changes to the *Criminal Code* as part of Bill C-32, received Royal Assent in July 2015. The Bill of Rights adds to the provincial *Victims of Crime Act*, providing opportunities for victims to participate in and be informed during the prosecution process, and enter Victim Impact Statements and Statements on Restitution (both of which can be translated into nine languages). It also increases access to testimonial accommodations, such as allowing victims and other vulnerable witnesses of crime to testify behind a screen or from outside the courtroom by closed-circuit television, and to be accompanied by a support person during their testimony.
- The Ministry of Justice recognizes the pressures on courthouse facilities resulting from the rapid growth of the Lower Fraser Valley's population. The *Lower Fraser Valley Regional Plan Court Capacity Expansion Project Final Report*, developed by municipalities in the region, was presented to government for consideration in February 2014. The report recommended two priority projects: expansion of the Surrey Provincial courthouse and a new courthouse in

Abbotsford. In March 2015, the \$24.3 million expansion of the Surrey Courthouse was announced, including the addition of three courtrooms and two hearing rooms. The expansion of Surrey's busy provincial courthouse will be complete by late 2017, paving the way for faster and smoother access to justice, and demonstrating government's commitment to meeting the justice needs of British Columbia's communities. Government will continue to develop options to increase courtroom capacity in the Lower Fraser Valley.

### **Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

- The Road Safety Initiative is expected to shift traffic disputes out of court, improve police efficiency, and make justice 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.

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

- |                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Objective 2.1</b> | <b>Preventative</b>      |
| <b>Objective 2.2</b> | <b>Protective</b>        |
| <b>Objective 2.3</b> | <b>Systemic Approach</b> |

### **Strategies**

- The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General are working to address the over-representation of Aboriginal people as victims and offenders in the justice system. Part of that work includes improving the justice and public safety sector's relationship with Aboriginal people and continuing to work across government toward reaching long-term reconciliation. The ministries are supportive of the national inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls and will be sharing with the federal government, the ministries' experience with the BC Missing Women Commission of Inquiry. By sharing the lessons learned from BC's inquiry and participating in the national inquiry process, the ministries will endeavour to support a national inquiry that focuses on protecting vulnerable Aboriginal women and girls and meeting the needs of the families of the missing and murdered women.
- Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Suzanne Anton, met with her federal, provincial and territorial colleagues in January 2016 to discuss key justice and public safety priorities and release the Justice Framework to address violence against Aboriginal women and girls. The framework identifies priorities to guide jurisdictions, and their partners, in a more coordinated approach as they develop programs and initiatives to address violence against Aboriginal women and girls. Created with input from Aboriginal organizations and people across Canada, the framework identifies priorities in the areas of crime prevention, law enforcement, courts,

corrections, victim services and other justice services, with an emphasis on improving relationships between justice and public safety sector professionals and Aboriginal people.

- Through the federal Aboriginal Justice Strategy, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General are working in partnership with Justice Canada and the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development to support culturally-relevant, community-based alternatives and/or supports to the formal justice system (e.g., diversion, restorative justice, crime prevention/early intervention, circle sentencing, court liaison).
- Addressing inefficiencies and risks in the disclosure process has been identified as a priority by the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. The ministries are collaborating in the development and implementation of a comprehensive disclosure strategy with the goal of achieving more effective and efficient management of criminal case disclosure across the criminal justice system. Objectives include developing a comprehensive understanding of the entire disclosure process, identifying solutions that may allow disclosure to be processed through electronic means, and reducing the overall resource use associated with disclosure management practices by police and prosecutors. The disclosure strategy will enhance protection for the citizens of British Columbia by strengthening the ability of both police and the prosecution service to make full and proper disclosure in a timely and efficient manner.

### **Ministry of Justice**

- As the first of its kind in Canada, Vancouver's Downtown Community Court pioneered the innovative approach that brings together justice, health and social services in one location – a purpose-designed courthouse. A high number of offenders in downtown Vancouver have health and social problems, including alcoholism, drug addiction, mental illness, homelessness and poverty. The Downtown Community Court takes a problem-solving approach to address offenders' needs and circumstances and the underlying causes of their criminal behaviour. It creates new relationships, both within the justice and public safety sector and with health and social services, community organizations, area residents, merchants, faith communities, non-profit organizations and schools, and it tests new ways to reduce crime and improve public safety. By dealing with offenders more quickly through a coordinated and informed response, the community court benefits not only offenders but victims and the wider community as well.
- In March 2015, the Ministry of Justice released the *Surrey Criminal Justice Recommendations Report*, prepared by the Surrey Criminal Justice Task Force. Charged with exploring the unique justice needs and challenges in Surrey and making recommendations to address these challenges, the key outcome of the Task Force was the recommendation for the creation of an Integrated Services Network to be led by the City of Surrey. Based on the Task Force finding that increased collaboration between existing organizations in the justice, health and social services sectors is the most promising response to existing challenges, the proposed Network would be a single location for all agencies involved in the co-delivery of programs and services aimed at reducing crime in Surrey. In fall 2015, the Surrey Integrated Services Network Committee was formed to further consider potential composition of services, location and administration of the Network.



An evidence-based analysis of offenders coming through Court in Surrey is also being conducted to inform the areas to be considered for services.

- Following the June 26, 2014 Supreme Court of Canada's landmark decision, which granted a declaration of Aboriginal title to the Tsilhqot'in Nation, the Ministry of Justice has been working with the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and First Nations to develop a positive way forward. The goal is to ensure Aboriginal rights are protected as the Province pursues the economic growth that will benefit First Nations communities and all British Columbians.
- The BC Prosecution Service released its report on the 2011 Vancouver Stanley Cup Riot Prosecutions, providing a behind-the-scenes look at the riot prosecutions, and the associated investigation and charge assessment process. The *Report on the 2011 Vancouver Stanley Cup Riot Prosecutions* offers a comparative analysis between the BC approach and the UK riots. It provides the BC Prosecution Service with a constructive opportunity to educate the public on the many dynamics that affect the way in which cases are managed, which in turn leads to enhanced awareness and greater transparency of decision-making, and supports continued public confidence in the administration of justice.

### **Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

- The *Violence Free BC* strategy was released in February 2015. Addressing violence against Aboriginal women and girls is a key priority in the strategy and it charts the path to creating a province where comprehensive supports and initiatives are in place to help prevent violence, and where all women and girls can escape from violent situations and recover if they have been victims of violence. This strategy builds on work already underway, such as the commitment of more than \$70 million per year in prevention and intervention services for victims of crime, including women and children impacted by violence. In March 2015, more than \$3 million in civil forfeiture grants were used to support projects that align with the Violence Free BC strategy. Additional grants will be distributed in March 2016 to support anti-violence and prevention initiatives, with a focus on violence against women. A portion of civil forfeiture funds will also be dedicated in future years to support the Violence Free BC strategy.
- Work is now substantially completed or underway on the major themes of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry report. Progress to date includes violence-prevention work, improved policing practices, and compensation to the children of the murdered and missing women. These actions are outlined in the *final status update report* released in December 2014. In addition, the *Missing Persons Act* and Regulation are now in force, effective June 2015. In March 2015 \$436,580 in civil forfeiture grant funding was provided for 25 projects to support communities to heal and rebuild after violence against Aboriginal women. *The Provincial Policing Standards on Missing Person Investigations* will come into effect in September 2016 to allow police agencies time to review and adjust their policies and procedures to comply with these standards.
- The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General supports the *Provincial Domestic Violence Plan*, released in February 2014 by the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence, Ministry of

Children and Family Development. The plan was based on extensive consultations with anti-violence stakeholders and other partners. Under the plan, there is a commitment for prevention and intervention programming for domestic violence perpetrators, pre-conviction. Through a \$1 million investment, work is underway with Stroh Health Care and with the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres to develop, enhance and deliver this programming.

- The social media and radio campaign, #SaySomething, launched in March 2015 to bring increased awareness to the issue of violence against women, builds on the momentum of the *Provincial Domestic Violence Plan*, and is one of the first steps in the broader strategy for a violence free British Columbia. As well as raising awareness, the campaign also aims to provide practical advice and strategies on how and when to safely seek help when experiencing or witnessing domestic violence. The host website <http://www.saysomethingbc.ca> provides information in four languages – English, Punjabi, Simplified and Traditional Chinese – and an array of resources for victims, perpetrators, service providers and the family members, friends and bystanders who want to help.
- The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General supports the development of specialized Domestic Violence Units, of which there are now seven in the province (Abbotsford, Capital Region, Kelowna, Nanaimo, New Westminster, Surrey and Vancouver). Domestic Violence Units are integrated approaches to intervening in high-risk domestic violence cases and provide direct services to victims, children and the perpetrators of domestic violence. These units bring together in one location, police investigators, community-based victim services and, in some cases, a dedicated social worker from the Ministry of Children and Family Development.
- Parliamentary Secretary, Darryl Plecas, and the Blue Ribbon Panel on Crime Reduction released their report, *Getting Serious about Crime Reduction*, in December 2014. The report made six broad recommendations for a more cohesive and collaborative approach aimed at preventing and reducing crime in British Columbia. In response to the recommendations of the report, an inventory of government-led and police-led programs and initiatives related to them is being created, and a review is being undertaken to identify gaps and opportunities for the delivery of police-related crime reduction programs.
- Work is also underway to develop an integrated community safety partnership pilot program in a region within British Columbia that will: bring together relevant government and non-government agencies under a structured and supported program to prioritize community safety goals and targets; focus resources and programs accordingly; share information; and measure and evaluate the outcomes. The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General has also supported implementation of the Surrey Mobilization and Resiliency Table (SMART) and the planned implementation of the Surrey Integrated Services Network, and the development and implementation processes of these initiatives will inform the development of the community safety partnership pilot program.
- Approximately \$60 million a year is provided to the RCMP in British Columbia for the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU-BC) and anti-gang initiatives. CFSEU-BC is the largest integrated joint forces police unit in Canada. It draws and develops highly-specialized officers from federal, provincial and municipal agencies who are known for

developing ground-breaking methods and techniques. CFSEU-BC's integrated approach enhances intelligence sharing, coordination and strategic deployment against threats of violence posed by organized crime groups and gangs. In addition to its gang-related suppression and enforcement efforts, CFSEU-BC, in collaboration with government and policing partners, is leading the way in gang prevention and education with the End Gang Life campaign and other public engagement initiatives. (For more information on CFSEU-BC, see page 28.)

- An additional \$5 million is being invested in 2015/16 and 2016/17 to enhance community safety, focusing on three priority areas: targeting prolific, violent, and gang-affiliated offenders; getting tough on the root causes of crime through education and outreach; and strengthening safety for First Nation communities and vulnerable women. Some of the specific programs being explored include: a gang-exit program; increased investments in education and outreach projects focused on at-risk and Aboriginal youth; and community-focused crime prevention.
- Parliamentary Secretary for Corrections, Laurie Throness, conducted a review of corrections to propose changes and improvements to how to protect staff, inmates and communities where correctional centres are located. Throness met with corrections officials, staff, and inmates, toured all nine centres and 11 community corrections offices, and held regional roundtable consultations with 100 stakeholders. The resulting report, *Standing Against Violence*, released in December 2014, made 20 recommendations aimed at improving safety, assisting inmates with their transition to the community, and enhancing community corrections safety and supervision. The report also considered other options for discussion to bring about long-term, transformational change as a way to address the root causes of recidivism. Work on all of the recommendations related to safety in correctional centres is underway.
- Following a review of North American best practices, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General implemented a new Electronic Supervision program in January 2016 which utilizes GPS, cellular and radio frequency to monitor offenders' compliance with curfews and/or geographic restrictions. This new technology also allows for the collection of client location information enabling the monitoring of "no-go" zones and vibration alerts directly to the client.
- The ministry continues to work with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to review and make recommendations on the potential of increasing fines and driver demerit points for distracted driving offences. The first step of a two-phased approach implemented in October 2014 introduced three penalty points for drivers caught talking on a handheld device while driving, in addition to a \$167 fine. In developing the second phase, RoadSafetyBC conducted a four-week public consultation on this issue in early summer 2015, receiving more than 10,000 submissions and comments on distracted driving from British Columbians and road safety stakeholders. RoadSafetyBC will be presenting options and recommendations for government's consideration in early 2016.
- In January 2016, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General released a new report to help guide British Columbia in achieving the safest roads in North America. The result of collaboration by more than 40 road safety experts, *Moving to Vision Zero: Road Safety Strategy Update and Showcase of Innovation in British Columbia* aligns with *Canada's Road Safety Strategy 2025* and highlights the application of the safe systems approach – the understanding

that road safety developments must account for the inevitability of human error, the limitations of the human body in withstanding force, and the responsibility of road and vehicle designers, policy makers and road users. With this approach and the implementation of evidence-based practices, and through a thorough study of how road safety is managed around the globe, the ministry is reinforcing its commitment to road safety principles that will lead to the province having the safest roads in North America.

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

<b>Objective 3.1</b>	<b>Focused</b>
<b>Objective 3.2</b>	<b>Managed</b>
<b>Objective 3.3</b>	<b>Effective</b>

### **Strategies**

- The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General are undertaking information management and 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 both of the ministries to support improvement of processes and services while also building internal capacity through the elimination of unnecessary rules, processes, activities and non-essential steps.<sup>2</sup> Lean projects currently underway include: redesigning and standardizing the process for fulfilling information technology requests; streamlining business processes in the Crime Victim Assistance Program; streamlining business processes for inmate effects as well as for admitting and discharging inmates from correctional centres and community corrections offices; and increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Immediate Roadside Prohibition review process within RoadSafetyBC.
- The ministries are actively participating in the Reducing Red Tape for British Columbians initiative – a key government priority to improve the service experience of citizens. Both ministries have committed to exploring citizens’ ideas and acting on feasible improvements to deliver services that are faster, easier to access and simpler to use.

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<sup>2</sup> Lean is a process improvement methodology that originated over 50 years ago. It encourages innovation and recognizes quality, cost, productivity, safety and people as key drivers of organizational performance and effectiveness. It’s a way of putting value on those steps that benefit citizens and stakeholders, and eliminating steps that don’t contribute to beneficial citizen outcomes.

## Ministry of Justice

- The Court Administration Transformation Suite (CATS) refers to a series of service-focused initiatives that, building on existing court technologies and processes, will allow court matters to be conducted more efficiently both inside and outside the courtroom, and allow court information to be entered, accessed and shared more quickly and accurately among justice and public safety sector partners. Projects under this initiative include: Court Clerk Desktop (to improve efficiency, increase data quality, and address workload issues for court administration staff); Provincial Court Scheduling System (to improve trial scheduling, the allocation of courtrooms and use of judicial resources); Crown Counsel Scheduling System (to allow the Provincial Court to more easily schedule court matters by knowing the availability of an assigned Crown Counsel); and expanding Court Services Online (to improve the ability to electronically file civil court documents).
- As part of continuing efforts to ensure the most effective management of existing resources, the Ministry of Justice is working with the Superior Courts to support them in developing potential efficiencies and appropriate performance measures, with the goal of enhancing the business administrative processes of the Superior Courts.

## Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

- Released in 2013, the *BC Policing and Community Safety Plan* was designed to guide the evolution of policing in British Columbia over the next three, five and 10 years. In 2014, as part of its long-term policing strategy, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General established the Police Structure and Funding Expert Committee, comprising 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. The goal of the Committee was to assess how police services should be delivered in British Columbia and to determine which level of government should be responsible for their delivery. An analysis and review of the structure of policing in other provinces was conducted by the Expert Committee, including an environmental scan of police services being delivered in British Columbia. Findings from the review and input from the Expert Committee are informing policy analysis.
- Amendments to the *Police Act*, brought into force in March 2015, clarify government's authority to sustain and expand integrated policing teams and other specific, specialized policing services. The amendments also enable the Director of Police Services to establish additional police standards in relation to certain types of investigations, bias-free policing, and community input into policing. These changes respond to issues raised by the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry regarding the coordination of policing across multiple jurisdictions, and strengthen government's ability to continue to ensure that an adequate and effective level of policing is maintained throughout British Columbia.

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

<b>Objective 4.1</b>	<b>Adaptive</b>
<b>Objective 4.2</b>	<b>Performance-focused</b>
<b>Objective 4.3</b>	<b>Empowering</b>

### **Strategies**

- The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General are major participants in the transformation agenda for the justice and public safety sector and have 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 top issues affecting the criminal justice system and put forward ideas for criminal justice transformation. Sector-wide consultations continue and, in November 2015, the Ministry of Justice held British Columbia's fifth Justice Summit. The summit brought together about 60 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. The main goals of the Summit were to consider: a trauma-informed justice system response to victims of violent crime; and better coordination and information sharing in and across family justice, criminal justice, and child protection proceedings to improve safety, access to justice and the administration of justice.
- Coordinated business intelligence and performance measurement systems are being developed across the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to assist with strategic planning, monitoring and decision-making within the ministries and across the broader justice and public safety sector, and to enable better public reporting of progress toward the shared goals and objectives of the ministries. The ability to measure performance well is a critical enabler for getting results and achieving goals, and strengthening the ministries' business intelligence and performance measurement capacity is a key component of the justice and public safety transformation agenda.

### **Ministry of Justice**

- Reflecting a commitment to provide early assistance and support early resolution whenever possible, dedicated funding of \$6 million is being provided over three fiscal years since 2014/15 to support five Justice Innovation and Transformation Initiatives delivered by the Legal Services Society. All five pilot projects have been launched and an evaluation plan is being implemented. The five pilots include: expanded Family Duty Counsel at the Victoria Justice Access Centre; expanded Family LawLINE telephone advice service province-wide; a new mediation referral service offered in collaboration with Mediate BC province-wide; a new Parents Legal Centre for child protection matters at the Robson Square Vancouver Courthouse; and expanded Criminal Duty Counsel in Port Coquitlam.

- British Columbia plays a leadership role in working with jurisdictions across Canada to enforce interjurisdictional support orders. Changes to the *Family Maintenance Enforcement Act* include measures to process documents more efficiently from other provinces for the collection of funds from assets or payors located in British Columbia, thereby cutting red tape and helping speed up enforcement action for those not making their payments. Amendments to the *Interjurisdictional Support Orders Act* facilitate the enforcement of child and spousal support orders from other jurisdictions that do not provide certified copies of orders, making this process more efficient. The amendments also facilitate the transfer of responsibility for serving support applications received from other jurisdictions from the Court to the British Columbia designated authority.

#### **Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

- Through its independent investigations, inquests and death review panels, the BC Coroners Service continues to provide the public with information about individual deaths, mortality trends and health and safety risks. The BC Coroners Service continues to enhance its data collection, data management and information sharing with groups and agencies to inform and support evidence-based, targeted safety initiatives. Recommendations formulated by coroners and inquest juries are aimed at preventing future deaths in similar circumstances.

## Performance Measure 1: Crime rates

Police-reported crime rates in BC ( <i>Criminal Code</i> offences per 1,000 persons)	2014 Baseline <sup>1</sup>	2015 Forecast	2016 Target	2017 Target	2018 Target
Violent crime <sup>2</sup>	11.5	10.9	10.4	9.9	9.4
Property crime <sup>3</sup>	48.9	46.5	44.1	41.9	39.8
Other crime <sup>4</sup>	15.6	14.8	14.1	13.4	12.7
Overall crime rate	76.0	72.2	68.6	65.2	61.9

**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.

<sup>1</sup> The data are reported by calendar year. The most recent year for which data are available is 2014.

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

<sup>3</sup> Property offences include the offence categories of theft, motor vehicle theft, possession of stolen property, trafficking in stolen goods, identity theft, identity fraud, breaking and entering, arson, mischief, fraud, and altering/removing/destroying a vehicle identification number.

<sup>4</sup> *Criminal Code* offences which are not violent or property related are classified as other offences. These include, but are not limited to, counterfeiting, offensive weapons, child pornography, prostitution, gaming and betting, offences related to currency, disturbing the peace, and offences against the administration of justice.

## 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 government does not control crime rates, crime reduction strategies are a priority of the justice and public safety sector, and crime rates are tracked as an indicator of progress toward the goal of protecting people, a goal shared by the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Safety Solicitor General.

The 2015 forecast and the targets established for this measure represent five per cent year-to-year decreases from the 2014 baseline. It is anticipated that 2015 crime rates for British Columbia will be available in late summer or early fall of 2016.



## Performance Measure 2: Rates of Non-reoffending

Percentage of adult offenders who are not re-convicted in BC within two years of release from custody, commencement of community supervision, or active community supervision. <sup>1</sup>	2014/15 Baseline	2015/16 Forecast	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Community Corrections <sup>2</sup>	75.9	75.5	76	76.5	77
Custody <sup>3</sup>	48.7	49.5	50	50.5	51
Overall rate of non-reoffending <sup>4</sup>	71.6	71.5	72	72.5	73

**Data Source:** BC Corrections, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

<sup>1</sup> 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 2015/16 forecast rate is based on offenders admitted and/or released in 2013/14.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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 and public safety sector 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 BC Corrections uses offence date), and the definition of the sample to track. BC Corrections is working on a multi-year project with their provincial, territorial and federal counterparts to standardize a series of definitions, including recidivism.

Efforts to improve rates of non-reoffending will continue to focus on evidence-based strategies and increased collaboration among justice, social and health partners.

### Performance Measure 3: Traffic fatality and serious injury rates

Performance Measure	2010-2014 Baseline <sup>1</sup>	2015 Forecast <sup>2</sup>	2016 Target	2017 Target	2018 Target
Number of traffic fatalities per 100,000 population <sup>3</sup>	6.6	6.0	5.7	5.5	5.3
Number of serious traffic injuries per 100,000 population <sup>4</sup>	55.3	54.5	52.2	49.9	47.8

**Data Source:** Population estimates and projections are from BC Stats and are as of July 1<sup>st</sup> each year. Results are reported by calendar year rather than fiscal year. All numbers have been rounded to the closest tenth.

<sup>1</sup> The baselines for these rates are the average per year from 2010 to 2014.

<sup>2</sup> The forecast rates for 2015 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 settled and been fully approved.

<sup>3</sup> Data on the number of traffic fatalities is from the Traffic Accident System (TAS) maintained by the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia, TAS Q3 2015.

<sup>4</sup> Data on serious traffic injuries is from the Ministry of Health Discharge Abstract Database, and 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 traffic 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 2015 forecasts.

### Performance Measure 4: Rate of traffic fatalities and serious injuries involving high-risk driving behaviours

Performance Measure	2014 Baseline	2015 Forecast <sup>1</sup>	2016 Target	2017 Target	2018 Target
The number, per 100,000 BC population, of fatalities and serious injuries resulting from a crash where alcohol, drugs, speeding and/or distraction were assessed to be a factor <sup>2</sup>	31.6	30.3	29.0	27.8	26.6

**Data Source:** Population estimates and projections are from BC Stats and are as of July 1<sup>st</sup> each year. Results are reported by calendar year rather than fiscal year. All numbers have been rounded to the closest tenth. Police attend most crashes occurring on a public road that result in serious injuries or fatalities. At the scene of the crashes, police record on an accident report form (MV6020) the factors they believe influenced the crash and assess whether victims have serious or fatal injuries. Serious injuries are assessed by the officer and may differ from hospitalization counts. A fatality or serious injury with more than one of these three contributing factors will be counted once for each incidence reported.

<sup>1</sup> The forecast rate for 2015 is based on the most recent available data. It is to be considered preliminary until the data have settled and been fully approved.

<sup>2</sup> Data on the number of traffic fatalities is from the Traffic Accident System (TAS) maintained by the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia, TAS Q3 2015.

## Discussion

The high-risk driving behaviours within the scope of this measure (alcohol, drugs, speeding 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 2015 forecast.

### **Performance Measure 5: Timeliness of Victim Financial Assistance claim adjudication**

Performance Measure	2014/15 Baseline	2015/16 Forecast	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Average number of days to adjudicate claims for financial assistance from victims and others impacted by violent crime	63	65	65	65	65

**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.

## 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 2014/15 baseline represents adjudication of 99 per cent of claims received in 2014/15. The baseline of 63 days for adjudication compares to a 347-day timeframe for adjudication in Ontario in 2014/15 for approximately 400 fewer applications.

The 2015/16 forecast of 65 days and the subsequent year targets reflect an ambitious effort to maintain this high level of service in the face of increasing applications. The program forecasts that it will receive over 350 more applications in 2015/16 than in 2014/15, representing a 9.5 per cent increase for an estimated total of 4,100 applications in 2015/16. This growth trend is anticipated to continue into the future.

To determine claimants' eligibility for benefits, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 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 6: Policing Standards

Performance Measure	2014/15 Baseline	2015/16 Forecast	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Cumulative number of binding <i>British Columbia Provincial Policing Standards</i> approved for implementation	27	30	34	38	42

**Data Source:** Results for this measure are derived from records kept by the Policing and Security Branch, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

### 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.

The development of new policing standards is undertaken by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 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 7: Average child and family support payments per case per year recovered through the Family Maintenance Enforcement Program

Performance Measure	2010/11 - 2014/15 Baseline <sup>1</sup>	2015/16 Forecast	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Average child and family support payments per case per year recovered through the Family Maintenance Enforcement Program	\$4479.46	\$5050.00	\$5150.00	\$5250.00	\$5350.00

**Data Source:** Results for this measure are derived from the Family Maintenance Enforcement Program Case Management Application, Ministry of Justice. Results are calculated as total payments per fiscal year divided by the total number of cases. A case is defined as a court order for support with a payor and a recipient.

<sup>1</sup> The baseline for this measure is the average for the five-year period from 2010/11 to 2014/15.

### Discussion

The Family Maintenance Enforcement Program is responsible for the administration of 42,000 cases in 2015/16, including necessary enforcement measures to ensure payment of child and family support. Case management activities are carefully tracked, including enrolment of cases, payments, enforcement measures taken (administrative and court) and communications with clients.

A key outcome measure for the program is the average payments per year to families enrolled in the program. The targets for the measure are based on trend analyses conducted.

# Resource Summary

## Resource Summary Tables – Ministry of Justice

Core Business Area	2015/16 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2016/17 Estimates <sup>2</sup>	2017/18 Plan	2018/19 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
Justice Services.....	109,707	110,362	110,827	111,225
Prosecution Services.....	115,793	126,598	129,708	132,410
Court Services.....	99,426	99,852	101,248	102,329
Legal Services.....	17,880	21,207	22,656	23,989
Agencies, Boards and Commissions.....	12,990	13,305	13,480	13,626
Executive and Support Services.....	15,803	15,833	15,697	16,033
Judiciary.....	71,118	71,786	72,081	72,188
<i>Crown Proceeding Act</i> .....	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500
Independent Investigations Office.....	7,544	7,552	7,592	7,610
British Columbia Utilities Commission.....	1	1	1	1
Statutory Services <sup>3</sup> .....	-	-	-	-
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>474,762</b>	<b>490,996</b>	<b>497,790</b>	<b>503,911</b>

Ministry of Justice  
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)				
Executive and Support Services.....	2,825	4,842	4,372	4,372
Judiciary.....	590	570	570	570
Independent Investigations Office.....	183	145	-	-
British Columbia Utilities Commission.....	10	10	10	10
Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account.....	363	363	363	363
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>3,971</b>	<b>5,930</b>	<b>5,315</b>	<b>5,315</b>
Other Financing Transactions (\$000)				
Executive and Support Services - Interest on Trusts and Deposits				
Receipts.....	(2,900)	(2,900)	(2,900)	(2,900)
Disbursements.....	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,900
<b>Total Net Cash Source (Requirements) .....</b>	<b>0,000</b>	<b>0,000</b>	<b>0,000</b>	<b>0,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2015/16 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2016/17 *Estimates*.

<sup>2</sup> Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates.

<sup>3</sup> Statutory Services includes Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account.

## **Electoral Boundaries Commission, Environmental Appeal Board and Forest Appeals Commission**

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

Core Business Area	2015/16 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2016/17 Estimates <sup>2</sup>	2017/18 Plan	2018/19 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
Electoral Boundaries Commission .....	2,000	-	-	-
Environmental Appeal Board .....	312	312	312	312
Forest Appeals Commission .....	310	310	310	310
Administration and Support Services .....	1,459	1,461	1,475	1,485
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>4,081</b>	<b>2,083</b>	<b>2,097</b>	<b>2,107</b>

<sup>1</sup> For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2015/16 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2016/17 Estimates.

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

## Resource Summary Tables – Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Core Business Area	2015/16 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2016/17 Estimates <sup>2</sup>	2017/18 Plan	2018/19 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
Corrections.....	220,892	231,805	256,779	258,903
Policing and Security .....	355,555	356,850	356,967	357,056
Victim Services and Crime Prevention.....	40,143	40,387	40,747	41,112
BC Coroners Service .....	12,319	12,339	12,398	12,486
RoadSafetyBC	9,149	9,202	9,111	9,241
Executive and Support Services.....	15,255	15,969	17,557	17,945
Statutory Services <sup>3</sup> .....	14,785	14,785	14,785	14,785
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>668,098</b>	<b>681,337</b>	<b>708,344</b>	<b>711,528</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>				
Executive and Support Services.....	9,253	16,342	14,164	12,864
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>9,253</b>	<b>16,342</b>	<b>14,164</b>	<b>12,864</b>

<sup>1</sup> For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2015/16 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2016/17 Estimates.

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

<sup>3</sup> Statutory Services includes Civil Forfeiture Account, Corrections Work Program Account, Criminal Asset Management Fund, and Victim Surcharge Special Account.



## Major Capital Projects – Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Representing the largest capital expansion in the history of BC 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 over \$400 million in capital funding to expand correctional centre capacity throughout the province.

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 to the 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 north of Oliver.

The construction of the new Okanagan Correctional Centre is significant. The project is generating local jobs, community development and province-wide interest. Once complete, the approximately \$220 million, high-security centre will represent the largest value project to date for BC Corrections and will more than double capacity in the region. More than 240 full-time correctional officer jobs will be opening up in the region for both experienced officers and new recruits.

