

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Estimates 2017/18 Briefing Book**

**Cross Sector Issues
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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and
Girls (MMIWG)****Suggested Response:**

- In September 2016 the federal government established the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). The Inquiry's purpose is to examine and report on systemic causes of violence experienced by Indigenous women and girls and their greater vulnerability to violence.
- All provinces and territories, including B.C., have passed Orders in Council to allow the commission to consider matters within both provincial and federal jurisdiction.
- B.C. has been granted standing as a party to the inquiry to enable the province to make comprehensive written and oral submissions.
- Concerns regarding the disproportionate violence experienced by indigenous women and girls have been raised across the country. The province is committed to fully participating in the national inquiry to address these critical issues.

Status of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Report (MWCI Report) recommendations
See Estimates Note CROSS 2 "OAG Report on Government Response to MWCI Report Recommendations".

Does the province support a restart of the inquiry?

- Concerns regarding the disproportionate violence experienced by indigenous women and girls have been raised across the country. B.C. is committed to fully participating in the national inquiry to address these critical issues.
- The province supports calls for the commission to improve communication processes and to formally request an extension of its two year mandate.

Will the province continue to report out on B.C.'s Missing Women Commission of Inquiry (Oppal) recommendations following the national inquiry

- The provincial government is committed to resume reporting out on B.C.'s Missing Women Commission of Inquiry recommendations in Fall 2017.
- In future, the scope of reporting may be modified to include other related initiatives, such as recommendations from the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Background:

- The commission's mandate is currently two years, from September 2016 to December 2018. The commission has indicated they will be seeking an extension beyond this two year mandate but has not yet made a formal request.
- Systemic factors that may be considered by the commission include issues related to child welfare practices, policing investigations, health, education and the justice and public safety sector.
- The inquiry will be conducted in three phases:
 - Community/Family Hearings to hear the stories and concerns of family members and survivors;
 - Institutional Hearings to hear from governments, police agencies, service providers and Aboriginal community groups; and
 - Expert panels on key topics.
- In May 2017 the commission held the first community hearing which took place in Whitehorse
- In August 2017 the first expert panel on Indigenous Laws and Decolonizing Practices was held in Winnipeg.
- The next community hearing is scheduled to take place in September 2017 in Smithers. Inquiry staff visited Smithers, Terrace and Hazelton during July 2017 to meet with families in advance of the community hearing.
- The inquiry has not confirmed if any further community hearings will be scheduled in B.C., however it is anticipated that there will be at least one additional community/family hearing in B.C.
- Institutional hearings are expected to begin in 2018. Areas of focus are expected to include policing, the justice system and child welfare.

Public Response and Critique of the Inquiry

- Since January 2017 seven commission staff have resigned, including one commissioner. The commission's process and model were referenced as key issues in the commissioner's resignation.

- Numerous open letters from families, indigenous organisations and community organizations have also expressed concerns regarding the Inquiry's process and focus.
- Specifically, the commission has been criticized for adopting an overly legal approach, including asking witnesses to swear in, a lack of communication with all stakeholders and a disconnection from affected families and communities.
- On July 27, 2017, the Assembly of First Nations passed a resolution calling for a reset and amendment of the inquiry mandate, including an extension, but did not pass a resolution for the resignation and replacement of all commissioners.
- Following the Assembly of First Nations resolution, the Coalition on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in B.C. authored an open letter which included a call for improved communication from the commission, an explicit focus on policing and for all levels of government to work together to support the inquiry.

Provincial Response to the National Inquiry

- All provinces and territories have passed Orders in Council to allow the commission to consider matters within both provincial and federal jurisdiction.
- B.C.'s Order in Council specifies that the commission may not make findings of misconduct against a person, nor make a report that alleges misconduct by a person.
- B.C. has been granted national standing as a party to the Inquiry to enable the province to make comprehensive written and oral submissions and fully participate in the inquiry.
- The province has a team, consisting of an executive lead, lawyer and policy analyst lead, to coordinate provincial participation in the inquiry.
- This team also participates in two federal/provincial/territorial working groups for the inquiry established to facilitate coordination and collaboration across the country as appropriate.
- Planning for a provincial submission to the inquiry is underway and will include information from across government on topics such as child welfare, education, health, justice and public safety.
- Leveraging federal funding, B.C. has also established a Family Information Liaison Unit (FILU) within the ministry in order to support families of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls.
- FILU provides frontline victim services and the supports are available to family members whether or not they are participating in the national inquiry.

Confidential

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE

OAG Report on Government Response to MWCI Report Recommendations

Suggested Response:

- We appreciate the Auditor's General examination of government's response to 21 recommendations and both urgent measures made by the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry (MWCI).
- In response to the Office of the Auditor General's (OAG) recommendation for action, the province will issue a public report in the fall of 2017.
- In future, the scope of reporting may be modified to include other related initiatives, such as recommendations from the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Background:

- The OAG completed an examination of how the B.C. government has responded to selected recommendations made by the MWCI report and released a public report on December 9, 2016.
- The OAG examination focused on 21 recommendations and two urgent actions identified in the MWCI report.
- 21 of the recommendations and one urgent action are the responsibilities of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the Ministry of Attorney General, and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is responsible for one urgent action.
- During its examination, the OAG verified actions taken and drew conclusions regarding whether those actions have been responsive to their intent.
- The OAG concluded that government:
 - Responded to the intent of eight recommendations;
 - Partially responded to the intent of four recommendations and two urgent actions;
 - Has not responded to the intent of five recommendations; and

- Was not far enough along with four recommendations to determine if the approach addresses the intent.
- Additionally, the OAG provided more general observations with respect to approaches taken to implement various recommendations across the following four themes: funding, stakeholder engagement, reporting and accountability, and oversight.
- The OAG's public report made one recommendation for action: "that the provincial government report publically each year on how its programs and initiatives are meeting the intent of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry's recommendations."

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Highway 16****Suggested Response:**

- The province has been working on several fronts to support greater safety for women living in rural and remote areas of northern B.C., including in communities along and near the Highway 16 corridor.
- The ministry provides over \$2.5 million in ongoing annual funding for services and supports to victims of crime and women who have experienced violence in northern B.C.
- In March 2017, two civil forfeiture grants totaling \$70,000 were provided to Carrier Sekani to support a child and youth advocacy centre and healing and rebuilding for family members of missing and murdered women along Highway 16.
- In December 2015, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (TRAN) announced a five-point action plan that resulted from the symposium.
- In 2017 TRAN increased the five-point action plan from \$5 million to \$6.4 million:
 - \$2.6 million over two years for transit expansion;
 - \$2 million over three years for a community transportation grant program to purchase and operate vehicles;
 - \$300,000 over two years for a First Nations driver education program;
 - \$1.5 million 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.

Greyhound Application to Cease Service

- Ministry of Transportation is following the application to cease service and will be working with local governments to explore all options to support affordable transportation in northern B.C. while awaiting a decision.
- As an independent body, the Passenger Transportation Board is required to consider Greyhound's application.
- The government will also work closely with affected communities to find reliable

transportation options that will help them grow and thrive.

Background:Transit Expansion

- Between August and September 2016, BC Transit, in partnership with First Nations and local community partners, undertook public engagement on proposed transit options along the Highway 16 corridor. Based on public consultation results, revised service options were shared with local decision makers in October 2016 for their consideration and approval.
- Since then, BC Transit has launched several new bus services serving communities along the Highway 16 corridor.
 - In January 2017, the first Highway 16 Inter-Community Transit Service was launched connecting Moricetown and Smithers.
 - In June 2017, two new bus services linking Burns Lake to Prince George and Smithers were launched; these spans of highway previously represented the largest gap in transit systems along the Highway 16 corridor.
 - In Fall 2017 a new transit service will be launched from Hazelton to Terrace.
- TRAN has approved 12 communities and organizations along Highway 16 to receive grants to purchase and operate community vehicles for three years. The first vehicle is now in operation providing shuttle service between Vanderhoof and Saik'uz.

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.
 - 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.
- In March 2017, \$70,000 in grant funding was provided to Carrier Sekani to support a child and youth advocacy centre, as well as healing and rebuilding for family members of missing and murdered women along the Highway of Tears.
- Implementing practical, affordable and sustainable solutions to identified transportation challenges:
 - A new comprehensive web-based portal was developed, which provides residents with easy access to information on transit, medical transportation, inter-city bus, rail and community-based transportation services.
 - The First Nations driver education program, included in the five-point action plan, is also underway and has been extended to March 2019. Funding of \$300,000 over two years is providing hands-on driver training to First Nations members.
 - TRAN, Northern Health Authority and First Nations Health Authority are using integrated GIS mapping to look at medical transportation needs and patterns, to better coordinate medical transport services for people in First Nations communities
- Earlier intervention through targeted RCMP engagement and outreach to hitchhikers:
 - Members of the RCMP in B.C. 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.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE

Cannabis Legalization

Suggested Response:

B.C.'s focus remains on four things:

- Protecting children and youth;
- Prioritizing the health and wellness of British Columbians;
- Keeping the criminal element out of cannabis to reduce crime and to ensure consumers get a product they can trust; and
- Educating drivers and supporting the enforcement of drug-impaired driving laws that keep roads safe.

- Local governments, Indigenous governments and organizations, key stakeholders and the public will all have an opportunity to share their thoughts through various forms of engagement this fall.
- To help focus this discussion, we have a preliminary blueprint that's based on considerable work already done over the past two years, including:
 - Meetings over the past year involving approximately eight ministries (Public Safety and Solicitor General, Health, Attorney General, Agriculture, Finance, Municipal Affairs and Housing, Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and Children and Family Development);
 - Establishment of a Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Secretariat in spring 2017;
 - Research and analysis ongoing since spring 2016; and
 - Work by B.C. as part of the Federal, Provincial, Territorial (FPT) senior officials' working group, plus B.C.'s participation in a number of issue-specific FPT working groups (such as Communications, Ticketable Offences, Drug Impaired Driving, Taxation, Labour, Seed-to-Sale Tracking and Data Monitoring).
- We are actively engaged with the Government of Canada, and the health and safety of British Columbians are at the forefront of those discussions.
- We are only the second nation to legalize cannabis in this way.
- We must proceed with caution, expect surprises and recognize that until laws are passed for legal non-medical cannabis, the laws as they are today still apply. We are committed to getting this right. That will take time.

- The federal government has stated that the current approach doesn't work and has allowed criminals and organized crime to profit, while failing to keep cannabis out of the hands of Canadian youth.
- On April 13, 2017, the Government of Canada introduced two Bills: the Cannabis Act (Bill C-45) to legalize, regulate, and restrict access to cannabis in Canada; and the Act to amend the Criminal Code (Bill C-46) to address, among other things, cannabis-impaired driving. The Government of Canada intends to bring the proposed Cannabis Act into force no later than July 2018, and intends to move as quickly as possible to bring into force the amendments in relation to impaired driving.
- Under the proposed Cannabis Act, provinces and territories will authorize and oversee the distribution and sale of non-medical cannabis within their respective jurisdictions, subject to minimum federal conditions. As an interim measure for those jurisdictions that have not implemented a regulated distribution and retail framework, individuals will be able to purchase cannabis online from a federally licensed producer with secure home delivery through the mail or by courier.
- Provinces and territories will also have the authority to increase the minimum legal age established by the Government of Canada for purchase and possession of non-medical cannabis. In addition, provinces and territories will have authority to regulate public consumption, establish additional restrictions on personal cultivation, and address cannabis impaired driving in provincial road safety laws.
- The ministry has established a Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Secretariat to coordinate the development of a provincial regulatory framework. The secretariat works with other affected ministries via an inter-ministry Assistant Deputy Minister Public Safety Issues Committee (ADM PSIC) and an Inter-Ministry Working Group (IMWG). The secretariat also represents B.C. on a federal/provincial/territorial (FPT) Senior Officials Working Group and related issue specific working groups.
- The secretariat has identified policy issues that are a priority for decision to ensure that B.C. is positioned to address the implications of the federal legislation when it comes into force. The provincial government will be conducting stakeholder and public engagement on these matters before making policy decisions.

Background:**Federal Context**

- On April 20, 2016, the Government of Canada announced its intention to introduce new legislation to legalize cannabis in the spring of 2017. It then established a Task Force on Cannabis Legalization and Regulation with a mandate to engage with provincial, territorial

and municipal governments, indigenous governments and representative organizations, youth, experts in relevant fields and the broader public, and provide advice on the design of a new legislative and regulatory framework for legal access to cannabis.

- On December 13, 2016, the task force report was released publicly and delivered to the three federal Ministers on behalf of the Government of Canada. The task force recommendations aim to strike a balance between implementing appropriate restrictions to minimize the harms associated with cannabis use, and providing access to a regulated supply of cannabis while reducing the scope and scale of the illicit market and its social harms.
- The federal government's proposed Cannabis Act sets out the regulatory framework for a legal non-medical cannabis regime, and is largely consistent with the task force recommendations. The proposed amendments to the Criminal Code (Bill C-46) are intended to modernize, simplify, strengthen criminal law responses to impaired driving, and facilitate the effective and efficient investigation and prosecution of drug and alcohol-impaired driving.
- According to the proposed Bills, provinces and territories will have responsibility over a number of components of the regulatory regime for legal non-medical cannabis. This includes licensing the distribution and retail sale in their respective jurisdictions while carrying out associated compliance and enforcement activities, as well as the responsibility for restricting where cannabis can be consumed. Provinces and territories will also have responsibility for amending provincial road safety laws to address driving while impaired by cannabis (e.g., provide for zero tolerance for young drivers).
- The Government of Canada has indicated that it will establish a mail order delivery system as an interim measure for those jurisdictions that have not implemented a regulated retail framework by July 2018. This will ensure that adults across Canada will be able to access legal cannabis as soon as the Cannabis Act comes into force in July 2018. If B.C. does not legislate otherwise before that date, the federal minimum age of 18 will apply, and British Columbians will be able to lawfully use cannabis in public places without any limitations.

Provincial Context

- With the support of the IMWG and advice from the ADM PSIC, the secretariat is leading the policy work to support development of a provincial regulatory framework. Ministry representation on the ADM PSIC and the IMWG includes: Health; Agriculture; Attorney General; Municipal Affairs and Housing; Finance; Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation; and Children and Family Development, as well as representation from RoadSafetyBC within the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.
- The secretariat has identified priority elements of the provincial regulatory framework for early consideration and direction, including: minimum age; personal possession; public

consumption; drug-impaired driving; personal cultivation; and distribution and retail models. In addition, a comprehensive stakeholder and public engagement plan has been developed, which proposes strategies to identify and engage a broad cross section of British Columbians.

- There will be significant costs associated with establishing a distribution and retail regime, and with related compliance and enforcement activities that will require an up-front investment by the province. However, there are also significant revenue generation opportunities. Both costs and revenues will depend on the distribution and retail regime chosen, and on decisions taken with respect to revenue generation and taxation. Work to obtain cost and revenue estimates is underway.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Illegal Cannabis
Dispensaries****Suggested Response:**

- Until the new federal Cannabis Act is passed and brought into force, cannabis is prohibited under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA); however, there are exemptions for medical use.
- Cannabis dispensaries, including those that purport to be supplying cannabis for medical purposes, are illegal under federal law. The only legal commercial means to access safe, quality-controlled cannabis for medical purposes in Canada is through direct purchase by licensed individuals under the Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations (ACMPR) from a Health Canada licensed producer and sent via mail or another method of shipping.
- The cities of Vancouver and Victoria have passed bylaws granting dispensaries business licences that allow them to operate within municipal boundaries. In other parts of the province, such as Chilliwack, Nanaimo, Langford and Sidney, police have taken enforcement action against dispensaries. Health Canada continues to state that all cannabis-related businesses operating contrary to the CDSA are subject to law enforcement action.
- The province has established a Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Secretariat to lead the development of B.C.'s provincial regulatory framework, in coordination with other ministries. The secretariat is considering the question of how to address existing dispensaries as part of its policy work on the provincial regulatory framework.

Background:

- The previous Marihuana for Medical Purposes Regulation (MMPR) was struck down in February 2016 by the Federal Court of Canada in *Allard v. Canada* (Allard). The court ruled that the prohibition of personal and designated production under the MMPR limited reasonable access to medical cannabis. In response, the Government of Canada announced new regulations, the ACMPR, which came into force on August 24, 2016.
- The ACMPR is designed to provide an immediate, interim solution to Allard and should not be interpreted as the long term plan for the legalization of cannabis. It provides a number of options for access to medical cannabis for the approximate 16,000 British Columbians covered by the court injunction.
- The ACMPR permits authorized individuals to either grow their own cannabis for medical purposes, designate someone to grow cannabis for them, or obtain cannabis from a Health

Canada licensed commercial producer. However, they are required to obtain authorization from a physician and register with Health Canada, as well as adhere to the possession, storage and production limits set out in the new regulations.

- The Government of Canada continues to state that cannabis dispensaries, storefronts and compassion clubs remain illegal and are subject to law enforcement action. The only legal commercial means to access of safe, quality-controlled cannabis for medical purposes in Canada is through purchase directly from one of the 52 producers licenced by Health Canada as of July 31, 2017.
- Awareness has been raised in the media regarding the proliferation of cannabis-related businesses across B.C. and Canada. While Vancouver and Victoria have passed bylaws granting dispensaries business licences that allow them to operate within municipal boundaries, other jurisdictions, such as Chilliwack, Nanaimo, Langford and Sidney, have taken action to close them.
- The RCMP "E" Division is collecting information regarding the locations and status of cannabis dispensaries operating within its jurisdictions. As of July 2017, there are approximately: 31 dispensaries operating in the Lower Mainland District; 35 operating in the Island District; 9 operating in the North District; 37 operating in the Southeast District; and one operating in the Upper Fraser Valley District. At this time, the secretariat does not have comprehensive data regarding the number of cannabis dispensaries operating within municipal police jurisdictions.
- In response to the proliferation of cannabis dispensaries, the RCMP has developed an operational approach that is responsive to community concerns and risk-driven. Risk factors to consider include: lack of valid business license; size of the business; the number and nature of complaints; sales to youth and other vulnerable persons; nexus to organized crime and other criminality; and consideration of local government policy and bylaws.
- Vancouver has taken steps to stem the growth of dispensaries in the city through regulation of business licenses. Cannabis-related businesses and compassion clubs are only allowed to operate if a number of conditions are met (e.g., based on proximity to schools and other dispensaries). The first step is to receive approval for a development permit and the second is to obtain the appropriate business license.
- After cannabis-related businesses receive approval of their development permit, they must apply for one of two types of licence categories for cannabis-related businesses:
 - Medical cannabis-related retail dealers (licence fee is \$30,000 per year); or
 - Compassion clubs (licence fee is \$1,000 per year).
- As of July 31, 2017, the City of Vancouver has issued 40 development permits to medical

cannabis-related retail businesses, and of those locations, ten have been issued a business license to operate in compliance with city bylaws. In addition, as of June 2017 there are an estimated:

- 27 dispensaries where Vancouver has filed injunction applications;
 - 41 dispensaries that have voluntarily closed; and
 - 57 dispensaries that are operating illegally but where Vancouver has not filed injunction applications.
- The City of Victoria introduced similar regulations for cannabis-related businesses and began accepting applications on September 23, 2016. There are three categories of medical cannabis businesses:
 - Storefront Cannabis Retail: A retail business where cannabis is sold or provided to a person who attends the premises;
 - Cannabis-Related (Cannabis Onsite): A business where cannabis is promoted, advocated, paraphernalia used in the consumption of cannabis is sold or provided, and cannabis is stored onsite; and
 - Cannabis-Related (No Cannabis Onsite): A business where cannabis is promoted, advocated, and/or where paraphernalia used in the consumption of cannabis is sold or provided.
 - Over the course of the last year, there has been a significant increase in the number of cannabis-related businesses operating in the City of Victoria. There are approximately 35 medical cannabis-related businesses operating in Victoria, with the majority of these operating as storefront medical cannabis retailers.
 - All cannabis-related businesses within Victoria must adhere to conditions regarding operational requirements, such as: implementing a minimum age of 19 years; no consumption on premises; limited hours of operation; and strict air filtration and security measures for businesses with cannabis on site. As of July 31, 2017, three cannabis-related business licenses have been issued for cannabis businesses in Victoria.
 - The secretariat is considering how to address illegal dispensaries as part of its policy work on a provincial regulatory framework. How dispensaries are ultimately dealt with will depend on the retail model chosen, and whether existing dispensaries will have an opportunity to apply for a license to become legal retailers.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Drug Impaired Driving****Suggested Response:**

- The ministry is in the process of analyzing the anticipated impacts of the legalization of cannabis in 2018 and the proposed changes to drug-impaired driving offences under the Criminal Code contained in Bill C-46.
- We are closely monitoring the 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.
- In addition to the penalties for drug-impaired driving under the Criminal Code, under provincial law, police are currently authorized to do the following:
 - Issue an immediate, 24-hour prohibition at the roadside if they suspect a driver's ability is affected by a drug ; and
 - Impound a driver's vehicle for a period of 24-hours, at their discretion.
- This government will continue to monitor the impacts of cannabis legalization as well as the changes to drug-impaired driving under the Criminal Code proposed in Bill C-46 when assessing and considering future changes to administrative sanctions for drug-impaired driving under the Motor Vehicle Act.

Background:

- While research is ongoing, cannabis impairment has been typically found to increase crash risk by as much as two times. The crash risk varies by the amount consumed – with higher levels of THC corresponding with elevated crash risk. Furthermore, crash risk increases significantly when cannabis is consumed in combination with other drugs, such as alcohol.
- In July of 2017, a government delegation went to Colorado to learn from their experiences with the legalization of recreational cannabis. With respect to drug-impaired driving, Colorado did not have data to indicate whether or not there has been an increase in the number of cannabis-impaired drivers but police, public health and legal officials all anecdotally indicated that they have not seen a significant negative impact to road safety as a result of legalization.
- While Bill C-45 will legalize cannabis, the proposed amendments in Bill C-46 encompass a number of issues related to alcohol and drug impaired driving. With respect to drug-impaired driving, the Bill proposes:

- Authority to prescribe a “legal limit” for driving under the influence of specific drugs, including cannabis;
 - Authority for the Attorney General (Canada) to approve roadside oral fluid screening devices for use by police to assist in detecting drivers who have drugs in their systems; and
 - New offences for drivers having prescribed levels of a drug in the blood within two hours of driving.
- The Criminal Code currently depends on behavioural impairment tests to determine drug impairment in drivers. These include a Standardized Field Sobriety Test conducted at the roadside and a Drug Evaluation and Classification Assessment to be conducted by a specially trained Drug Recognition Expert back at a police station.
 - From December 2016 to March 2017, Public Safety Canada undertook a pilot to test the use of oral fluid drug screening devices in the field, across Canada. The pilot collected 1,141 oral fluid samples and was completed with the participation of seven police jurisdictions including Vancouver police.
 - The purpose of the pilot was to evaluate how these devices worked in the field and to identify any potential complications relating to use in different types of climates, ease of use by police and device durability.
 - The results of the pilot project were largely favourable. Police indicated that the devices were easy to use and police largely felt comfortable using them. Additionally, police did not report any significant issues with using the devices in a variety of climates and settings and that the rates of malfunctions were relatively low, occurring only in 13% of all samples.
 - To complement the changes to the drug-impaired driving sections of the Criminal Code, B.C. is currently exploring the development of administrative sanctions for drug-impaired driving. In B.C., police can currently issue 24-hour prohibitions to drivers they reasonably believe to be affected by a drug under the Motor Vehicle Act and police have the discretion to impound that driver’s vehicle for a 24-hour period.
 - In addition, drivers who receive three such prohibitions within a five year period are required to participate in the Responsible Driver Program.
 - In 2016, the number of 24-hour prohibitions issued for drug-affected driving in B.C. was 2,600. The number of Criminal Code charges for drug-impaired driving in B.C. is not known because these are not tracked separately from alcohol-impaired driving charges.

- On September 8, 2017, the federal government announced up to \$274 million to support law enforcement and border efforts to detect and deter drug impaired driving and enforce the proposed cannabis legalization and regulation. Of these funds, the federal government has committed up to \$161 million for training frontline officers in how to recognize the signs and symptoms of drug impaired driving, building law enforcement capacity across the country, providing access to drug screening devices, developing policy, bolstering research, and raising public awareness about the dangers of drug impaired driving.
- Provinces will be able to access up to \$81 million of the federal funding over the next five years for new law enforcement training and to build capacity to enforce new and stronger laws related to drug impaired driving.
- Also, on September 8, 2017, the province of Ontario was the first to announce its framework for cannabis legalization. As part of this announcement Ontario indicated that it anticipates outlining new measures to address drug impaired driving in the coming weeks.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Illicit Drug Overdoses:
Response Overview****Suggested Response:**

- Drug-related overdoses and deaths have become a very serious concern all across the country. It is critical that we take an integrated approach to address this crisis and prevent future tragedies.
- The number of overdose deaths in B.C. for 2016 (978 deaths) is unacceptable, and 2017 is expected to be even worse as there are already 876 deaths as of the end of July.
- The overdose crisis is a very complex issue involving many social factors, including housing, public safety, policing, border control, public health, harm reduction, addiction and recovery treatment, as well as legislation that crosses many jurisdictional boundaries.
- There is no quick and easy solution to the overdose crisis, but we are mobilizing across all sectors to do everything we can to respond and save lives.
- As part of the response, law enforcement is working at all levels of government to intercept and block the supply of toxic drugs, and health officials are working to address the immediate and longer term health needs.
- The BC Coroners Service, which investigates fatalities in the province to help prevent future deaths, continues to provide specific support for public health measures and the overdose crisis, through its Drug-Death Investigation Team.
- To continue the great efforts made in response to the overdose crisis through initiatives within the ministry, an additional \$31.3 million over three years is being approved through the September 2017 budget:
 - \$2 million for Naloxone kits and training for police;
 - \$1.20 million for situation tables;
 - s.12;s.13
 - \$1 million towards drug equipment and training for key departments and the federal Clandestine Laboratory and Enforcement Response Team (CLEAR);
 - \$14.00 million for a new Operational Task Force of dedicated police agencies to target mid-level drug traffickers;

- \$5 million for the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit BC (CFSEU- BC) to undertake Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority (PTEP) projects targeting high level drug traffickers; and
- \$7.06 million in additional funding is for the Coroners Service to resolve backlog, expand the Drug Investigations Team, and increase capacity to meet the significant increase in workload and requirements for laboratory testing.

Background:

- In 2016, 978 people died of an apparent unintentional illegal drug overdose in B.C., or 3.6 times the number dying in 2012 (269 deaths). The BC Coroners Service reports 876 deaths in the first 7 months of 2017, or 5.3 times the number of deaths that occurred over the same period in 2012.
- The increase in overdoses and deaths for illicit drug users is correlated with changes in the composition of the illicit drug supply in which highly toxic fentanyl and increasingly carfentanil are present.
- Addressing the fentanyl crisis is referenced in the Minister's mandate letter. Specifically, he is called upon to:
 - Provide more support to police efforts to disrupt the supply chain and advocate for increased penalties for drug dealers who knowingly distribute death-dealing drugs.*
- The province has dedicated over \$44.5 million in funding since the declaration of the crisis (2016/17 – 2019/20) for activities that fall within the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General with further funding provided to the Ministry of Health as well as the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions.
 - This includes an immediate financial response of \$3.3 million allocated to the public safety sector in both 2016/17 and 2017/18; as well as
 - \$5.58 million increase to the budget for 2017/18, \$12.91 million in 2018/19 and \$12.81 million in 2019/20 to address the ongoing emergency.
- See Appendix 1 for the Financial Summary of Opioid Emergency Funding for the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Joint Task Force on Overdose Response

- On April 14, 2016, Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Perry Kendall, declared a public health emergency under the Public Health Act. On July 27, 2016, the Joint Task Force on Overdose Response was created with Dr. Kendall and Clayton Pecknold, Assistant Deputy Minister,

Policing and Security Branch and Director of Police Services, serving as co-chairs. The task force is supported by six task groups responsible for seven key areas.

- See Appendix 2 for the Joint Task Force's seven areas of focus.

Police Response

- Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services, Clayton Pecknold, also leads a monthly call with the police leadership in the province to share information and discuss challenges and opportunities around this crisis.
- Moving into the second fiscal year of the overdose response, the ministry continues to fund or deliver police related initiatives which commenced in 2016. These include:
 - Replenishment of naloxone supplies and specialized training for RCMP and municipal police departments;
 - Increase enforcement against high level organized crime importers and traffickers through the PTEP led by the CFSEU-BC;
 - Outreach activities including a police information forum as well as community outreach funding to the Centre for Addictions Research BC to support Community Dialogues, including those with First Nations communities;
 - Training for RCMP Clandestine Laboratory Enforcement and Response team members and funding for municipal police departments to purchase drug detection equipment such as ion scanners; and
 - Policing and Security Branch continues to provide ongoing policy analysis, briefing and support to the Overdose Response Task Force, as well as overseeing administration of grants and funding transfers.
- In addition to what's already being done, new or enhanced initiatives include:
 - The establishment of a dedicated, multi-police agency Operational Task Force (22 member plus support staff) focused on mid-level fentanyl traffickers, to disrupt the drug supply line at the local level and increasing drug dealers arrested and prosecuted;
 - Additional increases to support B.C. police with Naloxone supply and training;
 - s.12;s.13
 - Situation tables to employ a multidisciplinary approach by bringing mental health, social service agencies and police together to collaboratively and proactively address situations of elevated risk.

BC Coroners Response

- The BC Coroners Service continues to provide timely and accurate data on a monthly basis to support evidence based interventions into illicit drug overdose deaths.
- As part of the continued overdose response, a dedicated Drug-Death Investigation Team has been created to support the increased volume of overdose related death investigations.
- A death review panel on illicit drug deaths will be held in October of this year to identify additional actions that can be taken to help curb the rate of overdose deaths in B.C.

Calls for Federal Government Action

- The province continues to call for federal government leadership on the overdose response including:
 - Create a national surveillance hub providing ongoing active surveillance of illegal and prescribed fatal and non-fatal overdose and other drug-related harms in Canada. A Request for Proposal for a feasibility study is currently underway;
 - Provide greater support for enhanced RCMP/Canada Border Services Agency partnership funding;
 - Reinstate the B.C. federal RCMP resources levels to prohibit opioids such as fentanyl and prohibit the importation and trafficking of illicit opioids; and
 - Increase funding for equipment and training for the Federal RCMP Clandestine Laboratory Enforcement and Response Team.

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**Appendix 1: Summary of Opioid Emergency Funding
for the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General**

(\$ millions)	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	TOTAL
NEW OPIOID FUNDING (PSSG) * Sept 2017 Budget					
Naloxone Kits & Training		-	1.00	1.00	2.00
Situation Tables		0.20	0.50	0.50	1.20
Creation and Implementation of Legislation		0.38	0.38	0.28	1.04
Drug Equipment & Training		-	0.50	0.50	1.00
Operational Task Force		2.50	5.75	5.75	14.00
Dedicated Enforcement Activity		1.00	2.00	2.00	5.00
Coroners - Front-line service for current volumes		1.20	1.67	1.67	7.06
Coroners - Expansion of Drug Investigations Team		0.26	0.59	0.59	
Coroners - Resolve backlog & capacity constraints		0.04	0.52	0.52	
Subtotal		5.58	12.91	12.81	31.3
PREVIOUS OPIOID FUNDING (PSSG)					
Naloxone Kits & Training	1.10	0.78	0.50	0.50	2.88
Coroners Closure of Overdose Death Files	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	1.80
Community Outreach & Awareness Strategies	0.50	0.84	0.75	0.75	2.84
Drug Equipment & Training	0.60	0.23	0.60	0.60	2.03
Dedicated Enforcement Activity	0.65	1.00	1.00	1.00	3.65
Subtotal	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	13.20
TOTAL FUNDING	\$ 3.30	\$ 8.88	\$16.21	\$16.11	\$44.50

Appendix 2: The Joint Task Force's Seven Areas of Focus

1. Immediate response to an overdose by expanding naloxone availability and the reach of supervised consumption services in the province. Specifics include:
 - Rapid expansion of the Take Home Naloxone program.
 - Creation of overdose prevention sites and expanding supervised consumption services.
 - Take-Home-Naloxone (THN) kits provided to inmates requesting them upon release from correctional centres (initiative started September 2015).
 - Health care staff in BC correctional centres equipped with injectable naloxone to treat suspected opioid overdoses.
 - Corrections staff trained and equipped to administer naloxone spray to inmates in the rare event no medical personnel are available.
2. Preventing overdoses before they happen by improving treatment options for people with opioid use disorder, exploring drug checking services and improving health professional education and guidance. Specifics include:
 - Guidelines on treating opioid use disorder updated and released.
 - Opioid substitution treatments (methadone and Suboxone™) 100% covered for individuals with financial barriers.
 - 500 new substance use beds opened as of March 31, 2017.
 - BC Corrections policy regarding methadone and Suboxone updated to reflect current best practices in the community.
3. Public education and awareness about overdose prevention and response through public awareness campaigns. Specifics include:
 - Public campaigns continue on multiple mediums and the province's microsite, www.gov.bc.ca/overdose, is regularly updated.
4. Monitoring, surveillance, and applied research by improving timely data collection, reporting and analysis to inform action, evaluating implementation, and applied research.
 - BC Centre for Disease Control releases surveillance data and provides analysis on a regular basis.
 - Highlights from the analysis of individuals who have suffered from non-fatal and fatal overdose shows:
 - majority of deaths occur indoors in private residences;
 - 10% of people who died were status First Nations people (2.6% of BC's population are status First Nations);
 - overdose events are evenly distributed among all economic groups while overdose deaths disproportionately impact the most socially vulnerable; and
 - ratio of overdoses to deaths is 10 to 1.
 - Developmental evaluation of BC's response to overdose crisis is underway.

5. Improving the scheduling of substances and equipment under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and the Precursor Control Regulations by regulating drug manufacturing equipment such as pill presses, and regulating precursors. Specifics include:
 - Engaging the federal government to strengthen the public safety response.
 - Bill C-37, an Act to amend the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act received Royal Assent on May 18, 2017. Amendments include:
 - requirements to register designated devices such as pill presses upon importation into Canada;
 - prohibitions on use of anything in the production or trafficking of illegal substances; and
 - removal of minimum weight requirement for Canada Border Services Agency to open packages.

Note: police agencies not satisfied with changes related to pill presses.
6. Improving federal enforcement and interdiction strategies by working with the Canada Border Services Agency to increase enforcement activities to interdict the importation of illegal drugs. Specifics include:
 - RCMP and the Canada Border Services Agency working cooperatively to interdict the flow of fentanyl and other opioids with numerous successful seizures and arrests. See Appendix on police and Canada Border Services Agency activities.
 - RCMP working with the Chinese Ministry of Public Security to stem the flow of illegal fentanyl and other opioids into Canada.
 - Additional funding provided for dedicated enforcement activities, including CFSEU-BC PTEP to target high level organized crime groups.
7. Enhancing the capacity of police to support harm reduction efforts related to street drugs including training for police and other first responders to support safe fentanyl identification and handling practices. Specifics include:
 - Funding purchase of 7,800 naloxone kits and training 7450 sworn and civilian RCMP and municipal police members. As of August 1, 2017 RCMP and municipal police have recorded 230 successful overdose reversals.
 - Funding outreach and awareness strategies, including holding community dialogues through the Centre for Addictions Research of BC.
 - Enhancing the "Know your Source" campaign.
 - Sponsoring four fentanyl workshops for first responders through the Justice Institute of BC.
 - Creation of an award winning fentanyl safety microsite.

2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths****Suggested Response:**

- The increase in deaths from illicit drug overdoses in B.C. 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 978 apparent illicit drug overdose deaths in 2016, almost 80% higher than in 2015 when there were 510 deaths.
- Those aged 30 to 49 have accounted for the largest percentage of illicit drug overdose deaths in 2016, combining for over half the provincial total.
- Almost 90% of illicit drug overdoses happened indoors, with over 60% in private residences.
- In 2016, over two-thirds of illicit drug overdose deaths involved fentanyl, meaning the proportion of illicit drug deaths for which fentanyl was detected alone or in combination with other drugs more than double the 2015 rate of 29%.
- 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.
- Through the BC Coroners Service, the ministry supports the partnership with timely, accurate data to inform new strategies to try to reduce the number of drug overdose deaths and will co-operate with other ministries in implementing these recommendations.
- The BC Coroners Service also established a specialized Drug-Death Investigation Team which, along with the service's research unit, is working hard to identify patterns and trends to help determine who may be most at risk and where meaningful efforts and interventions can be made to prevent future deaths.

