

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Estimates 2018/19 Briefing Book**

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**Three Year Service Plan Comparison**

| (\$ millions)                  | 2017/18     | 2018/19     | 2019/20    | 2020/21   |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-----------|
| <b>2017/18 Plan**</b>          | \$1,029.624 | \$798.284   | \$798.291  | \$798.291 |
| <b>2018/19 Plan**</b>          | \$1,002.693 | \$786.466   | \$787.515  | \$790.465 |
|                                |             |             |            |           |
| <b>Plan over Plan Change</b>   |             | (\$11.818)  | (\$10.776) | (\$7.826) |
| <b>Plan over Plan % Change</b> |             | -1.5%       | -1.3%      | -1.0%     |
|                                |             |             |            |           |
| <b>Year over Year Change</b>   |             | (\$216.227) | \$1.049    | \$2.950   |
| <b>Year over Year % Change</b> |             | -21.56%     | 0.13%      | 0.37%     |

\*2017/18 year restated

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**Plan over Plan Changes**

**(Difference between 2017/18 Service Plan and 2018/19 Service Plan):**

| (\$ millions)                           | 2018/19         | 2019/20         | 2020/21        |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| <b><u>Budget 2018 Decisions</u></b>     |                 |                 |                |
| Cannabis Legalization                   | 3.140           | 2.360           | 2.310          |
| Violence Against Women Program          | 5.000           | 5.000           | 8.000          |
| Provincial Office for Domestic Violence | 0.878           | 0.878           | 0.878          |
| EMBC DM Office Staffing                 | 0.335           | 0.335           | 0.335          |
| EMBC Operational Staffing               | 1.029           | 1.029           | 1.029          |
| Community Corrections Surrey Courthouse | 0.193           | 0.193           | 0.193          |
| Overdose Prevention - Policing          | 2.850           | 2.850           | 2.850          |
| Overdose Prevention - Coroners          | 0.450           | 0.450           | 0.450          |
| Court/Staff Sergeant Reclassification   | (0.607)         | (0.607)         | (0.607)        |
| 2013 and 2016 JCC linked agreements     | 0.019           | 0.023           | 0.023          |
| Economic Stability Dividend/Mandate     | 2.101           | 3.919           | 3.919          |
| <b>Sub-total</b>                        | <b>15.388</b>   | <b>16.430</b>   | <b>19.380</b>  |
| Budget transfer to Attorney General     | (1.471)         | (1.471)         | (1.471)        |
| Budget transfer to Health               | (25.735)        | (25.735)        | (25.735)       |
| <b>Total</b>                            | <b>(11.818)</b> | <b>(10.776)</b> | <b>(7.826)</b> |



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**Year Over Year Changes in 2017/18 September Update Plan**

**(Difference between years in 2018 Budget including 2017/18 Restated):**

Year over year changes are primarily due to the new funding decisions discussed in the plan over plan changes above, as well as prior year funding decisions including confirmation of Budget 2017 and Budget 2016 decisions:

| (\$ millions)                                 | 2018/19        | 2019/20     | 2020/21     |
|---|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i><u>Budget Decisions</u></i>                |                |             |             |
| Cannabis Legalization                         | 3.14           | -0.78       | -0.05       |
| Violence Against Women Program                | 5.00           |             | 3.00        |
| EMBC DM Office Staffing                       | 0.34           |             |             |
| EMBC Operational Staffing                     | 1.03           |             |             |
| Community Corrections Surrey Courthouse       | 0.19           |             |             |
| Public Health Emergency - Opioid - Policing   | 6.05           | -0.10       |             |
| Public Health Emergency - Opioid - Coroners   | 1.28           |             |             |
| Wage Adjustments                              | 6.29           | 1.99        |             |
| Incremental Program Pressures                 | 0.42           | -0.06       |             |
| <b>Sub-total</b>                              | <b>23.73</b>   | <b>1.05</b> | <b>2.95</b> |
| <i><u>Reduction from one-time funding</u></i> |                |             |             |
| Wildfires and Flooding                        | -223.26        |             |             |
| Retroactive RCMP Compensation                 | -15.01         |             |             |
| Okanagan Correctional Centre                  | -1.69          |             |             |
| <b>Total</b>                                  | <b>-216.23</b> | <b>1.05</b> | <b>2.95</b> |

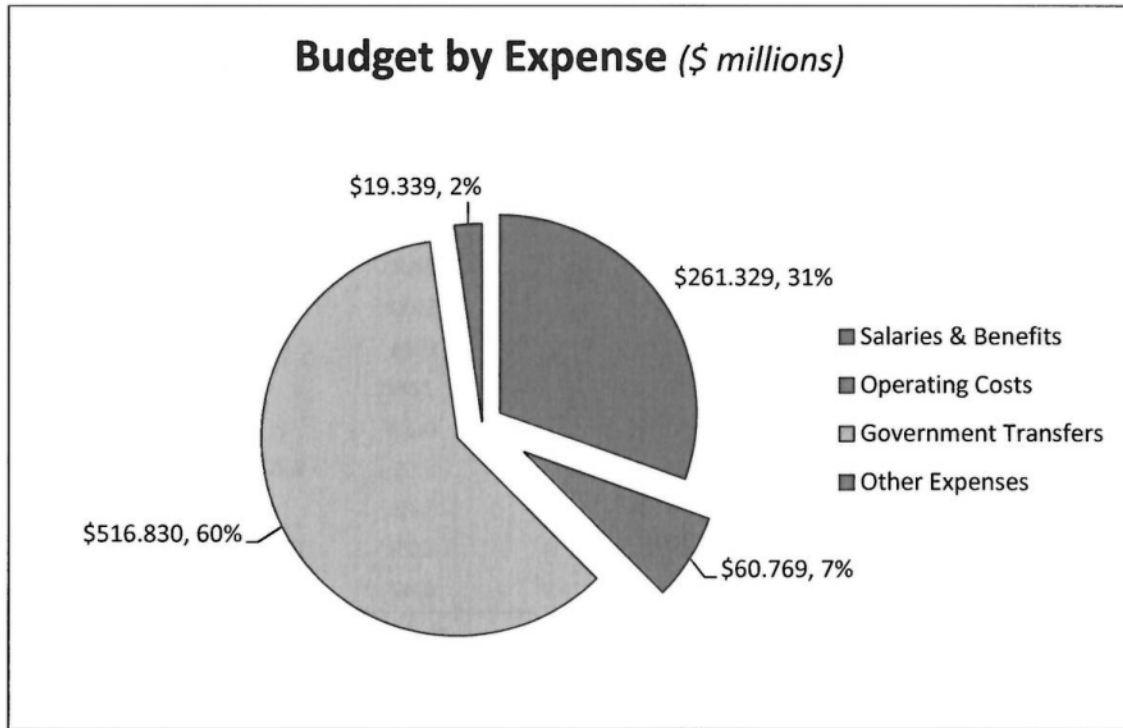
**Capital Budget:**

The 2018/19 capital budget is \$13.554 million, an increase of \$8.651 million from the previous year. The increase is primarily due to the Road Safety Initiative Phase 2 notional capital of \$8.873 million, offset by re-profiling of Phase 1 funding and other minor vehicle and specialized equipment adjustments. For administrative purposes, capital provided to the Ministry is centralized in Executive and Support Services.

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
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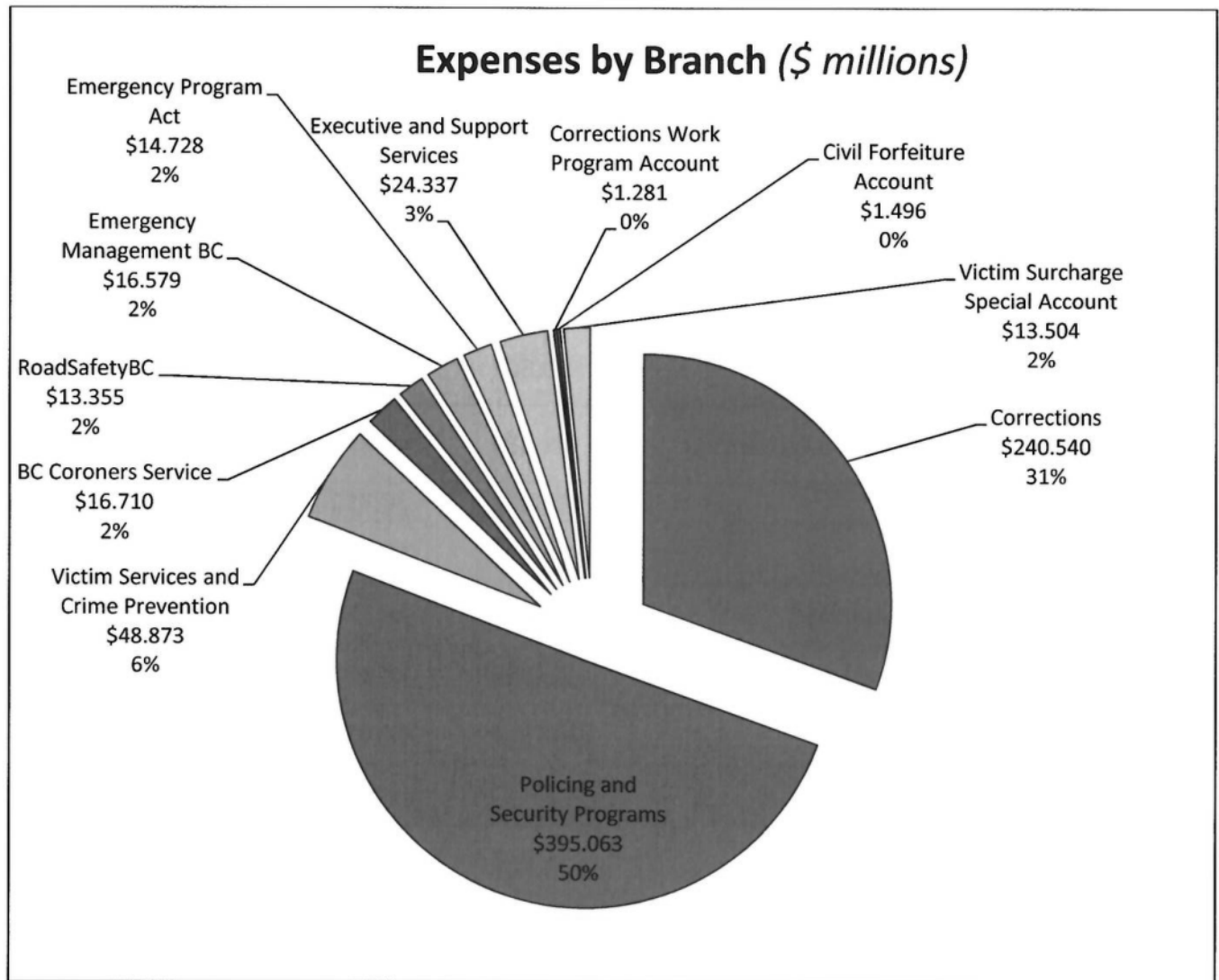
**Ministry Budget by Expense Type and by Branch**

**1. Expenses by Cost Type (does not include recovery offsets)**



**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
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**2. Total expenses by branch, net of recoveries**



**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
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**Operations Budget - Core Business Summary**

|   | 2017/18                            | 2018/19        | Change           | Change         |
|---|------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| (\$ millions)   | Restated<br>Estimates <sup>1</sup> | Estimates      | (\$)             | (%)            |
| <b>Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor<br/>General Operations</b> |                                    |                |                  |                |
| Corrections   | 238.225                            | 240.540        | 2.315            | 0.97%          |
| Policing and Security Programs  | 400.661                            | 395.063        | (5.598)          | -1.40%         |
| Victim Services and Crime Prevention                                  | 41.534                             | 48.873         | 7.339            | 17.67%         |
| BC Coroners Service   | 15.168                             | 16.710         | 1.542            | 10.17%         |
| RoadSafetyBC  | 13.027                             | 13.355         | 0.328            | 2.52%          |
| Emergency Management BC   | 15.462                             | 16.579         | 1.117            | 7.22%          |
| Executive and Support Services  | 23.868                             | 24.337         | 0.469            | 1.96%          |
| Emergency Program Act   | 237.968                            | 14.728         | (223.240)        | -93.81%        |
| <b>Ministry Operations Subtotal:</b>                                  | <b>985.913</b>                     | <b>770.185</b> | <b>(215.728)</b> | <b>-21.88%</b> |
| Correction Work Program Account                                       | 1.281                              | 1.281          | 0.000            | 0.00%          |
| Civil Forfeiture Account  | 1.995                              | 1.496          | (0.499)          | -25.01%        |
| Victim Surcharge Special Account                                      | 13.504                             | 13.504         | 0.000            | 0.00%          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>1,002.693</b>                   | <b>786.466</b> | <b>(216.227)</b> | <b>-21.56%</b> |
| <b>Capital Expenditures</b>   | <b>4.903</b>                       | <b>13.554</b>  | <b>8.651</b>     | <b>176.44%</b> |

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
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**Budget Summary by Branch**

**Corrections**

A \$2.315 million year over year funding increase due to cumulative wage adjustments (\$3.650 million), inmate count pressures (\$0.200 million), Surrey Community Corrections (\$0.193 million), offset by a decrease in the start-up funding for the Okanagan Correctional Centre (\$1.688 million), and legal services (\$0.040 million).

**Policing and Security Programs**

A \$5.598 million year over year funding decrease is a combination of the reduction of the retroactive component of the RCMP compensation increase (\$15.010 million), offset by an increase in response to the Opioid Crisis (\$6.05 million), policy and regulatory development to legalize Cannabis (\$3.14 million) as well as the Economic Stability Mandate, Economic Stability Dividend, chargeback benefits rate, and legal services adjustments (\$0.222 million).

**Victim Services and Crime Prevention**

A \$7.339 million year over year funding increase is for the Violence Against Women Programs (\$5.000 million), Surrey Wrap (\$0.500 million), program staff reallocation (\$0.280 million), and Economic Stability Mandate, Economic Stability Dividend, benefit chargeback and legal services adjustments (\$1.560 million).

**BC Coroners Service**

A \$1.542 million year over year funding increase is for additional caseload volume increases (\$1.398 million), as well as the Economic Stability Mandate, Economic Stability Dividend, benefit chargeback, linked agreement wage and legal services adjustments (\$0.144 million).

**RoadSafetyBC**

A \$0.328 million year over year funding increase is for Driver Medical Fitness program (\$0.100 million), as well as the Economic Stability Mandate, Economic Stability Dividend, benefit chargeback, linked agreement wage and legal services adjustments (\$0.228 million).

**Emergency Management BC**

An increase of \$1.117 million in year over year funding for operational staffing (\$1.029 million) and wage adjustment ( \$0.088 million).

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### **Executive and Support Services**

A \$0.469 million year over year funding increase is additional funding provided for the Deputy Minister for Emergency Management (\$0.335 million) and cumulative wage adjustments and staffing reallocations (\$0.134 million).

### **Emergency Program Act**

A decrease of \$223.340 million in year over year funding is a result of a reduction for one time funding for 2017 Wildfire and Floods (-\$223.360 million), offset by wage adjustment (\$0.020 million).

### **Civil Forfeiture Office**

A \$0.500 million decrease in year over year funding due to reallocation of Surrey Wrap funding to Victim Services and Crime Prevention (\$0.500 million).

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**Operations Budget by Group Account Classification (GAC)<sup>1</sup>**

| (\$ millions)        | 2017/18               | 2018/19        | Change           | Change         |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
|                      | Restated<br>Estimates | Estimates      | (\$)             | (%)            |
| Salaries & Benefits  | 252.711               | 261.329        | 8.618            | 3.39%          |
| Operating Costs      | 74.095                | 60.769         | (13.326)         | -17.99%        |
| Government Transfers | 729.568               | 516.830        | (212.738)        | -29.16%        |
| Other Expenses       | 19.609                | 19.339         | (0.270)          | -1.38%         |
| Recoveries           | (18.537)              | (18.346)       | 0.191            | -1.03%         |
| Recoveries External  | (54.753)              | (53.455)       | 1.298            | -2.37%         |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>1,002.693</b>      | <b>786.466</b> | <b>(216.227)</b> | <b>-21.57%</b> |

<sup>1</sup>Does not include Allowances for Doubtful Accounts and Commissions on Collection of Public Funds, or the offsetting recoveries.

**Salaries & Benefits**

An increase of \$8.618 million is policy and regulatory framework for Cannabis Legalization (\$2.040 million), EMBC staffing lift (\$1.314 millions), additional funding for Opioid Crisis (\$1.203 million), Violence Against Women Program (\$0.196 million), Community Corrections Surrey Courthouse (\$0.193 million), internal reallocation of budget in RoadSafetyBC (\$1.500 million) as well as other wage and benefit adjustments (\$2.541 million), offset by internal reallocations.

**Operating Costs**

Decrease of \$13.326 million is primarily removal of one year funding for 2017 wildfire and flooding response (-\$13.750 million), offset by policy and regulatory framework for Cannabis Legalization (\$0.350 million) and additional funding for Opioid Crisis (\$0.075 million).

**Government Transfers**

Decrease of \$212.738 million is primarily removal of one year funding for both 2017 funding provided for wildfire and flooding response (-\$208.971 million), and the retroactive component of the RCMP compensation adjustment (-\$15.010 million), internal budget reallocation (-\$1.500 million), offset by increases for the Opioid Crisis Prevention (\$6.050 million), Violence Against Women Program (\$4.804 million), as well as adjustments for inmate count pressures and agency transfers for Economic Stability Mandate and Dividend wage adjustments.

## Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2018/19 Budget Day Briefing

### Other Expenses

Decrease of \$0.270 million internal reallocation of budget to centralize IMIT management (\$0.367 million) and the Driver Medical Fitness Program (\$0.10 million).

### Recoveries

Decrease of \$0.191 million reflects the removal of a recovery no longer active.

### Recoveries External

Decrease of \$1.298 million reflecting internal reallocation of budget (\$0.900 million) as well as a removal of one year funding for both 2017 funding provided for wildfire and flooding response (\$0.455 million), offset by recovery adjustments related to the Economic Stability Mandate and Dividend.

External recoveries in PSSG total \$53.455 million:

| Branch                               | \$ (millions) |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Correction                           | 5.545         |
| Policing and Security Programs       | 25.618        |
| Victim Services and Crime Prevention | 0.300         |
| BC Coroners Service                  | 0.002         |
| RoadSafetyBC                         | 4.051         |
| Corporate Services                   | 0.002         |
| Emergency Management BC              | 10.435        |
| Emergency Program Act                | 0.001         |
| Civil Forfeiture Account             | 7.501         |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>53.455</b> |



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

| <b>ANNUAL SERVICE PLAN</b>           |                               |                      |                 |                 |                    |                    |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Core Business                        | Restated<br>Budget<br>2017/18 | 2018/19<br>Estimates | 2019/20<br>Plan | 2020/21<br>Plan | 2018/19<br>Changes | 2018/19<br>Changes |
|                                      | \$ millions                   | \$ millions          | \$ millions     | \$ millions     | \$ millions        | %                  |
| Corrections                          | 238.225                       | 240.540              | 241.667         | 241.667         | 2.315              | 1.0%               |
| Policing and Security Programs       | 400.661                       | 395.063              | 394.268         | 394.218         | (5.598)            | -1.4%              |
| Victim Services and Crime Prevention | 41.534                        | 48.873               | 49.263          | 52.263          | 7.339              | 17.7%              |
| BC Coroners Service                  | 15.168                        | 16.710               | 16.871          | 16.871          | 1.542              | 10.2%              |
| RoadSafetyBC                         | 13.027                        | 13.355               | 13.458          | 13.458          | 0.328              | 2.5%               |
| Emergency Management BC              | 15.462                        | 16.579               | 16.579          | 16.579          | 1.117              | 7.2%               |
| Executive and Support Services       | 23.868                        | 24.337               | 24.394          | 24.394          | 0.469              | 2.0%               |
| Emergency Program Act                | 237.968                       | 14.728               | 14.728          | 14.728          | (223.240)          | -93.8%             |
| Special Accounts                     | 16.780                        | 16.281               | 16.287          | 16.287          | (0.499)            | -3.0%              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                         | <b>1,002.693</b>              | <b>786.466</b>       | <b>787.515</b>  | <b>790.465</b>  | <b>(216.227)</b>   | <b>-21.6%</b>      |

**Budget 2018 Decisions:**

- Violence Against Women Programs (\$5.000 million).
- Cannabis Legalization (\$3.140 million).
- Wage adjustments (\$2.116 million).
- Deputy Minister for Emergency Management and EMBC operational pressures (\$1.364 million).
- Community Corrections Surrey Courthouse (\$0.193 million).
- Continuation of the one year funding for overdose response (net zero impact).

**Prior Years' Decisions**

- Reduction, one year funding provided for Wildfires and Flooding (-\$223.260 million).
- Reduction, retroactive component of RCMP Compensation adjustment (-\$15.010 million).
- Reduction, one year funding for additional Okanagan Correctional Centre requirements (-\$1.688 million).
- Policing cost for Fentanyl Response (\$6.050 million).
- BC Coroners case volume increases under Fentanyl Response (\$1.278 million).
- Wage adjustments (\$4.170 million).
- Incremental pressures across various programs (\$0.420 million).

| <b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$ millions)</b> |                |                 |                 |                 |                |                  |                  |
|--|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
|  | 2017/18        | 2018/19         | 2019/20         | 2020/21         | 2018/19        | 2019/20          | 2020/21          |
| Core Business Area   | Restated       | Estimates       | Plan            | Plan            | Changes        | Changes          | Changes          |
| Executive and Support Services   | 4.903          | 13.554          | 12.234          | 11.260          | 8.651          | (1.320)          | (0.974)          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$4.903</b> | <b>\$13.554</b> | <b>\$12.234</b> | <b>\$11.260</b> | <b>\$8.651</b> | <b>(\$1.320)</b> | <b>(\$0.974)</b> |

**Budget 2018 Decisions:**

- Next phase of the Road Safety Initiative (\$8.873 million per yr for 3 yrs; total of \$26.619 million).
- Vehicle Replacement (\$0.180 million).
- Vehicle Fitup (\$0.093 million).
- Road Safety Initiative Phase 1 reallocation (-\$0.439 million).
- Completion of Okanagan Correctional Centre Work Program (-\$0.056 million).

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**  
**Top Budget 2018 Issues**  
**Q&A and Key Messages**

**Top Issues**

1. Emergency Management BC Funding
2. Violence Against Women Funding
3. Overdose Crisis Response
4. Guns and Gang Strategy
5. Cannabis Secretariat

**1. Emergency Management BC Funding**

**Why have both the ministry budget and *Emergency Program Act* budget decreased? And how will the province manage future emergency events with what appears to be a very limited budget?**

- The ministry 2018/19 budget has decreased by \$216 million or 22% compared to 2017/18. The primary reason for the decrease is a reduction in the *Emergency Program Act* budget of \$223.5 million.
- The *Emergency Program Act* budget for FY2018/19 is \$14.5 million, a decrease of \$223.5 million from FY17/18.
- *September Update Budget 2017* provided the province a unique opportunity to assess the financial impacts of large scale emergency events (wildfires and flooding) that had taken place between April and September 2017. The review allowed the province to revise the *Emergency Program Act* budget based on real time financial projections relating to ongoing known emergency events.
- The 2018/19 emergency season has not yet begun; as such the province is not able to predict the costs of upcoming emergencies the province may encounter.
- \$14.5 million is the historical budget for the *Emergency Program Act*.
- Historically, the province does not budget for unknown emergencies that may create extraordinary costs relating to emergency mitigation, preparedness and response as the statutory authority granted via the *Emergency Program Act* provides direct access to government's Consolidated Revenue Fund. This access is designed as a mechanism for funding extraordinary costs relating to emergency mitigation, preparedness and response.

**Emergency Management BC will receive an ongoing budget lift of \$1.0 million effective April 1, 2018. The stakeholder would like the Minister to provide response to the following questions:**

- 1. What is the budget lift for?**
  - 2. Based on the past flood and fire season encountered by the Province, is the lift sufficient to meet the increased demand?**
- The events of 2017 have clearly identified that Emergency Management BC lacks the resources necessary to meet its response and recovery responsibilities without interrupting virtually all its other core activities, including those related to emergency response for concurrent events, planning and continuity of government operations.
  - The intent of the funding lift is to:
    - Provide Emergency Management BC the staffing required to improve the agency's emergency management capacity to meet legislative responsibilities for concurrent emergency event(s) and to better maintain day-to-day non-emergency responsibilities such as prevention, planning, and corporate initiatives while under emergency activation; and
    - Allow Emergency Management BC the staffing capacity required to undertake the strategic objectives of Government and EMBC that have been identified through early findings from the ongoing after action review process relating to the past flooding and fire events.
  - Emergency mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery activities are funded through the Emergency Program Act and do not impact the Emergency Management BC budget.

## **2. Violence Against Women Funding**

**Why is government investing money in programs and services addressing violence against women?**

- We recognize the devastating impacts of violence on women, families and communities.
- The safety of women, children and all British Columbians is a priority for this government.
- We are committed to increasing supports to people who need them – like those who experience domestic violence, sexual assault and other violent crimes.

**How will Budget 2018 support women and children affected by violence? Does this fulfill the NDP platform commitment to increase funding to support women who experience domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes?**

- This budget provides \$18 million over three years to better meet the demand for programs and services such as counselling, outreach, and crisis support for women and children who experience domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes.
- This will begin with a \$5million increase to annual, core funding for these services in 2018/19.
- Increased funding will also provide stable, on-going support for community-based victim services workers in existing Domestic Violence Units. These Units pair dedicated police officers with community-based victim services and child protection workers to improve coordination in the highest risk cases of domestic violence.

**Who will receive this additional funding?**

- All of the Ministry's current contracted victim service and violence against women programs will benefit from this funding lift.
- We know that service providers have been experiencing challenges meeting service demands in communities throughout B.C. New funding will enable programs to enhance frontline service delivery and address ongoing operational pressures.

**How is this funding increase different from the \$5 million in contingency funding programs received in December 2017?**

- The funding announced in December 2017 was distributed through one-time grants aimed at addressing immediate service pressures.
- This new funding will provide an ongoing funding lift to the Ministry's contracted victim service and violence against women service providers to support addressing ongoing service needs in communities throughout BC.

**Why is government waiting until the third year of this fiscal plan to increase funding by \$8M?**

- \$5 million additional was allocated to this sector and distributed this fiscal year. An \$8M funding increase meets the platform commitment while allowing for the \$5M increase to be invested to inform to what best effect an \$8M increase can produce in the last year of this fiscal plan.

### 3. Overdose Crisis Response

#### What is the government doing to address the Opioid overdose crisis?

- *Budget 2017 September Update* provided an additional \$32M over three years (2017/18 to 2019/20), \$25M to Policing and \$7M to BC Coroners Service.
- Of the \$25 million, \$20 million will be subject to a federal contribution of \$8.57M for a total combined contribution of \$33.57 million to address the opioid crisis.
- The additional \$25 million over three years will provide:
  - Additional naloxone kits and training (\$2 million), situation tables (\$1.2 million), Pill Press Legislation (\$1 million), the purchase of specialized equipment necessary to detect drug contamination (\$1.4 million), Operational Task Force to help disrupt the supply chain (\$20 million), and dedicated enforcement activities (\$7.9 million).
- *Budget 2018* also includes an additional \$9.9 million over three years (2018/19 to 2020/21) to extend the \$3.3 million from February's *Budget 2017* that was provided to the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General in 2017/18 only. This will ensure that there is no reduction in front-line services or community outreach programs that help save lives.

#### Opioid Overdose Response Funding (PSSG)

| \$ millions                               | 18/19       | 19/20       | 20/21       |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Naloxone Kits and Training                | 0.78        | 0.78        | 0.78        |
| Community Outreach & Awareness Strategies | 0.84        | 0.84        | 0.84        |
| Drug Equipment & Training                 | 0.23        | 0.23        | 0.23        |
| Dedicated Enforcement Activity            | 1.00        | 1.00        | 1.00        |
| <i>Policing &amp; Security Subtotal</i>   | <i>2.85</i> | <i>2.85</i> | <i>2.85</i> |
| Coroners Closure of Overdose Death Files  | 0.45        | 0.45        | 0.45        |
| <i>Coroners Subtotal</i>                  | <i>0.45</i> | <i>0.45</i> | <i>0.45</i> |
| <b>Total</b>                              | <b>3.30</b> | <b>3.30</b> | <b>3.30</b> |

- In 2017, there were 1,156 illicit drug overdose deaths with Fentanyl detected, a 73% increase over the number of deaths (670) occurring in 2016. BC Coroners Service continues to provide timely and accurate data on a monthly basis to support evidence-based interventions into illicit drug overdose deaths

- Progress to date includes:
  - Integration of 22 existing officers and support staff into an operational task force that focuses on mid-level fentanyl traffickers, disrupting the drug supply line at the local level and increasing drug dealers arrested and prosecuted;
    - Federal Crown counsel approved charges against a Prince George man, following the seizure of more than \$200K worth of drugs in 2017 and charges against an individual for the purpose of trafficking and possession of a controlled substance as a result of an investigation conducted by the RCMP.
  - RCMP and municipal police have recorded 326 successful overdose reversals by administering naloxone and approximately 7,623 members (sworn and civilian) have received naloxone training.
    - As of January 18, 2018, 66,932 naloxone kits were distributed free of charge from 1,028 BC locations.

#### **4. Guns and Gangs Strategy**

##### **What effect is the Province's Guns and Gangs Strategy having against gang violence?**

- Organized crime and gangs remains a top priority for the Province and police remain united in their efforts to keep communities around BC safe. The government is committed to continue strengthening the tools for police to respond to gangs and guns activity throughout the province.
- Specialized provincial units such as the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit-BC (CFSEU-BC), Integrated Homicide Investigations Team (IHIT) and the Major Crime Section (MCS) remain committed to aggressively pursue gangs and those involved in the destructive world of organized crime.
- Progress has been made on major initiatives:
  - British Columbians turned in 1,184 firearms during the 2016 BC Gun Amnesty throughout the month of October, plus a variety of related items including holsters, non-firearms weapons, limited explosives, and several thousand rounds of miscellaneous ammunition; and
  - There have also been a significant number of arrests and seizures of firearms, drugs, and cash throughout the Province since May.

## **5. Cannabis Secretariat**

**Has the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General received a budget increase to deal with the implementation of cannabis? What is the role of the Cannabis Secretariat?**

- *Budget 2018* includes \$7.8 million over the next three years (2018/19 to 2020/21) for the Cannabis Secretariat.
- The Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Secretariat (the Secretariat), has been established within the Policing and Security Branch of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to support the policy and legal work required for the development of a provincial regulatory regime and to coordinate and facilitate engagement activities for the public and key stakeholders.
- In addition, the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch of the Ministry of Attorney General has established a team to lead the development of policy, regulations and licensee terms and conditions for regulating private retail of cannabis.
- The Liquor Distribution Branch and the Ministry of Attorney General have established a team for the planning and implementation of the provincial distribution and public retail regimes.

**What is the provincial government doing to ensure there are enough resources to address drug-impaired driving? Will there be provincial funding to train more police officers?**

- To support the proposed Bill C-46 amendments to the Criminal Code, the Government of Canada has announced \$161 million in funding 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.
- Of these funds, \$81 million over the next five years will be allocated to provinces and territories.
- B.C. has developed and implemented a training plan to increase the number of officers trained in Standard Field Sobriety Testing and certified as Drug Recognition Experts.
- Until Public Safety Canada confirms the amount to be provided to B.C., it is not known if additional provincial funding for these training activities will need to be considered.

**Will the Province be funding any cannabis enforcement strategies to help reduce organized crime and criminal activity in the cannabis industry?**

- Police agencies monitor trends in drug offences and organized crime. I can assure you they will continue to monitor the involvement of organized crime in the cannabis market once non-medical cannabis is legalized.
- B.C. is committed to implementing a well-regulated distribution and retail system that only sells federally regulated, legally produced and tested cannabis.
- To ensure that non-medical cannabis is being sold in a lawful and responsible manner, the Province will establish a compliance and enforcement regulatory program that will include education, inspection and enforcement activities.
- In addition, to prevent organized crime from entering into the legal, regulated market, retail licence applicants and owners/investors, will have to undergo thorough background checks.

**Will the Province be funding any cannabis enforcement strategies directed at shutting down illegal dispensaries?**

- B.C. is committed to implementing a well-regulated distribution and retail system that only sells federally regulated, legally produced and tested cannabis.
- That means that existing dispensaries will have to close, unless they obtain a licence from LCLB.
- An enforcement strategy is under development.

**How much funding will be dedicated towards public education regarding the dangers of youth consumption, drug-impaired driving, and the provincial laws and regulations?**

- The Government of Canada is currently leading efforts to inform Canadians on the health and safety risks associated with non-medical cannabis use. It is developing a number of public awareness campaigns, including with respect to youth consumption.
- In November, Public Safety Canada launched a new national public awareness campaign, "Don't Drive High." The goal of this campaign is to educate Canadians about the safety and legal risks of drug-impaired driving.
- B.C. is developing a B.C.-focussed public education campaign to supplement the federal campaigns and ensure British Columbians are familiar with our provincial regulations when they come into force.



## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

The mission of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General is to deliver public safety services and programs and to lead the development and coordination of an effective emergency management system for British Columbia.