Major Capital Projects	Targeted Completion Date (Year)	Approved Anticipated Total Cost of Project (\$ millions)	Project Cost to Dec 31, 2015
<b>Okanagan Correctional Centre:</b> Construction of a new 378-cell correctional centre near Oliver to add required inmate capacity in accordance with the Corrections Capital Asset Management Plan.  The project will be delivered as a public-private partnership, with the private partner providing the design, construction, financing and facility maintenance for a 30-year period following construction. Construction will be completed in 2016 with facility operations beginning in early 2017.	2016	220	147

## **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 BC Association of Chiefs of Police; the President of the BC 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. Board members do not receive any 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 that 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 crime and major crime investigations. More information can be found at: [www.cfseu.bc.ca](http://www.cfseu.bc.ca).

## Appendix 2: Agencies, Boards and Commissions

### Ministry of Justice

#### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.fac.gov.bc.ca)

## **Independent Investigations Office**

The Independent Investigation Office was established to conduct critical incident investigations regarding police-related incidents involving death or serious harm. The Office is under the direction of the Chief Civilian Director, a position for which one cannot ever have served as a police officer. [www.iiobc.ca](http://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](http://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](http://www.ogat.gov.bc.ca)

## **Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia**

The Public Guardian and Trustee is a corporation sole established under the *Public Guardian and Trustee Act* with a unique statutory role to protect the interests of British Columbians who lack legal capacity to protect their own interests. The mandate of the Public Guardian and Trustee is to: protect the legal and financial interests of children under the age of 19 years; protect the legal, financial, personal and health care interests of adults who require assistance in decision making; and administer the estates of deceased and missing persons. [www.trustee.bc.ca](http://www.trustee.bc.ca)

## **Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

### **Consumer Protection BC**

Consumer Protection BC was established in 2004 under the *Business Practices and Consumer Protection Authority Act* and, as delegated by the provincial government, is responsible for administering British Columbia's consumer protection laws – namely the *Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act*, the *Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act*, and the *Motion Picture Act* – along with a variety of associated consumer protection regulations. It is a not-for-profit corporation that protects consumers and encourages a fair marketplace in the province.

[www.consumerprotectionbc.ca](http://www.consumerprotectionbc.ca)

### **Motor Vehicle Sales Authority of British Columbia**

The Motor Vehicle Sales Authority of British Columbia is an administrative authority delegated by the provincial government to administer and enforce the *Motor Dealer Act* and its regulations, the *Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act* as it relates to the sale of motor vehicles, and other related statutes. Founded in 2004 and formerly named the Motor Dealer Council of BC, the agency became one of the first examples of government's new approach for administering public policy through a delegated administrative authority. [mvsabc.com/](http://mvsabc.com/)

### **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. [www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/policing-in-bc/municipal-police-boards](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/policing-in-bc/municipal-police-boards)

## Appendix 3: Ministry Contact Information and Hyperlinks to Additional Information

### **Domestic Violence Helpline**

1-800-563-0808

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

### **#SaySomething**

Social media site; Multiple Languages

Resources for domestic violence victims, perpetrators, service providers and the family members, friends and bystanders who want to help

### **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

### **VictimLink BC**

1-800-563-0808

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

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

### **JusticeBC**

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

## Ministry of Justice

### **Office of the Deputy Attorney General**

- 250-356-0149

### **Court Services Branch**

- 250-356-1550

### **Criminal Justice Branch**

- 250-387-3840

### **Justice Services Branch**

- 250-356-6582
  - Dispute Resolution Office
  - Family Maintenance Enforcement Program

- Family Justice Centres
- Investigation and Standards Office
- Justice Access Centres

**Legal Services Branch**

- 250-356-8467

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

**Office of the Deputy Solicitor General**

- 250-356-0149

**BC Coroners Service**

**Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch**

- 604-660-5199
  - Civil Forfeiture Office
  - Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons
  - Victim Services

**Corrections Branch**

- 250-387-5059

**Policing and Security Branch**

- 250-387-1100

**RoadSafetyBC**

- 250-387-7747

British Columbia  
**JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL**

**STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE JUSTICE  
AND PUBLIC SAFETY SECTOR**  
**APRIL 2016-MARCH 2019**

**ANNUAL UPDATE, MARCH 31 2016**





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## CHAIR'S MESSAGE



Lori Wanamaker,  
FCPA, FCA

As Chair of the Justice and Public Safety Council, I am pleased to present the second update of the Council's strategic plan.

British Columbians are well-served by the people who make up our justice and public safety sector. Professionals in our sector perform many vital services: responding to and preventing crime; applying criminal law; helping families manage crises; helping women who have been victims of violence; supporting the legal foundations of BC business; and offering many other essential supports for our way of life.

I would like to reflect on two significant developments within our sector in the last year. The first is the healthy level of dialogue and collaboration between different elements that make up justice and public safety in BC. We have seen greater coordination of efforts to address access to justice issues in an inclusive manner. We have also seen meaningful, productive engagement over trauma-informed practice, mental health, and information sharing regarding family justice, domestic violence and child protection – engagement which has brought the judiciary, the justice professions, government, the NGO sector and subject matter experts around the same tables. We have much to accomplish, but our culture and openness to collaborate is in a healthy state to do just that.

Second, recently the federal government has moved several issues into the centre of reform discussions, including the safety of Indigenous women and girls. British Columbians have much to contribute to these questions. On behalf of the Council I look forward to taking up the challenge not just of responding, but of leading and innovating in the interests of the citizens and clients we serve.

I invite you to review and share this update. Sincerely,

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

Lori Wanamaker, FCPA, FCA

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

British Columbia has in the past decade enjoyed declining crime rates, declining crime severity, declining violence, and declining case volumes – although some of these indicators have moved upwards slightly over the last year. Youth crime remains low. System costs are relatively stable after prior increases.

However, these benefits have not been enjoyed evenly across the population. What is being done right now is not yet enough to resolve the challenges which remain in the sector, whether those challenges relate to access, criminal victimization and trauma, mental health, the experience of women and Indigenous peoples in the sector, or other pressing matters. It is clear that leaders and participants in the sector must continue to enhance new ways of working together, particularly as so few of the major challenges we face can be solved independently.

The period from April 2015 to March 2016 has seen a number of significant developments in the sector. These developments are largely positive, and there is good reason to feel optimistic about the specific steps taken in the interest of the sector and its clients, and about the prospects for future success. These areas include Indigenous justice engagement, trauma-informed practice, access to justice, case management and court scheduling, court innovation, and evidence-based policy and operations (particularly as regards vulnerable populations and associated partnerships between sector institutions, human services providers and community groups). The same period has seen rich dialogue and strengthening of community across the sector, assisted by the continued maturation of the BC Justice Summit process, and by recent renewal of and energy within federal-provincial-territorial policy dialogue. This trend in productive dialogue is set to continue this year with several important discussions across the sector and between government and community as regards mental health.

For 2016-17 the Council reaffirms the essential elements of its plan, and the four goals of Fairness, Protection of People, Sustainability, and Public Confidence. The operational priorities the Council has identified for 2016-17 are Indigenous Justice, Access to Justice, and Justice and Mental Health (all previously identified); plus a new fourth priority area, Violence Against Women.

## THE JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL

The Justice and Public Safety Council was established in April 2013 under the terms of the *Justice Reform and Transparency Act*. Members of the Council are appointed by British Columbia's Minister of Justice.

The Council's objectives under the provisions of the Act include:

- Development of a strategic vision for the justice and public safety sector;
- Establishment of an annual Justice and Public Safety Plan;
- Collection of information on the sector to assist in the Council's functions;
- Facilitation of the collection and sharing of information needed to enhance the ability to ensure careful management and prudent expenditure of public resources, engage in evidence-based decision making, make informed evaluations of performance, and design strategies to improve that performance;
- Promotion of collaboration and cooperation among participants in the sector; and
- Provision of advice and recommendations to the Minister.

The Act provides for the Council to produce (and refresh annually) a three-year plan for the sector to achieve progress towards its vision for the sector.

In its work, the Council consults broadly within the sector, including but not limited to leaders of key sector institutions and agencies, non-governmental organizations, professional bodies, subject matter experts, and participants at British Columbia Justice Summits. By law, the Council's annual plan is delivered at the end of March, and is made available to the public at the same time.

A list of the Council's current membership can be found in Appendix 3.

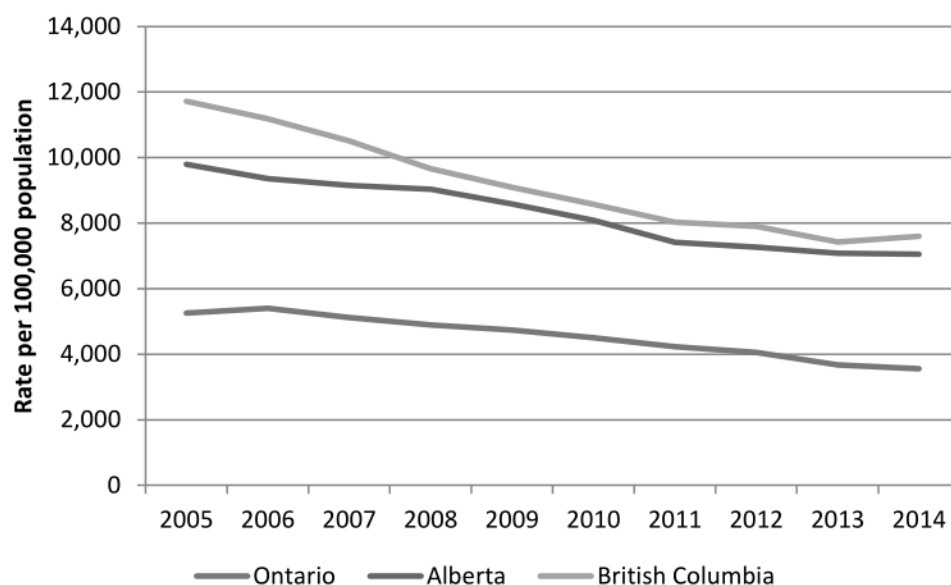
### SECTOR CHARACTERISTICS: CONTEXT FOR PLAN RENEWAL

In refreshing its plan, the Council continues to track a number of important trends. Overall, British Columbia has in the past decade enjoyed declining crime rates, declining crime severity, declining violence, and declining case volumes – although some of these indicators have moved upwards slightly over the last year. Youth crime remains low. System costs are relatively stable after prior increases. However, these benefits have not been enjoyed evenly across the population, as Indigenous people continue to be incarcerated at a rate significantly greater than population would indicate, and form an increasing percentage of the custodial population.

## REPORTED CRIME

Consistent with long term national patterns, crime in British Columbia has continued to decline. Calendar 2014 saw the first increase in the reported crime rate in eleven years, although the rates for this year and last year remain lower than levels reported at any other time since 1969. British Columbia's overall crime rate in 2014 showed a 2.4 per cent increase from 2013.

**Figure 1: Reported crime incidents per 100,000 population (excluding traffic), BC 2005-2014 – Ontario and Alberta included as comparators<sup>1</sup>**



The vast majority of the reduction in the overall crime rate continues to be explained by reduction in reported property crime incidents, due to the high volume of property crime as a proportion of overall reported incidents.

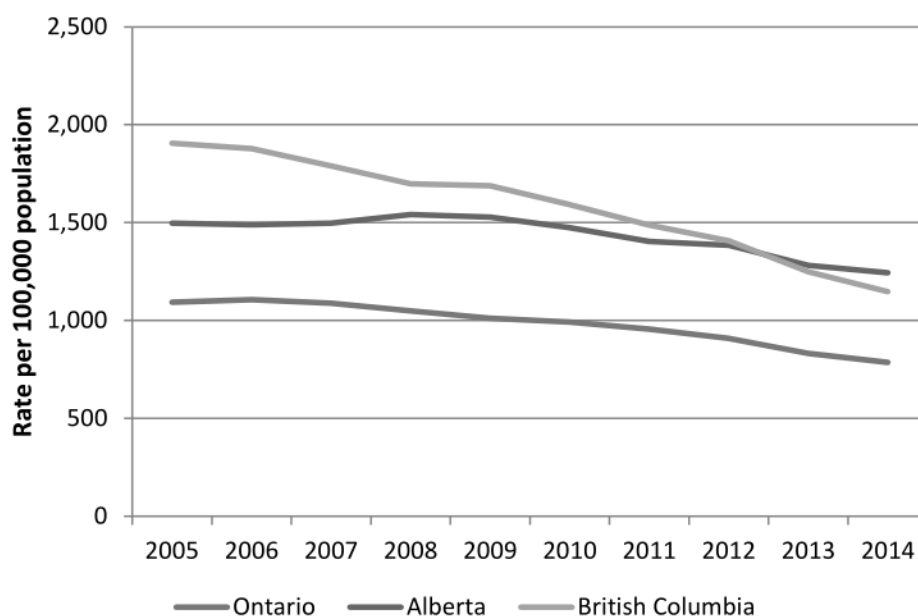
<sup>1</sup> Source: *Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics*. Most recent data year is calendar 2014. These figures reflected reported crimes. They do not reflect crimes which are for one reason or another unreported to police, and they are therefore necessarily an incomplete picture of criminal occurrences. 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.



## VIOLENT CRIME

Violent crime, and particularly domestic and sexual violence which often involve greater complexity, is of great concern to the Council and remains high relative to rates in central Canada. However, the rate of violent crime incidents per 100,000 population has shown marked decline in recent years and is now below that of Alberta. This represents a decline of 40% in the rate of violent crime in BC since 2005, a period preceded by stable, high levels of violent crime.

Figure 2: Reported violent crime incidents per 100,000 population, BC 2005-2014 – Ontario and Alberta included as comparators<sup>2</sup>

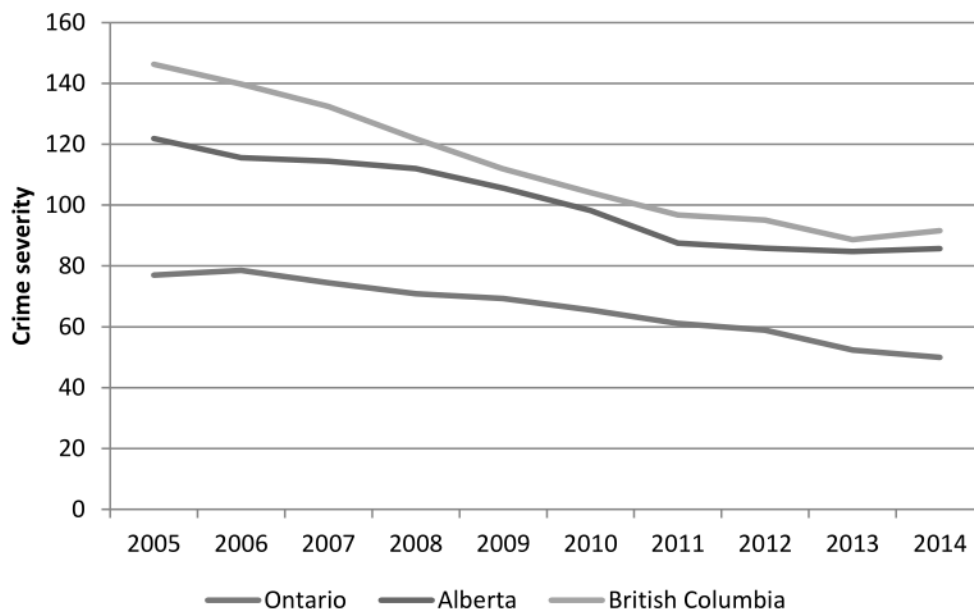


<sup>2</sup> Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Most recent data year is calendar 2014. See caveats in footnote 1, above.

## CRIME SEVERITY

The relative severity of crime has increased in the province for the first time since 2003. In 2014, 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 – rose by 3.4 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: Crime Severity Index trends, BC 2005-2014 – Ontario and Alberta included as comparators<sup>3</sup>



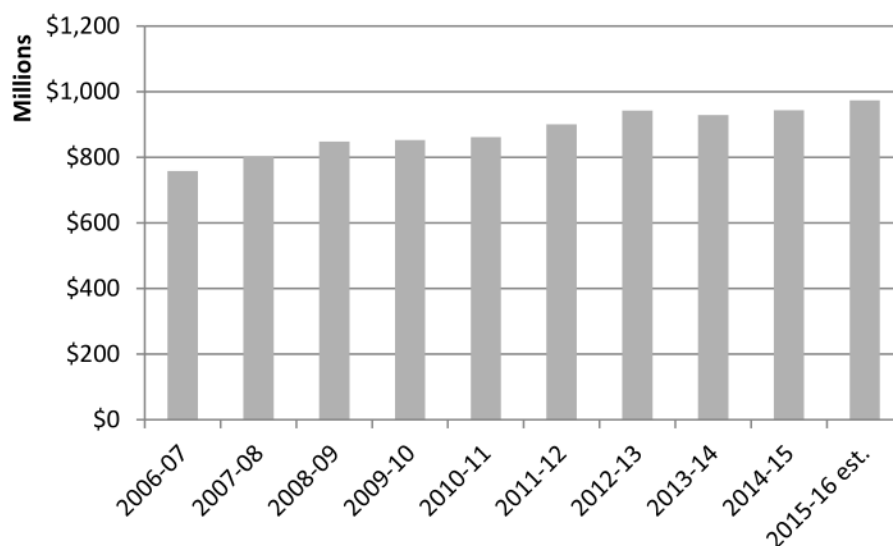
<sup>3</sup> Source: *Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics*. Most recent data year is calendar 2014. The Police Reported Crime Severity Index (PRCSI) measures changes in the level of severity of crime in Canada from year to year. In the index, all crimes are assigned a weight based on their seriousness. 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 2016-2019

## SECTOR COSTS (PROVINCIAL)

Expenditures on core provincial justice and public safety sector functions rose by approximately three per cent between 2014-15 and 2015-16, continuing a pattern of stability or only marginal increase (once inflation is taken into account) over the past four years.

Figure 4: Justice and public safety costs (provincial only), 2006/07-2015/16<sup>4</sup>

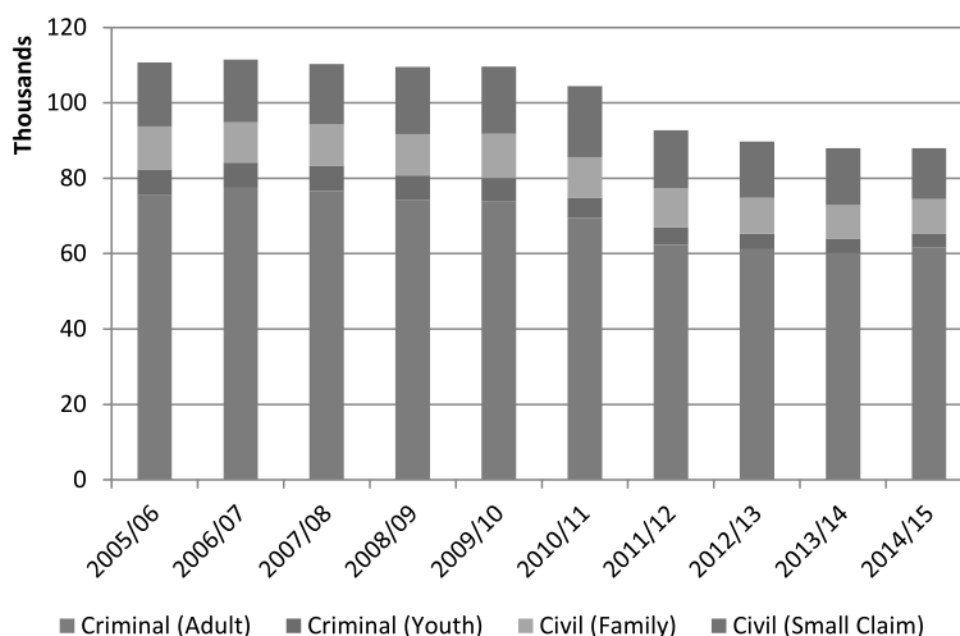


<sup>4</sup> Source: *BC Government Justice and Public Safety Sector, Corporate Management Services Branch*. Most recent data year is fiscal 2015-16 (figures are actual expenditures, and estimated to year end for 2015-16 at March 1, 2016). This chart incorporates budget figures from the Ministries of Justice and Attorney General and of Public Safety and Solicitor General, and of their antecedent Ministries, and combines salary and operating costs, for core sector functions. Figures include amounts for Corrections, the Corrections work program, police services, community safety and crime prevention, RoadSafetyBC, 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, emergency management, 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.

## NEW CASE VOLUMES (PROVINCIAL)

The annual number of new Provincial Court cases entering the system, which declined in the four years prior to 2013-14 by 22 per cent, appears now to be stabilizing. Of interest, adult criminal cases have increased in the last year after seven consecutive years of decline. It should be noted in interpreting these figures that the substantial decline in criminal cases which drove the steep decline after 2009 is commonly associated with changes in process for impaired driving, and thus may mask patterns related to other crime types.

Figure 5: New Provincial Court cases by type (excluding traffic) 2004/05-2014/15<sup>5</sup>

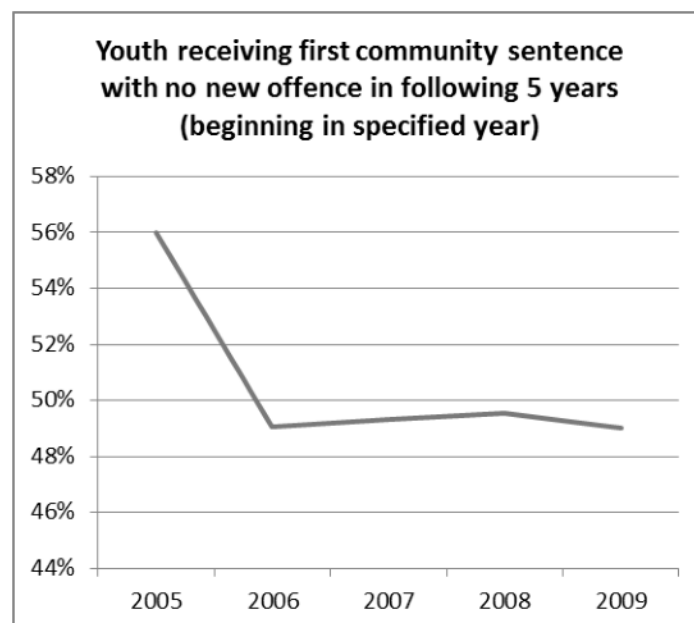


<sup>5</sup> Source: BC Ministry of Justice, Court Services Branch.

## YOUTH JUSTICE

Youth justice in recent years represents a success story in British Columbia. 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 remain unevenly distributed, with Indigenous youth having increased as a percentage of the remaining youth custody population in recent years. While no amount of youth involvement in the criminal justice system is acceptable, youth serving custodial sentences at any one time have declined in number to well below 100, numbers so low that annual fluctuations in those numbers have little statistical meaning. There are, as in the adult population, significantly more youth under community sentence. Here, too, there have been successes followed by a period of stability. By 2014 the percentage of youth reoffending within five years of a first community sentence had declined to 49% (having been at 56% four years prior).<sup>6</sup>

**Figure 6: Youth receiving first community sentence with no new offence in following 5 years**

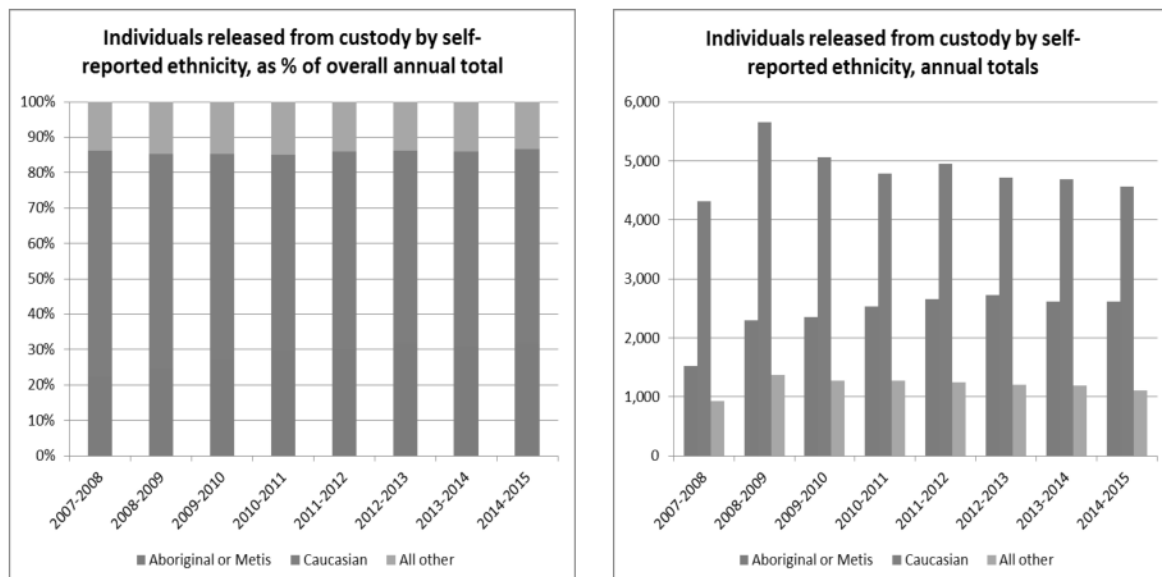


<sup>6</sup> **Data source and considerations:** Government of British Columbia; BC Corrections Operations Network (CORNET), extracted through the Cognos business intelligence system. Percentage of Youth Justice clients (ages 12-17) receiving a first community sentence who are not convicted of a new offence within the following five years (includes offences in adulthood). A five-year follow-up period is used for this metric. The metric counts recidivism of individual clients; therefore, individuals who are admitted more than once in a calendar year will only be counted once.

## INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND THE JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY SECTOR

Indigenous people continue to be over-represented in the justice system as offenders and victims, a national pattern which is also present at the provincial level in British Columbia. One measure of over-representation is incarceration which, relative, to overall demographics is also an indicator of the success of the justice system in remediating the absolute fact of over-representation *per capita*. Taking self-reported ethnicity on release from custody as a proxy, unique episodes of custody for Indigenous people in BC (2014-15: approximately 32% of all custody releases) occurred at a rate approximately six times greater than expected given the percentage of the population which is Indigenous.<sup>7</sup>

**Figure 7: Individuals released from custody by self-reported ethnicity, as percentage of overall annual total, and annual totals, BC 2007-08 to 2014-15**



<sup>7</sup> **Data source and considerations:** Government of British Columbia; BC Corrections Operations Network (CORNET), extracted through the Cognos business intelligence system. The rate of releases of individuals from a custody centre who self-report “Aboriginal” or “Metis” status in comparison to those who self-report “Caucasian,” or who self-report other categories. This is a measure of all releases, not unique releases of individuals for the following legal hold statuses: dual status, federal, immigration, not stated, and provincially sentenced. This measure does not include releases for clients on remand status. As this is a measure of all releases, not unique releases means that individuals who are released more than once in a given year will be counted more than once. The definition of release does not include a status change from remand to sentenced or sentenced to remand; however, it does include individuals released from custody to probation. Indigenous peoples were identified as 5.4% of the provincial population in the 2011 census. In 1996, Parliament enacted s.718.29(e) of the Criminal Code, which places a statutory duty on sentencing judges to consider an offender’s Indigenous circumstances in the determination of what constitutes a fit sentence. The leading authority on interpretation of this provision is *R. v. Gladue*, [1999] 1 S.C.R. 688.

## FURTHER INDICATORS AND METRICS

In November 2015, the Council released its initial *Update on Performance Measurement for the Justice and Public Safety*, including data on ten key environmental indicators. This report may be found [online](#) on the Council's website.<sup>8</sup>

Recognizing the need to continue the development of measures linked to areas of concern and to specific objectives, but being cognizant of the limited resources available for this work and of the challenges of developing "net new" measures, the Council has identified two priority areas for indicator development in the next 12 months.

1. In light of the extensive discussions to come in 2016 at both Justice Summit events on "Justice and Mental Health," there will be both a need and an opportunity to identify one or more measures of the circumstances and outcomes for mentally disordered and substance using individuals encountering the criminal justice system.
2. The Council acknowledges, both in this report and in its Update on Performance Measurement, the current scarcity of measures and indicators dealing with civil, family and administrative justice. Noting the interest of Access to Justice BC (ATJBC) in identifying informative metrics on access in civil and family matters, the Council looks forward to supporting and as appropriate partnering with ATJBC in the development of such metrics for common usage.

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.justicebc.ca/shared/pdfs/pm-nov-2015.pdf>

## OVERVIEW OF SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS 2015-16

The period from April 2015 to March 2016 has seen a number of significant developments in the sector. These developments are largely positive, and there is good reason to feel optimistic about the specific steps taken in the interest of the sector and its clients, and about the prospects for future success.

In introducing this overview, the Council makes two parallel observations. First, very clearly, what is being done right now is not yet enough to resolve the challenges which remain in the sector, whether those challenges relate to access, criminal victimization and trauma, mental health, the experience of women and Indigenous peoples in the sector, or other pressing matters. There is a genuine desire for more action, including in some cases where the issue has been well discussed and diagnosed, and this desire is accompanied at times by frustration. While certain challenges might be resolved with additional resources, it is also sometimes observed that we as a sector are failing to use the resources already at play as well as we should. These concerns must be acknowledged as real, as is the responsibility of the sector's leadership to address them.

Second, in responding to these concerns, and setting aside the question of whether additional resources become available, it is clear that leaders and participants in the sector must continue to enhance new ways of working together, particularly as so few of the major challenges we face can be solved independently by individual agencies or institutions. These ways include regular cross-sectoral dialogue as a means to inform, educate and support each other; mature, transparent discussions of sector data as a window on the effectiveness of reform; finding cross-disciplinary operational solutions to cross-disciplinary challenges; and continuing to find ways to put clients or system users at the centre of the services that are mandated, or offered in support of justice and public safety.

Noteworthy developments within the sector over the last year include the following.

### INCREASING ENGAGEMENT ON INDIGENOUS JUSTICE ISSUES

The Council notes several promising developments which should lead to a variety of opportunities to make improvements in Indigenous peoples' experience within the sector.