Background:

- Deaths due to illicit drug overdoses have increased steadily over the past 10 years, with a significant increase in 2016. Of note, British Columbia is on pace to almost double the 2016 total of illicit drug deaths in 2017. There were no deaths at supervised consumption or drug overdose prevention sites in 2016.

- On September 11, 2017, the provincial budget update announced a significant funding boost for the illicit drug overdose crisis, including funds directed towards the BC Coroners Service. The additional funding was earmarked for an immediate and evidence-based response to the fentanyl emergency with prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery efforts, improved data collection and analysis, along with a new Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, and increased law enforcement to disrupt the supply chain.
- As part of this, the BC Coroners Service will see increased funding of \$1.5 million for the current fiscal year, and \$2.778 million next fiscal year and thereafter.
- This will support requests from the BC Coroners Services for additional support to respond to the tragic increase in illicit drug-related deaths. Funds will be directed towards engaging additional community coroners for field investigations, particularly in the lower mainland, two full-time coroners for the Special Investigations Unit with a focus on drug overdose deaths, additional training, and additional support for research and analysis.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Opioids Overdose:
BC Corrections Actions****Suggested Response:**

- BC Corrections has taken action to mitigate the risks posed to both staff and inmates by high-potency narcotics in correctional centres by:
 - Increasing access to opioid agonist treatment and supporting counselling for inmates with a history of substance use;
 - Increasing health care service delivery levels to meet the needs of inmates with addiction to opioids;
 - Reviewing and making changes to policy, practices and procedures to increase staff safety; and
 - Implementing new technology and emergency response tools.

Policy, Practice and Procedures

- In November 2016, a joint union-management provincial risk assessment was conducted including a review of policies and practices related to searches, opening mail, etc., to ensure that adequate precautions are in place to prevent exposure to staff. This review resulted in revised policy and procedures that enhanced protection for staff.

New Technology and Emergency Response Tools

- BC Corrections has invested \$640,000 to pilot the use of body scanners to enhance drug interdiction within four correctional centres.
- To address inmate overdoses, health care staff in B.C. correctional centres have continued to use injectable Naloxone (trade name Narcan) to treat suspected opioid overdoses.
- To enhance staffs ability to respond to incidents of overdose, BC Corrections introduced in 2017 the use of Naloxone nasal spray for use by staff on inmates and/or staff outside of health care hours.
- Staff have administered Naloxone nasal spray to inmates experiencing overdose four times since February 2017.
- Inmates are also encouraged to participate in the Take Home Naloxone (THN) program, which provides Naloxone kits and training to inmates by health care staff. Potential inmates to participate in this program are identified at intake, through self-referral, or are referred by other health care professionals.

- THN in BC Corrections began in September 2015 with a two centre pilot at Alouette Correctional Centre for Women and Fraser Regional Correctional Centre and was expanded to other centres in December 2015.

Increasing Opioid Agonist Treatment

- The use of in-custody opioid agonist treatment for opioid addiction in correctional centres has increased significantly over the last year. In December 2015, 8.6% of the inmate population received the treatment which increased to 31.7% by March 2017 as a result of targeted policy changes to increase its accessibility.

Staff Exposure to Fentanyl/High-potency Narcotics

- There have been no confirmed cases of BC Corrections staff being exposed to fentanyl/high-potency narcotics.

BACKGROUND:

- BC Corrections maintains zero-tolerance regarding the use of drugs within correctional centres. Despite our available supports and strict protocols, people with addictions will sometimes take extraordinary measures to continue to obtain and use drugs.
- Given that the Adult Custody Division has a growing and fluid inmate population, there are stringent security measures in place to deal with contraband in all our correctional centres.
- The recent \$640,000 capital investment in full-body scanner technology is being piloted at North Fraser Pretrial Centre, Surrey Pretrial Service Centre, Alouette Correctional Centre for Women and the Okanagan Correctional Centre, and is intended to reduce the amount of contraband entering into correctional centres.
- It is difficult to quantify the impact of the fentanyl crisis in correctional centres, however BC Corrections has not seen an increase in inmate deaths that aligns with the increase in deaths in the community.
- While the BC Coroners Service is responsible for determining cause of death and is best positioned to provide information related to overdose deaths in custody, we can confirm of 11 inmate deaths in 2016 and 2017, our records indicate two deaths were related to suspected overdoses.
- In 2016, of the 18,686 admissions to provincial custody, there were 50 non-fatal suspected overdoses recorded. In 2017 year to date, of the 10,943 inmates that entered provincial custody, there have been 35 non-fatal suspected overdoses recorded. Medical attention is provided to any suspected overdose.

- While we can provide the above statistics for *suspected* overdoses, it is important to note that BC Corrections cannot offer statistics for *confirmed* overdoses or confirm the type of substance involved, as this information is confirmed by medical professionals and is part of an inmate's confidential medical records.
- An indication of the impact of the fentanyl crisis in correctional centres may be seen in the significant increase in the use of in-custody treatment for opioid addiction (opioid agonist treatment). The use of opioid agonist treatment has increased from 26 inmates on Suboxone and 196 inmates on Methadone in December 2015, to 607 inmates on Suboxone (2,235% increase) and 262 inmates on Methadone (34% increase) in March 2017. Due to this significant increase, additional resources have been dedicated to manage the assessment, administration and supervision of inmates on opioid agonist treatment.
- Staff are reminded of the need to use universal precautions at all times when handling contraband or unknown substances/items, including:
 - Conduct thorough risk assessments prior to performing activities that may expose staff to unknown substances to ensure the appropriate protective action is taken;
 - Use extra caution with all substances that look like drugs;
 - Wear the appropriate personal protection equipment when conducting a search, including opening mail or packages;
 - Have proper tools and equipment ready prior to conducting any searches;
 - s.15 and
 - Make sure evidence is packaged properly.
- THN kits are provided to inmates participating in the THN program at release. Each kit contains three doses of naloxone, two non-reusable needles and syringes and alcohol swabs.
- Kits and training for health care staff are provided by the BC Centre for Disease Control.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE

Restorative Justice

Suggested Response:

- This government is committed to increasing the use of restorative justice programs.
- Restorative justice approaches help victims with closure, ensuring they are heard and have greater opportunities for participation in the justice system. Restorative justice also makes offenders more accountable for their actions and helps them take responsibility and make amends.
- The province currently supports 50 community-based restorative justice programs. Jointly with the federal government, the province also funds indigenous justice programs, which may include restorative approaches, in 34 communities.
- We intend to build on this work to meet our commitment and broaden a restorative justice system in the province.
- This work is going to take some time, but Ministry staff are already exploring new opportunities for enhancing restorative justice across BC in a number of key areas:

s.13

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s.13

s.13

s.13;s.16

Background:Community Accountability Programs

- Since 1998, the ministry has supported community-based, volunteer-driven restorative justice programs through the Community Accountability Program (CAP). There are currently 50 CAP programs which accept approximately 1,700 referrals annually, primarily police referred less serious crime such as mischief and theft.
- Some CAP programs take on offences referred by Crown counsel. The BC Prosecution Service supports the use of restorative justice programs in appropriate cases. This includes the use of restorative justice programs in alternative measures or extrajudicial sanctions and sentencing.
- CAP groups are eligible for annual funding of \$2,500 to support volunteer training and administrative expenses. CAPs have various capacity levels with some programs using municipal funding to provide more complex and extensive RJ services. In addition, since 2008 over \$900,000 in Civil Forfeiture Grant funding has been provided to support specialized victim-sensitive restorative justice training and development projects.

Indigenous Justice Programs

- In partnership with the federal government and Aboriginal communities and organizations, the Province funds the Indigenous Justice Programs (IJP) in 34 communities. IJPs are community-driven and use traditional Indigenous justice approaches that are holistic and restorative.
- IJPs offer a range of services including court diversion, community support and supervision, substance abuse management and respectful relationships programs, and supporting re-integration after a custodial sentence.
- The IJP is funded with \$2.07 million from the federal government and \$1.7 million from the province and is delivered by contracted Aboriginal service providers.

Youth restorative justice

- The Ministry of Children and Family Development has eight conferencing specialist positions across the province to conduct community conferences involving victims and offenders. When a conference is not an option, conferencing specialists may also engage young offenders in restorative justice projects in order to facilitate an understanding of the impacts of their offending behaviour. Many youth probation officers have received training in victim-offender mediation and every area of the province has restorative justice champions who will use restorative approaches in their work with youth.

Referrals to Restorative Justice from the RCMP

- The RCMP supports restorative justice in B.C. as the largest source of referrals to community restorative justice programs in the province. They have recently released policy requiring every RCMP detachment to have a designated Restorative Justice Liaison Officer.

Other

- While not mandated to deal with victim-offender issues, the Dispute Resolution Office in the Ministry of Attorney General uses mediation and other alternative dispute resolution opportunities on family law (e.g. Child Protection Mediation Program) and civil law (e.g. mediation in Small Claims Court and the Civil Resolution Tribunal).
- The Conservation Officer Service has developed a Community Environmental Justice Forum model which utilizes restorative justice practices for addressing environmental offences. The process invites the individuals or communities harmed by the offence to be directly involved in determining appropriate resolution.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE

Minister's Office Budget

Suggested Response:

- The minister's office budget has increased by \$246,000 from \$548,000 in 2016/17 to \$794,000 in 2017/18.
- The increase in this budget is consistent with the increase in the scope of responsibilities for the Solicitor General from what it was in 2016/17. In July, Emergency Management BC was added to the ministry's responsibilities. As well, the aggressive list of Ministerial Mandate Letter responsibilities in 2017/18, also creates added demands for a more senior staff support complement in the minister's office.
- Across government, the increases to the budgets for ministers' offices are being funded from within existing ministry budgets, not from budget lifts.

Current Staffing Complement vs 2016/17 Staffing Complement

- There are now five staff: senior ministerial assistant, ministerial assistant, executive assistant, administrative coordinator, and administrative assistant.
- In 2016/17, there were four staff: chief of staff, executive assistant, administrative coordinator, and administrative assistant.

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Estimates 2017/18 Briefing Book**

**BC Corrections Branch
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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Segregation****Suggested Response:**

- The National Segregation Strategy, which is being released this fall and is supported by all Canadian provinces, will set operational guidelines for the use of segregation, with a focus on alternatives to segregation; placement standards; review and oversight; release and reintegration; monitoring and tracking; and education and awareness.
- Through this strategy, Canadian correctional jurisdictions commit to using segregation as a last resort and only when all other reasonable alternatives have been exhausted.
- The framework for the National Segregation Strategy is consistent with the principles outlined in the 2015 United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (also known as the Nelson Mandela Rules) and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- BC Corrections participated in the drafting of the National Segregation Strategy, and is concluding its review of its own segregation, separate confinement, and disciplinary processes.
- This review is focusing on how enhanced case management may be used to identify alternatives to segregation that still ensure staff and inmate safety and centre security – important considerations, because we're seeing more inmates with significant and complex needs.
- For example, at Alouette Correctional Centre for Women, BC Corrections is piloting a Complex Needs Unit, which provides intensive supervision in a more normalized environment.
- This pilot is showing promising results and, once the outcomes are fully assessed, we will determine if this model should be expanded to other correctional centres.
- BC Corrections is also working with advocates and the union to seek their input on improvements to policy, staff training and any potential legislative changes.
- A summary of this review and recommendations is expected fall of 2017. Recommendations stemming from the internal review are expected to be consistent with the National Segregation Strategy.

Key Numbers

- In 2015/16, about 5% of the average daily inmate count (126 of 2,652 inmates) was housed in segregation.

- 90% of stays in segregation are less than 15 days; the average stay is seven days.
- These figures include inmates on voluntary separate confinement.

Background:

- Segregation refers to the separation of an inmate from the general correctional population for administrative or disciplinary reasons.
- Segregation is sometimes referred to as solitary confinement by stakeholders, the media and the public.
- In recent years, the use of segregation within correctional institutions has been subject to a great deal of scrutiny by oversight and international human rights bodies, inquests, inquiries and provincial and federal courts.
- A number of legal decisions across Canada have reinforced the importance of adhering to procedural law requirements and respecting the human rights of inmates when restricting the residual rights of inmates.
- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Mandate Letter to federal Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould included the "implementation of recommendations from the inquest into the death of Ashley Smith regarding the restriction of the use of solitary confinement".
- Correctional Services of Canada (CSC), provinces and territories began a series of working group conversations in spring 2016 to discuss issues and challenges related to segregation.
- A working group was established in July 2016 to discuss and establish the expected outcomes of the strategy and draft a framework for implementation.

Expected Outcomes:

- The National Segregation Strategy outlines 24 expected outcomes that consider placement, inmate information, meaningful human contact, procedural safeguards, inmate health, mental health, conditions of confinement, documentation, evaluation, redress mechanisms, case management, reintegration, information management, quality assurance, and education.
- BC Corrections will monitor practices that are put in place across Canada as a result of the National Segregation Strategy to ensure best practices are adopted.

Current Length of Time in Segregation

- The average¹ daily count for all ten B.C. correctional centres is 2,734.
- The average¹ daily count for segregation² across all ten B.C. correctional centres is 123. (Representing approximately 4% of the overall daily count).
- The average³ length of stay in segregation² is seven days.
- 84%³ of stays in segregation² are ten days or less.
- While these statistics provide a broad picture of the use of segregation in the province, BC Corrections is also working with national counterparts on a long-term plan to develop a consistent and accurate method to measure and track the use of segregation.

Extended Periods of Time in Segregation

- The average³ length of stay in segregation² is seven days; however, in certain circumstances, stays in segregation may be reviewed and extended to ensure safe and secure custody for all inmates and the protection of staff.
- During the last year³, only 0.003% (21 of 7,272 inmate stays) of the total inmates housed in segregation² were there for a period⁴ greater than 100 days.
- Inmates who are reviewed and have their segregation extended are generally defined by their complex and repetitive problematic behaviours which may include but are not limited to:
 - Assaultive tendencies towards other inmates and/or staff; and
 - Significant behavioural issues jeopardizing, or likely to jeopardize, the management, operation or security of the centre.
- Extended time in segregation may also be voluntary if the inmate self-identifies concern of serious harm if placed on a regular living unit.
- BC Corrections ensures inmates housed in segregation are offered access to health and mental health care professionals at least once in every 24-hour period. Furthermore, a

¹ For fiscal year 2016/2017.

² "Segregation" is defined as inmates confined within the segregation unit. This includes inmates who are separately confined (Corrections Act Regulation (CAR) 17, 18 and 19), inmates pending a disciplinary hearing (CAR 24) and inmates serving a disposition (CAR 27).

³ For fiscal year 2016/2017. Note: Inmates that commenced but did not complete a segregation term prior to April 1, 2016 were included in the average.

⁴ "Period" is defined as the term between intake and discharge from segregation in each instance. An inmate's transfer between centres with continuous segregation imposed is defined as one period. Multiple periods of segregation for one inmate may cumulatively exceed 100 days in fiscal year 2016/2017.

mental health professional reviews the impact of segregation during every 30 day period that an inmate is on segregation.

Reasons for Segregation

- An inmate may be housed in segregation if:
 - Awaiting a disciplinary hearing for breaching a rule or serving a disposition as a result of a disciplinary hearing for breaching a rule; or
 - On “separate confinement⁵” which is a temporary measure for removing particular inmates from some or all inmates for security or safety reasons.
- 1) Segregation pending a disciplinary hearing or resulting from a disposition for breach of a rule:
 - An inmate who is suspected of having breached a rule may be held in segregation pending a disciplinary hearing if the person in charge (assistant deputy warden or higher) believes on reasonable grounds that:
 - The inmate is likely to endanger himself/herself or another person if not housed in segregation;
 - The inmate is likely to jeopardize the management, operation and security of the correctional centre; or
 - Segregation is necessary to preserve evidence for the disciplinary hearing.
 - Any order to place an inmate on segregation status pending a disciplinary hearing must be reviewed by the warden or designate within 24 hours of being made, and must be reviewed at least every following 24 hours until the conclusion of the hearing.
 - If an inmate is found guilty of breaching a rule during a disciplinary hearing, the chairperson presiding over the disciplinary hearing may impose one or more penalties, including confinement in segregation. A penalty of confinement in the segregation unit must not exceed 15 days for minor charges and must not exceed 30 days for more serious charges (e.g., assault, possession of contraband).
 - Inmates have the right to consult with legal representation at any stage of the disciplinary process and have that representation attend the hearing.

⁵ Separate confinement may take place within the segregation unit when no other reasonable option exists.

2) Separate Confinement:

- Separate confinement is an option under Correction Act Regulation (CAR) sections 17, 18, and 19 and may be used when the inmate:
 - Is endangering himself or herself or is likely to endanger himself or herself;
 - Is endangering another person or is likely to endanger another person;
 - Is jeopardizing the management, operation or security of the correctional centre or is likely to jeopardize the management, operation or security of the correctional centre;
 - Would be at risk of serious harm or is likely to be at risk of serious harm if not confined separately;
 - Must be confined separately for a medical reason; or
 - If the person in charge has reasonable grounds to believe that the inmate has contraband hidden in the inmate's body.
- Separate confinement is not punitive and is only used to provide the correctional centre or inmate an opportunity to remedy the inmate's behaviour or circumstances that led to the separate confinement.
- Inmates placed on separate confinement are housed on a living unit unless no other option exists at which point the inmate will be placed on a segregation unit.
- Inmates placed on separate confinement retain the rights and privileges of inmates in the general population identified in section 2(1) of the CAR.
- One or more privileges and access to specified cell effects and canteen items may be withdrawn due to limitations of the area where the inmate is housed, operational requirements of the centre, or the protection of inmates or staff. Privileges and access to specified articles are not withdrawn for punitive reasons.
- Within 24 hours of making a decision with respect to placement in separate confinement, the warden or designate ensures that the inmate is provided written notice of the decision and reasons.
- Under CAR, the length of stay for short-term separate confinement must be no longer than 72 hours and for long-term separate confinement, no longer than 15 days. Following a detailed review, long-term confinement may be renewed if some or all of the circumstances justifying separate confinement continue to exist.

- If separate confinement continues for more than 30 days, further reviews will take place, including a review by the deputy warden and a mental health professional to review the impact of separate confinement.

Segregation Counts

- Inmates can be placed on segregation or separate confinement within other areas of the centre.
- Currently BC Corrections does not have the technology to extract information through its business intelligence system outside of the segregation unit, although changes will be made in the future to enable gathering that information.
- On May 15, 2017, a scan was conducted at each custody centre to provide a one-day snapshot of the number of inmates in separate confinement or segregation within all areas of the centre, (including the segregation unit) showing a total of 276 inmates, broken down as follows:

	KRCC	PGRCC	FRCC	ACCW	OCC	VIRCC	FMCC	SPSC	NCC	NFPC	Total (per CAR Section)
CAR 17 (short term)	3	2	7	3	1	13	0	6	2	9	46
CAR 18 (longer term)	3	8	5	8	6	13	0	30	0	14	87
CAR 19 (voluntary)	30	1	4	0	8	0	0	16	0	17	76
Total per centre	36	11	16	11	15	26	0	52	2	40	209

	KRCC	PGRCC	FRCC	ACCW	OCC	VIRCC	FMCC	SPSC	NCC	NFPC	Total (per CAR section)
CAR 24 (segregation pending)	2	2	1	2	5	3	0	1	0	2	18
CAR 27 (segregation disposition)	4	3	3	4	6	11	0	9	0	9	49
Total per centre:	6	5	4	6	11	14	0	10	0	11	67

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Sex Offenders Supervision
in the Community****Suggested Response:**

- BC Corrections works closely with community and law enforcement partners to monitor sexual offenders returning to the community and minimize the risk to the public.
- To respond to the unique needs of complex cases and to ensure offenders are meeting their court-ordered conditions, various types of coordinated supervision strategies may be used, such as supervised escorts in the community, residing in a home with 24 hour staffing, home visits, electronic supervision, curfews and other methods.
- BC 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 BC Corrections can only monitor and enforce the conditions set by the court.
- BC 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 on proximity 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 Sex Offender Maintenance programming delivered by trained probation staff. This ongoing program works to reinforce the skills learned during treatment.
- BC 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.
- BC 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 BC 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 supervision with 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.

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- Public safety is the top priority of BC Corrections and we are working closely with local police to supervise this individual.
- The goal is for successful reintegration into the community in accordance with his court ordered conditions, which include electronic supervision, not leaving his residence at any time without the supervision of an approved adult, and not being near anyone under the age of 18.

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- BC Corrections has approved the home as meeting stringent court conditions for living in the community.

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Public Notifications

- When there is a significant concern about public safety, BC Corrections will issue a notification so that the public or select group is aware of an offender's risk level and court-ordered conditions.
- BC Corrections has the authority to complete the following three types of notifications:
 1. Consistent Purpose Notifications are conducted when staff do not have the authority to determine where a client resides, but has made a determination that an individual is living in a location where neighbours and/or nearby schools should be notified about court ordered conditions pertaining to an individual such as no contact with children, or no-go to parks, schools etc.
 - BC Corrections also does not have authority under privacy legislation to distribute or leave copies of photographs or written materials pertaining to individuals who are the subject of this particular type of notification. Therefore, consistent purpose notifications must be done verbally only in order to be in compliance with FOIPPA.
 2. Compelling Circumstance Notifications are conducted at the discretion of BC Corrections in cases where a client has no protective orders in place, but they pose a high risk of violence to an individual or group. The client must have an established escalating history of violent and/or sexual offenses to meet the threshold.
 - Most commonly these types of notifications are affected to women who are at risk from a man who has a pattern of violence against women.

- Individuals at risk are shown a picture of the client, their name and the risk that they pose. This does not involve a media release.
- Under FOIPPA (Section 33.1(1)(m)), BC Corrections can provide a copy of the notification.
- 3. Public Notifications are conducted when an individual has an extensive and escalating criminal history and there is a high likelihood to reoffend violently and/or sexually.
 - Public notifications require a higher level of consideration given the amount of personal information that is being released about an individual.
 - Public notifications require approval from the Assistant Deputy Minister, Deputy Minister and the Office of Information and Privacy Commissioner to release the name, picture, criminal history risk level and the city they are residing in.
 - Public notifications are issued after a rigorous assessment process that takes into account the likelihood of imminent risk posed to the general public, other measures and controls that may be in place to manage the offender's risk level in the community (e.g., they are supervised 24/7), their offence pattern (e.g., continual escalation of offending) and the impact it may have on destabilizing an individual's ability to successfully reintegrate back into the community, thereby increasing the risk to the public.
 - A poster with the individual's name, age, picture, criminal history, risk level and the city the individual is residing is released to media outlets province-wide or to selected regions.

Key Statistics

- On any given day in fiscal year 2016/17, sexual offenders comprised 11% of sentenced community offenders (1,547) and 12% of bail clients under supervision (975).
- Between fiscal years 2010/11 and 2016/17, the number of sentenced sex offenders under community supervision increased by 19% (252 offenders) and the number of bail clients increased by 26% (202 accused).
- On any given day in fiscal year 2016/17, 16% of the average daily count in B.C. correctional centres involved sexual offences (257 remand and 168 sentenced).
- 36% of all sentenced sex offenders under community supervision are assessed as high risk to reoffend; 26% are assessed as medium risk to reoffend; 26% are assessed as low risk to reoffend; 9% are awaiting and/or undergoing risk assessment.
- In fiscal year 2016/17, the average length of supervision in the community for sexual

offenders on bail was 311 days. The average length of supervision in the community for sentenced sexual offenders was 593 days.

- In fiscal year 2016/17, the average length of stay in custody for sexual offenders on remand was 48 days. The average length of stay in custody for sentenced sexual offenders was 70 days.

Daily Average Sex Offender Counts for fiscal year 2016/17

Incarcerated	Sex Offenders	% of Custody Count
Remand	257	9%
Custody Sentence	168	6%

Community Supervision	Sex Offenders	% of Community Caseload
Bail	975	12%
Community Sentence	1,547	11%

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Indigenous Offenders –
Enhanced Correctional Services
Supporting Indigenous Clients****Suggested Response:**

- BC Corrections recognizes culture for its role in rehabilitation and collaborates with Indigenous leaders, organizations and communities in the development and enhancement of initiatives to improve outcomes for Indigenous people involved in the criminal justice system.
- In 2008, BC Corrections established an Aboriginal Programs and Relationships section and a strategic plan to enhance correctional services and improve the outcomes of Indigenous people who come into contact with the justice system. This section collaborates with BC Corrections staff across the province, other provincial and federal ministries, and Indigenous partners to implement initiatives in the areas of justice, education and health.
- BC Corrections has four key initiatives and priorities:
 - Culturally-specific programming and support for inmates at all ten provincial adult custody centres through aboriginal liaison workers;
 - Culture-based services and programs to clients on community supervision to support rehabilitation efforts through Indigenous Justice Program (IJP) contracts with 34 Indigenous communities and organizations;
 - A contract with the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of BC (NCCABC) to ensure that Indigenous people in conflict with the law receive fair, equitable and culturally sensitive treatment by the criminal justice system.; and
 - Enhancing cultural awareness of BC Corrections staff through competency training, and by placing an emphasis of incorporating cultural programs, supports and resources in case management planning for Indigenous clients.
- The ministry is committed to addressing the factors that contribute to the continued over-representation of Indigenous people in the justice system.

Background:

- Indigenous people currently comprise 5.3% of British Columbia's adult population, but make up 29% of the Adult Custody Division population and 25% of people supervised by Community Corrections Division. Despite the growth in the proportion of Indigenous people

under BC Corrections supervision, the actual number of individuals has remained stable over the past few years.

- Since the early 1990s, BC Corrections has worked with provincial ministries and federal departments to support Indigenous programming both in our community corrections offices and adult custody centres.
- BC Corrections is prioritizing efforts to develop and enhance existing supports and services, such as reviewing programs and policy, incorporating restorative justice processes; increased access to educational programs and services; parenting information; ensuring that knowledge of trauma in the Indigenous context is incorporated into practice by staff and relevant training events and curriculum; and developing an Indigenous engagement framework and policy statement to support increased collaboration and strengthen partnerships with indigenous communities and organizations.

Indigenous Justice Program (formerly the Aboriginal Justice Strategy)

- The Governments of British Columbia and Canada recognize that it is important to collaborate and facilitate greater involvement of Indigenous communities and organizations in the administration of justice in their communities in order to better address the justice needs of Indigenous people.
- BC Corrections, in partnership with the federal Department of Justice, funds approximately \$3.2 million to support the Indigenous Justice Program (IJP) in the province based on the principle of 50/50 cost sharing.
- The IJP operates in 28 communities and provides community-based services that range from court diversion, client support and supervision, substance use management and respectful relationship program delivery.
- BC Corrections funds six additional aboriginal justice programs for a total of 34 community-led, culture-based programs across the province.
- A variety of training opportunities are provided to these programs including training in alternative measures and training to encourage the use of restorative justice approaches in the communities. IJP workers have also been trained in facilitation skills as well as two BC Corrections core programs: Substance Abuse Management and Respectful Relationships. Pilot training on the course Foundations of Corrections Case Management has been provided to 27 IJP workers.
- IJP workers are trained to deliver these programs in their communities in cooperation with trained probation officers with a specific focus on being culturally-relevant and safe. These programs are research based and have been evaluated and found to reduce reoffending.

- BC Corrections also supports a federally funded annual provincial workshop to support networking, capacity building, and training opportunities for IJP workers.
- IJP workers also support the successful reintegration of inmates back to the community.
- The IJP operates in 34 communities and provides community-based services that range from court diversion to the re-integration of offenders returning from custody centres. Locations include: Ahousaht, Alert Bay, Alkali Lake, Atlin, Bella Bella, Bella Coola, Canim Lake, Chilliwack, Cranbrook, Duncan, Fort Nelson, Fort St. James, Fort Ware, Haida Gwaii, Hazelton, Kamloops, Klemtu, Lake Babine, Lillooet, Lower Post, Lytton, Merritt, Mount Currie, New Aiyansh, Penticton, Powell River, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Punky Lake, Smithers, Telegraph Creek, Vancouver, Victoria, and Williams Lake.

Aboriginal Liaison Workers

- In addition to these community-based services, BC Corrections contracts with aboriginal liaison workers to deliver a variety of services for inmates incarcerated in any of the province's ten adult custody centres. Their duties include:
 - Developing and managing culture-based programs;
 - Coordinating cultural education and counselling programs;
 - Providing release planning services; and
 - Cultural competency training for staff.

Native Courtworker Program

- BC Corrections co-funds with the federal Department of Justice (50/50) \$3.2 million to the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of British Columbia (NCCABC) to ensure that Indigenous people in conflict with the law receive fair, equitable, and culturally sensitive treatment by the criminal justice system.
- NCCABC funding supports 30 native court worker positions across the province to provide service in 55 of the province's 89 courthouses.
- BC Corrections also works with the NCCABC, Indigenous communities, Justice Services Branch, Court Services Branch and other justice partners to support the success of First Nations Courts in providing culturally sensitive and restorative justice services.
- To increase the cultural awareness of public servants, BC Corrections, the Provincial Health Services Authority and other justice partners developed justice-specific Indigenous cultural safety (ICS) training for staff. This training supports culturally responsive and sensitive

service provision and targets cultural competency learning needs for staff working in various areas of the justice system, including police, courts, corrections, and crown counsel.

- In fiscal year 2016/17, BC Corrections purchased 154 training seats and has initiated training for senior and front-line management.

BC Corrections Additional Activities

- Partnering with Correctional Services Canada to pilot Aboriginal Perceptions Training (APT) to enhance case management decision-making and practice;
- Increasing and enhancing staff training for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) to enhance staff understanding of the unique circumstances and needs of aboriginal people living with FASD and to promote best practise through involvement and connection to community supports;
- Increasing client and inmate access to culturally-relevant resources through the Healthy Aboriginal Network. Resources support healthy decision making and cover subjects such as living with FASD, the child welfare system, residential schools, domestic violence, diabetes, substance abuse, and gang involvement;
- Implementing a new memorandum of understanding with the Sts'ailes First Nation to share information about inmates/clients being released to that community. It is expected that more communities will request such a memorandum of understanding; and,
- Collaborating with the First Nations Health Authority to receive and distribute culturally-specific mental health and addictions resources to inmates, clients and staff, and is working to ensure that inmates have access to medical services and benefits to which they are entitled.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Auditor General's Report
on Adult Custody****Suggested Response:**

- On April 29, 2015, the BC Corrections Branch responded to the Auditor General's report in front of the Public Accounts Committee.
- On May 31, 2016, the branch submitted a detailed action plan to the Public Accounts Committee.
- On February 16, 2017, representatives of the branch met with auditors for an orientation to the Auditor General's new follow up and review process.
- We have accepted all eight of the Auditor General's recommendations and we are using the report, along with the report by the former 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 were identified in this report. For example, the Auditor General recognized that BC Corrections places the highest importance on the safety and security of inmates and staff, and we regularly monitor, assess and follow up on safety and security issues.
- That said, we are also meeting capacity demands through the investment of capital funds in the Okanagan Correctional Centre, which began housing inmates in January 2017.
- As well, we recognize there is more we can do to prepare inmates for release and to reduce reoffending. That is why we've committed to working more closely with post-secondary institutions on assessment for job readiness and job training for inmates while they are incarcerated.
- BC Corrections is recognized as a leader internationally and continually seeks ways to improve the delivery of its programs and services for the citizens of British Columbia.

Background:

- The audit focused on:
 - Planning for and providing the facilities needed to deliver safe and secure custody;
 - Planning for and providing the programs inmates need 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 comprehensive strategic plan with defined outcomes; and
 - 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
 - Use 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 in the process of:
 - Continuing to conduct regular reviews of working conditions across correctional centres and use the results to reduce the risk of reoccurrence of incidents of violence.

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.
- 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 and 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 Integrated Case Planning (ICaP) 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 ICaP 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 ICaP 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 ICaP 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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2017/18 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 provincial capacity with the recent opening of the women's wing at Okanagan Correctional Centre in January 2017. This builds on current capacity for female inmates at the Alouette Correctional Centre for Women in Maple Ridge and at Prince George Regional Correctional Centre.
- Given the expanse of our province and the impracticality of having correctional centres in all areas, our goal is for individuals to stay in police cells for as short a time as possible prior to being transferred to provincial custody.
- BC Corrections, in cooperation with police and Court Services Branch, works to minimize 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.
- For example, video court appearances for female inmates are up 40% from six years ago, significantly minimizing the need to stay in police lock-ups.
- In addition, given the volume of new intakes, BC Corrections now provides s.15 transport for remanded females from Vancouver Jail to Alouette Correctional Centre for Women (ACCW) to minimize their time in police lock-up s.15
- Given the unique challenges related to the travel limitations for Vancouver Island, BC Corrections has partnered with the Victoria Police Department to develop a protocol to:
s.15
- This new protocol has resulted in the transport of four remanded females from Victoria Police lock-up to ACCW by BC Corrections staff s.15 since July 1, 2017.
- There are specific standards of care that must be provided to female inmates while in police custody in any police cells across BC. They must be given meals, have access to a bed, a toilet and wash basin or shower, receive medical assistance, be monitored and kept separate from male inmates.

Building a Female Remand Centre on Vancouver Island

- BC Corrections examined the feasibility of opening a unit in the closed Victoria Youth Custody Services Centre, or creating 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.
- On average, there is less than one BC Corrections adult female inmate held in the Victoria Police Department lock-up per day, representing an annual cost to BC Corrections of approximately \$20,000.

Background:

- In fiscal year 2016/17, female inmates made 2,439 video court appearances from a correctional centre, which significantly minimizes the impact of having to stay in police lock-ups. This represents a 40% increase since fiscal year 2010/11 when only 1,748 video court appearances were made by female inmates.
- In fiscal year 2016/17, there were 217 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 220 admissions in fiscal year 2015/16.
- For context, in 2016, there was an average of 2.5 remanded females per month who required detention at the Victoria Police Department for more than 24 hours. Instances of detention greater than 48 hours occurred in only 11 instance over the entire fiscal year.
- In fiscal year 2016/17, there were no trials lasting more than two days¹ involving an in-custody female.
- When planning for new correctional facilities, regional demand and economies of scale are always key considerations.
- This was taken into account with the design of the new Okanagan Correctional Centre by incorporating a unit that houses female inmates.

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¹ Statistics provided by Court Services Branch, Ministry of Attorney General.

2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Counts and Capacity
Pressures – Inmates****Suggested Response:**

- On any given day in fiscal year 2016/17 there was an average of 2,732 inmates in our provincial correctional centres.
- Remand counts continue to climb, increasing 10% from 2013/14 to 2014/15, a further 19% from 2014/15 to 2015/16, and another 9% from 2015/16 to 2016/17 (see table below).
- The fiscal year 2016/17 sentenced counts have decreased, and are projected to decrease over the next few years.
- On April 1, 2017, the capacity (ratio of inmates to cells) was 115%. This means, 85% of cells held one inmate, and 15% of cells housed two inmates.
- The Adult Custody Division continues to face capacity pressures, though capital expansions have begun to alleviate these pressures.
- Since 2007, \$460 million has been invested in capital projects for upgrades and to increase correctional centre capacity throughout the province.
- As a result, we have increased capacity by over 800 cells, and hired approximately 460 new staff.

Staffing Levels

- To say only one officer will be supervising any given number of inmates is not providing a complete picture.
- The BC Corrections staffing model for Adult Custody Division 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.
- BC Corrections houses inmates in appropriate living units and the number of staff on those units is set accordingly. In special units, the number of inmates to staff can be as low as ten to one.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Surrey Pretrial Services Centre, North Fraser Pretrial Centre or Okanagan Correctional Centre Holding 60 or 72 Inmates per Unit

- To say the Okanagan Correctional Centre (OCC) living units hold 72 inmates with only one supervising staff is inaccurate and misleading.
- Under very rare circumstances would all 36 cells in a living unit be at maximum capacity holding 72 inmates.
- Currently 15% of our current cells are double-bunked – the rest have only one inmate.
- The OCC began accepting inmates on January 17, 2017 and is now fully operational. The opening of OCC has increased our cell capacity by 378 cells, thereby reducing double-bunking across the province.
- At the Surrey Pretrial Services Centre, when the new expansion opened adding 216 additional cells and doubling of the inmate population, four of the older and smaller units were set aside as part of a long-term plan to meet the needs of our changing inmate population.
- One option for these smaller units is to implement a Complex Needs Unit to house and support inmates with complex mental health and addictions needs.
- This is a model that we have piloted at Alouette Correctional Centre for Women and provides intensive supervision in a more normalized environment.
- Once the outcomes are fully assessed, we will determine if this model should be expanded to other correctional centres.