### MINISTRY SUMMARY

(\$000)

|   | Estimates<br>2017/18 <sup>1</sup> | Estimates<br>2018/19 |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>VOTED APPROPRIATIONS</b>   |                                   |                      |
| Vote 38 — Ministry Operations.....  | 747,945                           | 755,457              |
| Vote 39 — <i>Emergency Program Act</i> .....                                  | 237,968                           | 14,728               |
| <b>STATUTORY APPROPRIATIONS</b>   |                                   |                      |
| Civil Forfeiture Account Special Account.....                                 | 1,995                             | 1,496                |
| Corrections Work Program Account Special Account.....                         | 1,281                             | 1,281                |
| Criminal Asset Management Fund Special Account.....                           | —                                 | —                    |
| Victim Surcharge Special Account.....   | 13,504                            | 13,504               |
| <b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>   | <u>1,002,693</u>                  | <u>786,466</u>       |
| <b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES <sup>2</sup></b>                                      | <u>4,903</u>                      | <u>13,554</u>        |
| <b>LOANS, INVESTMENTS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS <sup>3</sup></b>                 | <u>—</u>                          | <u>—</u>             |
| <b>REVENUE COLLECTED FOR, AND TRANSFERRED TO, OTHER ENTITIES <sup>4</sup></b> | <u>—</u>                          | <u>—</u>             |

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> For comparative purposes, figures shown for the 2017/18 operating expenses; capital expenditures; loans, investments and other requirements; and revenue collected for, and transferred to, other entities are restated to be consistent with the presentation of *2018/19 Estimates*. A reconciliation of restated operating expenses and capital expenditures resulting from transfers between ministries is presented in Schedule A.

<sup>2</sup> A listing of estimated capital expenditures by ministry is presented in Schedule C.

<sup>3</sup> A summary of loans, investments and other requirements by ministry is presented in Schedule D.

<sup>4</sup> A summary of revenue collected for, and transferred to, other entities by ministry is presented in Schedule E.

## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

## SUMMARY BY CORE BUSINESS

(\$000)

| OPERATING EXPENSES                                    | 2017/18          | 2018/19 ESTIMATES    |                     |                |
|---|------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------|
|   | Net              | Gross                | External Recoveries | Net            |
| <b>Core Business</b>                                  |                  |                      |                     |                |
| Corrections.....                                      | 238,225          | 246,085              | (5,545)             | 240,540        |
| Policing and Security.....                            | 400,661          | 420,681              | (25,618)            | 395,063        |
| Victim Services and Crime Prevention.....             | 41,534           | 49,173               | (300)               | 48,873         |
| BC Coroners Service.....                              | 15,168           | 16,712               | (2)                 | 16,710         |
| RoadSafetyBC.....                                     | 13,027           | 17,406               | (4,051)             | 13,355         |
| Emergency Management BC.....                          | 15,462           | 27,014               | (10,435)            | 16,579         |
| Executive and Support Services.....                   | 23,868           | 24,339               | (2)                 | 24,337         |
| <i>Emergency Program Act</i> .....                    | 237,968          | 14,729               | (1)                 | 14,728         |
| Civil Forfeiture Account Special Account.....         | 1,995            | 8,997                | (7,501)             | 1,496          |
| Corrections Work Program Account Special Account..... | 1,281            | 1,281                | —                   | 1,281          |
| Criminal Asset Management Fund Special Account.....   | —                | —                    | —                   | —              |
| Victim Surcharge Special Account.....                 | 13,504           | 13,504               | —                   | 13,504         |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES.....</b>                  | <b>1,002,693</b> | <b>839,921</b>       | <b>(53,455)</b>     | <b>786,466</b> |
| <b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>                           | <b>Net</b>       | <b>Disbursements</b> | <b>Receipts</b>     | <b>Net</b>     |
| <b>Core Business</b>                                  |                  |                      |                     |                |
| Executive and Support Services.....                   | 4,903            | 13,554               | —                   | 13,554         |
| <b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES.....</b>                | <b>4,903</b>     | <b>13,554</b>        | <b>—</b>            | <b>13,554</b>  |

## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

## VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

| Estimates<br>2017/18 | Estimates<br>2018/19 |
|----------------------|----------------------|
|----------------------|----------------------|

## VOTE 38 — MINISTRY OPERATIONS

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

## CORRECTIONS

## Voted Appropriation

|                  |         |         |
|------------------|---------|---------|
| Corrections..... | 238,225 | 240,540 |
|------------------|---------|---------|

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

## POLICING AND SECURITY

## Voted Appropriation

|                            |         |         |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|
| Policing and Security..... | 400,661 | 395,063 |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|

**Voted Appropriation Description:** This sub-vote provides for superintending policing and law enforcement in the province; management of contract policing; the development and administration of policy and legislation regarding cannabis legalization, including stakeholder consultation and public engagement; and developing and delivering initiatives to maintain safe and secure communities. This sub-vote also provides for security industry regulations and other protective programs. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, boards and commissions, other levels of government, and other parties both internal and external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.

## VICTIM SERVICES AND CRIME PREVENTION

## Voted Appropriation

|   |        |        |
|---|--------|--------|
| Victim Services and Crime Prevention..... | 41,534 | 48,873 |
|---|--------|--------|

**Voted Appropriation Description:** This sub-vote provides for direct services to support victims of crime, counselling and outreach services for women and children impacted by violence, and financial assistance and benefits to assist victims in their recovery from the impacts of violent crime. This sub-vote also provides for support to communities to prevent crime, violence, and victimization. Costs may be recovered from the Victim Surcharge Special Account for victim service programs, from ministries for special public safety initiatives, and from other levels of government for activities described within this sub-vote.

## BC CORONERS SERVICE

## Voted Appropriation

|                          |        |        |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|
| BC Coroners Service..... | 15,168 | 16,710 |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|

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

## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

## VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

|  | Estimates<br>2017/18 | Estimates<br>2018/19 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>ROADSAFETYBC</b>  |                      |                      |
| <b>Voted Appropriation</b>   |                      |                      |
| RoadSafetyBC.....  | <u>13,027</u>        | <u>13,355</u>        |
| <p><b>Voted Appropriation Description:</b> This sub-vote provides for programs and activities of RoadSafetyBC, including leading and supporting government traffic safety initiatives, administration of driver regulatory and traffic safety programs, setting driver licensing policies, monitoring and regulating unfit drivers, conducting appeals of driving prohibitions and conducting hearings and reviews of the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia's decisions respecting driver licence sanctions, driver training schools, driver trainer licences, and other driver-related programs. This sub-vote also provides for expenses related to participation in national organizations and reimbursements for programs administered by RoadSafetyBC. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, boards and commissions, other levels of government, organizations, and from appeal fees and program fees for activities described within this sub-vote.</p>  |                      |                      |
| <b>EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC</b>   |                      |                      |
| <b>Voted Appropriation</b>   |                      |                      |
| Emergency Management BC.....   | <u>15,462</u>        | <u>16,579</u>        |
| <p><b>Voted Appropriation Description:</b> This sub-vote provides for program costs related to provincial emergency management planning and preparedness, emergency management policy development, and disaster mitigation activities. Mitigation activities include: flood, fire, and other hazards and disasters, assurance of critical infrastructure, promotion of emergency management capacity within British Columbian communities; and business continuity and integrated public safety planning readiness for response to emergencies. This sub-vote also provides for the Office of the Fire Commissioner, which implements fire safety regulations and activities, promotes fire safety, and assists major fire investigations and the response to major wildland urban interface fire emergencies. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, other levels of government, agencies, organizations, individuals, and private sector partners for activities described within this sub-vote.</p>  |                      |                      |
| <b>EXECUTIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES</b>  |                      |                      |
| <b>Voted Appropriations</b>  |                      |                      |
| Minister's Office.....   | 794                  | 795                  |
| Corporate Services.....  | <u>23,074</u>        | <u>23,542</u>        |
|  | <u>23,868</u>        | <u>24,337</u>        |
| <p><b>Voted Appropriations Description:</b> This sub-vote provides for the office of the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, including salaries, benefits, allowances, and operating expenses for the minister and the minister's staff; executive direction of the ministry, including the Deputy Solicitor General's office and the Deputy Minister of Emergency Management BC's office; the Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness; general services to support program delivery; policy development; and management services for the ministry, including oversight of delegated consumer protection agencies, and the Ministry of Attorney General, including financial administration, facilities management, organizational development, and service planning sponsored by the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General. Costs may be recovered for costs associated with consumer restitution. Costs may also be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, boards and commissions, other levels of government, organizations, and individuals for activities described within this sub-vote.</p> |                      |                      |
| <b>VOTE 38 — MINISTRY OPERATIONS</b>   | <b>747,945</b>       | <b>755,457</b>       |

## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

## VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

Estimates  
2017/18Estimates  
2018/19

## VOTE 39 — EMERGENCY PROGRAM ACT

This vote provides for the programs, operations, and other activities described in the voted appropriation under the following core business: *Emergency Program Act*.

## EMERGENCY PROGRAM ACT

## Voted Appropriation

|                                    |         |        |
|------------------------------------|---------|--------|
| <i>Emergency Program Act</i> ..... | 237,968 | 14,728 |
|------------------------------------|---------|--------|

**Voted Appropriation Description:** This sub-vote provides for operations and operational support described in the *Emergency Program Act*, including preparedness, response to and recovery from emergencies and disasters, and for hazard mitigation initiatives. This sub-vote allows for statutory appropriation under the *Emergency Program Act*. Costs may be recovered from ministries, other governments, agencies, organizations, and individuals for activities described within this sub-vote.

## VOTE 39 — EMERGENCY PROGRAM ACT

237,968

14,728

## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

## STATUTORY DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

| Estimates | Estimates |
|-----------|-----------|
| 2017/18   | 2018/19   |

## STATUTORY APPROPRIATIONS

These statutory appropriations provide for the programs, operations, and other activities of the following special accounts: Civil Forfeiture Account, Corrections Work Program Account, Criminal Asset Management Fund, and Victim Surcharge Special Account.

## CIVIL FORFEITURE ACCOUNT

## Statutory Appropriation

|                               |       |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Civil Forfeiture Account..... | 1,995 | 1,496 |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|

**Statutory Appropriation Description:** This statutory appropriation provides for the Civil Forfeiture Account which is governed under the *Civil Forfeiture Act*.

## CORRECTIONS WORK PROGRAM ACCOUNT

## Statutory Appropriation

|                                       |       |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Corrections Work Program Account..... | 1,281 | 1,281 |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|

**Statutory Appropriation Description:** This statutory appropriation provides for the Corrections Work Program Account which is governed under the *Correction Act*.

## CRIMINAL ASSET MANAGEMENT FUND

## Statutory Appropriation

|                                     |   |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Criminal Asset Management Fund..... | — | — |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|

**Statutory Appropriation Description:** This statutory appropriation provides for the Criminal Asset Management Fund which is governed under the *Criminal Asset Management Act*.

## VICTIM SURCHARGE SPECIAL ACCOUNT

## Statutory Appropriation

|                                       |        |        |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Victim Surcharge Special Account..... | 13,504 | 13,504 |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|

**Statutory Appropriation Description:** This statutory appropriation provides for the Victim Surcharge Special Account which is governed under the *Victims of Crime Act*.

## MINISTRY GROUP ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY

## GROUP ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION

|                                       |                  |                |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Salaries and Benefits .....           | 252,711          | 261,329        |
| Operating Costs .....                 | 74,095           | 60,769         |
| Government Transfers .....            | 729,568          | 516,830        |
| Other Expenses .....                  | 19,609           | 19,339         |
| Internal Recoveries .....             | (18,537)         | (18,346)       |
| External Recoveries .....             | (54,753)         | (53,455)       |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES .....</b> | <b>1,002,693</b> | <b>786,466</b> |

## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS<sup>1</sup>

(\$000)

|  | Estimates<br>2017/18 | Estimates<br>2018/19 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>CIVIL FORFEITURE ACCOUNT</b>  |                      |                      |
| This account was established by the <i>Civil Forfeiture Act</i> in 2005. The purpose of the Act is to suppress unlawful activities by removing the associated economic incentive and to fund crime prevention, crime remediation, and victim compensation initiatives. The account is established to receive the liquidated value of forfeited assets and to distribute the net revenue in the form of grants. The net revenue represents the excess of recoveries over expenses in a given fiscal year. Expenses are limited to those permitted within the scope of the Act and include administration of the Act. Costs may be recovered from proceeds from judgments or settlements of concluded legal proceedings. |                      |                      |
| <b>SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR <sup>2</sup></b>   | <b>4,969</b>         | <b>3,019</b>         |
| <b>OPERATING TRANSACTIONS</b>  |                      |                      |
| Revenue  | —                    | —                    |
| Expense  | (9,493)              | (8,997)              |
| Internal and External Recoveries   | 7,498                | 7,501                |
| Net Revenue (Expense)  | (1,995)              | (1,496)              |
| Difference Between 2017/18 Estimates and Projected Actual Net Revenue (Expense)  | 45                   |                      |
| <b>FINANCING TRANSACTIONS</b>  |                      |                      |
| Receipts   | —                    | —                    |
| Disbursements  | —                    | —                    |
| Capital Expenditures   | —                    | —                    |
| Net Cash Source (Requirement)  | —                    | —                    |
| <b>PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR <sup>2</sup></b>   | <b>3,019</b>         | <b>1,523</b>         |

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> A Special Account is an account in the General Fund where the authorization to spend money from the account is located in an Act other than the *Supply Act*.

<sup>2</sup> The Spending Authority Available at the Beginning of the Fiscal Year 2017/18 is based on the *2016/17 Public Accounts*. The Projected Spending Authority Available at the End of the Fiscal Year represents the cash and temporary investments projected to be available at the end of each fiscal year.

## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS<sup>1</sup>

(\$000)

|  | Estimates<br>2017/18 | Estimates<br>2018/19 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>CORRECTIONS WORK PROGRAM ACCOUNT</b>  |                      |                      |
| This account was established by the <i>Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No.2)</i> in 1987 and is governed under the <i>Correction Act</i> . The purpose of the account is to assist inmates in acquiring skills and to encourage them to develop good work habits. Revenue represents proceeds from the sale of goods and services produced by inmates. Expenses are for supplies and costs related to the Corrections Work Program. Administration costs are funded through the ministry's voted appropriations. |                      |                      |
| <b>SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR <sup>2</sup></b>   | <b>2,930</b>         | <b>3,059</b>         |
| OPERATING TRANSACTIONS   |                      |                      |
| Revenue  | 650                  | 650                  |
| Expense  | (1,281)              | (1,281)              |
| Transfer from Ministry Operations Vote   | 700                  | 700                  |
| Net Revenue (Expense)  | 69                   | 69                   |
| FINANCING TRANSACTIONS   |                      |                      |
| Receipts   | —                    | —                    |
| Disbursements  | —                    | —                    |
| Capital Expenditures   | —                    | —                    |
| Net Cash Source (Requirement)  | —                    | —                    |
| Working Capital Adjustments and Other Spending Authority Committed <sup>3</sup>  | 60                   | 60                   |
| <b>PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR <sup>2</sup></b>   | <b>3,059</b>         | <b>3,188</b>         |

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> A Special Account is an account in the General Fund where the authorization to spend money from the account is located in an Act other than the *Supply Act*.

<sup>2</sup> The Spending Authority Available at the Beginning of the Fiscal Year 2017/18 is based on the *2016/17 Public Accounts*. The Projected Spending Authority Available at the End of the Fiscal Year represents the cash and temporary investments projected to be available at the end of each fiscal year.

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



## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS<sup>1</sup>

(\$000)

|  | Estimates<br>2017/18 | Estimates<br>2018/19 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>CRIMINAL ASSET MANAGEMENT FUND</b>  |                      |                      |
| The Forfeited Crime Proceeds Fund account was established by the <i>Special Accounts Appropriation and Control Act</i> in 1988, as amended by the <i>Attorney General Amendment Act</i> in 1989. This account was continued in 2012, under the name Criminal Asset Management Fund, by the <i>Criminal Asset Management Act</i> . The purpose of this account is to use the proceeds that government obtains from criminal forfeitures and certain fines for certain criminal justice purposes. Revenue represents money received by government from proceeds of crime provided by certain other governments, money paid as a fine under a provision of the <i>Criminal Code</i> of Canada or under similar legislation, and money forfeited under certain sections of the <i>Criminal Code</i> of Canada. Revenue also represents money realized from the disposition of forfeited property governed by the Act and other money, interest, and income provided for in the Act. Expenses are for compensation of eligible victims, crime prevention and remediation, administration of the Act, and other prescribed purposes. Administrative costs may be funded through the ministry's voted appropriations. |                      |                      |
| <b>SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR <sup>2</sup></b> .....   | <b>2,458</b>         | <b>2,458</b>         |
| OPERATING TRANSACTIONS   |                      |                      |
| Revenue.....   | —                    | —                    |
| Expense.....   | —                    | —                    |
| Net Revenue (Expense).....   | —                    | —                    |
| FINANCING TRANSACTIONS   |                      |                      |
| Receipts.....  | —                    | —                    |
| Disbursements.....   | —                    | —                    |
| Capital Expenditures.....  | —                    | —                    |
| Net Cash Source (Requirement).....   | —                    | —                    |
| <b>PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR <sup>2</sup></b> .....   | <b>2,458</b>         | <b>2,458</b>         |

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> A Special Account is an account in the General Fund where the authorization to spend money from the account is located in an Act other than the *Supply Act*.

<sup>2</sup> The Spending Authority Available at the Beginning of the Fiscal Year 2017/18 is based on the 2016/17 *Public Accounts*. The Projected Spending Authority Available at the End of the Fiscal Year represents the cash and temporary investments projected to be available at the end of each fiscal year.

## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS<sup>1</sup>

(\$000)

|   | Estimates<br>2017/18 | Estimates<br>2018/19 |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>VICTIM SURCHARGE SPECIAL ACCOUNT</b>   |                      |                      |
| This account was established by the <i>Victims of Crime Act</i> in 1996. The purpose of the account is to fund services to victims of crime as provided for in the Act. Revenue represents proceeds from a victim surcharge levy on fines from all provincial offences, both court-imposed fines and those which result in a violation ticket. Revenue also includes proceeds from the federal victim surcharge levy on offences imposed by the court under the <i>Criminal Code</i> of Canada and interest earned on the balance of the fund. Expenses are for justice system obligations to victims of crime under the Act, including administration costs for both the Ministry of Attorney General and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. Any remaining funds may be expended on initiatives which may benefit victims of crime. Administration costs are funded through the ministry's voted appropriations. |                      |                      |
| <b>SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR <sup>2</sup></b>  | <b>33,893</b>        | <b>32,389</b>        |
| OPERATING TRANSACTIONS  |                      |                      |
| Revenue   | 12,000               | 12,000               |
| Expense   | (13,504)             | (13,504)             |
| Net Revenue (Expense)   | (1,504)              | (1,504)              |
| FINANCING TRANSACTIONS  |                      |                      |
| Receipts  | —                    | —                    |
| Disbursements   | —                    | —                    |
| Capital Expenditures  | —                    | —                    |
| Net Cash Source (Requirement)   | —                    | —                    |
| <b>PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR <sup>2</sup></b>  | <b>32,389</b>        | <b>30,885</b>        |

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> A Special Account is an account in the General Fund where the authorization to spend money from the account is located in an Act other than the *Supply Act*.

<sup>2</sup> The Spending Authority Available at the Beginning of the Fiscal Year 2017/18 is based on the 2016/17 *Public Accounts*. The Projected Spending Authority Available at the End of the Fiscal Year represents the cash and temporary investments projected to be available at the end of each fiscal year.

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL  
(\$000)

**VOTE 38 Ministry Operations**

| Description                          | Total<br>2017/18<br>Operating<br>Expenses | 50             | 51           | 52            | 54        | Total<br>Salaries and<br>Benefits | 55        | 57           | 59           | 60            | 63           | 65           | 67       | 68       | 69           |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|----------|----------|--------------|
| Corrections                          | 238,225                                   | 148,920        | 4,751        | 37,052        | —         | 190,723                           | —         | 1,366        | 2,424        | 3,604         | 10           | 3,013        | —        | —        | 8,400        |
| Policing and Security                | 400,661                                   | 10,058         | 25           | 2,494         | —         | 12,577                            | —         | 284          | 493          | 1,248         | 300          | 803          | —        | —        | 518          |
| Victim Services and Crime Prevention | 41,534                                    | 6,131          | 76           | 1,517         | —         | 7,724                             | —         | 110          | 75           | 505           | —            | 282          | —        | —        | —            |
| BC Coroners Service                  | 15,168                                    | 7,594          | 74           | 1,883         | —         | 9,551                             | 55        | 153          | 196          | 6,099         | 135          | 260          | —        | —        | 150          |
| RoadSafetyBC                         | 13,027                                    | 9,084          | 51           | 2,253         | —         | 11,388                            | —         | 45           | 2,275        | 83            | —            | 134          | —        | —        | —            |
| Emergency Management BC              | 15,462                                    | 8,338          | 5            | 2,068         | —         | 10,411                            | —         | 231          | 38           | 827           | 533          | 412          | —        | —        | 9            |
| Executive and Support Services       | 23,868                                    | 12,694         | 27           | 3,185         | 69        | 15,975                            | —         | 255          | 233          | 160           | 4,483        | 269          | —        | —        | 5            |
| Minister's Office                    | 794                                       | 414            | —            | 130           | 69        | 613                               | —         | 65           | —            | —             | 20           | 25           | —        | —        | 3            |
| Corporate Services                   | 23,074                                    | 12,280         | 27           | 3,055         | —         | 15,362                            | —         | 190          | 233          | 160           | 4,463        | 244          | —        | —        | 2            |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>747,945</b>                            | <b>202,819</b> | <b>5,009</b> | <b>50,452</b> | <b>69</b> | <b>258,349</b>                    | <b>55</b> | <b>2,444</b> | <b>5,734</b> | <b>12,526</b> | <b>5,461</b> | <b>5,173</b> | <b>—</b> | <b>—</b> | <b>9,082</b> |

**VOTE 39 Emergency Program Act**

| Description                  | Total<br>2017/18<br>Operating<br>Expenses | 50           | 51       | 52         | 54       | Total<br>Salaries and<br>Benefits | 55       | 57         | 59        | 60           | 63           | 65        | 67       | 68       | 69         |
|------------------------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|----------|-----------------------------------|----------|------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|-----------|----------|----------|------------|
| <b>Emergency Program Act</b> | <b>237,968</b>                            | <b>1,744</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>433</b> | <b>—</b> | <b>2,178</b>                      | <b>—</b> | <b>156</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>1,820</b> | <b>1,250</b> | <b>50</b> | <b>—</b> | <b>—</b> | <b>150</b> |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>237,968</b>                            | <b>1,744</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>433</b> | <b>—</b> | <b>2,178</b>                      | <b>—</b> | <b>156</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>1,820</b> | <b>1,250</b> | <b>50</b> | <b>—</b> | <b>—</b> | <b>150</b> |

**Statutory Appropriations**

| Description                      | Total<br>2017/18<br>Operating<br>Expenses | 50         | 51       | 52         | 54       | Total<br>Salaries and<br>Benefits | 55       | 57        | 59           | 60       | 63        | 65        | 67       | 68        | 69         |
|----------------------------------|---|------------|----------|------------|----------|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------|--------------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Civil Forfeiture Account         | 1,995                                     | 643        | —        | 159        | —        | 802                               | —        | 30        | 3,000        | —        | 25        | 55        | —        | 90        | —          |
| Corrections Work Program Account | 1,281                                     | —          | —        | —          | —        | —                                 | —        | —         | —            | —        | 14        | 41        | —        | —         | 475        |
| Criminal Asset Management Fund   | —   | —          | —        | —          | —        | —                                 | —        | —         | —            | —        | —         | —         | —        | —         | —          |
| Victim Surcharge Special Account | 13,504                                    | —          | —        | —          | —        | —                                 | —        | —         | —            | —        | —         | —         | —        | —         | —          |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>16,780</b>                             | <b>643</b> | <b>—</b> | <b>159</b> | <b>—</b> | <b>802</b>                        | <b>—</b> | <b>30</b> | <b>3,000</b> | <b>—</b> | <b>39</b> | <b>96</b> | <b>—</b> | <b>90</b> | <b>475</b> |

| 70    | 72 | 73    | 75    | Total<br>Operating<br>Costs | 77    | 79     | 80      | Total<br>Govt<br>Transfers | 81 | 83 | 85    | Total<br>Other<br>Expenses | 86      | 88      | Total<br>Internal<br>Recoveries | 89  | 90       | Total<br>External<br>Recoveries | Total<br>2018/19<br>Operating<br>Expenses |
|-------|----|-------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|--------|---------|----------------------------|----|----|-------|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------------------------------|-----|----------|---------------------------------|---|
| 1,156 | —  | 3,777 | 1,825 | 25,575                      | —     | —      | 29,116  | 29,116                     | —  | —  | 1,146 | 1,146                      | —       | (475)   | (475)                           | (1) | (5,544)  | (5,545)                         | 240,540                                   |
| 101   | —  | 108   | 4     | 3,859                       | 3,813 | —      | 401,868 | 405,681                    | —  | —  | 149   | 149                        | —       | (1,585) | (1,585)                         | (1) | (25,617) | (25,618)                        | 395,063                                   |
| —     | —  | 94    | —     | 1,066                       | 675   | 12,385 | 37,110  | 50,170                     | —  | —  | 31    | 31                         | (9,816) | (2)     | (9,818)                         | —   | (300)    | (300)                           | 48,873                                    |
| 42    | —  | 28    | 26    | 7,144                       | —     | —      | —       | —                          | —  | —  | 18    | 18                         | —       | (1)     | (1)                             | (1) | (1)      | (2)                             | 16,710                                    |
| —     | —  | 6     | 1     | 2,544                       | —     | —      | 1,201   | 1,201                      | —  | —  | 2,274 | 2,274                      | —       | (1)     | (1)                             | (1) | (4,050)  | (4,051)                         | 13,355                                    |
| 129   | —  | 57    | 193   | 2,429                       | —     | —      | 14,671  | 14,671                     | —  | —  | 27    | 27                         | —       | (524)   | (524)                           | (1) | (10,434) | (10,435)                        | 16,579                                    |
| 153   | —  | 2,452 | 2,706 | 10,716                      | —     | —      | —       | —                          | —  | —  | 3,589 | 3,589                      | —       | (5,941) | (5,941)                         | (1) | (1)      | (2)                             | 24,337                                    |
| —     | —  | 5     | —     | 118                         | —     | —      | —       | —                          | —  | —  | 64    | 64                         | —       | —       | —                               | —   | —        | —                               | 795                                       |
| 153   | —  | 2,447 | 2,706 | 10,598                      | —     | —      | —       | —                          | —  | —  | 3,525 | 3,525                      | —       | (5,941) | (5,941)                         | (1) | (1)      | (2)                             | 23,542                                    |
| 1,581 | —  | 6,522 | 4,755 | 53,333                      | 4,488 | 12,385 | 483,966 | 500,839                    | —  | —  | 7,234 | 7,234                      | (9,816) | (8,529) | (18,345)                        | (6) | (45,947) | (45,953)                        | 755,457                                   |

| 70 | 72 | 73 | 75 | Total<br>Operating<br>Costs | 77  | 79    | 80    | Total<br>Govt<br>Transfers | 81 | 83 | 85 | Total<br>Other<br>Expenses | 86 | 88  | Total<br>Internal<br>Recoveries | 89 | 90  | Total<br>External<br>Recoveries | Total<br>2018/19<br>Operating<br>Expenses |
|----|----|----|----|-----------------------------|-----|-------|-------|----------------------------|----|----|----|----------------------------|----|-----|---------------------------------|----|-----|---------------------------------|---|
| 70 | —  | 15 | —  | 3,531                       | 380 | 6,640 | 2,000 | 9,020                      | —  | —  | 1  | 1                          | —  | (1) | (1)                             | —  | (1) | (1)                             | 14,728                                    |
| 70 | —  | 15 | —  | 3,531                       | 380 | 6,640 | 2,000 | 9,020                      | —  | —  | 1  | 1                          | —  | (1) | (1)                             | —  | (1) | (1)                             | 14,728                                    |

| 70  | 72 | 73 | 75 | Total<br>Operating<br>Costs | 77    | 79 | 80  | Total<br>Govt<br>Transfers | 81     | 83 | 85  | Total<br>Other<br>Expenses | 86 | 88 | Total<br>Internal<br>Recoveries | 89 | 90      | Total<br>External<br>Recoveries | Total<br>2018/19<br>Operating<br>Expenses |
|-----|----|----|----|-----------------------------|-------|----|-----|----------------------------|--------|----|-----|----------------------------|----|----|---------------------------------|----|---------|---------------------------------|---|
| —   | —  | —  | —  | 3,200                       | 4,495 | —  | —   | 4,495                      | —      | —  | 500 | 500                        | —  | —  | —                               | —  | (7,501) | (7,501)                         | 1,496                                     |
| 115 | —  | 60 | —  | 705                         | —     | —  | 476 | 476                        | —      | —  | 100 | 100                        | —  | —  | —                               | —  | —       | —                               | 1,281                                     |
| —   | —  | —  | —  | —                           | —     | —  | —   | —                          | —      | —  | —   | —                          | —  | —  | —                               | —  | —       | —                               | —   |
| —   | —  | —  | —  | —                           | 2,000 | —  | —   | 2,000                      | 11,504 | —  | —   | 11,504                     | —  | —  | —                               | —  | —       | —                               | 13,504                                    |
| 115 | —  | 60 | —  | 3,905                       | 6,495 | —  | 476 | 6,971                      | 11,504 | —  | 600 | 12,104                     | —  | —  | —                               | —  | (7,501) | (7,501)                         | 16,281                                    |

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**  
**Full Time Equivalents**

| FTEs                                       | Restated<br>2017/2018<br>Head Count | Funded<br>Increase | Projected<br>2018/19<br>Head Count |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Public Safety and Solicitor General</b> |                                     |                    |                                    |
| Corrections                                | 2,637                               | 2                  | 2,639                              |
| Policing and Security Programs             | 161                                 |                    | 161                                |
| Victim Services and Crime Prevention       | 110                                 | 3                  | 113                                |
| BC Coroners Services                       | 177                                 |                    | 177                                |
| RoadSafetyBC                               | 169                                 | 1                  | 170                                |
| Emergency Management BC                    | 182                                 | 10                 | 192                                |
| Executive & Support Services               |                                     |                    |                                    |
| Ministers Office                           | 6                                   |                    | 6                                  |
| Office of the Deputy Solicitor General     | 6                                   |                    | 6                                  |
| Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women      | 2                                   | 2                  | 4                                  |
| Emergency Management Deputy Minister       | 5                                   | 2                  | 7                                  |
| Corporate Policy and Planning              | 13                                  |                    | 13                                 |
| Corporate Management Services Branch       | 158                                 |                    | 158                                |
| Special Accounts                           |                                     |                    |                                    |
| Civil Forfeiture Account                   | 9                                   |                    | 9                                  |
|  | 3,635                               | 20                 | 3,655                              |

**Justice and Public Safety Sector  
2018/19 – 2020/21 Service Plan  
Overview**

**Strategic Direction and Alignment with Government Priorities (pp. 5 - 6)**

- Demonstrates how the ministries' goals and objectives provide a strong foundation for government's key priorities of making life more affordable, delivering the services that people count on, and building a strong, sustainable and innovative economy.
- Identifies the specific objectives that support the priority of delivering the services that people count on.
- References key priorities of the ministries:
  - Directions in Ministers' mandate letters;
  - Improvements across the justice and public safety sector; and
  - Engagement with Indigenous leadership and communities.

**Strategic Context (pp. 6 - 7)**

- Identifies key external factors affecting the justice and public safety sector.

**Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures (pp. 7 – 20)**

- The ministries have jointly adopted the goals developed by British Columbia's Justice and Public Safety Council, as set out in the first Strategic Plan for the Justice and Public Safety Sector, April 2014 – March 2017 and reaffirmed in the third annual update to the plan, released by the Council in March 2017.
- This sector-wide strategic plan is based on a broad range of advice, consultation and recommendations from leaders, participants and stakeholders across the sector, and the goals identified are viewed as essential to the sector's health.
- The ministries support the objectives developed by the Council; however, for the purposes of this service plan, more specific and measurable objectives were developed.
- The strategies included are those that address the directions in the Ministers' mandate letters and other key sector priorities.
- Additional performance measures have been included to strengthen performance reporting and to meet the new government-wide guideline that at least one measure must be identified for each objective included.

| Goals   | Objectives   | Performance Measures   |
|---|--|--|
| 1) The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia is fair                     | 1.1) Increased access to justice through streamlined business practices, technology and alternative service delivery models  | Average child and family support payments per case per year recovered through the Family Maintenance Enforcement Program   |
| 2) The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia protects people             | 2.1) Strengthened engagement with Indigenous leadership, organizations and communities in creating better outcomes for Indigenous people across the justice and public safety sector | Total number of letters of intent to create MOUs between BC Corrections and First Nations to support the successful reintegration of Indigenous people returning to their community and/or remaining connected to their community <i>[NEW]</i> |
|   | 2.2) Strengthened prevention, protection and support for victims of crime, and marginalized and vulnerable women and children  | Timeliness of Victim Financial Assistance claim adjudication   |
|   | 2.3) Improved public safety for all British Columbians   | Police-reported crime rates (violent; property; other; overall)  |
|   |  | Rates of traffic fatalities and serious injuries   |
|   |  | Rate of traffic fatalities and serious injuries involving high-risk driving behaviours   |
| 3) The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia is sustainable              | 3.1) Strengthened sustainability of the justice and public safety sector through increased efficiency of resource management and effective human resource planning                   | Completion of succession plans for high-risk ministry positions <i>[NEW]</i>   |
|   |  | Accessibility and timeliness of Virtual Initial Needs Determination (four indicators) <i>[NEW]</i>   |
| 4) The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia has the public's confidence | 4.1) Increased public confidence in the justice and public safety sector   | Public confidence in the justice system and courts <i>[NEW]</i>  |
|   |  | Public confidence in the police <i>[NEW]</i>   |
|   |  | Cumulative number of binding British Columbia Provincial Policing Standards approved for implementation  |
|   |  | Timeliness of gaming regulation processes  |

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

**A.** A joint service plan was released for the ministries to present a cohesive plan for the justice and public safety sector, and to highlight jointly shared goals and objectives as well as both shared and distinct strategies for each ministry.

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

**2018/19 – 2020/21  
SERVICE PLAN**

February 2018





For contact information and hyperlinks to additional information about the Ministry of Attorney General and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, see page 24.