The announcement of a federal commission of inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, and the appointment of Canada's first Indigenous Minister of Justice, are positive developments which will assist in maintaining focus on the Indigenous experience of the sector in BC and elsewhere in Canada. The Council also acknowledges and welcomes the establishment of the Aboriginal Justice Council of British Columbia, an important development in strengthening institutional relationships around sector reform, and looks forward to working with the Council. In addition, the strong representation of Indigenous justice experts in planning and delivering the 4th and 5th BC Justice Summits is considered to be a key reason behind the continued momentum of the Summit dialogue and the quality of those events. The Council looks forward to further strengthening of this engagement in 2016-17.

### **COLLABORATION AND EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACHES IN COMBATting VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

The past year saw several significant developments in work combatting violence against women and sexual violence. Implementation of the provincial government's Violence-Free BC initiative began to take shape, including the establishment of integrated Domestic Violence Units in collaboration with police agencies and victim services providers. The 5th BC Justice Summit addressed the impact that violent trauma has on the capacity of victims of violence to engage with the justice system's traditional methodologies, identifying a set of recommendations geared to the creation of a trauma-informed justice system (and so beginning to address an identified performance gap in the system)<sup>9</sup>. At the operational level, victim service organizations, the police community and the provincial government collaborated in the delivery of a major training conference in December 2015 on ways to prevent sexual and domestic violence.<sup>10</sup> Taken together, the past year has seen significant progress in collaborative, evidence-based work on violence against women in British Columbia.

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<sup>9</sup> See Plan Goals and Objectives: Fair|Impartial, below, p. 22.

<sup>10</sup> Joint organizers included the BC Society of Transition Houses, Ending Violence Association of BC, Police Victim Services of BC, BC Association of Chiefs of Police, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Government of British Columbia, BC Housing, and the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence (PODV).

### A COORDINATED APPROACH TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Following the leadership of the Supreme Court of Canada and the work of the National Action Committee on Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters, in 2015 a provincial coordinating committee (Access to Justice BC) was formed under the leadership of the Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal for British Columbia to consider improvements to the BC civil and family justice system, with a triple aim of improved user experience, improved outcomes for the population, and sustainability.<sup>11</sup> Access to Justice BC brings together judges, legal practitioners, mediators, public policy experts, NGOs and system users in consideration of these aims. The Council welcomes the establishment of Access to Justice BC, is strongly supportive of its key elements (a user-centered perspective of the system, multi-disciplinary approaches, and a commitment to experimentation) in pursuing its aims, and looks forward to a coordinated and supportive relationship contributing to improved access to justice for British Columbians.

### IMPROVED CASE MANAGEMENT AND COURT SCHEDULING

Under the leadership of the Provincial Court, the Provincial Court Scheduling Project has led to the implementation of an Assignment Court model in seven court locations, with a specific focus on reducing delay and increasing event certainty in the scheduling of criminal cases. In related steps, in 2015 the provincial prosecution service (Criminal Justice Branch) substantially completed a number of process reforms that include enhanced Crown file ownership in criminal cases, quality control standards to streamline case management practices, including increased early file resolution and on-line charge assessment, and working co-operatively with the Provincial Court of British Columbia and Court Services Branch in support of the Provincial Court Scheduling Project. Cumulatively, these reforms are aimed at increased efficiency, reduced file churn and a more effective utilization of system resources. In welcoming these steps, the Council notes in addition that the majority of these changes address issues raised directly by Geoffrey Cowper QC in his 2012 review of BC's criminal justice system.

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<sup>11</sup> While Access to Justice BC has taken civil and family matters as its initial focus, access to justice in criminal matters may be brought in to scope in the future.

### CONTINUED STRENGTHENING OF THE BC JUSTICE SUMMIT PROCESS

With five Summits having been held since 2013, the process has continued to mature in terms of content and purpose, while retaining the engagement and commitment of participants from across the sector. As the elements of the Justice Reform and Transparency Act have been implemented, it is increasingly clear that the Summits have played an important role in ensuring that this series of leadership discussions has exhibited diversity and inclusion. As a consequence of this strong support and good faith engagement, the Summits have been able to respond to participants' interest in moving the discussion from system norms and strategy towards specific areas of collaboration and innovation. This new pattern of work was first applied at the 5<sup>th</sup> Summit (Fall 2015) in addressing trauma-informed practice as well as information sharing in related family, domestic violence and child protection proceedings. The Council looks forward continuation of this momentum at the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Summits in 2016, which will take as their focus "Mental Health and the Justice System."

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR REFORM DIALOGUE AT THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL LEVEL

Looking forward to 2016-17, several important contemporary areas for collaboration and innovation in the justice and public safety sector – including but not limited to addressing violence against Indigenous women and girls, response to mentally disordered and substance-dependent clients, and improving access to justice – are also areas where progress can be enhanced through dialogue between and amongst provincial justice systems and the federal government. In particular, the Council acknowledges the importance for British Columbia of the consultative process initiated in 2015 concerning the Commission of Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and notes the federal government's recent commitment to consult on legalization and regulation of the use of marijuana. The Council looks forward to supporting or facilitating efforts to engage justice actors, non-governmental participants and the public in developing effective reform strategies in these areas.

### GREATER ATTENTION TO MENTAL HEALTH AND JUSTICE

2015-16 saw increased attention to the many significant issues related to the experience of mentally disordered persons in the justice and public safety sector. A major forum at the Wosk Centre for Dialogue in October 2015 saw representatives of the judiciary, justice and public safety professionals, forensic mental health specialists, public health experts, and the NGO sector converge in discussion around health, police, court, corrections and community responses to what some participants referred to as a “mental health crisis” within the sector. Efforts within the government setting are currently geared to provincial strategies related to mental health and substance dependency. For its part, the justice and public safety sector will congregate in two Summit discussions on Justice and Mental Health in June and November 2016. Noting the high level of engagement in dialogue, the Council echoes numerous sector participants in encouraging the conversion of this energy into concrete actions emanating from the Summits and from the provincial work on strategy.

### COURT INNOVATION

2015-16 saw continued commitment to outcome-oriented innovation in BC’s court system, which includes such specialized approaches as Downtown Community Court, Victoria Integrated Court, Drug Treatment Court and First Nations Court. The Council notes the on-going, high level of reform interest in the potential for specialized court approaches, innovation which is welcome and necessary in considering how the sector is able to respond to some of the most vulnerable groups of people in the justice system. The Council also acknowledges consultative efforts between the executive and judicial branches of government to establish a framework for specialized courts which would together the objectives and design of such courts with considerations of resourcing and proportional benefit of these approaches.

### PROGRESS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF EVIDENCE BASED POLICY

Noting that the challenges to information sharing and research in the justice and public sector are well known, British Columbia’s sector institutions continues to take important steps in building an empirical understanding of our system, many of which compare favourably with the situation in other Canadian jurisdictions. The Council recognizes

efforts made in 2015-16 by the judiciary, the police community, and the provincial government in the active development of business intelligence, and encourages both continued localized efforts as well as dialogue between sector participants to enhance understanding of our data. The Council also notes the work done by the sector in collaboration with the local research community, which is now showing beneficial outcomes for provincial and national dialogues on justice. A recent example of this productivity is the prominence accorded research on mental disorders within British Columbia's corrections population, and on the Integrated Offender Management/Homelessness Intervention Project, at a recent national forum on criminal justice.

## UPDATING THE STRATEGIC PLAN

This is the second annual update of the three-year strategic plan initially 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.

### 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:

1. The formal justice system, which includes administrative law, civil law, criminal law, court processes, family law, prosecution, and related work.
2. The closely related functions of protection of the public, such as policing, corrections, crime prevention, and services to victims of crime.
3. Regulatory, protective and/or response functions such as motor vehicle licensing and fines, civil forfeiture, and coroner services.
4. 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.
5. 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 2016-2019

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE GAP(S)
<b>OUR SECTOR IS FAIR</b>	<b>Accessible</b> 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.
	<b>Impartial</b> 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 Indigenous 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.
	<b>Timely</b> 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 continue to 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 2016-2019

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE GAP(S)
<b>OUR SECTOR PROTECTS PEOPLE</b>	<b>Prevention</b> 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.
	<b>Protection</b> 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 better tools to increase the frequency with which missing persons are located.
	<b>Systemic Approach</b> 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 triage of mentally-disordered individuals, including adequate accommodation and treatment availability.



## JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2016-2019

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE GAP(S)
<b>OUR SECTOR IS SUSTAINABLE</b>	<b>Focused efforts</b> 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.
	<b>Managed resources</b> 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.
	<b>Effectiveness</b> 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 2016-2019

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE GAP(S)
<b>OUR SECTOR HAS THE PUBLIC'S CONFIDENCE</b>	<b>Adaptive</b> 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.
	<b>Performance-focused</b> 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.
	<b>Empowering</b> 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.	People must be better informed and educated about ways in which the sector can assist them in adapting to change and resolving disputes.  More user-needs-driven information should be made available – and provided proactively – at the outset of proceedings.

## REAFFIRMATION AND/OR CHANGE OF PLAN ELEMENTS

### CONTINUITY OF VISION

For the plan renewal applicable to the period 2016-17 to 2018-19, 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 twelve objectives derived from these goals.

### REVISION OF IDENTIFIED PERFORMANCE GAPS

**Goal: PROTECTS PEOPLE | Objective: PROTECTION** – In recognition of the currently accepted problem definition in the police community regarding the sharing of timely information on missing persons, the Council has refined its expression of the performance gap as a need for *better tools* with which to share information.

**Goal: FAIR | Objective: TIMELY** – In recognition of the ongoing but incomplete work done on court systems modernization, the Council has refined its expression of the performance gap to suggest that the administration of the court system must *continue to* be modernized to improve scheduling and decrease unproductive appearances.

### SECTOR OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR 2016-17

The following areas have been reaffirmed by the Council as sector priorities for 2016-17.

#### INDIGENOUS JUSTICE

The problems affecting Indigenous peoples with respect to justice and public safety are well documented. Important issues to be addressed include the level of violence suffered by Indigenous women and families, and the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the court and correctional systems. In light of the development of the Aboriginal Justice Council of BC (AJCBC), the question of the establishment of a separate advisory board on Indigenous justice issues is in the Council's view now secondary to the importance of establishing strong institutional relationships between other sector actors and AJCBC on key issues of reform and service delivery.

## 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.

## 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 a continued focus amongst sector leaders over the past year. Recognizing these concerns are national in scope, the response must primarily be provincial. Accordingly the launch of Access to Justice BC as a coordinated response to these issues is a welcome development in working towards solutions to these challenges which place British Columbians' access to justice at the centre. While the organization of a response is a necessary step, the situation overall remains a priority for the sector.

In addition, the Council has added a fourth priority for 2016-17.

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

With respect to violence against women, including domestic violence and sexual violence, it remains an important objective to establish the most effective means of managing criminal cases through the system. The sector has recently identified a common interest in ensuring our operations and policies are trauma-informed. Development and implementation of this and of other coordinated approaches is of great importance to the sector in 2016-17, a year which will also bring significant attention to the question of the safety of Indigenous women and girls. 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.

The Council continues, in support of these priority areas, to encourage efforts to collaborate and innovate in broadening the empirical grounding of our sector's policies and operations, through the individual and collaborative development of business analytics and transparent reporting. It is as important as ever to know "what works," and to understand how we can reliably and transparently determine "what works."

This is certainly important as a means to understand the efficiency of the investment of funds in the sector. But it is critical that empirical understanding be brought to the question of *effectiveness* as well. As ever, the development of the means of understanding sector data should be careful and inclusive, in recognition of the need to ensure accurate and fair accounts of the ways in which the sector works.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The Council, in looking ahead to 2016-17, anticipates positive developments in a number of areas in the sector, including:

- The opportunity for sector participants to contribute to the consultation process of the Commission of Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
- In following up on the recommendations of the 5<sup>th</sup> BC Justice Summit, forward movement in the development of trauma-informed practice in the criminal justice arena, and progress on information sharing practices where family justice, domestic violence and child protection processes intersect.
- Development of the work of Access to Justice BC in addressing significant barriers which still confront British Columbians as they engage our system.
- Important steps in the development of meaningful change in the ways in which our sector, in partnership, interacts with mentally disordered citizens – including the development of provincial strategies on mental health and substance use, and two sector-specific dialogues at the Spring and Fall 2016 Justice Summits.
- Continued enhancement of our sector's data analytic capacity, and continued exploration of ways in which we can enhance our understanding of the sector and its performance, and share that understanding with the public.

## PLAN FEEDBACK

Comments are encouraged and may be emailed to [justicereform@gov.bc.ca](mailto:justicereform@gov.bc.ca) (after June 2016, [council@justicereform.bc.ca](mailto:council@justicereform.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 1: SECTOR VISION

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.

### 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.

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.

## APPENDIX 2: VALUES OF OUR SECTOR

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 3: JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL

Under provisions of the *Justice Reform and Transparency Act*, Council members are appointed by Ministerial order and 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. The Council is supported by the Justice and Public Safety Secretariat. The current membership includes:

Lori Wanamaker (Chair)	Deputy Solicitor General, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Richard Fyfe (Vice-Chair)	Deputy Attorney General, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General
Lynda Cavanaugh	Assistant Deputy Minister, Court Services, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General
Joyce DeWitt-Van Oosten	Assistant Deputy Attorney General, Criminal Justice, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General
Brent Merchant	Assistant Deputy Minister, BC Corrections, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Clayton Pecknold	Assistant Deputy Minister, Policing and Security Programs, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Bobbi Sadler	Chief Information Officer, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General and Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Kurt Sandstrom	Assistant Deputy Attorney General, Legal Services, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General
Mark Sieben	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Children and Family Development

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Estimates 2016/17 Briefing Book**

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Mandate Letter Actions****Balance the Ministry's Budget**

- We balanced the ministry's budget in 2014/15. We will balance the budget in 2015/16 as well.

**Improve Community Safety and Advance Crime Reduction Initiatives**

*Improve community safety in British Columbia and report back to Cabinet on those initiatives by March 31, 2016.*

*Advance crime reduction initiatives and implement the lessons of the Blue Ribbon Panel Crime Reduction Report with an emphasis on prolific and violent offenders.*

- Last month, we announced an additional \$23 million over three years for the Guns and Gangs Strategy. With this funding, we are enhancing public safety across the province under three pillars:
  - Supporting effective enforcement and prosecution.
  - Furthering community safety and public engagement.
  - Expanding laws and sanctions targeting illegal guns and gang violence, profits and property.
- At the 2015 UBCM conference, the Premier announced a \$5 million investment over the next two years to enhance public safety in communities across the province.
- As part of this investment of funding, we are looking to support a number of initiatives, with our focus on three main areas:
  - Targeting prolific, violent and gang-affiliated offenders;
  - Getting tough on the roots of crime through education and outreach; and
  - Strengthening safety for First Nation communities and vulnerable women.
- As an example, the ministry is leading the development and implementation of an integrated community safety pilot project for Williams Lake and the surrounding First Nations communities to enhance public safety in the region.
- In addition, the ministry announced civil forfeiture grants in March to local crime prevention and remediation projects, focused on violence against women issues, restorative justice, youth gang and crime prevention and police training and equipment.

**Combat Illegal Firearms, Organised Crime and Extremism**

*Work with the federal government to advance initiatives to combat illegal firearms, organised crime and extremism.*

- We continue to engage the federal government on illegal guns, organized crime and extremism. Senior officials in the ministry continue to participate in federal/provincial/territorial working groups, advancing British Columbian concerns and interests.
- The federal government has similar concerns as BC. The Federal Minister of Public Safety's mandate letter includes an action item to strengthen controls on hand-guns and assault weapons. He is also tasked with the creation of an Office of the Community Outreach and Counter-radicalization Coordinator.

**Enhance Protection of Vulnerable Persons**

*Work with police, local and First Nations communities to enhance the protection of vulnerable persons with an emphasis on violence against women.*

- The Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy is our roadmap, 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 to date, including an annual investment of more than \$70 million for prevention and intervention services for victims of crime and the actions completed or underway on the major themes of Missing Women Commission of Inquiry's report.
- Our action started in 2015 with \$5 million in civil forfeiture funding to support anti-violence and prevention initiatives, with a priority focus on violence against women.
- We have also made an ongoing commitment to dedicate a portion of civil forfeiture funds to support the Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy in future years.
- Also, the *Missing Person Act* and associated regulation are completed. The missing person investigation standards will come into effect September 2016.

**Distracted Driving**

*Review and make recommendations to Cabinet on the potential of increasing fines in addition to driver demerit points for distracted driving offences.*

- Our goal is to have the safest roads in North America by 2020 and to this end we have taken significant steps to combat the problem of distracted driving.
- In 2010, a new offence and a fine of \$167 were established to prohibit drivers from using a handheld device to talk, email or text while driving. In 2014, we further toughened the penalty by adding three penalty points to the fine.
- Despite the clear dangers, evidence shows that distracted driving still remains a significant problem in BC.
- Following a public consultation process that resulted in 90% of respondents asking for higher fines -- we did just that.
- We raised the fines and made tougher penalties for those that continue to endanger themselves or others by engaging in deadly driving habits.

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE**

**Justice and Public Safety  
Transformation**

**Suggested Response:**

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE**

**Justice System Trends,  
Statistics and  
Performance Measures**

**Suggested Response:**

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<sup>4</sup> Source: BC Ministry of Justice, Court Services Branch.

## **2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE**

## **National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls**

### **Suggested Response:**

- The BC government takes the issue of violence against women very seriously, including the disproportionate levels of violence experienced by Indigenous women and girls.
- Our government supported the call for a national inquiry and we applaud the federal government's commitment to lead a national inquiry on missing and murdered Indigenous women.
- We welcome the opportunity to support and engage in this work as it moves forward.
- As the only province that has had experience with an Inquiry on this subject, we have shared the learnings and progress coming out of BC's Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, as well as any additional input we can provide on ways to improve safety for Indigenous women and girls.
- We will continue to work with the federal government on this important issue.

### **Background:**

- In December 2015, the federal government committed \$40 million over two years for a National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
- The first phase, the pre-inquiry engagement process, will determine the inquiry's objectives, focus and parameters, while the second phase will be the actual inquiry and is anticipated to commence in the summer of 2016.
- As part of the pre-inquiry process, which recently concluded, the federal government engaged directly with provinces and territories as well as Indigenous groups and communities, family members of missing and murdered women and others regarding the planning for the National Inquiry.
- To help inform the scope and design of the Inquiry, BC submitted a written response to the pre-inquiry engagement questions posed by the federal government. The response outlines experience from BC's Missing Women Commission of Inquiry. In addition it includes perspectives and feedback provided by Provincial ministries, municipal governments,

Indigenous partners and leadership, and families of missing and murdered Indigenous women in our province.

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## **2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE**

## **Missing Women Commission of Inquiry – Progress on Recommendations**

### **Suggested Response:**

- Since the release of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Report in December 2012, BC has made significant changes to improve the safety of vulnerable women in our province.
- Work is now substantively completed or underway on the major themes of the Report:
  - Compensation and Healing, including a compensation fund for children of the missing women;
  - Improvements to policing;
  - Safety for vulnerable women;
  - Supports in missing persons investigations, including new missing persons legislation; and
  - Increasing safety along Northern highways.
- Meaningful investment, collaboration, violence prevention work, improved policing practices and compensation to the children of the murdered and missing women are hallmarks of the actions we have taken.
- We are very clear that our work must not end and we remain committed to moving forward and continually improving the situation for vulnerable women in our province.

### 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 in missing persons investigations.
- We've focused our efforts on the recommendations that are action-oriented and we will continue to put in place structures and supports to help ensure something like this tragedy never happens again.

- Learnings from the Report have been integrated into the Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy, the Province's long term strategy to prevent, respond to, and rebuild from violence against women in BC.
- The Report also significantly influenced the direction of the BC Policing and Community Safety Plan, which outlines actions that will be taken over the next several years to improve public safety and guide policing reform and law enforcement in our province.

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 have focused specifically on those recommendations that are action-oriented.
- Other recommendations we won't pursue are being addressed through work currently underway on other related recommendations. 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 the Compensation Fund

- In April 2014, the Province, the Government of Canada, and the City of Vancouver established a fund to offer \$50,000 in compensation to each of the children of the women identified in the Report.
- To date, 87 of the 98 children of the missing/murdered women have been compensated.
- There are 6 individuals going through the compensation process.
- Efforts to locate and contact outstanding individuals continue to be made.
  - An Amendment to the Original Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the three parties (Province, federal government and the City of Vancouver) has extended the time limit for applications by two additional years. Eligible individuals now have until March 31, 2018, to apply for compensation.

- This extension provides additional time to locate remaining eligible individuals and process applications.

If asked about having released a final update report when working remains ongoing

- While we released a final official update report, our work continues.
- 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 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, and the recently released A Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy.
- Learnings from the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry have also been used to inform BC's feedback to the federal government during their pre-Inquiry engagement process on the scope and the design of the National Inquiry.
- We remain committed to moving forward and continually improving the situation for vulnerable women in our province.

If asked about the National Inquiry

- See Estimates Note CROSS 4 "National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls".

If asked about Transportation along Highway 16

- See Estimates Note CROSS 6 "Highway 16".

**Background:**

- The MWCI was established on September 27, 2010. It focused on police investigations conducted between January 23, 1997, and February 5, 2002, respecting women reported missing from the downtown eastside of Vancouver.
- On December 17, 2012, Forsaken – The Report of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry (MWCI Report) was released. The Report is approximately 1,500 pages and contains 65 recommendations.
- 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 MWCI was released. The Report details progress made on the report recommendations.

#### Additional Details on Work Underway

- Work is underway or completed on over 75 per cent of the recommendations. Actions include:
  - Establishment of a compensation fund, through a partnership between the BC government, the Government of Canada, and the City of Vancouver, to offer \$50,000 to the living, biological children of the women identified in the Report.
  - Passing legislation that will provide police with tools to help locate a missing person sooner. (*Missing Persons Act*).
  - Enhancing services for vulnerable women including funding for organizations delivering drop-in and outreach programs that serve vulnerable populations (e.g., \$750,000 in annual funding to WISH drop-in centre).
  - Integrating cultural competency core values throughout training curricula for police and developing a long-term plan for addressing other training recommendations related to bias-free policing and the treatment of vulnerable persons.
  - Provincial policing standards on missing persons' investigations were developed and will take effect September 2016.
  - Training victim support workers across BC to enhance supports to families of missing and murdered persons.
  - Development of a Real Time Intelligence Centre by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and municipal police partners to ensure information can be shared more readily and enhance the ability of police to investigate all crimes, including those of missing persons.
- The work on responding to the MWCI recommendations is still underway, and has been woven into larger government reform and change initiatives (e.g., A Vision for A Violence Free BC Strategy and BC Policing and Community Safety Plan).

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Highway 16****Suggested Response:**

- The Province recognizes the importance of continued effort to improve the safety of travel along northern routes, including Highway 16.
- The Province has been working for years on several fronts to support greater safety for women living in rural and remote areas of Northern BC, and this includes in communities along and near Highway 16.
- We provide \$2.5 million in ongoing annual funding for services and supports to victims of crime and women who have experienced violence in Northern BC. In addition, we fund 14 programs across BC specifically designed to serve Aboriginal victims of violence, as well as an additional eight programs run by Aboriginal organizations.
- In November 2015, BC's Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) and First Nations Health Authority co-hosted a transportation symposium with over 90 community partners to discuss transportation challenges and opportunities to improve services along the corridor from Prince Rupert to Prince George.
- In December 2015, MOTI announced a five-point action plan that resulted from the symposium:
  - \$1.6 million over two years for transit expansion;
  - \$750,000 over three years for a community transportation grant program to purchase and operate vehicles;
  - \$150,000 over three years for a First Nations driver education program;
  - \$500,000 over two years for highway infrastructure safety improvements including webcams and transit shelters; and
  - Collaboration to increase interconnectivity of services with BC Transit, Northern Health and others.
- Building on what we have already achieved, the Province remains committed to working with community partners to enhance the safety of vulnerable women and help achieve our goal of a violence free BC.

**Background:**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, \$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.
  - In March 2016, \$45,000 in grant funding was provided to Carrier Sekani to increase supports to families of missing and murdered persons linked to Highway 16, as well as to support activities of the Highway of Tears Awareness project.
- *Implementing practical, affordable and sustainable solutions to identified transportation challenges:*
  - A new comprehensive web-based portal was developed, which consolidates 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 was allocated to Carrier Sekani Family Services in 2015 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.

- *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:*
  - In response to the 2012 Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Report, the Ministry of Justice passed the *Missing Persons Act* in 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 million 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.

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Downtown Community Court****Suggested Response:**

- The Downtown Community Court (DCC) in Vancouver opened in 2008 to effectively manage offenders in Vancouver's downtown with an integrated response to their legal, social and health care needs.
- At its core, the DCC is about partnership and problem solving. It's about creating new relationships, both within the justice system and with health and social services, community organizations, area residents, merchants, faith communities and schools.
- These partners work together, not just to deal with the offence, but to treat the whole person and help break the cycle of crime.
- The DCC does not deal with a specific offender type and aims to deal with offenders more quickly through a more co-ordinated and informed response.
- The DCC brings together justice, health and social services in a one-stop model focused on:
  - improving timeliness of the criminal justice process, leading to early resolution of cases with fewer appearances and fewer people on bail or remand;
  - facilitating a problem-solving approach, helped by timely and accurate information about offenders, that address the underlying causes of crime;
  - sentencing that ensures reparation to the community whenever possible;
  - reducing the rate of re-offending by holding offenders accountable and helping offenders connect and stay connected with supportive services; and
  - reduction of crime in Vancouver.
- The DCC operates on the principle that collaborative case management can help offenders make long-term changes to their behaviour. It is a process that involves all community court staff.
- A comprehensive evaluation of the DCC released in 2014 found the court was successful in reducing recidivism for a subgroup of high needs offenders. DCC participants had almost twice the reduction of offences compared to similar offenders.
- Additional research is currently underway taking place to determine whether the improved outcomes identified in the evaluation extend to the entire DCC cohort.



**Background:**

- A comprehensive, three-part evaluation of the Downtown Community Court was completed in the fall of 2013. The evaluation addressed the court's efficiency, community engagement and impact on offender outcomes, specifically, changes in recidivism.
- As part of the evaluation, a research team from Simon Fraser University (SFU) examined the effectiveness of the DCC in reducing recidivism of the high-need offending group managed by the integrated Case Management Team.
- Offenders managed by the Team were compared against a similar group of accused persons who were processed through the traditional court system at the Vancouver Provincial Court at 222 Main Street.
- While both groups saw reductions, those in the Team had almost twice the reduction of offences. Those in the Team had an average reduction of 2.3 offences per person versus 1.35 per person in the comparison group, primarily in property crimes and breach offences.
- The DCC was implemented in September 2008. It has a designated intake area in Downtown Vancouver and hears all cases from this area where Crown counsel decides to proceed summarily. The DCC is a disposition court; therefore, any cases proceeding to trial are heard at the Vancouver Provincial Court at 222 Main Street.
- The DCC process varies depending on the individual circumstances and the severity of each case. A key objective with the majority of offenders is to process their court cases in an efficient manner that is timelier and requires fewer appearances than traditional court.
- With assistance from community and business organizations, the court is a partnership among justice, social and health agencies, and the provincial court judiciary. Community Corrections is a partner and probation officers work as members of Case Management Teams providing services.
- The Teams provide assertive case management to offenders who reside in the catchment area. There are two integrated teams that include probation officers, health care clinicians, including a registered nurse, a licensed practical nurse, an occupational therapist, and a social worker.
- The teams are supported by two income assistance workers, a Vancouver Police Officer, an Aboriginal case worker and a BC Housing worker.

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Medical Marijuana  
Dispensaries****Suggested Response:**

- In Canada, the possession of marijuana falls under federal legislation and it is prohibited under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, though there are exceptions for medicinal use.
- Marijuana dispensaries however, including those that purport to be supplying medical marijuana are illegal under federal law. This includes product dispensed to licenced medical users under the new *Marijuana for Medical Purposes Regulation* where the distribution system requires that the product be sent through the mail or other method of shipping.
- As with any business licensed by a municipal authority, marijuana-related businesses including dispensaries can be covered by municipal bylaws. If medical marijuana businesses are operating contrary to a municipal bylaw, it is up to the municipality to deal with any contravention.
- If medical marijuana businesses are operating contrary to the federal *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, that is a matter for the police.

**Background:**

- Health Canada is responsible for managing the federal Medical Marijuana Access Program, including the legislation which governs the distribution of and access to medical marijuana under both the *Medical Marijuana Access Regulation* (MMAR) and *Marijuana for Medical Purposes Regulation* (MMPR).
- On March 31, 2014, the Medical Marijuana Access Regulation was due to be repealed to complete the transition to the new Marijuana for Medicinal Purposes Regulation, thus ending all personal use and designated personal production licences. However, an injunction was granted on the repeal of the Medical Marijuana Access Regulation 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.
- The Marijuana for Medicinal Purposes Regulation, which includes a new supply and distribution system of licensed commercial producers, requires that the product be dispensed to licenced users through the mail or other method of shipping, not through store front operations.

- Awareness has been raised in the media regarding the proliferation of marijuana related businesses in the City of Vancouver. In an April 29, 2015, media release the Vancouver Police Department stated their focus is on violent drug traffickers and those who prey on youth and marginalized individuals in their community. They acknowledged that marijuana dispensaries are illegal and stated that they “will continue to respond to concerns and take incremental steps to decide if further investigation or enforcement is required.”
- In June 2015, the City of Vancouver unanimously passed a bylaw for the regulation of marijuana dispensaries within their municipal boundaries. The City of Victoria has been monitoring the progress of Vancouver’s plans for regulation with the intention of taking a similar approach.
- At the time the bylaw was passed, the then Federal Minister of Health, Rona Ambrose, opposed Vancouver’s proposed bylaw by sending letters to Vancouver’s mayor and city councillors warning them that marijuana is illegal and that the bylaw will increase marijuana use and addiction. After the bylaw was passed, the Federal Minister issued a statement saying that “storefronts selling marijuana are illegal” and that she expects the police to enforce the law.
- The City of Vancouver has recently taken steps to stem the growth of dispensaries in the city. The Vancouver Board of Variance has indicated that no more permits for marijuana-related businesses will be reviewed until the appeals from the 62 denied 2015 permit applications for Medical Marijuana-related Uses have been heard. The hearings are scheduled through mid-November 2016.
- Vancouver Police Department Chief Palmer has stated publicly that marijuana dispensaries are illegal, but that their enforcement response is based on extent of the public safety concern and complaints related to those businesses. On January 18, 2016, the Vancouver Police Board echoed this position in its response to calls from the Office of the Police Complaints Commissioner to initiate a changed police response to dispensaries in the city.
- In August 2015, Health Canada announced that they are moving away from a complaint based approach to respond to illegal promotion and advertising of marijuana to a more proactive monitoring regime. The federal department will issue compliance letters in those cases where violations are identified.
- Letters to non-compliant marijuana dispensaries have been sent out by Health Canada, including to some businesses operating in Vancouver and Victoria. In the letter, the businesses were advised to stop “all activities with controlled substances” immediately and submit a written statement confirming this action by September 21, 2015. Health Canada has confirmed that continued non-compliance with the federal legislation may result in a referral to law enforcement agencies.