Triple-bunking

- BC Corrections does not triple-bunk inmates.

- Prior to the capital expansion plan that began in 2008, BC Corrections would only triple-bunk inmates on extremely rare, temporary and short-term occasions and only when absolutely necessary, such as unpredicted temporary detention.

Background:

Average Daily Inmate Count	Remand	Sentenced	Remand & Sentenced	Immigration Hold	Waiting for transfer to CSC	Total¹
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	1,529	989	82	24	26	2,652
FY2016-2017	1,668	929	90	21	25	2,732

- 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 complete. It created approximately 500 direct and 500 indirect jobs during construction, and over 240 new, full-time positions upon completion. The opening of OCC has more than doubled the correctional centre capacity in British Columbia's Interior.

¹ 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.

- Work is underway to develop a third Capital Asset Management Plan to respond to future facilities needs
- It is 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 high staffing ratio and staff training. This is a reflection of a changing inmate profile 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 demanding job. I want to commend these peace officers for the incredibly challenging work they do every day, on behalf of all British Columbians.
- BC Corrections' top priority is the safety of its staff, the community and the inmates in its custody. BC Corrections does not tolerate violent incidents. Each one is reviewed and where appropriate reported to police with inmates potentially being charged internally or faced with criminal charges.
- Our staffing model is based on flexibility and movement, with inmates housed in living units appropriate to their risk assessments, and staffing levels are set accordingly.
- Security measures, building designs, information sharing, good case management and staffing models all 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.
- As well, the opening of the Okanagan Correctional Centre has increased capacity and safety by providing staff with more options to place inmates with complex needs and behavioural issues, as well as separate those with known conflicts

Staff Assaults:

- BC Corrections conducted an in-depth analysis of all 2016 staff assault incidents with the goal of identifying where assaults are occurring, how many staff and inmates were present and where the risk to staff is highest in order to identify new measures to reduce the number of assaults on staff.
- The analysis of 117 staff assaults that occurred in 2016 resulted in a number of significant findings:
 - The majority (81%) of staff assaults occurred with one or zero inmates unlocked at the time of the assault ('zero inmates unlocked' means the inmate was locked in a cell and assaulted staff through the food hatch);
 - 65% of all staff assaults had two or more staff present at the time of the incident;
 - The majority of incidents (65%) occurred on segregation or specialized units with high staffing levels and limited inmates unlocked at any given time;

- 27 of 117 assaults (23%) occurred on living units. Of those, the majority (74%) occurred with a staff-to-inmate ratio of 1:10 or less. No assaults occurred with more than 30 inmates present;
- 19 inmates were responsible for 54% of all staff assaults in 2016. The majority (87%) of these inmates were housed in segregation at the time of the assaults; and
- Zero staff assaults involved microwaved items.
- Overall, this analysis showed that risks are highest for staff in segregation/specialized units and that a relatively small group of inmates are responsible for a higher number of assaults.
- Adult Custody Division staff have reviewed these results and are developing plans to address identified areas of risk such as segregation and identify ways to manage inmates who are identified as high assault inmates. For example, the analysis showed that 38% of assaults occurred through the food hatch (usually occurs by throwing water or food through the hatch). Adult custody has established a working group to develop strategies to reduce the staff assaults through the food hatch and one initial measure that has been implemented has proven effective in mitigating potential assaults.
- Statistics show there has been a higher number of incidents of assault against staff in 2016 than previous years.
 - 2016: 117
 - 2015: 99
 - 2014: 71
 - 2013: 82
 - 2012: 105
- Assaults against staff are deplorable. That is why we are taking action to reduce the risks that staff face by proactively:
 - Identifying inmates that cause multiple assaults to improve their case management;
 - Addressing any new risks to staff with risk assessments;
 - Added a new flag in CORNET, the BC Corrections database, that identifies inmates who have previously assaulted a peace officer;
 - Ensuring staff know about violent inmates and are sharing information during shift muster meetings;

- Implementing new procedures 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
 - Developed a victim impact statement for violent incidents with the union to ensure the courts understand the lasting impact these incidents have on staff and the importance of having the consequences that match the seriousness of these incidents.
- While no incident of violence against staff is tolerated, it is important to note that this analysis has shown the majority of staff assaults occur in specialised units with high staffing levels and just one or two inmates present. It's also 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.
 - We take staff assaults very seriously, and take actions to deter 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.

Inmate-on-inmate Violence

- Statistics show there has been a higher number of violent incidents in the past two years.
- The number of violent incidents per year can vary as inmate counts fluctuate, and the daily average count was higher in 2016 (2,738) than in 2015 (2,588 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.
- The pilot of the Complex Needs Unit at Alouette Correctional Centre for Women and alternative strategies such as a trauma informed practice is showing promising results in reducing the incidents of violence with inmates where these alternative strategies have been applied.
- Once the outcomes are fully assessed, we will determine if this model should be expanded to other correctional centres.
- BC Corrections staff do everything they can to maintain a safe and secure living environment. That said, given the criminal histories of those in custody, and the large numbers of people with addiction and mental health issues, occasional violent outbursts are

unpredictable and a reality.

Background:

- 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 B.C. 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; in 2012/13 they completed inspections of all nine centres, and all of the 59 orders have been implemented.
- In July 2016, WorkSafeBC conducted another series of inspections as part of their monitoring phase. The phase involved condensed inspections of four centres, with a focus on violence in the workplace. All of the ten orders resulting have been implemented.
- Over the past ten years BC Corrections has significantly increased staffing levels as part of our historic capital expansion plan.
- In the last year alone, 240 new full time correctional positions were added with the opening of the Okanagan Correctional Centre.

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	Average Daily Inmate Count
2016	117	60	870	434	1481	2738
2015	99	94	782	440	1415	2588
2014	71	81	535	291	978	2369
2013	82	88	660	348	1178	2462
2012	105	66	511	327	1009	2516

*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.

Average Monthly Violent Incident Rate per 1000 Inmates by Year (takes into account inmate population changes)

Calendar Year	Incidents of Inmate Assaults on Staff	Incidents of Threats and Attempted Assaults Against Staff	Incidents of Inmate on Inmate Assaults	Incidents of Inmate-on-Inmate Threats, Fights, Attempted Assaults	Total Incidents
2016	3.7	1.8	26.4	13.2	45.2
2015	3.5	3.0	25.2	14.2	45.9
2014	2.8	2.8	18.9	10.3	34.8
2013	3.0	3.0	22.2	11.8	40.0
2012	3.7	2.2	17.0	10.8	33.7

Method: The rate is calculated using the following steps. One, divide the total number of incidents each month by the average inmate count for that month. This produces a monthly incident rate. Two, average across the monthly incident rates to get an average monthly incident rate. Incident rates are calculated for complete years only.

The violence rate was developed to show clear trends in violence by taking into account fluctuations in the inmate count. In other words, it allows BC Corrections to examine if there was a net increase in violent incidents when controlling for increases or decreases in the inmate count.

The rate shows that in 2016, with a daily average count of 2,738, in any given month across all centres in the province, there were 3.7 incidents of assault against a staff member for every 1000 inmates in custody and 26.4 incidents of inmate-on-inmate assaults for every 1000 inmates in custody. Overall, the violent incident rate decreased by 1.5 per cent from 2015 to 2016.

Incidents of Inmate Assaults on Staff by Correctional Centre

Correctional Centre	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Alouette for Women	3	8	13	12	9
Ford Mountain	1	0	0	0	1
Fraser Regional	10	12	5	10	15
Kamloops Regional	12	15	7	7	9
Nanaimo	0	0	0	1	0
North Fraser Pretrial Centre	33	31	10	19	21
Prince George Regional	21	9	10	12	19
Surrey Pretrial Services Centre	15	3	20	23	25
Vancouver Island Regional	10	4	6	15	18

Other Incidents of Inmate Violence Involving Staff* by Correctional Centre

Correctional Centre	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Alouette for Women	1	7	20	18	2
Ford Mountain	0	0	0	1	0
Fraser Regional	10	13	6	15	13
Kamloops Regional	22	24	9	17	15
Nanaimo	1	1	0	0	0
North Fraser Pretrial Centre	11	18	5	13	10
Prince George Regional	15	12	19	6	7
Surrey Pretrial Service Centre	4	5	16	15	3
Vancouver Island Regional	2	8	6	9	10

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

Incidents of Inmate-on-Inmate Assaults by Correctional Centre

Correctional Centre	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Alouette for Women	3	26	17	28	27
Ford Mountain	5	3	2	4	8
Fraser Regional	102	119	64	100	120
Kamloops Regional	57	69	69	80	111
Nanaimo	15	9	9	16	10
North Fraser Pretrial Centre	137	211	96	159	159
Prince George Regional	51	78	65	106	121
Surrey Pretrial Service Centre	60	51	125	194	196
Vancouver Island Regional	81	94	87	95	118

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

Correctional Centre	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Alouette for Women	6	17	14	18	15
Ford Mountain	2	5	2	3	5
Fraser Regional	70	68	53	96	107
Kamloops Regional	17	26	26	33	52
Nanaimo	16	17	15	9	11
North Fraser Pretrial Centre	78	98	41	80	71
Prince George Regional	64	37	44	50	50
Surrey Pretrial Service Centre	38	46	65	116	72
Vancouver Island Regional	36	34	31	35	51

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Health Care Services
Transition****Suggested Response:**

- The responsibility for inmate health services in all ten provincial correctional centres will transition to the Ministry of Health (HLTH), and be delivered by the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), effective October 1, 2017.
- The change of responsibility to the HLTH/PHSA will improve the quality of health services for inmates through adherence to best practices, better integration and continuity of care with community health services, and by expanding the level of resources provided within the correctional centres.
- Continuity of health care services, consistent with those provided to individuals in the community, is critical to the well-being of BC Corrections clients and the ability of BC Corrections to address many of the underlying factors related to criminal behaviour.
- Inmates in custody in provincial correctional centres routinely experience significant medical events and 60% of BC Corrections clients have diagnosed mental health and/or addictions needs.
- Under the current model, health care needs are often identified and treatment is initiated while an individual is in custody but may not be continued after they return to the community. Alternatively, services provided to an individual in the community are sometimes not continued within a correctional centre.
- With this change, it is anticipated that greater consistency in the provision of health care services to inmates will help to ensure continuity of care and support their reintegration when they are released to the community.
- Other considerations for the transition of health care services include:
 - The current model incurs contract overhead and this cost will not be incurred under a HLTH/PHSA model;
 - The Mental Health and Substance Use Strategy 2017-2020 commits to provide complex care co-ordination services for individuals with mental health and/or substance use issues as they transition from correctional facilities back into the community, including stable housing with integrated services and skills-based developmental supports to increase self-sufficiency and help ensure success;
 - Two Justice Summits were held in 2016, where participants formalized recommendations, including an action plan that ensures continuity of care regarding

the treatment of mental health and substance abuse disorders where the justice and mental health systems intersect; and

- *Standing Against Violence*, the report prepared by the former parliamentary secretary for BC Corrections, recommended the HLTH explore options to better serve inmates with mental health issues and complex behaviours.
- The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General will transfer funding to the HLTH to allow for the change of this responsibility. Treasury Board has also approved additional funding for the HLTH to allow for implementation of the PHSA service delivery model.
- The change to the HLTH/PHSA service model is being implemented by a multi-agency project team including HLTH, PHSA and BC Corrections staff. Oversight is being provided by a project steering committee and project executive board and a governance model will be established post transition.

Background:

- Inmate health services are currently the responsibility of BC Corrections and have been delivered through a contract arrangement since 2003. Prior to 2003, health services were provided through a variety of contracts and direct staff positions.
- The Province of Alberta recently implemented a model whereby Alberta Health Services provides health services to inmates in Alberta Corrections custody. BC Corrections and HLTH staff met with Alberta staff to review this model. Alberta staff advised that the new model has resulted in ^{s.16} for this complex and high needs population.
- In preparation for change to the HLTH/PHSA model, on April 7, 2017 PHSA sent letters to the BC Nurses Union, other unions, and BC Corrections, informing them that "PHSA will be posting positions for the delivery of health care services at the ten provincial correctional centres within existing PHSA certifications for each of the nurses, paramedical professional, and facilities support bargaining units, and consistent with the applicable health sector collective agreements."
- The PHSA posted employment opportunities for health care staff in each of the correctional centres and in corporate management and support in June 2017.
- Recruitment activities to hire for all unionized positions also commenced in June 2017, with a response of over 1,000 applications received. Offer letters and packages were sent to the successful applicants at the end of July.

- A dedicated phone number and email address was provided to unsuccessful applicants to contact if they had questions or concerns about hiring decisions.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**WorkSafeBC Inspections of Correctional Centres****Suggested Response:**

- In July 2016 WorkSafeBC (WSBC) announced they would follow their 2012 inspection of all nine correctional centres with a series of inspections as part of a 'monitoring phase'.
- The phase involved condensed inspections of four centres: Kamloops Regional Correctional Center (KRCC); Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre (VIRCC); North Fraser Pretrial Centre (NFPC); Surrey Pretrial Services Centre (SPSC); plus the newest correctional centre, Okanagan Correctional Centre (OCC), with a focus on violence in the workplace; resulting in ten orders being issued.
- BC Corrections worked closely with WSBC to facilitate and organize these inspections.
- This was an opportunity to strengthen our already high safety standards and ensure the safety and security of our staff. BC Corrections is fully compliant at all correctional centres.
- All of B.C.'s correctional centres have an active Occupational Health and Safety Committee with representation from both the employer and the union, which meets monthly to address any concerns with safety.
- BC Corrections is committed to working with the BC Government Employees Union and WorkSafeBC to ensure our work environments are as safe and secure, as possible, for all employees.
- WSBC noted that in many cases, staff assaults occur with more than one staff member present.

Surrey Pretrial Services Centre's Orders and Joint Committee

- BC Corrections acknowledges WSBC identified a number of concerns at SPSC.
- Action was taken immediately after the inspections to address these issues and full compliance was quickly achieved at SPSC.
- Greater collaboration among the employer and union representatives on the centre's Occupational Health and Safety Committee will help to satisfy many of the orders going forward.
- BC Corrections supports the employer and the union representatives with additional training to ensure they are completing the investigation reports and taking appropriate corrective action.

Union's Request for WorkSafeBC to Develop a Plan to Address Staff Assaults

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

Background:

- The monitoring phase inspections resulted in the following orders, with compliance achieved shortly after they were issued:
 - Kamloops Regional Correctional Centre: 1 order;
 - Vancouver Regional Correctional Centre: 1 order;
 - North Fraser Pretrial Centre: 2 orders; and
 - Surrey Pretrial Services Centre: 6 orders.
- The orders written at the centres inspected were primarily concerned with:
 - The legislated responsibilities of the local joint occupational health and safety committee;
 - Violence in the work place risk assessments; and
 - Escort transport risk assessment.

Original Inspections

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

- Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre: 3 orders (inspected in November 2013); and
- Nanaimo Correctional Centre: 2 orders (inspected in December 2013).
- The goal of WorkSafeBC's inspections was to assist the centres in achieving regulatory compliance.
- Prior to WorkSafeBC initiating its inspections, they identified their focus would be on the following three key areas:
 - Workplace accountabilities, responsibilities, and supervision;
 - Violence in the workplace; and
 - 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.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE

Mental Health and Substance Use within the Criminal Justice System

Suggested Response:

- Government is committed to continuing and improving supports to individuals and families impacted by mental health challenges.
- The ministry has assumed a leadership role in establishing partnerships to improve services for individuals with mental health and addiction needs within the criminal justice system by:
 - Participating in a government-wide mental health strategy;
 - Developing a branch wide strategy to improve outcomes for BC Corrections clients with complex needs;
 - Providing leadership on a national working group with correctional jurisdictions across Canada;
 - Working with the Ministry of Health on the Partners in Change project to improve transitions for clients with mental health needs; and
 - Transferring inmate health services to the Provincial Health Services Authority to improve continuity of care for inmates.
- We will continue to build links with our partners both inside and outside government. Mental health and homelessness are collective problems, and we are building a collective solution.

Government-wide Mental Health Strategy

- BC Corrections participated in the assistant deputy ministers' committee supporting the Cabinet Working Group on Mental Health in development of a government-wide strategy to respond to the mental health needs of British Columbians.
- In 2016 the working group approved "Working Better Together: 12 Month Action Plan" which outlines improvements to service coordination and continuity of care; support for mental wellness practices; and the establishment of cross ministry leadership and accountability. Meetings are scheduled with cross government partners to update progress in these identified work streams.
- 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.

Branch Wide Strategy for BC Corrections Clients

- Approximately 60% of BC Corrections clients and inmates have had a formal diagnosis of either a mental disorder or a substance use disorder or both and many more are undiagnosed.
- Given the complexity of the client population, BC Corrections has initiated a project to review the various strategies and recommendations coming from across government, and integrate those strategies into one cohesive strategy for the branch.

National Working Group on Health and Mental Health:

- BC 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.

Partners in Change:

- BC 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.
- 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 within the client population;
 - The development of information sharing protocols; and
 - The development of transition protocols between BC Corrections and health authorities to improve continuity of care.

Inmate Health Care transfer to BC Provincial Health Services Authority

- BC Provincial Health Services Authority will begin delivering health and mental health services at our correctional centres on October 1, 2017.
- This change will enhance the quality of health care, mental health and substance use supports for inmates in custody and facilitate a more seamless transition to health and mental health services in the community.

Background:

- Government currently invests approximately \$2 billion per year to fund mental health programs across several ministries.
- It is estimated that in the criminal justice system, across the Ministry of Attorney General 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.
- Research has confirmed that approximately 60% of BC Corrections clients have had a formal diagnosis of either a mental disorder or a substance use disorder or both in the five 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.
- 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.
- Probation officers and correctional officers identify individuals with behaviours associated with mental health needs and ensure that internal and external resources are accessed to support their 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, six 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 collaboration 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 trains officers to recognize and manage 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 reviewing 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.

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

- Mr. Throness consulted corrections officials and stakeholders, and delivered a report on B.C.'s correctional system that will help to guide our actions.
- Mr. Throness' final report recommended concrete actions we can take to reduce violence in our correctional facilities.
- 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, BC Corrections 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 were identified to address Throness' recommendations on improving inmates work opportunities:
 - The Social Enterprise and Employment Development project that aims 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; and
 - Creating an initiative for Community Corrections clients to enhance job-readiness and employment opportunities for community corrections clients by leveraging SkillsBC programs, along with the Skilled Trades Employment Program.
- BC Corrections also completed a pilot program with Thompson Rivers University 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.
- We also partnered with the Roofing Contractors Association to run a Roofing Apprenticeship pilot program at Fraser Regional Correctional Centre. The first program was delivered to ten inmates this summer. Three got jobs on release and the others left custody with proof of certification and were connected with local roofing companies in their home communities. Given the success of the first program, a second four week program is currently underway at Ford Mountain Correctional Centre.

- BC Corrections is considered an international leader in terms of its innovative and evidence-based approaches to reducing reoffending and does an excellent job ensuring a safe and secure environment for staff, inmates and our communities.
- That said, BC Corrections recognizes there is always more that can be done and is committed to continuing leading best practices in all aspects of meeting its mission to reducing reoffending and protecting communities.

Violence in Correctional Centres:

- 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 BC 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 ten inmates and there are inmates requiring two staff to one inmate, but that doesn’t tell the whole story.
- The BC Corrections staffing model is based on risk, 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, then 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 was developed to implement each of the recommendations that are short-term, long-term, and currently in progress. See Appendix A Standing Against Violence: A Safety

Review of BC Corrections for a complete list of the report's recommendations and action taken and/or planned.

- In September 2016, Mr. Throness met with BC Corrections to receive updates on progress made towards meeting the recommendations.

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Appendix 1: STANDING AGAINST VIOLENCE
A Safety Review of BC Corrections

RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSE				
	DIVISION	ACTION TAKEN	ACTION PLANNED	TIMELINE	RESP.
1a) Provide classification officers with ongoing training to more effectively manage the risk associated with inmates who share cells, that access to risk and safety-related information by BC Corrections staff be improved.	Adult Custody	Classification policy is being updated to support training needs. Inmate assessment guide is being reviewed, which will inform training.	Publish updated policy and inmate assessment guide. Implement new training model (note: dependent on funding to develop training).	September 2017 March 2018	Dana Tadla (Morgan Zazula)
1b) Enhance access to information in CORNET by selected law enforcement personnel to increase safety in custody and in the community.	ADM's Office Strategic Operations	Existing justice partners' access to CORNET has been reviewed. Police EAA access groups have been reviewed, and all agencies fall into two user groups: Police and RCMP. These two user groups provide essentially the same information. Additional police agencies have electronic access agreements, and all police agencies have been provided with information explaining the application process for CORNET access.		Completed Completed Completed	

Appendix 1: STANDING AGAINST VIOLENCE
A Safety Review of BC Corrections

RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSE				
	DIVISION	ACTION TAKEN	ACTION PLANNED	TIMELINE	RESP.
2a) Continue ongoing structural safety improvements	Adult Custody	Participation in annual M.O.E. Planning and Prioritization meetings	Allocate division funds to structural safety improvement projects over a three year period	Ongoing annually April through June 2019	Dana Tadla
		<p>A sample building performance dashboard has been developed for VIRCC; once finalized, it will be the prototype for other centres.</p> <p>Funding allocations to address structural safety issues are ongoing. (e.g. staff station and egress at VIRCC was been approved) and progress has been made to complete the structural changes to living units. As of Sept 8/17, five living unit staff stations have been completed and two are currently under construction with a completion date in October.</p>	The final two living unit staff stations at VIRCC will be completed in the next fiscal	Ongoing	Dana Tadla
2b) Prioritize personal temperament and verbal de-escalation skills in the screening requirements for the hiring of officers and demonstrated through role-plays	Adult Custody	<p>Hiring and screening processes have been reviewed. The Correctional Officer Recruitment Manual is being revised.</p> <p>Current screening tools have been reviewed,</p> <p>A revised screening tool, REACT, that targets de-escalation skills has been fully implemented and incorporated into the ongoing screening of new correctional officers.</p>		<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>	

September 8, 2017

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Appendix 1: STANDING AGAINST VIOLENCE
A Safety Review of BC Corrections

RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSE				
	DIVISION	ACTION TAKEN	ACTION PLANNED	TIMELINE	RESP.
3) Adjust capacity levels of inmate units and the opening and closing of those units be to mitigate safety issues.	Adult Custody	Short-term count trends are reviewed on an ongoing basis, and provincial counts among centres are balanced where possible. Centre budget delegations are based on forecasted count pressures.		Ongoing Ongoing annually April through June	Dana Tadla
4) Warn inmates and place signs that indicate, that violence and the threat of violence will be not be tolerated	Adult Custody	A violence awareness poster has been designed and posted in common areas throughout the correctional centres	Include violence awareness information on eServices library (timing dependent on eServices rollout)	Completed Indeterminate	Dave Friesen
5) Treat second and subsequent aggressor more severely than the first.	Adult Custody	The Adult Custody Division has reviewed and analyzed this recommendation. Legislation and administrative justice principles do not support this specific change to the disciplinary process. We will continue to review and update the disciplinary process to ensure that the principles of administrative justice are consistently applied in order to ensure a fair and transparent disciplinary process.	A review of the entire disciplinary process is underway to determine existing processes and create recommendations for the future. Recommendations will be aligned with the principles of administrative justice and the National Segregation Framework in development by Heads of Corrections.	Fall 2017	Stephanie Macpherson

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RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSE				
	DIVISION	ACTION TAKEN	ACTION PLANNED	TIMELINE	RESP.
6) Examine alternatives to methadone that are effective, but less marketable, addictions treatments in order to reduce drug contraband.	Adult Custody	The health care committee has agreed upon an approach that will see Suboxone used with increased prevalence. In April 2016, policy was implemented to name Suboxone as the opioid agonist treatment (OAT) of choice. This policy allows OAT to be more accessible to inmates.		Completed	Dave Friesen
7) Inmates with ten or more disciplinary hearings be subject to more intensive programming within provincial institutions.	Adult Custody	The Adult Custody Division has reviewed and analyzed this recommendation. Legislation and administrative justice principles do not support this specific change to the disciplinary process. We will continue to review and update the disciplinary process to ensure that the principles of administrative justice are consistently applied in order to ensure a fair and transparent disciplinary process.	A review of the entire disciplinary process is underway to determine existing processes and create recommendations for the future. Recommendations will be aligned with the principles of administrative justice and the National Segregation Framework in development by Heads of Corrections.	Fall 2017	Stephanie Macpherson
8) BC Corrections establish a social enterprise corporation to seek out and execute self-sustaining subcontracts at commercial rates to provide more work opportunities within correctional centres.	Strategic Operations	Project plan for Social Enterprise and Employment Development (SEED) in B.C. Corrections completed. Environmental scan of work programs currently operating in the correctional centres completed. The advisory committee has commenced work. Stakeholder consultation to determine needs and assess opportunities is underway.		Completed Completed Completed Completed	Kimberley McLean (Dave Friesen, Carrie McCulley)

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RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSE				
	DIVISION	ACTION TAKEN	ACTION PLANNED	TIMELINE	RESP.
		<p>Literature review.</p> <p>Jurisdictional scan to assess best practices</p> <p>Partners have been engaged</p> <p>Funding proposal submitted</p> <p>Funding received through Jobs Creation Partnership – John Howard Society is in receipt of the funding.</p> <p>Pilot commenced</p>	Evaluation of pilot	<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>April 2018</p>	
9) BC Corrections explore certifiable trades training within correctional institutions with nearby learning institutions, including training in shorter-term certificates to equip more transitory inmates with job-ready skills, and that staff reach out to employers in a systematic way to help inmates find work.	Adult Custody	<p>A pre-meeting with STEP organization representatives has occurred.</p> <p>STEP representatives have visited six correctional centres.</p> <p>FRCC and ACCW have established successful relationships with STEP. STEP representatives meet with identified inmates and provide insight into employment opportunities in the community, support to meet potential employers, and support following release</p>		<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>	Dave Friesen

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RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSE				
	DIVISION	ACTION TAKEN	ACTION PLANNED	TIMELINE	RESP.
			<p>Work with STEP program representatives to explore STEP possibilities beyond FRCC.</p> <p>Seek and enroll qualified inmates into the STEP program</p> <p>Enhance partnership with post-secondary educational institutions re: vocational and academic work program opportunities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	
10) BC Corrections institutions offer to host regular meetings on their premises or in some more convenient place, so that all community stakeholders can better coordinate their independent activities, including transition planning.	Adult Custody	Several Making Connections presentations with community stakeholders throughout the province have occurred since March 2015. Update meetings between branch HQ and wardens occur regularly.	<p>Invite community stakeholders to "Making Connections" presentations</p> <p>Set up joint meetings with stakeholders to allow coordination of activities</p> <p>Involve community stakeholders with Case Managers</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing annually October through December</p> <p>March 2018</p>	Dave Friesen
11) Government to collaborate more closely with NGOs to assemble transition plans for all those released for a year, in an attempt to reduce recidivism to the point where government resources are adequate to routinely offer transition plans to all.	Strategic Operations	<p>Reviewed existing programs, and Integrated Offender Management (IOM) has been identified as the most appropriate opportunity to address this recommendation.</p> <p>Ford Mountain Correctional Centre IOM position increased to full time.</p>		<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>	<p>Kimberley McLean, Bill Small (Dave Friesen, Carrie McCulley)</p>

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RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSE				
	DIVISION	ACTION TAKEN	ACTION PLANNED	TIMELINE	RESP.
			Explore for opportunities to expand IOM where possible. PGRCC and KRCC programs to submit needs assessments to IOM steering committee	December 2017	
			Implement appropriate approaches	March 2018	
12) Staff to regularly assist inmates, beginning upon admission, to prepare for release by helping to prepare documents that will help them live independently.	Adult Custody	This recommendation has been reviewed, and is appropriate to be addressed alongside recommendation #11.	Explore opportunities to expand IOM where possible. PGRCC and KRCC programs to submit needs assessments to IOM steering committee	Completed October 2017	Dave Friesen (Carrie McCulley)
13) Open custody to serve as a transition to society for selected inmates by allowing daily work or study in the community followed by custody each night.	Adult Custody	Jurisdictional scan completed. Discussion paper drafted for CDMC	Review and consider options	Completed Completed December 2017	Dave Friesen (John Cordeiro)
14) Establish a 'Right Living Unit' in every provincial institution.	Adult Custody	A right living model has been successfully implemented at FMCC and is ongoing. The FMCC model has been reviewed and analyzed and the elements of the model were documented in November 2015 for the		Completed Completed	Dave Friesen (Leigh Greiner)

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RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSE				
	DIVISION	ACTION TAKEN	ACTION PLANNED	TIMELINE	RESP.
		development of a standardized program to be implemented at other centres. Literature review	Plan in development and contingent on staffing	Completed March 2018	
15) The ministries of Health and Justice collaborate to adopt the Vancouver Intensive Supervision Unit (VISU) model in selected urban communities for the treatment of non-violent clients with severe mental health needs.	Community Corrections	New director of integrated programs position created, job profile finalized and hiring process commenced through Hiring Centre Director of integrated programs has been hired to provide direction and support to VISU VISU operating guidelines have been reviewed and revised.	Recommendation for scalability of integrated model to other urban communities Pilot urban integrated team in accordance with recommendations and subject to engagement from partners, including Health Ministry	Completed Completed Completed December 2017 December 2017	Bill Small
16) The Ministry of Health establish and support mental health units within correctional institutions, to better serve inmates with mental disorders leading to	Adult Custody	Approval has been received to transition responsibility for inmate health care to the Provincial Health Services Authority.		Completed	Dave Friesen

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RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSE				
	DIVISION	ACTION TAKEN	ACTION PLANNED	TIMELINE	RESP.
violence.			Transition health care services, including services for inmates with mental health needs to Provincial Health Services Authority	October 2017	
17) Make minor improvements to the security of community corrections offices.	Community Corrections	<p>A list of security requirements based on the division's office design standards has been established.</p> <p>The requirements list is reviewed quarterly with the community management committee and tenant improvements are made according to priorities and funding availability.</p>		<p>Completed</p> <p>Ongoing quarterly reviews</p>	
18) Regularly review and update privacy training for staff.	ADM's Office	<p>Review of existing privacy training for Community and Adult Custody divisions completed; gaps and enhancements required identified.</p> <p>An action plan to deliver training has been developed.</p> <p>An information sharing matrix has been developed to assist staff in information sharing.</p> <p>Deliver updated training to Community and Adult Custody staff</p>		<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>	Cindy Rose

Appendix 1: STANDING AGAINST VIOLENCE

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RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSE				
	DIVISION	ACTION TAKEN	ACTION PLANNED	TIMELINE	RESP.
			Review training every two years, and/or when legislative amendments (every four years) are implemented, and update as required.	May 2018	
19) The Province enhance support for restorative justice programs throughout B.C., perhaps by drawing on the Victim Surcharge Special Account, the Civil Forfeiture Program, or funds obtained through the Criminal Asset Management Act.	Strategic Operations	<p>Consulted with Community Safety and Crime Prevention. Victim Surcharge Special Account Funds are already allocated on a recurring basis. Criminal Asset Management Act funds are diverted to the Civil Forfeiture Program for distribution. Civil Forfeiture Program funds are given to non-government organizations following application. In 2016, restorative justice programs were given a priority stream for this program.</p> <p>Consultation with Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch to encourage continued priority fund stream to restorative justice programs from the Civil Forfeiture Program funds.</p> <p>Email sent to Indigenous restorative justice programs to advise of Civil Forfeiture grant program processes and encourage programs to apply for this program.</p>		<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>	Kimberley McLean (Erin Gunnarson / Lori Pruce)

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RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSE				
	DIVISION	ACTION TAKEN	ACTION PLANNED	TIMELINE	RESP.
20) Access the Skilled Trades Employment Program (STEP) and the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training to provide training to probation officers so that they might be fully aware of the ways they can help their clients become job-ready and find employment.	Community Corrections	<p>Meetings have occurred with officials from the BC Construction Association to discuss introduction of the Skilled Trades Employee Program to Community Corrections staff.</p> <p>STEP official met with CMC to review program and options for community engagement. Liaison assigned and plans for pilot commenced.</p> <p>Target STEP resources for select community clients on pilot basis.</p> <p>"Learn and Go" one-hour education session on STEP for community staff</p> <p>Skills and training materials from STEP and Work BC will be available in all probation offices for review and use in appropriate referrals.</p>		Completed	Bill Small

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Estimates 2017/18 Briefing Book**

**Policing and Security Branch
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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Guns and Gangs Strategy****Suggested Response:**

- Organized crime and gangs remains a top priority for the province and police remain united in their efforts to keep communities around B.C. safe. The government is committed to continue strengthening the tools for police to respond to gangs and guns activity throughout the province.
- Budget update 2017 is responsive to resource needs to combat gang related activity with additional resources for Joint Illegal Gaming Investigations Team, and additional FTE and programs to combat the Fentanyl emergency.

Background:

- In 2016/17, \$71.6 million total, including federal contributions, was provided to the RCMP for the CFSEU-BC and anti-gang initiatives in B.C.
 - This includes some funding provided through the \$31.7 million Enhanced Guns and Gangs Strategy to address public safety throughout the province.
 - This also includes the Cariboo-Chilcotin Region Community Safety Model which is benefiting from \$2.8 million over two years to crack down on crime.
- In addition, the September Budget Update dedicates to the Surrey Wrap \$250,000 in 2017/18, as shown as an increase in the Civil Forfeiture Office budget, and \$500,000 per year, as shown as an increase in the Victim Services and Crime Prevention budget.
- In conjunction with the Guns and Gangs Strategy, RCMP "E" Division's Investigative Services and Organized Crime coordinates the response to the growing threat of organized crime and gang violence. Additionally, the operations of specialized provincial units such as the, Integrated Homicide Investigation Team, Major Crimes Section, and CFSEU-BC align with the Guns and Gangs Strategy.
- CFSEU-BC is the province's primary anti-gang agency. It is the largest integrated joint forces police unit in Canada and brings together 14 law enforcement agencies integrated under a single command structure. Two new CFSEU-BC teams, a ten person investigative team and a ten person uniform gang suppression team, have recently been added to the unit.
- CFSEU-BC oversees:
 - Coordinating, integrating and leveraging provincial efforts to combat the threat and effects of violence related to organized crime and gangs;
 - Targeting criminal groups and gangs operating intra-provincially;

- Focusing on public safety through strategic deployment against violent offenders;
 - Creating and maintaining the Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority Threat process and the Violent Prolific Offender Management Program; and
 - Gang prevention and education with its End Gang Life campaign and other public engagement initiatives.
- CFSEU-BC is also responsible for Joint Illegal Gaming Investigation Team (JIGIT), which was formed in 2016 to disrupt organized crime and gang involvement in illegal gaming and prevent criminals from using B.C. gaming facilities to legalize the proceeds of crime. The JIGIT also works to raise public awareness of the role service providers' play in identifying and reporting illegal gaming and financial transactions.
 - Fenced funding for the JIGIT from the Ministry of Finance and administered through the Provincial Police Service Agreement (PPSA) to CFSEU-BC under the 70/30 ratio. Provincial funding for the first three fiscal years of the team entails: \$1.8 million in FY 16/17 for nine positions; \$3 million in FY 17/18; and \$3 million in FY 18/19 for all 22 positions.
 - The Real Time Intelligence Centre – British Columbia's (RTIC-BC) is now fully operationalized to provide coverage to the Metro Vancouver area and Capital Regional District detachments. RTIC-BC delivers real time operational support to frontline police officers and investigators by providing actionable intelligence. RTIC-BC also provides other support to all other detachments within the province as necessary and, disseminates information that may have a public or police officer safety issue from across the country.
 - First identified in 2010, RTIC-BC as an integrated team (43 FTE, estimated initial budget of \$5.8 million – actual for FY 16/17 was 43 FTE and \$5.1 million of expense allocation). RTIC-BC supports the Guns and Gangs Strategy as part of its mandate.
 - The RTIC-BC is fully resourced with 43 FTE positions, consisting of nine federally funded positions, 13 provincially funded positions and 21 municipally funded positions and operates 24 hours per day/365 days per year. The RTIC-BC requires an annual operational budget of approximately \$4.6 million, shared by municipalities (50%), the province (30%) and the federal government (20%).
 - Additionally, the Office of Crime Reduction and Gang Outreach (OCR-GO) is now established. The mandate of this office is to reduce crime and promote public safety through the operation of a crime reduction framework for B.C. The unit works in a coordinated fashion with the ministry's Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch, RCMP "E" Division and CFSEU-BC.