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[Ministry of Attorney General](#)  
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and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

## Attorney General Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Attorney General and Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2018/19 - 2020/21 Service Plan* was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Eby'.

Honourable David Eby, QC  
Attorney General  
February 2, 2018

## Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Attorney General and Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2018/19 - 2020/21 Service Plan* was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Farnworth'.

Honourable Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
February 2, 2018

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## Purpose of the Ministries

The Ministry of Attorney General and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General share the vision of a safe, secure, just and resilient British Columbia. The ministries work together to administer justice, deliver public safety services and programs, and provide legal advice to government.

The Ministry of Attorney General is responsible for the following program areas: administrative, civil and family justice services; court services; family maintenance enforcement; legal advice and services to government; legal aid; prosecution services; protection and promotion of human rights; gaming regulation and enforcement; and liquor licensing, enforcement and distribution.<sup>1</sup>

The areas of responsibility of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General are: policing and law enforcement; correctional services; restorative justice; crime prevention; victim services; coroners services; civil forfeiture; criminal record checks; private security industry regulation; cannabis legalization and regulation; road safety; emergency management, including planning, preparedness, mitigation/prevention, response and recovery; flood protection and mitigation; fire prevention and safety; consumer protection; and guide dog and service dog certification.<sup>2</sup>

## Strategic Direction and Alignment with Government Priorities

The ministries share the same goals and objectives for the justice and public safety sector, as identified in this joint service plan, and work together to achieve them. Through these goals and objectives, the ministries provide a strong foundation for government's key priorities of making life more affordable, delivering the services that people count on, and building a strong, sustainable, innovative economy that works for all British Columbians. The specific objectives identified in this service plan that align with government's priority of delivering the services that people count on are identified below.

| Government Priority                     | The Ministry of Attorney General and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General align with this priority through:   |
|---|--|
| Delivering the services people count on | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased access to justice through streamlined business practices, technology and alternative service delivery models (Objective 1.1);</li><li>• Strengthened engagement with Indigenous<sup>3</sup> leadership, organizations and communities in creating better outcomes for Indigenous people across the justice and public safety sector (Objective 2.1);</li><li>• Strengthened prevention, protection and support for victims of crime, and marginalized and vulnerable women and children (Objective 2.2);</li><li>• Improved public safety for all British Columbians (Objective 2.3); and</li><li>• Increased public confidence in the justice and public safety sector (Objective 4.1).</li></ul> |

---

<sup>1</sup> The Crowns, agencies, boards, commissions and other tribunals for which the Attorney General is responsible are summarized in Appendix B.

<sup>2</sup> The Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General is also responsible for a number of agencies and boards (see Appendix B) and the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia (see Appendix C).

<sup>3</sup> The term Indigenous as used throughout this document includes all people of Indigenous ancestry, including First Nations, Métis and Inuit.

The ministries are strongly pursuing improvements throughout the justice and public safety sector, working in collaboration with leaders, participants and stakeholders across the sector. This commitment is consistent with the direction provided by Premier John Horgan in his July 2017 ministerial mandate letters to the [Attorney General, David Eby](#), and the [Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Mike Farnworth](#), and is reflected in this service plan.

Work throughout the sector is being informed by increasing engagement with Indigenous leadership and communities to build stronger relationships and improve health and wellbeing outcomes for Indigenous peoples across British Columbia. The ministries are committed to applying an Indigenous lens to support culturally responsive and relevant policies, programs and services that address the unique needs of Indigenous peoples. This is consistent with government's commitment to true, lasting reconciliation and implementation of the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) and the [Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#).

## Strategic Context

Numerous factors affect the ministries in delivering their responsibilities and shape the priorities of the justice and public safety sector, including:

- The ongoing dialogue on the need to improve access to justice;
- The opioid public health emergency;
- Federal government plans to legalize cannabis;
- Mental health and addiction issues demanding increasing resources and enhanced coordination of services;
- Over-representation of Indigenous people in the sector;
- Violence against women;
- Guns and gang violence;
- Organized crime and gang involvement in illegal gambling and money-laundering in gambling facilities;
- Increasing vehicle crashes and traffic injuries;
- Increasing service delivery demands and costs;
- Court decisions impacting service delivery, including timeliness of service;
- Rapidly changing technology and demand for digitized services;
- Federal government commitments that impact the province;
- Constitutional and legislative requirements;
- External audits, reviews and commissions of inquiry;
- The impact of climate change as it relates to emergency preparedness (i.e., an increase in the number and duration of floods and wildfires); and
- The likelihood of catastrophic earthquakes along the coast of British Columbia.

The ministries are committed to a justice and public safety sector that is fair, protects people, has the public's confidence, and is innovative, sustainable and accountable. This demands:

- Strategic alignment between budgets, investments and sector goals and objectives;
- Efficient, accessible and affordable operations and service delivery;

- Effective governance structures;
- Impartial, independent decision making;
- Management of the risks associated with innovation; and
- Tracking and reporting on performance for accountability.

## Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures

The Ministry of Attorney General and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General adopted and continue to work toward the goals developed by British Columbia's Justice and Public Safety Council, as set out in the *Strategic Plan for the Justice and Public Safety Sector, April 2014 – March 2017* and reaffirmed in the *third annual update* to the plan released in March 2017. This sector-wide strategic plan and the subsequent updates were developed by the Council based on a wide range of advice, consultation and recommendations obtained through semi-annual Justice Summits held with leaders, participants and stakeholders across the justice and public safety sector in British Columbia. The goals identified by the Council are essential to the health of the sector.

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

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

The ministries also support the objectives identified by the Council; however, for the purposes of this service plan, more specific and measurable objectives have been developed.

For each objective included in the plan, at least one indicator of performance has been identified. These measures represent only a few of the many potential indicators of performance. Measuring the performance of justice and public safety programs and processes is complex. Long-term outcomes are affected by many factors and are not under the exclusive control of any one program area or ministry.

Work is underway to increase the capacity of the sector to report on performance to improve accountability and transparency. As part of this work, the ministries will engage with Indigenous leadership and organizations to develop indicators of Indigenous justice and wellbeing outcomes.

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

#### **Objective 1.1: Increased access to justice through streamlined business practices, technology and alternative service delivery models**

##### **Key Strategies:**

- Improve support of legal aid, including Indigenous legal services, dispute resolution services for families, and expanded poverty law services;
- Work to reduce court delays through increased numbers of court sheriffs, expanded use of duty counsel, and increased staffing of the Court Services Branch;
- Continue implementation of the Comprehensive Disclosure Strategy – a partnership between the Ministries of Attorney General and Public Safety and Solicitor General – with the goal of

- achieving more effective and efficient management of disclosure across the criminal justice system;
- Support the Civil Resolution Tribunal, Canada's first online tribunal to hear strata and small claims cases and reach binding decisions enforceable as a court order;
  - Continue tribunal transformation for more effective and efficient administrative tribunal services;
  - Work to improve the family court process, rules and forms to strengthen efficiency and effectiveness in Provincial Court;
  - Support justice access centres, which feature an integrated approach to helping clients reach early and affordable solutions to their family and civil justice issues;
  - Continue and expand the Justice Innovation and Transformation Initiatives delivered by the Legal Services Society (i.e., Expanded Criminal Duty Counsel, Expanded Family Duty Counsel, the enhanced Family LawLINE, and the Parents Legal Centre);
  - Strengthen enforcement of child and spousal support orders through the Family Maintenance Enforcement Program;
  - Implement recommendations in the Lower Fraser Valley Regional Plan Court Capacity Expansion Project Final Report, including construction of a new 14 room courthouse in Abbotsford (see page 22);
  - Increase videoconferencing for rural, remote and Indigenous communities; and
  - Continue implementation of the first phase of the Road Safety Initiative, designed to improve public safety through greater police efficiency, and create more effective and efficient processes that are more accessible for citizens.

**Performance Measure: Child and family support payments recovered through the Family Maintenance Enforcement Program**

| Performance Measure:  | 2012/13 –<br>2016/17<br>Baseline <sup>1</sup> | 2017/18<br>Forecast | 2018/19<br>Target | 2019/20<br>Target | 2020/21<br>Target |
|---|---|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1.1a Average child and family support payments per case per year recovered through the Family Maintenance Enforcement Program | \$5,007                                       | \$5,107             | \$5,209           | \$5,313           | \$5,420           |

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

<sup>1</sup> The baseline for this measure is the average for the five-year period from 2012/13 to 2016/17.

**Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:**

The Family Maintenance Enforcement Program (FMEP) is a free service of the Ministry of Attorney General that increases access to justice by assisting families and children entitled to maintenance (child support and spousal support) under maintenance orders or agreements.

**Discussion:**

A key outcome measure for the FMEP is the average payments per year to families enrolled in the program. Targets for the measure are based on trend analyses of program data.

The program was responsible for the administration of an annual average of 41,672 cases during the baseline period of 2012/13 to 2016/17, including necessary enforcement measures to ensure payment of child and family support. Case management activities are carefully tracked, including enrolment of cases, payments, enforcement measures taken (administrative and court) and communications with clients.

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

**Objective 2.1 Strengthened engagement with Indigenous leadership, organizations and communities in creating better outcomes for Indigenous people across the justice and public safety sector**

**Key Strategies:**

- Implement the [Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#) that are relevant to the work of the ministries, and review policies, programs and legislation to bring into action the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#);
- Work with the BC Aboriginal Justice Council to develop an Indigenous Justice Strategy to reduce the over-representation of Indigenous people involved in the justice and public safety sector<sup>4</sup>;
- Support the provincial work on the social determinants of health, led by the First Nations Health Council;
- Enhance the Aboriginal Liaison Program, in recognition of the importance of culture in rehabilitation and recovery, through increased resources and support, standardization of the program, and building stronger relationships to ensure that programs are community driven;
- Create memorandums of understanding with First Nations to support the reintegration of Indigenous people being released from custody and/or under community supervision who are returning to their communities;
- Begin implementation of Intercultural Safety Training in the justice and public safety sector, targeting contracted services, direct service providers and other ministry staff;
- Continue collaboration between the BC Coroners Service and the First Nations Health Authority and support the [Declaration of Commitment to Cultural Safety and Humility](#);
- Maintain BC Coroners Service's specific data release and partnership with the First Nations Health Authority on illicit drug overdose death data for B.C. First Nations and conduct aggregate data reports and death review panels focussed on First Nations peoples;
- Provide comprehensive mortality data and analyses to the First Nations Health Authority and First Nations communities to inform community-based initiatives that support wellness and safe communities;

---

<sup>4</sup> In September 2017, a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) was signed by the co-chairs of the BC Aboriginal Justice Council and the Province to develop an Indigenous Justice Strategy.



- Report annually on the provincial government's response to the BC Missing Women Commission of Inquiry recommendations;
- Coordinate provincial response and support of the work of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls;
- Support First Nations policing;
- Support the federal-provincial-territorial Justice Framework to Address Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls;
- Implement the Specialized Courts Strategy, including conducting analyses of Indigenous court models and the Aboriginal Family Healing Court Conference pilot program in New Westminster, led by the Ministry of Children and Family Development;
- Explore ways to improve access to justice in the North and in remote Indigenous communities, including increased use of alternative dispute resolution in child welfare matters rather than the court process;
- Support the Native Courtworker program and Indigenous legal clinics;
- Maintain the Child Protection Mediation Program, which provides an option for mediation as an alternative to court in order to resolve child welfare matters;
- Maintain the bi-lateral agreement with the federal government, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, and Emergency Management BC to provide First Nations communities with the full range of emergency management services that local authorities receive, including preparedness, mitigation/prevention, response and recovery; and
- Recognize the unique needs of First Nations with regard to emergency management, and leverage their knowledge of historical emergency hazards and mitigation strategies.

#### Letters of intent to create memorandums of understanding between BC Corrections and First Nations

| Performance Measure:   | 2016/17<br>Baseline | 2017/18<br>Forecast | 2018/19<br>Target <sup>1</sup> | 2019/20<br>Target | 2020/21<br>Target |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 2.1a Total number of letters of intent to create memorandums of understanding (MOUs) between BC Corrections and First Nations to support the successful reintegration of Indigenous people returning to their community and/or remaining connected to their community. | 0                   | 1                   | 2                              | 3                 | 4                 |

Data Source: Results for this measure are derived from the Corrections Branch, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

<sup>1</sup> Note that the targets are cumulative (i.e., one additional letter of intent to create an MOU per year).

#### Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:

Supporting the successful reintegration of Indigenous people returning to their community and/or remaining connected to their community contributes to the objective of creating better outcomes for Indigenous people across the justice and public safety sector.

#### Discussion:

On June 8, 2017, BC Corrections entered into an agreement with Sts'ailes First Nation to support the successful reintegration of clients as they return to their Sts'ailes community. This agreement is the first of its kind for BC Corrections and is part of an ongoing commitment to improve outcomes for

Indigenous clients. Continuing to build these agreements with First Nations communities is a priority for the justice and public safety sector.

MOUs with First Nations outline the process to work with each client and the community to facilitate reintegration, including release planning for those in custody and collaborative supports for those under community supervision, through engagement with community resources and the provision of ongoing support to the community. The letter of intent to create an MOU signals the initiation of a process that may take many months to complete.

To build a platform for the development of subsequent MOUs with First Nations communities, BC Corrections will continue to engage with Indigenous leadership, organizations and communities, by reviewing policies and practices with Indigenous partners in the community.

## **Objective 2.2: Strengthened prevention, protection and support for victims of crime, and marginalized and vulnerable women and children**

### **Key Strategies:**

- Enhance the existing continuum of victim services and violence against women programs across B.C. to better support victims who experience domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes;
- Support domestic violence prevention and intervention measures, such as Domestic Violence Units, Domestic Violence Courts, domestic violence programming in Corrections, the Protection Order Registry, and the [#SaySomething](#) social media and radio campaign;
- Support the [Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Stopping Violence Against Aboriginal Women and Girls](#) signed in June 2014 by the Province, the First Nations Summit, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, the BC Assembly of First Nations, and the President of the Métis Nation of BC;
- Report annually on the provincial government's response to the [B.C. Missing Women Commission of Inquiry recommendations](#);
- Release reports from BC Coroners Service's death review panels that specifically explore marginalized and vulnerable populations (e.g. panels on intimate partner violence, youth in care transitioning into adulthood, and First Nations youth and young adults);
- Support the [National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#), including operating a Family Information Liaison Unit with federal funding to support family members during the Inquiry; and
- Continue to implement and monitor [Provincial Policing Standards](#).

### **Timeliness of Victim Financial Assistance claim adjudication**

| Performance Measure:  | 2016/17<br>Baseline | 2017/18<br>Forecast | 2018/19<br>Target | 2019/20<br>Target | 2020/21<br>Target |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 2.2a Average number of days to adjudicate claims for financial assistance from victims and others impacted by violent crime | 88                  | 85                  | 85                | 85                | 85                |

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

**Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:**

This measure indicates the level of client service and system efficiency in administering the Crime Victim Assistance Program within the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General under the *Crime Victim Assistance Act*.

**Discussion:**

The 2016/17 baseline for this measure represents adjudication of 99 per cent of claims received in that fiscal year. The baseline of 88 days for adjudication compares to a 326-day timeframe in Ontario in 2015/16, where approximately 400 fewer applications were received.

The targets are based on the 2016/17 baseline, the forecast for 2017/18, staffing levels and projections for the number of applications that will be received by the program. The 2017/18 forecast of 85 days and the subsequent year targets reflect an ambitious effort to maintain this high level of service in the face of increasing applications. The program forecasts that it will receive over 400 more applications in 2017/18 than in 2016/17, representing a ten per cent increase, for an estimated total of 4,500 applications in 2017/18. This growth trend is anticipated to continue into the future.

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

**Objective 2.3: Improved public safety for all British Columbians**

**Key Strategies:**

- Review viable recommendations from the Illegal Firearms Task Force for phased implementation planning;
- Increase support for initiatives that are proven to prevent and reduce crime;
- Develop an integrated, cross-sector, strategic approach to enhancing the use of restorative justice in B.C., and support the restorative justice community in delivering trauma-informed, victim-centric restorative justice programs;
- Administer the Crime Prevention and Remediation Grant Program through the following streams: crime reduction and community safety; Indigenous healing and rebuilding; serving victims through restorative justice; violence against women – domestic violence and sexual assault; human trafficking, sexual exploitation and vulnerable women in the sex trade; child and youth advocacy centres; and enhancing domestic violence units;
- Provide Community Accountability Program funding to support restorative justice;
- Support implementation of the Surrey Integrated Services Network and support the Surrey Wrap program;
- Ensure safe and secure correctional supervision, and provide evidence-based correctional programming;
- Complete an internal review of the use of segregation and separate confinement, which will result in action items for consideration prior to implementation consistent with the National Segregation Strategy currently under development;
- Establish a dedicated, multi-police agency operational task force focused on mid-level fentanyl traffickers;

- Develop tools to enhance police ability to interdict the supply of illicit drugs;
- Provide monthly aggregate reporting and analyses of overdose deaths and make evidence-based recommendations aimed at reducing the number of overdose deaths in the province;
- Pilot the use of full body scanners at four correctional centres;
- Lead the provincial government's planning for the safe implementation of legalized, non-medical cannabis;
- Enhance the BC Road Safety Strategy to engage stakeholders and develop strategies to reduce traffic injuries and fatalities;
- Increase intersection safety camera activation;
- Conduct Coroners Service investigations, surveillance and reporting into sudden and unexpected deaths, and individual and aggregate reviews of road-user fatalities, avalanche deaths, drownings, child and youth deaths, and other topics;
- Conduct Coroners Service aggregate reviews of illicit drug overdose deaths to provide timely and accurate data to stakeholders and policy makers;
- Review recommendations from the independent review of British Columbia's anti-money-laundering policies and practices in the gambling industry, which will be completed by the end of March 2018; and
- Increase awareness among British Columbians of the risks of emergencies and disasters, such as floods, wildfires and earthquakes, through public awareness campaigns, and stakeholder and community engagement.

### Crime rates

| Performance Measure:  | 2016<br>Baseline <sup>1</sup> | 2017<br>Forecast | 2018<br>Target | 2019<br>Target | 2020<br>Target |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 2.3a Police-reported crime rates ( <i>Criminal Code</i> offences per 1,000 persons) |                               |                  |                |                |                |
| Violent crime <sup>2</sup>  | 11.4                          | 10.6             | 10.6           | 10.6           | 10.6           |
| Property crime <sup>3</sup>   | 50.0                          | 50.8             | 50.8           | 50.8           | 50.8           |
| Other crime <sup>4</sup>  | 16.0                          | 15.7             | 15.7           | 15.7           | 15.7           |
| Overall <i>Criminal Code</i> crime rate   | 77.4                          | 77.1             | 77.1           | 77.1           | 77.1           |

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

<sup>1</sup> The data are reported by calendar year. The most recent year for which data are available is 2016. The baseline rates have been updated since publication of the 2017/18 -- 2019/20 Service Plan based on updated Statistics Canada data.

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

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

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

### Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:

Reducing crime is a priority of the justice and public safety sector and crime rates are tracked as an indicator of progress toward increased public safety for all British Columbians.

### Discussion:

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

Many factors influence police-reported crime rates, including demographic changes, neighbourhood conditions, social and economic factors, public reporting practices, technological advancements, legislative amendments, local police service priorities, and social perceptions and attitudes towards certain crimes.

In 2016, after two years of consecutive increases, B.C.'s crime rate decreased; it went down by 0.9 per cent in 2016, from 78.1 to 77.4 offences per 1,000 population.

There was a 6.1 per cent decrease in the violent crime rate in 2016 (from 12.1 violent offences per 1,000 population in 2015 to 11.4 in 2016); this is the lowest B.C.'s violent crime rate has been since at least 1998.

The property crime rate increased by 0.9 per cent in 2016, while there was a 2.5 per cent decrease in the "other" crime rate.

Crime rates tend to fluctuate from year to year; however, the general trends over time in both Canada and B.C. showed a steady increase in crime rates from 1962 to 1991, followed by generally declining rates between 1992 and 2014, and more fluctuations in recent years. Given the recent fluctuations, the targets established for 2018 through 2020 are to maintain the rates forecasted for 2017.

### Rates of traffic fatalities and serious injuries

| Performance Measures:  | 2012-16<br>Baseline <sup>1</sup> | 2017<br>Forecast <sup>2</sup> | 2018<br>Target | 2019<br>Target | 2020<br>Target |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 2.3b Number of traffic fatalities per 100,000 population       | 6.1                              | 5.8                           | 5.5            | 5.3            | 5.1            |
| 2.3c Number of serious traffic injuries per 100,000 population | 56.3                             | 55.9                          | 53.5           | 51.3           | 49.1           |

Data Source: Data on the number of traffic fatalities are from the Traffic Accident System (TAS) maintained by the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia, TAS Q3 2017. Data on serious traffic injuries are from the Ministry of Health Discharge Abstract Database. Serious injuries are defined as those requiring overnight hospitalization. Population estimates and projections are from BC Stats and are as of July 1<sup>st</sup> each year. Results are reported by calendar year rather than fiscal year. All numbers have been rounded to the closest tenth.

<sup>1</sup> The baselines for these rates are the average per year for the five year period of 2012 to 2016.

<sup>2</sup> The forecast rates for 2017 are based on the most recent data available. They are to be considered preliminary until the various data sources (Police, ICBC, BC Coroners Service, and Ministry of Health Discharge Abstract Database) have settled and been fully approved.

### Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:

Reductions in traffic fatality and serious injury rates are indicators of progress toward increased public safety for all British Columbians.

**Discussion:**

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

The targets for these measures are based on annual reductions of three per cent from the 2017 forecasts.

**Rate of traffic fatalities and serious injuries involving high-risk driving behaviours**

| Performance Measure:  | 2016<br>Baseline | 2017<br>Forecast <sup>1</sup> | 2018<br>Target | 2019<br>Target | 2020<br>Target |
|---|------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 2.3d The number, per 100,000 population, of fatalities and serious injuries resulting from a crash where alcohol, drugs, speeding and/or distraction were assessed to be a factor | 32.7             | 30.3                          | 29.1           | 27.9           | 26.7           |

Data Source: Data on the number of traffic fatalities are from the Traffic Accident System (TAS) maintained by the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia, TAS Q3 2017. Population estimates and projections are from BC Stats and are as of July 1<sup>st</sup> each year. Results are reported by calendar year rather than fiscal year. All numbers have been rounded to the closest tenth. Police attend most crashes occurring on a public road that result in serious injuries or fatalities. At the scene of such crashes, police record on an accident report form (MV6020) the factors they believe influenced the crash and assess whether victims have serious or fatal injuries. Serious injuries are assessed by the officer and may differ from hospitalization counts. A fatality or serious injury with more than one of the high-risk driving contributing factors (alcohol, drugs, speeding and/or distraction) will be counted once for each incidence reported.

<sup>1</sup> The forecast rate for 2017 is based on the most recent data available, extrapolated from January to August actuals. It is to be considered preliminary until the data have settled and been fully approved.

**Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:**

This performance measure is an indicator of success in protecting the public from high-risk driving behaviours.

**Discussion:**

Combating the high-risk driving behaviours within the scope of this measure (alcohol, drugs, speeding and distraction) is a priority of the justice and public safety sector.

The targets for this measure are based on annual reductions of three per cent from the 2017 forecast.

**Compliance rate with ID checking requirement for liquor sales**

| Performance Measure:  | 2016/17<br>Baseline | 2017/18<br>Forecast | 2018/19<br>Target | 2019/20<br>Target | 2020/21<br>Target |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 2.3e Percentage of inspected liquor licensees in compliance with ID checking requirements | 81                  | 82                  | 84                | 85                | 86                |

Data Source: Results are based on records kept by the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch, Ministry of Attorney General. Liquor retailers and licensed establishments include: liquor stores (whether private or government-operated), rural agency stores, grocery stores selling wine on their shelves, manufacturers with on-site stores and liquor primary and food primary establishments (e.g. bars and restaurants). Special event permits are not included. This measure includes only the results of random inspections (as opposed to intelligence-based inspections), as random inspections provide results that are more representative of overall compliance rates.

**Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:**

Preventing the sale of liquor to minors is a key justice and public safety priority given the potentially devastating consequences of underage drinking, including risk-taking behaviours, violent or aggressive behaviour, alcohol poisoning and other health problems.

**Discussion:**

Under the authority of the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*, the Minors as Agents program employs minors to test whether liquor licensees and their staff are selling to minors. The program has been very effective in raising the rates of compliance with ID checking requirements; prior to its implementation, compliance was as low as 30 per cent.

The program initially targeted only liquor stores, but was expanded in 2012 to include all types of licensed establishments, and public and private liquor stores.

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

**Objective 3.1 Strengthened sustainability of the justice and public safety sector through increased efficiency of resource management and effective human resource planning**

**Key Strategies:**

- Strengthen succession management in the sector to identify, attract and develop employees to fill critical positions and key roles needed now and in the future;
- Conduct a comprehensive operating review of the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia;
- Continue to implement innovative ways to move certain types of disputes out of courtrooms, such as the Civil Resolution Tribunal and the Immediate Roadside Prohibition Program, so that court resources may be reserved for the most serious matters;
- Promote better access to family justice services, especially for geographically remote locations, by expanding the use of Virtual Initial Needs Determination in family justice centres and justice access centres throughout the province;
- Support implementation of an Integrated Services Network in Surrey, as recommended in the 2014 [Surrey Criminal Justice Recommendations Report](#), to provide integration of justice, health and social service agencies involved in the co-delivery of programs and services aimed at reducing crime in Surrey;
- Strengthen and modernize information management and information technology systems and outcomes management;
- Increase Lean<sup>5</sup> capacity and practices to support improvement of processes and services while building internal capacity;
- Work with the Provincial Cabinet Task Force on development of the provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Framework, which is in line with the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk](#)

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<sup>5</sup> Lean is a continuous improvement philosophy that empowers employees to identify problems and create solutions. The [LeanBC](#) vision is that citizens' experience of government is improved through modernizing service delivery and streamlining government operations.



Reduction 2015 - 2030 endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly, to better prepare B.C. to be more disaster resilient;

- Work across ministries and other levels of government to establish overall provincial business continuity plans, including prioritization of critical infrastructure assets and services that government relies on, and continuity of government operations to ensure viability of an effective command and control structure following emergency/disaster events; and
- Lead the coordination of provincial response to emergencies and disasters by ensuring the integration and prioritization of key regional and provincial stakeholders, including local authorities, First Nations, provincial and federal staff, industry leaders and the public.

#### Completion of succession plans for high-risk ministry positions

| Performance Measure:  | 2016/17<br>Baseline | 2017/18<br>Forecast | 2018/19<br>Target | 2019/20<br>Target | 2020/21<br>Target |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 3.1a Number of succession plans completed for high-risk positions in the Ministry of Attorney General and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General | NOT AVAILABLE       | 54                  | 60                | 70                | 80                |

Data Source: Results for this measure are based on records kept by the Corporate Management Services Branch. High-risk positions are those that have been defined to have a specialized knowledge or skill that is critical to the business outcomes of the ministries, are challenging to recruit internally or externally, and may have a higher risk of exit compared to others in the organizations.

#### Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:

Succession planning is integral to the sustainability of public sector organizations and the ability of the justice and public safety sector to continue to advance its goals and objectives.

#### Discussion:

The goal of the succession plan development process is to continue building internal capacity to ensure that the ministries have the leadership skills needed now and in the future, and to strengthen workforce sustainability. Effective succession planning includes the identification of high-risk positions throughout all levels of the ministries and targeted leadership development through strategies such as knowledge transfer, mentoring and coaching.

#### Accessibility and timeliness of Virtual Initial Needs Determination (VIND)

| Performance Measure:  | 2016/17<br>Baseline  | 2017/18<br>Forecast | 2018/19<br>Target | 2019/20<br>Target | 2020/21<br>Target |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 3.1b Average wait time for clients to speak with a VIND staff member                            | 28 seconds           | ≤ 30 seconds        | ≤ 30 seconds      | ≤ 30 seconds      | ≤ 30 seconds      |
| 3.1c Percentage of callers that receive immediate VIND service from an interviewer <sup>1</sup> | 51                   | 55                  | 60                | 62                | 65                |
| 3.1d Average wait time from transfer by administrative staff to live pick up by an interviewer  | 2 minutes 43 seconds | ≤ 3 minutes         | ≤ 3 minutes       | ≤ 3 minutes       | ≤ 3 minutes       |
| 3.1e Percentage of local family justice offices served by VIND                                  | 58                   | 58                  | 71                | 75                | 79                |

Data Source: The Family Justice Services Division, Ministry of Attorney General, utilizes an integrated computer/telephone system called Intelligent Communications Exchange (ICE) to provide VIND. The ICE system includes iceReporting, used to produce these analytics.

<sup>1</sup> Clients are counted as not receiving immediate service if: (a) call volume indicates they would wait more than 30 minutes and callers are offered a call back within 24 hours; (b) caller waits but chooses to leave a voice message instead of waiting further; or (c) caller hangs up.



**Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:**

Accessible and timely dispute resolution services contribute to the sustainability of the justice and public safety sector through increased efficiency of resource management. The VIND model was developed as a mechanism by which accessible and timely dispute resolution services are provided.

**Discussion:**

The Ministry of Attorney General serves families with children experiencing separation or divorce by providing information and mediation services to help resolve family law disputes outside of court. In British Columbia, there are 21 family justice centres and three justice access centres (JACs) where family justice counsellors and other staff provide services. JACs provide a unique integrated approach to early and affordable solutions to family and civil justice issues, co-locating family justice services with other service providers. A foundational piece of the JAC model is an accessible initial point of contact for citizens.

Building on the JAC model of early triage, a VIND was implemented where staff are now available by telephone to assess client needs and provide services more efficiently, particularly in more remote locations. Using a geographically dispersed team of staff, VIND enables the provision of information, early evaluation of needs and referral services remotely to clients, delivering a more standardized level of service across the province.

A 2016 evaluation of the program indicated very high levels of client satisfaction with this process and with staff competency. The evaluation further highlighted that, in comparison to previous years, more clients are being served through the VIND model and that dispute resolution and mediation services have increased in VIND supported family justice centres.

Initiated in 2015, VIND now provides services to all clients in communities served by 14 of the 21 family justice centres in the province.

**Goal 4: The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia has the public's confidence****Objective 4.1 Increased public confidence in the justice and public safety sector****Key Strategies:**

- Work to re-establish the Human Rights Commission;
- Hold Justice Summits semi-annually to encourage innovation and facilitate collaboration across the justice and public safety sector;
- Strengthen business intelligence and performance management systems to support strategic planning, evidence-based decision making and public accountability;
- Develop and implement *British Columbia Provincial Policing Standards*;
- Conduct independent Coroners Service investigations, inquests and death review panels into unexpected deaths, including overdose deaths;
- Strengthen consumer protection policies and legislation;
- Modernize and streamline liquor regulation and distribution practices that balance public safety and public interest considerations, and facilitate improved public and industry services;

- Ensure that policies and the regulatory framework for gambling and horse racing in B.C. are fair, appropriate and transparent to support the integrity of gambling and provide a foundation for assessing compliance;
- Support the Joint Illegal Gaming Investigation Team in its work to disrupt organized crime and gang involvement in illegal gambling and prevent criminals from using B.C. gambling facilities to legalize the proceeds of crime;
- Support effective emergency management practices through training and exercises, and promote a culture of preparedness through public education and stakeholder engagement;
- Maintain specialized regional emergency management partnership agreements with local governments, cross-border arrangements, and agreements with key stakeholders aimed at enhancing B.C.'s emergency preparedness, response and recover efforts for catastrophic or emergency events;
- Provide leadership in fire public safety education through the Office of the Fire Commissioner; and
- Administer the Structure Protection Program, in conjunction with the BC Wildfire Service, to provide crews and equipment to protect communities and infrastructure from wildland interface fires.

#### Public confidence in the justice system, the courts and police

| Performance Measures:   | 2013<br>Baseline | 2017<br>Forecast | 2018<br>Target | 2019<br>Target | 2020<br>Target |
|---|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 4.1a Percentage of British Columbians who have confidence in the justice system and courts <sup>1</sup> | 51               | NOT AVAILABLE    | 52             | 53             | 54             |
| 4.1b Percentage of British Columbians who have confidence in the police <sup>1</sup>                    | 74               | NOT AVAILABLE    | 75             | 76             | 77             |

Data Source: Statistics Canada General Social Survey (GSS) on Social Identity. Established in 1985, Statistics Canada's GSS program was designed as a series of independent, annual, cross-sectional surveys, each covering one topic in-depth. The GSS on Social Identity is conducted every five years and includes confidence in public institutions. The most recent GSS on Social Identity was conducted in 2013, and it is anticipated it will be conducted again in 2018.

<sup>1</sup> Includes those respondents who stated they had a great deal of confidence or some confidence. Responses of don't know/not stated are excluded from the calculation of percentages.

#### Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:

The ministries are tracking long-term trends in public confidence in the justice system and courts, and the police, as indicators of public confidence in the justice and public safety sector. Citizens must have confidence in the justice system, the courts and police for them to function effectively and to ensure continued public participation and support.

#### Discussion:

Based on the 2013 General Social Survey on Social Identity, 51 per cent of British Columbians had confidence in the justice system and courts, compared to an average of 57 per cent for all of Canada's provinces. Almost three-quarters of British Columbians (74 percent) had confidence in the police, compared to an average of 76 per cent for all provinces.

### Number of British Columbia Provincial Policing Standards

| Performance Measure:  | 2016/17<br>Baseline | 2017/18<br>Forecast | 2018/19<br>Target | 2019/20<br>Target | 2020/21<br>Target |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 4.1c Cumulative number of binding <i>British Columbia Provincial Policing Standards</i> approved for implementation | 34                  | 36                  | 38                | 40                | 42                |

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

### Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:

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

### Discussion:

The development of new policing standards is undertaken by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General in consultation with an advisory committee comprised of interested stakeholders. Fiscal implications are considered during the development of new standards and significant efforts are made to mitigate costs. The ministry continues to work toward developing additional standards, including those in response to the recommendations from the [Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Report](#).