- To ensure compliance with the federal legislation, Health Canada will be monitoring print, radio and television advertising and will also monitor web sites of marijuana related businesses, including dispensaries, to identify any illegal advertising.
- In December 2015, after receiving several public complaints about illegal marijuana storefronts, Nanaimo RCMP executed search warrants at three marijuana dispensaries, three weeks after issuing warnings to eleven dispensaries that they had seven days to stop selling marijuana and its derivatives or employees and patrons could be subject to arrest and seizure of offence related property. While charges were laid against some of the dispensary staff, business has largely continued at the identified dispensaries.

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Marijuana Legalization****Suggested Response:**

- The federal government has committed to remove marijuana consumption and incidental possession from the Criminal Code and create new, stronger laws to punish more severely those who provide it to minors, those who operate a motor vehicle while under its influence and those who sell it outside of a new regulatory framework.
- MP Bill Blair, Parliamentary Secretary to the federal Minister of Justice, has been appointed to head a federal/provincial/territorial task force tasked with soliciting input from the provinces and territories to design a regulated sales and distribution system for marijuana.
- The legislative responsibility for controlled drugs and substances, including marijuana, lies with the federal government, responsibility for enforcement rests with police. Until Canadian law is changed, the production, sale, and use of marijuana is illegal, and our police have a responsibility to enforce the *Criminal Code* of Canada. However, a change in the legal status of marijuana will have an impact on the RCMP and independent police departments and their day-to-day operations.

**Background:**

- While the federal government has not yet announced any specific details or timelines to proceed with the legalization of marijuana, the Policing and Security Branch will be establishing an inter-ministry committee and leading efforts to identify issues of concern for BC.
- The mandate of this inter-ministry committee is to identify issues of concern in relation to the federal government's intention to legalize, regulate and restrict access to marijuana in Canada. The work of this committee will be used as the Province of British Columbia's contribution to the federal/provincial/territorial (FPT) task force that will be taking input from experts in public health, substance use and law enforcement, to design a new regulated sales and distribution system, with federal and provincial excise taxes.
- The committee members will lead their ministry specific analysis and support work in the identifying the public health, social issues, police enforcement, public safety, and legislative, regulatory and financial implications of marijuana legalization.
- In addition, in support of understanding the potential public safety and law enforcement impacts of marijuana legalization, the Policing and Security Branch will lead a delegation of law enforcement and public safety officials to Washington State to meet with officials in

that jurisdiction to learn from that state's experiences. Marijuana was decriminalized for recreational purposes in Washington State in November 2012.

- This joint session will be convened in February 2016 and will focus on how the legalization and regulation of marijuana in Washington State has impacted public safety and law enforcement in that state.
- In some jurisdictions that have legalized and regulated marijuana sales, there has been an associated increase in tax revenues related to the sales.
- A 2016 report from CIBC World Markets states that Canada's federal and provincial governments could reap as much as \$5 billion annually in tax revenues from the sale of legal marijuana. This figure does not account for increased costs of administration and enforcement related to the regulatory scheme, or the costs associated with the health, social and public education required in response to the expanded use of the drug. Moreover, in the absence of a proposed federal regulatory model, it is impossible to assess the anticipated financial impact to the Province.

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## 2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE

## UBCM \$5 Million Community Safety Commitment

### Suggested Response:

- Ongoing issues related to public safety, especially in the Lower Mainland, continue to remain a concern.
- Enhancing community safety is a priority for the ministry. We want to make sure communities feel safe, families are safe, and criminals are apprehended.
- In recent years, the ministry has initiated a number of reports that focus on enhancing community safety and further reducing crime and violence in BC:
  - A Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy: Addressing Violence Against Women in British Columbia (2015);
  - Getting Serious About Crime Reduction: Report of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Crime Reduction (2014); and
  - British Columbia Policing and Community Safety Plan (2013).
- These reports are now guiding the ministry's actions on a number of fronts including the investment of \$5 million in community safety announced by the Premier last September at the annual UBCM conference.
- The targeted investment of \$5 million over two years will focus on three main areas:
  - Targeting prolific, violent and gang-affiliated offenders;
  - Getting tough on the roots of crime through education and outreach; and,
  - Strengthening safety for First Nation communities and vulnerable women.
- Initiatives will address the spectrum of responses to enhance community safety including:
  - **preventing** crime before it starts;
  - **intervening** in cases where we can make a difference for those impacted by crime and violence; and,
  - undertaking strong **enforcement action** where necessary to ensure that violent offenders are brought to justice.



- In March 2016, the ministry provided over \$7.3 million in civil and criminal forfeiture grant funding to support community safety priorities. Through these grants nearly \$2 million of the \$5 million that was promised at September's UBCM meeting has been provided and is targeting gangs, the roots of crime, and the safety of First Nations communities.
- The recently announced \$23 million enhancement to the Guns and Gangs Strategies builds on the UBCM commitment and includes further initiatives directly targeting guns, gangs and crime reduction.

**Background:**

- The \$5 million in funding is new, one-time funding over two years (2015/16 and 2016/17).

**Youth Gang Crime Prevention Projects (2015/16)**

- In March 2016 the ministry provided \$1 million in civil and criminal forfeiture funding to support 10 gang prevention and intervention projects that target at-risk youth. These projects build on the success of multi-year youth gang prevention projects funded through civil forfeiture funds in 2012 and take into consideration existing youth gang and crime prevention funding in BC at both the federal and provincial levels.
- Communities and projects supported through this funding are identified as priority communities in collaboration with municipalities and police partners. Communities targeted either have existing youth gang problems or have been identified as having a population of youth at-risk for gang involvement.
- Supported communities include Abbotsford, Surrey, Vancouver, Richmond, Burnaby, Kelowna, Greater Victoria, and Prince George/Vanderhoof.
- In addition, over \$950,000 was provided to support over 50 smaller, community-driven youth crime prevention projects.

**Domestic Violence Units (2015/16 and 2016/17)**

- To support vulnerable women at risk of serious bodily harm or death and make further progress on the commitments laid out in the Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy, the ministry is pursuing the development of two additional domestic violence units (DVUs) to complement existing DVUs in Vancouver, Abbotsford, Surrey, New Westminster, Greater Victoria, Nanaimo and Kelowna.
- DVUs are one of several models of system response to highest risk domestic violence cases and are typically best suited to communities with a larger population and a workload that merits day-to-day co-location of partners.

- This year, the Ministry provided over \$650,000 in grant funding to support existing Units, as well as the development of two (2) new Units in Prince George and the North Shore (serving North Vancouver and West Vancouver).
- See Estimates Note CSCP 8 Domestic Violence Units for additional information.

#### Williams Lake Integrated Community Safety Initiative (2016/17)

- The ministry is leading the development and implementation of an Integrated Community Safety Initiative for the Cariboo-Chilcotin region including Williams Lake and the surrounding First Nations communities to enhance public safety in the region.
- See Estimates Note CROSS 12 Integrated Community Safety Initiative – Williams Lake and Region for additional information.

#### **INFORMATION BELOW IS NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE AT THIS TIME**

#### Gang Exiting and Outreach Pilot Project (2016/17)

- As part of the \$5 million targeted investment in community safety, the province is exploring the development of a gang exiting and outreach pilot program in the Lower Mainland in collaboration with the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – BC (CFSEU-BC) and other partners.
- Modelled after similar initiatives in Canada and the United States, the pilot program would adopt an integrated case management approach to providing exiting supports to adult gang members (18 years of age and older) while also providing outreach to gang member's family, friends and communities to support gang education, prevention and exiting.
- BC has a strong, strategic foundation for gang prevention and law enforcement/suppression to complement the development of a gang exiting and outreach program.

#### Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority Plans (2016/17)

- To support targeting prolific, violent and gang-affiliated offenders the ministry will invest funds in fiscal 2016/17 to increase support for the RCMP's Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority (PTEP) plans. As these funds would be administered through the Provincial Police Services Agreement, an additional 30% federal contribution will be applied to any provincial investment.
- In 2010, the collection and management of gang intelligence was moved into the newly created Provincial Intelligence Centre to align with other intelligence-gathering bodies in BC. A program audit subsequently identified the need for a PTEP targeting model with a structured accountability framework. The development and implementation of the PTEP became a CFSEU-BC priority strategic project. In 2013, the CFSEU-BC began coordinating the implementation of the PTEP, a first in Canada.

- PTEP is a defensible and predictive targeting process that has modernized and integrated municipal, provincial, and federal intelligence and target prioritization systems, and has shared the responsibility for combatting gang violence across policing units and partner agencies. This intelligence-led process is the first in Canada to drive operations, tackling area-specific issues while also meeting province-wide challenges.
- Funding for this initiative will support investigations of PTEP Targets overseen through the CFSEU-BC operation planning approval process.

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Integrated Community  
Safety Initiative –  
Williams Lake and Region****Suggested Response:**

- This government is committed to public safety and to continuing to drive down crime.
- So to further tackle crime in BC, the ministry is leading the development and implementation of an Integrated Community Safety Initiative for Williams Lake and the surrounding First Nations communities to enhance public safety in the Cariboo-Chilcotin region.
- This project is part of a targeted \$5 million investment in enhancing community safety announced by the Premier last September at the annual UBCM conference.
- Based on initial conversations in November, December and March 2016 with key stakeholders, including the Mayor, First Nations leaders and others, the project team identified a number of activities to support the project as well as a governance structure to facilitate implementation.
- To ensure local ownership, a Steering Committee is being established to participate in the selection of a project coordinator to oversee the project's implementation and provide input on proposed activities.
- An initial Steering Committee meeting took place on April 12, 2016, with a select group of key stakeholders to discuss governance options for the initiative; this group included representations from local First Nations, the City of Williams Lake, Williams Lake RCMP, justice partners and community social service agencies.
- While the specific activities of the project will be up to the Steering Committee to sign off on, the ministry presented three key themes to be addressed based on feedback from the community:
  - Enhanced Regional Collaboration
  - Training and Community Capacity Building
  - Enhanced Programs and Services
- The community is in strong agreement with the assessment of the key themes, and that the Initiative should be regionally focused and be inclusive of First Nation communities and Williams Lake, while focusing on prevention and intervention activities.

- The next Steering Committee meeting will be held in mid-May to further discuss the project as well as the selection of a project coordinator. A follow-up Steering Committee meeting has also been scheduled for May 25, 2016.

**Background:**

- The Integrated Community Safety Initiative is part of the targeted \$5 million investment over two years (2015/16 and 2016/17) the Premier announced last September at UBCM to address three priority areas:
  - Targeting prolific, violent and gang-affiliated offenders;
  - Getting tough on the roots of crime through education and outreach; and
  - Strengthening safety for First Nation communities and vulnerable women.
- As part of the announcement, the Province committed to launching a regional, integrated community safety pilot project that would prioritize community safety goals, focus resources and programs accordingly and measure and evaluate the outcomes.
- The project team is in consultation with Simon Fraser University on the development of an evaluation framework.
- The development of an integrated community safety pilot was a recommendation of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Crime Reduction.
- A letter was sent to community leaders in late November 2015 to introduce the project and invite meetings with the project team.
- The project team organized meetings November 30, 2015, December 1, 2, and 15, 2015 in the region with key stakeholders including Mayor Cobb, Chief Alphonse, Chief Belleau, MLA Donna Barnett, and representatives from local police and community service organizations.
- There are 17 First Nations communities in the region represented by three Tribal Councils (Tsilhqot'in National Government, Northern Shuswap, and Carrier-Chilcotin).

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Estimates 2016/17 Briefing Book**

**Corrections Branch  
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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Electronic Supervision****Suggested Response:**

- BC Corrections has now fully implemented the new Electronic Supervision program, which uses equipment to electronically monitor clients with court-ordered conditions in the community.
- The new technology utilizes GPS, cellular and radio frequency to monitor offender's compliance with curfews and/or geographic restrictions such as 'no go zones'.
- This technology is most suitable for high-risk offenders who need intensive supervision due to a substantial concern they will commit a serious, violent or sexual offence.
- We currently have 40 clients that the court has placed on electronic supervision – most of whom transitioned from the old program to the new technology.
- Of those 40, there are about 24 offenders that have an elevated level of risk. Six of those are considered the 'highest of the high'.
- It is too early to say how many people will be monitored with this technology, as it will take some time to see how many suitable offenders are placed on electronic supervision by the courts.
- Adding this new technology builds on other supervision tools, such as risk and needs assessments, home visits, curfew checks, public notifications and programming.
- GPS technology is not fool-proof. Specifically, it only works if the client has not removed the device and GPS data is only received when a client is in cellular range.
- Although it's difficult to stop someone who's determined to commit an offence, we won't stop reviewing our practices, policies and programs to make BC the safest place we possibly can.

**Background:**

- The new system includes GPS capabilities, vibration alerts sent to the client, collection of client location information, and increased monitoring, mapping and reporting capabilities.
- The devices use GPS and cellular technology to track a client's location, and there are areas in the province where GPS and cellular coverage is not available. However, if the GPS and cellular signal is lost, an alarm is activated and an investigation is initiated.

- The annual cost of the previous electronic supervision program to monitor approximately 50 clients was approximately \$1 million per year, with \$463,000 dedicated to contract costs and the remaining amount covering staff and operating costs of the Central Monitoring Unit.
- The new program will allow for 100 clients to be monitored at a total cost of \$700,000 per year, with \$300,000 dedicated to contract costs and \$400,000 dedicated to staffing and operating the Central Monitoring Unit.
- The Central Monitoring Unit currently has five full-time staff, all probation officers, who operate 24/7 to monitor clients on electronic supervision.
- We understand that the enhanced capabilities of the new system may have an impact on workload for staff. In response, we have been tracking the amount of time required to monitor offenders under this new system, compared to the old, to ensure that we have the appropriate staffing levels in place.
- The ability of police to respond to after-hours alarms indicating an offender has entered a no-go zone will be based on available police resources.
- Given that there is no cap on the number of clients who can be supervised on this technology, the total cost of the program may increase depending on how many offenders are placed on electronic supervision by the courts.
- The branch keeps a total of 150 extra client monitoring devices on hand in addition to the current number of devices in use.
- The devices have a rechargeable battery within their protective housing and clients must attach a wearable recharger to the device. Recharging once a day for an hour is recommended. Monitoring staff also receive alerts when battery life is reaching a certain threshold, allowing staff to reach out to the offender to remind them to recharge the device.
- While Buddi Ltd. is based in the UK, all client information and data will be stored in Canada.
- Buddi Ltd. has a history in jurisdictions world-wide delivering electronic supervision technology to the public safety field, including in Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, Ireland and the UK.
- The new contract runs for the next three years with options for extension upon mutual agreement.



- On any given day in FY 15/16, there was an average of 44 persons on electronic monitoring.
- The table below provides the average daily number of clients in BC under electronic supervision over the past seven fiscal years.

	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
Clients Daily Average	172	146	119	82	75	52	44

- Since 2009, the number of electronic supervision cases has declined, though no studies have been conducted to determine why. This may be due to 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.

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Sex Offenders Supervision  
in the Community****Suggested Response:**

- The Corrections Branch works closely with community and law enforcement partners to monitor offenders returning to the community and minimize the risk to the public.
- Depending on the risk level of offenders, various types of coordinated supervision strategies are used, such as supervised escorts in the community, residing in a home with 24 hour staffing, home visits, electronic supervision, curfews and other methods, to ensure offenders are meeting their court-ordered conditions.
- Corrections assesses their risk and needs, and manages offenders based on their assessed risk which is consistently reviewed throughout the term of supervision.
- Essentially, the higher the risk, the higher the focus is on their supervision.
  - However it's important to understand that Corrections can only monitor and enforce the conditions set by the court.
  - Corrections has no legal authority, nor does any other law enforcement agency or public body, to tell offenders in which community they can or cannot reside after their sentence is complete, only the courts have that authority.
  - However, probation officers have the authority to approve a specific residence when the court orders a condition that specifies the residence must be approved by the officer.
  - In those cases, probation officers ensure that the residence meets all of the offender's court-ordered conditions such as no contact with those under a certain age or limitations to nearby schools and playgrounds.
- Offenders access individual and group programs led by registered psychologists from Forensic Psychiatric Services. These clinicians coordinate with probation officers to monitor the offender's participation and progress.
- Upon completion of sex offender treatment, offenders access the Sex Offender Maintenance programming delivered by trained probation staff. This program works to reinforce the skills learned during the treatment program and is ongoing.
- Corrections has delivered sex offender programming in this manner and in coordination with Forensic Psychiatric Services for more than a decade.

- When an offender fails to participate in court-ordered treatment, an investigation is conducted and, if necessary, breach charges are recommended.
- Corrections chairs the High Risk Recognizance Advisory Committee, a multi-justice agency committee that recommends 810 recognizance orders and conditions for offenders who are released from custody and continue to pose a high risk to reoffend.
- Once the court places an offender on an 810 recognizance, the police and Corrections work closely to supervise the offender and enforce the conditions of the order.

**Background:**

- Risk/needs assessment is a continuous process that commences at first contact with the offender. It remains a priority throughout the involvement of Community Corrections and ultimately guides case management.
- Community Corrections policy defines timelines for completing these risk assessments. All initial assessments are completed within 60 days and must be updated when the offender's circumstances change and at minimum, every six months.
- As required by policy, a case management plan must also be completed within 60 days of the offender first reporting. Case management plans respond to risk and needs identified in the assessment with the goal of mitigating the risk to reoffend.
- A referral to Forensic Psychiatric Services for sex offender treatment is initiated within one month of the offender first reporting (for those designated as sex offenders). The probation officer receives regular updates on treatment progress and receives a final written summary which outlines risk mitigation, including internal and external controls. As part of case management, probation officers engage with collateral contacts, including close and ongoing collaboration with the local police agency, to coordinate supervision and enforcement of court-ordered conditions.
- Home visits occur on all sex offenders throughout their term of supervision regardless of whether or not there is authority to approve an offender's residence. Frequency of the home visits is determined by the offender's risk.
- The probation officer makes every effort to contact victims and others protected by the court order to explain the protective conditions, the process to report breaches, and to advise of available community and victim supports.

- The Branch pursues notification to an individual, group, community or the province in its entirety when a sex offender's risk cannot be managed through other means.

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#### Key Statistics

- On any given day in fiscal year 2015/16, sexual offenders comprised 11% of sentenced community offenders (1,486) and 12% of bail clients under supervision (933).
- Between fiscal years 2010/11 and 2015/16, the number of sentenced sex offenders under community supervision increased by 15% (192 offenders) and the number of bail clients increased by 21% (161 accused).
- On any given day in fiscal year 2015/16, 16% of the average daily count in BC correctional centres involved sexual offences (248 remand and 180 sentenced).
- 36% of all sentenced sex offenders under community supervision are assessed as high risk to reoffend; 27% are assessed as medium risk to reoffend; 26% are assessed as low risk to reoffend; 10% are awaiting and/or undergoing risk assessment.
- In 2015/16, the average length of supervision in the community for sexual offenders on bail was 315 days. The average length of supervision in the community for sentenced sexual offenders was 622 days.
- In 2015/16, the average length of stay in custody for sexual offenders on remand was 41 days. The average length of stay in custody for sentenced sexual offenders was 66 days.

Daily average sex offender counts for fiscal year 2014/15

<b>Incarcerated</b>	<b>Sex Offenders</b>	<b>% of Custody Count</b>
<b>Remand</b>	248	19%
<b>Custody Sentence</b>	180	7%
<b>Community Supervision</b>	<b>Sex Offenders</b>	<b>% of Community Caseload</b>
<b>Bail</b>	933	12%
<b>Community Sentence</b>	1,486	11%

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Auditor General's Report  
on Adult Custody****Suggested Response:**

- On April 29, 2015, the Corrections Branch responded to the Auditor General's report in front of the Public Accounts Committee.
- We've accepted all eight of the Auditor General's recommendations and we are 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, the Auditor General recognized that 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 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 fall 2016.
- As well, we recognize there's more we can do to prepare inmates for release and to prevent reoffending. That is why we've committed to working more closely with post-secondary institutions on job training for inmates while they're incarcerated.
- 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 has:

- Launched a new strategic plan with defined outcomes
- Re-structured committees with terms of reference which:
  - provide a framework for performance management;
  - link committees to Strategic Plan action items and report recommendations;
  - identify specific performance measures for each committee; and
  - used existing key indicators to guide our decision making process.

They are in the process of:

- Developing new key indicators to measure performance; and
- Consulting with national and international correctional jurisdictions to determine best practices related to occupancy levels.

**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.

The Adult Custody Division has:

- Activated an executive electronic dashboard of incident based key indicators; and
- Established a provincial Workplace Safety committee to focus on these issues across correctional centres and recommend and implement changes to work practices, policies and training.

They are:

- Continuing to conduct regular reviews of unsafe conditions across correctional centres and use the results to reduce the risk of reoccurrence.

**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.

BC Corrections has:

- Validated and monitored our long-term forecasting methods with outside agencies, such as BC Stats and Simon Fraser University;
- Focused the Simon Fraser University work on simulation modeling to forecast the number and complexity of the inmate population. These forecasting outcomes will better define facility space and program needs; and
- Enhanced our short-term forecasting methodology. As a result, we ended FY2014/15 within 2% of our forecasted count.

They will:

- Review the outcomes of the Simon Fraser University simulation modeling after 12 and 18 months and incorporate results to better define facility space and program needs.

**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.).

The Adult Custody Division has:

- Established sub-committees that are tasked with utilizing and designating facility and program space to address the demands, needs and characteristics of the inmate population; and
- Designed Okanagan Correctional Centre to include program and flexible use space to meet the changing characteristics of the inmate population. Examples include: gender, complex needs, health care, indoor & outdoor programming, classification and legal status.

They are:

- Reviewing and implementing approved recommendations of the sub-committees; and
- Reviewing the complex nature of the historical inmate population and extract business intelligence that will help guide decisions regarding facility space and programs.

**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 has:

- Based our programs on the validated principles of Risk Needs Responsivity; and
- Continued to evaluate and improve Adult Custody programs designed to reduce reoffending. Examples of successful programs include:
  - Violence Prevention Program: 35% reduction in reoffending; and
  - Integrated Offender Management Program: 48% reduction in reoffending.

They are:

- Continuing to assess the effectiveness of all cognitive behaviour programs intended to reduce reoffending; and
- Strengthening 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 has:

- Begun work on the “One-Client Case Management” initiative which will result in an enhanced case management approach, a governance structure and information management system;
- Implemented an electronic Inmate Assessment tool that leverages existing systems to provide structure and consistency to inmate classification;
- Revised the Inmate Needs Assessment guidelines and training; and
- Completed a business plan that will inform the design of a case management quality assurance system

They are:

- Developing a “One-Client Case Management” framework and governance model;
- Refining our inspections process to enhance quality assurance; and
- Monitoring the results of the key performance indicators to focus quality assurance activities.

**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 has:

- Followed the Correction Act Regulation.

They will:

- Continue to review and monitor the impact of housing sentenced and non-sentenced inmates together.

**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.

BC Corrections has:

- Begun work on the “One-Client Case Management” initiative which will result in an enhanced case management approach, a governance structure and information management system; and
- Completed a business plan that will inform the design of a case management quality assurance system.

They will:

- Develop a road map to implement the “One-Client Case Management” framework which will improve the link between risk assessment, case management and access to programs; and
- Review and refine the assessment tools used to identify programs for offenders.

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Parliamentary Secretary  
Report on Corrections****Suggested Response:**

- My focus is on Parliamentary Secretary Throness' final report and how we can further safety in our correctional centres.
- Mr. Throness consulted corrections officials and stakeholders, and delivered a report on BC's correctional system that will help to guide our actions.
- Mr. Throness' final report was pointed, direct and completely fulfilled his mandate in recommending concrete actions we can take to reduce violence in our correctional facilities.
- The early draft of the report that has recently been released was severed in accordance with freedom of information legislation, which is clear about what can and cannot be released.
- It's important to recognize that Freedom of Information requests are processed by professional public servants who take the responsibility of applying the legislation's provisions very seriously.
- Mr. Throness worked closely with the Corrections Branch, as ministry advice was critical to ensuring his final recommendations were realistic, met the terms of reference and did not fall outside of the Province's scope of authority.

**Work on the Report's Recommendations:**

- Work on all of the recommendations related to safety in correctional centres is well underway, with the goal of full implementation in 2018.
- As part of this, per his current mandate, Parliamentary Secretary Throness is focusing on better preparing and supporting inmates before and after they're released, in particular, by strengthening training, job readiness and employment opportunities.
- In particular, three key projects are underway to address Throness' recommendations on improving inmates work opportunities:
  - Working with the Social Enterprise and Employment Development to set up a social enterprise corporation to provide more work opportunities within correctional centres.
  - Increasing job-readiness and employment opportunities for inmates by expanding opportunities for certifiable trades training for inmates in correctional centres.

- Creating an initiative for Community Corrections clients to enhance job-readiness and employment opportunities for community corrections clients by leveraging the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training's SkillsBC programs, along with the Skilled Trades Employment Program.
- Corrections also recently completed a pilot program with Thompson Rivers University (TRU) to deliver Construction Craft Worker training to inmates at Kamloops Regional Correctional Centre. Upon release, the inmates will be qualified for entry-level work in construction and possible apprenticeships.
- 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, 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.

#### Violence in Jails:

- While we know we cannot eliminate violence entirely, reducing it and maximizing the safety of our staff and inmates is a top-of-mind priority for Corrections.
- As Mr. Throness acknowledged, he found "that Corrections [BC] now takes a risk-based approach when deciding how to allocate staff" in correctional centres.
- The number of staff to inmates does vary – in fact, in special units there can be as many as one staff to every 10 inmates – but that doesn't tell the whole story.
- The Corrections staffing model is based on flexibility and movement.
- Officers in living units are supported at all times by others rotating regularly on and off the units, by program staff and supervisors visiting on a frequent, unscheduled basis, by technology, and by staff in the control room who are like an eye in the sky at all times.

#### **Background:**

- Between late-July and mid-September 2013, Parliamentary Secretary 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. (Please see Appendix A “Standing Against Violence: A Safety Review of BC Correction” for a complete list of the report’s recommendations and action taken and/or planned)

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Female Remands –  
Vancouver Island****Suggested Response:**

- 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 in Maple Ridge, 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.
- That said, our goal is for individuals to stay in police cells for as short a time as possible, prior to being transferred.
- Corrections, 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.
- In FY 2015/16, female inmates made 2,241 video court appearances from a correctional centre, which minimized the impact of having to stay in police lock-ups. This represents a 28% increase since FY 2010/11 when only 1,748 video court appearances were made by female inmates.
- On average, there is less than one Corrections adult female inmate held in the Victoria Police Department lock-up per day, representing an annual cost to Corrections of approximately \$20,000.
- Corrections continues to collaborate with Court Services and Police Services to look for mutual solutions where they may be needed.

**Background:**

- Corrections 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 FY 2015/16, there were 220 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.
- Similarly, there were 231 admissions in fiscal 2014/15.
- For context, in fiscal 2014/15, there were 18 instances of females being housed at the Victoria Police Department for more than 36 hours, over weekends. Eight of these 18 instances occurred on long weekends.
- In fiscal 2014/15, there were no trials lasting more than two days<sup>1</sup> involving an in-custody female.
- 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Statistics provided by Court Services.

**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Okanagan Correctional  
Centre****Suggested Response:**

- The Okanagan Correctional Centre is under construction and will be completed in September 2016. It will be a state-of-the-art, high-security centre with 11 living units and 378 cells.
- The project will be completed on time and on budget, and provide a boost to the local economy by creating family-supporting jobs. Approximately 1,000 direct and indirect jobs have been created during construction.
- The Centre will employ 240 new, full-time correctional positions. Corrections has held information sessions for over 1,000 individuals that are interested in becoming correctional officers.
- The Centre will provide much-needed capacity in the region and across the province, and reduce the cost of transporting inmates to and from court.

**Background:**

- Construction of the Centre will cost \$193 million. The total capital cost of the facility will be approximately \$220 million.
- The project will be delivered as a public-private partnership. The private partner, Plenary Justice, is responsible for the design and construction of the facility, partially financing it, and maintaining the facility for a 30-year term.
- The use of the P3 model was selected based on analysis that demonstrated significantly more value-for-money than other procurement approaches – greater than 12%.
- The facility will achieve LEED Gold certification for environmental design and operation, aligning with the BC government's commitment to green and energy efficient buildings.

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Inmate Counts and  
Capacity Pressures****Suggested Response:**

- On any given day in 2015/16 there was an average of 2,652 inmates in our provincial correctional centres – a rise of 10 per cent over last year.
- The Adult Custody Division continues to face capacity pressures.
- Remand counts continue to climb, increasing 10% from 2013/14 to 2014/15 and a further 19% from 2014/15 to 2015/16 (see table below). The 2015/16 sentenced counts have stabilized, but are projected to increase over the next few years.
- On April 1, 2016, capacity (ratio of inmates to cells) was 138%. This means, 62% of cells held one inmate, and 38% of cells were housed two inmates.
- The Branch has been acting on the need for new cells for nearly a decade and this important investment will continue.