- The OCR-GO is currently leading several activities including:
 - Establishing governance and operations;
 - Developing a new crime reduction research program;
 - Developing dashboards and a priority community overview and analysis tool;
 - Creating and maintaining an inventory of crime reduction initiatives and creating crime reduction initiative profiles; and
 - Supporting the Cariboo-Chilcotin Community Safety Model. (\$1.4M in 2017/18 and \$1.4 million in 2018/19 was provided to support the Cariboo-Chilcotin Community Safety Model).
- The Illegal Firearms Taskforce has been created and conducted roundtables throughout the province in late 2016. The objectives of the Illegal firearms task force included:
 - Examining current provincial and federal firearms legislation, interdictions, enforcement strategies, as well as resource strategies related to illegal firearms;
 - Engaging in meaningful dialogue with key stakeholders and subject matter experts;
 - Identifying gaps and needs to combat the illegal possession and use of firearms within B.C.; and
 - Developing options and recommendations for further strategies to complement existing legislation and educational, interdiction and enforcement strategies.
- The consultative work culminated in a draft comprehensive report with thirty-seven preliminary recommendations, pertaining to legislative, educational and enforcement strategies to address illegal firearms in B.C. Other actions to reduce illegal firearm activity in B.C. have included the 2016 BC Gun Amnesty Program and, funding being allocated to support Crime Stoppers Cash for Tips on Illegal Firearms.
- The ministry has also been participating at Federal Provincial and Territorial levels to ensure B.C.'s interests are represented in national anti-organized crime strategic plans and legislative changes. Work with the federal government on their budget commitment of \$100 million to address guns and gangs are also ongoing. Direct access to long term sustainable federal funding is being sought.
- Other initiatives that align with the Guns and Gangs Strategy, include:
 - Surrey Crown Counsel dedicating two-full time prosecutors and legal assistant to cases linked to gangs and guns;
 - Expanding the capacity for the public safety sector to monitor high-risk offenders

electronically;

- A new integrated community safety initiative is now in place in Williams Lake that is supported by \$500 thousand in civil forfeiture funding; and
- The open call for applications for Crime Reduction grants funded through civil forfeiture proceeds,

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Appendix : New Funding for Enhanced Guns and Gangs Strategy

The \$31.7 million Enhanced Guns and Gangs Strategy acts as the province's overarching strategy on combating gang activity and gun crime and is structured under three pillars:

- Pillar 1: Support effective enforcement and prosecution;
- Pillar 2: Further community safety and public engagement; and
- Pillar 3: Review laws targeting illegal guns and gang violence, profit and property.

Guns & Gangs and Community Safety Initiatives

in \$ millions

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Total
Policing	6.8	5.33	5.33	5.33	22.79
Corrections	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.8
Crown Counsel	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2
CFO - G&G	1.45	1.125	1.125	1.129	4.829
CFO - Cariboo Chilcotin		0.37	0.37	0.37	1.11
Surrey Wrap		0.25			0.25
Total	8.95	7.775	7.525	7.529	31.779

Appendix 2: Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit-BC (CFSEU-BC) and OCG Financial Summary

Actual Expense Allocations for fiscal year 2016/17

In 2016/17, \$71.53 million total (\$62.3 million in 2015/16) was provided to the RCMP for the CFSEU-BC and anti-gang initiatives in B.C. See Funding Breakdown Table in Appendix 1.

- Provincial contribution: \$50.07 million (\$43.6 million in 2015/16)
 - \$25.8 million allocated to the CFSEU-BC (\$25.9 million in 2015/16).
 - \$19.0 million allocated to the Organized Crime Fund - previously PORF (\$17.7 million in 2015/16).
 - \$1.79 million allocated to the Joint Illegal Gaming Investigation Team.
 - \$3.47 million allocated to gang suppression.
- Federal contribution: \$21.45 million (\$18.7 million in 2015/16)

	CFSEU ⁽¹⁾	JIGIT	Gang Suppression	OCF ⁽²⁾	Total
Pay (Salaries & Benefits)	\$6,900,018	\$920,308	\$724,504	\$10,444,924	\$18,989,754
Operations & Maintenance	\$24,942,750	\$1,261,207	\$3,662,633	\$10,445,233	\$40,311,823
Capital	\$236,380	\$0	\$181,529	\$506,098	\$924,007
Indirect Costs	\$5,008,664	\$369,181	\$400,897	\$5,962,332	\$11,741,074
Credits	(\$173,066)	\$0	(\$16,098)	(\$202,936)	(\$392,100)
Federal Contribution (30%)	\$11,074,424	\$765,209	\$1,486,040	\$8,146,695	\$21,472,367
Provincial Contribution (70%)	\$25,840,322	\$1,785,487	\$3,467,426	\$19,008,956	\$50,102,191
Total Contribution	\$36,914,746	\$2,550,696	\$4,953,465	\$27,155,651	\$71,574,558

Notes:

(1) CFSEU costs included special one-time funding for Opioid Community Outreach & Awareness and E-Naturalism

(2) OCF costs included special one-time funding for Opioid Enforcement.

2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Illegal Firearms Task Force****Suggested Response:**

- Between September 2016 and February 2017, Illegal Firearms Task force members met numerous times to review and analyse the use, possession and trafficking of illegal firearms in British Columbia.
- The consultative work culminated in a preliminary draft report with several recommendations, within four overall themes.
- Provincial and federal firearms legislation, interdictions and enforcement strategies were examined and preliminary recommendations are suggested for legislative amendments and the better use of and coordination of provincial-federal programs related to illegal firearms.
- Staff are working on finalizing the report and the recommendations and it will go to the Minister by early fall.

Background:

- In April 2016, the Premier and Minister announced \$23 million in funding over three years to enhance the provincial Guns and Gangs strategy with a three pillar plan. The pillars are: 1) enforcement and prosecution; 2) community safety and engagement; and 3) legislative solutions. In 2017 this commitment was increased to over \$31 million over four years through to 2019/20.
- A component of the enhanced plan under the community safety and engagement pillar (pillar #2), was the creation of an Illegal Firearms Task Force. \$200,000 was dedicated to the Task Force in 2016/17.
- The objectives of the Illegal Firearms Task Force were to:
 1. Examine current provincial and federal firearms legislation; interdictions; enforcement strategies; as well as educational and resource strategies related to illegal firearms;
 2. Engage in meaningful dialogue with key stakeholders and subject matter experts;
 3. Identify gaps and needs to combat illegal possession and use of firearms in B.C.; and
 4. Develop options and recommendations for further strategies to complement existing legislation and educational, interdiction and enforcement strategies.

- Subject matter experts from the RCMP, Vancouver Police Department, Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of BC, Canada Border Services Agency, National Weapons Enforcement Support Team, Chief Firearms Office, Ministry of Education, Surrey Safe School Program, BC Association of Chiefs of Municipal Police, University of the Fraser Valley School of Criminology and Municipal Public Safety directors participated as members of the task force.
- The task force was led by Mr. Wayne Rideout, a recently retired RCMP member who, prior to his retirement, held the rank of assistant commissioner and for several years had been in charge of Investigative Services and Organized Crime in B.C.
- Regular meetings were held with task force members and community roundtables were held in Victoria, Kelowna, Williams Lake and Prince George, and with Lower Mainland municipal government representatives.
- A literature review was completed by the Centre for Public Safety and Criminal Justice research at the University of the Fraser Valley. This literature review included an examination of existing national and international research on legislative measures, police-led and community-led programs, and tactics or interdictions designed to address the issue of illegal firearms acquisition, possession and use.
- Collectively, the task force suggested 37 preliminary recommendations (attached as Appendix 1), that emerged during their work. The recommendations fall under four overall themes:
 1. Strategic Approaches – Coordinating and focusing the efforts of diverse agencies;
 2. Legislative Initiatives – Enhancing federal legislation and creating provincial legislation;
 3. Education and Prevention – Creating awareness, building resilience and reducing acquisition, availability and use; and
 4. Data Collection and Information Sharing – Purposefully collecting intelligence that will inform prevention, enforcement and disruption efforts.
- The task force completed its objectives on time and within budget.
- Next steps include the continuation of the internal analysis of recommendations and finalizing the report, including examining legal and financial impacts and further consultation with relevant internal partners towards an implementation plan of accepted recommendations.

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Appendix 1: Recommendations of the Illegal Firearms Task Force

The Task Force recommends that:

THEME #1: STRATEGIC APPROACHES

An illegal firearms-focussed approach

1. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General should consider prioritizing illegal firearms trafficking and use by:
 - 1.1. Supporting the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit to become the lead agency responsible for coordinating a provincial illegal firearms-focussed strategy and ensuring province-wide and cross-border application of the firearms focus in the PTEP process
 - 1.2. Requesting that the Government of Canada expand federal resources within CFSEU-BC and assign them responsibility for cross-border illegal firearms trafficking and smuggling investigations in partnership with the Canada Border Services Agency and other law enforcement agencies
 - 1.3. Requesting the participation of the Canada Border Services Agency in B.C.'s illegal firearms-focussed teams

Road safety and illegal firearms

2. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General should consider working with the B.C. Ministry of Transportation and the Insurance Corporation of B.C. to develop road safety strategies that mitigate the risk to the public when illegal firearms are possessed or used in vehicles for violent and criminal acts. Such strategies, including proposing amendments where appropriate, should focus on:
 - 2.1. Possession and transport of illegal firearms in vehicles
 - 2.2. The use of a vehicle as a platform to locate and attack others
 - 2.3. Possession of a vehicle that is the subject of organized crime attack by others
 - 2.4. The use of a vehicle in a flight from police by an individual associated with organized crime
 - 2.5. A nominee who is registering vehicles on behalf of persons associated with organized crime for use in illegal activity
 - 2.6. A company that knowingly leases or rents vehicles to persons associated with organized crime for use in illegal activity
3. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General should consider working with the B.C. Ministry of Transportation on road safety initiatives by proposing amendments to legislation that enable:
 - 3.1. The roadside seizure of a driver's licence, and subsequent driving prohibition, for any person associated with violent or organized crime who is operating a vehicle containing an illegal firearm

- 3.2. The roadside seizure of a vehicle containing an illegal firearm when the vehicle is operated or owned, directly or indirectly, by a person associated with organized crime
- 3.3. The forfeiture of a vehicle involved in a flight from police:
 - a) In cases where police can demonstrate a connection between the driver and organized crime
 - b) In cases where police can demonstrate a connection between the owner and organized crime
4. The B.C. Association of Chiefs of Police and the Civil Forfeiture Office should consider engaging in on-going consultative work that enhances the impact of civil forfeiture on organized crime by:
 - 4.1. Creating provincial policies and protocols to ensure provincial agencies use civil forfeiture mechanisms where appropriate to remove drivers and vehicles associated with organized crime from public roads
 - 4.2. Reviewing the *Civil Forfeiture Act* (B.C.) to create a reverse onus when individuals associated with organized crime are found in a vehicle carrying an illegal firearm or in a flight from police
5. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General should consider working with the B.C. Ministry of Transportation to create a Rental Vehicle Working Group that includes stakeholders from law enforcement, vehicle rental and lease industry associations, the Insurance Corporation of B.C., municipalities and the Civil Forfeiture Office to:
 - 5.1. Identify businesses known to lease or rent vehicles to persons associated with organized crime
 - 5.2. Review the business licence of businesses that continue to lease or rent vehicles to persons associated with organized crime
 - 5.3. Ban individuals (nominees) from knowingly registering, leasing or renting vehicles on behalf of persons associated with organized crime
 - 5.4. Require the production of valid Identification by customers and the recording and retaining of information on vehicle rental and lease to be made available for law enforcement with judicial authorization
 - 5.5. Train staff on indicators of and response to the rental of a vehicle for criminal purposes
6. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General should consider working with the B.C. Ministry of Transportation and the Insurance Corporation of B.C. to review the road safety, injury and monetary ramifications of insurance claims associated with vehicles and organized crime, and where appropriate develop policy and legislative changes to use breach of coverage regulations to revoke:
 - 6.1. Personal vehicle insurance when an individual can be demonstrated to have operated a vehicle to support organized crime
 - 6.2. Fleet insurance when a vehicle rental or lease business can be demonstrated to have a pattern of renting or leasing vehicles to persons associated with organized crime

Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority (PTEP)

7. The Board of Directors of the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of B.C. should consider setting illegal firearm interdiction as a priority for the Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority (PTEP) process.
8. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General should continue on-going work to make PTEP participation a *Police Act* (B.C.) service standard for all law enforcement agencies in B.C. PTEP.
9. The Board of Directors of the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of B.C. should consider establishing illegal firearms and firearms trafficking performance indicators within the PTEP process, including disruption of the transport of illegal firearms; disruption of the use of personal, leased and rental vehicles in support of firearms violence; intelligence gathering; and outcomes and disruption matrix indicators.

Firearms tracing hub and labs

10. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General should consider augmenting current firearms forensic capacities to meet the on-going needs of law enforcement and prosecution by developing:
 - 10.1. A provincial firearms tracing hub to provide timely province-wide certification, analysis and tracing
 - 10.2. Expectations and performance metrics for laboratory investigations and mandatory tracing of illegal firearms

Law enforcement policy

11. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor should consider working with the B.C. Association of Chiefs of Police, the Canadian Firearms Program Chief Firearms Officer, law enforcement agencies and others as appropriate to develop comprehensive, risk-informed and aligned province-wide policies relating to firearms, imitation guns, gun amnesties and subsequent investigations and the use of vehicles, reflecting the strategies described elsewhere in this report, modelled where appropriate on initiatives such as those on violence in relationships and missing persons.

"Bar watch" programs

12. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General should consider obtaining a legal opinion on the adequacy of the *Trespass Act* (B.C.) and the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act* (B.C.) for the purposes of existing bar watch and comparable programs.
13. If the legal opinion, referred to in recommendation 12, supports the adequacy of the acts, the B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General should

consider partnering with the B.C. Association of Chiefs of Police and bar and restaurant owners to examine possible expansion of bar watch programs to communities where they are warranted, in a manner that ensures proper articulation of risk to public safety and consistent application of authorities.

14. Alternatively, if the legal opinion, referred to in recommendation 12, finds that the acts do not support the use of the Bar Watch program, the B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General should consider collaborating with relevant ministries responsible for the acts, and should propose amendments to existing legislation that would better address public safety issues posed by the presence of individuals with a gang-related or violent past whose mere presence presents a serious threat to public safety.

THEME #2: LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Quebec's firearms violence mitigation law: A model for provincial actions

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION

15. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General should consider adopting aspects of Quebec's Bill 9, either by proposing amendments to the *Firearm Act* (B.C.) or by creating new legislation.

Imitation Firearms

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

16. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General should consider working with the federal Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness to propose amendments to the *Firearms Act (Canada)* to:
- 16.1. Restrict to persons 18 years or older the acquisition of imitation guns that are neither firearms nor replicas
 - 16.2. Restrict to persons 18 years or older the possession of imitation guns that are neither firearms nor replicas, unless the person is under the direct supervision of a person over the age of 18 or is the valid holder of a Minor's Permit issued by the Canadian Firearms Program
 - 16.3. Require all sellers of imitation guns to verify proof of age and record the seller's identity for all sales
 - 16.4. Require all sellers of imitation guns to attach to the item information on the capabilities, the potential for injury and possible lethality of the item
 - 16.5. Restrict the places in which imitation guns that appear to be real guns can be possessed, and specifically to prohibit possession of an imitation gun in schools, community centres, public venues, public institutions, parks, roadways, public transit and taxis

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION

17. In the event that the federal Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness is not able to propose the amendments as recommended in Recommendation 16, the B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

should consider proposing amendments to the *Firearm Act* (B.C.) that:

- 17.1. Restrict to persons 18 years or older the acquisition of imitation guns that are neither firearms nor replicas
- 17.2. Restrict to persons 18 years or older the possession of imitation guns that are neither firearms nor replicas, unless the person is under the direct supervision of a person over the age of 18 or is the valid holder of a Minor's Permit issued by the Canadian Firearms Program
- 17.3. Require all sellers of imitation guns to verify proof of age and record the seller's identity for all sales
- 17.4. Require all sellers of imitation guns to attach to the item information on the capabilities, the potential for injury and possible lethality of the item
- 17.5. Restrict the places in which imitation guns that appear to be real guns can be possessed, and specifically to prohibit possession of an imitation gun in schools, community centres, public venues, public institutions, parks, roadways, public transit and taxis

Straw purchasers and point-of-sale recordkeeping

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

18. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General should consider working with the federal Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness to propose amendments to the *Firearms Act* (Canada) that require businesses, dealers and individuals selling non-restricted firearms to keep point-of-sale records, that could be made available to law enforcement pursuant to judicial authorization on a case-by-case basis and to regulations governed by the Canadian Firearms Program.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION

19. In the event that the federal Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness is not able to propose the amendments as recommended in Recommendation 18, the B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General should consider proposing amendments to the *Firearm Act* (B.C.) that requires businesses, dealers and individuals selling firearms to keep point of sale records, that could be made available to law enforcement pursuant to judicial authorization on a case-by-case basis and to regulations governed by the Canadian Firearms Program.

Manufacture of untraceable firearms

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

20. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General should consider working with the federal Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness to propose amendments to the definition of a firearm in Section 2 of the *Criminal Code*, substantially, as follows:
"Firearm" means a barreled weapon from which any shot, bullet or other projectile can be discharged and that is capable of causing serious bodily injury or death to a person, and includes any frame or receiver of such a barreled weapon and anything that can be adapted for use as a firearm, *including blank castings of*

frames or receivers not yet capable of holding various firing components.

21. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General should consider working with the federal Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness to propose federal legislation that restricts the import, export and sale of all receiver blanks.

THEME #3: EDUCATION AND PREVENTION

Safe schools, student and parent education

22. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General should consider working with the relevant ministries to develop a clear and authoritative statement of the law relating to information sharing for schools, law enforcement, health professionals, youth and family services, other government agencies and other public institutions, which describes their responsibility for sharing information when there is a threat or imminent danger that outweighs any right to privacy.
23. The B.C. Ministry of Education should consider ensuring that:
- 23.1. All public and independent school jurisdictions continue to enhance their safe school programs and participate in ministry-sponsored School-based Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) training with specific attention to imitation and real firearms
 - 23.2. All schools and school districts engage the support and involvement of law enforcement, government, non-government and community agencies in VTRA training and the VTRA process
 - 23.3. Training in the ERASE Strategy be enhanced to support:
 - a) Building resilience among youth to gangs and violence
 - b) Enhancing awareness and engagement of parents including indicators of "gateway" usage
 - c) Ensuring education and consistent engagement of teachers and school administrators
 - 23.4. School curricula be enhanced to support development and participation in positive firearms training, such as the Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Education (CORE) program where appropriate, supplemented by positive modeling

First Nations communities

24. In consultation with First Nations communities, the B.C. Ministry of Education should consider enhancing and supporting education programs tailored to First Nations schools, with supporting parental education, regarding all aspects of legal and illegal firearms and organized crime.
25. In consultation with First Nations communities, the B.C. Ministry of Education should consider enhancing early intervention programs in communities and schools, beginning from early youth, aimed at identifying youth at risk at the earliest possible opportunity and changing behaviour through community-based interventions, where appropriate. The CTC, HUB and SMART programs

provide useful models for community intervention programs.

26. In consultation with First Nations communities, the B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General should consider improving community and regional awareness on the safety and security of legal firearms and on the theft or criminal diversion of legal firearms, by supporting culturally appropriate information and education programs that are developed in consultation with First Nation communities and groups, the Canadian Firearms Program Chief Firearms Office and firearms retailers.
27. In consultation with First Nations communities, the B.C. RCMP First Nations Community Policing Services should consider designating a member to undertake ongoing proactive work in relation to legal and illegal firearms, the laws relating to firearms, and their nexus to organized crime in Aboriginal communities.

Canadian Firearms Program Compliance Strategies

28. The federal Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness should consider enhancing the Canadian Firearms Program through development of compliance and deterrence strategies under the authority of the current or amended *Firearms Act* (Canada).
29. The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, the Canadian Firearms Program and the Canada Border Services Agency should consider working collectively to identify opportunities to coordinate mandates and legislative authorities, to create preventative firearms strategies, improve enforcement effort and to improve compliance with regulations, including the development of performance metrics that meet both regulatory program and law enforcement objectives.
30. The federal Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness should consider amending the investigatory guidelines to enhance and clarify the information that the Canadian Firearms Program can share with law enforcement agencies, with appropriate safeguards, to remove barriers and ensure that each agency can effectively achieve their mandate.

Re-registration of firearms from the Restricted Weapons Registration System

31. The federal Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness should consider implementing a public awareness campaign concerning the licensing requirements for possessing firearms and the legal requirement to register restricted and prohibited firearms.
32. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General should consider continuing to offer provincial firearms amnesties and Safe City programs through the National Weapons Enforcement Support Team, both to encourage re-registration where possible and to decrease firearms availability to illicit markets and criminal use in the future.

33. The B.C. Association of Chiefs of Police and the Canadian Firearms Program Chief Firearms Officer should consider working together to create guidelines for investigations of restricted and prohibited firearms that remain unregistered.

THEME #4: DATA COLLECTION AND INFORMATION SHARING

Intelligence and data quality

34. The Board of Directors for the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of B.C. should consider creating a centralized firearms intelligence hub and data warehouse with the ability to build a comprehensive intelligence picture related to firearms, managed by the B.C. Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit and closely aligned with the National Weapons Enforcement Support Team and the Canada Border Services Agency, supported by the Real Time Intelligence Centre.
35. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General should consider creating a committee of analytical subject matter experts to recommend to the federal Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness the data and software required to maximize the intelligence and analytical capabilities related to illegal firearms and illegal firearms trafficking.
36. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General should continue to engage in regular cross-border and intra-provincial intelligence meetings on illegal firearms, firearms traffickers and firearms tracing, and support and encourage sustained participation by key stakeholders.

PRIME access by all key stakeholders

37. PRIME Corp and the B.C. Association of Chiefs of Police should consider ensuring PRIME access for the Chief Firearms Officer, the Canada Border Services Agency and other partners who work with law enforcement to support a comprehensive risk-informed strategy that focusses on the illegal use of firearms.

2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Surrey Crime and Officer Complement****Suggested Response:**

- According to Surrey RCMP second quarter statistics report for 2017:
 - Homicides in Surrey have increased 67% from three in Q1-Q2 2016 to five in Q1-Q2 2017;
 - Overall, violent crime is down 15%; and
 - Attempted murders are down 79%; robberies are down 41%, and violent crime is down 15%.
- From January 2017 to June 2017, the Surrey Gang Enforcement Team reported there were a total of 21 shots fired incidents with eight individuals being shot (including three deceased) and three with confirmed links to the lower mainland drug trade.
- To date, the End Gang Life program has been offered to over 20,000 students throughout the province. End Gang Life continues to be the primary presentation for elementary schools and is involved in after school programs, career fairs and community functions.
- 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. 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 joint forces police unit in Canada and draws and develops highly-specialized officers from federal, provincial and municipal agencies around the province.
- In 2016/17, \$71.6 million total (\$62.3 million in 2015/16) was provided to the RCMP for the CFSEU-BC and anti-gang initiatives in B.C.
 - Provincial contribution: \$50.1 million (\$43.6 million in 2015/16)
 - \$25.8 million allocated to the CFSEU-BC (\$25.9 million in 2015/16)
 - \$19.0 million allocated to the Organized Crime Fund - previously PORF (\$17.7 million in 2015/16).

- \$1.79 million allocated to the Joint Illegal Gaming Investigation Team (JIGIT).
- \$3.5 million allocated to gang suppression.
- Federal contribution: \$21.5 million (\$18.7 million in 2015/16)
- Surrey has Canada's largest RCMP detachment. Surrey currently has a total authorized strength of 831 (up from 819 in 2016) which includes community safety officers and a crime analyst; this figure also includes 58 positions that account for Surrey's participation in the Lower Mainland Integrated Teams.
- In 2015, Surrey RCMP had a case load of 61 Criminal Code offences per member (based on their adjusted strength of 809 which includes positions in integrated units). This was 3% lower than the average caseload of 63 Criminal Code offences per member for RCMP policed municipalities with a population of over 15,000.
- In 2015, the City of Surrey requested 100 additional RCMP members and as of 2016 this request has been fulfilled. Subsequent to this increase, the city authorized 16 additional positions in 2016, and 12 positions in 2017. The RCMP has up to one year to fill the most recently added authorized positions.
- On May 19, 2015, Public Safety Canada announced approximately \$3.5 million in funding over five years for the Surrey Gang Reduction Program. This program will provide approximately 400 Surrey area at-risk youth between the ages of 11 and 19 with life and resiliency skills to help them move away and keep them from violence and the gang lifestyle. For fiscal 2017/18, \$500,000 in additional funding will also be provided to the Surrey Wrap program from the Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Remediation Grant funding program. Funding will help alleviate the current waitlist for the program which stands at 48 youth. As of June 2017, the WRAP program has 95 participants.
 - An evaluation conducted by Public Safety Canada between January 2009 and June 2011 showed significant decline (67%) in the negative police contacts of a 45 person WRAP participant group relative to a matched comparison group.
- The Surrey School District's Board of Education will deliver this program in partnership with Surrey RCMP and the City of Surrey.

Background:Policing

- CFSEU-BC brings together 14 law enforcement agencies under a single command structure with a main office located in Surrey. The 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 CFSEU-BC and the provincial governments contributions to these initiatives.

- As a result of gang conflicts in Surrey, Surrey Detachment and CFSEU-BC have had a coordinated effort to suppress the violence, charge those responsible and enhance community safety. The coordinated efforts have resulted in significant and impactful results.
- In addition to CFSEU-BC'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. Being intelligence-led in investigations through vital data collected from RTIC-BC and Police Records Management Environment – British Columbia (PRIME-BC) drives investigations and has assisted in proactively penetrating criminal networks.
- B.C. has also bolstered Surrey Crown counsel with two full-time prosecutors and a legal assistant dedicated to prioritizing cases linked to guns and gangs. By owning files from charge approval to trial, these staff will build expertise in these cases, which may result in more timely charge assessment, and will work closely with police to offer pre-charge advice and help with judicial applications to gather evidence. These positions have been in place since October, 2016.

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 including:
 - The provision of approximately \$2.6 million in civil and criminal forfeiture grants to projects in Surrey since 2011 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.
- In a general sense, these initiatives align with the proposed Surrey Accord, a five-point action plan to tackle crime, homelessness, and addiction issues in Surrey.

Surrey RCMP 2017 Crime Statistics

- **Gang Enforcement:** From January to June 2017, the Surrey Gang Enforcement Team (SGET) efforts saw 1,174 individuals checked and 344 vehicles checked, 435 new files were created (nine drug files where charges recommended), 203 new street checks and 189 arrests were made. Those efforts saw significant property and weapon seizures including :
 - 316 firearms in other investigations;
 - Six other weapons;
 - Edged weapons;
 - \$67,788.65 cash seized and deposited to Civil Forfeiture Office (CFO); and
 - 72 vehicles seized and referred to CFO.
- **Homicide:** Surrey RCMP's Crime Statistics Report show that homicides in Surrey increased 67% from Q1-Q2 2016 to Q1-Q2 2017.
- **Violent Crime:** According to the same report violent crime saw a 15% decrease in Q1-Q2 2016 to Q1-Q2 2017. Attempted murders were down 79%, abduction/kidnappings down 15% and sexual offences are up 46%. The Surrey RCMP continues to work aggressively and relentlessly 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:** Decreased 10% in Surrey from Q1-Q2 2016 to Q1-Q2 2017. Significant decreases in the number of motor vehicle thefts and thefts from vehicles can be attributed to the Integrated Municipal Provincial Auto Crime Team (IMPACT) based out of Surrey. IMPACT is currently operating four major initiatives: the Bait Car program, Automated Licence Plate Recognition, the stolen vehicle Enforcement Team and public awareness.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Wildfire –RCMP Response****Suggested Response:**

- The RCMP have been on the front lines supporting impacted communities since the provincial emergency was declared on July 7.
- The RCMP have responded to all the requests from the province with urgency and professionalism when:
 - Reassigning members from municipal, provincial and federal business lines;
 - Coordinating the evacuation of communities and rural areas, maintaining security in evacuation zones;
 - Coordinating the deployment efforts of the military support (Joint Task Force Pacific) with Wildfire Services: and
 - Working with municipal governments, regional districts, First Nations, volunteers, the Red Cross and other local officials to maintain order during evacuation alerts and orders.
- Response related expenses are being tracked. As this is still an active state of emergency, the total expenses for the RCMP response to the wildfire season are preliminary evolving estimates. The RCMP response cost is anticipated to reach many millions of dollars.
- Emergency Management BC (EMBC) is the lead government authority responsibility for administration of the Emergency Program Act which has been applied since the declaration of state of emergency by the Minister.
- The ministry will submit a claim under the Act to recover all appropriate provincial police costs from Public Safety Canada under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement (DFAA).

Background:

- The Minister requested the assistance of the RCMP on July 7, 2017, and followed this up with formal approvals to incur additional expenses for response to operations on July 10, 2017. (Article 9.2 of the Provincial Police Service Agreement).
- RCMP response was effective and immediate but required additional resources. The military was formally requested to assist the police in the province on July 17, 2017.

- Additional RCMP support from neighbouring provinces was used as member relief was important after several weeks of active duty in the fire front lines.
- Independent Police Forces have supplied officers and resources under existing MOU's with the RCMP to assist in response efforts.
- Local government was updated on their and the province's responsibilities under declared emergencies. Letter to Bruce Hayes (Co-Chair, Local Government Contract Management Committee) re-affirmed the province's obligation to pay the costs of redeployment of municipal RCMP.

Cost Estimates

- RCMP understands its obligations to support the province's effort to allocate costs so that it can maximize a recovery of expenses from the federal government under the DFAA.
- Actual RCMP costs will take three months to compile but the average cost per member per day is \$1,080. Estimate for average deployment of RCMP was approximately 500 members in July and decreased to approximately 200 members in August. However, response duties have yet to be separated out from regular police duties.
- Williams Lake Detachment called in the support of the BC Sherriff's Service who stepped in and supported the efforts with non-enforcement activities.

Lead Provincial Coordinator for Emergency Services

- BC Wildfire Service is the lead agency for the province response to fighting wildfires. They are part of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.
- EMBC is the lead for managing emergencies. The interface activities of this wildfire season and the declaration of a state of emergency from July 7 trigger authorities and responsibilities under the Emergency Program Act. Policing and Security Branch is working closely with EMBC.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE

Biology Casework Analysis (DNA) Services

Suggested Response:

- It is my responsibility to ensure adequate and effective policing in British Columbia.

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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, B.C. has contributed \$1.366 million per year to Canada under the previous Biology Casework Analysis Agreements. This represents the province's previous flat rate agreement with the federal government for the provision of DNA analysis, which expired on March 31, 2014. The costs have increased to such an extent that this now represented less than 20% of the actual costs.

- 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) was renegotiated as a result. Under the new agreement, 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. The new amount reflects 54% of the actual costs incurred for the program and the province's usage relative to other provinces/territories based on a two-year average.

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- As municipalities over 5,000 population are responsible for providing 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. In 2015/16, the province paid for the first three quarters of the bill for British Columbia.

s.16

- The province has implemented a 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 B.C.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Regional Policing****Suggested Response:**

- 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 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 new South Island Dispatch Centre is an example of successful integration of police dispatch services on Southern Vancouver Island, police agencies in Greater Victoria and the Capital Regional District will join forces and operate out of a new shared state of the art post disaster facility set to go live in 2019.
- 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 10 Integrated Police Services.

- 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.
- Regionalization of policing has been discussed in B.C. for several decades. In 1994, Justice Wally Oppal conducted a Commission of Inquiry into Policing in B.C. 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.
- In 2016 the South Island Dispatch Steering Committee announced the plan for a new South Island Dispatch Centre that will house police call taking and dispatch for the Victoria, Saanich, Central Saanich and Oak Bay police departments as well as all local RCMP detachments. The public safety project has been led by the committee, composed of police chiefs from Central Saanich, Oak Bay, Saanich and Victoria, as well as representatives of the RCMP, the Province of British Columbia, the Capital Regional District and E-Comm.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**RCMP Funding****Suggested Response:**

- B.C. residents receive policing from a number of different police agencies: the RCMP federal service, the RCMP provincial service, 62 RCMP municipal service, 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 B.C. municipality, and the federal government.

Background:Federal Service

- The RCMP is Canada's national police service. As the federal police service in B.C., 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 service is 100% funded by the federal government.
- In 2015, the authorized strength of the federal service in British Columbia was 1,038 which included 133 protective policing positions.

Provincial Service

- Under the Provincial Police Service Agreement (PPSA) the RCMP as the provincial police service, provides local detachment policing services to rural/unincorporated areas and municipalities with populations under 5,000.
- In the most recent census (2016) the municipalities of Osoyoos, Fernie and Armstrong exceeded the 5,000 population threshold. They have not yet however signed Municipal Police Service Agreements. Also in this census Northern Rockies Regional Municipality has fallen under the 5,000 population threshold and is now policed by the provincial service.
- The provincial service 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 Service Agreement and the federal government pays the remaining 30%.

- In 2015 the total provincial service authorized strength was 2,602.
- The RCMP reported total actual costs for the provincial service in 2016/17 of \$542.4 million, and invoiced the province \$380.8 million. These amounts include amounts currently being disputed by the province such as unresolved issues such as Integrated Homicide Investigation Team funding and the provincial share of RCMP Headquarters costs (Green Timbers). The final 2016/17 delegation from the province of \$376.8 million did not include funding for items in dispute and after reconciliation of those disputed items the RCMP costs were \$380,000 million under budget.

Year	Provincial Delegation(\$million)*	Comments
2001/02	152.4	Large increase to size of the police services sworn members increase 647, public service employed by 182. Total increase 829 FTE New specialized teams and salary increases
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	\$22 million continuation of PORF originally funded by Feds
2013/14	344.4	
2014/15	356.7	Superannuation and overtime costs
2015/16	364.9	
2016/17	376.8	s.12
2017/18	375.0 [#]	

*includes Road Safety funding from ICBC.

#The initial budget delegation to RCMP on June 13 2017, will change with Budget update 2017. Delegation will increase to reflect updated fentanyl emergency initiatives, police service salary, police response to the wildfires and security costs for high profile trials.

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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 pays the remaining 52%. Total actual costs for RCMP First Nations policing in 2016/17 were \$18.0 million and, of this, the provincial share was \$8.6 million. There was a decrease in spending from 2015/16 due to lower than expected relocation costs as there were limited staffing actions.
- The total authorized strength for First Nations policing under this agreement is 108.5 members. The RCMP operates within the existing \$18.4 million budget (\$8.8 million Provincial share) by running vacancies which adversely affects the service level to First Nation communities.
- In addition, there is one self-administered First Nations police service in B.C. The Stl'Atl'Imx Tribal Police Service provides service to ten First Nations communities in the Lillooett/Mount Currie areas. The service has an authorized strength of ten officers and a budget of \$1.4 million. This service is also cost shared with the federal government paying 52% and the province paying 48%.

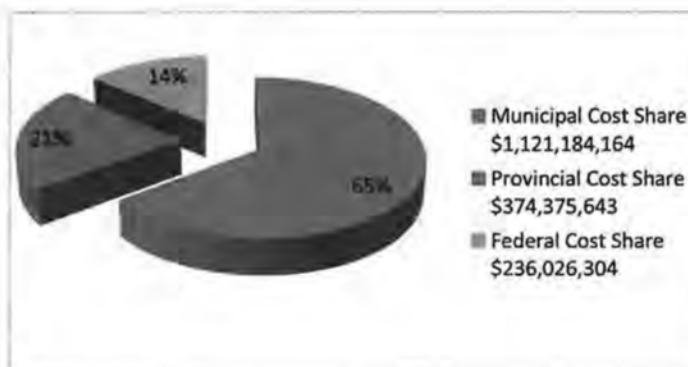
Municipal Services

- In 2015, 63 municipalities contracted with the province for RCMP municipal police services. This reduced to 62 in 2017 when Northern Rockies Regional Municipality reverted back to the Provincial Business Line. Once Fernie, Armstrong and Osoyoos enter into Municipal Police Service Unit Agreements (MPUA), the number of municipalities will increase to 65. For more information see Estimates Note on PSB 12 Emerging/Reverting Municipalities.
- Per the MPUA, 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 pays the remaining 30%;
 - Municipalities with 15,000 population and over pay 90% of the RCMP cost-base and the federal government pays the remaining 10%; and
 - Municipalities are responsible for 100% of certain costs, such as accommodation (e.g., the detachment) and support staff.