### Timeliness of gaming regulation processes

| Performance Measure:                                 | 2016/17<br>Baseline | 2017/18<br>Forecast | 2018/19<br>Target | 2019/20<br>Target | 2020/21<br>Target |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 4.1d Licensing, Registration and Certification Score | 90                  | 90                  | 91                | 92                | 93                |

Data Source: Results are derived from the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch information system, Ministry of Attorney General.

### Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:

The Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch, Ministry of Attorney General tracks the timeliness of service delivery in meeting the branch's mandate under the *Gaming Control Act* as an indicator of efficient and effective gaming regulation processes.

### Discussion:

The Licensing, Registration and Certification Score is based on five indicators of the timeliness of gaming regulation processes: the percentage of certification requests that are completed within three business days; the percentage of personnel registration and lottery retailer registration requests that are completed within five business days; the percentage of gaming event license applications that are approved within licensing standards (according to class); the percentage of corporate, personnel and lottery retailer registrations that are completed at least one week before the expiration date; and the percentage of registration fees that are processed and deposited within one week.

The targets established represent an ambitious effort to increase the level of timeliness from year to year.

## Resource Summary – Ministry of Attorney General

| Core Business Area   | 2017/18<br>Restated<br>Estimates <sup>1</sup> | 2018/19<br>Estimates | 2019/20<br>Plan | 2020/21<br>Plan |
|--|---|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>  |   |                      |                 |                 |
| Justice Services   | 113,049                                       | 126,189              | 126,426         | 126,426         |
| Prosecution Services   | 127,756                                       | 140,018              | 141,911         | 141,911         |
| Court Services   | 103,261                                       | 109,908              | 110,498         | 110,498         |
| Legal Services   | 21,894  | 27,870               | 28,824          | 28,824          |
| Agencies, Boards, Commissions and<br>other Tribunals                     | 23,537  | 25,234               | 25,460          | 25,460          |
| Liquor Control and Licensing   | 1   | 1                    | 1               | 1               |
| Gaming Policy and Enforcement  | 19,146  | 19,235               | 19,270          | 19,270          |
| Executive and Support Services   | 20,666  | 22,014               | 22,120          | 22,120          |
| Judiciary  | 74,388  | 79,254               | 80,084          | 80,084          |
| <i>Crown Proceeding Act</i>  | 24,500  | 24,500               | 24,500          | 24,500          |
| Independent Investigations Office  | 7,574   | 8,756                | 8,771           | 8,771           |
| Public Guardian and Trustee<br>Operating Account                         | 0   | 0                    | 0               | 0               |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>535,772</b>                                | <b>582,979</b>       | <b>587,865</b>  | <b>587,865</b>  |
| <b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b> |   |                      |                 |                 |
| Agencies, Boards, Commissions and<br>other Tribunals                     | 10  | 10                   | 10              | 10              |
| Liquor Control and Licensing   | 187   | 0                    | 0               | 0               |
| Executive and Support Services   | 4,118   | 4,619                | 5,805           | 4,979           |
| Judiciary  | 570   | 570                  | 570             | 570             |
| Independent Investigations Office  | 0   | 0                    | 0               | 0               |
| Public Guardian and Trustee<br>Operating Account                         | 363   | 363                  | 363             | 363             |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>5,248</b>                                  | <b>5,562</b>         | <b>6,748</b>    | <b>5,922</b>    |

Ministry of Attorney General  
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

| Core Business Area                              | 2017/18<br>Restated<br>Estimates <sup>1</sup> | 2018/19<br>Estimates | 2019/20<br>Plan | 2020/21<br>Plan |
|---|---|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Other Financing Transactions (\$000)</b>     |   |                      |                 |                 |
| <b>Receipts</b>                                 | 2,900   | 0                    | 0               | 0               |
| <b>Disbursements</b>                            | (2,900)                                       | 0                    | 0               | 0               |
| <b>Total Net Cash Source<br/>(Requirements)</b> | <b>0</b>                                      | <b>0</b>             | <b>0</b>        | <b>0</b>        |

<sup>1</sup> For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2017/18 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2018/19 Estimates.

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

## Major Capital Projects

| Major Capital Projects (over \$50 million)  | Targeted<br>Completion<br>Date<br>(Year) | Project Cost<br>to Dec 31,<br>2017<br>(\$ millions) | Estimated Cost<br>to Complete<br>(\$ millions) | Approved<br>Anticipated<br>Total Capital<br>Cost of<br>Project<br>(\$ millions) |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| <b>Abbotsford Courthouse</b>  | 2020                                     | \$3   | \$154  | \$157   |
| <p>Construction of a new 14 room courthouse in Abbotsford will add needed court capacity in the <a href="#">Abbotsford Law Courts</a>.</p> <p>The project is to be delivered as a public-private partnership, with the private partner providing the design, construction, partial financing and facility maintenance for a 30-year period following construction. Construction is to begin in 2018 with facility operations beginning in 2020.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>The new courthouse will double the number of courtrooms available in the current facility and create over one thousand jobs during the course of construction.</p> |  |   |  |   |

<sup>1</sup> Note that the Ministry of Attorney General is the project lead for reporting purposes, while the project capital budget resides with the Ministry of Citizens' Services.

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

| Core Business Area   | 2017/18<br>Restated<br>Estimates <sup>1</sup> | 2018/19<br>Estimates | 2019/20<br>Plan | 2020/21<br>Plan |
|--|---|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>  |   |                      |                 |                 |
| Corrections  | 238,225                                       | 240,540              | 241,667         | 241,667         |
| Policing and Security  | 400,661                                       | 395,063              | 394,268         | 394,218         |
| Victim Services and Crime Prevention                                     | 41,534  | 48,873               | 49,263          | 52,263          |
| BC Coroners Service  | 15,168  | 16,710               | 16,871          | 16,871          |
| RoadSafetyBC   | 13,027  | 13,355               | 13,458          | 13,458          |
| Emergency Management BC  | 15,462  | 16,579               | 16,579          | 16,579          |
| Executive and Support Services   | 23,868  | 24,337               | 24,394          | 24,394          |
| <i>Emergency Program Act</i>   | 237,968                                       | 14,728               | 14,728          | 14,728          |
| Statutory Services <sup>2</sup>  | 16,780  | 16,281               | 16,287          | 16,287          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>1,002,693</b>                              | <b>786,466</b>       | <b>787,515</b>  | <b>790,465</b>  |
| <b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b> |   |                      |                 |                 |
| Executive and Support Services   | 4,903   | 13,554               | 12,234          | 11,260          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>4,903</b>                                  | <b>13,554</b>        | <b>12,234</b>   | <b>11,260</b>   |

<sup>1</sup> For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2017/18 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2018/19 Estimates.

<sup>2</sup> Statutory Services includes Civil Forfeiture Account, Corrections Work Program Account, Criminal Asset Management Fund, and Victim Surcharge Special Account.

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

## **Appendix A: Ministry Contact Information and Hyperlinks to Additional Information**

### Domestic Violence Helpline

1-800-563-0808

Confidential; 24 hours/7 days; multiple languages

### EmergencyInfoBC

Emergency Info BC is active during partial and full-scale provincial emergencies, both on this site and on Twitter via @EmergencyInfoBC. We share official response and recovery sources, as well as verified event information from trusted partners.

### Families Change

Age-appropriate information to help kids, teens and parents deal with a family break-up. The website was produced by the Justice Education Society in collaboration with the Ministry of Attorney General.

### Human Trafficking Helpline

1-888-712-7974

Confidential; 24 hours/7 days; multiple languages

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

### Office of the Fire Commissioner

1-888-988-9488

24 hours/7days

### PreparedBC

Prepared BC is British Columbia's one-stop shop for disaster readiness information.

### Problem Gambling Hotline

1-888-795-6111

24 hours/7days; multiple languages

Information about, or referrals to, free problem gambling education and support services.

### #SaySomething

Social media site; multiple languages

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

### VictimLink BC

Call at 1-800-563-0808; Text at 604-836-6381; Email at [VictimLinkBC@bc211.ca](mailto:VictimLinkBC@bc211.ca)

Confidential; 24 hours/7 days; multiple languages

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

### **Ministers' Offices:**

Honourable David Eby, QC  
Attorney General  
PO Box 9044 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2  
Phone: 250-387-1866  
Fax: 250-387-6411

Honourable Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
PO Box 9010 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2  
Phone: 250-356-2178  
Fax: 250-356-2142

### **Media Enquiries:**

Ministry of Attorney General: 778-678-1572

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General: 250-213-3602

### **Ministry of Attorney General**

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

- 250-356-0149

Office of the Associate Deputy Minister

- 250-356-0149

#### BC Prosecution Service

- 250-387-3840

#### Court Services Branch

- 250-356-1550

#### Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch

- 250-387-5311

#### Justice Services Branch

- 250-356-6582
  - Child Protection Mediation
  - Dispute Resolution Office
  - Family Justice Centres
  - Family Maintenance Enforcement Program
  - Justice Access Centres

#### Legal Services Branch

- 250-356-8467

#### Liquor Control and Licensing Branch

- 1-866-209-2111



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

### **Office of the Deputy Solicitor General**

- 250-356-0149

### BC Coroners Service

### Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch

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

### Corrections Branch

- 250-387-5059

### Policing and Security Branch

- 250-387-1100

### RoadSafetyBC

- 250-387-7747

### **Office of the Deputy Minister, Emergency Management BC**

- 250-356-9400

### Emergency Management BC

- 250-952-4913

### Office of the Fire Commissioner

- 1-888-988-9488

## **Appendix B: Crown Corporations, Agencies, Boards, Commissions and other Tribunals**

### **Ministry of Attorney General**

#### Attorney General's BC Supreme Court Rules Committee

The Attorney General's BC Supreme Court Rules Committee assists the Attorney General in making recommendations to the Lieutenant Governor in Council respecting changes to the written rules governing the conduct of litigation in the Supreme Court of British Columbia. The committee actively pursues opportunities to simplify the language and procedures in the rules to make them more accessible to the public while seeking opportunity to enhance access to justice through the rules.

#### British Columbia Ferry Commission

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

#### BC Human Rights Tribunal

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

#### BC Lottery Corporation

The BC Lottery Corporation (BCLC) is a crown corporation governed by the *Gaming Control Act*. Its mandate is to conduct, manage and operate lottery, casino, commercial bingo and internet gambling in a socially responsible way for the benefit of British Columbians. BCLC is regulated by the Gaming Policy Enforcement Branch, which is responsible for regulating all gaming in the province, including horse racing and charitable gaming. BCLC also adheres to the federal financial regulator, FINTRAC, in its anti-money laundering practices.

#### British Columbia Review Board

The British Columbia Review Board conducts hearings to review and assess the mental condition and level of threat to the public posed by mentally disordered accused persons for the purpose of

determining whether they should be absolutely or conditionally discharged, or detained in a designated place of custody.

#### British Columbia Utilities Commission

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

#### Building Code Appeal Board

Under the *Building Act (Part 4, sections 19-21)*, the Building Code Appeal Board resolves disputes regarding the *British Columbia Building Code* on whether a matter conforms to a building regulation. The *British Columbia Building Code* establishes minimum standards for residential and commercial building construction.

#### Civil Resolution Tribunal

The British Columbia Civil Resolution Tribunal is responsible for providing online, facilitation and adjudication services under the *Civil Resolution Tribunal Act*. It provides parties with the opportunity to resolve complaints through online self-help information and tools, through facilitation services delivered mainly by tribunal staff, and through adjudications delivered by tribunal members. The tribunal is accountable to the legislature through the Attorney General and functions independently of government on all matters related to adjudication of complaints. Orders of the tribunal are enforceable in British Columbia's Provincial Court and Supreme Court.

#### Community Care and Assisted Living Appeal Board

The Community Care and Assisted Living Appeal Board was created under the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* to hear and decide appeals of licensing, registration and certification decisions about community care facilities, assisted living residences, and early childhood educators.

#### Employment Standards Tribunal

The Employment Standards Tribunal was established under the *Employment Standards Act* with a mandate to conduct appeals of determinations issued by the Director of Employment Standards. The tribunal may also reconsider any order or decision it makes.

#### Environmental Appeal Board

The Environmental Appeal Board resolves disputes related to decisions made by government officials on environmental issues. These decisions include water licences, contaminated site remediation orders, pesticide permits and the cancellation of hunting licences, among other things. The Environmental Appeal Board plays a role in ensuring the protection and wise use of the environment by providing a quasi-judicial access point for the public and industry to appeal certain government decisions.

#### Financial Services Tribunal

The Financial Services Tribunal hears appeals from individuals and institutions who want to contest enforcement decisions made by the Insurance Council of British Columbia, Real Estate Council of British Columbia, Superintendent of Real Estate, Superintendent of Pensions, Registrar of Mortgage Brokers and Superintendent of Financial Institutions. It provides an avenue of appeal for those who believe that they have been wrongly limited or denied the ability to work in one of the regulated occupations to which an appeal lies to the tribunal. The Financial Services Tribunal has jurisdiction to hear appeals under the following statutes: *Financial Institutions Act*, *Credit Union Incorporation Act*, *Mortgage Brokers Act*, *Real Estate Services Act*, *Pension Benefits Standards Act* and *Real Estate Development Marketing Act*.

#### Forest Appeals Commission

The Forest Appeals Commission resolves disputes related to decisions made by government officials on forests and the environment under the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* and continued under the *Forest and Range Practices Act*.

#### Health Professions Review Board

The Health Professions Review Board was created under the *Health Professions Act* to provide an independent review of certain decisions made by the self-governing colleges of designated health professions regarding the registration of their members and the timeliness and disposition of complaints made against their registrants.

#### Hospital Appeal Board

The Hospital Appeal Board was created under the *Hospital Act* to provide medical practitioners with an avenue of appeal from hospital boards of management decisions affecting hospital privileges.

#### Independent Investigations Office of BC

The Independent Investigations Office was established to conduct civilian-based investigations of police officer involved incidents of death or serious harm. The office is under the direction of the Chief Civilian Director, a position for which one cannot have ever served as a police officer.

#### Industry Training Appeal Board

The Industry Training Appeal Board hears appeals under section 10 of the *Industry Training Authority Act*. The board's fundamental purpose is to provide a specialized independent, accessible and cost-effective forum for the hearing of appeals from decisions of the Industry Training Authority regarding trainees and industry training credentials.

#### Insurance Corporation of British Columbia

The Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) is a provincial Crown corporation mandated by the *Insurance Corporation Act*, *Insurance (Vehicle) Act* and *Motor Vehicle Act* to provide universal compulsory auto insurance (Basic insurance) to drivers in B.C., with rates regulated by the British Columbia Utilities Commission. Similar to other vehicle owners across Canada, motorists in B.C. are required by law to purchase a minimum level of Basic vehicle insurance. In addition to

providing Basic vehicle insurance, ICBC offers various Optional vehicle insurance coverages, including extended third-party liability, collision, and comprehensive and vehicle storage.

#### Investigation and Standards Office

The Investigation and Standards Office is an independent body of the Ministry of Attorney General. Its responsibilities include: investigating complaints made by inmates at provincial correctional centres and probationers supervised in the community; reviewing inmate disciplinary appeals; inspecting facilities and processes used by court services; and participating in critical incident reviews conducted by BC Corrections, or as determined by the director.

#### Judicial Council of the Province of BC

The *Provincial Court Act* of B.C. establishes the Judicial Council, a body of nine people with responsibility for improving the quality of services provided by the judicial officers of the Provincial Court. Its main functions are to advise the government on the appointment of Provincial Court judges and judicial justices and, when necessary, to undertake inquiries into their conduct. Its duties under the *Provincial Court Act* include: screening candidates applying for appointment as judges and judicial justices, and retired judges' applications for reappointment; conducting inquiries regarding the conduct of judges and judicial justices; considering proposals for improving the Court's judicial services; continuing the education of judicial officers; preparing and revising, in consultation with the judicial officers, a Code of Ethics for the judiciary; and reporting to the Attorney General on matters which the Attorney General considers necessary.

#### Labour Relations Board

The Labour Relations Board has a mandate to mediate and adjudicate employment and labour relations matters related to unionized workplaces. The *Labour Relations Code* establishes the board and governs all aspects of collective bargaining amongst the provincially-regulated employers and employees. This includes: the acquisition of collective bargaining rights; the process of collective bargaining; the settlement and regulation of disputes in both the public and private sectors; and the regulation of the representation of persons by their bargaining agents.

#### Legal Services Society

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

#### Liquor Distribution Branch

The Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB) is one of two branches of government responsible for B.C.'s beverage alcohol industry. The *Liquor Distribution Act* gives the LDB the sole right to purchase beverage alcohol both within B.C. and from outside the province, in accordance with the federal *Importation of Intoxicating Liquors Act*. As the sole buyer and re-seller of liquor in the province's mixed public-private model, the LDB is one of the largest liquor purchasers in the world.

#### Mental Health Review Board

The Mental Health Review Board was created under the *Mental Health Act* to conduct hearings to review and decide whether persons certified /detained at any mental health facility in B.C. should continue to be certified /detained based on criteria in the Act. The board's function is to ensure that patients who are certified by physicians and detained involuntarily in provincial mental health facilities have access to an objective and timely review process.

#### Notaries Public Board of Examiners

BC Notaries provide non-contentious legal services to the public. The purpose of the Notaries Public Board of Examiners is to conduct and mark the statutory examinations of all applicants for enrolment as members of the Society of Notaries Public of British Columbia.

#### Oil and Gas Appeal Tribunal

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

#### Property Assessment Appeal Board

The Property Assessment Appeal Board was established under the *Assessment Act* and is the second level of appeal following the Property Assessment Review Panels. The most common issues in assessment appeals deal with the property's market value, fairness compared to the assessments of other similar properties, property classification and exemptions from taxation.

#### Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia

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

#### Safety Standards Appeal Board

The Safety Standards Appeal Board was created under section 43 of the *Safety Standards Act*. The board hears appeals of decisions made under the *Safety Standards Act* by provincial safety officers and safety managers. The board also hears appeals of decisions made by the Registrar of the Homeowner Protection Office under the *Homeowner Protection Act*.

#### Surface Rights Board

The Surface Rights Board was established under the *Petroleum and Natural Gas Act (PNGA)*. Under the *PNGA*, *Mining Right of Way Act*, *Mineral Tenure Act*, *Geothermal Resources Act*, and *Coal Act*, the board has jurisdiction to resolve disputes between landowners and companies that require access



to private land to explore for, develop, or produce Crown-owned subsurface resources such as oil, gas, coal, minerals and geothermal.

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

### Consumer Protection BC

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

### Motor Vehicle Sales Authority of British Columbia

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

### Police Boards

Under the *Police Act* in British Columbia, municipal police departments are overseen by an appointed police board consisting of civilian members of the community. Police Boards act as the conduit between the community and the police. They set the priorities, goals and objectives for the department and are responsible for developing the annual department budget.

## **Appendix C: Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia**

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

In 2004, the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit-British Columbia (CFSEU-BC) was developed in consultation with the provincial government as an initiative to integrate the OCABC, the municipal police departments, and the RCMP. The Board of Governance for the OCABC also acts as the Board of Governance for the CFSEU-BC. The board is comprised of: the Deputy Commissioner Pacific Region and Commanding Officer “E” Division RCMP; the President of the BC Association of Chiefs of Police; the President of the BC Association of Municipal Chiefs of Police; and the Chief Constable of the Vancouver Police Department. The board determines the strategic direction of the CFSEU-BC and ensures its operational priorities are aligned with the policing priorities for British Columbia. The CFSEU-BC operates under the RCMP policies and procedures. Board members do not receive any remuneration.

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

The mission of the CFSEU-BC is to facilitate the disruption and suppression of organized crime that affects British Columbians. Its mandate is to investigate, prosecute, disrupt, and suppress criminal organizations, consistent with local, regional, national, and international priorities. The CFSEU-BC also supports other agencies by assisting in organized crime and major crime investigations. More information can be found at: [www.cfseu.bc.ca](http://www.cfseu.bc.ca).



British Columbia  
**JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL**

**STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE JUSTICE  
AND PUBLIC SAFETY SECTOR**  
APRIL 2017-MARCH 2020

**ANNUAL UPDATE, MARCH 31 2017**

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## CHAIR'S MESSAGE



Lori Wanamaker,  
FCPA, FCA

As Chair of the Justice and Public Safety Council, I am pleased to present the 2017-18 update of the Council's strategic plan.

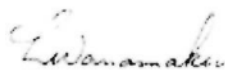
With the Council entering its fifth year of existence, it seems fitting to reflect on progress on issues identified when the Council was created. Timeliness and responsiveness of the justice system have been addressed through a series of measures which have reduced backlogs, improved court scheduling, and made civil processes more accessible through tribunal reform. Public measurement of key indicators continues to

expand. And the BC Justice Summits have progressed from initial discussions to become a forum for development of concrete innovations and – perhaps just as important – a reflection of a changing culture in our sector in which consultation and regular interaction between leaders of different functions is the expected norm, and no longer the exception.

In the Council's plan for 2017-18, in which the existing priorities of Indigenous justice, justice and mental health, access to justice, and violence against women, are reaffirmed, we can report progress in several of these areas in the past year. For the coming year, there are a series of significant challenges and opportunities on the horizon, including the chance to engage with the Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls as well as the federal government's review of criminal justice policy. There are also urgent considerations regarding enduring Indigenous overrepresentation in criminal justice, a rapidly increasing remand population, and the resource pressures which may result from the approach required to meet legal requirements associated with bail hearings and "trial within a reasonable time" requirements.

I am certain that together, we in our sector have the skill and the wisdom to address these challenges. I invite you to review and share this update.

Sincerely,



Lori Wanamaker, FCPA, FCA

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Although British Columbia has enjoyed declining indicators of crime for a generation, including measures of reported crime, crime severity, and violence, a number of these indicators have moved upwards over the last two years. Youth crime remains low. System costs are relatively stable after prior increases.

The period from April 2016 to March 2017 has seen a number of significant developments in the sector. These developments have in general been either positive or informative. Substantial dialogue has taken place regarding Indigenous justice engagement, Truth and Reconciliation, and child welfare. There have been further practical steps taken on implementation of trauma-informed practice, case management and court scheduling. Work continues as well on improving access to justice and on court innovation. The same period has seen further strengthening of collaborative linkages across the sector, highlighted by the Sixth and Seventh BC Justice Summits on 'Justice, Mental Health and Substance Use' which yielded a high degree of consensus around two clear recommendations.

For 2017-18 the Council reaffirms the essential elements of its plan, and the four goals of Fairness, Protection of People, Sustainability, and Public Confidence. The operational priorities the Council has identified for 2017-18 continue to be Indigenous Justice, Access to Justice, Justice and Mental Health, and Violence Against Women. The Council also looks forward to the opportunity to address the role technology can play in increasing access to justice and the overall performance of the sector, at the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> BC Justice Summits in 2017.

### THE JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL

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

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

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

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

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

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

## SECTOR CHARACTERISTICS: CONTEXT FOR PLAN RENEWAL

### Emerging issues

The Council has highlighted a number of emergent developments in justice and public safety which are of contemporary significance in British Columbia. These include continued growth in the use of remand, bail patterns and bail reform, the reduced ceiling for delay in criminal cases set out in *R. v. Jordan*, the commissioning of the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and the review of various aspects of justice policy by the government of Canada.

### Growth in British Columbia's remand population

The adult population serving prison sentences in BC jails has declined by 21% over the last decade, dropping gradually since 2007. However, notwithstanding this decline in the sentenced population, in the past two years the overall average number of adults incarcerated has increased significantly. This change has been driven entirely by rapid increases in the average number of adults remanded in custody awaiting trial.

As a consequence of recent trends, British Columbia's prison population is now numerically dominated by those awaiting trial rather than those serving sentences. BC, like Canada as a whole, has experienced a rise in the justice system's use of remand, such that it is common to find greater numbers of people in jail and awaiting trial than actually serving jail sentences. In a national comparison completed in 2014-15, Nova Scotia (68%), Alberta (67%), Manitoba (65%), Ontario (65%), Yukon (59%) and British Columbia (57%) had a higher proportion of adults in remand than were serving custodial sentences.<sup>1</sup> In BC, this number rose to 61% in calendar 2016.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada, *Trends in the use of remand in Canada, 2004/2005 to 2014/2015*.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2017001/article/14691-eng.htm>. In noting the national aspects of this phenomenon, the report sets out that "the number of adults in remand has grown almost six times more than the number in sentenced custody. From 2004/2005 to 2014/2015, the average daily adult remand population increased 39%, while the average daily sentenced custody population was up 7%."

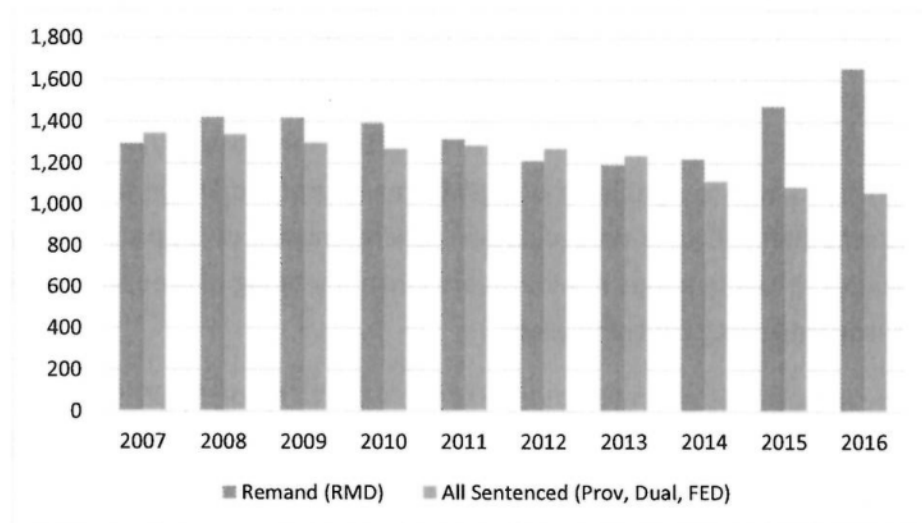
<sup>2</sup> Government of British Columbia; BC Corrections Operations Network (CORNET), extracted through the Cognos business intelligence system.

## JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2017-2020

The average daily count of adult accused remanded in custody has now risen in BC for three consecutive years, from 1,194 in 2013 to 1,657 in 2016. This represents an increase of 39%. Moreover, evidence suggests that the increased numbers of persons remanded in custody are also spending longer periods waiting in jail for trial: in recent years, the average daily count of remanded accused has risen significantly faster than the number of admissions to remand.<sup>3</sup>

Growth in the absolute and proportional remand count, and the reasons this is occurring, are not yet well understood locally or in Canada more broadly. The Council views these patterns and their understanding as questions of increasing importance for the administration of justice in British Columbia.

Figure 1: Adults in custody, BC Corrections: annual daily average 2007 to 2016



<sup>3</sup> Adult remand admissions in BC rose 21.5% in the two years from 2013-14 to 2015-16. By comparison (and allowing for slightly different cut-off dates for data), between calendar 2014 and calendar 2016 the average daily adult remand population rose by 35%. The fact that the daily average number of persons remanded has risen faster than the number admitted to remand suggests that, once admitted, accused persons are spending a longer period in custody prior to trial. Data from Government of British Columbia; BC Corrections Operations Network (CORNET), extracted through the Cognos business intelligence system. This measure is a rate of all admissions, not unique admissions. This means that individuals who are admitted more than once in a given year will be counted more than once. The definition of admission does not include a status change from remand to sentenced.



### Bail practices

In an area related to the remand patterns described above, British Columbia's system of bail (judicial interim release) has previously been the subject of reform efforts. Historically this reform attention has been due to the relatively high number of 'unproductive' appearances – i.e. adjournments – linked to the bail process. Between 2006 and 2009, bail reform with the use of video appearances was trialled in two locations (Surrey and the Peace River district); these efforts however met with mixed results, and the trials were not expanded to broader use.

While existing challenges with bail remain, the question of reform has acquired additional urgency in light of the recent ruling of the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench and prior Alberta government review regarding the legality of police officers assuming the role of prosecution in bail hearings. In finding that no such right in law exists, the Queen's Bench ruling put an end to such practice in Alberta and cast existing practice in other jurisdictions into question.<sup>4</sup> As in Alberta, the practice of police officers standing in for Crown prosecutors has been common in British Columbia for many years. The implications of the ruling are significant both in terms of practice and in terms of resources and scheduling: Crown prosecutors in Alberta must now be present at all bail hearings. Changes to bail hearings in Alberta are currently being piloted, with changes to prosecution resources being contemplated.

Recognizing the importance of ongoing study of the Alberta ruling by BC's prosecution service, defence bar, and others, the Council views the resource requirements of the bail process – and consequently, examination of possible reforms and efficiencies – as now being of even greater significance.

### Supreme Court ruling on delay

In *R. v. Jordan*, the Supreme Court of Canada in 2016 set out a new framework for an acceptable amount of delay in criminal proceedings, in which (with some qualifications including delay initiated by defence) "the presumptive ceiling is 18 months for cases tried

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<sup>4</sup> Alberta Court of Queen's Bench, *Hearing Office Bail Hearings (Re)*, 2017 ABQB 74. The ruling may be found at <http://www.canlii.org/en/ab/abqb/doc/2017/2017abqb74/2017abqb74.html>.

in the provincial court, and 30 months for cases in the superior court”<sup>5</sup> – with, after a period of transition for cases currently underway, a presumed stay of proceedings to be applied to cases running in excess of those ceilings.

As the most significant ruling on delay since *R. v. Askov*, the ruling in *Jordan* has profound implications for practice in Canadian criminal proceedings and for the resources applied to those proceedings, particularly on the part of the Crown and the Courts. More broadly, public debate over the implications of *Jordan* has raised the question of the capacity of Canadian federal and provincial justice systems to manage all of the available caseload in ways which are consistent with the right to a speedy trial under Section 11(b) of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.<sup>6</sup>

Not least because the ruling in *Jordan* relates to a case originating in British Columbia, it will be vital for BC’s system of justice and those who administer it to understand the practical implications of the new framework for the existing criminal caseload, and to develop a sustainable model of criminal prosecution, case management and case conduct going forward. Initial analysis of BC’s existing criminal docket suggests that the risk of stays of proceedings under *Jordan* is low relative to other jurisdictions. However, in light of recent stays of high profile cases (e.g. *R. v. Regan*), in the Council’s view the importance of a system adjustment to the realities of *Jordan* in this province is a matter of priority.<sup>7</sup> This view is reinforced by the provincial reality, set out elsewhere in this document, of increasing numbers of reported crimes, growing numbers of criminal cases, and increases in the remand population.

### National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

The Council welcomes the establishment by the Government of Canada in September 2016 of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The independent Inquiry’s mandate is to examine and report on the systemic causes of all

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<sup>5</sup> *R. v. Jordan*, 2016 SCC 27, [2016] 1 S.C.R. 631. See also *R. v. Askov*, [1990] 2 S.C.R. 1199.

<sup>6</sup> “Courts Shaken by Solutions to Delays.” *Globe and Mail*, March 12 2017.  
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/courts-shaken-by-search-for-solutions-to-delays/article34275019/>

<sup>7</sup> *R. v. Regan*, 2016 ABQB 561. This case involved an alleged homicide of an inmate in an Alberta correctional institute committed by another inmate, in which the accused claimed a delay of 62.5 months.

forms of violence against Indigenous women and girls in Canada, by looking at patterns and underlying factors.

As part of its national mandate, the Inquiry will hold public hearings in British Columbia to hear (and gather privately) the stories of families of missing or murdered Indigenous women, girls and 2SLBTQ as well as those who have experienced violence, and collect the advice of Elders, of Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations, experts, academics, officials and public workers.

The Inquiry, empowered by provincial and territorial governments, will also establish regional, issue-specific advisory bodies who can bring relevant information to its attention, refer incidents of illegal or improper behaviour to the relevant authorities, including relevant Ministries.

The Inquiry's hearings over the coming year will almost certainly shed further light on issues previously surfaced in British Columbia in 2012-13 by the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry led by Wally Oppal, QC. The Council looks forward to the opportunity for the justice and public safety sector to join with BC's Indigenous communities and other British Columbians in supporting the work of the Inquiry.

### Federal review of justice policy

The Council notes the existing mandate of the federal Minister of Justice to review and address a number of areas of criminal justice policy, as well as changes to family court. These include:

- a review of the changes in our criminal justice system and sentencing reforms over the past decade;
- increased use of restorative justice processes and other initiatives to reduce the rate of incarceration amongst Indigenous Canadians;
- implementation of recommendations regarding the restriction of the use of solitary confinement and the treatment of those with mental illness;
- addressing gaps in services to Indigenous people and those with mental illness throughout the criminal justice system;

## JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2017-2020

- creation of a federal-provincial-territorial process that will lead to the legalization and regulation of marijuana;
- improved use of information technology to make the system more efficient and timely,
- exploration of sentencing alternatives and bail reform; and
- the creation of a unified family court.

It is clear that each of these issues are of direct relevance to the citizens of British Columbia. Of particular note, sentencing practices and Indigenous incarceration rates, as noted elsewhere in this document, remain topical in the province; marijuana use and cultivation have long been a central focus for law enforcement, public order, and justice; and the intersection of those with mental health and substance use disorders with the justice system have – along with family law – been the subject of BC Justice Summits over the past three years.

In addition to survey and other data collection, two consultations were conducted in British Columbia during August 2016 by the Minister as part of her consultations on these matters, consultations which were particularly focused on criminal justice policy. In addition, the National Symposium on Criminal Justice, an annual federally-sponsored forum of criminal justice experts, held its ninth National Symposium in Vancouver in January 2017, with an agenda focused on sentencing matters including judicial discretion, restorative justice, and compliance with the Supreme Court ruling in *R. v. Gladue* regarding sentencing of Indigenous defendants, and with recommendations to be delivered to the Department of Justice.

The Council, appreciating the scope of the federal Minister's review and mandate, welcomes further opportunity for British Columbia's justice and public safety sector to engage as the resulting reform agenda forms at the national level.