**If asked about staffing levels**

- To say only one officer will be supervising any given number of inmates is not providing a complete picture.
- The Corrections staffing model is based on flexibility and movement. Officers in living units are supported by other staff throughout the centre.
- 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.
- Corrections houses inmates in appropriate living units and the number of staff on those units is set accordingly. In fact, in special units, the number of inmates to staff can be as low as 10 to 1.
- Incidents involving violence can and do occur even on units with the lowest number of inmates per staff member. This is a reflection of a changing inmate profile which includes a significant number of individuals with mental health needs and substance abuse issues.

**If asked about Surrey Pretrial Services Centre or Okanagan Correctional Centre holding 60 or 72 inmates per unit**

- To say the Okanagan Correctional Centre living units will hold 72 inmates with only one supervising staff is inaccurate and misleading.

- Officers in living units are supported by multiple layers of supervision and surveillance at all times by:
  - Other staff who rotate regularly on and off units;
  - Program staff and supervisors' frequent, unscheduled visits; and
  - Control room staff and technology, such as CCTV cameras and personal alarms allowing staff to call for help within seconds.
- This staffing model has been in place in BC for three decades.
- Correctional centres are state-of-the-art buildings that have improved safety features that are integral to the new design including better sight lines and better use of technology.
- Under very rare circumstances would all 36 cells in a living unit be at maximum capacity holding 72 inmates.
- Remember, currently 37% of our current cells are double-bunked – the rest have only one inmate.
- Once the Okanagan Correctional Centre is operational, it will increase our cell capacity by 378 cells, thereby reducing double-bunking across the province.
- At Surrey Pretrial, when the new expansion opened – adding 216 additional cells and doubling of the inmate population – four of the older units were set aside as part of a long-term plan to meet the needs of our changing inmate population.
- We are exploring ways to open these as Complex Needs Units to house and support inmates with mental health and addictions needs.
- This is a model that we have successfully deployed at Alouette Correctional Centre of Women and we continue to look for ways to expand it at other centres.

If asked about triple-bunking

- Corrections does not triple-bunk inmates.
- Prior to the capital expansion plan that began in 2008, Corrections would only triple-bunk inmates on rare, temporary and short-term occasions and only when absolutely necessary.

**Background:**

<b>Average Daily Inmate Count</b>	<b>Remand</b>	<b>Sentenced</b>	<b>Remand &amp; Sentenced</b>	<b>Immigration Hold</b>	<b>Waiting for transfer to CSC</b>	<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>
FY2008-2009	1,440	1,198	103	29	34	2,804
FY2009-2010	1,417	1,164	88	44	28	2,741
FY2010-2011	1,364	1,166	91	172	24	2,816
FY2011-2012	1,303	1,175	93	37	24	2,632
FY2012-2013	1,211	1,152	79	28	25	2,495
FY2013-2014	1,173	1,125	79	25	23	2,425
FY2014-2015	1,288	989	73	28	23	2,403
FY2015-2016	1529	989	82	24	26	2,652

- Current capacity levels are manageable, but not sustainable.
- Corrections has been acting on the need for new cells for nearly a decade and this important investment will continue.
- Government's Capital Asset Management Plan (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 the Capital Asset Management Plan Phase Two was approved in December 2012. This was for 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.
- 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, a higher staffing ratio and staff training. This is a reflection of a changing inmate profile

<sup>1</sup> Total includes a handful of inmates in transition when count is complete and at that time have not been identified with a legal hold status.

which includes a significant number of individuals with mental health needs and substance abuse issues.

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**2016/17 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 Corrections. We take all incidents at correctional centres extremely seriously.
- Statistics show there has been a higher number of violent incidents in 2015 than in previous years.
- The number of violent incidents per year can vary as inmate counts fluctuate, and the daily average count was higher in 2015 (2,587 inmates) than in 2014 (2,369 inmates).
- In addition to rising inmate counts, there are also a number of factors that could be contributing to the rise in violence, such as the number of inmates with complex needs and histories of violent behaviour.
- With respect to what constitutes an assault, it's important to understand that the majority of incidents of staff assault do not result in cases of serious injury. For example, an assault is a violent incident that results in some degree of intentional physical contact or force such as throwing items, spitting, scratching, pushing or hitting.
- In addition, it's important to understand that the majority of these incidents occur 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 present on the living units, 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, Corrections appropriately houses inmates in living units and the staff-to-inmate ratios in those units are dynamic and set to minimize risk.

- Each and every incident is reviewed by Corrections staff and, where appropriate, reported to local police. As a result, inmates can be charged internally or face criminal charges.
- 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 numbers of people with addiction and mental health issues, occasional violent outbursts are unpredictable and a reality.

If asked about increase in staff assaults

- These types of incidents against staff are deplorable.
- We take staff assaults very seriously, and take actions to discourage them, such as escort levels or handling protocols based on risk assessments, as well as internal and criminal charges, and to deal with them seriously if they happen.
- Corrections has recently added a new flag in Cornet, the inmate database, that identifies inmates who have previously assaulted a peace officer.
- In addition, Corrections is conducting an in-depth analysis of all staff assault incidents that have occurred from January 1, 2016 to April 15, 2016, to identify trends and precipitating events that led to the assaults with the goal of identifying new measures that will help reduce the number of assaults on staff.
- This in-depth analysis has shown that so far this year, at least two staff have been present in almost all instances and in all cases there were less than 20 inmates present per staff member.
- While every assault is a concern and taken seriously, it is encouraging to note that in almost three-quarters of all cases (27 of 37) there were either no injuries or injuries were minor, and staff were able to continue working with no time lost.
- We are taking action by proactively:
  - Continuing to ensure staff communication about violent inmates during muster meetings;
  - Continuing to take measures to minimize proximity between staff and inmates who are known to be violent towards staff;
  - Ensuring facility design is optimized to prevent incidents and using other tools to mitigate contact, such as meal delivery devices;
  - Working closely with Crown and police to lay criminal charges where appropriate; and
  - Working with the union to develop a victim impact statement for incidents such as feces or urine throwing. We want to ensure the courts understand the lasting impact these



incidents have on staff and the importance of having the consequences match the seriousness of these incidents.

**Background:**

- Statistics for 2015 show there has been a higher number of incidents of violence against staff in 2015 than previous years. There were 82 incidents in 2013; 71 in 2014, and 99 in 2015.
- The average number of assaults on staff per year over the past ten years is 69.
- There is an internal classification process and risk assessment for all inmates 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 existing or potential risks of violence and to make recommendations 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 59 orders have been implemented.
- 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 on Staff and Inmate on Inmate Assaults and Violence by Year

Calendar Year	Incidents of Inmate Assaults on Staff	Other Incidents of Inmate Violence Involving Staff	Incidents of Inmate on Inmate Assaults	Other Incidents of Inmate on Inmate Violence	Total Incidents of Violence
2015	99	91	770	434	1394
2014	71	81	535	291	978
2013	82	88	660	348	1178
2012	105	66	511	327	1009
2011	82	50	564	315	1011

Assaults are: Violent incidents that result in some degree of intentional physical contact or force such as throwing items, spitting, scratching, pushing or hitting.

Other incidents of violence include: Threats, attempted assaults, inmate-on-inmate fights and incidental violence that occurs when staff are injured responding to an incident.

## Incidents of Inmate Assaults on Staff by Correctional Centre

Correctional Centre	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Alouette for Women	0	3	8	13	12
Ford Mountain	0	1	0	0	0
Fraser Regional	14	10	12	5	10
Kamloops Regional	12	12	15	7	7
Nanaimo	0	0	0	0	1
North Fraser Pretrial Centre	30	33	31	10	19
Prince George Regional	7	21	9	10	12
Surrey Pretrial Services Centre	6	15	3	20	23
Vancouver Island Regional	13	10	4	6	15

## Other Incidents of Inmate Violence Involving Staff\* by Correctional Centre

Correctional Centre	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Alouette for Women	0	1	7	20	18
Ford Mountain	0	0	0	0	1
Fraser Regional	10	10	13	6	15
Kamloops Regional	15	22	24	9	17
Nanaimo	1	1	1	0	0
North Fraser Pretrial Centre	7	11	18	5	13
Prince George Regional	10	15	12	19	6
Surrey Pretrial Service Centre	3	4	5	16	12
Vancouver Island Regional	4	2	8	6	9

## Incidents of Inmate-on-Inmate Assaults by Correctional Centre

Correctional Centre	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Alouette for Women	10	3	26	17	28
Ford Mountain	8	5	3	2	4
Fraser Regional	99	102	119	64	99
Kamloops Regional	94	57	69	69	80
Nanaimo	16	15	9	9	16
North Fraser Pretrial Centre	148	137	211	96	159
Prince George Regional	52	51	78	65	99
Surrey Pretrial Service Centre	72	60	51	125	190
Vancouver Island Regional	65	81	94	87	95

**Other Incidents of Inmate-on-Inmate Violence by Correctional Centre**

<b>Correctional Centre</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Alouette for Women</b>	5	6	17	14	18
<b>Ford Mountain</b>	2	2	5	2	3
<b>Fraser Regional</b>	63	70	68	53	95
<b>Kamloops Regional</b>	29	17	26	26	33
<b>Nanaimo</b>	19	16	17	15	9
<b>North Fraser Pretrial Centre</b>	74	78	98	41	80
<b>Prince George Regional</b>	47	64	37	44	49
<b>Surrey Pretrial Service Centre</b>	46	38	46	65	112
<b>Vancouver Island Regional</b>	30	36	34	31	35

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**2016/17 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.
- 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.
- Corrections is committed to working with the BC Government Employees Union and WorkSafeBC to ensure our work environments are as safe and secure, as possible, for all employees.

**If asked about Union's request for WorkSafeBC to develop a plan to address staff assaults**

- Corrections will continue to work closely with WorkSafeBC in all matters, as requested by WorkSafeBC.

**Background:**

- WorkSafeBC completed the inspection of all nine provincial correctional centres in December 2013. A total of 59 orders were issued and have been implemented.
  - Fraser Regional – 11 orders (Inspected in October 2012).
  - Surrey Pretrial Service Centre – 8 orders (Inspected in November 2012).
  - Ford Mountain – 8 orders (Inspected in February 2013).
  - North Fraser Pretrial Centre – 9 orders (Inspected in April 2013).
  - Alouette for Women – 5 orders (Inspected in June 2013).
  - Kamloops Regional – 6 orders (Inspected in September 2013).
  - Prince George Regional – 7 orders (Inspected in October 2013).

- Vancouver Island Regional – 3 orders (Inspected in November 2013).
- Nanaimo – 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.
- In May 2016, the BCGEU publically requested a meeting with WorkSafeBC to “develop a plan to address the increasing number of inmate assaults on correctional officers”.
- To date, Corrections has not heard a public response from WorkSafeBC on this matter, but is willing to work with WorkSafeBC as directed by them.

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Mental Health and  
Addiction Needs within  
the Criminal Justice  
System****Suggested Response:**

- The ministry has assumed a leadership role in establishing cross-ministry partnerships to improve services for individuals with mental health and addiction needs.
- Corrections and the Ministry of Health are leading the Partners in Change: Enhancing Continuity of Care project.
- This project will produce protocols to strengthen cross-ministry services delivered to individuals with mental health needs at key transition points within the criminal justice system.
- Integrated teams, such as Downtown Community Court, Vancouver Intensive Supervision Unit, Drug Treatment Court of Vancouver, and the Victoria Integrated Community Outreach Team are examples of partnerships between Corrections staff, health authority staff and other justice partners to ensure the mental health and addictions needs of shared clients are addressed.
- Probation officers and correctional officers identify individuals with mental health needs and ensure that internal and external resources are accessed to meet their needs.
- Corrections has dedicated resources to work with the Ministry of Health, health authorities, Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation, police agencies and community resources to deliver integrated and enhanced services such as mental health support, addictions management, housing and employment.
- Every person admitted to a provincial correctional centre is subject to a mental health screening within 24 hours of admission. Inmates are assigned to the appropriate location based on the results and some are referred to mental health professionals such as a psychologist or, if necessary, the Forensic Psychiatric Hospital.
- Each centre has a mental health liaison officer, who is a correctional officer with specialized training in managing inmates with mental health needs. BC is the only jurisdiction in Canada with a dedicated director of mental health services.
- Corrections is co-championing and co-chairing the Heads of Corrections Working Group on Health and Mental Health. This national committee includes representation from every

province and territory as well as Correctional Service Canada and the Mental Health Commission of Canada.

- Government as a whole is committed to continuing and improving upon its supports to individuals and families impacted by mental health challenges.
- To this end, a newly formed Cabinet Working Group on Mental Health has taken stock of government's existing mental health programs and services, and is developing a cross-system response to this challenging issue.
- This response will build on the significant and positive work already underway to address mental health in British Columbia, and consider how we can work in a more integrated way to do things better.
- We will continue to forge linkages with our partners both inside and outside government. Mental health and homelessness are collective problems, and we are building a collective solution.

**Background:**

- Research has confirmed that approximately 60% of admissions to provincial correctional facilities or community supervision have had a formal diagnosis of either a mental disorder or a substance use disorder or both in the 5 years prior to admission.
- In provincial correctional centres, the emphasis is on rapid identification of seriously ill patients, prevention of self-harm and suicide, treatment during incarceration, and follow-up upon release.
- On March 6, 2015, a new contractor, Chiron Health Services Inc., assumed responsibility for delivery of health care services to inmates in correctional centres. Mental health and addiction services are delivered by this health care contractor.
- Under the health care contract, Corrections requires the contractor to have a discharge planning lead as part of its management team. This position exists to increase consistency in discharge planning practices and includes a focus on developing protocols for improved continuity of care for inmates with mental health needs.
- Eleven full-time mental health liaison officer (MHLO) positions were created across the province in 2007-2008 (a minimum of one per centre). Since then, two additional positions have been established to meet increased inmate need. The MHLO is a correctional officer who provides support to inmates with mental health needs in conjunction with the mental health team at each centre.



- The Branch offers two-day training workshops for correctional officers working with inmates with mental health needs. This workshop provides officers with information about recognizing and managing inmates with mental health needs, and covers topics including suicide risk assessment, concurrent disorders, and medication issues. Participants are also taught skills for communicating with this special population and review strategies and guidelines for communicating with other staff, including documenting progress and incidents.
- Probation officers are trained to use risk-based case management to deliver effective and purposeful interventions to individuals, including referrals to appropriate community resources.
- The Partners in Change project has three main deliverables, or sub-projects, that, together, are intended to improve transition services and supports for this population. The deliverables are:
  - The **development of a provincial service framework** to guide planners and frontline health and corrections staff with planning for appropriate services and providing guidance in supporting individuals with mental illness and/or problematic substance use with in the client population) and
  - The **development of information sharing protocols**; and
  - The **development of transition protocols** between Corrections and health authorities to improve continuity of care.
- Due to increased bed load demand at Forensic Psychiatric Hospital, certified inmates and inmates ordered to undergo psychiatric assessment may face significant wait times at a correctional centre prior to transfer to the Hospital.
- Corrections is collaborating with the Ministry of Health, health authorities, and Forensic Psychiatric Services Commission to seek a solution to the wait times experienced by inmates requiring forensic psychiatric services.
- In 2013, Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson created the Mayor's Task Force to address the urgent need for a continuum of care and supports for seriously addicted and mentally ill residents in Vancouver. The provincial director, Strategic Operations Division, and the regional director, Vancouver Region, represent Corrections in this initiative. The Task Force is entering its second phase and will focus on implementation of 23 key priority actions.
- In October 2015, a Cabinet Working Group on Mental Health (CWHMH) was established to develop a cross-government strategy on Mental Health. The CWGMH is chaired by Minister Coleman, Minister of Natural Gas Development and Minister Responsible for Housing, and

is supported by a secretariat, a Deputy Minister's committee and an Assistant Deputy Minister working group.

- A paper, entitled Mental Health and Substance Use Needs in the Criminal Justice System, was prepared to provide an overview of justice system issues in this area and what services currently exist within provincial ministries to support this population.
- Government currently invests approximately \$2 billion per year to fund mental health programs and services across several ministries.
- It is estimated that in the criminal justice system, across the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, approximately \$20 million per year is spent to provide discreet services to the mental health population involved in the justice system.
- To date, the CWGMH has reviewed contextual information on the topic including specific information related to child, youth and adult mental health and s.13

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Mothers and Babies in  
Correctional Centres****Suggested Response:**

- Corrections opened a Mother-Child Program at Alouette Correctional Centre for Women in June 2014, in accordance with the court's direction.
- The Mother-Child Program is supported by comprehensive policies and procedures, staff training and a facility upgrade.
- To develop the program, Corrections conducted extensive research and policy work informed by academics, subject-area experts and best practices in other jurisdictions.
- The Centre has a specific building designated for mothers and their babies to live while participating in the program and will offer parenting courses for mothers that include infant development and early child care education.
- All correctional officers, supervisors and managers at the Centre receive ongoing protocol and procedural training to support mothers and their babies.
- When dealing with expectant mothers, Corrections works with Crown and other justice partners to inform the court of non-custodial options for sentencing, with the goal of helping mothers and their infants stay together in the community.

**If asked about the number of women who have participated since Program opened:**

- Since the Mother-Child Program opened in June 2014, six babies have been born and there have been two participants in the program.
  - One mother delivered her baby while in custody; however she was then released to the community.
  - The other mother was in the program with her baby until she was released in March 2016.
  - In one case, a mother gave birth and placed the child for adoption.
  - In three other cases, mothers gave birth to children while in custody; however the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) determined that the parents could not safely care for their infants.
- As of April 19, 2016, there are three pregnant inmates that are on remand. Two have due dates in September 2016 and one has a due date in December 2016. They have not yet applied for the program

**Background:**

- Whether a mother is incarcerated or a member of the general community, child protection is approached the same way by MCFD, with decisions made entirely independently of Corrections.
- In August 2015, a group of community organizations led by Dr. Ruth Elwood Martin released their own set of guidelines for correctional jurisdictions across Canada that included input and recommendations from the Ministries of Justice (now the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General), Health and MCFD. This group requested that the ministries endorse the guidelines; however, the request was denied as not all of the recommendations were adopted in their entirety. As a result of not endorsing the guidelines, the group has stated that children have been apprehended instead of being able to participate in the program.

**History of Lawsuit**

- A class action law suit was launched against the Province for cancelling the Mother-Baby Program. Justice Ross reserved her decision until December 16, 2013, when she ruled in favour of the plaintiff.
- The judge found that Corrections violated s. 7 (Life, liberty and security of person) and s. 15 (equality rights) of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* by separating a mother and child at the time of birth.
- The judge ruled that Corrections had until June 15, 2014, (six months from the date of the court's ruling) to remedy the situation, which included making sure that the *Correction Act* and its regulations are in accordance with the Charter. BC government legal counsel did not appeal the decision.
- Corrections researched and consulted with stakeholders on best practices to inform the development of a new Mother-Child Program.
- Corrections worked with multiple partners to develop the Mother-Child Program; provincial and federal counterparts, health and family organizations, academics, the Fraser Health Authority and the MCFD.
- There are two provincial correctional centres that house both remanded and sentenced females: Prince George Regional Correctional Centre and Alouette Correctional Centre for Women. Alouette was the only centre with the previous Mother-Child Program.
- The practice of allowing babies to reside with their mothers in custody was in place from the time Alouette opened in 2004 until February 2008. During this period, 12 women gave

birth while in custody and their newborns subsequently resided with them in custody.

- From March 2008 to the implementation of the program in June 2014, there were 23 babies born to inmates in provincial custody:
  - 3 inmates were released after giving birth;
  - 8 babies were placed with family members; and
  - 12 babies went into the care of MCFD.

#### Other Jurisdictions

- Mother-Child Programs are available in federal facilities, in accordance with stringent criteria set by Correctional Service Canada. The average duration of stay for federally incarcerated women is much longer than for provincially incarcerated inmates; concerns around lack of contact are therefore much more acute in a federal setting.
- At this time, Manitoba is the only other province to allow babies to reside in jail with their provincially incarcerated mothers. In 2012, Manitoba entered into a joint venture with Correctional Service Canada for a specialized centre and program for mothers and babies.

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Estimates 2016/17 Briefing Book**

**Policing and Security Branch  
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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Biology Casework  
Analysis (DNA) Services****Suggested Response:**

- It is my responsibility to ensure adequate and effective policing in British Columbia
- The reimbursement of actual costs for Biology Casework Analysis services was imposed by the federal government and BC was the last to sign onto the new agreement. We do not think municipalities should pay; historically it has been a federal responsibility.
- However, the federal government threatened to withdraw DNA services if we did not sign on.
- I understand municipalities have concerns. Those should be raised with the federal government, as the Union of BC Municipalities did by writing to the federal Minister.
- s.13,s.16

**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 million 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 2013, the federal government advised that it would no longer continue to provide Biology Casework Analysis services at the historical flat rate contribution and would require reimbursement of actual costs.
- The new Agreement Respecting Biology Casework Analysis 2014-2024 (BCAA) has been renegotiated as a result. Under the new agreement, after a three year escalation period, DNA analysis services will be charged on a calculation that reflects the actual cost of providing the service and the proportionate usage of service recipients. As the cost will no longer be limited to a flat rate (as had been the case for more than a decade), actual costs will be charged after a three year phase in period:

- In 2014/15, the provincial share was \$2,542,817 based on the province's requirement to pay 28% of the actual costs;
- In 2015/16, the provincial share was be \$3,632,596 based on the province's requirement to pay 40% of the actual costs; and
- In 2016/17, the provincial share will be \$4,904,005 based on the province's requirement to pay 54% of the actual costs.
- The Province will continue to fund its historical flat-rate amount of \$1.366 million, plus the proportionate usage of Provincial Business Line detachments, crown counsel and federal agencies (estimated at \$.4 million annually).
- As police agencies are responsible for operational policing under section 15(1) of the *Police Act*, police agencies will be required to fund the remaining portion of their share of usage.
- To gradually ease police agencies into paying for the actual cost of their services, in 2014/15, the Province paid 100% of the costs allocated under the agreement. For 2015/16, the Province has paid for the first three quarters of the bill for British Columbia.
- Starting January 1, 2016, agencies are responsible for their actual costs. Agencies have been invoiced for the final quarter of the 2015/16 fiscal year. Invoices ranged from approximately \$500 to \$400,000 (see Attachment 1).
- Starting in 2017/18, charges will no longer be fixed. The new amount will reflect 54% of the actual costs incurred for the program and the province's usage relative to other provinces/territories averaged over the previous two years. This amount will be apportioned based on two year average consumption of the service. The estimated cost to agencies will be approximately \$800 to \$675,000.
- The Province has implemented a new service delivery model that involves the Organized Crime Agency of British Columbia (OCABC) and its Board as administrators of the new BCAA in order to provide better separation of police operations and governance from the ministry. The agreement accommodates the use of the OCABC to discharge the Province's obligations under the BCAA, manage demand and policies for analysis, and administer the payments, billings and recoveries from local governments related to DNA analysis services provided to police agencies in BC.

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.16

**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Gangs and Organized Crime****Suggested Response:**

- Organized crime and gangs remains a top priority for the Province and police remain united in their efforts to keep communities around BC safe. The government is committed to continue strengthening the tools for police to respond to gangs and guns activity throughout the province.
- Specialized provincial units such as the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit-BC, Integrated Homicide Investigations Team and the Major Crime Section remain committed to aggressively pursue gangs and those involved in the destructive world of organized crime.
- Nearly \$64 million (\$63.76 million) was provided to the RCMP for the Unit and anti-gang initiatives in 2014/15. (Provincial contribution was \$44.63 million and federal contribution was \$19.13 million.) This supports front-line efforts to keep young people out of gangs and remove gangsters, their associates and illegal weapons from our streets.
- The Province is providing an additional \$5.3 million in FY 2016/17, \$6 million in FY 2017/18, and \$6 million in FY 2018/19 to the Unit to help combat gangs and organized crime broken down as follows:
  - 22 positions for the Joint Illegal Gaming Investigation Team which will provide a dedicated, coordinated, multi-jurisdictional investigative and enforcement response to unlawful activities within BC gaming facilities, with an emphasis on anti-money laundering strategies, and illegal gambling in BC, with an emphasis on organized crime. (\$1.8 million in FY 16/17 for 9 positions; \$3 million in FY 17/18; and \$3 million in FY 18/19 for all 22 positions).
  - 20 positions to the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit for Gang Suppression Teams to support police in communities around the province dealing head-on with violent criminals to suppress and disrupt gang and criminal networks (\$3.5 million in FY 2016/17; \$3 million in FY 2017/18; and \$3 million in FY 2018/19).

**Background:**

- As the Province's anti-gang agency, Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit-BC (CFSEU-BC) is the largest integrated joint forces police unit in Canada and draws and develops highly-specialized officers from federal, provincial and municipal agencies around the province.
- Despite the diversity of offenders and offences, CFSEU-BC has achieved tactical success through enhanced, collaborative investigative capabilities and continued commitment to

targeting those who pose the highest risk to public safety due to their involvement in gang violence.

- CFSEU-BC's headquarters are in Surrey and has offices in the Kelowna, Victoria, and Prince George areas, making it a truly provincial agency.

#### Provincial Organized Crime Strategies

- The primary objective of criminal enterprise is to make money and criminal organizations are not restricted by geographic boundaries.
- Organized crime groups leverage and maintain their position through a wide variety of criminal activities:
  - actual or threatened violence (intimidation, kidnapping, extortion, assaults, murder, contracted hits);
  - exploitation, prostitution, human smuggling and trafficking;
  - money laundering, stock market manipulation, loan sharking and embezzlement;
  - fraud, theft, counterfeiting and arson;
  - drug production, cultivation, importation, exportation, distribution, trafficking; and
  - corruption, bribery, political influence and obstruction of justice.
- s.15,s.16
- Provincial Units (CFSEU-BC, Integrated Homicide Investigations Team and Major Crime Section) oversee the provincial component to the Serious and Organized Crime Strategy s.15,s.16

CFSEU-BC

- It has been recognized that there is a need to address gang recruitment and gang violence across the province through the development of new evidence-based approaches as well as by building on existing strategies. This involves strengthening the non-criminal and regulatory responses to complement enforcement efforts in the disruption and deterrence of gangs and organized crime.
- Nearly \$64 million (\$63.76 million) was provided to the RCMP for CFSEU-BC and anti-gang initiatives in 2014/15. (Provincial contribution was \$44.63 million; the federal contribution \$19.13 million). This supports front-line efforts to keep young people out of gangs and remove gangsters, their associates and illegal weapons from our streets.

<b>Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unite-BC and Organized Crime Fund (FY 2014/15)</b>			
	CFSEU	OCF	Total
Pay (Salaries & Benefits)	7,915,696	13,001,170	20,916,866
Operations & Maintenance	21,502,835	8,923,271	30,426,106
Capital	142,651	214,747	357,398
Indirect Costs	5,465,860	7,036,745	12,502,605
Credits	(119,628)	(326,501)	(446,129)
Federal Contribution	10,472,224	8,654,830	19,127,054
Provincial Contribution	24,435,190	20,194,602	44,629,792
Total Contribution	34,907,414	28,849,432	\$63,756,846

\*Note: Indirect costs include pensions and division administration

- The Province is providing an additional \$5.3 million in FY 2016/17, \$6 million in FY 2017/18, and \$6 million in FY 2018/19 to CFSEU-BC to help combat gangs and organized crime.
- Since 2009, CFSEU-BC has expanded to include the Organized Crime Agency British Columbia (OCABC), Uniform Enforcement Teams and Investigation Teams and others that fall under its responsibility. Offices for the CFSEU BC are located in the Lower Mainland, Prince George, Kelowna and Victoria. All CFSEU-BC offices are under one single command structure.
- s.15,s.16
- In 2013, the CFSEU-BC began coordinating the implementation of the Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority, a first in Canada. In collaboration with municipal, provincial and federal law enforcement agencies a three-tiered targeting model was created. s.15,s.16 s.15,s.16

s.15,s.16

s.15,s.16

The use of the Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority – Targeting Process has been implemented and is seeing many successes.

- CFSEU-BC has also embarked on the development and implementation of a Prolific Violent Gang Offender Management Program. The overall aim of this new program is to identify individuals who pose the highest risk to public safety as a result of their tendency to utilize violent means to carry out criminal activities. The Program aims to reduce violent criminal behaviors of individuals using various approaches.
- In December 2013, CFSEU-BC launched “End Gang Life” a province-wide anti-gang prevention campaign aimed at at-risk youth. Through the use of video and posters the anti-gang campaign uses bold, engaging, and powerful imagery and language that speaks to people and will hopefully give youth a fresh perspective on what gangs really are, give communities a rallying point around which they can mobilize against gangs in their neighborhoods, and make gangsters pause and have a second thought about their life choices. This campaign, estimated to last two years, is grounded in academic research and has the support of all levels of provincial government.
- In January 2014, CFSEU-BC followed up the video and poster release campaign with the introduction of a 2009 BMW X5 Sport Utility Vehicle provided by the ministry’s Civil Forfeiture Office. This vehicle is wrapped with a “skin” of graphics and messaging, will be used for the next two years as a rolling billboard to engage the public at local schools and community events and help draw people into important conversations with officers. The powerful messaging on the vehicle proclaims “End Gang Life”.
- As a result of gang conflicts in Surrey, CFSEU-BC executed Project <sup>s.15,s.16</sup> ~~15-1~~, a Joint Forces Operation with the Surrey RCMP and Delta Police from April 2015-August 2015. Project ~~15-1~~ was a coordinated effort to suppress the violence, charge those responsible and enhance community safety, and enhance the already significant resources that both the Surrey RCMP and Delta Police were committing. Project ~~15-1~~ resulted in significant and impactful results and since its conclusion, the Surrey Detachment Drug Unit have maintained counter-narcotics pressure on these groups which have resulted in numerous successes.