- In 2015 the authorized strength of the RCMP municipal services was 3,709 members which included Northern Rockies Regional Municipality.

Independent Municipal Police Department Service

- 12 municipalities in B.C. 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 2015, the authorized strength of the independent municipal police departments was 2,430 officers. This includes adjusted strength figures for departments participating in Lower Mainland District Integrated Teams.
- In 2015, municipal government expenditures on policing totaled \$1.121 billion (expenditure data for 2016 is currently being compiled for the Police Resources in B.C., 2016 publication, which is expected to be released November 2017). The following illustrates the cost share for policing between Municipal, Provincial and Federal governments associated with December 31, 2015 authorized strength.



Policing Budget Increases

- Over the last two years increases to the police budget have been targeted at the Guns and Gangs Initiatives but also reflect salary increases for the RCMP members and Federal Public Sector Employees.
- From 2016/17 until 2019/20 the Policing and Security Branch (PSB) is overseeing base funding of \$22.79 million for investment in the Guns and Gangs Strategy.
- PSB received base budget lifts for the RCMP (regular and civilian members) and Public Sector employees that support the RCMP who were recently awarded pay increases. The total impact of these settlements in 2017/18 is \$27.11 million which includes retroactive pay and a base lift of \$12.1 million. This lift covers the wage increases announced to 2017/18 only.

Policing Recoveries

- Within the RCMP budget there are a number of recoveries that occur:

Recoveries Offsetting the Overall Provincial Business Line		
Recovery based on cost	\$ (m)	Comments
Traffic Safety Initiative	19.440	MOU with ICBC to fund traffic safety including IRSU
Joint Integrated Gaming Investigations	3.000	Funding from BCLC to CFSEU via MOU
Keep of Prisoners	2.300	Funding from Corrections Branch to support detachment jail occupancy
Ministry of Transportation	0.015	Multi-year funding arrangement to support extra policing in work zones
Ministry of Forests, Lands, and NRO	0.039	Multi-year funding arrangement to support mining security needs

- There are also numerous recoveries from local business and Crown Corporations that request additional policing for major events such as outdoor music festivals. Total recoveries based on actual costs in 2017/18 are forecast to be approximately \$22.78 million.
- At least some of the costs of RCMP policing for the 2017 wildfire season will be eligible for recoveries through the Federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement. The branch will work with Emergency Management BC and the RCMP to finalize recoveries.

Police Tax

- Under the Police Act, the provincial government is required to provide policing to rural/unincorporated areas and small municipalities under 5,000 population. The RCMP currently serves as B.C.'s Provincial Police Service. The province pays 70% of the cost-base described in the Provincial Police Service Agreement, and the federal government pays the remaining 30%.
- A portion of the provincial cost for front-line detachment policing is recovered through the Police Tax, which was introduced in 2007. The Police Tax is paid by property owners in unincorporated areas and municipalities under 5,000 population.
- Section 66.3(2) of the Police Act mandates that the amount raised by the Police Tax must not exceed 50% of the estimated costs. The amount of Police Tax assessed to rural areas and small communities is lower than the 50% (~34%) of the estimated cost for policing these contributing areas due to equitizing adjustments. To illustrate in 2015:
 - The total cost to province of the Provincial Police Service \$364,892,536
 - PSD estimated cost for contributing areas \$92,352,457
 - Revenue target at 50% of the estimate \$46,176,228
 - Ministry of Finance estimated recovery \$30,900,000
- Equitizing adjustments are, by provincial policy, negotiated with UBCM when the Police Tax was introduced, the Ministry of Finance makes three equitizing adjustments to reflect the benefits that apply to municipalities of 5,000 or more population, but are not available to small and unincorporated areas. These adjustments account for Small Community Grants

and Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing, Payments in Lieu of Taxes from federal properties, as well as the fact that some of the Rural Property Tax already goes towards policing.

- When municipalities grow beyond a population of .5,000, the increase in policing costs from approximately 50% (the police tax), to 70% leaves local governments with limited options to pay these increased policing costs.
- Emerging municipalities are no longer charged the police tax and are eligible for traffic fine revenue sharing.

Accommodations Program Charge

- The provincial police business line is capital intensive. Under the general heading of Accommodations Programs Charge (APC), the province funds the RCMP capital construction, acquisitions and maintenance as part of the PPSA.
- There are three major components of the APC; Major Capital, Minor Capital and Living Quarters.
- The 20 year PPSA is divided into four capital cycles, each five years long. For the current APC, we are in year one of cycle two.
- The APC is based on five year projected plans and budgets for Major Capital, Minor Capital and Living Quarters. The APC is a fenced initiative; funds cannot be moved out of the APC for other purposes, once the APC budget is established. The APC annual charge, paid by the province to the RCMP, is established by dividing the total five year projected budget by the five years of the cycle.
- To simplify capital management the province agrees to pay a pre-determined amount for the APC each fiscal year. In cycle one, the RCMP underspent their budget allocation.

Cycle 1 @ 70%	Budget	Actuals	Payment	Over payment
Major Capital	\$ 23,626,837	\$ 12,293,313	\$ 23,626,836	\$ 11,333,523
Minor Capital	\$ 16,902,341	\$ 13,968,954	\$ 18,681,311	\$ 4,712,357
Living Quarter	\$ 4,997,472	\$ 7,994,605	\$ 4,997,472	-\$ 2,997,133
Total	\$ 45,526,650	\$ 34,256,872	\$ 47,305,619	\$ 13,048,746

- In cycle two the province and E-Division will adjust the capital spending plan to reflect adjusted priorities and to manage down the cycle one surplus.

Annual Charge	17/18	18/19	19/ 20	20/21	21/22	Total
Cycle 2 APC at 100%	\$ 16,058,542	\$ 16,058,542	\$ 16,058,542	\$ 16,058,542	\$ 16,058,542	\$ 80,292,708
Cycle 2 APC at 70%	\$ 11,240,979	\$ 11,240,979	\$ 11,240,979	\$ 11,240,979	\$ 11,240,979	\$ 56,204,896
Annual Charge with Cycle 1 Credit	\$ 8,631,229.92	\$ 8,631,230	\$ 8,631,230	\$ 8,631,230	\$ 8,631,230	\$ 43,156,150

- The RCMP can move up to 20% of the original budget between Major Capital, Minor Capital and Living Quarters without prior provincial approval; movement of funds over this amount requires provincial approval. However PSB is an integral part of the decision-making in the annual RCMP capital plan.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**First Nations Policing****Suggested Response:**

- In B.C., approximately 70% of First Nations participate in the federal government's First Nations Policing Program (FNPP). The program provides policing services to First Nations communities that are professional, dedicated, and culturally appropriate. The FNPP is a distinct service and is provided in addition to regular police services. To participate in the program, a First Nations community must enter into an agreement with Canada and the province. The program is cost shared between Canada at 52% and the province at 48%.
- The program has been operating for more than 25 years but the policy was last renewed in 1996. Canada is consulting with provinces, territories and First Nations on ways to increase the effectiveness of the program. B.C. looks forward to working with Canada and First Nations in the development of a renewed program to meet the safety needs of First Nations communities.

Background:

- There are primarily two policing models that allow a First Nations community to participate in the First Nations Policing Program:
 - Community Tripartite Agreements (CTAs) where RCMP delivers the First Nations Community Policing Services (FNCPS) to First Nations communities.
 - Self-Administered Agreements where the First Nations operate a tribal police service within their communities.
- In B.C. there is also a Quad-Partite Agreement between Canada, the province, Tsawwassen Treaty First Nation, Corporation of Delta, and the Delta Police Board for one dedicated Delta Police member to their lands.
- In B.C., the FNCPS is delivered to 132 First Nations communities through 55 CTAs by an authorized force of 108.5 RCMP members. Under this agreement, B.C. receives an annual total budget of \$18.4 million (Canada \$9.6 million, and B.C. \$8.8 million).
- The term and conditions of the current 2014-2018 Framework Agreement has been extended by Canada for one year from March 31, 2018, to March 31, 2019. In the federal 2017 Budget, Canada proposed a \$102 million investment over five years for indigenous policing but has yet to provide details on how it will be allocated.
- Since 2014, Canada has been engaging provinces/territories and First Nations in renewing the First Nations Policing Program by April 1, 2019, but Canada has not provided any details

of their proposal.

- The federal/provincial/territorial renewal of the First Nations Policing Program working group agree to the following principles:
 - Funding should be sustainable and comprehensive to cover all costs related to providing the service. (B.C. supports a 20 year term the same as the Provincial Police Services Agreement and on the same basis where the province may request increases to the size of the FNCPS membership).
 - The program should allow for alternative service delivery models and flexibility on how the service is delivered to First Nations.
 - First Nations must be consulted during the renewal process.
- The current funding amount of \$18.4 million fixed by Canada fails to cover the escalating costs of the FNCPS RCMP (salaries, pensions, and other costs) serving communities under the CTAs. To remain within budget, B.C. operates the FNCPS RCMP with vacancies.
- In 2016/17 the FNCPS had a total surplus of \$374,682. However, this was the result of utilizing 90 FTEs instead of the authorized staff of 108.5 FTEs.
- In B.C., the Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police Service (STPS), the only Self-Administered Agreement in B.C., receives 6% less funding than the national average provided by Canada to other tribal police services. The STPS is authorized to operate with 10 members but to remain within its \$1.4 million budget; the board is currently operating with seven members. The level of funding and small size of the force challenges the STPS to provide police services to their 10 communities.
- In 2015 B.C. provided a one-time contribution of \$150,000 to assist the STPS board with its \$190,622 deficit. Canada did not provide additional funding. In 2016/17 B.C. secured \$300,000 to assist the STPS to purchase equipment and assist with training. Canada provided \$55,000 for the purchase of electronic fingerprint scanners. The STPS board estimates it requires \$3.4 million to meet the needs of their communities and provincial policing standards. This funding level would allow them to expand from seven members to 14 members and provide them with a funding level equal to other tribal police services. See Appendix.
- Unlike the Framework Agreement, the STPS Funding Agreement does not provide for an extension of the term and expires on March 31, 2018. B.C. is preparing for the upcoming discussions of a new Funding Agreement and will approach Canada in early fall, to commence negotiations.

FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY POLICING SERVICE

CTA's 1 FNCPS RCMP	\$18.4 million until 2018/19. Cost share: Canada \$9.6 million, BC \$8.8 million
Quad-Partite Agreement – Tsawwassen First Nation	\$173,722 in 2017/2018. 2017/18 Cost Share: Canada \$90,300, BC \$83,400.
Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police Service	\$1.43 million in 2017/18. 2017/18 Cost Share: \$743,600 Canada, BC \$686,400.

- The RCMP has calculated the affordability of FNCPS RCMP FTE if Canada continues to cap the budget at \$18.4 million over the next four years:

2017-18	82	FNP members
2018-19	79	FNP members
2019-20	77.5	FNP members
2020-21	s.13,s.16	FNP members

- If Canada continues to cap the budget at \$18.4 million over the next four years and it is expected that the First Nations Policing Program operates with its 108.5 authorized RCMP members, the following budget deficits have been forecasted by the RCMP:

2017-18	-\$4.5 million
2018-19	-\$5.2 million
2019-20	-\$5.7 million
2020-21	s.13,s.16,s.17

STL'ATL'IMX TRIBAL POLICE SERVICE

	STPS 10 Officers (authorized under the Police Act)	STPS 8 officers (authorized by the Board)	STPS 7 officers (current size of the force)	Proposed by the Board for 14 members	Average Self- Administered (22 members)
Annual Budget	\$1.4 million	\$1.4 million	\$1.4 million	\$3.4 million	\$4.0 million
Communities Served	10	10	10	10	5
Residents	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	4,500
Cop/Pop Ratio	1:300	1:375	1:429	1:214	1:205
Unit Cost per Officer	\$140,000	\$175,000	\$200,000	\$242,858	\$181,000

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE

Negotiations - Green Timbers, IHIT and Severance

Suggested Response:

- My mandate is about public safety, while being fiscally responsible to the citizens of British Columbia.
- We will pay our fair share of costs related to the Provincial Policing contract but will not allow federal government to impose unreasonable costs on municipalities.
- The cost sharing of Green Timbers RCMP Headquarters is currently under negotiation. 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.
- The province is also negotiating the cost share of the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT), and the costs related to the federal government's decision to liquidate voluntary severance.
- We look forward to working together with the federal government to create an equitable funding agreement for all matters under negotiation.

Background:

- s.16

Green Timbers

- s.14,s.16

- s.16

s.16

• s.16

- Green Timbers is an effective consolidation of many headquarters locations prior to 2012 at a cost of over \$270 million.
- After several years of periodic exchanges on this issue, Public Safety Canada and BC re-engaged in the fall of 2016. Since its first proposal, Public Safety Canada has reduced the proposed cost to the province and municipalities and has offered to split the difference between both parties' most recent positions for Green Timbers.

• s.16

- Discussions are currently ongoing and involve complicated calculations on amortization periods and the allocation of space by the provincial and Municipal Business Lines including integrated teams.

Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT)

- IHIT is a lower mainland integrated team based in Surrey. IHIT was established in order to provide efficiency and consistent expertise for homicide investigations.

• s.16

- The province made integrated units part of the provincial force when it signed the PPSA. As a provincial force unit, the province has directed the RCMP to invoice all participating municipalities at 70% (provincial cost share) as opposed to 90% or 100%.

s.16

s.16

Liquidation of Severance

- As a result of the Deficit Reduction Action Plan (DRAP), the federal government terminated RCMP members' entitlement to accumulate severance pay for voluntary resignations and retirements as of March 31, 2012.
- Essentially, the federal government broadened the categories of eligible recipients and accelerated the severance pay out to RCMP members. The RCMP has paid out severance payments for those employees who opted to cash out their severance.
- In December 2013, Public Safety Canada provided options to the provinces and territories to pay the outstanding severance amounts without interest.
- The ministry responded in July 2014, offering to pay out over 20 years with a no interest payment plan. This was done primarily for the benefit of municipalities.
- Other provinces and territories are currently looking at a mediation/arbitration process to seek a better outcome than currently proposed by Public Safety Canada. In the event they are successful, the province's proposals include a stipulation that B.C. would also benefit from the same settlement.
- When initially estimated in 2013 the severance cost assigned to the province was \$22.45 million and that has increased by \$10.05 million to total \$32.5 million.
- Municipalities served by the RCMP have a similar pressure and Canada has asserted that via the Municipal Police Service Agreement that the province is responsible for their severance liability in the event they refuse to pay. s.16

s.16

Confidential

PSB 9

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s.16

2017/18 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. 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.
- Integrated teams are funded by contributions and dollars from the province, federal government (as part of the PPSA 70/30 split with additional contributions for several teams), and municipal governments.
- The province contributed almost \$85 million for 27 integrated teams and initiatives in 2016/17. This investment was \$5.2 million greater than in 2015/16, larger due to the addition of the two, ten member Gang Suppression teams with a cost of \$4.96 million.

s.12

s.12

- The Guns and Gangs Strategy, led by Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit is an example of an integrated team that also takes advantage of other specialized integrated teams to combat organized crime and work with communities to reduce and prevent crime.

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 B.C. 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.

- s.16

- The province contributed actual expenses of almost \$85 million for 27 integrated teams and initiatives in 2016/17). This investment was \$5.2 million greater than in 2015/16. Broken down as follows:
 - Gang Suppression – ^{s.15} , \$4.96 million; and
 - Increased Authorized FTE count of ^{s.15} excluding Gang Suppression teams). Note that actual FTE number is difficult to assess as the Independent forces report head count as opposed to FTE.
- Included in the Integrated Teams is the additional allocated budget of \$5.5 million in 2016/17 (\$4.96 million in 2016/17 of actual expenditures start-up costs came in under budget), \$4.5 million in 2017/18, and \$4.5 million in 2018/19 for Combined Forces Special

Enforcement Unit-BC (CFSEU-BC) to help combat gangs and organized crime broken down as follows:

- Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority (PTEP); and
- ^{s.15} 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

PTEP, Gang Suppression, and JIGIT Budget Allocations (\$millions)	2016/17			2017/18			2018/19		
	Provincial	Federal	Total	Provincial	Federal	Total	Provincial	Federal	Total
PTEP (part of OCF)	2.0	0.9	2.9	1.5	0.6	2.1	1.5	0.6	2.1
Gang Suppression (part of CFSEU)	3.5	1.5	5.0	3.0	1.3	4.3	3.0	1.3	4.3
Subtotal	5.5	2.1	7.9	4.5	2.1	6.4	4.5	2.1	6.4
JIGIT (part of CFSEU)	1.8	0.8	2.6	3.0	1.3	4.3	3.0	1.3	4.3
Total	7.3	3.4	10.4	7.5	3.4	11.4	7.5	3.4	10.7

- Additionally, the Joint Illegal Gaming Investigations Team (JIGIT) was established and has yet to be incorporated into the Integrated Teams resource tracking. The provincial contribution for JIGIT was \$1.79 million (federal \$0.76 million, total \$2.5 million) and that will increase in 2017/18 and 2018/19 to a provincial contribution of \$3.0 million (federal \$1.3 million, total \$4.3 million). It is the 28th integrated team.
- In total, JIGIT will consist of ^{s.1} law enforcement positions to provide a dedicated, coordinated, multi-jurisdictional investigative and enforcement response to unlawful activities within B.C. gaming facilities with an emphasis on anti-money laundering strategies and illegal gambling in B.C. with an emphasis on organized crime. JIGIT will be supplemented by ^{s.15} investigators from the Ministry of Attorney General's Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch.
- See attached spreadsheet below for a list of integrated teams in B.C., including financial contributions and strength figures for fiscal year 2016/17. Please note that the JIGIT is not reflected in this list.

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s.15; s.16

2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE

Auditor General's Report
on PRIME-BC

Suggested Response:

- On March 28, 2017, the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) released a public report on its 2016 information technology audit of PRIME-BC (Police Records and Information Management Environment). This public report contains one recommendation; the board of directors ensure PRIMECorp implements the recommendations in the OAG's 2016 detailed management report which has not been released publicly due to security issues.
- PRIMECorp has accepted the recommendations in the report and has committed to complete implementation of all recommendations by end of 2017.
- The province fully support PRIME-BC's commitment to strengthen controls to keep this highly confidential information safe and their commitment to implement the recommendations in the auditor general's detailed internal management report.

Background:

- In 2013, the OAG conducted an audit of PRIME-BC to examine security controls within the system. No public report was released due to the sensitivity of the findings. Instead the OAG produced an internal management report with detailed recommendations to PRIMECorp and monitored the progress in addressing them. By January 2014, 95% of those recommendations had been completed. The remaining 5% pertained to a major business continuity initiative that is expected to be complete by the end of 2017.
- In 2016, the OAG conducted a new audit and found that although there have been significant changes and improvements since the 2013 audit s.15
s.15 . For security reasons, the detailed recommendations from the 2016 report were not released to the public. s.15
s.15
- The PRIMECorp board of directors has responded to this report by stating that they accept the recommendations of the OAG, and will, on a quarterly basis, monitor the progress of the implementation of the remaining recommendations until completion at the end of 2017. The Policing and Security Branch is monitoring progress on the implementation of the recommendations.

- The OAG audit report will be reviewed at the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts at a to be determined future date and PRIMECorp has been notified that they will be required to present.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Emerging/Reverting
Municipalities****Suggested Response:**

- According to the results of the 2016 Canada Census, the populations of the City of Armstrong, the City of Fernie, and the Town of Osoyoos all exceeded 5,000 persons, making each municipality responsible for providing municipal police services to their residents as per the Police Act.
- These municipalities are each expected to enter into agreements with the province for RCMP municipal police services. They must enter into such agreements in order to secure the federal cost share of 30%.
- The municipalities have expressed concerns regarding the costs of providing policing even with the cost-share and integration advantages of potentially engaging the RCMP to provide municipal services.
- Ministry staff continue to work with the emerging municipalities on an individual basis towards signing of an Municipal Police Unit Agreement (MPUA).
- Northern Rockies Regional Municipality fell below 5,000 population in the 2016 Canada Census and as a result, reverted to provincial policing responsibility effective April 1, 2017.

Background:

s.16,s.17

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s.16; s.17

s.16,s.17

Statutory Context

- Under Section 3 of the Police Act, the province is responsible for providing policing to municipalities with populations under 5,000. A portion of the provincial cost of providing front-line detachment General Duty/General Investigation Services to provincial areas is recovered from property owners through the provincially assess Police Tax.
- Section 3 and Section 15 of the Police Act require all municipalities with a population of more than 5,000 persons to provide, and bear the necessary expenses of, policing and law enforcement services within their municipality. The municipal government is directly responsible for the costs of policing.
- An "emerging municipality" is a municipality that reaches or exceeds 5,000 persons and becomes responsible for providing policing services under the Police Act.
- A "reverting municipality" is a municipality that falls below 5,000 population and transitions to provincial responsibility for policing.
- Any emerging or reverting municipality resulting from the 2016 Census was to transition to/from their policing responsibilities effective April 1, 2017.
- For emerging municipalities, section 3(2)(b) of the Police Act allows a municipality with more than 5,000 persons to enter into an agreement with the Minister to engage the provincial police service to provide municipal policing, under terms approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. A municipality also has the option, with the approval of the Solicitor General, to create an independent municipal police department.
- The 2012 Provincial Police Service Agreement (PPSA) between the province and the Government of Canada establishes the RCMP as the provincial police service for British Columbia.

- In conjunction with the PPSA, the provincial and federal governments also signed a 20-year Municipal Police Service Agreement (MPSA) in 2012, the terms of which were authorized under OIC 162/2012.
- The MPSA is a “master agreement” for RCMP municipal police services in B.C.; it enables the province to sub-contract the RCMP provincial police service to municipalities and describes the terms and conditions for the provision of these services.
- To contract for RCMP municipal services, a municipality must sign a MPUA with the Province of B.C.
- Once a municipality exceeds 5,000 they are automatically excluded from the benefit of the cost-share under the PPSA as this agreement specifically excludes municipalities over 5,000 population. The PPSA also reflects that a municipality previously policed under the PPSA may continue to receive RCMP services once it has been added to the MPSA at their cost.
- The Canada census is used to determine a municipality’s population for the purposes of the Police Act, as well as for the RCMP agreements. The results of the 2016 Census were released on February 8, 2017.
- Under the RCMP agreements, any emerging/reverting municipality resulting from the 2016 census was to transition to/from their policing responsibilities effective April 1, 2017.
- On March 6, 2017, an OIC was passed amending the list of municipalities with which the Minister is authorized to enter into agreements with for the provision of RCMP municipal services. Armstrong, Fernie, and Osoyoos were added to this list and Northern Rockies Regional Municipality was removed from the list.

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Estimates 2017/18 Briefing Book**

**Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch
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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Surrey Wrap Program****Suggested Response:**

- This government is committed to addressing the issue of gangs and gang violence in B.C. and to alleviating its adverse effects on our communities and families.
- That is why we recently committed \$250,000 in funding for the Surrey Wrap program through civil forfeiture grants. This funding is in addition to \$250,000 committed by the ministry in July of this year.
- This funding will allow the program to obtain the necessary staff resources and supports needed to help eliminate its current waitlist and serve additional youth.

Wrap Related Platform Commitment

- We are committed to providing funding to the Wrap program and continue to look at options to ensure the program has secure, stable funding.

Expanding Wrap

- Government is committed to ensuring that communities across B.C. benefit from successful intervention and prevention programs, such as the Wrap program.
- As part of the ministry's ongoing work to promote increased community safety in the Cariboo-Chilcotin Region, we are working with the local school district and other community partners to pilot a Wrap program in the region. This program is supported through \$900,000 in Civil Forfeiture funding over the next three years.

- s.13

Surrey Wrap Waitlists

- Since 2009, the Surrey Wrap program has experienced a steady increase in the number of clients served.
- The program has also maintained a consistent waitlist size demonstrating that as its capacity has increased so has the demand for its services.
- The Wrap program currently has 95 participants with 48 students on a waitlist.
- The Wrap program's waitlist has seen a net reduction of 25% since April 2015.
- A one-time funding commitment of \$250,000 was approved in July for the 2017/2018 fiscal year to help address the waitlist. An additional \$250,000 was approved in August.

- The new funding is expected to help eliminate the waitlist based on the current level of demand.

Wrap Staffing and Resources

- The Wrap team currently consists of seven outreach workers and one manager (eight FTEs). These positions are supported through federal funding and one time grants from the province.
- Federal and municipal partners provide Wrap with in-kind contributions including three full-time RCMP personnel, one FTE from the City of Surrey, and two teachers plus support staff from the Surrey School District.
- Youth participants are referred from various sources with the majority identified by school staff or the RCMP.

Background:

- Launched in 2009, the Wrap program is a partnership between the Surrey School District, Surrey RCMP and the City of Surrey that brings together community partners to provide long-term services and wrap-around supports for gang-associated youth and their families.
- Annually the program serves 90 to 100 youth and has an operating cost of approximately \$1.25 million.
- The program targets youth aged 11 to 17 who are enrolled in School District #36 and who are either involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in, gang activity.
- The approximate cost per client is \$8,000 to \$9,000.
- Evaluation of the program has shown a significant decline (67%) in the negative police contacts of a Wrap participant group relative to a comparison group.

Funding for the Wrap Program

- Funding is provided by a variety sources, including both federal and provincial government sources.

Federal

- In May of 2015, Public Safety Canada allotted approximately \$3.5 million in funding over five years for Wrap and other Surrey Gang Reduction programming.

- Historically, Public Safety Canada's National Crime Prevention Strategy provided \$880,000 between 2008 and 2011 and \$500,000 from 2011 to 2013 to support the program.

Provincial

- The ministry does not currently provide annual funding for the program. Since 2009, the ministry has provided over \$860,000 in grant funding to support Wrap.
- The Ministry of Education provided \$270,000 in funding for the program in 2015.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE

Integrated Community Safety Initiative – Williams Lake and Region

Suggested Response:

- Since 2013, the Cariboo-Chilcotin region, which includes Williams Lake and the surrounding First Nations communities, has experienced significant crime and community safety issues.
- Enhancing community safety in Williams Lake and the surrounding First Nations communities is a priority for the ministry. We want to make sure communities feel safe, families are safe, and criminals are apprehended.
- The ministry is coordinating the development and implementation of community safety initiatives in the region including the Integrated Community Safety Initiative (ICSI).
- The ICSI, launched in July 2016, aims to strengthen collaboration among justice, health and social service partners to address community safety issues in the region. Civil forfeiture grant funding of \$500,000 was provided for projects and activities in the following areas:
 - Regional collaboration on public safety issues;
 - Training and community capacity building to enhance frontline response; and
 - Programs and services to better prevent and respond to crime.
- The ICSI Steering Committee, which includes representation from local government, community agencies and First Nations, is leading the initiative.
- The steering committee's current priority is to build stronger relationships with the local First Nations to ensure their input into the strategic direction of the ICSI. In April 2017, the steering committee contracted consultants to develop and implement a First Nations engagement plan for the ICSI.
- As part of this engagement plan, an open house was held July 6, 2017, to educate and further engage with the community about the vision of the ICSI.
- Project activities have been on hold given the wildfire situation in the region but are anticipated to resume in fall 2017.

Background:

- The development of an integrated community safety pilot was a recommendation of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Crime Reduction.
- ICSI is a joint initiative between the Police Services Branch and Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch.
- ICSI is supported by the Cariboo-Chilcotin Community Safety Model, which aims to address the root causes of crime and social issues and take proactive measures to reduce criminal activity in the region through the deployment of four interconnected strategies:
 - Establishing an RCMP Special Project Team to focus on crimes and prolific offenders that have the greatest impact on crime rates and public concern in the region. The team will also have two dedicated officers focused on First Nations relationship building;
 - Deploying a regional coordinator based in Williams Lake to work closely with the RCMP Special Project Team, anti-gang units and the ICSI to improve communications and coordination between policing, provincial and community partners;
 - Developing a prevention and outreach program for at-risk or gang involved youth aged 11 to 17 modelled on the Surrey Wrap program; and
 - Creating a Tsilhqot'in community safety manager position in partnership with Tsilhqot'in National Government to address specific First Nations public safety concerns.
- Police Services Branch is leading the implementation of the Cariboo-Chilcotin Community Safety Model, which was announced in February 2017, receiving \$2.8 million in funding (\$1.4 million in fiscal years 2017/18 and 2018/19).

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Addressing Violence
Against Women****Suggested Response:**

- Our government recognizes the devastating impacts of violence on women, families and communities. We are committed to creating a province where all women have the services and supports they need to help prevent violence, escape from violent situations and recover from the impacts of violence.
- Across B.C., the ministry provides over \$16.5 million in funding to more than 240 violence against women counselling and outreach programs. In addition, the ministry funds over 160 Police-Based and Community-Based Victim Service Programs, providing emotional support, information, referrals and practical assistance to victims of crime and trauma across B.C.
- Building on these services and supports, in March 2017, the ministry provided over \$2.1 million in civil forfeiture grant funding to support 61 community led projects that address violence against women.
- Also in March 2017, the ministry provided \$104,250 in civil forfeiture grants to projects that provide training and education for frontline victim service and violence against women service providers.
- The ministry is currently exploring options for strategic investments that will build on work already underway and continue to strengthen the services and supports available to women across B.C.

Increased Funding for Violence Against Women Programs

- Our government recognizes that service providers for victims of domestic violence, sexual violence and other violent crimes have experienced challenges meeting service demands in communities throughout B.C.
- The ministry is currently exploring options for strategic investments that will build on work underway to strengthen the services and supports currently provided and address service demands.

B.C.'s Domestic Violence Plan

- See Estimates Note CSCP B 4 "Domestic Violence".

A Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy

- In February 2015, the previous government released "A Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy", which is a roadmap that combines immediate actions with a long-term vision to

end all forms of violence against women and support women whose lives and well beings have been impacted by violence.

- \$5 million in civil forfeiture funding was announced alongside the strategy in 2015 to support anti-violence and prevention initiatives, with a priority focus on violence against women.
- The strategy identified the following five key priority areas with respect addressing violence against women: challenging beliefs and behaviours; ensuring services are responsive, innovative, and coordinated; supporting women to rebuild their lives; addressing violence against aboriginal women; and fostering strong relationships and new partnerships.
- Government's work with respect to addressing violence against women will continue to build on the priority areas that were identified in the strategy.
- This ministry coordinated the development of the strategy in partnership with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence, which is part of the Ministry of Children and Family Development.
- The development of the strategy was informed by: reports and recommendations received by government; input from key stakeholders; and input from cross-ministry partners, including the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, BC Housing, and the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction.

Progress on Actions Related to Violence Against Women Initiatives Currently Underway

- Work is complete or underway on a number initiatives, including:
 - Civil Forfeiture Office projects: Since 2011, \$9.1 million in civil forfeiture grant funding has supported projects that address sexual violence, sexual exploitation and human trafficking, coordinated responses to domestic violence, healing and rebuilding from violence against indigenous women; vulnerable women; provide training and education for service providers; and enhance the capacity and improve the services of child and youth advocacy centres;
 - 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.;
 - The Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training introduced legislation to require all B.C. colleges and universities to develop a sexual misconduct policy. The Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act was passed in May 2016.;

- 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 held January 31 to February 2, 2016;
- Federta/provincial/territorial justice and public safety ministers released the Justice Framework to Address Violence against Indigenous Women and Girls in January 2016; and
- Consultations have been undertaken with the BC Dental Hygienists Association regarding training related to domestic violence disclosures, risk factors and referrals.

Background:

- The ministry provides over \$16.5 million in funding to more than 240 violence against women counselling and outreach programs across the province. In addition, the ministry funds over 160 Police-Based and Community-Based Victim Service programs, providing emotional support, information, referrals and practical assistance to victims of crime and trauma across B.C.
- The violence against women counselling and outreach services are grouped into the following four program streams:
 - Stopping the Violence (STV) Counselling programs provide individual and group counselling for women who have experienced childhood abuse, sexual assault and violence in their relationships. There are 94 STV Counselling programs, with annual funding of \$7.894 million;
 - Children Who Witness Abuse (CWWA) programs provide group and individual counselling for children ages three to 18 who have witnessed abuse, threats or violence in the home. There are 86 CWWA programs, with annual funding of \$5.070 million;
 - Outreach Services help women identify and access the services they need by providing information and referrals, and accompaniment and transportation to other necessary services. There are 55 outreach service programs, with annual funding of \$2.485 million; and
 - Multicultural Outreach Services provide services to ten communities in up to 24 languages to ensure immigrant and visible minority women receive assistance by workers who speak their own language and are familiar with their culture. There are 11 multicultural outreach service programs, with annual funding of \$1.062 million.
- Additionally, the ministry provides civil forfeiture grants to support violence against women programming across the province.

- In March 2017, the ministry provided over \$2.1 million in grant funding to support 61 community led projects that address violence against women. Specifically, the funding was provided in the following streams:
 - Addressing sexual violence, human trafficking and sexual exploitation, and vulnerable women in the sex trade – \$521, 289 (19 grants);
 - Coordinated responses to domestic violence – \$699,564 (nine grants);
 - Crime reduction with a focus on aboriginal women and girls – \$138,535 (four grants);
 - Healing and rebuilding after violence for aboriginal women and girls – \$336,160 (17 grants);
 - Enhancing the capacity and improving services of child and youth advocacy centres – \$391,208 (eight grants); and
 - Other targeted projects contributing to the prevention of, response to, and/or efforts to rebuild from the impacts of violence against women – \$90,869 (four grants).
- Additionally, in March 2017, the ministry provided \$104,250 in civil forfeiture grant funding to three projects that provide training and education for frontline victim service and violence against women service providers.
- The most recent round of grant funding builds on civil forfeiture grants of \$3.7 million in 2015/16 and \$5 million in 2014/15 to support anti-violence and prevention initiatives 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.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Domestic Violence****Suggested Response:**

- Government recognizes the devastating impacts of domestic violence on women, families and communities and has a number of initiatives underway to address domestic violence in British Columbia.
- In recent years, the ministry has taken significant steps to strengthen our response to domestic violence.
- Since 2014, the ministry has provided over \$2.4 million in funding to support Domestic Violence Units (DVUs).
- The ministry continues to work with the Community Coordination for Women's Safety program to provide ongoing support to cross-sector initiatives including for the development of Interagency Case Assessment Teams (ICATs).
- The ministry 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.
- The ministry is also 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 addition, the ministry continues to work closely with the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence (PODV) to ensure a coordinated response to domestic violence.

Increased Funding for Violence Against Women Programs

- Our government recognizes that service providers for victims of domestic violence, sexual violence and other violent crimes have experienced challenges meeting service demands in communities throughout B.C.
- The ministry is currently exploring options for strategic investments that will build on work underway to strengthen the services and supports currently provided and address service demands.

Domestic Violence Units and Interagency Case Assessment Teams

- DVUs are an evidence based model of co-located service delivery that pairs dedicated police officers, with 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.

- DVUs are operational in nine communities: Abbotsford, Capital Region, New Westminster, North Shore (North Vancouver and West Vancouver), Surrey, Nanaimo, Kelowna, Vancouver and Prince George.
- ICATs 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.
- There are approximately 45 fully operational ICATs throughout the province.

Programming for Perpetrators of Domestic Violence

- The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch is currently leading the Supporting Healthy Relationships project to provide direct services for perpetrators of domestic violence prior to their involvement in the criminal justice system.
- Approximately \$650,000 has been provided to 11 community organizations to enhance existing domestic violence programs to help perpetrators before they are charged, convicted or sentenced for an offence, including the enhancement and evaluation of culturally-appropriate programs.