### Sector trends

In refreshing its plan, the Council continues to track a number of important trends. As identified earlier in this report, one resilient problem remains the high levels of incarceration of Indigenous people. Declining crime rates and historically low rates of youth crime have had little effect on this pattern over time.

British Columbia has now seen two consecutive years of increasing crime rates and increasing crime severity after an extended period of crime rates declining consistently to lows not seen since the late 1960s. Violent crime, too, has increased in the most recent year of recorded data. Youth crime remains low, while youth re-offending has risen slightly for the first time in several years. System costs, consistent with increases in crime and case volumes, and custody counts, have increased after several years of relative stability.

In general, it may be the case that after a generation of declining crime indicators, the province is witnessing a reversal of these trends.

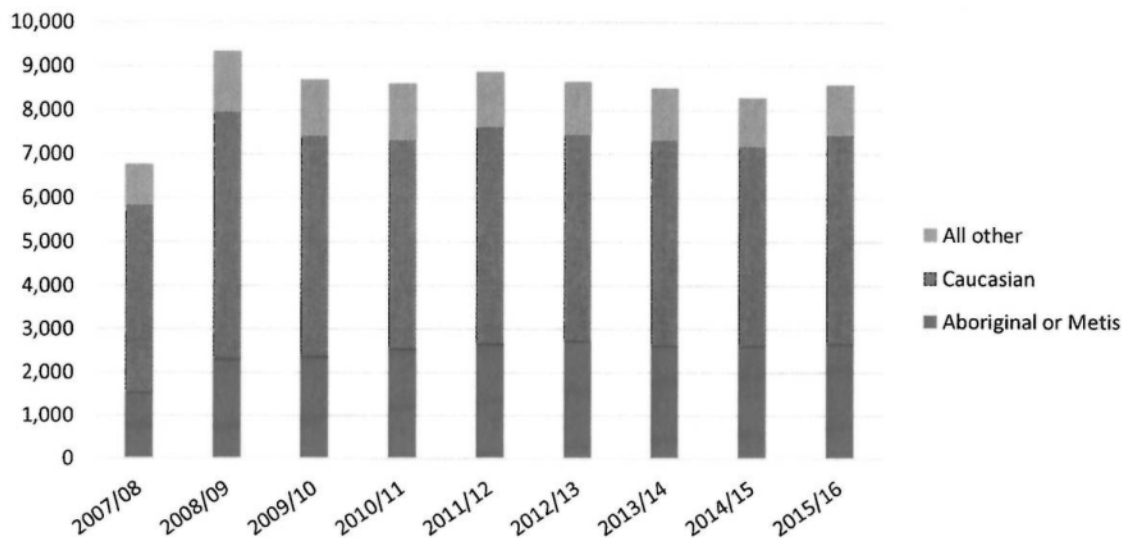
Several key environmental indicators of the sector's characteristics and performance are set out in the following pages.

## JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2017-2020

### Indigenous people and the justice and public safety sector

One resilient feature of over-representation is incarceration rates of Indigenous people in the province. Taking self-reported ethnicity<sup>8</sup> on release from custody as a proxy measure, unique episodes of custody for Indigenous people in BC in 2015-16 accounted for approximately 31% of all custody releases. Indigenous incarceration thus continues to occur at a rate approximately six times greater than expected given the percentage of the population which is Indigenous.<sup>9</sup>

Figure 2: Persons released from custody by ethnicity, annual totals, 2007-08 to 2015-16



<sup>8</sup> In BC's justice and public safety sector, self-report on admission to corrections is the sole indicator of ethnicity gathered.

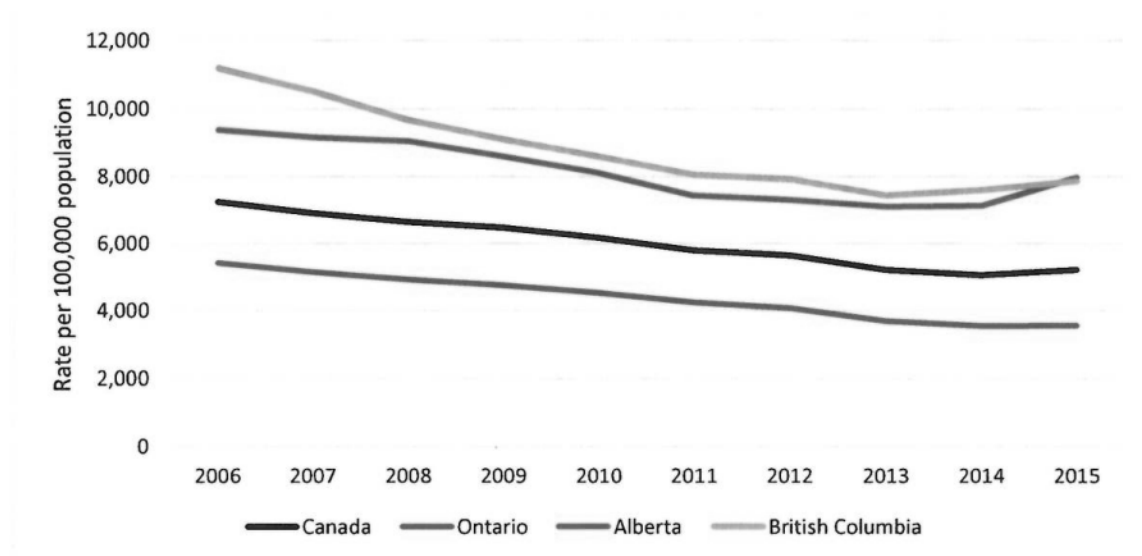
<sup>9</sup> **Data source and considerations:** Government of British Columbia; BC Corrections Operations Network (CORNET), extracted through the Cognos business intelligence system. The rate of releases of individuals from a custody centre who self-report "Aboriginal" or "Metis" status in comparison to those who self-report "Caucasian," or who self-report other categories. This is a measure of all releases, not unique releases of individuals for the following legal hold statuses: dual status, federal, immigration, not stated, and provincially sentenced. This measure does not include releases for clients on remand status. As this is a measure of all releases, not unique releases means that individuals who are released more than once in a given year will be counted more than once. The definition of release does not include a status change from remand to sentenced or sentenced to remand; however, it does include individuals released from custody to probation. Indigenous peoples were identified as 5.4% of the provincial population in the 2011 census. In 1996, Parliament enacted s.718.29(e) of the Criminal Code, which places a statutory duty on sentencing judges to consider an offender's Indigenous circumstances in the determination of what constitutes a fit sentence. The leading authority on interpretation of this provision is *R. v. Gladue*, [1999] 1 S.C.R. 688.

## JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2017-2020

### Crime rates (reported)

While the long term national pattern has seen crime decline significantly since 1991, there has been a recent interruption of that trend in British Columbia, with reported crime increasing for the second straight year. For context, the rate for 2015 remains lower than levels reported at any other time since 1970. British Columbia's overall crime rate in 2015 showed a 3.5 per cent increase from 2014, a sharper rate of increase than had occurred the previous year. As is typical of Canada's western provinces, the rate of reported crime in British Columbia is substantially higher (more than double) the rate in Ontario. For the first time since collection of comparable statistics began in 1998, BC's crime rate is lower than that of neighbouring Alberta.

Figure 2: Reported crime incidents per 100,000 population (excluding traffic), BC 2006-2015 – Canada, Ontario, and Alberta included as comparators<sup>10</sup>



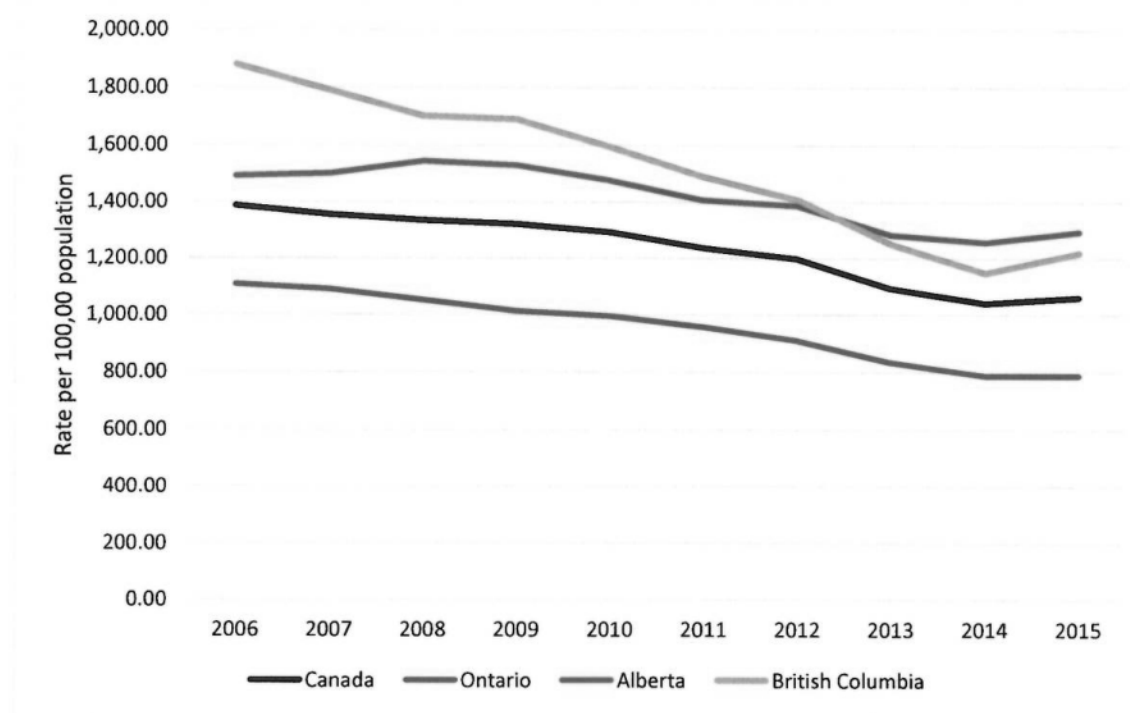
<sup>10</sup> Source: *Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics*. Most recent data year is calendar 2015. These figures reflected reported crimes. They do not reflect crimes which are for one reason or another unreported to police, and they are therefore necessarily an incomplete picture of criminal occurrences. The rate of victimization, typically determined by population survey, is considered a more accurate picture of total criminal activity. However, victimization rates are currently measured nationally every five years – too infrequently to serve as a useful policy tool – and are not included here. The reader should also note that the crime rate is at best an incomplete measure of police workload, as it does not capture the range of proactive community or public order activity required of police agencies, enforcement of non-criminal statutes (e.g. *Motor Vehicle Act*) or non-criminal requests for service from the public.

## JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2017-2020

### Violent crime

Violent crime, and particularly domestic and sexual violence which often involve greater complexity, remains high relative to rates in central Canada. BC's rate of violent crime incidents per 100,000 population, having declined steadily for a decade, increased by 6.1% between 2014 and 2015. This is a departure from the preceding decline of 40% in the rate of violent crime in BC since 2005, a period preceded by stable, high levels of violent crime. The 2015 increase in violent crime in BC is consistent with, although more marked than, changes in comparative jurisdictions.

Figure 3: Reported violent crime incidents per 100,000 population, BC 2006-2015 – Canada, Ontario, and Alberta included as comparators<sup>11</sup>



<sup>11</sup> Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Most recent data year is calendar 2015. See caveats in footnote 1, above.

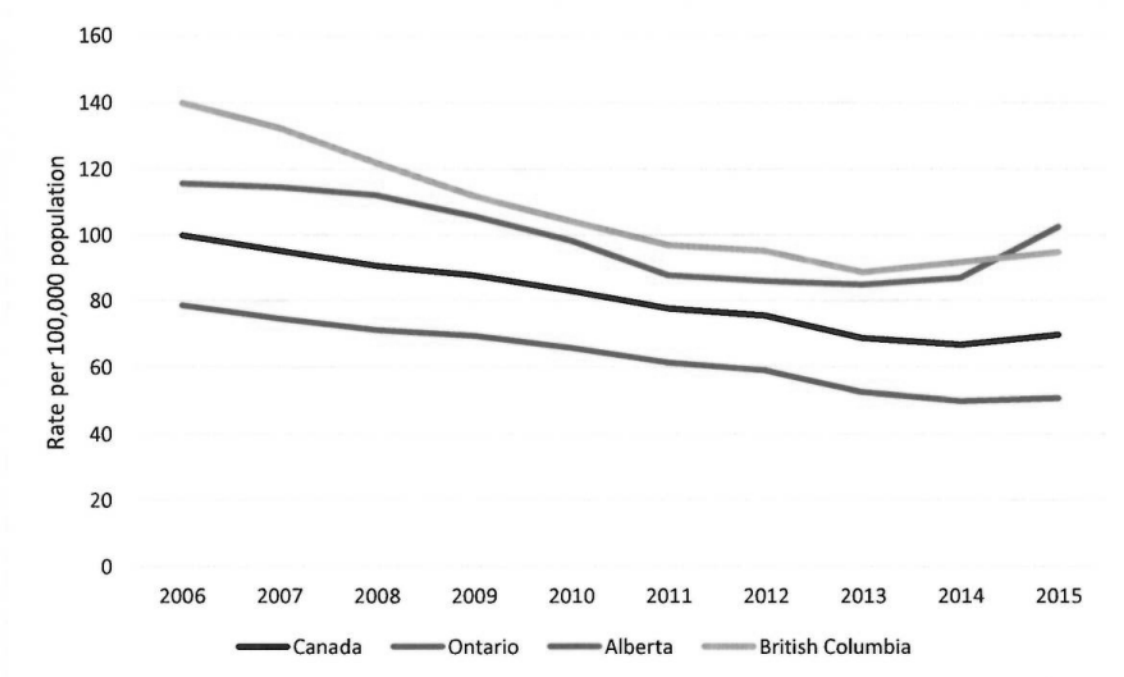


## JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2017-2020

### Crime severity

The relative severity of crime has increased in the province for a second year in a row. In 2015, British Columbia's crime severity index – a measure of the seriousness of criminal offences being committed which addresses some limitations of the traditional "crime rate" measure, specifically its lack of capacity to distinguish differences between, for example, homicide and mischief – rose by 3.5 per cent from the prior year. The change in BC's crime severity is consistent with national trends, for the first time being below that of Alberta but remaining significantly greater than that of Ontario.<sup>12</sup>

Figure 4: Crime Severity Index trends, BC 2006-2015 – Canada, Ontario, and Alberta included as comparators



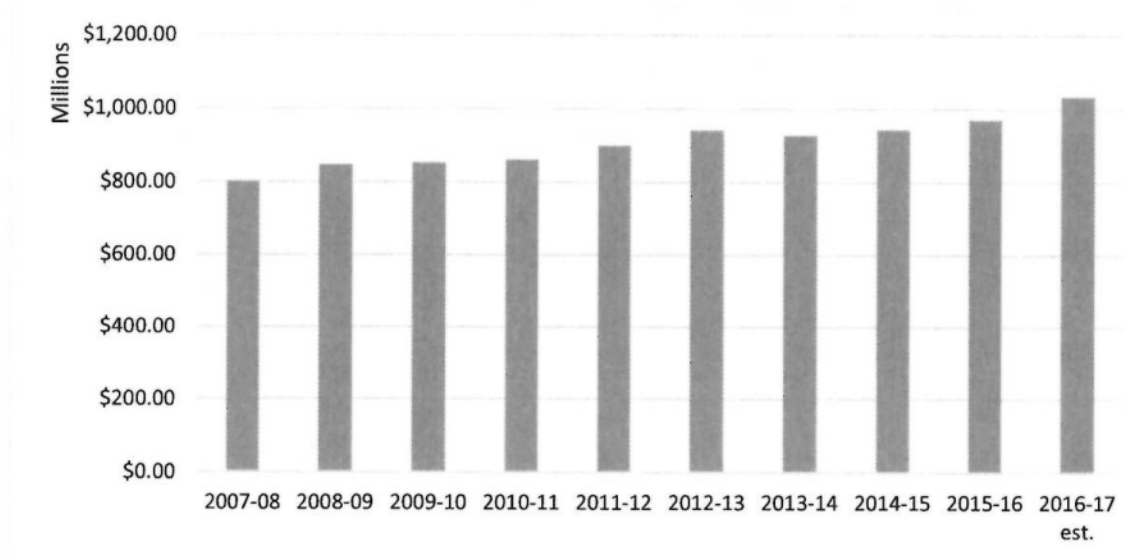
<sup>12</sup> Source: *Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics*. Most recent data year is calendar 2014. The Police Reported Crime Severity Index (PRCSI) measures changes in the level of severity of crime in Canada from year to year. In the index, all crimes are assigned a weight based on their seriousness. The level of seriousness is based on actual sentences handed down by the courts in all provinces and territories. More serious crimes are assigned higher weights, less serious offences lower weights. As a result, more serious offences have a greater impact on changes in the index.

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### Sector costs (provincial)

After a period of stability or only marginal increases, expenditures on core provincial justice and public safety sector functions rose by approximately 6.5 per cent between 2015-16 and 2016-17. While all core functions exhibited percentage increases in expenditure, including court and prosecution expenses, the greatest increases were experienced within the public safety functions (policing, corrections, victims services and road safety). In light of increased reported crime, and of recent growth in the remanded custody population noted above, these increases in public safety expenditures are consistent with changes in volume.

Figure 5: Justice and public safety costs (provincial only), 2007/08-2016/17<sup>13</sup>



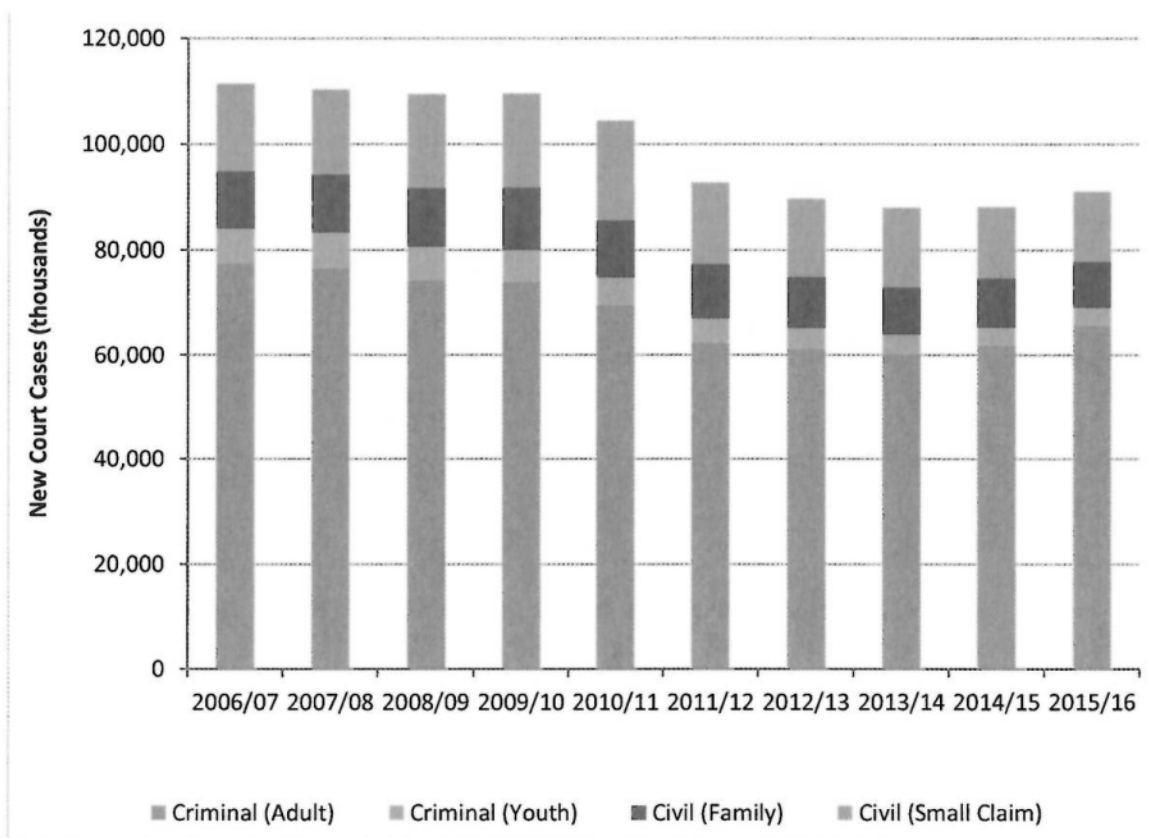
<sup>13</sup> Source: BC Government Justice and Public Safety Sector, Corporate Management Services Branch. Most recent data year is fiscal 2016-17 (figures are actual expenditures, and estimated to year end for 2016-17 at March 1, 2016). This chart incorporates budget figures from the Ministries of Justice and Attorney General and of Public Safety and Solicitor General, and of their antecedent Ministries, and combines salary and operating costs, for core sector functions. Figures include amounts for Corrections, the Corrections work program, police services, community safety and crime prevention, RoadSafetyBC, justice transformation, justice services, prosecution services, and court services. Figures exclude amounts which have not consistently been funded via the justice and public safety ministry budget(s) for services (government corporate infrastructure and facilities) and programs (for example, emergency management, liquor control and licensing, and gaming policy and enforcement). The chart also excludes funds for the judiciary and federal and municipal budget figures for justice and public safety, which comprise a significant portion of the total public expenditure in the sector – in particular, the costs of municipal policing and federal enforcement.

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### New case volumes (provincial)

The annual number of new Provincial Court cases entering the system, which declined by 21 per cent between 2006/07 and 2013/14, has now increased by four per cent over the last two years. Adult criminal cases have increased in the last two years, and more sharply in 2015-16, after seven consecutive years of decline. While these changes are recent, they are consistent with other indicators of increasing volume including crimes reported to the police.

Figure 6: New Provincial Court cases by type (excluding traffic) 2006/07-2015/16<sup>14</sup>



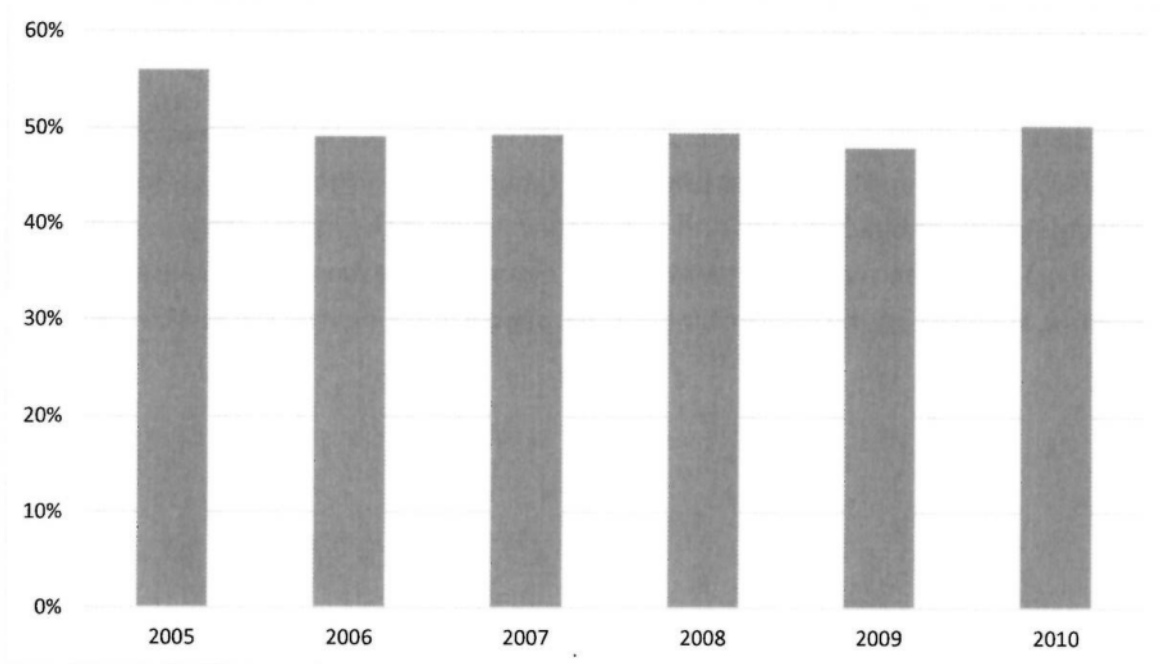
<sup>14</sup> Source: BC Ministry of Justice, Court Services Branch.

## Youth justice

Youth justice in recent years represents a continuing success story in British Columbia, as youth crime continues to decline, and the number of youth in provincial custody remains well below 100, so low that annual fluctuations in those numbers have little statistical meaning. However, there is a major caveat to these trends: Indigenous youth have increased as a percentage of the remaining youth custody population in recent years. There are, as in the adult population, significantly more youth under community sentence.

In recent years, the rate of youth re-offending has been relatively stable. In 2015 the percentage of youth not reoffending within five years of a first community sentence increased from 49% to 50%.<sup>15</sup>

Figure 7: Youth receiving first community sentence with no new offence in following 5 years



<sup>15</sup> **Data source and considerations:** Government of British Columbia; BC Corrections Operations Network (CORNET), extracted through the Cognos business intelligence system. Percentage of Youth Justice clients (ages 12-17) receiving a first community sentence who are not convicted of a new offence within the following five years (includes offences in adulthood). A five-year follow-up period is used for this metric. The metric counts recidivism of individual clients; therefore, individuals who are admitted more than once in a calendar year will only be counted once.

## JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2017-2020

### Further indicators and metrics

In February 2017, the Council released its second annual *Update on Performance Measurement for the Justice and Public Safety*, including data on ten key environmental indicators. This report may be found online on the Council's website.<sup>16</sup>

In 2017-18, the Council will continue to monitor, support, and where appropriate facilitate the development of performance metrics of direct relevance to BC's justice and public safety sector, and in particular those related to its sector priorities of violence against women, justice and mental health, access to justice, and Indigenous justice.

Work likely to produce useful performance measures is underway, at various stages, with respect to mental health, access to justice, and police performance. Regarding violence against women, work on implementation of trauma-informed practice in BC's justice system has followed the 5th Justice Summit in November 2015, and has been supported by Justice Canada. The Council notes the focus on outcome measures within this work, and encourages their development.

With respect to indigenous justice, the Council welcomes its recent engagement with BC's Aboriginal Justice Council (AJC) over priority operational areas. The Council looks forward to making significant headway on Truth and Reconciliation in the justice context, and on measuring progress on such important issues as overrepresentation and its causes, child protection, and the cultural safety of Indigenous people encountering the justice system.

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<sup>16</sup> <https://www.justicebc.ca/app/uploads/sites/11/2016/03/pm-2016-2017.pdf>

### OVERVIEW OF SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS 2016-17

The period from April 2016 to March 2017 witnessed a number of positive developments in the sector, regarding steps to combat violence against women, promote access to justice, ensure appropriate responses to individuals with mental health and substance use (MHSU) disorders, and exploring the potential of specialized courts for groups in greatest need within the existing system.

It is useful in this overview to revisit two parallel observations made by the Council a year ago. First, while there is growing momentum on the part of broad-based, collaborative reform initiatives which must be applauded, there is still room to act more boldly when confronting the major challenges of our sector. Perhaps the best example of such a challenge is that since the *R. v. Gladue* Supreme Court decision in 1999, there has been no meaningful improvement in the circumstances of British Columbia's Indigenous peoples with respect to the criminal justice system – and by some measures (such as incarceration rates), the situation has worsened over this same period.

In the areas of combatting violence against women, access to justice, mental health and justice, criminal victimization and trauma, and other pressing matters, there has been clear progress in the past 12 months, but it is still frequently observed that we as a sector are failing to use the resources already at play as well as we should. The Council is encouraged by the positive work that is occurring, and supports continued efforts to address directly the four priority areas identified later in this document.

Secondly, participants in the sector are increasingly working together, and employing collaborative, multi-lateral and cross-sectoral approaches. It is critical, in the Council's view, that such efforts continue in such a way as to become the 'new normal' for the Sector. As noted last year, so few of the major challenges we face can be solved independently by individual agencies or institutions. In the last year, efforts regarding trauma-informed practice in the justice system, our approach to those with MHSU disorders, and improving access to justice, have all progressed in voluntary, collaborative fashion. Parallels from prior decades exist, but are rare, and it is critical that we in the sector continue to apply such methods as our default approach. In this way, not only are

specific issues being addressed, but linkages and relationships are being built which will enhance our collective ability to diagnose and solve other problems in the sector.

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

### Indigenous justice

2016-17 saw significant engagement between British Columbia's Indigenous peoples and the provincial government regarding 'Social Determinants of Health,' of which the justice system is acknowledged to be an important component. Through a series of regional caucuses held across the province in September and October 2016, under the auspices of the First Nations Health Council, Indigenous leaders, experts and other representatives met with a range of government personnel to provide comprehensive input on priorities for BC's Indigenous population, and on the importance of getting to Truth and Reconciliation as a foundation of forward progress. The themes from the caucuses were discussed at the Gathering Wisdom for a Shared Journey forum in late November and early December.

2016 also saw the delivery of a report by Grand Chief Ed John, Special Advisor to the Ministry of Children and Family Development, on Indigenous child welfare in British Columbia.<sup>17</sup> Grand Chief John's report addressed a range of challenges within the child welfare system, in whose care Indigenous children are fifteen times more likely to be than are other children in the province. With respect to the justice system itself as regards child welfare, the report's 85 recommendations include calls for:

- legislative amendments to improve court proceedings relating to child welfare;
- judicial specialization on Indigenous family issues, and judicial focus on ensuring compliance with existing legislative requirements;
- expansion of programs aimed at enhancing access to justice, expanded Parents Legal Centre support in northern and interior BC and the Island, funds to support participation in child protection proceedings, and Native Courtworker support of Indigenous families in child welfare matters; and
- expansion of alternative dispute resolution and mediation as options.

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<sup>17</sup> <http://fns.bc.ca/pdf/Final-Report-of-Grand-Chief-Ed-John-re-Indig-Child-Welfare-in-BC-November-2016.pdf>



## JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2017-2020

Grand Chief John also called for a Justice Summit to be convened in future, within the context of the TRC Calls to Action on justice, to deal specifically with Indigenous child welfare matters.

### Progress on mental health, justice and public safety

2016 saw the BC Justice Summit process move to addressing individual themes over a full-year cycle. The focus for the Sixth and Seventh Summits was 'Justice, Mental Health and Substance Use.' At the first of these two major dialogues in June 2016, representatives of the judiciary, justice and public safety professionals, forensic mental health specialists, public health experts, Indigenous justice experts, and the NGO sector converged in discussion around health, police, court, corrections and community responses to what has been called a mental health crisis within the sector. The following event, in November, led to a set of recommendations delivered to the Ministers of Justice and of Public Safety, the Chief Justices of BC's Superior Courts, and the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court, regarding two key areas of innovation and collaboration. The first recommendation calls for coordinated response on the part of the justice, public safety, and health systems, to people with MHSU disorders in crisis in the community. The second calls for continuity of care for those with MHSU disorders across transitions between justice and public safety agencies and the community. The Summit has called for a plan setting out how these objectives will be achieved to be agreed by the leadership of the relevant sectors by November 2017. The Summit's Report of Proceedings may be found [here](https://www.justicebc.ca/app/uploads/sites/11/2016/03/SeventhSummitReport.pdf).<sup>18</sup>

### Deepening collaboration to combat violence against women

The past year saw further development in work combatting violence against women and sexual violence, as well as tackling the closely-related issue of the implications of violent trauma for criminal justice. Further implementation of the provincial government's Violence-Free BC initiative has occurred, with the continuing institutional setup of integrated Domestic Violence Units in collaboration with police agencies and victim services providers. Following the 5th BC Justice Summit's consideration of the impact

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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.justicebc.ca/app/uploads/sites/11/2016/03/SeventhSummitReport.pdf>



that violent trauma has on the capacity of victims of violence to engage with the justice system's traditional methodologies, significant financial support was provided in 2016 over five years by the Department of Justice Canada to deliver education, awareness and training promoting a trauma-informed justice system in British Columbia, further addressing a performance gap in the system previously identified by the Council.<sup>19</sup> To administer these funds, a multilateral steering committee has now been functioning for nine months, involving representatives of Crown, police, government, the legal profession, and the anti-violence sector. As a first step, a major training conference for front-line service providers was delivered in March 2017.

### Continued work to improve access to justice

In 2015, a provincial coordinating committee (Access to Justice BC or A2JBC) was established under the leadership of the Chief Justice of British Columbia to consider improvements to the BC civil and family justice system, with a Triple Aim of improved user experience, improved outcomes for the population, and sustainability.<sup>20</sup> Access to Justice BC brings together judges, legal practitioners, mediators, public policy experts, NGOs and system users in consideration of these aims. In 2016, A2JBC began taking steps to address one of the long-standing challenges in the area of access, the question of measurement, and has begun working towards the establishment of definitions and baseline measures. This work will allow improved capacity to describe, and therefore affect, the current situation regarding access to justice. The Council remains strongly supportive of A2JBC, its expressed Triple Aim, and the key elements of its approach: a user-centered perspective of the system, multi-disciplinary approaches, and a commitment to experimentation, and looks forward to opportunities to support or otherwise contribute to the work of A2JBC in improving access to justice for British Columbians.

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<sup>19</sup> See Plan Goals and Objectives: Fair|Impartial, below, p. 22.

<sup>20</sup> While Access to Justice BC has taken civil and family matters as its initial focus, access to justice in criminal matters may be brought in to scope in the future.

### Further improvements to court scheduling

Under the leadership of the Provincial Court, the Provincial Court Scheduling Project has through the implementation of an Assignment Court model in seven court locations maintained a specific focus on reducing delay and increasing event certainty in the scheduling of criminal cases. These steps have been complemented by Crown process reforms further implemented in 2016 that include enhanced file ownership in criminal cases, quality control standards to streamline case management practices, increased early file resolution and on-line charge assessment, and other steps in support of the Provincial Court Scheduling Project. Cumulatively, these reforms are aimed at increased efficiency, reduced file churn and a more effective utilization of system resources. In light of the prospect of increasing volumes related in particular to upward movement in reported crime, and the increased time pressures on the criminal justice system as a consequence of *R. v. Jordan*,<sup>21</sup> the Council considers these steps an important development in preventing the re-emergence of the challenge of backlogged cases.