#### Real Time Intelligence Centre – BC

- The Real Time Intelligence Centre – British Columbia (RTIC-BC) was developed by the RCMP and municipal police partners. The RTIC-BC ensures that information can be readily shared and enhances the ability of police to investigate all crimes, including those of missing persons. The RTIC-BC is now available to provide analytical support to police investigating

crimes. Fully resourced, the RTIC-BC will be staffed by 43 sworn and civilian members and requires an annual operational budget of approximately \$5.8 million, shared by municipalities, the Province and the federal government. s.15,s.16  
s.15,s.16

- Currently the RTIC-BC monitors and offers immediate real-time assistance during unfolding serious criminal incidents in the Metro Vancouver region and, upon request, provides timely intelligence products and assistance to investigators from law enforcement agencies throughout the province of British Columbia and other jurisdictions. Through a phased approach, real-time capabilities will become a province-wide capability.
- The mandate of the RTIC-BC is to provide actionable intelligence and real time operational support by accessing, analyzing and disseminating information to enhance public safety and accelerate investigations provincially across all jurisdictions.

#### National Representation

- The ministry has also been participating at Federal Provincial and Territorial (FPT) levels where work has been ongoing to ensure BC's interests are represented in national anti-organized crime strategic plans and legislative changes. Representation includes participation in the National Coordinating Committee on Organized Crime which draws from the experiences of front-line law enforcement to assist in identifying current trends and issues and developing enforcement strategies in combating organized crime and the Coordinating Committee of Senior Officials which examines proposals for law reform (primarily criminal) and other policy issues with the objective of improving the ability to respond to organized crime threats in Canada

#### Anti-Gang Provincial Funding

- The Province has just announced additional funding for CFSEU-BC to help combat gangs and organized crime: \$5.3 million in FY 2016/17, \$6 million in FY 2017/18, and \$6 million in FY 2018/19 to CFSEU broken down as follows:
  - 22 positions for the Joint Illegal Gaming Investigation Team which will provide a dedicated, coordinated, multi-jurisdictional investigative and enforcement response to unlawful activities within BC gaming facilities, with an emphasis on anti-money laundering strategies, and illegal gambling in BC, with an emphasis on organized crime. (\$1.8 million in FY 2016/17 for 9 positions; \$3 million in FY 2017/18; and \$3 million in FY 2018/19).
  - 21 positions to CFSEU-BC for Gang Suppression Teams to support police in communities around the province, dealing head-on with violent criminals to suppress and disrupt gang and criminal networks (\$3.5 million in FY 2016/17; \$3 million in FY 2017/18; and \$3 million in FY 2018/19).

- The Province is also providing additional funding for the Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority as follows: \$2 million in FY 2016/17; \$1.5 million in FY 2017/18; and \$1.5 million in FY 2018/19.
- Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority is a comprehensive approach which integrates municipal, provincial and federal intelligence systems to maximize police efforts to pinpoint and disrupt gang and criminal networks.
- In 2015, the Province announced an investment of \$5 million over two years to enhance community safety focusing on three priority areas:
  - Targeting prolific, violent and gang-affiliated offenders;
  - Getting tough on the roots of crime through education and outreach; and
  - Strengthening safety for First Nation communities and vulnerable women.
- The ministry's Civil Forfeiture Program helps keep our communities safe and contributes to the Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy by targeting the profit motive behind unlawful activity, and benefits victims of crime. Since 2011-12, over \$4.4 million in civil and criminal forfeiture grants have gone to helping prevent youth involvement in gangs in communities throughout BC.
- Government commits more than \$70 million per year in prevention and intervention services, and programs that benefit victims of crime in BC.

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**2016/17 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 for Crime Reduction in June 2013, with a mandate to chair a Blue Ribbon Panel to study crime reduction opportunities.
- The Panel have completed their mandate and presented their report, *Getting Serious About Crime Reduction*, to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General. The report was made public 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.
- 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.
- The recommendations are complex, broad in scope and align with a number of initiatives that are planned or underway across the ministry, including the development of an integrated community safety partnership pilot project in Williams Lake and surrounding First Nations communities. Work to identify further opportunities to advance the recommendations of the report is continuing.
- The ministry is leading the development and implementation of an integrated community safety partnership pilot project for Williams Lake and the surrounding First Nations communities. The project team commenced their engagement with key stakeholders in November 2015 and work on the development of the pilot is ongoing and being guided by the following principles:
  - Community-focused and Inclusive
    - Community needs are identified;
    - Project planning is community-led; and
    - The pilot is inclusive of First Nations and the surrounding region.



- Cost Effective and Manageable
  - The project is scalable and the scope is achievable; and
  - Performance metrics are established.
- Evaluated
  - The project is evidence-based; and
  - Performance metrics are established.
- Policing and Security Branch staff have undertaken a project in which an inventory of provincial ministry and police programs and initiatives that have linkages to the recommendations of the report will be created. As part of the project, a report will be submitted by the contracted service provider identifying further potential opportunities to advance the recommendations of the report.
- Ministry staff have been supporting other inter-agency collaborative initiatives focused on crime reduction through participation on working groups and steering committees, such as the Surrey Mobilization and Resiliency Table and the Surrey Integrated Services Network.

**Background:**

- 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 was to chair a Blue Ribbon Panel to study crime reduction opportunities. The Panel members were named in the September 20, 2013, Premier's address to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities. The Terms of Reference for the Panel is included in Appendix A.
- The Terms of Reference 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 and Attorney General in June of 2014. 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 and addictions service providers, school districts, mayors and 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 British Columbia (refer to 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.

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## **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 14<sup>th</sup> 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  
Kingshaven 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

**2016/17 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 Policing and Security Branch 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 and strategic framework for policing so it can meet demands now and into the future.
- Pursuant to Action Item 1 in the Plan, in November 2013, government began a multi-phase project to examine how policing is currently structured and funded.
- Since then, the project has engaged municipal leaders and police agencies, working to better define federal, provincial and municipal policing responsibilities, including funding. The project has laid 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 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 budget.

- Where we have commitments for actions, these will be managed as resources become available and within the existing ministry budget. Other initiatives are aspirational and will be done as resources are available in the future.
- The Plan is posted on the Ministry website.

**Background:**

- Publicly released in December 2013, the BC Policing 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 sixteen Action Items are identified. In short, it is envisioned that policing in British Columbia 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).

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Regional Policing****Suggested Response:**

- As part of the BC Policing and Community Safety Plan, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 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 focus of these discussions included 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.
- The work of the committee is informing further policy analysis.
- It is 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 in November 2014 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 PSB 9 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 acknowledging 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.

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**2016/17 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, 63 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, 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/unincorporated areas and municipalities 4,999 population and under.
- 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 aircraft 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%. Total forecasted costs for the provincial force in 2015/16 are \$522 million, and of this, \$365.4 million will be the provincial share. Since 2001/02 the Province's annual contribution to provincial policing has increased from \$152.4 million to the current \$365.4 million. See following chart for details.

Year	Provincial (\$M)*
2001/02	152.4
2002/03	188.1
2003/04	195.9
2004/05	216.6
2005/06	241.5
2006/07	268.7
2007/08	276.3
2008/09	299.4
2009/10	314.9
2010/11	310.2
2011/12	325.8
2012/13	338.4
2013/14	344.4
2014/15	356.7
2015/16	365.4

\*includes Road Safety funding from ICBC

#### First Nations Policing

- Dedicated policing for First Nations communities is primarily provided by the RCMP under the First Nations Community Policing Services program.
- The Province pays 48% of the policing costs under the Program, and the federal government covers the remaining 52%. Total forecasted costs for RCMP First Nations policing in 2015/16 are \$18.8 million, and of this, \$8.8 million will be the provincial share.

#### Municipal Forces

- In 2015, 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%; and
  - Municipalities are responsible for 100% of certain costs, such as accommodation (e.g., 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.
- In 2014, municipal government expenditures on policing totaled \$1.082 billion (expenditure data for 2015 has yet to be collected).

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****E-PANA Funding - RCMP****Suggested Response:**

- Project E-PANA, which is investigating the deaths and disappearances of 18 women and girls in BC's Northern and Central region, falls within the Special Projects Unit of "E" Division Major Crime Section.
- The Major Crime Section is comprised of almost 350 personnel and has a total overall operating budget of approximately \$55 million. The provincial portion of this budget is approximately \$38 million.
- Strong relationships have been forged between investigators and victims' families during this investigation. The families are supported and the nominated family contact is regularly kept up to date on the operational and administrative evolution of the file.

**Background:**

- While there are 12 dedicated investigators and support staff for Project E-PANA, the Major Crimes Section has flexibility with its provincially funded major crime personnel to respond to information and evidence to move any investigation forward, and to scale resources up or down as operationally required. The RCMP has been very clear about their ability to continue forward with their current budget.
- As with any task force, as lines of enquiry are exhausted there is less investigative work to be done by the team as tasks are concluded and persons of interest eliminated.
- The RCMP has advised that they have the resources necessary to deal with the investigative needs regarding the deaths and disappearances of 18 women and girls in BC's Northern and Central region at this time.

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## **2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE**

## **Green Timbers Negotiations**

### **Suggested Response:**

- My mandate is about public safety but I am also aware of being fiscally responsible to the citizens of British Columbia.
- We are focused on paying for our fair share of costs related to the new RCMP headquarters at Green Timbers and continue working toward that goal.
- We will not pay for space we don't use. The Province offered to pay fair market rent but that was rejected by the federal government.
- However, we look forward to working together with the **new** federal government to create an equitable funding agreement.

### **Background:**

- s.14

- s.16

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Integrated Police Services  
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.
- Integrated teams and operations avoid duplication and optimize efficiency. The Province contributes more than \$70 million annually for over 20 integrated teams (\$78.51 million in FY 2014/15 for 28 integrated teams).
- Integrating specialized police services is a critical way to approach policing and we are in fact looking for further opportunities. We know the effectiveness and efficiency of integration eliminates duplication and increases the sharing of expertise and information among police agencies.

**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 (e.g., 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 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 work of the committee is informing further policy analysis.

s.16

- - The Provincial government has recently announced an additional \$5.3 million in FY 2016/17, \$6 million in FY 2017/18, and \$6 million in FY 2018/19 for CFSEU-BC to help combat gangs and organized crime broken down as follows:
    - 22 positions for the new Joint Illegal Gaming Investigation Team which will provide a dedicated, coordinated, multi-jurisdictional investigative and enforcement response to unlawful activities within BC gaming facilities, with an emphasis on anti-money laundering strategies, and illegal gambling in BC, with an emphasis on organized crime (\$1.8 million in FY 2016/17 for 9 positions; \$3 million in FY 2017/18; and \$3 million in FY 2018/19). The Team will be supplemented by four investigators from the Ministry of Finance's Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch.
    - 20 positions for Gang Suppression Teams to support police in communities around the province, dealing head-on with violent criminals to suppress and disrupt gang and criminal networks (\$3.5 million in FY 2016/17; \$3 million in FY 2017/18; and \$3 million in FY 2018/19).
  - See attached spreadsheet below for a list of integrated teams in BC, including financial contributions and strength figures for Fiscal Year 2014/15. Please note that the Joint Illegal Gaming Investigation Team is not reflected in this list since the unit was created in 2016.

s.15,s.16

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Police Record Checks –  
OIPC Report  
Recommendations****Suggested Response:**

- We carefully considered the privacy commissioner's report in 2014, and worked collaboratively with police agencies to develop model policy guidelines 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.
- We also understand the inconvenience that the requirement for fingerprinting may cause some individuals who are working with children and vulnerable adults; however it is critical to ensuring their safety.
- The vulnerable sector check, which may include fingerprinting, is a federal requirement for individuals working or volunteering with children and vulnerable adults. It is the only way the RCMP's Canadian Criminal Real Time Identification Services can confirm that someone who shares the same date of birth and gender of a pardoned sex offender is not the pardoned sex offender.

**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, and 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 came into effect June 2015.
- 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 ministry's Criminal Records Review Program (CRRP) processes Vulnerable Sector checks for those who work/volunteer with children and/or vulnerable adults.
- In 2010 the RCMP made a change to the parameters used for checking individuals against the Vulnerable Sector database, which resulted in the number of individuals requiring fingerprinting by the CRRP to significantly increase. For approximately 10% of applicants this process includes a fingerprinting. Those selected for fingerprints are required to pay for the cost of fingerprinting along with the Canadian Criminal Real Time Investigation Service (CCRTIS) processing fee. If a registrant remains active with the CRRP, they generally will not be required to redo their fingerprints.
- Fees for fingerprinting are set by local municipalities and vary from \$50 to \$85. Most volunteers are not charged, or are charged a reduced fee. The CCRTIS processing fee for fingerprint analysis is an additional \$25 although volunteers are not charged this fee. The ministry is currently working with CCRTIS to improve the digital fingerprinting technology and with these changes it is anticipated that individuals will no longer have to pay the additional \$25 processing fee as the ministry will be billed directly.

#### About Police Information Checks

- Police information checks are conducted for organizations with employees or volunteers not covered by the B.C. *Criminal Records Review Act* (CRRRA), such as private-sector employers.
- Organizations not covered by the CRRRA 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.

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Surrey Crime and Officer Complement****Suggested Response:**

- Though violent crime in Surrey has been on a downward trend, 2015 saw a 36% increase overall in violent crimes compared to 2014 yet the number of murders decreased 40% to a total of 9.
- Surrey continues to actively collaborate with partners to address the underlying causes of violence in the city, design and implement multi-pronged tactics and strategies to address these root causes and to establish policies to reduce the likelihood of violence and crime.
- The Province supports and collaborates with the City of Surrey on a number of initiatives aimed at improving community safety issues in the city. The Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit-BC (CFSEU-BC), Integrated Homicide Investigations Team (IHIT) and the Major Crime Section (MCS) are committed to aggressively pursue gangs and those involved in the destructive world of organized crime.
- As the province's anti-gang agency with a main office located in Surrey, the CFSEU-BC is the largest integrated joint forces police unit in Canada and draws and develops highly-specialized officers from federal, provincial and municipal agencies around the province.
- The Province provides \$60 million annually to CFSEU-BC and other organized crime and anti-gang initiatives.
- The City of Surrey requested 100 additional RCMP members in February 2015 and in May 2015 Public Safety Canada authorized 100 additional RCMP officers for Surrey. As of January 2016, the status of the increase in its officer complement is as follows:
  - 83 in position
  - 12 assigned but awaiting their arrival
  - 5 still to be identified
- Currently, the total officer complement in Surrey is 749 positions which include community safety officers and crime analysts.

**Background:**Policing

- Annually, the Province provides approximately \$60 million to the RCMP for the CFSEU-BC. The Unit brings together fourteen law enforcement agencies integrated under a single command structure with a main office located in Surrey. The integrated joint forces

operation develops and draws highly-specialized officers from federal, provincial and municipal agencies. The City of Surrey continues to benefit directly from the successes of the Unit and the provincial government's contributions to these initiatives.

- As a result of gang conflicts in Surrey, the Unit executed Project s.15 s.16 a Joint Forces Operation with the Surrey RCMP and the Delta Police Department from April 2015-August 2015. Project s.15 s.16 was a coordinated effort to suppress the violence, charge those responsible and enhance community safety, and enhance the already significant resources that both the Surrey RCMP and the Delta Police Department were committing. Project s.15 s.16 resulted in significant and impactful results and since its conclusion, the Surrey Detachment Drug Unit have maintained counter-narcotics pressure on these groups which have resulted in numerous successes.
- In addition to the Unit's harmonized police interventions mentioned above, the Real Time Intelligence Centre – British Columbia (RTIC-BC) monitors and offers immediate real-time assistance during unfolding serious criminal incidents in Surrey and upon request, provides timely intelligence products and assistance to the local investigators.  
s.15

#### Collaborative Initiatives

- The Province continues to actively collaborate with the City of Surrey and devotes a significant amount of resources to a number of initiatives aimed at and improving community safety issues including:
  - The provision of approximately \$1 million in Civil Forfeiture Grants since 2010 for programs aimed at youth in gangs, domestic violence and other community based programs;
  - Participation on the Surrey Criminal Justice Task Force;
  - Participation in the Surrey Mobilization and Resiliency Table;
  - The Surrey Integrated Services Network; and
  - Targeted enforcement initiatives and police response.

#### Surrey RCMP 2015 Crime Statistics

##### Gang Enforcement

- s.15,s.16

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#### Homicide

- In 2015, Surrey saw a 40% decrease in homicides over 2014. Continued work targeting high risk locations throughout the City have helped reduced the number of locations where this kind of criminal activity is likely to occur.

#### Violent Crime

- Violent Crime saw a 36% increase in 2015. Attempted murders were up 211%, abduction/kidnappings up 65% and sexual assaults up 40%. The Surrey RCMP continue to work aggressively to identify, track and arrest offenders responsible for these crimes but also require public information regarding these incidents. It is critical that all work together to keep communities safe.

#### Property Crime

- Property Crime decreased 11% in Surrey in 2015. Significant decreases in the number of motor vehicle thefts and thefts from vehicles can be attributed to the Integrated Municipal Provincial Auto Crime Team based out of Surrey.s.15

s.15

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Surrey Crime and Safety****Suggested Response:**Policing

- Surrey continues to work to address the root causes of crime 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 had requested increases in its RCMP officer complement and, as of February 2016 their authorized strength has been increased to 749, including community safety officers and crime analysts.
- The Province provides significant Provincial Policing infrastructure such as air and marine assets and other support services to support communities in BC, including Surrey.
- The Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of BC and related guns and gangs initiatives are also a part of this infrastructure. Nearly \$64 million (\$63.76 million including Provincial contribution of \$44.63 million and federal contribution of \$19.13 million) was provided to the RCMP in 2014/15 for the Unit and organized crime/anti-gang initiatives. The Unit 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 the Unit and the provincial government's contributions to these initiatives.
- To bolster public safety in Surrey and other communities across BC, the Provincial Government announced a \$23 million investment to expand BC's Guns and Gangs Strategy. The announcement was made on April 15, 2016, and aims to support communities that have experienced recent spikes in violent, public gang activity through a three-pillar approach:
  1. Supporting effective enforcement and prosecution;
  2. Furthering community safety and public engagement; and
  3. Expanding laws and sanctions targeting illegal guns and gang violence, profits, and property.
- The pillars will be supported by:
  - The addition of two teams to the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit - BC;
  - Enhanced funding for the Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority;
  - Dedicated Crown Counsel for priority Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority files in Surrey;

- Expanded capacity for electronic monitoring;
- The establishment of a new Office of Crime Reduction and Gang Outreach;
- Creation of an Illegal Firearms Task Force;
- Development of a firearms amnesty program for the safe and secure surrender of firearms and ammunition;
- Investments to support Crime Stoppers – including ‘guns for cash’ and ‘gang tips hotline’; and
- Work with the Federal Government to develop a national Guns and Gangs Strategy.

#### Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit-BC’s End Gang Life Campaign

- “End Gang Life” is a province-wide anti-gang prevention campaign aimed at at-risk youth. The campaign is part of an ongoing public outreach effort by the Unit that includes in-school gang prevention, education, and youth engagement presentations.

#### Collaborative Initiatives

- The Province continues to actively collaborate with the City of Surrey and devotes a significant amount of resources to a number of initiatives aimed at improving community safety issues in the city, including:
  - The provision of nearly \$1.5 million in civil forfeiture grants since 2010 for programs aimed at youth in gangs, domestic violence, and other community based programs;
  - Participation on the Surrey Criminal Justice Task Force;
  - The Surrey Integrated Services Network;
  - Participation in the Surrey Mobilization and Resiliency Table; and
  - Targeted enforcement initiatives and police response.

#### Domestic Violence Unit

- Since 2014, Surrey RCMP and the Surrey Women’s Centre Society received over \$270,000 in civil forfeiture proceeds to help establish and enhance their integrated Unit.
- The Surrey Unit is one of 7 Units in BC, and 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.

- In February 2015, Premier Christy Clark unveiled a new Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy to combat violence against women. In 2015, government action started with over \$3 million in civil forfeiture funding to support anti-violence and prevention initiatives.
- In March 2016, the Province provided over \$3.7 million in grant funding to support the Strategy. The Province has committed to dedicating a portion of civil forfeiture funds to support the 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.

#### Surrey Wraparound Program

- The ministry has provided support in the amount of \$393,500 to the Surrey Wraparound Program (WRAP) through the civil forfeiture grant funding program.
- Launched in 2009 to help youth at risk of gang involvement, the Surrey WRAP is a partnership between the Surrey School District, Surrey RCMP, and the City of Surrey. The program is one of Canada's leading youth gang intervention programs and currently serves 60 youth.
- On April 28, 2015, an additional \$270,000 was committed by the Province to further enhance and support the program and alleviate the waitlist for youth trying to access the service.
- On May 19, 2015, Public Safety Canada announced that approximately \$3.5 million in funding over five years would be made available for the Surrey Gang Reduction Program. This funding is targeted to support Surrey WRAP and other programming, which will provide approximately 400 Surrey-area at-risk youth with life and resiliency skills to help them move away and keep them from violence and the gang lifestyle.
- In March 2016, the Province provided \$100,000 in grant funding to further support the WRAP Program and gang prevention programming in Surrey.

#### Surrey Criminal Justice Task Force

- In February 2014, the previous Surrey mayor, Her Worship Dianne Watts, and the Minister of Justice, 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.
- In September 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.

#### Surrey Integrated Services Network

- In January 2015, the Surrey Criminal Justice Task Force released its final report and recommended 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.
- In September 2015, the City of Surrey convened a committee comprised of representatives from the city, Provincial government, and community stakeholders to inform the establishment of the Surrey Integrated Services Network. Court Services Branch of the Ministry of Justice is the Provincial government lead for this initiative.
- This initiative is ongoing and a research project to better understand which client group this should serve and which services should be a part of the model has been undertaken. Initial implementation of the Network is planned for 2016.

#### Surrey Mobilization and Resiliency Table

- In November 2015, the Surrey RCMP launched the Surrey Mobilization and Resiliency Table (SMART) initiative.
- Based on the Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, HUB model, SMART is a risk-driven response model that works in collaboration with other human service providers to address developing community problems before they become police problems.
- Participants in the SMART initiative include the City of Surrey, Surrey RCMP, Surrey School District, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (Corrections Branch, Adult Custody and Community Divisions; Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch; and Policing and Security Branch), Ministry of Children and Family Development, Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation, BC Housing, Fraser Health, Lookout Emergency Aid Society, and Surrey private and business sector participants.
- Since the launch of SMART in November 2015, of the 54 cases that have been brought to the SMART, approximately 40% of the individuals were quickly connected to services that

lowered their overall risk of harm. Further statistical analysis is underway and will be reported on by Surrey RCMP in future months.

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Motorcycle Noise****Suggested Response:**

- Noisy vehicles, including motorcycles, are not a public safety issue. However, government recognizes the negative impact of excessive vehicle noise on communities.
- The enforcement option within the *Motor Vehicle Act Regulations* (s. 7A.01) provides police with a practical roadside enforcement option to charge vehicles emitting loud noise, including noise emitted by exhaust pipes.
- The subjective elements contained in this section remove the need for decibel testing, testing devices, and the training of officers on a specific tool.
- The Enforcement sub-committee of the British Columbia Association of Chiefs of Police Traffic Safety Committee is developing a training and enforcement protocol to assist law enforcement personnel in collecting the evidence necessary to support convictions related to excessive noise from vehicles.

**Background:**

- The British Columbia Association of Chiefs of Police (BCACP) passed a motion in 2011 asking the Province to examine and adopt a roadside industry standard noise testing protocol known as SAE J2825.
- Following this motion, the Province reviewed its existing legislation and its effectiveness, surveyed North American jurisdictions regarding decibel limits and technical standards, engaged with motorcycle manufacturers through the Motorcycle and Moped Industry Council, participated in testing and demonstrations, and examined other jurisdictional approaches used to address excessive vehicle noise concerns.
- The BCACP Traffic Safety Committee (TSC) Enforcement and Legal/Technical sub-committees have led this effort with involvement from Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's (MoTI) Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement Branch (CVSE). Law enforcement agencies worked closely with CVSE policy and technical staff. Current rules regarding vehicle noise, technical standards, enforcement options, authorities, education and training were reviewed and evaluated by the BCACP TSC sub-committees.
- The TSC Enforcement sub-committee has decided that the subjective elements within *Motor Vehicle Act* s. 7A.01 (Loud and Unnecessary Noise) combined with the distribution of local investigative best practices upheld by the BC Supreme Court provides police the ability to effectively address the public nuisance issue of loud vehicle exhaust.

- The option to utilize decibel testing procedures and devices to verify vehicle compliance to the SAE J2825 standard was determined to be needlessly cost prohibitive due to such factors as purchasing equipment, ongoing calibration, maintenance, officer training, etc. Furthermore, the results generated by this device were subject to challenge due to possible noise contamination from other external sources in the surrounding environment (e.g., location of testing, traffic, etc.).
- Several communities such as Nelson, Penticton, Kelowna, Campbell River and the West End neighbourhood of Vancouver have raised concerns about loud motorcycles with the ministry. It's important to note there are some organizations that advocate that loud pipes on motorcycles are a safety feature that alert vehicles to their presence on the road although there is no credible research to support this position.

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Auxiliary RCMP  
Constable Program****Suggested Response:**

- The Auxiliary RCMP Constable Program has been undergoing a safety review since the fall of 2014 after incidents where uniformed officers were being randomly targeted. Following the Parliament Hill attack in 2014, the RCMP issued a national directive that uniformed Auxiliary Constables had to be under the direct supervision of a regular member equipped with all their intervention tools.
- Following the directive, a formal policy review and consultative process was initiated. A working group comprised of representatives from the various divisions across Canada was formed to explore risk mitigation.
- In January 2016, RCMP's Senior Executive Committee approved the following recommendations of the National Working Group:
  - Ride-alongs and firearms familiarization training will be discontinued. In "E" Division that came into effect on January 27, 2016;
  - A National Activity Matrix will be developed;
  - A National Training Standard will be instituted;
  - National Policy will be updated; and
  - Uniform options will be reviewed
- These proposed changes to the program are substantial. Auxiliary Constables and municipalities have both expressed their disappointment with the decisions. While we agree that the safety of Auxiliary Constables is paramount, the Province will be reviewing the approach being taken by the RCMP.
- The National Working Group was to be expanded to include provincial/territorial/ municipal and Auxiliary Constable representation, and tasked with developing the Activity Matrix and consider uniform options. However, in March 2016, the ministry received a package detailing proposed changes arising from a further RCMP-internal working group session, which included the proposed national policy, training standards, activity matrix and uniform options.
- Since the release of the March 2016 consultation package, the ministry has requested local governments to provide feedback through a communique and questionnaire that were included in the April 20, 2016, version of The Compass distributed by the Union of British

Columbia Municipalities. The consultation package was also discussed at the National RCMP Contract Management Committee meeting.

- We continue to recognize the valuable service of Auxiliary Constables to their communities. We remain committed to ensuring that communities have a range of options to deal with community safety and crime prevention initiatives, and to mitigate the increasing costs associated with policing and community safety.

**Background:**

- Auxiliary/Reserve Constables are unarmed, uniformed volunteers whose primary purpose is to participate in community policing and crime prevention activities. In British Columbia, the program has been in existence for over 50 years. Currently, there are approximately 800 Auxiliary Constable located in 70 detachments throughout the province and 200 Reserve Constables located in 8 municipal police departments providing approximately 200,000 volunteer hours a year to community policing initiatives.
- Auxiliary Constables are appointed by the Deputy Solicitor General pursuant to Section 8 of the *Police Act* to assist the provincial police force (RCMP). Reserve Constables are appointed by their municipal police board under Section 35 of the *Police Act* to assist independent municipal police departments. Prior to their appointment, Auxiliary/Reserve Constables must complete a security clearance, complete the minimum 92-hour training program and pass required exams, and commit to volunteering a minimum of 160 hours a year.
- Auxiliary Constables wear uniforms similar to but distinguishable from regular RCMP members. They also carry a badge and photo identification.
- The ministry provides approximately \$335,000 in funding to support the program as follows:
  - Provides up to \$178,000 to RCMP "E" Division to pay the costs of the program in provincial detachments (approximately 260 Auxiliary Constables are attached to provincial detachments). This includes kit/clothing for new Auxiliary Constables (approximately \$2,000) and maintenance costs of existing Auxiliary Constables in both provincial and municipal RCMP detachments. Maintenance costs in provincial detachments can also include First Aid re-certification and a dress uniform. This may also include special expenditures such as training, recognition and special equipment as approved by the Ministry. The RCMP Auxiliary Constable Program Coordinator manages that portion of the budget in consultation with the Ministry.
  - Provides a grant to independent municipal police departments to support their Reserve Constable Programs. The grant includes \$700 per new Reserve Constable and \$150 per existing. Total grant amount is up to \$72,000 per year.

- Ministry administration costs are approximately \$85,000 per year. This includes insurance (for WorkSafeBC, Accidental Death and Dismemberment, and ICBC), Justice Institute of BC (for exam invigilation and curriculum development/update), Pressed Medal Products (for badges, engraving and service pins), service contracts (for database maintenance and ID card printing), and other miscellaneous costs (courier, printing, etc.).

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Estimates 2016/17 Briefing Book**

**Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch  
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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Vision for a Violence Free  
BC Strategy****Suggested Response:**

- 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 million for prevention and intervention services for victims of crime and the completion of the major themes of the missing women's report.
- In March 2016, we provided over \$3.7 million in grant funding to support 111 community-led projects that align with key priorities in the Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy.
- Our action started in 2015 with \$5 million in civil forfeiture funding to support anti-violence and prevention initiatives, with a priority focus on violence against women.
- We have also made an ongoing commitment to dedicate a portion of civil forfeiture funds to support the Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy in future years.
- 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 progress on actions**

- 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.

- Work is complete or underway on a number of Strategy commitments across the five strategic priority areas and includes:
  - Government launched an expansion of the #SaySomething campaign, which focuses on dispelling myths and increasing awareness around the issue of sexual assault. This builds on the existing campaign, which brings attention to the issue of domestic violence.
  - \$3.4 million in Civil Forfeiture Office grants to support: training and education for service providers; school-based prevention programs; healing and rebuilding after violence against Aboriginal women; preventing exploitation and human trafficking of women and girls; and innovative partnerships to address violence against women.
  - The Ministry of Advanced Education is working to develop a policy framework on sexual violence as a resource for its 25 colleges and universities.
  - With First Nations leaders, the Province recently co-hosted the BC Family Gathering, a three-day gathering of healing and memorial for families of missing or murdered Aboriginal women and girls (January 31 to February 2, 2016).
  - FPT Justice and Public Safety ministers recently released the Justice Framework to Address Violence against Indigenous women and girls.
  - Consultations undertaken with the BC Dental Hygienists Association regarding training related to domestic violence disclosures, risk factors and referrals.