Domestic Violence Services for Men

- The majority of our programs and services are available to all victims of violence, including both men and women. Across the province, men are eligible to access more than 160 victim service and victim court support programs.
- The services and programs that are available to both men and women include the Crime Victim Assistance Program, Victim Safety Unit notification services, Victim Court Support Program, VictimLink BC, and the Children Who Witness Abuse Programs.
- The ministry does fund specific Violence Against Women programs in recognition of the fact that women continue to be disproportionately impacted by the most severe forms of domestic violence, including homicides. For this reason, our Stopping the Violence Counselling Programs and Outreach as well as Multicultural Outreach services exclusively serve women.

BC Coroners Service Death Review Panel on Intimate Partner Violence

- The ministry is working collaboratively with the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, the Ministry of Attorney General, and community organizations to consider the report fully and assess options for addressing the recommendations.

Ministry's Relationship with the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence

- The Provincial Office of Domestic Violence was established in 2012 by the Ministry of Children and Family Development to better coordinate cross-government responses to issues related to domestic violence.
- The office is responsible for ensuring a coordinated, systematic government approach to domestic violence through monitoring, evaluation, reporting and consultation with stakeholders.
- The ministry works closely with the office 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 (PODV) released a three-year Provincial Domestic Violence Plan. The plan was developed in collaboration with ministries from across government and included \$5.5 million in new funding over three years to strengthen approaches to addressing domestic violence, including:
 - \$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.
- February 2017 marked the end of the three year Provincial Domestic Violence Plan and PODV is in the process of completing its third Annual Report. PODV received an additional year of grant funding to extend the plan through 2017/18.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Civil Forfeiture****Suggested Response:**

- The Civil Forfeiture Office was established in 2006 to remove the tools and profits of unlawful activity in British Columbia and reinvest them in crime prevention and victims' compensation.
- Since the office's establishment, 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.
- Since its establishment, the office has forfeited over \$75 million dollars. In 2016, police across the province referred a record 1,002 files to the office for consideration. The office has received approximately 600 referrals to date for 2017.
- All recoveries from successful forfeitures are deposited to the Civil Forfeiture Special Account and then used to pay for the office's activities, predominantly 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, over \$31.3 million dollars have been invested in crime prevention and victims' compensation. This represents over 40 cents of every dollar forfeited.

Recovery Targets / Grant Targets

- The office is legally required to be self-sustaining and is assigned a budget at the start of each fiscal cycle to ensure it is fiscally disciplined and can support its operations 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.

Civil Forfeiture Office Oversight

- In 2016, the Civil Forfeiture Advisory Committee was formed with a mandate to review and suggest improvements to office policies and processes. The committee is comprised of senior officials from the Ministries of the Attorney General and Public Safety and Solicitor General.
- The committee meets quarterly to review and give advice on office policies and processes.

Criminal Asset Management Funding

- The Criminal Code of Canada and other federal statutes authorize forfeiture of property that was derived from or used in the commission of indictable offences.
- It also allows for the forfeiture of proceeds of crime and for any property that was seized by a police agency and is proven to have been held unlawfully by the person from whom it was seized. It is a fairly broad power and typically requires proof "beyond a reasonable doubt."
- All criminal law falls under the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government, however, the provinces are responsible for the administration of justice, which means we administer most laws within the Criminal Code of Canada, and receive moneys forfeited pursuant to these criminal investigations. The federal government administers other federal criminal laws such as the Controlled Drug and Substances Act and receives money forfeited pursuant to those criminal investigations.
- Criminal Asset Management Funding is used by the government to provide grants under the Crime Prevention and Remediation Grant Program to support community based projects that address issues such as crime prevention, crime reduction and victim support.
- In 2016-2017, Criminal Asset Management Funding provided approximately \$400,000 to various projects related to domestic violence and indigenous healing and rebuilding.

Background:

- The Civil Forfeiture Act was passed in 2005 with the purpose of removing the tools and proceeds of unlawful activity and returning a portion of these funds back to communities in B.C. who are impacted by criminal activity.
- The Act allows the director of civil forfeiture to commence legal proceedings against property that is linked to unlawful activity.
- The office has been operation since 2006. Since then, it has forfeited over \$74 million, primarily houses, cash and cars involved in organized crime and drug trafficking activity.
- The office is assigned a budget at the start of each fiscal year and is required to be self-sustaining. Funds that are recovered in successful forfeitures are deposited to the Civil Forfeiture Special Account and used to pay the office's operating costs. Any remaining funds are invested in crime prevention programs and victims' compensation.
- Between fiscal years 2010/2011 and 2014/2015, the office had budget direction to achieve a \$1.033 million annual revenue target under the special account, as well as an additional

internal revenue target of \$2.079 million in fiscal year 2012/2013, beyond what it costs to operate the program.

- The annual revenue targets were removed in fiscal year 2015/2016, but an accumulated surplus of approximately \$5.7 million remains in the special account as retained earnings.
- To date, the office has disbursed over \$ 31.3 million dollars in crime prevention grants and victim compensation payments.
- With respect to crime prevention, \$29.8 million has been distributed to community crime prevention groups and police to target provincial and local issues.
- Most of the over \$1.5 million provided in victims' compensation has been returned to victims of fraudulent investment schemes.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Administrative Forfeiture****Suggested Response:**

- The Civil Forfeiture Office accepts referrals for administrative forfeiture from the police, and targets the profits and tools of unlawful activity.
- Administrative forfeiture is a streamlined and cost effective alternative to the full civil forfeiture process. It can be used when the value of seized assets is less than \$75,000.
- The administrative forfeiture process greatly reduces the province's legal costs, which makes it more viable to pursue low value items and small amounts of cash commonly seized from drug dealers, gang members and other organized criminals.
- There are significant checks and balances in place to ensure fairness during the process, including oversight from the courts on all settlements and decisions.
- Disputing a claim of administrative forfeiture in B.C. simply requires a sworn affidavit stating that the property in question was lawfully obtained.
- To date, the office has processed over 3,490 administrative forfeitures. The total value of these forfeitures is \$13.2 million.

Background:

- Administrative forfeiture became law in 2011. Like the traditional civil forfeiture process, it is administered by the office pursuant to the Civil Forfeiture Act.
- The administrative forfeiture process begins when police refer files with seized assets under \$75,000 to the office for consideration. Once the office accepts a file, a letter is sent to all known claimants to the assets with instructions on how to file a dispute. An advertisement providing details of the seizure and how to dispute it is also placed in a local newspaper.
- A claimant may file a dispute by returning a sworn statement outlining the basis of their claim to the office within two months.
- When the office receives a dispute, it reviews the information and makes a determination as to whether to terminate the proceedings, refer the matter to legal counsel, or pursue forfeiture through the traditional civil forfeiture process.
- If the office does not receive a notice of dispute by the seventh day after the dispute period expires, the assets are forfeited to the government.

- The office has processed over 3,490 administrative forfeitures to date, with a total value of \$13.2 million.

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2017/18 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 (OCTIP) is dedicated to working in partnership to assist trafficked persons and has been providing advice and support to communities and agencies regarding human trafficking since 2007.
- We have helped over 250 potentially trafficked people. For example, providing information about temporary residence permits, coordinating shelter and medical care, and liaising with municipal police and RCMP's Human Trafficking Coordinator, and other justice system personnel.

Conclusion of B.C.'s Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking at the end of 2016

- The action plan has laid a strong foundation for actions to combat human trafficking in B.C. The work to tackle this issue with our community stakeholders and other partners will continue.
- OCTIP is building on the achievements and accomplishments of the action plan and continues to support communities to prevent and respond to human trafficking.

Recent Human Trafficking Cases

- Reza Moazami 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 B.C. and the longest sentence in Canada for a human trafficking related case. Mr. Moazami has appealed both the conviction and the sentence.
- Franco Orr 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 was held last year which resulted in a conviction for lesser charges.

Background:

- Since 2011, our government has provided more than \$2.2 million to organizations in B.C. 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 B.C. 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 OCTIP's online training, Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune, in order to assist in the identification and support of trafficked persons in B.C. This course is available to any B.C. public servant and currently front-line staff from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction are completing the training.
- Staff of the VictimLink BC phone line are trained regularly by OCTIP 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 focused on preventing and addressing trafficking of youth for sexual exploitation; vulnerable workers; and the domestic trafficking of aboriginal youth and women.
- The plan highlighted 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, research reports, and the office's history of coordinating B.C.'s response to human trafficking.
- Three status updates have been released reporting on work initiated and actions completed during the three years of the plan. The third year report on activities undertaken to implement the action plan was released in summer 2016.
- In fiscal year 2016-17 many activities were supported through grant funding from civil 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 B.C. communities, reaching over 120 service providers, police, teachers, First Nations and youth workers in Victoria, Penticton and Cranbrook;
 - A new toolkit for front line service providers about the trafficking of youth in B.C. has been published and training on the use of this toolkit is being implemented in the five communities of Penticton, Chilliwack, Abbotsford, Victoria and Prince George. This

toolkit is designed to increase police reporting and prosecutions for situations of youth sexual exploitation and human trafficking;

- A Knowledge Exchange event is being planned for the fall of 2017 on best practices to prevent and respond to human trafficking. A report documenting these best practices will be produced by March 2018; and
- A new project to address the domestic trafficking of Aboriginal girls and women is currently being developed in collaboration with the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres.

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2017/18 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 \$33.893 million as of March 31, 2017.
- In fiscal year 2016/17 the total revenue for the Victim Surcharge Account was \$11.306 million while \$14.284 million was 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 B.C. 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 15% to the current 30% and to ensure the surcharge is automatically applied in all cases with judicial discretion to waive the surcharge 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 (\$767,505 of the \$11.306 million in revenue in 2016/17). The rest of the victim surcharge revenue comes from provincial surcharges, primarily on provincial fines such as traffic tickets (\$10.185 million in 2016/17) and interest earned on the balance of the Victim Surcharge Account (\$353,167 in 2016/17).
- Any increased funds will continue to be collected into the Victim Surcharge Account to support services and initiatives that benefit victims of crime in B.C.

Court Challenges of Mandatory Federal Victim Surcharges

- Any questions pertaining to court challenges related to the federal victim surcharge should be directed to B.C.'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 this year.
- The court found that the fee has a disproportionate impact on disadvantaged offenders and that the Criminal Code section violates the Charter of Rights and Freedoms section against cruel and unusual punishment. (*R. v. Javier*, 2014 ONCJ (CanLII)).
- The BC Supreme Court does not have the jurisdiction to strike down the law. This ruling only applies to Mr. Barinecutt.

Provincial Fine Option Program to Pay Off Victim Surcharges

- B.C. 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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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE

Victim Services and Crime
Prevention Fact Sheet

2016/17 Total Net Operating Budget of \$40.387 million
(Gross Expenditures of \$50.504million)¹ with approximately 90 FTEs²

CRIME VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	BUDGET – \$12.343 million
Crime Victim Assistance Program	Provides financial assistance and other benefits to victims of crime, their immediate family members, and witnesses to help with expenses related to physical and emotional recovery.
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS	BUDGET – \$28.946 million
Victim Service Programs (\$12.435 million) ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 91 Police-based victim service programs • 70 Community-based victim service programs • VictimLink BC Helpline • BCCEAS Elder Support Helpline • Provincial Protective Measures Unit
Violence Against Women Programs (\$12.964 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 94 Stopping the Violence Counselling Programs • 86 Children Who Witness Abuse Counselling Programs
Outreach Programs (\$3.547 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55 Outreach Service Programs • 11 Multicultural Outreach Service Programs
Division-funded Crime Prevention Programs/Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Crime Prevention Association • MAP Van for Sex Trade Workers • BC Crime Stoppers (Local Program) • Block Watch Society of BC • 45 community-based Restorative Justice Programs (Community Accountability Programs)
Provincial Services (including Provincial Associations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ending Violence Association of BC • Police Victim Services of BC • BC Society of Transition Houses • Legal Services Society
JUSTICE AND SAFETY PROGRAMS	
Justice and Safety Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victim Safety Unit • Victim Court Support Programs • Restitution Program

Contact: Patricia Boyle (CSCPB)

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¹ The total 2016/17 operating budget figure of \$40.387 million excludes budgeted collections of \$9.817 million in internal recoveries (from the victim surcharge account) and \$300,000 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 \$50.504 million.

² \$7.341 million of gross expenditures is allocated to general program operations; the remainder funding (\$43.163 million) is directed towards direct service delivery as outlined in this note.

³ Note, all budget figures for contracted programs exclude budgeted negotiated wage increases related to 2014-2019 community social services collective agreements.

2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Crime Victim
Assistance Program****Suggested Response:**

- The Crime Victim Assistance Program (CVAP) is a financial benefits program that assists victims, immediate family members, and witnesses in dealing with the effects of violent crime. It is governed by the Crime Victim Assistance Act and corresponding regulations.
- CVAP helps to offset financial loss and aids recovery from the impacts of crime. The program provides both short-term and long-term financial benefits, such as counselling, protective measures, and income support.
- In 2016/2017, CVAP received 4,105 applications, completed 6,254 decisions (original adjudications and reassessment) and distributed \$17.6 million dollars in benefits.

Letter 63

- CVAP was previously administered by WorkSafeBC under the Criminal Injury Compensation Act (CICA) and the Criminal Injury Compensation Program. Following its transfer to the ministry, outstanding financial benefits to be assessed and provided to individuals with accepted claims under the CICA were identified.
- Funding has been allocated to support payment of the financial benefit to all eligible applicants. To date, 2,666 of 5,300 eligible applicants have received the financial benefit.
- Due to the sensitive nature of the offence, the process of contacting individuals has been lengthy. CVAP has a dedicated full-time staff member responsible for contacting the approximately 2,700 remaining eligible individuals and explain the benefit they are entitled to.

s.17,s.22

s.17,s.22

Background:

- CVAP is a financial benefits program that assists victims, immediate family members, and witnesses in dealing with the effects of violent crime. CVAP helps to offset financial loss and aid recovery from the impacts of crime.
- Benefits available through CVAP include supports such as counselling, protective measures, income support, and long-term care costs. The program provides both short term and long term financial benefits.
- CVAP is governed by the Crime Victim Assistance Act and corresponding regulations.

Letter 63

- CVAP was previously called the Criminal Injury Compensation Program (CICP) and administered by WorkSafeBC. Following the program's transfer to the ministry, it was identified that there was an outstanding financial benefit to be assessed and provided to individuals with accepted claims under the Criminal Injury Compensation Act.
- Based on a review of applications submitted to CICP, approximately 5,300 applicants were deemed to be eligible for a financial benefit provided under the former Criminal Injury Compensation Act.
- The process of assessing eligibility for the financial benefit began in 2006. Following the assessment process, the ministry undertook efforts to contact the eligible individuals.
- Funding has been allocated to support payment of the financial benefits to all eligible applicants.
- To date, 2,666 of the 5,300 applicants have received their financial benefits.

- The payment of financial benefits has been a lengthy process given the sensitive nature of the offences, and the need to contact individuals in a thoughtful manner that does not re-traumatize them and is respectful of relevant privacy laws.
- The ministry does not have current contact information for the majority of eligible applicants. However, through information sharing agreements with other ministries, program staff are attempting to contact each of the approximately 2,700 remaining individuals to explain the financial benefit they are entitled to and why we are providing it. Once contacted, program staff also advise these individuals that counselling services are still available to aid them in their recovery.
- The ministry now has a dedicated, full-time staff member working to make personal contact with each individual. Outreach efforts are ongoing.

Contact: Patricia Boyle (CSCPb)	Phone: 604-660-5272	Mobile: s.17
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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Estimates 2017/18 Briefing Book**

**BC Coroners Service
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6. Community Coroners – Recruitment and Retention
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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Medical Assistance in Dying****Suggested Response:**

- Following a 2015 Supreme Court of Canada decision (*Carter vs Canada*), in June 2016, the federal government passed Bill C-14 to amend the Criminal Code to allow eligible adults to access medical assistance in dying.
- In the absence of federal regulations for monitoring medical assistance in dying, and in keeping with the provincial responsibility for delivery and administration of medical assistance in dying, on July 19, 2016, by Order in Council, the Coroners Act was amended, requiring that all deaths believed to have resulted from medical assistance in dying be reported to the BC Coroners Service.
- To better understand medically assisted deaths and identify quality assurance processes, a death review panel under the Coroners Act was held in February 2017. A report from this panel is in development that will, in part, outline the safeguards and quality assurance processes already in place, and identify opportunities for enhancement or improvement to quality assurance processes.
- In 2016, 194 medically assisted deaths occurred in B.C. From January 1, 2016 to July 31, 2017, an estimated 568 medically assisted deaths occurred in B.C. based on preliminary data.

Background:

- On February 6, 2015, the Supreme Court of Canada (*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 of Canada 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 wished a physician-assisted death were 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.

- On June 17, 2016, the federal government passed Bill C-14, amending the Criminal Code and related Acts to allow eligible adults to access medical assistance in dying.

B.C. Medically Assisted Death Information* to July 31, 2017

Island Health	236
Interior Health	91
Fraser Health	77
Northern Health	17
Vancouver Coastal	147
Total:	568

*This data is preliminary and subject to change.

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2017/18 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 consideration.
- Under the legislation, the Minister may also order the chief coroner to conduct an inquest.

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2017/18 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, indigenous 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.
- Eight full multidisciplinary panels have been held since April 2013 with a ninth panel scheduled for December 2017. 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 who was appointed to conduct an independent review of B.C.'s child protection system in 2006.
- Where a child death falls under the mandate of the Representative for Children and Youth, that 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.
- In 2016, a panel was convened to review the deaths of First Nations youth and young adults. The report will be publically released in October 2017. Additionally in 2016, a panel

was convened to review deaths resulting from intimate partner violence which included children. This report was publically released in November 2016.

- Past panels have dealt with issues of youth suicide, unexplained infant deaths, drowning, young drivers, overdose deaths in youths and young adults, residential fire deaths, and pedestrian deaths.
- Agencies which receive recommendations are asked to respond to them in writing, and the responses are posted on the BCCS website.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Coroners' Autopsy Rate****Suggested Response:**

- In 2016, post-mortem examinations (autopsies and/or toxicology testing) were ordered in approximately 39% of the deaths investigated by coroners in British Columbia.
- Autopsies were conducted in 23% of these cases.
- An autopsy is done when necessary to determine the cause of a death being investigated by the BC Coroners Service.
- Expedited toxicology testing, unique to B.C., can frequently establish 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 12% of the 2016 deaths investigated.

Background:

- An autopsy will always be done when necessary to determine a reasonable and accurate cause of death.
- In many cases, thorough investigation of the scene of death, including head to toe examination of the body, and the 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.
- B.C.'s Provincial Toxicology Laboratory provides expedited toxicology analysis to the BC 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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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Response to *Misfire*
(Ombudsperson's Report)****Suggested Response:**

- In April 2017, the province confirmed publicly that government will move forward on all 41 recommendations outlined by the Office of the Ombudsperson report *Misfire*.
- Specifically for the BC Coroners Service, the report recommends the development of a service policy on the disclosure of records stored on electronic devices.
- The report from the Office of the Ombudsperson acknowledged that the BC Coroners Service made a good faith effort to respond to Mr. MacIsaac's family in a manner consistent with its legal obligations.
- The BC Coroners Service is very cognisant of its legal duty to responsibly manage information collected during an investigation, much of which is personal and confidential. Given the ever-increasing variety of digital sources where information is found, the BC Coroners Service will continually review its information management policies.
- The BC Coroners Service continues its review to establish a new and comprehensive policy framework for information gathering, retention and disclosure and will share information on this in the near future.

Background:

- On April 6, 2017, the Office of the Ombudsperson for British Columbia released a report titled "*Misfire: The 2012 Ministry of Health Employment Terminations and Related Matters*" which includes 41 recommendations that aim to address the harm done to individuals and strengthen B.C.'s public service.
- Recommendation 39 is directed at the BC Coroners Service and reads: "By September 30, 2017, the BC Coroners Service develops a policy about disclosure, to a deceased's family or personal representative, of documents discovered on the deceased person's electronic devices, including password-protected and cloud-stored documents."
- Electronic records acquired from the RCMP's forensic analysis of Mr. MacIsaac's laptop were not released to the family during the coroner's investigation. A version withholding the names of other individuals was read over the phone to Mr. MacIsaac's family of one recovered electronic record titled 'this is enough' that appeared to be the last document created on the device.

- The Coroners Act prohibits any disclosure of information obtained in the course of an investigation, unless disclosure of the information or record is “necessary or incidental to the carrying out of an investigation” or is allowed under other sections of the Coroners Act or other legislation (e.g., privacy act).

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Community Coroners -
Recruitment and
Retention****Suggested Response:**

- The ministry, as well as the BC 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, seven days per week, for lengthy periods while getting few calls during the on-call period.
- In June 2016, government increased the compensation to \$32.32/hour from \$25/hour, 70% of the maximum salary of full-time coroners at that time.
- The BC 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 BC Coroner Service's partnership with the First Nations Health Authority; and approaching local community agencies that do similar work.
- The BC Coroners 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 and in response to increasing caseloads and the illicit drug overdose crisis in B.C.

Background:

- The BC Coroners Service currently employs 80 community coroners across the province.
- They are not Public Service Agency employees but are employed on an "as and when needed" basis. They receive an hourly wage of \$32.32 without benefits. There is no stand-by remuneration.
- Community coroners play a key role in the death investigation system in B.C. The information they gather at death scenes is critical to the BC Coroners Service mandate. They also play a valuable role representing community interests.

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Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
BC Coroners Service Statistics Estimates Report*

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total deaths reported¹	7,945	8,067	8,222	8,273	8,505	9,839
• Non-reportable ² (Section 15)	3,780	3,974	4,230	4,332	4,367	4,882
• Coroners' investigations (Section 16)	4,165	4,093	3,992	3,941	4,138	4,957
Total deaths by type³						
• Suicides ⁴ (Section 15)	526	512	525	637	614	580
<i>Suicide rate per 100,000 population</i>	11.7	11.3	11.5	13.7	13.1	12.2
• Homicides	93	77	86	107	122	108
• Child deaths	304	315	303	321	303	307
• Illicit drug overdose deaths	294	269	332	366	513	922
• Accidental traffic-related motor vehicle deaths	311	292	288	306	304	314
<i>% of deaths with alcohol or alcohol & drugs involved</i>	21%	21%	23%	22%	Note 5	Note 5
<i>% of deaths with drugs involved</i>	5%	6%	9%	5%	Note 5	Note 5
Section 16 cases with post-mortem examinations¹						
• Autopsies ⁶	1,985	1,588	1,482	1,173	1,118	1,219
<i>Autopsies as % of Section 16 cases</i>	48%	39%	37%	30%	27%	25%
• Toxicology	1,734	1,595	1,679	1,564	1,677	2,175
<i>Toxicology as % of Section 16 cases</i>	42%	39%	42%	40%	41%	44%
• Total cases with post-mortem examinations	2,232	1,948	1,970	1,800	1,888	2,393
<i>Total examinations as % of Section 16 cases</i>	54%	48%	49%	46%	46%	48%
Inquests						
• Police-related	12	13	11	7	4	5
• Deaths in correctional facilities	0	1	2	7	3	1
• Other	3	6	1	3	3	1
Total number of staff⁷					123	135

NOTES:

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

1. Case counts in this section are based on Coroner Notification Year.

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

3. Case counts in this section are based on year of death.

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

5. Alcohol/drug contribution to motor vehicle related deaths is not available until investigations are concluded.

6. Includes external, simple and complex autopsy examinations.

7. Includes full-time coroners, part-time coroners and other staff. The 2016 total is the staff count as of Feb. 2017.

Revised: Feb. 17, 2017

2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE

Death Review Panels 2017 to 2008

Child Death Review Unit Youth in Transition Panel, scheduled December 2017.

Drug Overdose Panel, scheduled October 11, 2017.

Medical Assistance in Dying Panel, held February 22, 2017 with report release planned for September 2017.

Child Death Review Unit First Nations Youth and Young Adults Panel, held December 8 and 9, 2016 with report release planned for October 2017.

Intimate Partner Panel, held June 8 to 9, 2016 with report released November 2016.

Child Death Review Unit Pedestrian Cyclist Panel, held October 7, 2015 with report released June, 2016.

Child Death Review Unit Drug Overdose Panel, held October 28, 2014 with report released January 27, 2016.

Child Death Review Unit MVI Panel, held June 24, 2014 with report released February 11, 2015.

Child Death Review Unit Drowning Panel, held February 11, 2014 with report released June 26, 2014.

Child Death Review Unit Unexpected Infant Death Panel, held September 11, 2013 with report released April 14, 2014.

Child Death Review Unit Youth Suicide Panel, held April 2013 with report released September 26, 2013.

Fatal Aviation Accidents, March 2012.

Domestic Violence, May 2010.

Motorcycle Fatalities, March 2010.

Avalanche Related Deaths - Snowmobile Operators, December 2009.

Tree Fallers – 2008 Workplace Incidents, October 2009.

2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Delays in Coroners
Investigations****Suggested Response:**

- Every sudden and unexpected death is a tragedy for the people concerned, family and friends and the entire community of the deceased person.
- It is entirely understandable that the family want answers as quickly as possible in such cases.
- However, investigations conducted by the Coroners Service are entirely independent of government, and it would be inappropriate for me to comment on any individual case.
- I have faith in the Chief Coroner and the Coroners Service that their investigation will be thorough and comprehensive, and will be completed in as timely a manner as is possible, given all the circumstances.

If asked about delays caused by pressures of opioid crisis:

- Numerous branches of government have been impacted by the additional resources being taken by efforts to reduce the unacceptably high toll of deaths from illicit drug overdoses.
- The Coroners Service is certainly among those branches, and because of that, in the budget update of September, they have been given a budget increase to help them cope with those pressures.

Background:

- This Estimates Note is written in the event that the Minister receives questions which relate to a specific case in which family members have raised complaints about delays in obtaining information or a final Report from the Coroners Service.

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Estimates 2017/18 Briefing Book**

**RoadSafetyBC
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3. Road Safety Initiative
4. BC Road Safety Strategy
5. DriveABLE Cognitive Assessment
6. Motorcycle Safety – Graduated Licensing Program
7. Responsible Driver Program and Ignition Interlock Program Procurement
8. Ride-sharing Companies

2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Distracted Driving****Suggested Response:**

- Distracted driving remains a serious concern for road safety in B.C. It has consistently been one of the top two contributing factors to motor vehicle fatalities in the last five years.
- Government is continuing to assess the impacts of the most recent changes to the penalties for distracted driving in 2016, which include a \$543 monetary penalty, four demerit points and a possible driving prohibition through the Driver Improvement Program.
- ICBC, in partnership with police, conduct education and enforcement campaigns to encourage drivers to change the way they think about distracted driving with the knowledge that it is high-risk behaviour with potentially fatal consequences. ICBC launched a new education and awareness campaign in September 2017.
- Government also recently announced its intention for ICBC to move forward with a pilot project to evaluate distracted driving reduction technology to further curb the prevalence of drivers on B.C. roads who use cell phones and other prohibited electronic devices while driving.

Background:**Research and Data**

- Research shows that drivers who talk on an electronic device increase their crash risk by at least three to four times, and that those who text or email while driving increase their crash risk by as much as 23 times.
- In the last five years, 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 B.C.
- Additionally, the number of tickets issued for distracted driving increased every year between 2010 and 2014 from 21,580 violation tickets to 54,600 tickets before declining to 49,000 in 2015 and 43,000 in 2016.
- Financial penalties for electronic device use in Canadian jurisdictions that have distracted driving laws range from a low of \$100 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.

Current Penalties in B.C.

- The following changes to the penalties for distracted driving came into effect 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.
 - Under changes to the Driver Improvement Program, repeat offenders will also have their driving record subject to automatic review which could result in a three to 12 month driving prohibition.

Current Status:

- The provincial government recently announced its intention for ICBC to move forward with a pilot project to evaluate distracted driving reduction technology as part of a multi-year plan to address the rising costs of insurance claims and reduce crash rates.
- ICBC also launched a new distracted driving education and awareness campaign this September. Distracted driving public awareness and enforcement campaigns typically occur once or twice a year across the province, most recently in March of 2017 and previously in September of 2016, in partnership with police.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Immediate Roadside
Prohibition Program
Effectiveness****Suggested Response:**

- The Immediate Roadside Prohibition (IRP) Program, which was implemented on September 20, 2010, has made a significant difference in saving lives and helping British Columbians get home safe by deterring people from drinking and driving and allowing police to immediately remove alcohol-affected drivers from our roads.
- Since the IRP Program was implemented in British Columbia, there has been a 50% reduction in alcohol-related motor vehicle fatalities. It is estimated that the IRP Program has helped to save 351 lives.
- Independent studies have also demonstrated the success of the IRP Program. A 2013 study led by the University of Victoria concluded that there has been a "profound and universal change in drinking and driving in British Columbia following the introduction of the IRP legislation."
- The IRP Program has also resulted in fewer impaired driving cases in our criminal justice system. Police have shifted from relying solely on Criminal Code charges and convictions to using IRPs and the immediate road safety benefit they provide.
- Between 2011 and 2016, there were over 40,700 fewer Reports to Crown Counsel for impaired driving charges. That is approximately 6,780 fewer potential criminal cases for impaired driving in each year since the introduction of the IRP, freeing up court resources to focus on higher priority cases to ensure more equitable access to justice.
- Another component of the program's success is the positive impact on insurance claims. ICBC's 2015 report on B.C.'s impaired driving initiative found that following the implementation of the IRP Program, there was an estimated annual claims savings of \$8.4 million.

Background:

- The IRP Program provides police the authority to immediately prohibit drivers who register a 'warn' or 'fail' after providing a breath sample for analysis by an Approved Screening Device (ASD). Police may also immediately prohibit drivers who fail or refuse, without a reasonable excuse, to provide a breath sample for analysis by an ASD. This means that drivers with a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of 0.05 to 0.08 (warn), 0.08 and above

(fail) or drivers who fail or refuse to provide a breath sample are subject to the following administrative sanctions:

- Warn – escalating 3, 7 and 30-day prohibitions for BAC of 0.05 to 0.08;
 - Fail – 90-day prohibitions for BAC of 0.08 and above or refusing or failing to provide a breath sample;
 - An administrative penalty up to \$500 for a 'fail' IRP and up to \$400 for a 'warn' IRP, and a licence reinstatement fee of \$250;
 - Vehicle impoundment which is mandatory for a 30 day and 90 day IRP; and
 - Possible referral by the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles, following a review of the driver's record, to one or both of the remedial programs – Responsible Driver Program and the Ignition Interlock Program.
- Drivers can request a review of the IRP, based on grounds prescribed by legislation.
 - In 2016, mandatory requirements for participation in one or both of the remedial programs was implemented through a point system whereby the superintendent must order a driver to participate in the Ignition Interlock Program and or a remedial program if he or she accumulates the prescribed number of "ignition-interlock program points" or "remedial program points" within a five year period.
 - Despite these mandatory requirements, the superintendent continues to retain discretion to require a driver to participate in the Ignition Interlock Program, as well as to extend an individual's Ignition Interlock Program period beyond the mandatory period, if the superintendent considers it to be in the public's interest for the person to attend or participate in one or both of the programs.
 - Two independent studies led by B.C. researchers have confirmed the success of the IRP Program in reducing alcohol related motor vehicle crashes, injuries and fatalities:
 - A 2014 study published in the American Journal of Public Health, led by University of British Columbia researcher Dr. J. Brubacher, found that B.C.'s new traffic safety laws, in the two years after their implementation, resulted in significant decreases for fatal crashes (21.0%), hospital admissions (8.0%), and ambulance calls (7.2%) for road trauma.
 - A 2013 University of Victoria study published in Accident Analysis and Prevention found significant average declines in alcohol-related motor vehicle collisions when compared to non-alcohol involved collisions: 40.4% decrease for fatal collisions, 23.4% decrease for injury collisions and 19.5% decrease for property damage only collisions. The researchers concluded that these results suggest that provincial law of administrative sanctions for drinking drivers and associated publicity was more

effective for minimizing alcohol-related collisions than laws under the Canadian Criminal Code had been.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Road Safety Initiative****Suggested Response:**

- RoadSafetyBC is partnering with stakeholders across the justice sector to transform the technology and processes supporting traffic safety enforcement.
- The Road Safety Initiative (RSI) will improve public safety through greater police and system efficiencies and create a more effective, efficient and timely access to justice for citizens.
- Once the project is complete, the police will have the ability to issue tickets electronically (eTicketing) at the roadside. This will help officers be more efficient and cut down time spent with drivers at the roadside.
- In addition, when the RSI is complete, British Columbians will have the ability to pay their tickets online, making it easier to take advantage of early payment discounts.
- Lastly, these new electronic tools will set the foundation for better evidence to support road safety policy and enforcement, resulting in improved road safety.
- This new technology will be piloted in early 2018 in multiple locations, including
 - Vancouver Police Department,
 - Delta Police Department,
 - Prince George Provincial and Municipal RCMP, and
 - Capital Regional District Integrated Road Safety Unit.
- The pilot will help us ensure the tools are effective and user-friendly for police and citizens, as well as providing the province with better ongoing cost estimates before province wide roll out.

If asked about costs for the Road Safety Initiative

- The province estimates a significant positive impact to revenues to local governments once eTicketing is fully implemented, approximately \$44 million over 10 years.
- The province is currently funding RSI's direct implementation costs.
- After pilot, RSI will provide updated cost estimates for province wide roll out, as well as ongoing cost estimates. It is anticipated that these costs will be minimal due to the efficiency gained by police agencies through eTicketing.
- With this approach, we expect that no local government will incur a negative fiscal impact in any fiscal year.

If asked about Administrative Justice Tribunal Model for traffic contraventions.

- eTicketing and online payment comprise Phase 1 of the Road Safety Initiative.
- The overall goals of Phase 2 are to reduce traffic court backlogs and focus enforcement resources more efficiently on higher risk drivers and driving behaviours.
- RSI Phase 2 is still in the planning stages but potential options the province is investigating include:
 - An administrative justice model to resolve ticket disputes out of the courts;
 - Risk-based licence points and monetary consequences;
 - A new Driver Intervention and Improvement Program; and
 - Improvements to data collection and information sharing to make road safety data more robust.

Background:

- The current ticket system is outdated, with paper tickets being entered into computers up to five separate times in their lifecycle by police officers, ICBC, court staff, etc.
- eTicketing will help reduce the number of errors on tickets that exist currently because of the manual process of writing them and transferring the information between agencies.
- eTicketing is in place and successful in 11 Canadian jurisdictions.
- This project is part of the ministry's Justice Reform initiative and is identified in the February 2013, White Paper (Part Two).

Contact: Corey Bowness (RSBC)	Phone: s.17	Mobile: s.17
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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE

BC Road Safety Strategy

Suggested Response:

- The goal of the BC Road Safety Strategy is to set the course over the coming years for collaboration and coordination among the province's road safety partners to help facilitate improvements in road safety outcomes in B.C.
- The Superintendent of Motor Vehicles oversees a steering committee responsible for leading the strategy. The steering committee comprises senior staff from ministries with responsibilities in road safety, representatives from Crown entities with road safety roles like the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia, and other organizations with mandates related to injury prevention and health.
- Over 40 stakeholder groups currently contribute to the strategy. Individuals from these groups participate in one of five working committees, each of which has a specific area of focus, namely: i) Safe Vehicles; ii) Safe Roads and Communities; iii) Safe Road Users; iv) Education and Awareness; and v) Research and Data.

Background:

- The BC Road Safety Strategy has been in existence since 2013, and was the result of efforts of over 30 British Columbia stakeholder groups. The strategy was updated in 2016 with the release of a new report, entitled "Moving to Vision Zero".
- RoadSafetyBC has hosted three BC Road Safety Strategy conferences that brought together over 100 provincial road safety partner representatives and dozens of presenters in order to share knowledge and ideas about ways to reduce severe crashes in B.C.
- Projects under the strategy are undertaken by five different working committees consisting of road safety partners. Most recently, the working committee projects included creating the BC Community Road Safety Toolkit to help municipalities implement road safety improvements, and developing a campaign designed to educate drivers about sharing the roads safely with trucks. Other work undertaken by the committees includes improving road safety research and data capacity and promoting road user education and awareness.

Contact: Kathy Kirby (RSBC)

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**DriveABLE Cognitive Assessment****Suggested Response:**

- The health and safety of all B.C. 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 B.C. 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 B.C. 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 B.C. In 2016, approximately 1,100 drivers were referred to DriveABLE, completing approximately 1,200 assessments. Of those, 649 were in-office assessments and 578 were on-road evaluations.
- The current contract to deliver DriveABLE cognitive assessments ends February 28, 2018.
- 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.