### Continued strengthening of the BC justice summit process

Seven Justice Summits have now been held in British Columbia over four years since 2013. As the Council observed last year, this process continues to mature in terms of content and purpose, and has retained and deepened the engagement and commitment of participants from across the sector. In 2016, more assertive steps were taken within the process, as the focus on mental health brought substantial, new participation in the Summits from the health sector in particular, at the expert, event design and participant levels. The Summits continue to play an important role in ensuring that this series of leadership discussions is diverse and inclusive. This strong support and engagement continues to allow the Summits to move from discussion of system norms and strategy towards concrete areas of collaboration and innovation and tangible results. The ongoing work addressing trauma-informed practice and information sharing in related family, domestic violence and child protection proceedings stemming from the 5<sup>th</sup> Summit is one

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<sup>21</sup> In *Jordan*, the Supreme Court of Canada established a presumptive ceiling of 18 months on the length of a criminal case in provincial courts, from the charge to the end of trial, and a presumptive ceiling of 30 months on criminal cases in superior courts. The case is widely expected to increase pressure on the Courts' available time to deal with criminal matters to avoid judicial stays of proceedings related to timeliness. See <https://scc-csc.lexum.com/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/item/16057/index.do>.

example of this focus on specifics. The current steps to implement the 7<sup>th</sup> Summit's recommendations on coordinated crisis response and continuity of care for the MHSU population represent a further increase in practical focus. The Council looks forward continuation of this momentum at the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Summits in 2017, which will take as their focus 'Technology and the Justice and Public Safety Sector.'

### Court innovation

Specialized courts may yield direct benefit to British Columbians through their capacity to manage distinct areas of law, increase access to justice, and improve overall client outcomes and experience by providing a focal point for resources. The Council notes the positive development of a Provincial Advisory Committee for Specialized Courts and Judicial Initiatives. This body was created in February 2017 in a manner consistent with the provincial government's Specialized Courts Strategy released in March 2016. In light of interest expressed from various quarters concerning establishment of such courts, the Strategy had expressed the need to have better collaboration and coordination across specialized courts, to ensure they are being developed, administered and evaluated in a consistent manner. The committee is jointly chaired by the Provincial Court and the Ministry of Justice. Several proposals are to be considered for new initiatives which will benefit from a more collaborative approach to development, including a number of First Nations Court proposals as well as other types of initiatives in the suburban regions in the Lower Mainland. In light of the significance for Indigenous peoples of the creation of specialized courts, it is anticipated that a third committee co-chair will join the Court and the Ministry, representing the Aboriginal Justice Council of British Columbia. The Justice and Public Safety Council welcomes these developments, and looks forward to supporting the work of the Provincial Committee as may be appropriate.

### UPDATING THE STRATEGIC PLAN

This is the fourth edition of the three-year strategic plan initially developed by the Justice and Public Safety Council of British Columbia in March 2014.

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

#### Scope and limitations of the plan

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

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

#### Goals, objectives, and performance gaps

The Council's plan, set out over the following pages, identifies specific gaps where the current reality of the sector does not match the aspirations of the vision. Against each goal and objective, ‘performance gaps’ are set out, as identified through dialogue among sector participants. The gaps are reviewed annually by the Council in light of work done over the preceding twelve months.

## JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2017-2020

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

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

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

## JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2017-2020

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



### REAFFIRMATION AND/OR CHANGE OF PLAN ELEMENTS

#### Continuity of vision

For the plan renewal applicable to the period 2017-18 to 2019-20, the Council reaffirms the relevance of its four goals for the sector – **fairness, protection of people, sustainability, and public confidence** – and their enduring relevance to the work of justice and public safety professionals in British Columbia. The Council also reaffirms the twelve objectives derived from these goals.

#### Revision of identified performance gaps

**Goal: FAIR | Objective: IMPARTIAL** – In recognition of the work underway on Trauma-informed Practice, following the Fifth BC Justice Summit and supported by the Department of Justice Canada, the Council has amended the text to read: “We must ensure fair treatment of victims of violent trauma and sexual violence through comprehensive implementation of Trauma-informed Practice.”

**Goal: PROTECTS PEOPLE | Objective: SYSTEMIC APPROACH** – Further to the work of participants at the Sixth and Seventh BC Justice Summits, identification of priority areas for action regarding those with mental health and substance use disorders, and the ongoing efforts regarding the Summit’s recommendations, the Council has amended the text to read: “The recommendations of the Seventh Justice Summit regarding mental health, coordinated crisis response and continuity of care should be fully implemented.”

#### Sector operational priorities for 2017-18

The following areas have been reaffirmed by JPSC as its priorities for the sector in 2017-18.

#### INDIGENOUS JUSTICE

The problems affecting BC’s Indigenous peoples with respect to justice and public safety have been highlighted earlier in this document but can be revisited in more detail here. Important issues to be addressed, identified as priorities by the Aboriginal Justice Council of British Columbia in its own terms of reference, include the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the criminal courts and correctional systems, and the

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overrepresentation of Indigenous children in removals under the Child, Family and Community Service Act. Indigenous peoples are also disproportionately affected by violence of all kinds (homicides, violence in relationships, sexual violence, and other violent crime), go missing at rates far higher than the general population, and encounter substantial barriers in obtaining access to justice. The legacy of residential schooling, colonialism and systemic racism, including those effects still ongoing, is expressed in trauma which is transmitted across generations and interferes in its own right with the ability to access justice. JPSC looks forward in 2017 to establishing, together with the Aboriginal Justice Council and key elements within the provincial justice system, a guiding framework and vision regarding areas of greatest concern in terms of Indigenous justice, including early objectives and outcomes sought under any agreed strategy. In addition, as this dialogue progresses JPSC looks forward to opportunities, as they may emerge, to use the BC Summit process to build consensus and accelerate needed change.

### JUSTICE AND MENTAL HEALTH

The prevalence of police encounters with mentally disordered people in the community, combined with the rates of mental disorder and substance dependency amongst the sentenced population, make clear the need for coordinated work in addressing the needs of mentally disordered British Columbians. The progress made on these and other issues at the Sixth and Seventh Summits, and the pending development of a plan based on the Summit recommendations, are important and positive steps. The Council looks forward to supporting this work through agreement to implementation and monitoring of progress.

### ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Concerns over the ability of people to identify, obtain and afford services, understand and exercise their rights and obligations, and/or participate in proceedings on a level footing have been a continued focus amongst sector leaders over the past year. Recognizing these concerns are national in scope, the response must primarily be provincial. The work of Access to Justice BC will be important in working towards solutions to these challenges which place British Columbians' access to justice at the centre. The situation overall remains a priority for the sector. The Council looks forward to supporting the work of

A2JBC, and to the current work on access metrics which will be necessary to gauge progress going forward.

### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

With respect to violence against women, including domestic violence and sexual violence, it remains an important objective to establish the most effective means of managing criminal cases through the system. The sector has recently identified a common interest in ensuring our operations and policies are trauma-informed, an approach for which funds have been obtained. Continued implementation of this and of other coordinated approaches is of great importance to the sector in 2017-18. As previously noted, we still require a means of measuring prevalence and repeat offending when these go unreported, so we may understand and implement what works best in protecting women from violence.

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

### LOOKING AHEAD

The Council, in looking ahead to 2017-18, anticipates positive developments in a number of areas in the sector, including:

- Implementation of the recommendations of the Fall 2016 Justice Summit concerning coordinated crisis response, and continuity of care, for those with mental health and substance use disorders, including agreement on an implementation plan between leaders of the justice, public safety and health sectors by November 2017.
- The opportunity, in partnership with the BC Aboriginal Justice Council, the provincial government, the courts, and other participants in the system, to contribute to a vision, and framework for action, regarding Indigenous peoples and British Columbia's justice and public safety sector, including use of the Justice Summit process in future as a means of building consensus on Truth and Reconciliation, and to identify and accelerate meaningful change.
- The opportunity to address the role technology can play in improving access to justice and sector performance, at the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> BC Justice Summits.
- Further follow-up on the recommendations of the 5<sup>th</sup> BC Justice Summit regarding the development of trauma-informed practice in the criminal justice arena, and progress on information sharing practices where family justice, domestic violence and child protection processes intersect.
- Continued development of the work of Access to Justice BC in addressing significant barriers which still confront British Columbians as they engage our system, including necessary work on defining and measuring access to justice.
- Continued enhancement of our sector's data analytic capacity, and continued exploration of ways in which we can enhance our understanding of the sector and its performance, and share that understanding with the public.

## PLAN FEEDBACK

Comments are encouraged and may be emailed to [justicereform@gov.bc.ca](mailto:justicereform@gov.bc.ca). Written communication may be sent to:

*The Chair*

*British Columbia Justice and Public Safety Council*

*c/o Allan Castle, Coordinator, Justice and Public Safety Council and BC Justice Summits*

*11<sup>th</sup> floor, 1001 Douglas Street*

*Victoria, BC V8W 3V3*

## APPENDIX 1: SECTOR VISION

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

### Goal 1: Our sector is fair

#### *Objectives*

Accessible – We offer services accessible to all regardless of means or location, provide meaningful redress, and ensure access to justice for vulnerable and marginalized people proactively.

Impartial – We model integrity, fairness and natural justice in our procedures and in delivering services, treating people equally.

Timely – We work together to reduce systemic delay in the sector as an impediment to justice; we seek early resolution of individual processes wherever possible.

### Goal 2: Our sector protects people

#### *Objectives*

Preventative – We offer early, appropriate and effective interventions to reduce and redress antisocial behaviour, assisting people in rebuilding healthy, productive lives.

Protective – We work together to reduce threats to public safety, protect complainants and victims of crime, and prevent re-victimization of the vulnerable by the sector.

Systemic approach – We work across all levels of government to understand and address root causes of crime, and support and participate in effective innovative interventions.

### Goal 3: Our sector is sustainable

#### *Objectives*

Focused – Based on measurable demand, we make evidence-based decisions to resource the sector's necessary functions, ensuring that services are delivered efficiently.

Managed – We allocate resources prudently across the sector according to clear and demonstrated cause and effect.

Effective – We measure and improve the value realized from public investment, collectively and as institutions.

### Goal 4: Our sector has the public's confidence

#### *Objectives*

Adaptive – We offer services and programs that are nimble; we solicit and respond to the needs of people, respond to changes in communities, and monitor the effectiveness of our programs.

Performance-focused – We assume collective and respective responsibility for system performance, engaging British Columbians in dialogue as users and observers of the system.

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

## APPENDIX 2: VALUES OF OUR SECTOR

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

### ***Fair and equitable***

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

### ***Open and responsive to change***

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

### ***Outcome-focused***

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

### ***Accountable***

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

### ***Evidence-based***

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

### ***Proportionate***

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

### ***Transparent***

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



## APPENDIX 3: JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL

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

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Lori Wanamaker (Chair)    | Deputy Minister, Ministry of Children and Family Development  |
| Richard Fyfe (Vice-Chair) | Deputy Attorney General, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General   |
| Elenore Arend             | Assistant Deputy Minister, BC Corrections, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General                              |
| Patti Boyle               | Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Safety and Crime Prevention, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General       |
| Lynda Cavanaugh           | Assistant Deputy Minister, Court Services, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General                                     |
| Clayton Pecknold          | Assistant Deputy Minister, Policing and Security Branch<br>Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General              |
| Bobbi Sadler              | Chief Information Officer, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General and Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General |
| Kurt Sandstrom            | Assistant Deputy Attorney General, Legal Services, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General                             |
| Mark Sieben               | Deputy Solicitor General, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General   |

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Estimates 2018/19 Briefing Book**

**Cross Sector Issues  
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**2018/19 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, as well as policies and practices implemented in response to this 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.
- An interim report 'Our Women and Girls are Sacred' was released by the commission in November 2017. The report provides a number of early recommendations gleaned largely from a review of existing reports – including the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry (MWCI) Report (Oppal Report). B.C. is reviewing the interim report and considering recommendations.
- A final report of the commission is due in November, 2018.

**Status of the MWCI Report Recommendations**

- See Estimates Note CROSS 2 OAG Report on Government Response to MWCI Report Recommendations.

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Will the Province Continue to Report out on B.C.'s MWCI (Oppal) Recommendations Following the National Inquiry?

- The provincial government is committed to resume reporting out on B.C.'s MWCI recommendations.
- A status update on MWCI recommendations was released in February 2018.
- 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 first B.C. community hearing was held in Smithers in September 2017. Inquiry staff visited Smithers, Terrace and Hazelton during July 2017 to meet with families in advance of the community hearing. Additionally, commission statement takers were in Prince George, from February 5 to 7, 2018.
- A second B.C. community hearing is scheduled for April 4 to 8, 2018 in Vancouver.

- Institutional hearings are expected to begin in 2018. Areas of focus are expected to include policing/corrections, human rights, and institutional racism. Dates and locations of institutional hearings have not yet been provided.
- An interim report 'Our Women and Girls are Sacred' was released by the commission in November, 2017. A final report is due in November, 2018.

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#### 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 and a lawyer, 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.

|                                |                     |              |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
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## **2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE**

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

### **Suggested Response:**

- Informed by recommendations from the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry (MWCI) Report, B.C. has made significant changes to improve the safety of vulnerable women in our province.
- We have heard clearly from stakeholders, as well as the Office of the Auditor General, the importance of resuming public reporting on actions government is taking in response to the MWCI recommendations.
- The recently released Status Update Report (February 2018) helps to detail progress that has been made towards the recommendations since the previous status update report was released in December 2014. It also represents government's commitment to providing annual updates on the work underway.
- We recognize this as an important opportunity to support a common understanding of the actions being taken to address the MWCI recommendations, as well as to address the issue of violence against women more broadly.
- 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 (MMIWG).

### Status of National Inquiry into MMIWG.

- See Estimates Note CROSS 1 National Inquiry into MMIWG.

### Overall Response to the Auditor General's Report.

- We appreciate the insight and input presented in the Office of the Auditor General's (OAG) report.
- We are committed to addressing the serious issue of violence against women and girls, and a significant amount of work on the MWCI recommendations has been undertaken to date. For example:
  - Compensation and healing, including a compensation fund for children of the missing women;
  - Improvements to policing;

- Safety for vulnerable women;
- Supports in missing persons investigations, including new missing persons legislation; and
- Increasing safety along northern highways.
- We know that meaningfully addressing the MWCI recommendations will take time, and the OAG's examination reflects this.
- Today, we are also supporting the work of the National Inquiry into MMIWG. Our commitment to this national issue builds on the work we have undertaken on the MWCI recommendations.

Actions That Have Been Taken Since the Ministries of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Attorney General, and Transportation and Infrastructure Provided Updates/Information to the OAG in 2016.

- While a more comprehensive overview of the actions taken can be found in the status update, some highlights include:
  - Increases in annual funding for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre, and in 2017/18, the centre received \$1.5 million in total funding from the province. This included funds to support work to expand its shelter, and once renovations are complete, the shelter will operate 24/7.
  - In January 2017, the province approved the Provincial Policing Standards governing Major Cases Management which will begin to take effect in January 2019.
  - Regarding the implementation of cultural safety training for police and justice personnel, a successful pilot of justice specific modules in San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety Training was completed in 2017 with police recruits. Options are currently being considered to offer this training more broadly across the justice and public safety sector.
  - With regards to supports for families of missing persons, the province launched the new Family Information Liaison Unit (FILU) in July 2017 – a provincial victim service unit that assists families of missing or murdered Indigenous women and girls to navigate the process of requesting information related to the loss of their loved one, as well as connecting families to local services and supports to promote wellness and healing. For more information see Estimates note CSCP 4 Family Information Liaison Unit.
  - As of March 22, 2017, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has committed \$6.4 million in provincial and federal funding for the Highway 16 Transportation Action



Plan, designed to increase access to transportation and safety for vulnerable women travelling along the Highway 16 corridor.

- To date, 93 of the 98 children identified have accessed compensation. The application deadline for the Compensation Fund was extended by two years, currently set to expire in April 2018, to allow more time for individuals to access the Compensation Fund. Currently, the province is also exploring options to have this compensation available beyond the April 2018 deadline in the event that payments are still outstanding at that time.

Will Government Appoint a New Champion to Ensure Continued Momentum and Accountability?

- We appreciate the interest in identifying a potential new champion for the MWCI recommendations.
- However, we would like to consider options in relation to potential opportunities arising from the work of the national inquiry as well.
- As additional information and recommendations are released by the National Inquiry, we will actively seek to align MWCI recommendations and opportunities, including consideration of a provincial champion.

The Relationship Between This Work and That of the National Inquiry.

- Work towards implementing the MWCI recommendations is ongoing and will continue to influence the development of government initiatives, strategies, and policy.
- While continuing to act on the recommendations of the MWCI, the province is committed to fully participating in the national inquiry.
- The recommendations from the national inquiry will add to our understanding of the underlying issues and strategies to address the system causes of violence experienced by Indigenous women and girls, and their greater vulnerability to violence.

The Number of Recommendations That Have Not Yet Been Implemented.

- The MWCI report detailed 65 recommendations and urgent measures, and led to a comprehensive response that has significantly improved policing, missing person's investigations, and the safety of vulnerable women in our province.
- We have taken action on all the major themes of the report:
  - Healing and Compensation, including establishing a fund for the children of the missing women;
  - Improvements to Policing, including the developing of provincial policing standards on

missing persons investigations;

- Support for Vulnerable Women, including increases in annual funding to WISH and other organizations providing services to vulnerable women involved in the sex trade;
  - Supports in Missing Persons Investigations, including the Missing Persons Act;
  - Implementation of the Real Time Intelligence Centre;
  - Supports for the families of missing or murdered Indigenous women and girls to access information related to the loss of their loved one through establishment of the Family Information Liaison Unit; and
  - Increasing safety along northern highways, including new cell coverage and the \$6.4 million Highway 16 five-point Transportation Action plan.
- We also provide:
    - \$10.7 million in civil forfeiture grants since 2014 that support action on violence against women;
    - \$2.5 million in ongoing annual funding for services and supports to victim of crime and women who have experienced violence in northern B.C.
  - B.C. invests \$70 million each year to support victims and vulnerable women in our society.
  - The province will continue to work with partners to identify systemic causes of violence against Indigenous women and girls, and to uncover opportunities in alignment with the MWCI report. This work will align with the province's participation in the National Inquiry on MMIWG.

Will Funding Be Dedicated To Implementing the Remaining Recommendations?

- Work towards implementing the MWCI recommendations is ongoing and we will continue to consider these priorities as part of broader funding decisions to ensure that we are able to better meet the needs of vulnerable women in our province.
- Government currently invests \$70 million each year to support victims and vulnerable women in our society.
- We also provide:
  - \$10.7 million in civil forfeiture grants since 2014 that support action on violence against women;
  - \$2.5 million in ongoing annual funding for services and supports to victim of crime and

women who have experienced violence in northern B.C.

- In addition, in December 2017, the province announced \$5 million in one-time grant funding for community organizations that are working to prevent and respond to violence against women and children. The funding will enhance frontline services across existing victim service and violence against women programs, in order to help reduce waitlists and better meet demand for vital services such as counselling, outreach, and support.

**What Actions Will Be Taken To Increase Stakeholder Engagement On Implementation of the Recommendation?**

- More stakeholder engagement is planned, and government is in the initial stages of stakeholder engagement on the development of provincial policing standards for the promotion of unbiased policing.
- Since 2014, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has engaged with community representatives, First Nations, and other stakeholders along the Highway 16 corridor to develop and roll-out the Highway 16 Five Point Action Plan.
- In addition, in September 2017, the province entered into a partnership with the BC Aboriginal Justice Council to jointly develop an Indigenous Justice Strategy over the next two years, which will include a focus on addressing violence against Indigenous people, especially women and girls.

**Background:**

**OAG Examination**

- 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 the second 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.
  - The province has committed to implementing this recommendation and will resume reporting on initiatives related to the MWCI recommendations, starting with the recently released status update report and continuing on an annual basis.

#### MWCI

- The MWCI – or "Oppal Inquiry" – was established on September 27, 2010.
- The inquiry was launched to examine the investigations into the disappearance of women from the Vancouver Downtown Eastside between January 23, 1997, and February 5, 2002, as well as the decision by the Ministry of the Attorney General to stay charges against Robert William Pickton in 1998.
- The inquiry was also directed to make recommendations to improve investigations of missing women, multiple homicides, and homicide investigations involving multiple investigation organizations.
- Between September 2010 and November 2012, the inquiry reviewed police and Crown Counsel files, and received testimony from over 86 witnesses prior to releasing its final report.
- The final report, "Forsaken – The Report of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry," was released December 17, 2012 and detailed two urgent measures and 63 recommendations for action.

|                                 |                     |             |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
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**2018/19 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. The plan is improving access to safe transportation options along Highway 16, enabling First Nations and other residents to travel safely between communities in the corridor from Prince Rupert to Prince George
- As of March 2018, the five-point Transportation Action Plan for Highway 16 has a committed budget of \$7.3 million (prior \$6.4 million plus additional year transit funding of \$800,000 plus an additional \$100,000 from the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation for the driver education program), including \$1 million in federal funding:
  - Transit expansion (\$3.4 million – current budget cycle does not reflect commitment to transit funding beyond 2020/21);
  - Community transportation grant program (\$2 million);
  - First Nation driver's education (\$400,000);
  - Highway infrastructure safety improvements (\$1.5 million); and
  - Collaboration to increase the interconnectivity of services (existing budgets).

**Greyhound Application to Cease Service**

- Questions regarding Greyhound's application to cease service with the Passenger Transportation Board should be directed to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

**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 was 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 \$400,000 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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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****UNDRIP and Government  
Reconciliation  
Commitments****Suggested Response:**

- Government has committed to implementing the UN declaration, which was adopted by 148 nations in 2007, including the federal government.
- This commitment includes a mandate for all provincial ministries to move forward on the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and to review policies, programs and legislation to determine how to bring the principles of the declaration into action.
- As Solicitor General, I have also been mandated to make progress in a number of areas of public safety that are directly aligned with government's reconciliation commitments. For example, to reduce the numbers of Aboriginal people involved in the justice system, and to recognise culture for its role in rehabilitation and recovery, particularly for Aboriginal people.
- I know that reconciliation is a journey and that making real progress will take time, and I also understand that there is immediate need to make meaningful change in community.
- I am committed not only to delivering on my mandate, but to supporting my colleagues to achieve theirs, and to do so in a way that ensures engagement and collaboration with Indigenous communities and leadership.

**What is the Ministry doing to fulfill its commitments under UNDRIP?**

- The ministry is actively pursuing a number of opportunities to support government's reconciliation commitments. For example:
  - In September 2017, a MOU was signed by the Co-Chairs of the BC Aboriginal Justice Council and the province to jointly develop an integrated, cross—sector strategy to:
    - Support reconciliation with Indigenous peoples;
    - Decrease their over-representation in the justice and public safety sector, as both victims and offenders; and,
    - Improve access to culturally relevant services.
  - The ministry is leading the development of a cross-sector strategy to enhance the use of restorative justice in B.C. The ministry is engaging with partners from across the justice and public safety sector to ensure unique needs of communities are met, including the needs of Indigenous communities, such as trauma-informed and victim-centric restorative justice services.



- The ministry is continuing and increasing its commitment to cultural safety training for front-line staff in order to support culturally responsive and safe services for Indigenous peoples.

**Background:**

- In July 2018, all provincial ministers were mandated to: “fully [adopt] and [implement] the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission... and [move] forward on the calls to action and reviewing policies, programs, and legislation to determine how to bring the principles of the declaration into action in British Columbia.”
- B.C.’s approach to advancing long-term reconciliation is focused on building respectful government-to-government relationships, and improving opportunities and outcomes for Indigenous people in B.C. Reconciliation touches on social, economic and cultural aspects and includes First Nations governance and jurisdiction.
- The ministry has a number of specific mandate directions that are closely aligned with government’s reconciliation commitments related to the UN declaration and Truth and Reconciliation Commitments. See Appendix 1: B.C. Government Mandate Alignment which includes the ministry’s alignment details between its related ministry mandate and UNDRIP and Truth and Reconciliation Commitments.
  - Increase annual funding to support women who experience domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes;
  - Work with First Nations to set targets and take action to reduce the numbers of Aboriginal people involved in the justice system;
  - Recognize culture for its role in rehabilitation and recovery and provide culturally diverse and appropriate programming in prisons, particularly for Aboriginal people;
  - Increase support for initiatives that are proven to prevent and reduce crime, and increase the use of restorative justice programs;
  - Lead the provincial government’s planning for the safe implementation of legalized cannabis.

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### Appendix 1: BC Government Mandate Alignment

| <b>Mandate Commitment</b><br><i>Commitments from Ministry mandate letters pertaining to Indigenous peoples/issues.</i>   | <b>Lead Ministry</b><br><i>Lead Ministry for each mandate commitment.</i> | <b>UNDRIP</b><br><i>Articles broadly applied, as they cover a wide range of topics and issues.</i>   | <b>TRC</b><br><i>Calls to Action, limited to those that are targeted toward the (Provincial) government</i>  |
|--|---|--|--|
| As part of our commitment to true, lasting reconciliation with First Nations in British Columbia our government will be fully adopting and implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. As minister, you are responsible for moving forward on the calls to action and reviewing policies, programs, and legislation to determine how to bring the principles of the declaration into action in British Columbia. | All Ministries  | <b>Articles: All</b>   | <b>Calls to Action: All</b>  |
| Increase annual funding to support women who experience domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes.  | Public Safety and Solicitor General                                       | <p><b>Article 7</b><br/>1. Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.</p> <p><b>Article 21</b><br/>1. Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.<br/>2. States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and</p> | <p><b>Calls to Action:</b></p> <p>36. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to work with Aboriginal communities to provide culturally relevant services to inmates on issues such as substance abuse, family and domestic violence, and overcoming the experience of having been sexually abused.</p> <p>39. We call upon the federal government to develop a national plan to collect and publish data on the criminal victimization of Aboriginal people, including data related to homicide and family violence victimization.</p> <p>41. We call upon the federal government, in</p> |

| <b>Mandate Commitment</b><br><i>Commitments from Ministry mandate letters pertaining to Indigenous peoples/issues.</i> | <b>Lead Ministry</b><br><i>Lead Ministry for each mandate commitment.</i> | <b>UNDRIP</b><br><i>Articles broadly applied, as they cover a wide range of topics and issues.</i>   | <b>TRC</b><br><i>Calls to Action, limited to those that are targeted toward the (Provincial) government</i>   |
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|  |   | <p>person with disabilities.</p> <p><b>Article 22</b></p> <p>1. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration.</p> <p>2. States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.</p> | <p>consultation with Aboriginal organizations, to appoint a public inquiry into the causes of, and remedies for, the disproportionate victimization of Aboriginal women and girls. The inquiry's mandate would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Investigation into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.</li> <li>ii. Links to the intergenerational legacy of residential schools.</li> </ul> <p>55. We call upon all levels of government to provide annual reports or any current data requested by the National Council for Reconciliation so that it can report on the progress towards reconciliation. The reports or data would include, but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The number of Aboriginal children—including Métis and Inuit children—in care, compared with non-Aboriginal children, the reasons for apprehension, and the total spending on preventive and care services by child-welfare agencies.</li> <li>ii. Comparative funding for the education of First Nations children on and off reserves.</li> <li>iii. The educational and income attainments of Aboriginal peoples in Canada compared with non-Aboriginal people.</li> <li>iv. Progress on closing the gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities in a number of health indicators such as: infant mortality, maternal health, suicide, mental health, addictions, life expectancy,</li> </ul> |

| <b>Mandate Commitment</b><br><i>Commitments from Ministry mandate letters pertaining to Indigenous peoples/issues.</i>                   | <b>Lead Ministry</b><br><i>Lead Ministry for each mandate commitment.</i> | <b>UNDRIP</b><br><i>Articles broadly applied, as they cover a wide range of topics and issues.</i>  | <b>TRC</b><br><i>Calls to Action, limited to those that are targeted toward the (Provincial) government</i>   |
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|  |   |   | <p>birth rates, infant and child health issues, chronic diseases, illness and injury incidence, and the availability of appropriate health services.</p> <p>v. Progress on eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children in youth custody over the next decade.</p> <p>vi. Progress on reducing the rate of criminal victimization of Aboriginal people, including data related to homicide and family violence victimization and other crimes.</p> <p>vii. Progress on reducing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in the justice and correctional systems.</p> |
| <p>Work with First Nations to set targets and take action to reduce the numbers of Aboriginal people involved in the justice system.</p> | <p>Public Safety and Solicitor General</p>                                | <p><b>Article 7</b></p> <p>1. Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.</p> <p>2. Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.</p> <p><b>Article 21</b></p> <p>1. Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.</p> | <p><b>Call to Action:</b></p> <p>55. We call upon all levels of government to provide annual reports or any current data requested by the National Council for Reconciliation so that it can report on the progress towards reconciliation. The reports or data would include, but not be limited to:</p> <p>i. The number of Aboriginal children—including Métis and Inuit children—in care, compared with non-Aboriginal children, the reasons for apprehension, and the total spending on preventive and care services by child-welfare agencies.</p>                              |

| <b>Mandate Commitment</b><br><i>Commitments from Ministry mandate letters pertaining to Indigenous peoples/issues.</i>                                | <b>Lead Ministry</b><br><i>Lead Ministry for each mandate commitment.</i> | <b>UNDRIP</b><br><i>Articles broadly applied, as they cover a wide range of topics and issues.</i>   | <b>TRC</b><br><i>Calls to Action, limited to those that are targeted toward the (Provincial) government</i>  |
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|   |   | <p>2. States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, omen, youth, children and person with disabilities.</p> <p><b>Article 23</b><br/> Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, Indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.</p> <p><b>Article 40</b><br/> Indigenous peoples have the right to access to and prompt decision through just and fair procedures for the resolution of conflicts and disputes with States or other parties, as well as to effective remedies for all infringements of their individual and collective rights. Such a decision shall give due consideration to the customs, traditions, rules and legal systems of the indigenous peoples concerned and international human rights.</p> | <p>ii. Comparative funding for the education of First Nations children on and off reserves.</p> <p>iii. The educational and income attainments of Aboriginal peoples in Canada compared with non-Aboriginal people.</p> <p>iv. Progress on closing the gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities in a number of health indicators such as: infant mortality, maternal health, suicide, mental health, addictions, life expectancy, birth rates, infant and child health issues, chronic diseases, illness and injury incidence, and the availability of appropriate health services.</p> <p>v. Progress on eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children in youth custody over the next decade.</p> <p>vi. Progress on reducing the rate of criminal victimization of Aboriginal people, including data related to homicide and family violence victimization and other crimes.</p> <p>vii. Progress on reducing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in the justice and correctional systems.</p> |
| Recognize culture for its role in rehabilitation and recovery and provide culturally diverse and appropriate programming in prisons, particularly for | Public Safety and Solicitor General                                       | <p><b>Article 5</b><br/> Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while</p>   | <p><b>Calls to Action:</b><br/> 31. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to provide sufficient and</p>  |



| <b>Mandate Commitment</b><br><i>Commitments from Ministry mandate letters pertaining to Indigenous peoples/issues.</i> | <b>Lead Ministry</b><br><i>Lead Ministry for each mandate commitment.</i> | <b>UNDRIP</b><br><i>Articles broadly applied, as they cover a wide range of topics and issues.</i>  | <b>TRC</b><br><i>Calls to Action, limited to those that are targeted toward the (Provincial) government</i>   |
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| <p>Aboriginal people.</p>  |   | <p>retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.</p> <p><b>Article 21</b><br/> 1. Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.<br/> 2. States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and person with disabilities.</p> <p><b>Article 23</b><br/> Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.</p> <p><b>Article 40</b><br/> Indigenous peoples have the right to access to and prompt decision through just and fair procedures for the resolution of conflicts and</p> | <p>stable funding to implement and evaluate community sanctions that will provide realistic alternatives to imprisonment for Aboriginal offenders and respond to the underlying causes of offending.</p> <p>34. We call upon the governments of Canada, the provinces, and territories to undertake reforms to the criminal justice system to better address the needs of offenders with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), including:<br/> i. Providing increased community resources and powers for courts to ensure that FASD is properly diagnosed, and that appropriate community supports are in place for those with FASD.<br/> ii. Enacting statutory exemptions from mandatory minimum sentences of imprisonment for offenders affected by FASD.<br/> iii. Providing community, correctional, and parole resources to maximize the ability of people with FASD to live in the community.<br/> iv. Adopting appropriate evaluation mechanisms to measure the effectiveness of such programs and ensure community safety.</p> <p>35. We call upon the federal government to</p> |

| <b>Mandate Commitment</b><br><i>Commitments from Ministry mandate letters pertaining to Indigenous peoples/issues.</i>              | <b>Lead Ministry</b><br><i>Lead Ministry for each mandate commitment.</i> | <b>UNDRIP</b><br><i>Articles broadly applied, as they cover a wide range of topics and issues.</i>  | <b>TRC</b><br><i>Calls to Action, limited to those that are targeted toward the (Provincial) government</i>  |
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|   |   | disputes with States or other parties, as well as to effective remedies for all infringements of their individual and collective rights. Such a decision shall give due consideration to the customs, traditions, rules and legal systems of the indigenous peoples concerned and international human rights.   | eliminate barriers to the creation of additional Aboriginal healing lodges within the federal correctional system.   |
| Increase support for initiatives that are proven to prevent and reduce crime, and increase the use of restorative justice programs. | Public Safety and Solicitor General                                       | <p><b>Article 7</b><br/>1. Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.</p> <p><b>Article 21</b><br/>1. Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.<br/>2. States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and person with disabilities.</p> <p><b>Article 40</b><br/>Indigenous peoples have the right to access to and prompt decision through just and fair procedures for the resolution of conflicts and disputes with States or other parties, as well as to effective remedies for all infringements of their individual and collective rights. Such a</p> | <p><b>Calls to Action:</b></p> <p>31. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to provide sufficient and stable funding to implement and evaluate community sanctions that will provide realistic alternatives to imprisonment for Aboriginal offenders and respond to the underlying causes of offending.</p> <p>34. We call upon the governments of Canada, the provinces, and territories to undertake reforms to the criminal justice system to better address the needs of offenders with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Providing increased community resources and powers for courts to ensure that FASD is properly diagnosed, and that appropriate community supports are in place for those with FASD.</li> <li>ii. Enacting statutory exemptions from mandatory minimum sentences of imprisonment for offenders affected by FASD.</li> </ul> |

| <b>Mandate Commitment</b><br><i>Commitments from Ministry mandate letters pertaining to Indigenous peoples/issues.</i> | <b>Lead Ministry</b><br><i>Lead Ministry for each mandate commitment.</i> | <b>UNDRIP</b><br><i>Articles broadly applied, as they cover a wide range of topics and issues.</i>  | <b>TRC</b><br><i>Calls to Action, limited to those that are targeted toward the (Provincial) government</i>   |
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|  |   | decision shall give due consideration to the customs, traditions, rules and legal systems of the indigenous peoples concerned and international human rights.   | <p>iii. Providing community, correctional, and parole resources to maximize the ability of people with FASD to live in the community.</p> <p>iv. Adopting appropriate evaluation mechanisms to measure the effectiveness of such programs and ensure community safety.</p> <p>35. We call upon the federal government to eliminate barriers to the creation of additional Aboriginal healing lodges within the federal correctional system.</p> |
| Lead the provincial government's planning for the safe implementation of legalized cannabis.                           | Public Safety and Solicitor General                                       | <p><b>Article 23</b></p> <p>Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.</p> | N/A   |



**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Restorative Justice****Suggested Response:**

- Our government is committed to enhancing the use of restorative justice (RJ) in the province.
- RJ processes bring together victims, offenders and communities to seek just outcomes by repairing the harm caused by an offence. RJ approaches are typically facilitated processes that address the needs of victims, hold offenders meaningfully accountable and support the restoration of relationships between participants.
- The province currently supports over 80 community-based programs that deliver RJ approaches, including 50 Community Accountability Programs and 34 Indigenous Justice Programs funded in partnership with the federal government.
- We intend to build on this work to meet our commitment and enhance the delivery of RJ approaches in the province.
- This work is going to take some time. As an initial step, staff from across the justice and public safety sector have begun working together to explore opportunities for enhancing RJ across B.C. using a strategic, integrated, cross-sector approach.
- Some of the work completed to date includes:
  - The establishment of a cross-ministry working group to guide discussion as we explore opportunities for enhancing RJ in B.C.;
  - The completion of an extensive annotated bibliography that informed the development of a literature review;
  - Preliminary work towards the development of a discussion paper that identifies key considerations that will be used to shape and inform consultation with restorative and Indigenous justice stakeholders and others; and
  - Ministry staff have held one-on-one consultations with FPT partners regarding best practices and lessons learned from RJ program and policy development and implementation in other jurisdictions.
- We are committed to ensuring that this approach is community-driven and informed. Going forward, ministry staff will be engaging with a broader range of stakeholders as we work in partnership to promote greater collaboration and dialogue about RJ across the province.