If asked about funding commitment for the Strategy

- The year the Strategy was launched, we announced \$5 million in civil forfeiture grants for over 220 projects throughout BC to support anti-violence and crime prevention initiatives, with a focus on those that address violence against women.
- This year, we provided over \$3.7 million in grant funding to support 111 community-led projects that align with key priorities in the Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy.
- Grants were provided across a broad range of grant streams, including strengthening responses to sexual violence, healing and rebuilding after violence against Aboriginal women, outreach and coordinated services to vulnerable or exploited women and youth, and developing/ enhancing domestic violence units.
- 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 reporting out on progress

- 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 the Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy, monitor progress, and help ensure sustained momentum on the issue of violence against women in BC.
- We will be reporting out on our progress on the plan at significant milestones.

If asked about Civil Forfeiture Office funding allocated to the Strategy to date

- We were pleased to be able to make over \$7.3 million in civil and criminal forfeiture funds available in 2015/16 to support anti-violence and prevention initiatives, with a priority focus on violence against women.
- Over half of the available grant funding, or \$3.7 million, was allocated to support projects through 111 grants that align with the Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy's key priorities including:
  - Addressing prevention and response to sexual assault, including on post-secondary campuses – \$1, 115, 350 (32 grants)
  - Training and education for frontline victim service and violence against women service providers – \$693,571 (21 grants);
  - Coordinated responses to domestic violence- \$689,280 (10 grants);
  - Outreach services and supports for vulnerable women and girls - \$379,690 (17 grants);
  - Healing and rebuilding after violence for Aboriginal women - \$448,000 (23 grants); and
  - Targeted projects contributing to the prevention of, response to, and/or efforts to rebuild from the impacts of violence against women - \$435,000 (8 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 arm of the #SaySomething awareness campaign on March 22, 2016, to focus attention on the serious issue of sexual violence.

- The expanded #SaySomething campaign utilizes social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter, to promote four new video ads focused on common sexual assault myths.
- The new ads aim to change attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate sexual violence by dispelling myths, raising awareness, highlighting supports for victims, and encouraging bystanders to speak up and take action.
- In March and April 2016, the campaign reached 2.92 million Facebook users; resulted in 12,000 Facebook post engagements (likes, comments, shares etc.), 1.298 million Facebook video views and 18,500 saysomethingBC.com website page views.
- Additional content has been added to the #SaySomething website, found at [saysomethingbc.ca](http://saysomethingbc.ca), to provide valuable information and resources to users on both domestic violence and sexual violence under the categories: I need help, Where to get help, and I want to help.
- The expanded campaign aligns with key objectives of the Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy, including raising awareness, changing societal attitudes, linking to existing services, and highlighting government investments in responding to both domestic violence and sexual violence.

**Background:**

- In the 2014 Throne Speech, government committed to introducing a provincial strategy to prevent, respond to and rebuild from the impacts of violence against women.
- The Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy was released on February 6, 2015, alongside a commitment of \$5 million 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 the launch of an awareness campaign on domestic violence.
- 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 Strategy was informed by:
  - 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.);
  - Input from a dialogue session with key stakeholders in June 2014;

- 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
- 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.

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**2016/17 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.
- In February 2015, we released A Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy, 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 million commitment to strengthen approaches to addressing domestic violence.
- The ministry has completed the following commitments under the Plan:
  - We have provided more than \$1.7 million 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 informed the development of a broader strategy for specialized courts in the province that was released in March 2016.
  - We provided an additional \$2 million 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 26 fully operational Teams in the province.
- We are also currently working on the development of intervention programs for perpetrators of domestic violence prior to involvement in the criminal justice system, including the enhancement and evaluation of culturally appropriate programs for Aboriginal communities. In April 2015 \$1 million was made available to support this work.

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General's 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 Public Safety and Solicitor General 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:**

- In February 2014, the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence released a three-year Provincial Domestic Violence Plan.
- The Plan was developed in collaboration with ministries from across government and included a public commitment of \$5.5 million in new funding over three years:
  - \$1 million to help with the development and implementation of additional specialized domestic violence units, which will provide direct services to high-risk families;
  - \$2 million to develop and deliver programs specifically for Aboriginal women, men and children affected by domestic violence;

- \$1 million 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 million 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.

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Civil Forfeiture****Suggested Response:**

- A decade ago, the BC government created the BC Civil Forfeiture Office to take away the tools and profits of unlawful activity and reinvest them in crime prevention and victims' compensation.
- Since 2006, police have been referring files to the Office in greater numbers year over year. This leads to more successful forfeiture applications and more funds reinvested in crime prevention. In 2015, police across the province referred a record setting 765 files for Office consideration. Of the over \$63 million forfeited to date, over \$30 million has been forfeited in the past three fiscal years.
- All recoveries from successful forfeitures are deposited to the Civil Forfeiture Special Account.
- Funds in the Special Account are used to pay for the Office's activities, mainly legal and court fees. Any funds in excess of operating costs are used to fund crime prevention programs and compensate victims of crime. Since 2006, nearly \$28 million has been invested in crime prevention and victims' compensation, representing over 1 and every 3 dollars forfeited:
  - \$26.2 million has been distributed to community crime prevention groups and police to target provincial and local issues. Over \$6.0 million has been invested in projects supporting the Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy. Countless other programs have been funded, including for example, initiatives to help combat human trafficking and sexual exploitation, keep kids out of gangs, and to stop bullying.
  - Most of the over \$1.5 million provided in victims' compensation has been returned to victims of fraudulent investment schemes.

**If asked about Recovery Targets/Grant Targets:**

- The Office, similar to all branches of government, is assigned a budget at the start of each fiscal cycle.
- 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 forfeited funds which are recovered in excess of the budget are available to be used for crime prevention grants.
- 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 \$63 million, primarily houses, cash and cars involved in organized crime and drug trafficking activity.
- Between FY 2010/11 and FY 2014/15, the Office was provided Budget direction to achieve a \$1.033 million annual revenue target under the special account, as well as additional internal revenue targets equalling \$2.079 million in 2012/13, beyond what it costs to operate the program.
- In FY 2015/16, the annual delegated revenue target was removed. The accumulated revenue has been maintained in the Civil Forfeiture Account as retained earnings. The current aggregate value is approximately \$7.2 million.
- Until FY 2015/16, the Office was delegated a maximum grant allocation of \$1.282 million as part of its annual budget. The Office is required to seek approval to spend funds in excess of the maximum grant allocation. In FY 2016/17, this delegated grant cap was increased to \$3 million.
- To date, the Office has disbursed over \$28million in Crime Prevention Grants and Victim Compensation payments. In total, this represents more than \$1 in every \$3 forfeited.

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**2016/17 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; and

- 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 the Office has processed over 1,550 Administrative Forfeitures totalling more than \$7.7 million.

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Human Trafficking****Suggested Response:**

- BC takes its commitment to combating human trafficking seriously.
- Human trafficking has a profoundly negative impact on its victims, that's why we are actively involved in the effort to identify and assist victims, and bring those who traffic in individuals to justice.
- The Province's Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons 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.
- We have helped over 200 potentially trafficked people. For example, providing information about temporary residence permits, coordinating shelter and medical care, and liaising with RCMP's Human Trafficking Coordinator, and other justice system personnel.

**Background:**

- Since 2011, our government has provided more than \$2 million to organizations in BC to address issues of human trafficking and sexual exploitation through civil forfeiture proceeds.
- The Province provides more than \$70 million in annual funding to programs across BC that provide assistance to victims of crime, women and children impacted by violence, and trafficked persons. All Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch program staff have been encouraged to complete the Office to Combat Trafficking in Person's online training, Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune, in order to assist in the identification and support of trafficked persons in BC.
- 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.

**BC's Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking**

- Publicly 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 of coordinating BC's response to human trafficking.

- Two status updates have been released reporting on work initiated and actions completed during the first two years of the Plan. The third year report on activities undertaken to implement the Action Plan will be released in summer 2016.
- This year many activities were supported through grant funding through civil forfeiture and criminal forfeiture and with federal funding. Some highlights include:
  - Train the Trainer workshops to build capacity to respond to situations of human trafficking in three BC communities, reaching over 100 service providers, police, teachers, First Nations and youth workers (Abbotsford, 100 Mile House and Courtenay/Comox). A successful follow up workshop was held in Williams Lake with the Soda Creek, Canoe Creek and Williams Lake First Nation bands to address the issue of domestic trafficking of Aboriginal girls and women;
  - \$379,690 in grant funding to support 17 projects to prevent the sexual exploitation and human trafficking of vulnerable girls and women, including Aboriginal women.;
  - The development of a new toolkit for front line service providers about the trafficking of youth in BC to increase police reporting and prosecutions; and
  - A new Public Service Announcement and documentary on labour trafficking in BC and across Canada developed by West Coast Domestic Workers Association as an awareness raising tool.

If asked about the conclusion of the Action Plan at the end of 2016

- The Action Plan has laid a strong foundation for actions to combat human trafficking in BC. Our work to tackle this issue with our community stakeholders and other partners will continue.

Recent Human Trafficking Cases

- s.22 was convicted of several charges related to the sexual exploitation and human trafficking of 11 young women in the Lower Mainland, many under 19 years of age at the time of the offence. He was sentenced in November 2015 to 23 years in prison. This is the first conviction on human trafficking charges under the *Criminal Code* in BC and the longest sentence in Canada for a human trafficking related case<sup>s.22</sup> has appealed both the conviction and the sentence.
- s.22 was convicted of human trafficking of a nanny from the Philippines into Canada, a form of human trafficking called domestic servitude, under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*. The BC Court of Appeal overturned his conviction and a new trial will be held on June 13, 2016, before a judge alone.

- A third charge of human trafficking in BC laid under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* resulted in an acquittal <sup>s.22</sup> . <sup>s.22</sup> has filed a civil lawsuit against the RCMP and the Director of Civil Forfeiture relating to this investigation and prosecution.

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Victims of Crime Act –  
Victim Surcharge Special  
Account****Suggested Response:**Victim Surcharge Special Account

- There is a balance in the Victim Surcharge Special Account (Victim Surcharge Account), and it is being drawn down incrementally every year. The balance has decreased from a peak of \$47.140 million on March 31, 2009, to \$36.709 million as of March 31, 2016.
- In fiscal year 2016/17 it is estimated that \$12 million will flow into the Victim Surcharge Account while \$13.504 million 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 million annually in funding for services 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 (judicial discretion to waive the surcharge was removed).
- Analysis indicates there is a 42% increase in federal victim surcharges in 2015/16 compared to 2013/14, when the legislation came into effect.
- However, the federal victim surcharge currently accounts for only 6.5% of all victim surcharge revenues (\$715,553 of the \$11.082 million in revenue in 2015/16). The rest of the victim surcharge revenue comes from provincial surcharges, primarily on provincial fines such as traffic tickets (\$10.028 million in 2015/16) and interest earned on the balance of the Victim Surcharge Account (\$338,652 in 2015/16).
- 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.

Court Challenges of Mandatory Federal Victim Surcharges

- Any questions pertaining to court challenges related to the federal victim surcharge should be directed to BC's Attorney General. (Note: A summary conviction appeal of the constitutional challenge of the validity of the mandatory federal victim surcharge in



*R v. Barinecutt* was heard by the BC Supreme Court earlier this year and is currently on reserve [not yet decided]).

#### 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 million for the following:
  - \$9.816 million allocated to frontline services for victims;
  - \$1.688 million to the Criminal Justice Branch for the processing of victim impact statements; and
  - Up to \$2 million 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.

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## 2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE

Victim Services and Crime  
Prevention Fact Sheet

**2016/17 Total Net Operating Budget of \$40.387 million**  
**(Gross Expenditures of \$50.503 million)<sup>1</sup> with 84 FTEs<sup>2</sup>**

<b>CRIME VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM</b>	<b>BUDGET – \$12.343 million</b>
Crime Victim Assistance Program	Provides 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.
<b>COMMUNITY PROGRAMS</b>	<b>BUDGET – \$30.414 million</b>
Victim Service Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 91 Police-based victim service program</li> <li>• 70 Community-based victim service programs</li> <li>• VictimLink BC Helpline</li> <li>• BCCEAS Elder Support Helpline</li> <li>• Provincial Protective Measures Unit</li> </ul>
Violence Against Women Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 94 Stopping the Violence Counselling Programs</li> <li>• 86 Children Who Witness Abuse Counselling Programs</li> </ul>
Outreach Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 55 Outreach Service Programs</li> <li>• 11 Multicultural Outreach Service Programs</li> </ul>
Provincial Services (including Provincial Associations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ending Violence Association of BC</li> <li>• Police Victim Services of BC</li> <li>• BC Society of Transition Houses</li> <li>• Legal Services Society</li> </ul>
Division-funded Crime Prevention Programs/Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BC Crime Prevention Association</li> <li>• MAP Van for Sex Trade Workers</li> <li>• BC Crime Stoppers</li> <li>• BC Crime Stoppers (Tip Line)</li> <li>• Block Watch Society of BC</li> <li>• Community-based Restorative Justice Programs (Community Accountability Programs)</li> </ul>

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<sup>1</sup> The total operating budget figure of \$40.387 million excludes budgeted collections of \$9.816 million in internal recoveries (from the victim surcharge account) and \$300K in external recoveries (from the RCMP for the Crime Stoppers Tips Line - \$50,000 - and from the Department of Justice Canada for Victims Fund projects - \$250,000). Actual Branch expenditures are therefore projected to be closer to \$50.503 million.

<sup>2</sup> \$7.746 million of gross expenditures is allocated to general program operations; the remainder funding (\$42.757 million) is directed towards direct service delivery as outlined in this note.

**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Domestic Violence Units****Suggested Response:**

- Our government understands that domestic violence is a serious and complex criminal problem that adversely impacts 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.
- There are currently seven fully operational Units in BC. – Abbotsford, Capital Region, New Westminster, Surrey, Vancouver, Kelowna and Nanaimo.
- This evidence-based model co-locates police, community-based victim services and, in some communities, a child protection worker to improve case coordination and collaboration in highest risk cases of domestic violence (Capital Region, Surrey, Abbotsford and Kelowna on a part-time basis).
- Domestic Violence Units are an excellent example of community and police working in partnership to support victims who are at risk.
- In March 2016 the ministry provided over \$650,000 in grant funding to support existing Units, as well as the development of 2 new Units in Prince George and the North Shore (serving North Vancouver and West Vancouver).
- It is anticipated that these 2 new units will be operational in the coming months. Work is currently underway in the North Shore to hire a victim service worker for the Unit and in Prince George, partners are working on the development of a letter of agreement that will detail how the partners in the Unit will work together.
- In 2014, organizations received over \$1 million in civil forfeiture funding to support existing and new Units in the province. In 2015, organizations received over \$75,000 in civil forfeiture funding to develop or enhance existing Units.

**If asked about ongoing funding for Domestic Violence Units**

- Government is committed to supporting 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 Units in BC.

If asked about Interagency Case Assessment Teams

- Interagency Case Assessment Teams bring together service providers from various sectors such as police, victim services, probation, Ministry of Children and Family Development, transition houses and others to share information, identify risks and create safety plans for specific high risk domestic violence cases.
- Last year there were 26 operational Teams and there are now 40 fully operational Teams throughout the province. The 14 new Teams are in: Bella Coola, Burns Lake, Clearwater, Cranbrook, Duncan, Haida Gwaii, Kimberly, Kitimat, Nass Valley, New Hazelton, Powell River, Prince Rupert, Revelstoke, and Sunshine Coast.
- Teams do not involve physically co-locating police, community-based victim services, unlike Domestic Violence Units. Instead the team comes together as/when required.

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

- Domestic Violence Units are typically best suited to communities with a larger population and a workload that merits day-to-day co-location of core partners, including police, victim services and in some cases child protection workers.
- Interagency Case Assessment Teams do not involve physically co-locating partners and instead, a team of people comes together as and when required. Teams encompass a broader range of community partners that provide supports and services to women, children and families.
- Some communities in BC have both a Unit and a Team. In these communities, the two groups work together to coordinate cross-sector responses to high-risk cases of domestic violence and ensure victim safety.

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**Background:**

- Numerous reports and Coroners 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 Units in the White Paper on Justice Reform, the Provincial Plan on Domestic Violence and, more recently, in the Vision for a 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.

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## 2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE

## Procurement Strategy for CSCPb Contracted Programs

### Suggested Response:

- We recognize the dedication and hard work of contracted community service providers, and the valuable supports that 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 has completed 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.

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### If asked about service providers' questions or concerns about the ministry's Procurement Plan

- This is exactly the kind of information we hoped the consultation phase would identify and it's why feedback from the service providers has been 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 are committed to ensuring the best possible services for victims of crime in our province.

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If asked about how many programs may be impacted by the open procurement process

- The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch currently has over 400 contracted victim service and violence against women counselling and outreach programs operated by nearly 200 service providers in the province.
- Under the new open procurement process, most existing service providers will be required to submit a competitive proposal.

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 a given service area.

If asked about whether we will be implementing a new funding formula

- In response to stakeholder feedback, we have chosen not to proceed with a new funding formula at this time.
- While most service providers agreed that proposed funding formula factors are transparent, consistent and responsive to previous feedback, there continues to be concern over the actual impact of a new funding formula on service providers and service areas.

If asked about why service areas are changing

- There are no plans to change or increase the number of service areas at this time.
- Throughout the province we are committed to having programming available in some capacity in each service area, creating one of the most comprehensive and community-based network of services across BC.

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.
- In recent years, the majority of contracts for the Branch's Victim Service and Violence Against Women Programs have been direct awarded to agencies without an open process. In order to align with government procurement policy, the Branch is moving towards a process to ensure contracts for these services are awarded in a fair, transparent, and accountable manner.
- Significant consultation has occurred through three separate phases between May 2014 and July 2015. Consultation included the 200 current service providers as well as 3 Provincial associations, Ending Violence Association of BC, BC Society of Transition Houses, and Police Victim Services of BC.
  - **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. These sessions were focused on getting further feedback from contracted service providers on specific issues pertaining to program design and delivery, a new funding formula, and the Branch's plans for open procurement.
  - **Phase 3** of the initiative involved the release of a draft procurement plan for consultation. The draft procurement plan built on feedback received in Phases 1 and 2, and solicited input on these key topics:
    - Proposed Actions related to Program Design and Service Delivery;
    - Proposed Service Areas;
    - A Draft Funding Formula for contracted Victim Service and Violence Against Women programs; and
    - Draft Negotiated Request for Proposals (NRFP)

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Estimates 2016/17 Briefing Book**

**BC Coroners Service  
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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Physician Assisted  
Dying****Suggested Response:**

- As a result of a decision by the Supreme Court of Canada, physician assisted death is no longer unlawful. The federal government has until June 6, 2016, to determine the legislative response regarding these types of deaths.
- In the interim, individuals may apply to a court for an order authorizing a physician assisted death. These deaths will not be reportable to the Coroners Service.
- Once the federal legislation is enacted, the *Coroners Act* will be reviewed to determine if changes are necessary to bring it in line with the federal legislation.

**Background:**

- On February 6, 2015, the Supreme Court of Canada, in the case of *Carter vs Canada*, ruled that the criminal prohibition against assisted suicide, now more commonly known as physician-assisted dying was unconstitutional. The Court gave the federal government one year to produce amended legislation which would allow these deaths in regulated circumstances.
- On January 15, 2016, the Supreme Court agreed to extend the deadline by four months to take into account the change in federal government and the time lost through the 2015 fall federal election campaign.
- During that four month period, individuals who wish a physician-assisted death will be allowed to apply to the courts for a specific exemption to the ban.
- The change has led to a large number of consultations involving both federal and provincial governments, ethicists, physicians' organizations and groups with an interest in the outcome.

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Coroners Inquest  
Selection Criteria****Suggested Response:**

- The *Coroners Act* mandates that inquests must be held in certain cases. These include deaths in the custody of a peace officer.
- The Chief Coroner has the discretion to direct that an inquest not be held in these circumstances if satisfied that the death resulted from natural disease, deaths where there's no linkage between the detention and the death, or deaths where a public inquiry into the death has been called.
- The majority of deaths in the custody of a peace officer are also investigated by the Independent Investigations Office. Although the Coroner's investigation begins as soon as the death is reported, the inquest will not be called until the Independent Investigations Office has concluded its investigation. In some cases, Crown Counsel will review the circumstances for potential charges, further delaying the inquest process.
- In all other cases, the decision to hold an inquest is made by the Chief Coroner. The legislation allows the Chief Coroner to call an inquest in cases where either:
  - "the public has an interest in being informed of the circumstances of the death," or
  - "the death resulted from a dangerous practice or circumstance, and similar deaths could be prevented if recommendations were made to the public or an authority."
- Types of cases in which the Chief Coroner will review the circumstances to determine whether an inquest should be held include, but are not limited to:
  - Non-natural death in provincial or federal correctional facilities;
  - Deaths of persons held involuntarily in mental health facilities;
  - Deaths involving domestic violence;
  - Non-natural workplace deaths; and
  - Child deaths in which the Ministry of Children and Family Development played a role in the child's life prior to death.
- Coroners or Regional Coroners who investigate a death for which they think an inquest could be beneficial will forward that case to the Chief Coroner for her consideration.
- Under the legislation, the Minister may also order the Chief Coroner to conduct an inquest.

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Mill Explosion Deaths –  
Inquest vs Public Inquiry****Suggested Response:**

- Two inquests were held in 2015 into the tragic deaths of four workers, two at the explosion of the Babine Forest Products sawmill in Burns Lake in January 2012, and two at the explosion of the Lakeland mill in Prince George three months later.
- Both inquests produced a series of thoughtful recommendations from the inquest juries – 33 from the Lakeland jury and 33 plus 8 from the presiding coroner in the Babine inquest.
- All responses received from the agencies to which the recommendations were addressed are posted on the government website, and many very positive responses have already been received.
- We should note that government has already introduced legislative amendments to address all five recommendations from both inquests that called for changes to the *Workers Compensation Act*.
- Government is committed to doing everything we can to ensure that British Columbians have safe workplaces so they come home to their families at the end of the day.
- Public inquests 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.
- We understand that some individuals are still asking for a public inquiry. One of the key differences between an inquest and a public inquiry is that an inquest is focussed solely on fact-finding and on making recommendations to prevent future deaths, whereas a “hearing inquiry” can make findings of “misconduct” against individuals or agencies.
- It is important to remember, however, that the findings of any public inquiry would not change the decision of the Crown not to pursue charges regarding either explosion.
- Neither are recommendations from a public inquiry legally enforceable. A finding of “misconduct” cannot lead directly to a criminal conviction or criminal penalties as it is not a substitute or alternative for a criminal court process.
- It should be noted that in many ways, a Coroner’s Inquest is better equipped to provide answers than 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.

**Background:**

- s.22 and s.22 died following the explosion at the Babine Forest Products sawmill in Burns Lake on January 20, 2012.
- s.22 and s.22 died following the explosion at the Lakeland Mills sawmill in Prince George on April 24, 2012.
- In January 2016, the Steelworkers Union, BC Federation of Labour, First Nations Summit, Union of BC Indian Chiefs and BC Assembly of First Nations renewed their call for a public inquiry under the Inquiry Act into these explosions, arguing that the inquests did not go far enough in addressing the changes they believe are needed at WorkSafeBC and over-all how serious workplace injuries and fatalities are dealt with. These groups are also concerned that recommendations from an inquest jury are not enforceable.

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Child Death Investigations****Suggested Response:**

- The BC Coroners Service (BCCS) has a robust child death investigation and review process supported by a specialized Child Death Review Unit.
- In 2013, BCCS 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, the Representative for Children and Youth, and injury prevention. Subject matter experts are 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.
- Seven 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.
- Where a child death falls under the mandate of the Representative for Children and Youth, her office is immediately advised of the death and provided with a copy of the Coroner's report once the case is concluded.

**Background:**

- The BCCS investigates the deaths of approximately 300 children annually and issues a report in each of those cases.
- Three death review panels were held in 2015. The panel report on the first: Overdose Deaths in Youths and Young Adults was released in January 2016. The other two, reviewing residential fire deaths and pedestrian deaths, will be released shortly.



- Past panels have dealt with issues of youth suicide, unexplained infant deaths, drowning, and young drivers.
- Agencies which receive recommendations are asked to respond to them in writing, and the responses are posted on the Coroners Service website.

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Coroners' Autopsy Rate****Suggested Response:**

- In 2015, post mortem examinations (autopsies and/or toxicology testing) were ordered in approximately 35% of the deaths that BC coroners investigated.
- Autopsies were conducted in 26.5% of these cases.
- An autopsy is done when necessary to determine the cause of a death being investigated by the Coroners Service.
- Expedited toxicology testing, unique to BC, can frequently determine cause of death without the need for an autopsy in cases where preliminary investigation by the Coroner shows the likely cause of death to be a drug overdose.
- Expedited toxicology testing was performed in 8.4% of the 2015 deaths investigated.

**Background:**

- An autopsy will always be done when necessary to determine a reasonable cause of death.
- In many cases, thorough investigation of the scene of death, including head to toe examination of the body, and review of the deceased's recent history, including medical information, will enable the Coroner to determine a reasonable cause of death without resorting to more intrusive measures.
- BC's Provincial Laboratory provides expedited toxicology analysis to the Coroners Service, which can confirm drug-related causes of death without the need for autopsy. This analysis is undertaken when examination of the scene, body and history lead to a strong suspicion that the death is related to acute drug use.
- Autopsy rates vary across Canada depending on legislated mandates, policies and systems but average about 35%. No other jurisdiction has the advantage of expedited toxicology testing.

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Community Coroners -  
Recruitment and  
Retention****Suggested Response:**

- The ministry, as well as the Coroners Service itself, is well aware of challenges in recruiting and retaining suitable persons as Community Coroners, especially in the more remote and smaller communities of British Columbia.
- The exceptional skills required by Community Coroners can make recruitment difficult in some areas.
- The on-call requirements for the role can also be very challenging as some Community Coroners must be available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, for lengthy periods while getting few calls during the on-call period.
- The Coroners Service is working on making changes to the compensation system for Community Coroners in an effort to increase retention and to encourage a larger number of qualified applicants.
- The Coroners Service is also working on several innovative recruiting strategies, including: providing information to local news media about the opportunities for Community Coroners; recruiting through the Service's partnership with First Nations Health Authority; and approaching local community agencies who do similar work.
- The Service is also working to recruit more Community Coroners in groupings of communities to try to reduce the number of hours each person has to spend on call.

**Background:**

- The BC Coroners Service currently employs 71 Community Coroners across the province.
- They are not Public Service Act employees but are employed on an "as and when needed" basis. They receive an hourly wage of \$25 without benefits. There is no stand-by remuneration.
- Community Coroners play a key role in the death investigation system in BC. The information they gather at death scenes is critical to the Coroners Service mandate. They also play a valuable role representing community interests.

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Deaths from Illicit Drug Overdoses****Suggested Response:**

- The increase in deaths from illicit drug overdoses in BC over the past few years is of great concern. These deaths are always tragic especially as they so often involve younger adults with so much potential for the future.
- There were 465 apparent illicit drug overdose deaths in 2015, a 27% increase from 2014 when there were 366 deaths.
- While the majority of illicit drug overdose deaths do not involve fentanyl, preliminary data suggests that the proportion of illicit drug deaths for which fentanyl was detected (alone or in combination with other drugs) increased to approximately 35% in 2015.
- In the ministry, the BC Coroners Service is a partner on the BC Drug Overdose and Alert Partnership and provides other stakeholders in the group, including law enforcement, public health and the BC Centre for Disease Control, with mortality data as soon as possible in support of evidence-based programs to try to reduce these deaths.
- The ministry supports the report of Partnership on new strategies to try to reduce the number of drug overdose deaths and will co-operate with other ministries in implementation of these recommendations.

**Background:**

- Deaths due to illicit drug overdoses have increased steadily over the past 10 years, with a significant increase in 2015.
- Toxicology testing showed that in about 30 per cent of those cases, fentanyl was one of the drugs detected, frequently in a mix with heroin, cocaine, crystal meth, alcohol or other drugs.

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Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Total deaths reported</b>	<b>7,806</b>	<b>7,945</b>	<b>8,067</b>	<b>8,222</b>	<b>8,274</b>	<b>8,477</b>
• Non-reportable <sup>1</sup> (Section 15)	3,746	3,780	3,973	4,229	4,330	4,362
• Coroners' investigations (Section 16)						
• Accidental	1,590	1,769	1,719	1,689	1,642	1,664
• Natural	1,698	1,621	1,663	1,531	1,416	1,405
• Suicide <sup>2</sup>	533	530	509	522	639	600
Suicide rate per 100,000 population	11.9	11.8	11.2	11.4	13.8	12.8
• Homicide	89	93	79	86	106	121
• Undetermined	150	152	124	165	141	325
• Total deaths investigated	4,060	4,165	4,094	3,993	3,944	4,115
<b>Child deaths</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>284</b>
<b>Illicit drug overdose deaths</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>465</b>
<b>Accidental traffic-related motor vehicle deaths</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>300</b>
% of deaths with alcohol or alcohol & drugs involved	29%	21%	21%	22%	Note 3	Note 3
% of deaths with drugs involved	7%	5%	6%	9%	Note 3	Note 3
<b>Section 16 cases with post-mortem examinations</b>						
• Autopsies <sup>4</sup>	2,019	1,980	1,583	1,477	1,171	1,108
Autopsies as % of Section 16 cases	50%	48%	39%	37%	30%	27%
• Toxicology	1,703	1,733	1,589	1,678	1,562	1,655
Toxicology as % of Section 16 cases	42%	42%	39%	42%	40%	40%
• Total cases with post-mortem examinations	2,294	2,225	1,941	1,965	1,794	1,870
Total examinations as % of Section 16 cases	57%	53%	47%	49%	45%	45%
<b>Inquests</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>
• Police-related	9	12	13	11	7	4
• Deaths in correctional facilities	0	0	1	2	7	3
• Other	2	3	6	1	3	3
<b>Total number of staff<sup>5</sup></b>						<b>123</b>

## NOTES:

\* The BCCS works in a real-time database. As such, data is subject to change.