Background:

- In 2012, a competitive procurement process for the delivery of functional driver cognitive assessment services was conducted, and a three year contract (to end March 1, 2016) was signed with Insight Driving Solutions Inc. (Insight) to deliver assessment services using DriveABLE methodology in B.C.

- There was a provision in the contract for two, twelve-month extensions. The province utilized both extension options commencing on March 1, 2016, until February 28, 2017 and again on March 1, 2017 to February 28, 2018. Insight accepted both one year extensions.
- 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 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 26 locations across the province.
 - Service at the Campbell River location has been redirected to Courtenay due to low number of volumes at that location.
 - Chilliwack was removed as a service location due to challenges with site availability and drivers in this area are now referred to Abbotsford.

Contact: Steve Roberts (RSBC)	Phone: 250-953-3818	Mobile: s.17
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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Motorcycle Safety –
Graduated Licensing
Program****Suggested Response:**

- Under the Motor Vehicle Act, all motorcyclists and passengers in B.C. are required to wear helmets that meet safety industry standards and all passengers must place their feet on foot pegs or floorboards.
- There has been an average of 32 motorcycle related fatalities on B.C. roads over the last five years. While this average has been declining, motorcyclists continue to be over-represented in road trauma statistics as they represent 3% of all B.C. road users (insured vehicles) but are involved in approximately 12% of all road fatalities.
- Policy work for improving motorcycle safety is ongoing; however, changes such as 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 ongoing educational campaign intended to highlight motorcycle safety to youth. This campaign was developed in collaboration with Ms. Denise Lodge. Ms. Lodge lost her son, 21-year old Corey, 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 B.C. 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, these changes required 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 (2007-2016) show that between 2012 and 2016, an annual average of 32 motorcyclist fatalities occurred in the province, compared with an annual average of 42 fatalities for the previous five year period from 2007 to 2012.

- In 2012, there were 24 motorcyclist fatalities, the lowest number since 1997. While data for 2015 and 2016 fatalities show higher counts than 2012, 35 and 32 fatalities respectively, the data for these years are consistent with the overall downward trend in motorcycle fatalities for the five year period 2012 to 2016 when compared to the previous five year period from 2007 to 2012.
- At the time the new motorcycle safety regulations were announced 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.
- Ms. Denise Lodge's 21 year old son Corey was killed in March 2005 after losing control of a high-powered motorcycle less than a day after he received his learner's licence. Ms. Lodge has been requesting government change the motorcycle licensing process.
- RoadSafetyBC has worked with Ms. Lodge to co-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. Since the presentation began in 2016, Ms. Lodge has shared her story with over 4,000 students from Kitimat to Quesnel and RoadSafetyBC has participated in giving these presentations to around 2,000 students with additional presentations tentatively planned for autumn 2017.

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2017/18 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 351 lives saved and a 50% reduction in alcohol-related motor vehicle fatalities. These are both remedial programs for drivers who have received certain alcohol or drug related prohibitions.
- The previous contract with Stroh Health Care for the Responsible Driver Program expired on June 15, 2016. RoadSafetyBC engaged in a full procurement process, which included a Request for Proposals, and following a competitive process awarded a five year contract to the successful proponent, Stroh Health Care. The contract will expire on June 15, 2021.
- The previous contract with Alcolock Canada for the Ignition Interlock Program expired on September 30, 2016. RoadSafetyBC engaged in a full procurement process, which included a Request for Proposals, and following a competitive process awarded a five year contract to the successful proponent, Smart Start Canada. The contract will expire on September 30, 2021.
- The wind down provisions of the previous contract with Alcolock Canada for the Ignition Interlock Program allow Alcolock Canada to continue to deliver the program until September 30, 2017, for clients registered in the program prior to September 30, 2016.

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 eight 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 which expired on 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 which expired on September 30, 2016.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE

Ride-sharing Companies

Suggested Response:

- Public safety will remain a priority in any decisions related to enabling ride-sharing in B.C.
- A key consideration in moving forward with ride-sharing services in B.C. is how to best create a harmonized environment whereby taxi companies and ride-sharing companies would operate on a level playing field.
- Comprehensive analysis and careful consideration must be given to developing an effective legislative and regulatory framework. Analysis regarding appropriate standards and safety considerations will need to take place before moving forward.
- We continue to monitor the progress of other jurisdictions across Canada, North America, and around the world, as they, like us, review existing regulation in light of the challenges and the opportunities that are being presented.
- Ride-sharing services currently operate in Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec. In Alberta and Quebec, drivers wishing to provide ride-sharing services must have the equivalent of a B.C. Class 4 licence in that respective jurisdiction. Ontario allows drivers to operate a ride-share with the equivalent of a BC Class 5 licence.

Background:

- The primary legislative framework to allow ride-share services to operate in the province resides with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure under the Passenger Transportation Act.
- However, the licensing of drivers, including those driving taxis and potentially ride-sharing services, are included in the Motor Vehicle Act, under the responsibility RoadSafetyBC in the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.
- The Motor Vehicle Act authorizes local governments to require municipal chauffeur permits for taxis, limousines and potentially ride-sharing services.

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**Consumer Protection
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2. Ticket Re-selling
3. Funeral Services in Remote Communities
4. Home Inspectors

2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**High-cost Alternative
Financial Services****Suggested Response:**

- High-cost alternative financial services are being reviewed to determine what can be done to further strengthen protections, affordability and information for consumers who use these services.

Background:

- Alternative financial services are offered at a high cost compared to similar services at traditional financial institutions and are marketed primarily to financially vulnerable consumers, including those with limited income and lack of access to traditional banking services.
- In addition to payday loans, services by this sector include cheque cashing and various loan products such as instalment loans, vehicle title and rent-to-own.
- Although these services come at a high cost, demand remains due in part to the lack of alternatives available for financially vulnerable consumers. For example, in 2016 over 160,000 British Columbians used payday lenders.
- B.C. began regulating payday loans in 2009, and effective January 1, 2017, the maximum permissible charge changed from \$23 per \$100 borrowed to \$17 per \$100 borrowed.
- Beyond payday loan regulation, consumer protection legislation in B.C. provides a number of protections to consumers, including those using high-cost alternative financial services. For example, the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act prohibits unfair business practices in the marketplace and provides remedies for consumers. The act sets out requirements for disclosure of the cost of consumer credit and has provisions prohibiting deceptive acts or practices.
- Consumer Protection BC is an independent delegated authority that licenses payday lenders, monitors their compliance with the law, and investigates consumer complaints outside of the courts on a cost-recovery basis.
- Ministry staff have recently drafted a proposed Consumer Financial Protection Action Plan that was developed based on research conducted by the ministry in fall 2016, subsequent consultation with government stakeholders, and ongoing monitoring of other Canadian jurisdictions. The plan proposes a balanced approach to strengthen protections and affordability while ensuring access to a well regulated industry given the demand and lack

of available alternatives. It also proposes ways to increase consumer information and awareness.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Ticket Re-selling****Suggested Response:**

- It's frustrating when people cannot get tickets to popular events without resorting to scalpers.
- We want to ensure that people have a fair chance of obtaining tickets when purchasing online.
- I have asked ministry staff to monitor processes in other jurisdictions, including recent regulatory proposals in Ontario.
- In particular I have asked them to look at ways to stop the use of software known as bots that allows professional re-sellers to unfairly purchase online tickets.

Background:

- Public complaints are largely based on not being able to get tickets to popular events, where demand for the tickets greatly exceeds the supply available.
- Most ticket sales now occur online. For high profile events the sale of tickets amounts to a lottery where those who can log in online the quickest get the limited supply.
- Evidence does suggest professional brokers are using ticket-buying software (ticket bots) which allows them to by-pass online security features, jump to the front of the queue, and purchase many of the best tickets before the general public has a chance. These are then sold on the secondary market, such as TicketsNow and Stub Hub, at much higher prices.
- Four Canadian provinces regulate event ticketing:
 - Manitoba and Quebec prohibit resales for price above face value; and
 - Saskatchewan and Ontario have multiple restrictions on event ticketing.
- Ontario has committed to introduce new laws, likely in 2018, that will:
 - Prohibit the use of bots;
 - Cap the mark-up on resale ticket prices; and
 - Improve disclosure of the total cost of tickets and ticket availability for events.

- The sale of event tickets occurs primarily online, which extends across borders and makes it difficult for governments to regulate ticket selling. It is unclear whether jurisdictions with comprehensive ticket selling laws have had any impact.
- Government cannot change general supply and demand for popular events. Government can work to improve fairness by prohibiting the use of bots to create a level playing field in competition for tickets to popular events.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE

Funeral Services in
Remote Communities

Suggested Response:

- I understand that there are challenges in accessing funeral services for families in some remote communities in the province.
- The community of Haida Gwaii would like to see licensing requirements changed to allow for resident funeral services.
- Ministry staff are working with Consumer Protection BC to develop better options for funeral service in small remote communities.

Background:

- Under the Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act (CIFSA) funeral providers, funeral directors and other funeral professionals must be licensed. Funeral directors are trained in grief counselling, the proper handling and final disposition of human remains, and must complete a two-year apprenticeship. The laws are administered by Consumer Protection BC (CPBC). The licensing process protects consumers and communities.
- In some small remote communities in the province, there are no local funeral homes. However, when contacted by phone, many funeral homes in the province will assist families with funeral arrangements. Some families elect to do their own transfer of remains and final disposition ceremony, while assisted by funeral homes with preparing the paperwork (e.g., death registration, burial and transfer permit).
- The ministry is currently developing options to allow, in limited circumstances, resident funeral services in small remote communities where there are currently no licensed services. Basic training and business operating requirements will enable CPBC to manage consumer protection and public health risks.

Haida Gwaii

- In 2012, CPBC received a complaint regarding an individual who was providing a range of funeral services without a licence on Haida Gwaii.
- Local officials and the ministry have communicated on a number of occasions and as recently as in February 2017 to consider ways to resolve the situation. This matter was also raised in the Legislature.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Home Inspectors****Suggested Response:**

- Home inspections are an important tool for home buyers, and government wants to ensure consumers have the best possible protection when purchasing a home.
- Consumer Protection BC is responsible for regulating and licensing home inspectors in B.C.
- In September 2016, new regulations came into effect to strengthen licensing requirements for home inspectors, improve consumer protections and support the ongoing professionalization of the home inspector sector. Key changes:
 - Establishing in law, minimum qualifications for obtaining a licence, and removing the requirement for a home inspector to belong to an association as a condition of licensing;
 - Requiring home inspection contracts to outline in advance what will be covered in an inspection, and requiring written inspection reports; and
 - Requiring by law that home inspectors hold professional and general liability insurance.
- Changes to the regulatory scheme were based on public input and consultation with industry stakeholders, Consumer Protection BC (CPBC), and the Office of Housing and Construction Standards within the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.
- Protecting consumers continues to be a priority. Government will continue to work with industry groups and stakeholders to consider additional tools to enhance home inspections and the qualifications of licensees in B.C.

Background:

- Prior to purchasing a home, a home inspection informs potential buyers of building and maintenance issues that might not be immediately obvious. A home inspection is a visual examination of the readily accessible features and components of a home.
- Home inspectors have been licensed in B.C. since 2009, when B.C. became the first province to introduce licensing of home inspectors and regulation of the sector.
- At present, B.C. and Alberta are the only provinces that license and regulate home inspectors. Ontario is currently developing a licensing and regulatory framework for home inspection.
- Home inspectors in B.C. are regulated under the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act and Home Inspector Licensing Regulation.

- CPBC has delegated responsibility for regulating and licensing home inspectors. CPBC's role is to issue licenses to home inspectors; monitor compliance through inspections and enforcement; and respond to consumer complaints related to these functions.
- There are approximately 500 licensed home inspectors in B.C.
- Government consultation conducted in 2013 indicated broad support for strengthening minimum licensing requirements, greater accountability for home inspectors and ensuring consumers know what to expect from a home inspection. Amendments to the Home Inspector Licensing Regulation came into effect on September 1, 2016.
- In 2016/2017, a technical working group of industry officials, associations and home inspectors provided input into the development of a B.C. Scope of Practice and a common credentialing model with requirements for new home inspector candidates. The ministry, CPBC and Office of Housing and Construction Standards is reviewing this work to determine how these tools may be applied in B.C.
- The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Group has developed a national Home Inspection standard of practice for home inspectors. The CSA standard was completed in February, 2017. The province is reviewing the CSA standards.

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**Emergency Management BC
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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**BC Search and Rescue
Association Alternative
Support Model Proposal****Suggested Response:**

- In the past two years, the province has provided grants of \$15.5-million to the BC Search and Rescue Association (BCSARA) to help meet the needs of the Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR) groups.
 - March 26, 2017, \$5.5 million; and
 - January 27, 2016 \$10 million.
- This funding was provided to make investments at the community level and is to replace or update equipment, provide administrative support and for new or additional training.
- Since the announced funding, BCSARA has been working on confirming GSAR group capabilities to be able to distribute the funding based on the funding allocation model within the Alternative Support Model proposal.
- Following the initial funding announcement, a plan was developed and accepted by the BCSARA Board, to distribute the \$10 million in funding over a two year period with the additional \$5 million allowing for a third year of funding.
- The funding allocation model will see 90 percent of these annual funds distributed directly to the GSAR groups. The remaining 10 percent will support provincial level initiatives such as AdventureSmart and Critical Incident Stress Management.

Search and Rescue (SAR) Sustainable Funding

- The previously announced funding for BCSARA is to help support the BCSARA in capacity building as we work with them toward a longer-term funding model.
- This funding will help meet the SAR groups immediate needs while Emergency Management BC (EMBC) continues to work together with BCSARA on a long term solution.

Background:

- Within B.C. there are 80 GSAR groups with approximately 2,500 volunteer members, and these groups take part in over 1,600 ground search missions each year. The GSAR groups in B.C. are run by volunteers and deployments are funded by EMBC, including their insurance

costs. The organizations supplement this by accessing provincial community gaming grants and local fundraising.

- The province recognizes GSAR groups as a critical resource in B.C. and provided over \$9 million in operational funding last year (fiscal year 2016/17):
 - \$5.5 million in support of operational tasks (equipment repair/replacement, helicopter costs, mileage and meals);
 - \$3.3 million from gaming funds (equipment and training);
 - \$250,000 GSAR training (Justice Institute of British Columbia contract);
 - \$35,000 to support administrative functions in BCSARA;
 - \$25,000 to support travel for the annual BCSARA board meeting; and
 - \$265,000 in Algoma Liability Insurance for volunteer SAR directors.
- In 2012, BCSARA led a multi-agency group to identify existing best practices, challenges and gaps in the delivery of GSAR services in B.C. Some of the major challenges identified were the inability to maintain volunteer recruitment, training, certification and fundraising in balance of response capacity. Increasing demand of services, despite static funding levels and an onerous process of accessing funding, which often is one time only grants.
- In response, BCSARA tabled a discussion paper on an alternate funding model for Ground and Inland SAR in B.C. as a way to sustain the current program and capacity. Among its suggestions, it proposed creating a provincial SAR Fund through legislation. Funding would flow from various sources, and a board would oversee the distribution.
- BCSARA consulted its membership late in 2015 on the alternate funding model and then met with EMBC on December 18, 2015, to review the feedback on the 'Alternative Support Model for SAR in B.C.' proposal. The proposal was updated at the meeting and accepted for internal review and action by the provincial government. EMBC and BCSARA reconfirmed a commitment to work cooperatively to address the issues outlined in the proposal, whether it is through the proposed new support model or other approaches.
- The province has reviewed this proposal in collaboration with BCSARA, and EMBC is consulting with key partners, ultimately to inform recommendations to government for the best service options for British Columbians.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Disaster Financial
Assistance (DFA) Program****Suggested Response:**

- B.C. has a program to help local governments and individuals impacted by a disaster cope with the cost of recovery from property damage for those events specifically designated as eligible for Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA).
- Since 2000, B.C. has authorized DFA for 150 events and paid over \$52-million to individuals and local governments.
- 20 of these events are large scale disasters for which B.C. can recover a portion of its disaster response and recovery costs from the federal government through the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements. For more information see EMBC 3 Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements.

Background:

- The DFA program is delivered under the Emergency Program Act and the ensuing Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation. The DFA program, in effect since 1995, is obliged to provide compensation in compliance with this legislation.
- When DFA has been authorized for an event, DFA can pay 80 percent of the amount by which the accepted claim exceeds \$1,000; to a maximum accepted claim of \$300,000 for the private sector. The average individual claim is \$10,000. There is no maximum claim amount for local governments.
- DFA is not insurance. The purpose of DFA is to provide assistance to individuals for their principal residence and to help farmers and small business owners when their livelihood is at risk. Insurable losses in the private sector are not eligible for DFA.
- For local government bodies, DFA can help restore essential infrastructure including roads, dikes and bridges.
- Most private sector DFA claims are for overland flooding disasters. Although overland flood insurance is available for commercial buildings, until recently this insurance was not available for single family residential homes and even now the coverage is sporadic.
- So far this fiscal there have been two DFA events, both of which have been major provincial disasters for which the province will request federal support via the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA).

- The 2017 Freshet that started on May 4, 2017 was the largest DFA flooding disaster in recent B.C. history. Okanagan Lake, where most of the flood waters flowed, remained at flood stage until July 29, 2017. During this disaster there were 25 local states of emergency, ten of which were First Nation band resolutions, and 39 evacuation orders or alerts. Ten homes are still under an evacuation order. DFA costs to help over 420 families, 130 small businesses and 24 local governments, of which five are first nations, are expected to exceed \$25 million. Total disaster response and recovery costs, including emergency social services, and repairing provincial infrastructure are expected to exceed \$100 million.
- The 2017 wildfires that started on July 7, 2017, and still ongoing is the largest wildfire disaster in B.C. history. The DFA costs for this disaster are limited to local government infrastructure damage¹ and are expected to be approximately \$5 million. Total provincial disaster response and recovery costs, including firefighting and restoring damaged provincial infrastructure is expected to exceed \$700-million, of which about \$300-million will be eligible for cost-sharing under the federal DFAA.

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¹ DFA is not available for private sector wildfire losses. Fire is an insurance peril for homes, farms and small businesses are therefore not eligible for DFA.

2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Disaster Financial Assistance
Arrangements (Federal Program)****Suggested Response:**

- The federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) are designed to assist provinces with the costs of dealing with a disaster where those costs would otherwise place a significant burden on the provincial economy and would exceed what provinces might reasonably be expected to fully bear on their own.
 - Since 2000, B.C. has spent \$1.1 billion¹ to respond to and recover from 20 such major disasters and expects to recover \$600 million of these costs via the federal DFAA;
 - The DFAA funding formula provides for a progressively higher share of federal funding when the province's disaster response and recovery costs exceed \$3 per capita of the provincial population. B.C.'s population is approximately 4.7-million; and
 - B.C. will be requesting DFAA for the 2017 Freshet (spring flooding) and 2017 wildfires.
 - Freshet response and recovery costs are estimated to reach \$100 million and B.C. could recover up to \$60 million through DFAA.
 - Wildfire response and recovery costs to fight only those fires that placed communities at risk are estimated to reach \$300 million² and B.C. could recover up to \$240 million through DFAA.

Background:

- To request DFAA, the provincial Minister responsible for emergency management sends a letter to the federal Minister of Public Safety. Approval is granted via a federal Order in Council.
- When a provincial disaster event is eligible for DFAA, Emergency Management BC (EMBC) reimburses other ministries for their disaster response and recovery costs. EMBC then gathers these costs along with eligible firefighting costs paid by Wildfire Service and its own

¹ Of the \$1.1 billion, \$52 million was paid to individuals and local governments via the Disaster Financial Assistance Program and \$1.05 billion was paid to restore provincial infrastructure, fight interface wildfires, support evacuees, and fund emergency operation centres.

² Preliminary estimates for 2017 firefighting costs are expected to exceed \$600 million, of which \$200 million is estimated for fighting interface fires (only interface firefighting costs are eligible for DFAA). EMBC also estimates \$100 million in other DFAA eligible costs including Emergency Social Services; operating PECC, PREOCs, EOC, Reception centres, recovery centres; and restoring public infrastructure.

response and provincial Disaster Financial Assistance recovery costs and submits a claim to Public Safety Canada for B.C.'s proportional share of the federal DFAA.

- Key ministry stakeholders for provincial infrastructure damage include: Transportation and Infrastructure; Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development; and Environment.
- Typical DFAA eligible costs include: operating provincial and local emergency operation centres; providing food and shelter for evacuated residents; compensating individuals, local authorities, and small businesses for uninsurable losses (see EMBC 2 Disaster Financial Assistance Program form more information); providing sandbags and temporary dikes; fighting wildfires that place communities at risk; repairing provincial roads, bridges, parks and range fencing; and restoring fish bearing streams and rivers.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Emergency Program Act:
2016 Amendments****Suggested Response:**

- Sections 4 and 16 of the Emergency Program Act (EPA) were amended as part of Budget 2016/17.
- The amendments enable the Minister responsible for Emergency Management BC (EMBC) to access the Consolidated Revenue Fund to make payments and grants to local authorities, other persons and organizations in support of local initiatives that mitigate the impact and costs of **future** emergencies and disasters.
- Previously, statutory appropriation under section 16 of the EPA was limited to expenditures made by local authorities considered necessary to implement an emergency plan or emergency measures in response to the imminent threat of or on-going emergencies and disasters.
- These changes will provide government with flexibility to respond if there are opportunities in the fiscal year to fund additional emergency management initiatives to prevent or mitigate potential disasters.

Background:

- The EPA requires local authorities, ministries, crown corporations, government agencies and other persons to develop plans and programs to respond to emergencies and disasters in the province.
- Emergency prevention and preparedness is a shared responsibility in collaboration with all levels of government and British Columbians.
- Local authorities may not always be in a position to fully fund important emergency prevention and preparedness initiatives such as upgrading their diking infrastructure and other flood mitigation projects. Risk of flooding or other natural disasters as a result could have a significant impact on local authorities and the costs borne by the province to respond and help those local authorities recover.
- Areas for potential funding include key public safety initiatives intended to: better identify hazards and risks, in particular risk of flood and earthquake; increase Public Safety Lifeline

- Volunteer capacity, such as BC Search and Rescue and Emergency Social Services; upgrade important diking infrastructure in vulnerable jurisdictions.
- This new statutory appropriation can be relied upon once the voted appropriation for EMBC operations is exhausted.
- For fiscal management purposes, Treasury Board still, by directive, controls, limits or puts conditions on expenditures under this statutory appropriation.

Contact: Erin Scraba (EMBC)	Phone: 250-952-4854	Mobile: s.17
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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Emergency Program Act
Review****Suggested Response:**

- The Emergency Program Act (EPA) was enacted in 1993 and has received only minor revisions since that time.
- In 2016, Emergency Management BC (EMBC) hosted an online public consultation with British Columbians on the future of the EPA. We asked critical infrastructure stakeholders, indigenous and local governments, emergency management professionals, and members of the general public about modernizing the legislation to support emergency mitigation and prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.
- EMBC will consider the feedback received during the 2016 engagement period for potential legislative amendments.
- Given the extensive flood and wildfire events of 2017, it may be necessary to undertake further consultation, both internally and externally to review priority elements such as declarations of emergency, evacuation orders, evacuation planning and other processes outlined in the EPA.
- Consultation results will support the process of drafting new and updated external guidance documents.

Background:

- The EPA requires local authorities, ministries, crown corporations, government agencies and other persons to develop plans and programs to respond to emergencies and disasters in the province.
- On July 30, 2015, government directed a review of the EPA to ensure the legislation is up to date and effective in managing emergencies in B.C. The review was also intended to address recommendations made by the Office of the Auditor General's Catastrophic Earthquake Preparedness Report of March 2014, and the subsequent December 2014 British Columbia Earthquake Preparedness Consultation Report by Henry Renteria.
- The review of the EPA focused on three specific areas:
 - Modernizing the legislation;
 - Clarifying roles and responsibilities; and
 - Supporting emergency response and recovery.

- To support public engagement on the review of the EPA, EMBC drafted a discussion paper outlining the following policy proposals:
 - Define emergency plans to comprise elements of emergency preparation, mitigation, response and recovery;
 - Clarify the definition of emergency and include damage to the environment;
 - Change the definition of local authority to include Treaty First Nations;
 - Clarify the role/responsibility of EMBC and local authorities in emergencies;
 - Allow the Minister's delegate the authority to order local authorities and other government bodies, such as Crown Corporations, to prepare or amend emergency plans;
 - Define critical infrastructure services and require owners of critical infrastructure assets to provide information about them;
 - Outline criteria to guide the exceptional powers, such as assuming use or demolition of personal land or property, allowed during a declared state of emergency;
 - Add the authority to collect/use/disclose information in an emergency;
 - Add the ability to expedite accreditation of medical personnel from other Canadian jurisdictions;
 - Provide measures to enforce evacuation orders and make those forcibly removed financially responsible for their evacuation; and
 - Consider the terms for limitation and expansion of employment protection for the local authority during a state of emergency.

Results from the 2016 Engagement Process

- An online forum to discuss the policy proposals was held between January 11, 2016 and April 22, 2016. The forum was open to the general public.
- Stakeholders and First Nation chiefs and councils were personally invited to participate in the engagement process.
- In response to the engagement process, EMBC received over 70 submissions from stakeholders. More than 100 blog style comments were posted to the online forum.
 - The majority of feedback received during the engagement period was supportive of EMBC's policy proposals.

- However, some local authorities expressed concerns about their role in enforcing evacuation orders. EMBC also received questions from local authorities about the proposed powers of the Minister to direct changes to local authority emergency plans.

Contact: Erin Scraba (EMBC)

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Earthquake Preparedness****Suggested Response:**

- Emergency management and earthquake preparedness is a shared responsibility that begins in every home, for every business and all levels of government.
- The province continues to explore all possible opportunities to enhance provincial emergency preparedness for a catastrophic event, including the following initiatives:
 - BC Earthquake Immediate Response Plan and sustained response planning;
 - Increased capacity for Emergency Management BC (EMBC) logistics and operational co-ordination;
 - Implementation of recommendations and learnings from the \$1.2-million full-scale, provincial-level earthquake "Coastal Response Exercise" held in June, 2016;
 - Over \$3 million of seismic investments made in March 2017 in B.C. to support research into earthquake related hazards for ground shaking, liquefaction, and earthquake induced slope instability across Metro Vancouver, and to support priority seismic upgrades;
 - Launch of public education initiatives, including the PreparedBC web site and corresponding guides for emergency preparation.
 - The Master of Disaster public education program for emergency preparedness launched in 2016 in B.C. schools is a fun and interactive, three part learning resource available both in English and French, designed to help students learn about emergency preparedness from a proactive all-hazards approach. This program will be a focus during this year's Great BC Earthquake ShakeOut drill.
 - \$95,000 investment to improve the speed of delivery for the Provincial Emergency Notification System and the Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEOI) for an earthquake early warning and seismic program for B.C.;
 - Support to partner agencies like the Heavy Urban Search and Rescue team (HUSAR) to aid in catastrophic rescue efforts;
 - Approximately \$17 billion has been invested in capital funding for seismic upgrades to schools, health facilities, and transportation infrastructure; and

- Contributed to the development of policy recommendations for earthquake risk reduction in B.C., through the Understanding Risk Vancouver Symposium held March 29-31, 2017.
- EMBC has partnered with other government organizations, public and private industry, and academia to drive several seismic related projects that will enhance the province's level of preparedness for a catastrophic earthquake event. These include research into earthquake early warning and seismic monitoring systems and undertaking detailed earthquake hazard risk assessments.

Early Warning Systems and Seismic Investments/Plans

- The provincial government supports the work that our partners are doing in seismic technology.
- In October 2016, we put out a RFEOI for an earthquake early warning and seismic monitoring program. This is government's way of listening to the extraordinary ideas and innovations that can help the province to improve public safety for all British Columbians.
- We hope that through the RFEOI, we will develop a better understanding and may offer new opportunities government may not have considered before.
- This is a task that requires continuous improvement and ongoing attention.
- We're also working with Ocean Networks Canada on a keystone project to develop an earthquake early warning system for the Cascadia Subduction Zone that will be capable of delivering notifications to a selection of agencies in the province.
 - We are collaborating with Natural Resources Canada and non-governmental agencies to develop a better understanding of earthquake hazards and risks in B.C. For example, in March 2017, the province provided \$2.2 million to fund a project with the Institute for Catastrophic Loss reduction to investigate the earthquake related hazards of ground shaking, liquefaction, and earthquake induced slope instability in Metro Vancouver.
- But it's up to all of us, all levels of government, individuals and businesses, to make earthquake preparedness a priority. Emergency management is a shared responsibility that begins in every home with an understanding of the potential for earthquakes to occur, preparation of an emergency kit, and a family evacuation and re-unification plan.

Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEOI) Status

- A RFEOI for an earthquake early warning system and seismic monitoring program for B.C. was published in October, 2016.

- Following meetings held late in 2016, with more than 30 organizations and individuals in attendance, the province received 20 expressions of interest. They represent an excellent response from local, national and international firms.
- In early 2017, the RFEOs were reviewed and staff met with respondents, continuing to explore the development of an early earthquake warning and seismic monitoring program.
- It is expected that an update will be provided once government has had an opportunity to review the proposed program.

BC Building Code (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing)

- B.C. faces the highest earthquake hazard in Canada. As a result, our Building Code requires that new buildings are designed to better withstand the impacts of earthquakes.
- The code's seismic requirements generally apply to new construction and the renovation of existing buildings and are intended to protect life by allowing people to escape the building after an earthquake; however, they do not always ensure the building is able to be utilized after an earthquake.
- The code's seismic requirements are reviewed continuously as lessons are learned from seismic events all over the world and new best practices and research findings emerge. A new national building code is typically introduced every five to seven years.

Earthquake Integrated Asset Management Plan

- The Earthquake Integrated Asset Management Plan will reach across government to identify risk factors that affect the resiliency of British Columbia's infrastructure and address challenges following a damaging earthquake in schools, universities, colleges, courthouses, correctional facilities, health care and hospital facilities, and to our roads and bridges.
- Associated Engineering has been hired through an request for proposal process to assist in developing the plan.
- Our government is looking to advance the province's approach to making British Columbia a world-class leader in the management of seismic risk.

Background:

- In March 2014, the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) released a report concluding that EMBC was not adequately prepared for a catastrophic earthquake. Government accepted the OAG's report, but noted that disaster preparedness is a shared responsibility.
- In response to the OAG report, Henry Renteria, past Emergency Manager from Oakland,

California, was appointed chair of the province's year-long earthquake consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders, after which he released a report on March 26, 2015, denoting B.C.'s need for:

- Additional public education;
- A province wide risk analysis along with additional availability of risk management maps and information;
- A comprehensive emergency management training and exercise strategy developed and implemented by EMBC in coordination with its partners;
- Enhanced authority and resources for EMBC;
- Ensuring that funding system wide is adequate, creates appropriate incentives and, addresses all phases of emergency management;
- Implementation of performance and accountability measures for ministries and local governments; and
- Development of cross-ministry plans and capacity for dealing with catastrophic events.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Fire Services Act****Suggested Response:**

- The Fire Services Act (FSA) is the governing provincial legislation currently in force outlining the regulatory framework for fire safety in the province.
- It has been more than 35 years since the last substantial update to the Fire Services Act and there have been important changes in fire safety and prevention that are not reflected in the current legislation.
- The new FSA received Royal Assent on May 19, 2016, but has not yet been brought into force.
- The FSA will come into effect by Order-In-Council (OIC).
- Prior to the issuance of an OIC, regulations are being developed to support the FSA along with policies to guide its implementation.

Background:

- The FSA is the current legislation and is the foundation that provides power to the fire commissioner to conduct inspections, investigations, and to ensure compliance with the Act and the B.C. Fire Code.
- The Office of the Fire Commissioner is mandated under the Act to consult with, and give information to fire chiefs and fire departments, establish minimum standards for the selection and training of fire services personnel, as well as to provide advice and recommendations on the establishment of fire departments.
- The current Act provides for a system of local assistants to the fire commissioner appointments that provide the powers of fire inspection and investigation along with related fire loss data reporting.
- The Act was last substantially updated in 1979. The passing of legislation such as the Charter of Rights and Freedoms as well as the Community Charter enacted since the last revision of the Act, has created the need to update aspects of the Act to reflect their impacts.
- The new FSA was given Royal Assent on May 19, 2016, but has not yet been brought into force.

- The goal of the new Act is to modernize the legislation and to make improvements to help ensure the safety of British Columbians including:
 - Providing the power to evacuate and secure premises;
 - Enabling local authorities to designate fire inspectors/investigators;
 - Providing effective tools for Fire Code enforcement; and
 - Permitting the flexibility to match resources to compliance requirements.
- The new Act includes the following elements:
 - A manageable and streamlined out of court enforcement system with administrative penalties that will improve compliance;
 - Providing local authorities with the power to evacuate or close a building where there is immediate danger to life and/or property;
 - Streamlining the fire inspection and investigation process;
 - Eliminating local assistants to the fire commissioner appointed by the BC Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) and replacing them with inspectors and investigators appointed directly by local authorities where appropriate, and
 - Providing inspection and investigation consistency in B.C. with the OFC setting the qualification standards.
- The new Act took into account a full range of feedback received through an extensive consultation process, including ideas generated in previous efforts to update and modernize the legislation.
- After receiving Royal Assent, the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) shared a legal opinion that determined that the wording that requires regional districts to designate fire inspectors and fire investigators could result in a situation whereby regional districts might become obligated to conduct inspections or investigations, even where such services are not currently provided.
- The OFC consulted with UBCM and conveyed that amendments would be undertaken to address this issue. On September 26, 2016, former Minister Yamamoto advised UBCM in writing that an amendment would be made to the legislation prior to it being brought into force.
- Direction will be sought from government with respect to amendments and next steps to prepare for the Act to come into effect.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Engagement and Support for
First Nation Communities during
2017 Flood and Wildfire Events****Suggested Response:**

- Emergency Management BC (EMBC) supported more than 30 individual First Nation communities during historic spring flood and wildfire events in 2017.
- To provide added attention to the unique needs of First Nation communities during the 2017 emergency events, EMBC enlisted the help of more than 40 public service First Nations relationship professionals from other provincial government ministries.
 - These individuals filled the roles of First Nation liaisons within the Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres and the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre;
 - The First Nation Liaisons hosted daily coordination calls for the sole benefit of First Nation communities impacted by the flood and wildfire events; and
 - The First Nation liaisons connected with First Nation community representatives on a consistent basis to offer guidance and assistance with emergency management issues within the community.
- Due to the severity of the 2017 wildfire event, material was developed and delivered to First Nation community leaders mid-season, to encourage increased awareness and preparedness in the face of a wildfire event impacting their community.
- The province understands that some First Nations communities are concerned that their infrastructure will not be protected if they choose to evacuate. Both EMBC and the BC Wildfire Services follow a series of response goals that apply to all communities. As an example, during response, EMBC works with all communities to ensure their identified needs regarding critical infrastructure are prioritized and that these needs are brought to the attention of other appropriate agencies such as the BC Wildfire Service.
- The issuing authority of an evacuation alert or order for a First Nations community is done through chief and council and passed by a band council resolution (BCR). Once signed, the BCR is submitted to the appropriate EMBC Provincial Regional Coordination Centre.
- When communities stay behind during recommended evacuation orders, this places community members and responders at unnecessary risk.
- In upholding public safety, the province will not leave a community without support in a time of need. Even if a community makes the choice to stay behind, EMBC will continue to

provide support through outreach and communication.

- Preliminary scheduling and organizational work is underway for formal After Action Reviews with willing First Nation communities impacted during the 2017 flood and wildfire events.
- The goal of the review will be to draw from experiences of First Nation communities during the 2017 emergency events, identifying best practices and areas where more attention is needed or a different approach required.