**Background:****Community Accountability Programs**

- Since 1998, the ministry has supported community-based, volunteer-driven RJ programs through the Community Accountability Program (CAP). There are currently 50 CAPs which accept approximately 1,700 referrals annually, primarily police-referred cases dealing with less serious crimes such as mischief and theft.
- Some CAPs take on offences referred by Crown counsel. The BC Prosecution Service supports the use of RJ programs in appropriate cases. This includes the use of RJ programs in alternative measures or extrajudicial sanctions and sentencing.
- CAPs 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.
- Since 2008, over \$900,000 in Civil Forfeiture Grant funding has been provided to support CAPs in developing specialized victim-sensitive RJ training and development projects.

**Indigenous Justice Programs**

- The province funds Indigenous Justice Programs (IJP) in 34 communities in partnership with the federal government and Indigenous communities and organizations. 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, respectful relationships programming, and re-integration support after a custodial sentence.
- IJP is funded s.17 from the federal government and s.17 from the province and is delivered by contracted Indigenous service providers.

**Youth Conferencing Specialists**

- The Ministry of Children and Family Development has ten conferencing specialist positions located across the province that conduct community conferences involving victims and offenders.
- Conferencing specialists also engage young offenders in restorative approaches that facilitate an understanding of the impacts of their offending behaviour.
- Some youth probation officers have received training in victim-offender mediation and every area of the province has RJ champions who use restorative approaches in their work with youth.

Referrals to Restorative Justice from the RCMP

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

- s.15

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 in relation to family law matters, such as the Child Protection Mediation Program, and civil law matters, such as mediation in Small Claims Court and the Civil Resolution Tribunal.
- The Conservation Officer Service has developed a Community Environmental Justice Forum model that utilizes RJ 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****Cannabis: Legalization****Suggested Response:**

- B.C.'s focus remains on:
  - Protecting children and youth;
  - Prioritizing the health and safety of British Columbians;
  - Keeping the criminal element out of cannabis to reduce crime and to ensure consumers get a product they can trust;
  - Educating drivers and supporting the enforcement of drug-impaired driving laws that keep roads safe; and
  - Supporting B.C.'s economic development.
- The federal government is moving to legalize non-medical cannabis and reform Canada's impaired driving regime.
- Our government is focused on responsibly managing this significant change in public policy and we have important decisions to make about how cannabis will be used, sold and regulated in BC.
- In BC, the Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Secretariat, has been established within the Policing and Security Branch of the ministry to support the policy and legal work required for the development of a provincial regulatory regime and to coordinate and facilitate engagement activities for the public and key stakeholders.
- 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 province continues to engage with local and Indigenous governments and organizations, law enforcement, health professionals and organizations, and many others as we work to develop B.C.'s regulatory framework for non-medical cannabis.
- Details of the regulatory framework for B.C. are being announced as policy decisions are made, however, there will still be other decisions to be made which are dependent on obtaining clarity regarding federal legislation and regulations.

- The province has announced elements of the provincial regulatory framework, including a minimum age of 19 years, a government-run wholesale distribution model, and a retail model that includes both public and private retail opportunities.
- In addition, the province will generally align the federal government's proposed limits for personal possession and personal cultivation; however, the province will not allow youth to possess any amount of cannabis, and cannabis plants cultivated must not be visible from public spaces off the property.
- The province will generally allow adults to use non-medical cannabis in place where tobacco smoking and vaping are permitted; however, to minimize child and youth exposure, smoking and vaping of non-medical cannabis will be banned in areas frequented by children.
- The province will also toughen provincial regulations to deter drug-affected driving, including a new administrative driving prohibition and zero tolerance for the presence of THC for drivers in the Graduated Licensing Program.
- The policy decisions reflect the results received through the online feedback forms and telephone survey findings from the provincial public and stakeholder engagement process, as well as feedback from local government members of the Joint Provincial-Local Government Committee on Cannabis Regulation and are endorsed by the Union of BC Municipalities executive.
- It is important to understand that this is a complex process and changes will not happen overnight. We must recognize that our government will be dealing with a significant change in policy for years to come. We will need time to implement the provincial regulatory framework, learn from the implementation, and adjust along the way.

**Background:**

- The province has been conducting considerable work necessary to prepare B.C. for the legalization and regulation of cannabis, including:
  - Between September 25 and November 1, 2017, the province conducted a public and stakeholder engagement to hear the views of British Columbians on a range of issues related to the legalization and regulation of non-medical cannabis.
  - Significant progress has been made in developing the provincial legislative framework, which is anticipated to include two new pieces of legislation, as well as amendments to a number of existing acts.

- Internal government consultations are in progress, as well as external consultations with the federal government, local governments, Indigenous governments and organizations, and various affected stakeholders.
- In collaboration with the secretariat, the Liquor Distribution Branch within the Ministry of Attorney General have established a team for the planning and implementation of the provincial distribution and public retail regimes.
- In addition, the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch within the Ministry of Attorney General has established a team to lead the development of policy, regulations and licensee terms and conditions for regulating private retail of cannabis.

#### Federal Context

- 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.
- Under the proposed Cannabis Act, the Government of Canada asserts responsibility for establishing and maintaining a comprehensive and consistent national framework for regulating production, setting standards for health and safety, and establishing criminal prohibitions.
- Provinces and territories will have responsibility over a number of components of the regulatory regime under the Cannabis Act, including 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 may be consumed.
- The proposed Cannabis Act has advanced through the House of Commons, completing Third Reading on November 27, 2017. As of February 15, 2018, both Bill C-45 and Bill C-46 are with the Senate, with Bill C-45 introduced for Second Reading and Bill C-46 referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs.
- In December 2017 an agreement was reached on taxation and revenue sharing, which sets out that the combined tax rate will not exceed the higher of \$1 per gram of legal cannabis, or 10 percent of a producer's selling price. In addition, provinces and territories will receive 75 percent of revenue from the cannabis excise tax, with the remaining 25 percent going to the federal government. The federal portion of cannabis tax revenue will be capped at \$100 million annually, with any excess revenue provided to provinces and territories.
- The Government of Canada has released details of their proposed regulations with respect to the proposed Cannabis Act, and conducted a consultation on the regulatory proposals for: licenses, permits, and authorizations; security clearances; cannabis tracking system;

product standards; packaging and labelling; cannabis for medical purposes; and health products and cosmetics containing cannabis.

**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; Education; Jobs, Trade and Technology; and Children and Family Development, as well as representation from RoadSafetyBC and the Office of the Premier.
- Significant progress has been made in developing the provincial legislative framework, which is anticipated to include two new pieces of legislation, as well as amendments to a number of existing acts. In addition to ongoing drafting of provincial legislation, internal government consultations are in progress, as well as external consultations with local governments, Indigenous governments and organizations, and affected stakeholders.
- There will be significant costs associated with implementing a provincial regulatory regime for legalized cannabis, including the establishment of a distribution and retail regime, as well as related compliance and enforcement activities that will require an up-front investment by the province.
- Both costs and revenues will depend on many aspects of the provincial framework, as well as 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****Cannabis: Illegal  
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 cannabis for medical purposes in Canada is through direct purchase by licensed individuals under the Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations (ACMPR) from one of the 89 producers licensed by Health Canada (as of February 8, 2018), 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 recently released B.C. Cannabis Private Retail Licensing Guide provides information to those who are considering applying for a provincial licence to retail non-medical cannabis. All applicants will be assessed using the same evaluation criteria, including background checks and support of local governments. Having operated an illegal dispensary will not, on its own, exclude individuals from being considered for a provincial retail licence.
- Existing illegal dispensaries will need to apply to obtain a licence, and if they do not or are not approved for a license, they will need to close.
- An enforcement strategy is under development.

**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 was designed to provide an immediate, interim solution to Allard and should not be interpreted as the long term plan for the legalization of cannabis.
- 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.
- There has been a proliferation of cannabis-related business across B.C. and Canada, and media coverage has contributed to rising public awareness of this proliferation.
- The RCMP "E" Division previously collected information regarding the locations and status of illegal cannabis dispensaries operating within RCMP jurisdictions. As of July 2017, there were approximately: s.16 dispensaries operating in the Lower Mainland District; s.16 operating in the Island District; s.16 operating in the North District; s.16 operating in the Southeast District; and s.16 operating in the Upper Fraser Valley District. At this time data regarding the number of cannabis dispensaries operating within municipal police jurisdictions is not available.
- 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: s.16  
s.16
- Vancouver has taken steps to stem the growth of dispensaries in the city through regulation of business licences. Cannabis-related businesses and compassion clubs are only allowed to operate if a number of conditions are met such as 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 licence.
- 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 \$31,824 per year); or
  - Compassion clubs (licence fee is \$1,061 per year).
- Since implementation in April 2016 the City of Vancouver has issued 43 development permits to medical cannabis-related retail businesses, four compassion club business licences, and 15 medical cannabis advocacy business licences, as well as another 21 licence applications that are currently under review. In addition, there are an estimated:
  - 53 injunctions filed against non-compliant dispensaries;

- 42 dispensaries that have closed since April 2016; and
- 73 dispensaries currently operating that are subject to enforcement.
- 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.
- 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.
- The Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Secretariat, along with the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch within the Ministry of Attorney General, has been considering how to address illegal dispensaries as part of its policy work on a provincial regulatory framework.
- During discussions at the Joint Provincial-Local Government Committee on Cannabis Regulations, some local governments expressed an interest in allowing existing dispensaries licensed through municipal bylaws to participate in the legal regime. However, local governments also expressed their desire for a strong provincial enforcement system that is able to effectively manage illegal dispensaries that attempt to operate outside the legal regime.

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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Cannabis: Drug-impaired Driving****Suggested Response:**

- Drug-impaired driving is a growing issue of road safety concern, particularly given the federal government's intention to legalize non-medicinal cannabis by late summer 2018.
- The ministry continues to work closely with road safety partners across the country, including the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators (CCMTA) and the federal government's Public Safety Canada, to address public safety concerns around drug-impaired driving and the proposed amendments to the transportation related sections of the Criminal Code contained in Bill C-46.
- Provinces and territories still await answers to some important questions, starting with when Bill C-46 might receive Royal Assent. The Bill is currently before the Senate and its passage is required to enhance the ability of police across the country to deter and detect drivers under the influence of cannabis or other drugs.
- Another significant question to be answered concerns federal funding. The federal government has announced up to \$81 million over the next five years to build capacity among police across the country to enforce the proposed new drug-impaired driving laws. This funding is also intended for the purchase of roadside drug screening devices, also known as oral fluid screening devices, that may be approved once Bill C-46 passes—these devices are intended to assist police in detecting the presence of specific drugs in drivers.
- Public Safety Canada recently communicated the funding amounts that will be available to B.C. for police Standard Field Sobriety Test and Drug Recognition Expert training. Our ministry is currently assessing if this amount will adequately meet our training needs. Funding for the oral fluid screening devices is not expected until devices have been approved through the federal government process. The ministry is currently working with Public Safety Canada to complete the funding contribution agreement.
- In the meantime, B.C. and other jurisdictions are pushing ahead with changes to ensure harmonization between Bill C-46 and provincial/territorial laws. This work includes developing new provincial administrative sanctions for drug-impaired driving.
- Government announced in February that the zero tolerance restrictions for the presence of alcohol, currently in place for drivers in the Graduated Licensing Program, will be extended to include zero tolerance for the presence of THC, the active ingredient in cannabis. Additionally, government intends to introduce a new 90-day administrative driving prohibition for drug-affected driving.

- Once implemented these actions will represent a first phase of the government's approach to addressing drug-impaired driving on B.C. roads.
- Our government will continue to monitor the impacts of cannabis legalization as well as the impacts of the federal and provincial changes to drugs and driving to assess and consider further changes in the future.

**Background:****Bill C-46**

- Bill C-46 is currently at committee stage in the Senate and it is unknown at this time whether there will be any additional amendments to the Bill or when the Bill may receive Royal Assent.
- The proposed amendments in Bill C-46 overhaul the transportation related provisions of the Criminal Code, including those 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 of Canada to approve roadside drug screening equipment, also known as oral fluid screening devices, for use by police to assist in detecting drivers who have specific drugs, such as THC, in their systems; and
  - New offences for drivers having prescribed levels of a prescribed drug in the blood. For example, having equal to or above five nanograms of THC in the blood within two hours of driving.
- With respect to drug screening equipment, several oral fluid screening devices are currently being tested against standards and procedures the Canadian Society of Forensic Science Drugs and Driving Committee established in November 2017. For more information see Federal Announcements below.
- Approval of the roadside drug screening devices cannot occur until Bill C-46 receives Royal Assent. It is not known at this time if devices will be approved, purchased, and in use by police across Canada prior to or sometime after the legalization of non-medicinal cannabis.

**Status of Proposed Changes in B.C.**

- On February 5, 2018, government announced changes coming to B.C.'s laws to address drugs and driving. These change include extending the current zero tolerance restriction for the presence of alcohol, currently in place for drivers in the Graduated Licensing Program,

to include zero tolerance for the presence of THC; and establishing a 90 day administrative driving prohibition for drug-affected drivers.

- These changes are intended to strengthen and support the changes to the drug-impaired driving sections of the Criminal Code and build upon current tools available to police to address drug-affected drivers on B.C. roads. Currently, police in B.C. have authority under the Motor Vehicle Act to issue a 24 hour prohibition to a driver whose driving they believe is affected by a drug other than alcohol. Police also have discretion to impound a driver's car for the same 24 hour period. In 2016, police issued approximately 2,600 24 hour prohibitions for drug-affected driving.
- Several other provinces have announced their frameworks for administrative sanctions for drug-impaired driving. While each province has taken its own approach, in all cases zero tolerance has been introduced for the presence of drugs for novice drivers and long term driving prohibitions for drug-affected drivers.
- B.C.'s public and stakeholder engagement on cannabis regulation concluded on November 1, 2017. Approximately 55% of online and telephone survey respondents indicated that the proposed Criminal Code penalties in Bill C-46 are sufficient to deter drug-impaired driving. However, when asked to rank actions the province could take to further reduce drug-impaired driving, 90% of respondents supported public education and awareness, followed by implementing a zero tolerance approach for new drivers which was supported by 84% of respondents. Other actions receiving support were immediate roadside and longer driving prohibitions; remedial drug education and counselling; and vehicle impoundment.
- In order to gather comprehensive baseline data on the prevalence of drug use among drivers in B.C., prior to the legalization of non-medical cannabis, the ministry is planning a roadside survey as a follow-up to the last roadside survey in 2012 to collect essential baseline data on the prevalence of drug and alcohol consumption among B.C. drivers prior to legalization of non-medical cannabis.
- The survey asks drivers to volunteer to provide both a sample of breath or oral fluid at roadside in order to determine the number of people driving on the road after consuming alcohol and/or a drug. Numerous roadside surveys have occurred in B.C. In the last survey in 2012, 7.4% of all drivers sampled tested positive for a drug, other than alcohol, with cannabis the most frequently detected drug. This compared to 6.5% of all sampled drivers who tested positive for presence of alcohol.

#### Federal Announcements

- 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.

- 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. This funding is intended to increase the number of police trained to administer the behavioural impairment tests, being the Standard Field Sobriety Test (SFST) conducted at roadside and the Drug Evaluation and Classification Assessment conducted by specially trained police Drug Recognition Experts (DRE) back at a police station, as well as support the purchase of oral fluid screening devices.
- Public Safety Canada has recently communicated the funding amounts that will be available to B.C. for SFST and DRE training. We are currently assessing if this will adequately meet our training needs. Funding for the oral fluid screening devices is not expected until the selection of device(s).
- On November 1, 2017, the Canadian Society of Forensic Science Drugs and Driving Committee (DDC) released standards and evaluation procedures for oral fluid screening devices as proposed in Bill C-46. For example the specifications that devices must meet in order to be approved for use in Canada. Manufacturers had until November 30 to submit technological information on their respective devices. Devices that meet established criteria will be tested and considered during 2018, with results reported to the DDC. The chair of the DDC will then recommend devices that successfully complete the evaluation to the Attorney General of Canada for approval. It is anticipated that, best case scenario, these devices will be prescribed at the end of April.
- On December 5, 2017, the federal government launched a Don't Drive High public awareness and education campaign to communicate to Canadians the risks associated with driving under the influence of cannabis and other drugs. The campaign places advertisements in public spaces, on social media, on television, and in movie theatres.

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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Illicit Drug Overdose:  
Response Overview****Suggested Response:**

- The overdose crisis is a very complex issue involving many social factors, including housing, public safety, policing, border control, public health, harm reduction, and 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.
- Providing more support to police efforts to disrupt the supply chain and advocate for increased penalties for drug dealers who knowingly distribute death-dealing drugs is a priority for the ministry.
- Budget 2017 Update provided an additional \$32 million over three years (2017/18 to 2019/20), \$25 million to the Policing and Security Branch and \$7 million to the BC Coroners Service.
- Of the \$25 million, \$20 million will be subject to a federal contribution of \$8.57 million for a total combined contribution of \$33.57 million to address the opioid crisis.
- The additional \$25 million over three years will provide additional naloxone kits and training (\$2 million), situation tables (\$1.2 million), Pill Press Legislation (\$1 million), the purchase of specialized equipment necessary to detect drug contamination (\$1.4 million), Operational Task Force to help disrupt the supply chain (\$20 million), and dedicated enforcement activities (\$7.9 million).
- Budget 2018 also includes an additional \$9.9 million over three years (2018/19 to 2020/21) to extend the \$3.3 million from February's Budget 2017 that was provided to the ministry in 2017/18 only. This will ensure that there is no reduction in front-line services or community outreach programs that help save lives.

**Background:**

- In 2017, 1,422 people died of an apparent unintentional illegal drug overdose in B.C., or 5.3 times the number dying in 2012 (269 deaths).

- The increase in overdoses and deaths of 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. In 2017, fentanyl or its analogues were detected in approximately 81% (1,156) of illicit drug overdose deaths.
- Following the declaration of a public health emergency in 2016, the Joint Task Force on Overdose Response was created with Dr. Perry Kendall and Clayton Pecknold, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policing and Security Branch and Director of Police Services serving as co-chairs.
- Recently, the newly established Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions has taken over responsibility for co-ordinating the response to the overdose crisis from the task force.
- A very common link between gangs and organized crime and illicit activities is the drug trade. A recent study conducted by the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit—British Columbia (CFSEU-BC) found that nearly three-quarters (73%) of gang-related homicides victims in B.C. over a five year period (2010-2014) were drug traffickers. The work currently taking place within our province seeks to optimise efficiencies and effectiveness to protect our communities and those most vulnerable.

#### Police Response

- Police Services Branch leads a monthly call with the police leadership in the province to share information and discuss challenges and opportunities around this crisis.
- The ministry continues to fund or deliver police related initiatives which commenced in 2016, examples include:
  - Replenishment of naloxone supplies and specialized training for RCMP and municipal police departments;
  - The establishment of a dedicated, 22 member plus support staff, multi-police agency Operational Task Force focused on mid-level fentanyl traffickers, to disrupt the drug supply line at the local level and increasing drug dealers arrested and prosecuted; and
  - The possible development of legislation related to pill presses and options for administrative sanctions for motor vehicles used in trafficking.

#### Calls for Federal Government Action

- The province continues to call for federal government leadership on the overdose response including:
  - Provide greater support for enhanced RCMP/Canada Border Services Agency partnership funding;



- Address the B.C. federal RCMP staffing shortage to assist in the interdiction of opioids such as fentanyl and 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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**2018 ESTIMATES NOTE****Illicit Drug Overdose:  
Deaths****Suggested Response:**

- The BC Coroners Service investigates all sudden and unexpected deaths in the province and has been tracking the increase in deaths from illicit drug overdoses in B.C. closely and with great concern.
- There were 1,422 suspected illicit drug overdose deaths in 2017, up from almost 1,000 in 2016 and nearly triple the 2015 total when there were 510 deaths.
- Those aged 30 to 49 have accounted for the largest percentage of illicit drug overdose deaths in 2017, combining for over half the provincial total. Those aged 19-59 account for 90% of the illicit drug overdose deaths and males account for over 80% of all illicit drug overdose deaths.
- Almost 90% of illicit drug overdoses happened indoors, with over 60% in private residences.
- In 2017, over 80% of illicit drug overdose deaths (1,156 of 1,422) involved fentanyl either alone or in combination with other drugs.
- 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 ten years, with a significant increase in 2016 and 2017. There were no deaths at supervised consumption or drug overdose prevention sites in 2016.

- On September 11, 2017, the budget update provided by the B.C. Government announced a significant funding boost for the illicit drug overdose crisis, including funds directed towards the BC Coroners Service. The additional funding across government 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.
- More than \$7 million is being allocated over the next three years to the BC Coroners Service within this lift. It will enhance the BC Coroners Service's investigations into illicit drug overdose deaths, supporting the agency's response to increasing numbers of overdose deaths including: coroner scene attendance, conveyance of deceased, necessary post mortem testing, comprehensive investigation by the Drug Death Investigation Team, and continued collection, surveillance, analysis and reporting of information critical for evidence-based public policy and strategies.
- The increased funding boost starts with \$1.5 million for the 2017-18 fiscal year and continues with \$2.778 million next fiscal year and thereafter.
  - This will provide additional support to respond to the tragic increase in illicit drug-related deaths; and
  - Funds are being directed towards:
    - Engaging additional community coroners for field investigations , especially in the Lower Mainland;
    - Having hired two dedicated full-time coroners at the start of 2018 for the Special Investigations Unit with a focus on drug overdose deaths; and,
    - Expanding the number of part-time coroners working on the Drug Death Investigation Team, and hiring a dedicated research officer position to respond to public, media and stakeholder requests for information, along with additional support for research and analysis.

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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Illicit Drug Overdose:  
BC Corrections Actions****Suggested Response:**

- At the onset of the crisis, BC Corrections took immediate action to mitigate the risks of high-potency narcotics to both staff and inmates in correctional centres by:
  - Increasing access to addictions treatment through partnership with the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA);
  - Making changes to policy, practices and procedures to increase staff safety;
  - Implementing new technology to prevent contraband entering facilities; and
  - Adding emergency response tools to respond to overdose incidents.
- As the delivery of inmate health services is now the responsibility of PHSA, any questions related to substance use services should be addressed to the Minister of Health.

**Review of staff exposure to high-potency narcotics**

- In November 2016, a joint union-management provincial risk assessment and review of policy and practices was conducted to ensure that adequate precautions were in place to protect staff.
- The review resulted in revised policy and procedures that enhanced protection for staff conducting searches and opening mail, as well as improved medical response for both staff and inmates.

**New technology and emergency response tools**

- BC Corrections invested \$640,000 to pilot the use of body scanners to enhance drug interdiction within four correctional centres.
- With the pilot showing positive results, BC Corrections has purchased an additional six scanners for the remaining centres, to be in place by the end of fiscal 17/18, at a cost of \$1.1 million.
- BC Corrections introduced Naloxone nasal spray for use by staff on inmates and/or staff outside of health care office hours.
- Staff have administered Naloxone nasal spray to inmates experiencing overdose five times since it was introduced in February 2017.

- Health care staff use injectable Naloxone (trade name Narcan) to treat inmates suspected of opioid overdoses. *(BC Corrections does not track how many times health care staff have administered Naloxone)*
- Inmates are 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 was piloted at two centres in September 2015 and was expanded province-wide by December.
- BC Corrections will continue to monitor any incidents and will make further enhancements if necessary.

#### Overdose Statistics

- 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.
- Out of 11 inmate deaths in 2016/17, three deaths were related to **suspected** overdoses. *(BC Coroners Service is responsible for determining cause of death)*
- In 2016, of the 18,000 plus admissions to provincial custody, there were 50 non-fatal suspected overdoses recorded.
- Out of 17,000 plus inmates between January and October 2017, there were 46 non-fatal suspected overdoses recorded *(the PHSA has statistics from Oct 1 onward)*
- 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.

#### **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 the growing and fluid inmate population, there are stringent security measures in place to deal with contraband in all our correctional centres.
- 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;
  - Handle evidence as little as possible; 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.
- Training for health care staff and provision of THN kits are provided by the BC Centre for Disease Control.

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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Minister's Office Budget****Suggested Response:**

- The minister's office budget has increased by \$1,000 from \$794,000 in 2017/18 to \$795,000 in 2018/19.
- The budget maintains the resources provided for the increase in the scope of responsibilities for the Solicitor General. In 2017/18, Emergency Management BC was added to the ministry's responsibilities. As well, the continued level of funding supports the aggressive list of Ministerial Mandate Letter responsibilities which has created added demands for a more senior staff support complement in the minister's office.

**Current Staffing Complement**

- There continues to be six staff: two senior ministerial assistants, executive assistant, administrative coordinator, and two administrative assistants.
- In 2016/17, there were four staff: chief of staff, executive assistant, administrative coordinator, and administrative assistant.

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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Minister's Mandate Letter  
Commitments****Suggested Response:**

[Note that the Minister's Mandate Letter is attached.]

Commitment 1: Provide more support to police efforts to disrupt the drug supply chain and advocate for increased penalties for drug dealers who knowingly distribute death-dealing drugs.

- Law enforcement is working at all levels of government to intercept and block the supply of toxic drugs in British Columbia.
- Key strategies include:
  - Establishing a dedicated, multi-police agency Operational Task Force focused on mid-level fentanyl traffickers, to disrupt the drug supply line at the local level and increase arrests and prosecutions of drug dealers;
  - Exploring developing legislation to regulate pill presses;
  - Exploring options for administrative sanctions for motor vehicles used in trafficking; and
  - Providing additional support to the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit BC to target high-level drug traffickers.
- Criminal law, including penalties for drug dealers, is a federal responsibility and engagement with the federal government on increasing those penalties is ongoing.

Commitment 2: Take action on gang and gun violence.

- We are taking significant action on gang and gun violence, including:
  - Developing an enhanced gang reduction strategy for government consideration;
  - Investing \$500,000 to support the Surrey Wrap program;
  - Working in partnership to implement the Surrey Accord;
  - Reviewing viable recommendations from the Illegal Firearms Task Force;
  - Strengthening support for police efforts to disrupt the illegal drug supply chain;
  - Administering the Crime Prevention and Remediation Grant Program for crime



reduction initiatives;

- Pushing the federal government for increased penalties for drug dealers;
- Calling on the federal government to increase B.C.'s federal RCMP complement to bolster enforcement efforts; and
- Pursuing B.C.'s share of the \$100 million in funding the federal government announced as part of its platform for help with gangs and guns.

**Commitment 3: Work in partnership to implement the Surrey Accord.**

- The province continues to collaborate with the City of Surrey and devotes significant resources to initiatives aimed at improving community safety in the city, including:
  - Provision of funds for programs aimed at youth in gangs, domestic violence and other community-based programs;
  - Participation in the Surrey Mobilization and Resiliency Table;
  - Providing Surrey Crown Counsel with two full-time prosecutors and a legal assistant dedicated to prioritizing cases linked to gangs and guns;
  - Supporting implementation of the Surrey Integrated Services Network; and
  - Targeted enforcement initiatives and police response.
- These initiatives align with the proposed Surrey Accord, a five point action plan to tackle crime, homelessness and addiction in Surrey.

**Commitment 4: Provide the Surrey Wrap program with increased, stable and secure annual funding.**

- Ongoing annual funding of \$500,000 for the Surrey Wrap program was announced in October 2017.

**Commitment 5: Increase annual funding to support women who experience domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes.**

- We recognize 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.

- The ministry continues to support over 400 victim service and violence against women programs across the province.
- Budget 2018 provides \$18 million over the next three years to better meet the demand for programs and services such as counselling, outreach, and crisis support for women and children who experience domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes.
- This will begin in 2018/19 with a \$5 million increase in annual funding for victim service and violence against women programs. This funding will continue through 2019/20 and increase to \$8 million in 2020/21.

**Commitment 6: Work with Indigenous leadership and communities to set targets and take action to reduce the numbers of Indigenous people involved in the justice system.**

- We are committed to reducing the over-representation of Indigenous people in the justice and public safety sector, and to better assisting those who are involved.
- In September 2017, a MOU was signed by the Co-Chairs of the BC Aboriginal Justice Council and the province to develop an Indigenous Justice Strategy. The strategy will support reconciliation with Indigenous peoples; decrease their over-representation in the justice and public safety sector; and improve access to culturally relevant and appropriate justice and public safety services.
- Key supporting initiatives include:
  - Justice-specific Indigenous cultural safety training for staff to support culturally responsive and sensitive service provision, targeting staff working in various areas of the justice system, including police, courts, corrections and Crown counsel;
  - Culturally-specific programming, counselling and spiritual guidance offered to Indigenous inmates at all ten provincial adult custody centres;
  - Culture-based correctional programs delivered by contracted service providers in 34 communities, designed to reduce victimization, crime and incarceration among Indigenous people;
  - Provision of funding to the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of BC under the Native Courtworker Program, operating in 64% of the courthouses in the province;
  - Collaboration among Aboriginal Liaison Workers and correctional case management teams to assist in release and reintegration planning for Indigenous clients;
  - The Indigenous Justice Program, operating in 34 communities to provide community-based services such as court diversion, client support and supervision, substance use

management and respectful relationship program delivery;

- Collaboration between BC Corrections and First Nations to support the reintegration of Indigenous people being released from custody and/or under community supervision who are returning to their communities;
- Crime prevention and victim support initiatives in Indigenous communities, such as the Cariboo-Chilcotin Integrated Community Safety Initiative;
- Support for Indigenous women and girls who experience violence;
- Policing services to First Nations communities provided by the federal and provincial governments under the First Nation Policing Program; and
- Provision of comprehensive mortality data and analyses to the First Nations Health Authority and First Nations communities to inform community-based initiatives support wellness and reduce health and safety risks.

**Commitment 7: Recognize culture for its role in rehabilitation and recovery and provide culturally diverse and appropriate programming in correctional centres, particularly for Indigenous people.**

- BC Corrections recognizes culture for its role in rehabilitation and collaborates with Indigenous leaders, organizations and communities to improve outcomes for Indigenous people involved in the criminal justice system.
- Key priorities include:
  - 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 contracts with 34 Indigenous communities and organizations;
  - A contract with the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of BC 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 among BC Corrections staff through competency training, and by placing an emphasis on incorporating cultural programs, supports and resources in case management planning for Indigenous clients.

**Commitment 8: Increase support for initiatives that are proven to prevent and reduce crime.**

- The ministry funds and supports numerous evidence-based strategies and initiatives to prevent and reduce crime, including:
  - Developing an enhanced Guns and Gangs Strategy;
  - Supporting the Surrey Wrap program and other community safety initiatives in the City of Surrey;
  - Developing and implementing the Integrated Community Safety Initiative in the Cariboo-Chilcotin region to strengthen collaboration among justice, health and social service partners to address community safety issues in the region; and
  - Supporting crime prevention programs and outreach programs, including violence against women programs, police-based and community-based victim service programs, and support to communities to prevent and respond to human trafficking.