1. Includes deaths certified by a physician and non-human remains.

2. BCCS suicide policy changed September 2014 to remove the Beckon Test and apply the balance of probabilities to the standard of proof.

3. Alcohol/drug contribution to motor vehicle related deaths is not available until an investigation is concluded.

4. Includes external, simple and complex autopsy examinations.

5. Staffing levels as of December 2015. Includes full-time coroners, part-time coroners and other staff.

Revised: February 19, 2016

**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Homeless Deaths –  
Megaphone Magazine****Suggested Response:**

- It is well understood through numerous studies that the homeless population in general has poorer health outcomes, and a shorter lifespan, than individuals who have not experienced homelessness. This is one of the reasons why the Government is working so hard to reduce and eventually eliminate the number of homeless in BC.
- However, there are often a multitude of complex factors that result in an individual's homelessness, including mental and physical challenges and addictions issues. These are also risk factors for shorter lifespans.
- The BC Coroners Service tracks the number of homeless individuals among those deaths which are reportable to the Coroner, and publishes this information annually on its website.
- However, it should be made clear that these numbers do not cover all the deaths of homeless individuals in the province as the Coroners Service has no legal authority to investigate the deaths of adults who die of natural diseases while under the care of a physician, such as in hospital.

**If asked about the Recommendations in the Megaphone Magazine report on homeless deaths**

- In its 2016 report on deaths of homeless individuals, Megaphone magazine makes nine Recommendations, four of which are directed directly or indirectly to the Coroners Service. In response to these:
  - *Recommendation #1 suggests BC Coroners Service should "broaden its definition of homelessness" and work with health authorities to capture a higher proportion of deaths of the homeless.*  
The Coroners Service report captures those who are of no fixed address and those staying in short-term shelters. For many individuals, homelessness is a fluid state, and it is not possible to use a broader definition that still maintains the necessary accuracy. The Coroners Service has no legal jurisdiction to investigate deaths of adults that are a result of a natural disease process while someone is under the care of a physician.
  - *Recommendation #2 suggests BC Coroners Service should investigate the deaths of women in violent relationships to determine whether they might be considered "hidden homeless."*  
The mandate of the Coroners Service is to determine the identity of a deceased person and the cause and manner of their death. A coroner will always investigate a history of domestic violence when it appears to be relevant to a death.

- *Recommendation #3 suggests that BC Coroners Service should make more information available about the deaths of homeless aboriginal people.*

The Coroners Service is currently working closely with the First Nations Health Authority to ensure that a consistent Aboriginal Data Standard is used in collecting information on all deaths reported to the coroner. Once this process is concluded, the Coroners Service will be in a better position to provide more accurate data regarding the deaths of aboriginal people.

- *Recommendation #9 suggests that the BC government should provide funding to the Coroners Service to provide more extensive information about the deaths of homeless individuals, on an annual basis.*

As noted above, the issue is not only one of resources but even more, one of the legal mandate of the Coroners Service in its investigations. Major changes would need to be made to the mandate and legislation to allow this to happen in the way suggested in the Megaphone report.

**Background:**

- Megaphone Magazine is a magazine which is sold on the street by homeless and marginalized individuals. For the last two years it has put out a special report on the deaths of homeless individuals, based on the statistics provided by the Coroners Service.
- The numerical data in the Megaphone report is collected and provided by the Coroners Service, but the analysis, interpretation and recommendations are strictly those of Megaphone Magazine itself.

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Estimates 2016/17 Briefing Book**

**RoadSafetyBC  
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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Drug Impaired Driving****Suggested Response:**

- As part of our goal to have the safest roads in North America by 2020, we are closely monitoring the growing issue of drug-impaired driving and working with our partners to explore approaches to deter and prevent people from engaging in this high-risk, irresponsible driving behaviour.
- Our government works closely with police and road safety partners across the country, including the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators, to address the serious and deadly consequences of alcohol and drug-affected driving. Work ongoing in Canada is currently examining and testing ways to enhance drug detection in drivers and the penalties for drug-affected driving.
- Although there is no roadside screening device approved for drug impairment in Canada, police officers throughout BC are currently trained to:
  - Conduct a roadside Standard Field Sobriety Test and issue an immediate, 24-hour or 12-hour prohibition at the roadside if they suspect a driver's ability is affected by a drug and/or,
  - Take a driver to the police station in order that a certified, specially trained police officer can conduct an accurate Drug Recognition and Evaluation exam and demand tests such as a blood test to support *Criminal Code* charges if warranted.
- In 2015, the number of 24-hour prohibitions issued for drug-affected driving in BC was 2,606. The number of *Criminal Code* charges for drug impaired driving in BC is not known but is approximately 100 per year.

**Background:**

- Various studies show that marijuana alone increases crash risk only marginally, some studies concluding no additional risk while others elevating crash risk only modestly by as much as 2 times. For other drugs and drug combinations, however, the risk of crashing is much worse. For example, benzodiazepines, cocaine, opioids, amphetamines, and various combinations of alcohol and drugs increasing crash risk up to hundreds, if not thousands of times.
- The *Criminal Code* of Canada includes sections which permit a police officer, if reasonable grounds are established, to conduct behavioural tests at the roadside (Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST)) to carry out a Drug Evaluation and Classification Assessment (DECA) using a battery of physical, cognitive, and behavioural tests at the police station to

determine whether a driver is impaired, presumably by drugs. The DECA is conducted by specially trained Drug Recognition Experts (DRE). A DRE may conduct a number of tests including drawing a bodily fluid sample, typically urine, which is sent to a forensic laboratory for testing. If the lab test results are consistent with the DRE's assessment, the driver is charged under the *Criminal Code* and if convicted, is subject to the same penalties as driving while impaired by alcohol.

- At present, marijuana can be used for medical reasons in Canada since the courts require reasonable access to a legal source of the drug when a patient is prescribed it by a physician. At the same time, the federal government is committed to the legalization of marijuana, and many are concerned that this may lead to more drivers who are under the influence of this drug.
- It is widely recognized that more needs to be done to address the problem of drivers under the influence of all drugs, including marijuana and many other drugs and various combinations of them.
- While there currently exists a process for detecting drug impaired drivers (e.g., SFST, DECA, lab tests), there is a need for a more efficient and accurate method for identifying these drivers at the roadside, similar to the approved roadside screening breath test used for alcohol. While breath tests cannot be used to detect drugs, there are oral fluid tests available that can be used to detect the presence of a relatively small group of pre-identified drugs such as cannabis, cocaine and methamphetamine.

s.13,s.16,s.17

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Distracted Driving****Suggested Response:**

- Our goal is to have the safest roads in North America by 2020 and to this end we have taken significant steps to combat the problem of distracted driving.
- In 2010, a new offence and a fine of \$167 was established under the *Motor Vehicle Act* to prohibit drivers from using a handheld device to talk, email or text while driving. In 2014, we further toughened the penalty for distracted driving by adding three penalty points to the fine for use of an electronic device while driving.
- However, despite the clear dangers, evidence shows that distracted driving still remains a significant problem in BC and continues to be a leading contributing factor of traffic fatalities in this province.
- That is why last summer, our government consulted with British Columbians on distracted driving to explore further possible sanctions. We received more than 69,000 responses from approximately 9,400 contributors during the 4-week consultation.
- An overwhelmingly majority of respondents (90%) indicated that they remain very concerned about distracted driving. There was also broad based support for increasing the financial penalties and implementing sanctions for repeat offenders.
- In response to the consultation, our Government recently announced the following changes to the penalties for distracted driving, effective June 1, 2016:
  - Each offence will include a base fine of \$368, up from \$167, and will add four penalty points to a person's driving record, meaning an automatic minimum annual driver penalty point premium of \$175 must also be paid;
  - First time offenders will therefore face a minimum \$543 in financial penalties;
  - Repeat offenders, upon a second offence within 12 months, will pay the \$368 fine plus a minimum \$520 annual driver point penalty premium for a total of \$888 in financial penalties, which escalate further for any additional offence; and
  - Under changes to the Driver Improvement Program, repeat offenders will also now have their driving record subject to automatic review which could result in a three-to-12 month driving prohibition.
- An ongoing education and awareness campaign and partnerships, including those with law enforcement and ICBC, will also help encourage drivers to change the way they think about distracted driving with the knowledge that it is high-risk behaviour with potentially fatal

consequences.

**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.
- According to police-reported information collected in the Traffic Accident System, driver distraction and inattention has overtaken alcohol and drugs as the second leading contributing factor of traffic fatalities in BC.
- 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.
- From June 16, 2015, to July 16, 2015, government consulted with British Columbians on distracted driving and possible increases to sanctions. This was the second step of the Province's two-phase approach to targeting distracted driving. The first step was implemented October 20, 2014, when government introduced three penalty points for talking on a hand-held electronic device while driving, in addition to the \$167 fine introduced in 2010. Prior to this change, three penalty points were only associated with texting and for any electronic violation by a driver in the Graduated Licensing Program.
- 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 \$115 in Quebec and a high of \$1,200 in P.E.I. In addition to the fines, most provinces also issue penalty points along with fines. Penalty points vary widely across the provinces.
- Driver penalty points, including those for distracted driving, remain on a person's driving record for five years. Driver penalty point premiums start at \$175 for 4 penalty points and escalate from there. These premiums are assessed and paid annually and they are separate from insurance premiums as drivers are billed even if they do not own or insure a vehicle.

- Under the Driver Improvement Program, drivers who engage in poor or dangerous driving behaviour may be subject to a range of driver improvement action:
  - Experienced drivers may receive warning letters at 9 points and probation letters or driving prohibitions at 15 points.
  - Experienced drivers with two or more “high-risk” offences within a one-year period, such as excessive speeding or driving without due care and attention, can be subject to prohibitions between 3-12 months. Effective June 1, 2016 distracted driving will be considered a “high-risk” driving offence under the Driver Improvement Program.
  - Drivers in the Graduated Licensing Program face sanctions earlier to ensure that they develop safe driving habits. Prohibitions may be issued after 2 points, meaning one distracted driving ticket may result in a prohibition.

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## **2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE**

## **Road Safety Initiative**

### **Suggested Response:**

- We are working to shift traffic disputes out of court, improve police efficiency, and make the process more accessible for citizens.
- The Road Safety Initiative is part of the Ministry's Justice Reform Agenda and responds both to a commitment made in the 2011 Throne Speech and a recommendation coming out of the 2013 White Paper (Part Two).
- Led by RoadSafetyBC, the Road Safety Initiative will:
  - s.13
  - Improve public safety and effectively increase enforcement capacity by allowing officers to reduce the time they spend at each traffic stop, entering tickets or in court arguing disputed tickets (up to 6 days a month per officer currently).
  - Meet the modern day needs of British Columbians by allowing them to pay traffic tickets online.

### **Current Status:**

- We are planning to implement these changes in two phases:
  - First, electronic roadside ticketing, also called eTicketing, and online payment. We expect this will include at least one pilot project to test the new process before a full provincial rollout.

s.12,s.13

**Background:**

- Legislative amendments to support the Road Safety Initiative (RSI) were made in May 2012 (Bill 52). These changes are not yet in force.
- These amendments were promised in the 2011 Throne Speech, and also reflect a recommendation coming out of the 2013 White Paper (Part Two).
- Plans are underway for a two-phase approach to implement the RSI.

s.12

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****BC Road Safety Strategy****Suggested Response:**

- In recent years, our government has toughened penalties for excessive speeding, distracted driving, stunting and drinking and driving, banned new drivers from using electronic devices, expanded the use of intersection safety cameras, and created integrated road safety units.
- In turn, we've seen a reduction in the death toll on BC's roads. Between 2005 and 2014 the number of motor vehicle related fatalities has decreased by more than one third.
- Nevertheless, despite these improvements, there is more work to be done to meet our goal of having the safest roads in North America by 2020.
- Earlier this year, the Ministry released its update to the Ministry's Road Safety Strategy. This publication, which includes input from our road safety partners internal and external to government, highlights the excellent research and innovations taking place in this province.
- Our strategy is clear—road safety requires collective action across all fronts. BC's Road Safety Strategy sets the course over the coming years for collaboration and coordination among the province's road safety partners to ensure continuous improvements in road safety and, ultimately, realize our collective goal for safer roads across this province.

**Background:**

- The BC Road Safety Strategy's goal is for British Columbia to have the safest roads in North America, measured in terms of having the lowest rates of fatalities and serious injuries per 100,000 population. The Strategy is also aligned with Vision Zero thinking, which holds that all motor vehicle deaths and serious injuries are preventable. British Columbia's ultimate target is the elimination of fatalities and serious injuries on the province's roads.
- On January 29, 2016, RoadSafetyBC released its new strategy called "Moving to Vision Zero: Road Safety Strategy Update and Showcase of Innovation in British Columbia." This update includes a recommitment to internationally accepted principles of road safety; an update on road safety data for the province (generally for the years 2005 – 2014 reflecting a number of motor vehicle crash data sets ranging from police reports, hospital discharges, ambulance calls and bus crash data); and a showcase of road safety innovation from across BC.
- Some of the highlighted road safety innovations in the report include: legislative tools, such as the Immediate Roadside Prohibition Program and the continued strengthening of distracted driving penalties; education and awareness, such as the Shift into Winter

Campaign and the Driver Information System; infrastructure, such as investments in highway safety improvements; and new technologies, such as variable speed limits and wildlife detection systems.

- This report includes input from road safety partners from across the province, both internal and external to government. It also contains information about research projects that were presented on October 15 and 16, 2015, at the BC Road Safety Conference hosted by RoadSafetyBC and that took place in Vancouver.

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****DriveABLE Cognitive  
Assessment Program****Suggested Response:**

- The health and safety of all BC road users is a priority and as part of our goal of having the safest roads in North America it is critical that we have an effective process to ensure British Columbians are fit to continue driving as they get older.
- 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 a driver's licence may result in significant lifestyle changes, and 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.
- 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.
- The DriveABLE assessments include an in-office assessment and an on-road evaluation.
- There are over 3.2 million drivers in BC. In 2015, approximately 1,000 drivers were referred to DriveABLE, completing over 1,200 in-office and on-road assessments. This number continues to trend down following the application of more stringent referral parameters.
- RoadSafetyBC is exploring new models and opportunities for improving their senior driver medical fitness assessment. With a trending demographic shift to an older population, coupled with people living and driving longer, the way in which senior driver medical fitness is conducted is being assessed. RoadSafetyBC is continuing the review of the DriveABLE program to ensure we are utilizing DriveABLE in the most appropriate way.

**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.

- There is a provision in the contract for two twelve month extensions. The Province extended the term for a twelve month period which commenced on March 1, 2016, until February 28, 2017. Insight accepted the one-year extension.
- The administrative services offered by Insight include scheduling appointments, coordinating payments, setting up remote service locations, and managing relationships with sub-contractors such as healthcare professionals and driving schools.
- RoadSafetyBC covers the cost of in-office and on-road assessments for clients referred by RoadSafetyBC.
- In 2012, a number of program delivery changes 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;
  - Those who fail the in-office assessment may be offered the opportunity to take an on-road evaluation.
- In 2015, RoadSafetyBC and Insight conducted a review of location viability; this included an examination of assessment volumes; proximity to an alternate location; difficulty in assessors and drivers accessing the location; mobile travel fees; and service provider availability. As a result, assessments are now available in 27 locations across the province.
  - Service at the Campbell River location has been redirected to Courtenay due to the low number of volumes at that location.
  - On a trial basis, drivers in Chilliwack are being offered services in Abbotsford due to challenges with location availability.

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Motorcycle Safety –  
Graduated Licensing  
Program****Suggested Response:**

- Our government is proud of the steps we have taken to increase standards for motorcycle helmet and seating safety. As a result of changes in 2012, all motorcyclists and passengers in BC are required to wear helmets that meet safety industry standards and all passengers must place their feet on foot pegs or floorboards.
- In the past five years there has been an overall downward trend in motorcycle fatalities when compared to the previous five year period; however, motorcyclists continue to be over-represented in road trauma statistics.
- That is why we continue to work with stakeholders to look at ways to further improve motorcycle safety in this province. This includes working with ICBC on a Graduated Licensing Program for motorcyclists.
- Graduated licensing for motorcyclists will require significant policy and legislative changes and will take time to develop. While this work continues, no implementation date has been established at this time.
- However, the ministry is supporting an education campaign intended to highlight motorcycle safety to youth. This campaign was developed in collaboration with s.22 in March 2005 after he lost control of a high-powered motorcycle less than a day after receiving his learner's licence.

**Background:**

- On June 1, 2012, new motorcycle safety regulations took effect requiring all motorcyclists and passengers in BC to wear helmets that meet safety industry standards. Riders are no longer able to wear novelty helmets, typically known as skid lids, skull caps or beanies, which do not meet the new requirements. Riders found violating the helmet laws receive a \$138 fine.
- In addition, legislative changes came into force on June 1, 2012, requiring passengers, including children, to place their feet on foot pegs or floorboards. Children who are unable to reach foot rests are no longer allowed to ride as passengers.
- Motorcycle fatality data over the last 10 years (2005-2014) show that between 2010 and

2014, an annual average of 33 motorcyclist fatalities occurred in the province, compared with an annual average of 44 fatalities for the previous five year period from 2005 to 2009.

- In 2012, there were 24 motorcyclist fatalities, the lowest number since 1997. While data for 2013 and 2014 fatalities show higher counts than 2012, 29 and 36 fatalities, respectively, the data for these years are consistent with the overall downward trend in motorcycle fatalities for the five year period 2010 to 2014 when compared to the previous five year period from 2005 to 2009.
- Motorcyclists make up less than 3% of BC road users (insured vehicles), but are involved in approximately 11% of all road fatalities.
- s.22 was killed in March 2005 after losing control of a high-powered motorcycle less than a day after he received his learner's licence. s.22 has been requesting government change the motorcycle licensing process.
- At the time government announced the new motorcycle safety regulations in 2012, the ministry committed to moving forward with a graduated licensing program that includes power restrictions. Consultations were conducted in the summer of 2012; however, implementation challenges remain. These include policy work related to power restrictions, which requires ongoing work with manufacturers and the federal government. Significant changes to ICBC systems will also be required to implement a Graduated Licensing Program for motorcyclists.
- The Superintendent of Motor Vehicles met with s.22 in July and September 2013, as well as in July 2014, to update her on the status of a graduated licensing program. s.22 also met with Minister Suzanne Anton on November 18, 2015.
- RoadSafetyBC has worked with s.22 to produce an educational presentation to youth to set them on the right path to safer motorcycling. The presentation outlines the risks associated with motorcycling and the proven countermeasures motorcyclists can take to minimize their risk. In mid-February s.22 RoadSafetyBC staff and the RCMP made presentations at secondary schools in Kitimat, Terrace and Prince Rupert.

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Responsible Driver  
Program and Ignition  
Interlock Program  
Procurement****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 an estimated 260 lives saved and a 52% 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 in 2016, in the middle of June and the end of September, respectively.
- A procurement process is currently underway to tender new contracts for service providers for the Responsible Driver Program and Ignition Interlock Program. The Responsible Driver Program Request for Proposals closed on February 5, 2016. After a competitive process with three bids, Stroh Health Care was the successful proponent. The new contract with Stroh Health Care will be effective June 16, 2016, for a five-year term, with the possibility of two one-year extensions.
- A Request for Information process for the Ignition Interlock Program occurred in mid-2015. A Request for Proposals for the Ignition Interlock Program was posted and after a competitive process with two bids that met the mandatory requirements, Smart Start Canada was the successful proponent. The new contract with Smart Start will be effective September 30, 2016 for a five-year term, with the possibility of two-one year extensions. ..
- On February 3, 2016, the Province implemented a mandatory referral process to remedial programs for drivers affected by alcohol or drugs. Using a points system, drivers who accumulate 6-16 remedial program points within the preceding 5 years will be required to participate in the Responsible Driver Program or the Program combined with the Ignition Interlock Program. Mandatory requirements are prescribed in regulation and are not subject to a reconsideration process

**Background:**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. In 2015, RoadSafetyBC entered into a one year contract with Stroh Health Care. The current contract will expire on June 15, 2016. The wind down provisions of the contract allows for Stroh Health Care to continue delivering the program until January 16, 2017, to clients registered in the program before June 15, 2016.

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. An ignition interlock device is a device wired into the vehicle's ignition system that 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. 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 with Alcolock 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. In 2015, RoadSafetyBC entered into a one year contract with Alcolock. The current contract is due to expire on September 30, 2016. The wind down provisions of the current contract allows Alcolock to continue to deliver the program until September 30, 2017, to clients registered in the program prior to September 30, 2016.

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**Consumer Protection  
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2. Debt Settlement
3. Home Inspectors
4. Guide Dogs and Service Dogs
5. Funeral Services on Haida Gwaii

**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Payday Lending****Suggested Response:**

- It is one of the Premier's platform commitments to reduce the maximum fees payable on payday loans in British Columbia.
- This industry is rapidly evolving and we're always looking for new ways to help protect consumers.
- For this reason, ministry staff are working to review the Province's 2009 payday lending regulations.
- 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 payday lending law through compliance orders and financial penalties.

**Background:**

- Government committed to reduce the maximum fees payable on payday loans from \$23 per \$100 borrowed to \$17 per \$100 borrowed.
- The Criminal Code of Canada 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 in the regulation 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.

- The maximum borrowing cost for payday loans is set 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.
- Other provinces, along with BC, are looking to reduce the maximum allowable lending charges. Because payday lending is rapidly evolving and lenders offer new products, including on-line loans, a comprehensive review of the regulatory regime is necessary to effectively regulate the industry and protect consumers.

#### Installment loans and title loans

- In addition to high-cost short term loans, some payday and other lenders are now providing high-cost installment loans and car title loans.
- These products are structured to have multiple payments stretched out over significantly longer periods of time and in larger amounts than payday loans, making it very difficult for borrowers to make repayment progress. Costs are sometimes further increased by fees and re-borrowing.
- These loans are outside the scope of the provincial regulations enforced by CPBC.

#### 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 million.
- Cash Store Financial must also pay a \$25,000 penalty from the original decision and reimburse CPBC more than \$21,000 for investigation costs.

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**Appendix A: Payday Lending Maximum Charges by Jurisdiction**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Maximum Charges</b> (% of the loan amount, inclusive of all fees and interest)
<b>British Columbia</b>	23%
<b>Alberta</b>	23%
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	23%
<b>Manitoba</b>	17%
<b>Ontario</b>	21%
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	22%
<b>Prince Edward Island</b>	Proposed maximum rate of 25%.
<b>New Brunswick</b>	Rate has yet to be set.
<b>Quebec</b>	Payday lending prohibited.
<b>Newfoundland</b>	Does not regulate.
<b>Yukon</b>	Does not regulate.
<b>North West Territories</b>	Does not regulate.
<b>Nunavut</b>	Does not regulate.

**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Debt Settlement****Suggested Response:**

- British Columbia's current legislation provides protections for consumers around harmful or deceptive practices. As of April 1, 2016, that protection has been enhanced with the regulation of the debt settlement industry.
- Amendments to the *Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act* have come into force. These:
  - require all debt settlers operating in British Columbia to be licensed by Consumer Protection BC;
  - prohibit debt repayment agents, including debt settlers and debt poolers, from charging fees until both the debtor and the creditor(s) have approved a debt repayment proposal;
  - set a maximum fee for debt repayment services;
  - prohibit debt repayment agents from restricting communication between a debtor and creditor(s);
  - require debt repayment agents to inform their clients if a creditor has refused a debt repayment proposal;
  - prohibit debt repayment agents from offering loans, credit or incentives to clients; and,
  - require contracts for debt repayment services to make clear disclosures so that consumers may make informed decisions.
- Ministry staff consulted with their counterparts in other provinces as well as the 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 British Columbia, which requires all debt poolers to be licensed and inspected for compliance with regulatory requirements.

**Background:**

- Currently, the *Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act* requires three debt industry groups to be licensed by Consumer Protection BC (bailiffs, collection agents, and debt poolers).
- Debt settlement companies offer to negotiate lump-sum settlements with creditors for an amount significantly less than the 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 settlers may use a number of practices that can be considered harmful and deceptive to consumers, in some cases negatively affecting credit scores and leading to further debt.
- Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario license and prohibit debt settlement companies from charging upfront fees.
- Consumer Protection BC has received numerous inquiries about debt settlement companies:
  - 2010: 8 enquiries
  - 2011: 157 enquiries
  - 2012: 52 enquiries
  - 2013: 137 enquiries
  - 2014: 71 enquiries
  - 2015: 36 enquiries

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Home Inspectors****Suggested Response:**

- 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 Public Safety and Solicitor General staff and Consumer Protection BC are participating in this work.
- Responsibility for home inspector licensing will remain with Consumer Protection BC.

**"If asked about timing for these changes"**

- Key changes will be implemented in 2016 and work on further improvements will continue in 2017.
- Government will continue to work with home inspector associations, individual licensees and Consumer Protection BC to ensure appropriate lead time to effect these changes.

**Background:**

- Home inspectors have been licensed in BC since 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.
- Improving home inspector licensing standards is one of the election platform commitments. This commitment was reaffirmed in Minister Rich Coleman's 2015 mandate letter.
- Home inspectors in BC are regulated under the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act and Home Inspector Licensing Regulation. Consumer Protection BC (CPBC) has delegated responsibility for regulating home inspectors.
- There are approximately 500 licensed home inspectors in BC, belonging to one of four professional associations.
- Currently home inspectors who meet the qualifications of one of four home inspector associations are eligible for a provincial license from CPBC. Each association sets its own educational requirements, evaluation methods, inspection standards and a complaints-handling process. These differences have led to confusion for consumers.

- In the future, association membership will no longer be required in order to be licensed by CPBC.
- The proposed regulatory amendments will improve home inspector licensing standards by prescribing qualifications for a licence directly in the regulation; improving home inspection contracts and prohibiting limiting liability in contracts; setting requirements for inspection reports and professional insurance. These changes, when approved, will come into force on September 1, 2016.
- Further changes in 2017 will focus on developing a single occupational standard for all home inspectors in BC and a corresponding credentialing model.
- These regulatory requirements will reduce the role of professional associations in licensing. The associations are preparing to transition to their new roles. There are no remaining issues of concern.
- Consultation conducted in 2013 indicated broad support for strengthening licensing standards. The amendments have been informed through consultation with home inspector associations, individual licensees, CPBC, members of the public, and other stakeholders. An advisory group with representatives of home inspector professional associations has met regularly with government to advise on the changes.

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**2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE****Guide Dogs and Service Dogs****Suggested Response:**

- As part of the Province's Accessibility 2024 Strategy to make British Columbia the most progressive province in Canada for people with disabilities, the guide dog and service dog program has been modernized.
- We are bringing higher training standards, improving access to public places and strata properties, and strengthening public safety.
- Dogs that were certified under the former Act will continue to be certified under the new Act.
- Guide dogs and service dogs provide a true lifeline for many British Columbians. Their support allows their handlers to live fully integrated lives despite the challenges they may face.
- These changes support people who use certified guide dogs or service dogs to have improved access to restaurants, transit vehicles, and any place to which the public is invited.

**Background:**

- Two key changes have occurred for the guide dog and service dog 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 Public Safety and Solicitor General; and,
  - implementation of the new *Guide Dog and Service Dog 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.
- The *Guide Dog and Service Dog Act*, which came into force on January 18, 2016, reflects modern realities in the training and use of guide dogs and service dogs. Specifically, it:
  - limits certification to dogs and no other animals, for greater certainty;

- recognizes both guide dogs for the visually impaired and service dogs for individuals with other disabilities;
  - requires a high training standard for certified dogs;
  - provides an option for dogs to be tested by the Justice Institute of BC if they were not trained by an accredited facility;
  - extends public access rights to certified dog in training teams;
  - extends tenancy rights to include strata properties and retired certified dogs that continue to reside with their handlers;
  - increases the existing penalties, creates a new offence of falsely purporting to be a certified team, and authorizes violation tickets to be issued as part of a progressive compliance and enforcement system; and,
  - creates a Registrar of Guide Dogs and Service Dogs to ensure more robust certification decision making.
- A new offence of harming or interfering with a certified guide dog or service dog has also been created under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*.
  - Approximately 200 dogs were certified under the previous Act, with about 10 to 15 new dogs certified each year.
  - The ministry will automatically certify dogs that have been trained by a school accredited by Assistance Dogs International or the International Guide Dog Federation (the two internationally recognized accrediting bodies). Non-accredited schools, including those that were previously recognized by the ministry, may have their dogs tested by the Justice Institute of BC.
  - Consultations on the new Act and program were held in 2012 and 2015. Prior to the Act coming into force, the ministry engaged various stakeholder groups including businesses, transit, guide and service dog users, and landlord/strata/tenant organizations to inform them of the changes.

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## **2016/17 ESTIMATES NOTE**

## **Funeral Services on Haida Gwaii**

### **Suggested Response:**

- I understand there are challenges for families who lose loved ones on Haida Gwaii.
- The ministry has been in contact with the Mayor of the Village of Queen Charlotte over the last year.
- Ministry staff and Consumer Protection BC are exploring ways to better service small and remote communities and ensure there are resources available.

### **Background:**

- The Village of Queen Charlotte does not have a licensed funeral provider. As the number of funerals per year is limited, it is unlikely that a commercial operator will move to the area.
- Previously, an unlicensed funeral director was providing a range of funeral services. Consumer Protection BC (CPBC) issued a warning letter to the individual on December 11, 2014.
- Ministry staff, members of CPBC and representatives from the BC Funeral Association discussed service delivery for small and remote communities.
- Ideas discussed included satellite agents of a funeral home to provide limited services in a small community such as assistance with preparing permits and advice on transfer options, and on private arrangements and funeral home services. Another idea was to work with the Northern Health Authority, Vital Statistics and CPBC on providing consistent, comprehensive information about funeral services and the law, including private arrangements.

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### **Helping Families and Friends**

- By law, funeral directors must be licensed by CPBC in order to operate. The licensing process is in place to protect consumers and communities.

- 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. A private transfer permit must be obtained by the family from CPBC.
- 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.

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