Background:

- A ten year service agreement signed between EMBC and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) came into effect on April 1, 2017.
- Prior to April 1, 2017, as mandated by a 1993 Letter of Understanding (LOU) with (INAC), EMBC funded and provided provincial support services to First Nation communities during the response and recovery phases of an emergency event.
- The new agreement signed between EMBC and INAC extends EMBC's mandate to support First Nation communities in the preparedness and mitigation functions of emergency management.
- In March and April 2017, EMBC's new First Nation coordination team hosted five engagements throughout the province to discuss the new service agreement between EMBC and INAC.
 - The engagement sessions were attended by representatives from more than 50 individual First Nation communities and the engagement sessions were an opportunity for the EMBC team to understand the needs, challenges and capacities of First Nation communities with regards emergency management.
- During the 2017 wildfire season, Anaham First Nation chose to evacuate only children and elders from their community, leaving about 250 to 300 people in the community at any given time. An evacuation order was recommended to the community by BC Wildfire Service.
- During this time, EMBC maintained our relationship with Anaham First Nation and held daily situational awareness calls with the community.
- While the recommended evacuation order was in effect in the area, EMBC continued to provide direct support to Anaham First Nation through the provisions of a satellite phone, food supplies and continued connection in to the provincial emergency management structure.

- EMBC continues to build a positive relationship with Anaham First Nation and is working with the community to explore projects such as the development of a reception centre and emergency management training for community members.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE

**Fraser River Debris Trap
Operations and
Shxw'ow'hamel First Nation**

Suggested Response:

- The Fraser River debris trap is a vital public safety and environmental asset. Annually, it captures significant quantities of floating debris, removing a risk to human safety, the environment, navigation and foreshore structures downstream.

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Background:

- The debris trap, located on the Fraser River just south of Hope, captures up to 100,000 cubic metres of debris annually and has been operating on Crown land and a portion of the Shxw'ow'hamel First Nation (SFN) lands since 1979.
- The annual avoidance costs related to the clean-up, repair of vessels, bridge maintenance, foreshore infrastructure and riparian habitat are estimated to be greater than approximately \$7.3 million.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Freshet 2017****Suggested Response:**

- The 2017 freshet was a significant event in duration and the scope of the flooding experienced across the southern portion of the province.
- Close to 20 communities and thousands of home owners were impacted by flood waters with two evacuation orders, four evacuation alerts and six band council resolutions issued.
- Emergency Social Service supports were provided to more than 2,500 affected residents.
- The province supported freshet response by deploying temporary flood protection assets such as sandbags and Gabion baskets to hold back rising waters.
- Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) was declared for specified areas and applications can be submitted until October 27, 2017.

Background:

- Freshet started on April 27, 2017 with a report of a landslide near Rayleigh, along Hwy 5 north of the City of Kamloops in the central region.
- On May 4, significant rain on snow resulted in stream flooding that then evolved to lake and stream flooding. This occurred primarily in the Okanagan and Nicola drainages. Continued snow melt, in the Okanagan and Nicola Lakes rose to historic and near historic levels. Flooding also developed in the central, southeast, northwest and northeast regions.
- Much higher than normal snow packs for this time of year, at mid and upper elevations, drove the increase in floods.
- Okanagan Lake peaked at the modern day high, equivalent to 1948 levels, at 343.25 meters.
- Multiple ministries coordinated a cross-government effort to support local governments and First Nations.
 - The local authorities affected by 2017 Freshet are Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Regional District of Central Okanagan, Village of Cache Creek, Town of Osoyoos, Township of Spallumcheen, Okanagan Similkameen Regional District, Regional District of North Okanagan, City of Kamloops, Village of Lumby, City of Merritt, Thompson Nicola Regional District, City of Vernon, City of Armstrong, City of Penticton, City of Enderby, District of Summerland and District of Coldstream; and

- First Nations affected by 2017 Freshet are Adams Lake, Bonaparte-Pavilion, Coldwater Creek, Tk'emlups, Little Shuswap, Lower Nicola, Lower Similkameen-Keremeos, Nooaitch, Okanagan, Osoyoos, Penticton, Shackan, Skeetchestn, Splatshin, Upper Nicola, and Westbank First Nations.
- First Nations in the central region engaged early in the emergency management role for their communities.
- Estimated costs submitted by First Nations to August 22, 2017 freshet response is \$6,739,989 while local government estimated costs to date are \$32,838,753.
- The Canadian Red Cross engaged early and through donations offered \$600 to those families whose primary dwelling was impacted by flooding.
- To protect critical infrastructure and homes across the flood areas the following resources were deployed:
 - 4.4 million sandbags;
 - 7.5 kms of Gabion style baskets; and
 - 6.8 kms of Aqua Dams were placed.
- The DFA program is delivered under the Emergency Program Act and the ensuing Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation. The DFA program, in effect since 1995, is obliged to provide compensation in compliance with this legislation.
- The demobilization of deployed resources such as sandbags, Gabions and Aqua Dams continues.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Emergency Management and
Indigenous and Northern Affairs
Canada Services Funding
Agreement****Suggested Response:**

- The safety of all British Columbians is a priority for government.
- We continue to explore how to improve the delivery of emergency management services to all residents of B.C., inclusive of First Nations communities.
- On April 1, 2017, Emergency Management BC (EMBC) began implementation of a ten year, \$30 million service agreement with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) to provide enhanced emergency management services and support to First Nation communities.
- Under the agreement, EMBC will work with First Nations communities to improve community preparedness and awareness through planning, training and public education.
- The recent flooding and wildfire season has been difficult for many First Nations communities but has also highlighted areas for EMBC to focus on throughout implementation of the agreement.
- As we move forward we will work together with First Nations communities to improve service delivery with an eye to enhancing safety and better overall preparedness, planning, response, and recovery for all British Columbians.

Background:

- The INAC/EMBC Emergency Management Funding Agreement replaces a 1993 Letter of Understanding and allows EMBC to increase its capacity to better support First Nation communities.
- The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) supports the agreement and plans to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with EMBC and INAC that commits the parties to ongoing engagement.
- Implementation of the Agreement supports the province's commitment of reconciliation with First Nations because it allows EMBC to provide the same level of service to all British Columbians without consideration of jurisdictional boundaries.

- Under the agreement, First Nation communities are provided with provincial emergency management services equivalent to those local authorities receive, including mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery support.
- To provide these support services, EMBC is using agreement funding to hire new staff, acquire additional resources and link First Nations to the provincial EMBC structure.
- The increase in EMBC's service capacity will address concerns raised in the 2014 Auditor General's report, Catastrophic Earthquake Response, and establish a more consistent level of service to all residents of B.C.
- Several important benefits that are expected to flow from implementation of the agreement include:
 - Consistent implementation of a common emergency management system and methodology, resulting in more resilient communities across the province;
 - Emergency management training for First Nation community members and cultural competency training for new and current EMBC staff; and
 - Improved relationships between local governments, First Nations and EMBC.

Implementation

- The agreement took effect on April 1, 2017.
- Implementation of the agreement doubles EMBC's current client base (181 local governments and 193 First Nations).
- EMBC is currently hiring 23 additional new staff members and expanding office space and resources such as vehicles and training materials.

First Nations Engagement

- The FNLC¹ was engaged by INAC and EMBC during negotiation of the agreement.
- To ensure ongoing engagement of the FNLC regarding implementation of the agreement, EMBC, INAC and the FNLC have established a tripartite relationship.

¹ The FNLC is comprised of political executives from the BC Assembly of First Nations, the First Nations Summit, and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and was formed to represent BC First Nations at a provincial level. The province works closely with the FNLC on various initiatives such as First Nations engagement events and provincial policy development.

- To formalize this relationship, INAC lead the development of a draft MOU (see Appendix 1) that commits the parties to regular engagement as to the delivery of programs and services provided under the agreement. The MOU has been endorsed by INAC and EMBC but has not yet been signed by the FNLC.

Financial Implications

- In fiscal year 2016/17 EMBC received \$1.033 million to prepare for agreement implementation and support engagement of First Nation communities.
- In April 2016, government approved EMBC's request to enter into the agreement (Appendix 2) and increased EMBC's operating budget. This budget increase is offset by funding from INAC resulting in a net zero impact for the province.
- The total value of the agreement is \$30 million over ten years. See Appendix 3 INAC Agreement Budget Impacts including yearly breakdown and 2017/18 details).
- In 2017/18, EMBC will receive \$2.7-million from INAC which represents 17.5 percent of EMBC's operating budget.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Local Government
Support Strategy****Suggested Response:**

- Emergency Management BC (EMBC) has developed a three year strategy (2016- 2018) designed to enhance current service delivery for local authority emergency management programs.
- The strategy is based on consultation with local government emergency program coordinators, jurisdictional reviews, and EMBC staff interviews.
- Strong local emergency management programs have a direct influence on a community's ability to prepare, respond and recover when faced with a disaster. This strategy is designed to improve the support offered by EMBC to local authority emergency programs as they work to build and improve their plans and programs.
- The strategy will also serve as an excellent foundation in support of EMBC's new agreement with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) to provide enhanced emergency management support to First Nations communities.
- Lessons learned during the 2017 freshet and wildfire activations are being taken into account to ongoing and future developments in tools, publications, and policy.

Background:

- Local authorities are required by the Emergency Program Act to establish and maintain an emergency program. EMBC has a unique leadership role in providing support and guidance to these programs.
- As a result of consultations, research, jurisdictional reviews, and staff interviews, it was determined that there are opportunities to better support local government emergency programs through enhanced communications, policy and toolkits.
- In October 2015, a three year strategy was published in order to support EMBC's goal to ensure "EMBC is effective in supporting other responsible authorities in their mandate to mitigate and manage emergencies and disasters," as outlined in EMBC's strategic plan.
- The four goals of the strategy are:
 - To apply a flexible approach to tool development that recognizes the differences between local authority emergency programs;

2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Local Government
Support Strategy****Suggested Response:**

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Background:

- Local authorities are required by the Emergency Program Act to establish and maintain an emergency program. EMBC has a unique leadership role in providing support and guidance to these programs.
- As a result of consultations, research, jurisdictional reviews, and staff interviews, it was determined that there are opportunities to better support local government emergency programs through enhanced communications, policy and toolkits.
- In October 2015, a three year strategy was published in order to support EMBC's goal to ensure "EMBC is effective in supporting other responsible authorities in their mandate to mitigate and manage emergencies and disasters," as outlined in EMBC's strategic plan.
- The four goals of the strategy are:
 - To apply a flexible approach to tool development that recognizes the differences between local authority emergency programs;

- To provide EMBC staff the tools, resources and training to ensure effective program delivery to local authorities;
 - To create more opportunities for meaningful dialogue and communications between EMBC and local authorities; and
 - To promote leadership and provide governance through collaboration and shared learning.
- The deliverables of the strategy are diverse and include engagement with all EMBC sections. Current activities underway include (for complete details see Appendix 1: Project Status Report):
 - The development of an emergency planning toolkit for local authorities;
 - Updating the Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Analysis online tool;
 - Updating the Financial Assistance Guidelines for Emergency Response and Recovery;
 - Hosting of facilitated regional/provincial discussions through an education webinar series, season readiness workshops, regular regional coordination calls, and other activities; and
 - Participation in events such as the Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity Conference and Union of BC Municipalities forum.

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Appendix 1: The Strategy to Advance Support for Local Authority Emergency Management Programs

SUMMARY:

- EMBC has developed a three year strategy (2016- 2018) designed to enhance current service delivery for local authority emergency programs.
- The strategy is based on consultation with local authority emergency program coordinators, jurisdictional reviews, and EMBC staff interviews.
- The intended long-term outcome for this framework is that local authority emergency programs are well-supported through consistent communications and improved, modernized tools provided by EMBC. By enhancing a model of engagement that encourages partnership, dialogue and ongoing problem solving, it is anticipated that EMBC will better understand relevant issues and will be better able to seek cooperative solutions and support local authorities as a result.

Project Status Report

Support to Local Authority Government Emergency Management Programs

Reporting Period:

May 2017- August 2017

Project Sponsors: Heather Lyle

Project Manager: Elizabeth Scambler

TARGET COMPLETION DATE (Phase I): March 31, 2018

PROJECT % COMPLETE TO DATE: 60%

Major Milestones and Deliverables:	Target Date	Responsible	Completed	Comments
<i>Milestones / Deliverables</i>				
• Development of strategy to engage, inform and support local government emergency management programs	December 31, 2015		100%	
• Update local authority-specific website content	December 31, 2015	Social Media	100%	Local authority-specific section of website created.
• Create a local authority planning guide and template	December 2017	Elizabeth Scambler	80%	Planning Guide and Template created. Pilots ongoing. Delayed due to PECC activations
• Update the Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Analysis Tool	March 2019	Elizabeth Scambler	10%	Project initiation delayed due to IMB staffing shortage. NDMP funding only available until March 2018 but an extension has been requested. The project is delayed due to PECC activations.
• Update the document <i>Financial Assistance for Emergency Response and Recovery: A Guide for BC Local Authorities and First Nations</i> .	December 2017	Kyle Johnson	50%	Working group established as a Lean Project. Kaizen session took place in January 2017. Product is in development but delayed due to PECC activations.
Internal to EMBC Local Authority	Bi-monthly	Elizabeth	Ongoing	Established to share internally

August 25, 2017

Major Milestones and Deliverables:	Target Date	Responsible	Completed	Comments
<i>Milestones / Deliverables</i>				
Project Sharing Meeting		Scambler		on projects and initiatives which engage and impact local governments.
• Update Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) forms	February 2017	Planning and OLPE	90%	Forms were updated and posted to the website.
• Update Community Profile Template	March 2018	Elizabeth Scambler	5%	Initial brainstorm session held, and working group established. Delayed due to PECC activations.

Accomplishments This Period:

- The Planning Guide and Template were presented at the Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity Conference in November 2016. Various communities have begun piloting the materials.
- Socialization of the strategy with local authorities is ongoing.
- A working group was established to review the *Financial Assistance for Emergency Response and Recovery: A Guide for BC Local Authorities and First Nations*.
- A bi-monthly internal EMBC meeting was established to share and increase communication on projects and initiatives which engage and impact local governments.
- EOC forms posted on EMBC's website are now consistent with what is being taught in JIBC courses.
- A working group.
- Research initiated into development of the HRVA tool, as well as, development of response and recovery tools used during 2017 freshet and wildfires.

Plans for Next period:

- Address and incorporate observations and lessons identified from the 2017 freshet and wildfire events.
- Finalize the guide and template for local authority emergency planning.
- Launch working group to update the hazard, risk and vulnerability analysis tool.
- Finalize the update to the document *Financial Assistance for Emergency Response and Recovery: A Guide for BC Local Authorities and First Nations*. It will be called the *Emergency Response Costs Guidelines for Local Governments*.
- Continue to socialize the strategy and promote the relationship building and information sharing components.
- Launch internal working group to review the community profile process and template.
- Consider areas of cohesion with support for local authorities and for support to First Nations.

Issues and Concerns:

In order for the strategy to be successful, it must be appropriately resourced to ensure that momentum is maintained with both staff and local authorities. Buy-in from executive and other sections is necessary for effective and timely implementation.

Various items outlined in the strategy are behind schedule due to the 2017 freshet and wildfire emergency events. Project timelines and activities are under review.

2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Multi-Year Emergency
Management Exercise
Program****Suggested Response:**

- British Columbia is vulnerable to many hazards and risks including a catastrophic earthquake with the potential of major impacts to public safety and billions of dollars in damage and losses to the province.
- Aside from an actual event, emergency management exercises offer the highest degree of realism to test the province's operational readiness for a major or catastrophic emergency event.
- Following the success of Exercise Coastal Response 2016 to test elements of the province's Immediate Response Plan to a catastrophic earthquake, the province approved a multi-year exercise program.
- The program brings together all levels of government, First Nations, non-government organizations, Crown corporations, volunteers, critical infrastructure owners and other key emergency management partners.
- Exercise Salish Sea 2017 represents the next scheduled full scale exercise to test joint operational readiness to respond to a major maritime disaster; and
- Exercise Salish Sea 2017 takes place October 25 to 27, 2017, and is being co-led by the Canadian Coast Guard, the Canadian Armed Forces, BC Ferries, BC Emergency Health Services, and Emergency Management BC.

Background:

- Since the March 2014 Auditor General's report, which indicated that the province was not prepared for a catastrophic earthquake, efforts have been underway to strengthen the province's operational readiness and resilience including the development of an 'all of government' emergency management exercise program to effectively test/validate plans based on known hazards, risks and vulnerabilities.
- This approach enables key partners engaged in emergency response to incrementally strengthen joint operational preparedness by participating in a series of increasingly complex exercises, with each successive exercise building upon the previous one.

- Future full scale exercises being planned by Emergency Management BC include a train derailment/hazmat spill scenario in 2019 and a second earthquake exercise in 2021.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**National Disaster Mitigation Program****Suggested Response:**

- It is important to collaborate with the federal government on cost-sharing programs that mitigate disasters and protect infrastructure and the lives of British Columbians.
- The impacts of flooding disasters in B.C. and across Canada produce a significant economic, social and physical strain on individuals, communities and all levels of government. A reactive approach to emergency management is not sufficient.
- The province is working with the federal government to focus on a proactive, sustainable approach that includes investments in disaster prevention and mitigation to reduce the impact of these events on British Columbians and further afar to all Canadians.

Background:

- The Public Safety Canada (PSC) launched the five year, \$200-million National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) in April 2015.
- The program fills a critical gap by providing funding to effectively mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from flood related events.
- Local governments, First Nations, and other eligible entities are allowed to apply to the program. Projects are cost shared on a 50/50 basis between the province and PSC.
- Eligible projects could include both non-structural investments, such as flood-mapping and forecasting, and small-scale structural investments, such as retrofitting or modernizing existing structures to improve flood resiliency.
- The program is a merit based process where projects may be selected using objective and measurable criteria such as risk assessments, project readiness and return on investment.
- Eligible entities submit their applications to the Emergency Management BC (EMBC) Disaster Mitigation Program (DMP). DMP evaluates each application against the established criteria, reviews and seeks approval with EMBC's Assistant Deputy Minister, and then submits approved applications to PSC.
- Since inception of the NDMP, there have been three intakes for applications. For each intake the following projects were approved:
 - Intake 1 – three projects approved;

- Intake 2 – six projects approved; and
- Intake 3 – 21 projects approved.
- See Appendix 1: National Disaster Mitigation Program Approved Projects.
- To date, the federal government has committed to funding approximately \$5.5-million in projects.
- The provincial deadline for Intake 4 was August 25, 2017. The federal deadline is October 31, 2017.
- Prevention and mitigation refer to proactive steps to eliminate or reduce the risks of disasters. These activities are the most effective means of reducing disaster costs. Prevention and mitigation strategies benefit individuals and communities and help to protect critical infrastructure.

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Appendix 1: National Disaster Mitigation Program Approved Projects

Program Area (NDMP Intake)	Proponent	Project Name	Total Project Budget	Federal Portion	Provincial Portion	Other Portion e.g., local government, NGO
1	FLNRO	LIDAR - Lower Mainland Floodplain Mapping	\$1,108,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$108,000
1	Emergency Management BC	Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis (HRVA) Tool Update	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0
1	Emergency Management BC	Public Education - Flood Hazard Checklist for Property Purchasers	\$52,500	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$2,500

Program Area (NDMP Intake)	Proponent	Project Name	Total Project Budget	Federal Portion	Provincial Portion	Other Portion e.g., local government, NGO
2	Comox Valley Regional District	S1 - Oyster River/ Saratoga Beach Flood Risk Assessment	\$81,700	\$38,000	\$38,000	\$5,700
2	Cowichan Valley Regional District	S1 - Lake Cowichan/ Youbou Torrent Flow Assessment	\$209,000	\$97,250	\$97,250	\$14,500
2	Pitt Meadows, City of	S1 - Flood Hazard Risk Assessment	\$91,375	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$6,375
2	Prince Rupert, City of	S1 - Tsunami Flood Risk Assessment	\$480,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$30,000
2	Squamish, District of	S1 - Quantitative Risk Assessment for Squamish River Floodplain	\$190,000	\$89,000	\$89,000	\$12,000
2	Whistler, Resort Municipality of	S1 - Integrated Flood Hazard Management Risk Assessment	\$144,000	\$67,000	\$67,000	\$10,000
3	Abbotsford, City of	S4 - Geotechnical (Seismic) Assessment of Abbotsford Dykes	\$201,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$1,000
3	Central Kootenay, Regional District of	S1 - Flood and Geohazard Risk Review	\$537,500	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$37,500

Program Area (NDMP Intake)	Proponent	Project Name	Total Project Budget	Federal Portion	Provincial Portion	Other Portion e.g., local government, NGO
3	Chilliwack, City of	S2 - Floodplain Mapping	\$341,850	\$159,000	\$159,000	\$23,850
3	Cowichan Valley Regional District	S1 - Coastal Sea Level Rise Risk Assessment	\$96,750	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$6,750
3	Cowichan Valley Regional District	S1 - Regional Risk Assessment of Floodplain Areas	\$107,500	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$7,500
3	Cowichan Valley Regional District	S1 - Regional Dam Safety Analysis and Risk Assessment	\$275,200	\$128,000	\$128,000	\$19,200
3	Delta, Corporation of	S1 - Flood Protection System Risk Assessment	\$166,250	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$16,250
3	East Kootenay Regional District	S3 - Elk River Flood Mapping and Hydrology Study	\$250,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$0
3	Fraser Basin Council	S2 - Hydraulic Modelling and Mapping in BC's Lower Mainland	\$1,010,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$10,000
3	Fraser Basin Council	S1 - Thompson Watershed Mutli-jurisdictional Assessment	\$645,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$45,000
3	FLNR	S4 - Dike Consequence Classification	\$320,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$20,000
3	FLNR	S4 - Climate Change Scenario Modeling for Fraser River Watershed	\$258,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$8,000

Program Area (NDMP Intake)	Proponent	Project Name	Total Project Budget	Federal Portion	Provincial Portion	Other Portion e.g., local government, NGO
3	Golden, Town of	S1 - Kicking Horse River Ice Jam Flooding Risk Assessment	\$89,000	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$5,000
3	Cowichan Valley Regional District	S3 - Koksilah/ Shu-hwuykwselu Stormwater Drainage Mitigation Plan	\$215,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$15,000
3	Emergency Management BC	S4 - Kootenay Lake Region LiDAR and ortho-imagery Acquisition	\$1,698,500	\$790,000	\$790,000	\$118,500
3	Lumby, Village of	S3 - Flood Mitigation Plan	\$237,000	\$112,800	\$112,800	\$11,400
3	Powell River Regional District	S1 - Assessment of Coastal Hazards and Risks	\$67,275	\$31,500	\$31,500	\$4,275
3	Nanaimo, Regional District of	S1 - RDN and Town of Qualicum Beach Risk Assessment	\$160,500	\$70,000	\$70,000	20,500
3	Richmond, City of	S3 - Flood Mitigation Strategy Update	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0
3	Richmond, City of	S1 - Steveston Island Flood Risk Investigation	\$1,620,000	\$810,000	\$810,000	\$0
3	Stewart, District of	S4 - Bear River Small Scale Structural Mitigation	\$525,000	\$166,666	\$166,666	\$191,668

2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Public Safety Lifeline
Volunteer Groups and
Services Funding****Suggested Response:**

- There are five groups in B.C. that are designated as Public Safety Lifeline Volunteers (PSLV):
 - Search and rescue (SAR);
 - Emergency Social Services (ESS);
 - Emergency radio communications;
 - Provincial Emergency Program Air (PEP Air); and
 - Road rescue.
- The provision of these volunteer services is cost-effective, providing significant value to government when compared to the same services built on a dedicated staffing model.
- At present, PSLV groups must apply annually and compete for unsecured funds from the Provincial Gaming Grant Program, which creates financial uncertainty and challenges their ability to carry out long-term planning.
- A sustainable and secure funding source is needed to ensure the durability and sustainability of PSLV groups. Demand for their services is increasing.
- The province is exploring options to address funding security for the entire PSLV sector through a long-term comprehensive funding framework.
- In the interim, the province has provided, in addition to gaming grants, direct financial support to BC Search and Rescue Association, road rescue, Provincial Emergency Program Air, and Emergency Social Services to ensure continued levels of service. BC Search and Rescue Association has received \$15.5 million over the past two years. Emergency Social Services will receive \$4.2 million over the next two years through the Union of BC Municipalities and road rescue will receive \$1 million this year.

Background:

- PSLV groups provide a range of critical services to people who have become lost or injured in rural and remote areas, are involved in a motor vehicle accident, and/or require emergency social services support as a result of an emergency or local disaster.
- There are five main PSLV groups:
 1. Search and rescue is one of the primary public safety groups in B.C. and BC Search and Rescue Association represents 80 search and rescue groups in the province consisting of over 2,500 volunteers. These volunteer teams respond to more than 1,500 incidents per year.
 2. Emergency Social Services is a volunteer-based program, led by local governments, designed to provide immediate support to individuals impacted by an emergency or disaster event. The programs provide 72 hours of shelter, food, and essentials until individuals can access insurance and/or other relief programs. Local governments and Emergency Management BC (EMBC) support some 150 Emergency Social Services volunteer teams, comprising more than 5,000 volunteers from across the province.
 3. Emergency radio communications comprises approximately 1,600 licenced volunteer amateur radio operators who are affiliated with their local government's emergency management programs, often providing their own equipment. These volunteers assist with communications during an emergency, providing a proven and reliable means of communication.
 4. Provincial Emergency Program Air primarily assists Canadian Forces during search and rescue missions when additional resources are required, and assists RCMP, ground search crews, and local municipal forces to search for aircraft, boaters, hikers, and others who may be lost or injured. Over 100 aircraft are included in the program with more than 900 pilots, spotters, and navigators.
 5. Road rescue provides services outside of local jurisdictions. It is managed at the community level with a variety of service providers (approximately 160 fire departments and 19 societies/search and rescue groups) voluntarily responding to approximately 2,130 incidents per year.
- The provision of these volunteer services is cost effective, efficient, and provides significant value to government when compared to a service built on a dedicated staffing model. However, all PSLV groups face challenges with fundraising. In many cases, this is because their association with local governments disqualifies them from establishing a non-profit status, making them ineligible to fund-raise and/or obtain gaming grants.
- Since 2002, some PSLV groups have received funding through the Provincial Gaming Grant Program. Each year, successful PSLV applicants receive approximately \$10 million. While

this is a valuable funding source, grant application success is uncertain, challenging long-term planning and budgeting processes. Additionally, many groups have indicated that the administrative workload associated with applying for gaming grants is demanding of already scarce voluntary resources.

- Increasing demand for services, static funding levels, and an onerous process for accessing funding have created an unsustainable environment for these volunteer teams. In response, the province has provided financial support to augment that received through gaming grants.
- Over the last two years, the province has provided \$15.5 million to the BC Search and Rescue Association. With this funding, they have been testing the use of its disbursement model for funding search and rescue teams, for which is it requesting provincial endorsement.
- This year, the province also provided \$4.2 million in Emergency Social Services funding for the next two years through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, administered by the Union of BC Municipalities for training and equipment purchases. Service teams are equipped to respond to smaller events in their own communities and this funding support is intended to build local government capacity to respond to larger or catastrophic events.
- Provincial Emergency Program Air receives most of its funding through the Department of National Defence (DND). In 2017, the province provided them with \$100,000 in direct funding to support non-DND efforts such as transporting search and rescue volunteers.
- In addition, this year road rescue, as part of provincial funding to the Fire Chiefs Association of BC (FCABC), will receive \$1 million. The funds will support the development of a governance framework for road rescue services that will help facilitate the relationship between FCABC, road rescue teams, EMBC and other stakeholders.
- Emergency radio communications and road rescue groups are heavily reliant on local government funding and gaming grants. However, some groups are not eligible for gaming grants.
- The province is exploring options to address funding security for the entire PSLV sector through a long-term comprehensive funding framework.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Emergency Management
BC Public Education
Program****Suggested Response:**

- Public education is critical to create a prepared and resilient province.
- Depending on the size and scope of a disaster, British Columbians may need to personally manage for themselves for a week or more until first responders can support them in the aftermath.
- Disaster preparedness is a shared responsibility involving individuals, families, communities and all levels of government to create a resilient province that is prepared to protect against, respond to, and recover from disasters.
- This makes it integral for individuals to personally prepare their homes, workplaces and neighbourhoods and have a solid understanding of how they should respond during an emergency.
- As well, under Emergency Management BC (EMBC), the province created the PreparedBC brand, a one-stop-shop for consistent and trusted disaster readiness information, spanning all-hazards and serving both the general public and local authorities.
- Building on the trusted PreparedBC brand, priorities for 2017/2018 are:
 - Partners in Preparedness: Launch of a preparedness campaign through a partnership with key retailers and a loyalty reward program app to promote emergency readiness through the sale of disaster supplies. The campaign had been suspended pending consultation with government.
 - Carrot Social Behaviour App: PreparedBC is exploring a potential partnership with Carrot, an app that allows subscribers to earn loyalty card points for completing positive social or health-related quizzes/activities. There is a great deal of potential to incentivize preparedness via the app. There is also a possibility of connecting Carrot with retailers that take part in the Partners in Preparedness initiative.
 - Behavioural Insights Group (Policy School): In March 2017, the Public Service Agency's Behavioural Insights Group ran a policy school challenge that asked participants from various ministries to tackle the problem of boosting personal preparedness across B.C. PreparedBC will explore implementation of feasible proposals, with a focus on collecting baseline data on individual preparedness levels.

Background:

- PreparedBC was created in 2015 in response to the 2014 Office of the Auditor General's Report and the 2014 Henry Renteria Earthquake Consultation Report. Both indicated BC was not prepared to weather a catastrophic seismic event and identified public education as a critical component to enhance preparedness.
- Since its launch, PreparedBC has become B.C.'s one-stop-shop for consistent and trusted disaster readiness information, spanning all-hazards and serving both the general public and local authorities. All resources are available via a central repository at www.gov.bc.ca/PreparedBC. Note that internet links are underlined. Key programs and deliverables for 2016/2017 were:
 - Launch of Master of Disaster – a grade six program that educates students about disaster risks and the importance of preparedness;
 - Expansion of the PreparedBC Library; and
 - PreparedBC: Guide for Small Businesses
 - PreparedBC: Emergency Plan for Small Businesses
 - PreparedBC: Guide for Tourism Operators
 - PreparedBC: Emergency Plan for Tourism Operators
 - PreparedBC: Flood Information for Homeowners & Home Buyers
 - PreparedBC: Landslide Information for Homeowners & Home Buyers
 - Nine quick-draw videos on B.C.'s top risks and how to build an emergency kit.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**Royal Canadian Marine Search
and Rescue Support Services****Suggested Response:**

- Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue (RCMSAR) is part of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary Program providing boats and trained volunteers to support emergency response to marine incidents in B.C.
- RCMSAR is interested in establishing a formal partnership with the province, through Emergency Management BC (EMBC).
- EMBC will seek to better understand the partnership opportunities and implications of such an agreement and the range of services RCMSAR may be able to provide to the province.

Background:

- RCMSAR's primary role is part of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary Program. The powers, duties and functions of the Coast Guard services are recognized in the federal Oceans Act.
- RCMSAR provides boats and trained volunteers to support emergency response to marine incidents along coastal B.C. Volunteers are deployed through the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre.
- RCMSAR provides response supports through their inland station boat and volunteers on Shuswap Lake near Salmon Arm.
- RCMSAR has 1,100 volunteers in over 35 communities in British Columbia and provide year-round 24/7 search and rescue response off the 27,000 km of B.C.'s coastline. Its Coast Guard Auxiliary status carries an expectation that RCMSAR volunteers are immediately available upon deployment from the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre.
- EMBC currently accesses RCMSAR volunteers to assist in search and rescue response and other emergencies through the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre. Call-out, liability, insurance provisions, etc. for these missions are well established and covered by the Canadian Coast Guard.
- RCMSAR receives funding from a variety of sources. The 2015/16 figures available to EMBC include:
 - \$1.9 million from the Canadian Coast Guard;
 - \$2.9 million from BC Gaming grants;

- Some local government support, which is varied; and
- Private donations.
- On November 7, 2016, the federal government announced a \$1.5-billion Ocean Protection Plan for responses to tanker and fuel spills in the Pacific, Atlantic and Arctic oceans; RCMSAR is expecting to provide enhanced support for marine spill responses.
- RCMSAR also provides support through “tasking” for water rescue, rescue services, and transport of BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) personnel on Shuswap and Mara Lakes, which are inland waters. Search and rescue service is provided by Shuswap Search and Rescue, which can call on RCMSAR Shuswap Station 106 to assist.
- RCMSAR insurance coverage had been provided through the Canadian Coast Guard, however, the coverage was no longer extended to the inland operations at Shuswap Lake so the RCMSAR insurance was funded by the province. RCMSAR is looking for comparable insurance coverage for the inland station in order to maintain operations.

Memorandum of Understanding between EMBC and RCMSAR

- The current issue is a partnership request to establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between EMBC and RCMSAR.
- RCMSAR has been exploring ways to expand utilization of its capacity with a new focus on humanitarian work, enhancing emergency training to provide humanitarian assistance, building remote community capacity, and environmental response operations.
- EMBC must consider whether a more formal partnership with RCMSAR provides benefit to the province. There are potential benefits for EMBC and other ministries to access RCMSAR for humanitarian work and enhanced emergency training, however, these are already authorized activities and are accessed through the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre.
- If deployment occurred outside the centre’s process, costs and liability coverage for RCMSAR volunteers would need to be reviewed, with coverage provided by the province for these activities.
- EMBC has established important working relationships with various entities to support emergency response in B.C. Public Safety Lifeline Volunteers is registered with EMBC or local governments and includes six distinct groups, which are search and rescue, Emergency Social Services, emergency radio communications, Provincial Emergency Program Air, and road rescue. EMBC does not have specific agreements with these groups.

- RCMSAR has also approached the Ministry of Environment and other ministries to establish a formal agreement for ongoing collaboration of support, particularly around environmental emergencies.
- EMBC will continue to meet with RCMSAR to gather further information on specific challenges related to insurance and liability coverage for RCMSAR volunteers before determining the feasibility to enter into any formalized partnership agreement.
- EMBC is consulting with other key ministries, legal services and the risk management branch on the RCMSAR MOU proposal and expects to bring forward a recommendation in the fall.

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2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE

Wildfire Season 2017

Suggested Response:

- A provincial state of emergency was declared on July 7, 2017, in response to the significant impacts of wildfire and ended on September 15, 2017.
- While the extraordinary powers of the provincial state of emergency are no longer required, the wildfire season is not over. It is vital that the public remain prepared and continue to follow the direction of local authorities.
- The province will continue to take every action necessary to respond to the ongoing wildfire situation and support the recovery of affected communities.
- This extraordinary 2017 fire season has been extraordinary in its length, intensity, and widespread impacts as compared to the 2003 season, which means that evacuees have needed care in many locations and for unprecedented amounts of time.
 - The 2003 fire season burned **260,000 hectares**, while this year's season has already burned more than four times that amount: **1,191,306 hectares**.
 - The last provincial declaration of emergency was in 2003, which lasted **43 days (six weeks) from August 2 to September 14, 2003**. This year's provincial declaration of emergency, put in place on **July 7, 2017, until September 15, 2017 reaching 70 days (ten weeks)**.
 - Emergency Management BC estimates that 65,000 people were displaced by wildfire this year, compared to the 45,000 displaced in the 2003 fire season and 2,500 more were forced from their homes by flooding.
- The Emergency Social Services program supported the large number of evacuees that dispersed across the province. These local government volunteers were augmented by the Canadian Red Cross and other non-governmental organizations in meeting the needs of wildfire evacuees.
- There have been an estimated 502 structures throughout the province impacted by the wildfires. Of this provincial total 229 of these structures are homes.
- The Office of the Fire Commissioner provided structural protection response by deploying; UBCM Type 1 Structure Protection Units (SPU) plus Type 2 SPU's, two command trailers, fire engines and water tenders from 75 B.C. fire departments. In addition, SPU's from Ontario, Alberta and contractors were used. Having exhausted available SPU resources the Office of the Fire Commissioner also created three additional SPU's during the response.

- With the provincial state of emergency now expired, the Canadian Forces will be demobilizing personnel who have been assisting with the response efforts this season. The Province of British Columbia thanks the Canadian Armed Forces for their support.
- The Canadian Armed Forces were requested by the province to support potential evacuation needs and response efforts through military aviation resources, augmentation to policing needs within the many evacuation areas, and with wildfire suppression efforts on the fireline, some 650 military personnel were engaged.

Background:

- The province is experiencing an unprecedented wildfire season with over 1.19 million hectares burned, more than 5,000 firefighters engaged and more than 65,000 people displaced by the wildfires.
- Coordination and integration of provincial, federal and local government resources as well as other stakeholders has been exceptional.
- Following the wildfire season a focused after-action process will be implemented to capture improvements and best practices from this epic wildfire season.

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