**Commitment 9: Increase the use of restorative justice programs.**

- The ministry is exploring new opportunities for enhancing restorative justice across B.C. in a number of key areas:
  - Developing a strategic approach across the justice and public safety sector that will allow for greater collaboration and dialogue about restorative justice;
  - Working with restorative justice leaders to support community-driven projects and training opportunities that will enhance the capacity of programs to take on more referrals and cases;
  - Increasing awareness and effectively educating British Columbians on restorative justice approaches and their benefits; and
  - Supporting community efforts to develop effective, victim-sensitive restorative justice processes and approaches to be used province-wide.

**Commitment 10: Lead the provincial government's planning for the safe implementation of legalized, non-medical cannabis.**

- The Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Secretariat was established within the ministry to lead provincial efforts to support the upcoming changes to the federal law to legalize and regulate non-medical cannabis.
- The province established the Assistant Deputy Ministers' Public Safety Issues Committee and an inter-ministry working group under the lead of the ministry and supported by the

secretariat.

- These committees are working to develop a provincial regulatory framework for legal access to non-medical cannabis that is aligned with the federal regulatory regime.
- Policy and legal analysis is underway, and a comprehensive stakeholder and public engagement process was completed. A report on feedback from the engagement process was released in December 2017.

Commitment 11: Move forward on the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and review policies, programs and legislation to determine how to bring into action the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

- This government will be working closely with Indigenous leadership on how we can implement and follow the principles of UNDRIP in a collaborative and respectful manner.
- B.C.'s approach to advancing long-term reconciliation is focused on building respectful government-to-government relationships, and improving opportunities and outcomes for Indigenous people in B.C.
- In September 2017, a MOU was signed by the Co-Chairs of the BC Aboriginal Justice Council and the province to develop an Indigenous Justice Strategy.
- The strategy will support reconciliation with Indigenous peoples; decrease their over-representation in the justice and public safety sector; and improve access to culturally relevant and appropriate justice services.

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July 18, 2017

Honourable Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Farnworth:

Congratulations on your new appointment as Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

It has never been more important for new leadership that works for ordinary people, not just those at the top.

It is your job to deliver that leadership in your ministry.

Our government made three key commitments to British Columbians.

Our first commitment is to make life more affordable. Too many families were left behind for too long by the previous government. They are counting on you to do your part to make their lives easier.

Our second commitment is to deliver the services that people count on. Together, we can ensure that children get access to the quality public education they need to succeed, that families can get timely medical attention, and that our senior citizens are able to live their final years with dignity.

These and other government services touch the lives of British Columbians every day. It is your job as minister to work within your budget to deliver quality services that are available and effective.

Our third key commitment is to build a strong, sustainable, innovative economy that works for everyone, not just the wealthy and the well-connected. Together, we are going to tackle poverty and inequality, create good-paying jobs in every corner of the province, and ensure people from every background have the opportunity to reach their full potential. These three commitments along with your specific ministerial objectives should guide your work and shape your priorities from day to day. I expect you to work with the skilled professionals in the public service to deliver on this mandate.

As you are aware, we have set up a *Confidence and Supply Agreement* with the B.C. Green caucus. This agreement is critical to the success of our government. Accordingly, the principles of "good faith and no surprises" set out in that document should also guide your work going forward.

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Office of the  
Premier

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Location:  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria

As minister, you are responsible for ensuring members of the B.C. Green caucus are appropriately consulted on major policy issues, budgets, legislation and other matters as outlined in our agreement. This consultation should be coordinated through the Confidence and Supply Agreement Secretariat in the Premier's Office. The secretariat is charged with ensuring that members of the B.C. Green caucus are provided access to key documents and officials as set out in the agreement. This consultation and information sharing will occur in accordance with protocols established jointly by government and the B.C. Green caucus, and in accordance with relevant legislation.

British Columbians expect our government to work together to advance the public good. That means seeking out, fostering, and advancing good ideas regardless of which side of the house they come from.

Our government put forward a progressive vision for a Better B.C. that has won broad support with all members of the legislature. There is consensus on the need to address many pressing issues such as reducing health-care wait times, addressing overcrowded and under-supported classrooms, taking action on climate change, tackling the opioid crisis, and delivering safe, quality, affordable child care for all. As one of my ministers, I expect you to build on and expand that consensus to help us better deliver new leadership for British Columbians.

As part of our commitment to true, lasting reconciliation with First Nations in British Columbia our government will be fully adopting and implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. As minister, you are responsible for moving forward on the calls to action and reviewing policies, programs, and legislation to determine how to bring the principles of the declaration into action in British Columbia.

In your role as Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General I expect that you will make substantive progress on the following priorities:

- 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.
- Take action on gang and gun violence.
- Work in partnership to implement the Surrey Accord and provide the Surrey Wraparound (WRAP) program with increased, stable and secure annual funding.
- Increase annual funding to support women who experience domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes.
- Work with First Nations to set targets and take action to reduce the numbers of Aboriginal people involved in the justice system.
- Recognize culture for its role in rehabilitation and recovery and provide culturally diverse and appropriate programming in prisons, particularly for Aboriginal people.

.../3

- Increase support for initiatives that are proven to prevent and reduce crime, and increase the use of restorative justice programs.
- Lead the provincial government's planning for the safe implementation of legalized cannabis.

All members of Cabinet are expected to review, understand and act according to the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act* and to conduct themselves with the highest level of integrity. Remember, as a minister of the Crown, the way you conduct yourself will reflect not only on yourself, but on your Cabinet colleagues and our government as a whole.

I look forward to working with you in the coming weeks and months ahead.

It will take dedication, hard work, and a real commitment to working for people to make it happen, but I know you're up to the challenge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Horgan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Horgan  
Premier



**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Estimates 2018/19 Briefing Book**

**BC Corrections Branch  
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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Segregation****Suggested Response:**

- BC Corrections has been reviewing both its use of segregation and the disciplinary process, taking recent federal court rulings in Ontario and B.C. and international guidelines into account.
- Our review is nearing completion and is expected in the coming months.
- The focus is on using segregation as a last resort. We are examining enhanced case management as an alternative that will ensure staff and inmate safety and centre security.
- For example, at Alouette Correctional Centre for Women and at Surrey Pretrial Services Centre, BC Corrections is piloting Complex Needs Units, which provide intensive supervision in a more normalized environment.
- These pilots are 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 will be discussing the results of the review with advocates and the union to ensure they are informed of any improvements to policy or staff training that may follow.

**Key figures**

- In 2016/17, about 4% of the average daily inmate count (123 of 2,734 inmates) was housed in segregation.
- The average stay in segregation is 7 days.
- 84% of stays in segregation are less than 10 days.
- These figures include inmates on voluntary separate confinement.

**Work with other jurisdictions**

- BC Corrections is part of the federal/provincial working group that developed the National segregation strategy, which is soon to be released and is supported by all Canadian provinces.
- 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.
- 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.

**Background:**

- 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 Judy 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".

**Current Length of Time in Segregation**

- The average<sup>1</sup> daily count for all ten BC correctional centres is 2,734.
- The average<sup>1</sup> daily count for segregation<sup>2</sup> across all ten BC correctional centres is 123. (approximately 4% of the overall daily count).
- The average<sup>3</sup> length of stay is 7 days.

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<sup>1</sup> For fiscal year 2016/2017.

<sup>2</sup> "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).

<sup>3</sup> 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.

- 84%<sup>3</sup> of stays are 10 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 to develop a consistent and accurate method to measure and track the use of segregation.

#### Extended Periods of Time in Segregation

- The average<sup>3</sup> length of stay is 7 days; however, in certain circumstances, stays may be reviewed and extended to ensure safe and secure custody for all inmates and the protection of staff.
- Inmates who 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 may also be voluntary if the inmate self-identifies concern of harm if placed on a regular living unit.
- BC Corrections ensures inmates are offered access to health and mental health care professionals at least once in every 24-hour period and a mental health professional reviews the impact of segregation every 30 days.

#### Reasons for Segregation

- An inmate may be housed in segregation if:
  - Awaiting a disciplinary hearing for breaching a rule; or
  - On “separate confinement<sup>4</sup>” — a temporary measure for removing particular inmates from some or all inmates for security or safety reasons.

#### Segregation pending a disciplinary hearing

- 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 (ADW) or higher) believes on reasonable grounds that:
  - The inmate is likely to endanger him/herself or another person if not housed in segregation;

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Separate confinement may take place within the segregation unit when no other reasonable option exists.

- 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 every 24 hours until the conclusion of the hearing.
- If an inmate is found guilty of breaching a rule, the chairperson may impose one or more penalties, including confinement in segregation. A penalty 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 legal counsel at any stage of the disciplinary process and have counsel attend the hearing.

#### 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 him/herself or is likely to;
  - is endangering another person or is likely to;
  - is jeopardizing the management, operation or security of the correctional centre or is likely to;
  - must be confined separately for a medical reason; or,
  - if there are 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 retain the same rights and privileges of general population inmates.
- One or more privileges and access to 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 personal items are not withdrawn for punitive reasons.

- Within 24 hours of making a decision 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 no longer than 15 days for long-term separate confinement.
- 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 January 19, 2018, 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) resulting in a total of 243 inmates, broken down as follows:

|                      | KRCC | PGRCC | FRCC | ACCW | OCC | VIRCC | FMCC | SPSC | NCC | NFPC | Total (per CAR Section) |
|----------------------|------|-------|------|------|-----|-------|------|------|-----|------|-------------------------|
| CAR 17 (short term)  | 0    | 6     | 4    | 4    | 2   | 9     | 0    | 6    | 2   | 8    | 41                      |
| CAR 18 (longer term) | 5    | 8     | 7    | 3    | 18  | 16    | 0    | 14   | 0   | 14   | 85                      |
| CAR 19 (voluntary)   | 20   | 5     | 1    | 0    | 13  | 0     | 0    | 18   | 0   | 4    | 61                      |
| Total per centre     | 25   | 19    | 12   | 7    | 33  | 25    | 0    | 38   | 2   | 26   | 187                     |

|                                  | KRCC | PGRCC | FRCC | ACCW | OCC | VIRCC | FMCC | SPSC | NCC | NFPC | Total (per CAR section) |
|----------------------------------|------|-------|------|------|-----|-------|------|------|-----|------|-------------------------|
| CAR 24 (segregation pending)     | 1    | 0     | 1    | 0    | 4   | 1     | 0    | 1    | 0   | 3    | 11                      |
| CAR 27 (segregation disposition) | 7    | 5     | 4    | 0    | 7   | 4     | 0    | 10   | 0   | 8    | 45                      |
| Total per centre:                | 8    | 5     | 5    | 0    | 11  | 5     | 0    | 11   | 0   | 11   | 56                      |

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## **2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE**

## **Sex Offenders Supervision in the Community**

### **Suggested Response:**

- BC Corrections works closely with police to monitor sex offenders in the community to minimize the risk to the public.
- Essentially, the higher the risk, the higher the focus is on their supervision.
- Various strategies are used to monitor high risk offenders, e.g. supervised escorts in the community, home visits, electronic supervision, curfews and in certain circumstances, 24 hour staffing.
- BC Corrections can only monitor and enforce the conditions set by the court.

### **Residency**

- BC Corrections has no legal authority to tell offenders which community they can or cannot reside in. 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 go zones' like schools and playgrounds.

### **Treatment**

- **Court-ordered** treatment is led by registered psychologists from Forensic Psychiatric Services and probation officers monitor participation and progress.
- Upon completion of treatment, Sex Offender Maintenance programming is delivered by trained probation staff to reinforce the skills learned during treatment.
- When an offender fails to participate, an investigation is conducted and breach charges may be recommended.

### **High Risk Offenders**

- BC Corrections chairs the **High Risk Recognizance Advisory Committee**, a multi-justice agency committee that recommends 810 recognizance orders for offenders that continue to pose a high risk to reoffend upon release.
- Once the court places an offender on an 810 recognizance, the police and Corrections work closely to supervise the offender and enforce the conditions of the order.

**Notification**

- BC Corrections pursues notification to an individual, group, community or the Province when a sex offender's risk cannot be managed through other means.

**Background:**

- BC Corrections manages offenders based on their assessed risk - which is consistently reviewed throughout the term of supervision.
- All assessments are completed within 60 days and must be updated when the offender's circumstances change and at minimum, every six months.
- A referral to Forensic Psychiatric Services is initiated within 30 days. The probation officer receives regular updates on treatment progress and receives a final written summary which outlines risk mitigation, including internal and external controls.
- A case management plan must also be completed within 60 days. Case management plans respond to risk and needs identified in the assessment with the goal of mitigating the risk to reoffend.
- As part of case management, probation officers engage with collateral contacts, including close and ongoing collaboration with local police agencies, to coordinate supervision and enforcement of court-ordered conditions.
- Home visits are conducted for all sex offenders throughout their term of supervision regardless of whether or not there is authority to approve an offender's residence. Frequency of the home visits is determined by the offender's risk.
- The probation officer makes every effort to contact victims and others protected by the court order to explain the protective conditions, the process to report breaches, and to advise of available community and victim supports.

**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:
  - Consistent Purpose Notifications
  - Compelling Circumstance Notifications



- Public Notifications
- **Consistent Purpose Notifications** are conducted when staff do not have the authority to determine where a client resides, but has determined that an individual is living in a location where neighbours and/or nearby schools should be notified about conditions pertaining to an individual (such as no contact with children, or no-go to parks, schools etc.).
  - BC Corrections 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.
- **Compelling Circumstance Notifications** are conducted 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 issued 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 – does not involve a media release.
  - Under FOIPPA (Section 33.1(1)(m)), BC Corrections can provide a copy of the notification.
- **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 ADM, DM and OIPC 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 (i.e. they are supervised 24/7), their offence pattern (i.e. 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**

- In 2016/17 sex offenders comprised 11% of sentenced community offenders (1547) and 12% of bail clients (975).
- Between 2010/11 and 2016/17, the number of sentenced sex offenders increased by 19% (252 offenders) and bail clients increased by 26% (202).
- In the community, 36% are assessed as high risk to reoffend; 26% are assessed as medium risk; 26% are assessed as low risk; 9% are awaiting and/or undergoing risk assessment.
- In 2016/17 the average length of community supervision for sentenced offenders was 593 days and 311 days for those on bail.
- In 2016/17, 16% of inmates had sex offences (257 remand and 168 sentenced).
- In 2016/17 the average length of remand was 48 days and 70 days for sentenced offenders.

**Daily average sex offender counts for fiscal year 2016/17**

| <b>Incarcerated</b>          | <b>Sex Offenders</b> | <b>% of Custody Count</b>      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Remand</b>                | 257                  | 9%                             |
| <b>Custody Sentence</b>      | 168                  | 6%                             |
| <b>Community Supervision</b> | <b>Sex Offenders</b> | <b>% of Community Caseload</b> |
| <b>Bail</b>                  | 975                  | 12%                            |
| <b>Community Sentence</b>    | 1547                 | 11%                            |

|                        |                     |              |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
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|------------------------|---------------------|--------------|

## **2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE**

### **Indigenous Offenders: Community Corrections Programs**

#### **Suggested Response:**

- My ministry is committed to addressing the factors that contribute to the over-representation of Indigenous people in the justice system.
- BC Corrections recognizes the important role of community and culture in supporting recovery and rehabilitation, and partners with Indigenous organizations and communities to deliver culture-based community-driven programs and support services.
- The Province, in partnership with the federal Department of Justice, funds approximately \$3.8 million to support the Indigenous Justice Program (IJP) based on the principle of 50/50 cost sharing.
- The Indigenous Justice Program provides culture-based and community-driven services in 34 locations across the province that range from court diversion, client support and supervision, community reintegration planning and support, and core programs dealing with substance use and domestic violence.

#### **Background:**

- Indigenous people currently comprise 5.9% of British Columbia's adult population but make up 29.7% of the Adult Custody Division population and 25.8% of people supervised by the Community Corrections Division.
- Despite the growth in the proportion of Indigenous people under corrections supervision, the actual number of individuals has remained stable over the past few years.
- In 2008, BC Corrections established an Aboriginal Programs and Relationships Section and a strategic plan to enhance correctional services and supports to improve the outcomes of Indigenous people who come into contact with the justice system.
- This section collaborates with staff across the province, other provincial and federal ministries, and Indigenous partners to implement initiatives in the areas of justice, education and health.

**Indigenous Justice Program (formerly Aboriginal Justice Strategy)**

- The Governments of British Columbia and Canada recognize the importance of collaborating and creating partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations to facilitate the administration of justice in their communities to better address the justice needs of Indigenous people.
- The Indigenous Justice Program provides services in the following communities: 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.
- In addition to the Indigenous Justice Program partners, BC Corrections is working with other First Nation communities to support the development of community justice plans and programs.

**Training**

- Indigenous Justice Program workers are trained to deliver two of BC Correction's Core Programs:
  - Substance Abuse Management (SAM); and
  - Respectful Relationships (RR).
- Indigenous Justice Program workers are trained to deliver these programs in their communities to help to ensure these programs are delivered in a culturally-relevant and safe manner.
- These programs are research based and have been evaluated and found to reduce reoffending.
- In addition to training in Core Programs, Indigenous Justice Program workers are trained in:
  - Alternative measures;
  - Restorative justice;
  - Orientation to community corrections and the role of probation officers;
  - Program facilitation skills; and
  - Foundations of corrections case management.

- BC Corrections also supports an annual provincial training conference for Indigenous Justice Program staff to gather from around the province to network, share best practices, train and build capacity.

|                              |                     |              |
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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Indigenous Offenders:  
Adult Custody Programs****Suggested Response:**

- My ministry is committed to working with Indigenous people to address the factors that contribute to the over-representation of Indigenous people in the justice system.
- BC Corrections recognizes the role of culture and cultural identity in recovery and rehabilitation, as well as reintegration, and contracts with Indigenous service providers for the provision of culturally-specific programming for Indigenous inmates.
- In recognition of the importance of culture in rehabilitation and recovery, BC Corrections is working with our Indigenous justice partners to enhance the Aboriginal Liaison Program through increased resources and support, standardization of the program, and building stronger relationships to ensure that programs are community-driven.

**Background:**

- Indigenous people currently comprise 5.9% of British Columbia's adult population but make up 29.7% of the Adult Custody Division population and 25.8% of people supervised by Community Corrections Division.
- Despite the growth in the proportion of Indigenous people under corrections supervision, the actual number of individuals has remained stable over the past few years.
- Aboriginal Liaisons and Elders working in the correctional centres provide services such as:
  - Developing and delivering culture-based programs;
  - Spiritual and cultural support to inmates;
  - Liaising between the inmate, staff, and Indigenous communities to support release planning (i.e. housing, social assistance);
  - Cultural competency training for staff; and
  - Group and individual support for inmates facing a variety of issues such as coping with addictions, anger management, family violence, residential school trauma, setting boundaries and stress management.

- BC Corrections is working with Aboriginal Liaisons and Elders to support the enhancement through efforts such as:
  - Provincial community of practice calls for service providers to share program information, receive and provide peer support, and identify service needs; and
  - Providing in-person training and cultural gathering opportunities to support professional development.

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|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|
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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Indigenous Offenders: BC  
Corrections Response to Over-  
Representation****Suggested Response:**

- BC Corrections is committed to addressing the factors that contribute to the continued over-representation of Indigenous people in the justice system.
- 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.
- BC Corrections has four key initiatives:
  - Culturally-specific programming and support for inmates at all 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 help to ensure that Indigenous people in conflict with the law receive fair, equitable and culturally sensitive treatment by the criminal justice system; and
  - Enhancing staff cultural awareness through training and placing an emphasis of incorporating cultural programs, supports and resources in case management planning for Indigenous clients.
- BC Corrections is prioritizing efforts to develop and enhance existing supports and services, such as:
  - reviewing programs and policy;
  - incorporating restorative justice processes;
  - increasing access to educational programs and services and parenting information;
  - ensuring that knowledge of trauma in the Indigenous context is incorporated into practice by staff;
  - relevant training events and curriculum; and



- developing an Indigenous engagement framework to increase collaboration and partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations.

**Background:**

- 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.
- 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 corrections supervision, the actual number of individuals has remained relatively 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.

**Training Activities**

- 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 2016/17, BC Corrections purchased 154 training seats and has initiated training for senior and front-line management.
- BC Corrections partnered with Correctional Service of Canada to pilot Aboriginal Perceptions Training (APT) and deliver in-person cultural training to staff to enhance case management decision-making and practice.

- Staff training for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) has been increased and enhanced to improve staff understanding of the unique circumstances and needs of Indigenous people living with FASD and to promote best practise through involvement and connection to community supports.
- BC Corrections has also held a number of conferences to bring frontline staff together with Indigenous Elders and community representatives to discuss ways to improve the outcomes for their Indigenous clients.

#### Reintegration Supports

- In June 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with the Sts'ailes First Nation to implement a process to share information and work together to support the successful reintegration of Sts'ailes members back to their community. BC Corrections is continuing to build relationships with other Indigenous communities to support similar MOUs.

#### Additional Activities

- BC Corrections is:
  - Increasing client and inmate access to culturally-relevant resources through the Healthy Aboriginal Network (HAN). 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; and
  - Collaborating with the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) 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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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Escapes****Suggested Response:**

- I'm pleased to say that escapes from provincial correctional centres are extremely rare.
- All inmates are assessed to determine the level of security they require, which includes consideration of escape risk and public safety concerns.
- While on escort, BC Corrections ensures that inmates are supervised by an appropriate number of correctional officers.
- Each escort is determined on a case-by-case basis, and security protocols are put in place based on the assessed risk level.
- In the event of an occurrence, however, each correctional centre has a detailed response plan that includes notifying local law enforcement and the Victim Safety Unit as key priorities. In the event the inmate is considered a risk to the public, or the police need the public's assistance to locate the individual, authorities may choose to issue a news release.
- All incidents, including attempts, are fully investigated to prevent a similar situation from happening again.

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**SPSC prison breach**

- The circumstances surrounding an inadvertent release from SPSC in December 2017 were promptly investigated. During that review it was discovered that an inmate had managed to assume the identity of another inmate who was scheduled for release. A number of recommendations resulted from the review of visual and video identification practices and several measures were introduced to eliminate the potential for errors to occur, including:

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**Background:**

- BC Corrections defines escapes in the following categories:
  - Escort: Inmate was outside of the correctional centre but under correctional officer supervision.
  - Grounds Walkaway: Inmate walked away from an open custody unit. Not on work crew and no prison breach involved.
  - Prison Breach: Inmate escaped from inside the secure perimeter of a custody centre.
  - Temporary Absence: Inmate was outside of the correctional centre on an approved temporary absence (not escorted).
  - Work Crew: Inmate walked away while working outside of the secure perimeter as part of a work crew and under the supervision of correctional staff.

Key Statistics**Escapes from a Correctional Centre**

| Fiscal Year        | Work Crew            | Prison Breach          | Grounds Walkaway | Temporary Absence | Escort    | Total    |
|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------|----------|
| <b>2017/18 YTD</b> | 1 @FRCC<br>1 @ NCC   | 1 @SPSC                |                  |                   | 1 @ NCC   | <b>4</b> |
| <b>2016/17</b>     | 1@FRCC**<br>1@NCC    |                        |                  |                   |           | <b>2</b> |
| <b>2015/16</b>     | 1 @ FRCC             | 1 @ VIRCC              |                  |                   | 1 @ VIRCC | <b>3</b> |
| <b>2014/15</b>     | 2 @ NCC<br>2 @ PGRCC | 1 @ ACCW*<br>1 @ FRCC* |                  |                   |           | <b>6</b> |
| <b>2013/14</b>     | 1 @ NCC              |                        |                  |                   |           | <b>1</b> |
| <b>2012/13</b>     | 2 @ NCC              |                        |                  |                   |           | <b>2</b> |
| <b>2011/12</b>     | 1 @ KRCC             |                        |                  |                   | 1 @ NCC   | <b>2</b> |
| <b>2010/11</b>     | 4 @ FRCC<br>1 @ NCC  |                        | 1 @ FRCC         |                   |           | <b>6</b> |

\*Inmate was apprehended within minutes of the escape.

In all of the above instances, the inmates were apprehended and returned to custody, with the exception of one case involving an inmate who walked away from a work crew in FY 2016/17\*\* and is still at large.

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

**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Inadvertent Releases****Suggested Response:**

- I'm pleased to be able to say that the number of occasions that an inmate has been inadvertently released is very few.
- To put this in perspective, out of over 18,530<sup>1</sup> inmate releases across the province in FY 2016/17, only 8 inadvertent releases occurred – an error rate of 0.04%.
- In the event of an occurrence, however, each correctional centre has a detailed response plan, such as notifying local law enforcement and the Victim Safety Unit as key priorities.
- In the event an inmate is considered a risk to the public, or the police need the public's assistance to locate the individual, authorities may choose to issue a public news release.
- In many cases of inadvertent releases, the inmate was due to be released to the community, but the proper procedures weren't followed due to administrative errors, such as a slight miscalculation of their discharge date.
- BC Corrections works closely with the Ministry of Attorney General's Court Services Branch to ensure the accuracy of court documentation to mitigate inadvertent releases.
- In addition, BC Corrections provides ongoing sentence management training to staff in order to avoid incidents of inadvertent release due to calculation errors.
- All incidents are fully investigated to prevent a similar situation from happening again.

**SPSC Inadvertent Release Dec 2017**

- The circumstances surrounding an inadvertent release from SPSC in December 2017 were promptly investigated. During that review it was discovered that an inmate had managed to assume the identity of another inmate who was scheduled for release. A number of recommendations resulted from the review of visual and video identification practices and several measures were introduced to eliminate the potential for errors to occur, including:

- s.15

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<sup>1</sup> Includes releases from the correctional centre as well as from court.

**Key Statistics:****Inadvertent Releases from a Correctional Centre**

| <b>Fiscal Year</b>          | <b>VIRCC</b> | <b>NCC</b> | <b>SPSC</b> | <b>NFPC</b> | <b>FRCC</b> | <b>FMCC</b> | <b>KRCC</b> | <b>ACCW</b> | <b>PGRCC</b> | <b>OCC</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|-----------------------------|--------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| 2017/18 to January 25, 2018 |              |            | 3           | 2           |             |             |             |             | 2            |            | 7            |
| 2016/17                     |              |            | 1           | 1           | 3           |             | 1           |             | 1            | 1          | 8            |
| 2015/16                     | 1            |            | 3           | 2           |             |             |             |             | 3            |            | 9            |
| 2014/15                     |              |            | 5           |             |             |             | 1           | 3           | 1            |            | 10           |
| 2013/14                     |              |            | 1           | 2           |             |             | 1           |             | 1            |            | 5            |
| 2012/13                     |              |            | 3           | 1           | 1           |             | 1           |             | 1            |            | 7            |
| 2011/12                     |              |            | 2           | 3           |             |             |             |             |              |            | 5            |
| 2010/11                     | 1            | 1          | 2           | 2           | 1           |             | 1           |             | 1            |            | 9            |

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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Inmate Counts and  
Capacity Pressures****Suggested Response:**

- The average number of inmates was 2,734 in 2016/17.
- Remand counts increased 9% in 2016/17 (see table below).
- The 2016/17 sentenced counts have decreased, and are projected to decrease over the next few years.
- In January 2018, the capacity (ratio of inmates to cells) was 103%. This means 97% of cells held one inmate and 3% of cells housed two inmates.
- The Adult Custody Division continues to face capacity pressures in certain regions of the province, 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.

**If asked about SPSC, NFPC or OCC holding 60 or 72 inmates per unit**

- To say the OCC living units hold 72 inmates with only one supervising staff is inaccurate and misleading.
- Under very rare circumstances would a centre be at full capacity requiring each cell in living units to hold 2 inmates per cell.
- The opening of OCC has increased our cell capacity by 378 cells, thereby reducing double-bunking across the province.
- Currently only 3% of our cells are double-bunked – the rest have only one inmate.
- 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, such as unpredicted temporary detention.

If asked about staffing levels

- To say only one officer is supervising any given number of inmates is not providing a complete picture.
- Staffing decisions are based on risk assessments, taking the histories and needs of those being supervised into consideration.
- In fact, in special units, the number of inmates to staff can be as low as 10 to 1.
- 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 receive help within seconds.
- New correctional centres are state-of-the-art buildings that have improved safety features that are integral to the 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 use issues.

**Background:**

| Average Daily Inmate Count | Remand       | Sentenced  | Remand & Sentenced | Immigration Hold | Waiting for transfer to CSC | Total <sup>1</sup> |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 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              |
| <b>FY2016-2017</b>         | <b>1,668</b> | <b>929</b> | <b>90</b>          | <b>21</b>        | <b>25</b>                   | <b>2,734</b>       |

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



- The Capital Asset Management Plan (CAMP) Phase Three, developed in 2017, identified the need to increase provincial capacity by 218 new cells by 2027/28. Regional analysis suggests the greatest capacity need will be in the Northern Interior Region, followed by the Island Coastal and Fraser Metro/Lower Mainland Regions. The Interior Fraser is expected to have sufficient capacity to meet the demand forecasted for that region in 2028.
- Government's CAMP Phase Two invested \$221 million in 2012 for the construction of the 378-cell Okanagan Correctional Centre - more than doubling the capacity in the Interior.
- Government's CAMP Phase One invested \$185 million 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.
- It's important to remember that, despite capacity levels at any rate, violence can and does occur, even on units with the fewest inmates and with significant security measures, a 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 use issues.

|                                 |                     |              |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
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|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|

**2018/19 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, and inmates may be charged internally or face criminal charges.
- It is encouraging that in 2017, overall violent incidents were down 7% and inmate-on-inmate assaults fell by 13%.
- BC Corrections took action following an in-depth analysis of staff assaults in 2016 to prevent future assaults from happening – and they continually review policies and practices to prevent incidents.
- Also, the Okanagan Correctional Centre (OCC) increased capacity and safety across the system – providing staff with more options to place inmates with complex needs and behavioural issues, and to separate those with known conflicts.
- OCC began admitting inmates in phases on January 2017. Because of the gradual increase in inmate counts in 2017, it is too early to determine the impact of the OCC's additional capacity on violent incidents.

**Definition of "Assault"**

- It's important to understand what we're talking about when looking at the total number of assaults: they include all incidents that result in some degree of intentional physical contact or force, such as throwing items, spitting, scratching, pushing or hitting.
- Fortunately, most staff assault incidents do not result in serious injury.
- BC Corrections tracks all staff assaults – even those involving minimal contact and no injuries.

**Staffing Model and "Ratios"**

- BC Corrections doesn't staff living units on a fixed-ratio basis, and to say only one officer is supervising a living unit with 60 or 72 inmates does not reflect reality at all.

- The scenario of any correctional centre being full to capacity requiring two inmates in every cell is extremely unlikely.
- The number of staff and inmates assigned to a unit is based on a comprehensive risk assessment and classification process.
- For example, some units housing inmates that present a higher risk or that have complex needs may house as few as 10 inmates.
- It's important to understand that if one officer is assigned to a unit, they have a multitude of supports, including:
  - Other correctional officers assigned to 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 that allow staff to receive help in seconds.
- As well, health care and mental health professionals, Aboriginal Liaison Workers and other professionals have frequent, regular interactions with inmates on the living units.
- Security measures, building designs, risk assessments, information-sharing, proper case management and staffing models also contribute to the safe management of inmates and the protection of staff.

**Staff Assaults**

- Assault numbers have remained relatively stable. In 2017, there were 115 incidents of assault against staff, compared to 117 last year.
  - 2017: 115
  - 2016: 117
  - 2015: 99
  - 2014: 71
  - 2013: 82
  - 2012: 105
- While each and every incident is taken very seriously, it's important to understand that the majority of incidents of staff assault do not result in cases of serious injury.

- For example, an assault is a violent incident that results in some degree of intentional physical contact or force such as throwing items, spitting, scratching, pushing or hitting.

#### Staff Assault Realities

- An in-depth analysis in 2016 showed that most staff assaults occurred:
  - With just one or two inmates present, and
  - In segregation or specialized units with high staffing levels and low inmate counts.
- Notably, most staff assaults (81%) occurred either with just one inmate present, or involved an inmate who was locked in their cell at the time – typically, a situation where the inmate threw something at 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 just over half of all staff assaults in 2016.
- The majority (87%) of these inmates were housed in segregation at the time of the assaults.

#### Reducing Risks

- Assaults against staff are deplorable. That is why we are taking action to reduce the risks that staff face through new measures like:
  - Ensuring staff know about violent inmates who have previously assaulted a peace officer, through a new database alert and information at shift muster meetings.
  - Minimizing staff proximity to inmates who are known to be violent – e.g., eliminating a significant number of assaults that occur through cell door hatches by reducing contact, using meal-delivery devices and looking at facility design changes.
  - Working closely with Crown and police to lay charges where appropriate.
  - Working with the union to develop a victim impact statement for violent assaults, which has helped to ensure the courts understand the lasting impact of these incidents on staff and the importance of serious consequences.

**More assault incidents at some centres than others**

- Surrey Pretrial and North Fraser Pretrial are two of the largest provincial correctional centres, with the highest inmate population counts in B.C.
- As well, they're B.C.'s only remand centres, which results in high inmate turnover. Both of these factors can contribute to higher incident numbers.

**Inmate-on-inmate Assaults**

- The volume of inmate-on-inmate violent incidents is concerning. It reflects higher inmate counts, the criminal histories of those in custody, and the growing number of inmates with complex needs such as addiction and mental health issues.
- As part of efforts to mitigate violence, a lot of planning goes into inmate placement, including classification assessments weighing inmates' histories, such as gang affiliation, and complex needs.
- Alternative strategies such the pilot of the Complex Needs Unit at ACCW and implementing trauma informed practice are showing promising results in reducing the incidents of violence with inmates.
- As a component of its review of segregation practices, the Adult Custody Division is developing a plan for management of complex inmate behaviours.
- 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 conducted proactively on the workplace environment to identify existing or potential risks of violence and to make recommendations to eliminate or minimize those risks - and in accordance with the WorkSafeBC Occupational Health and Safety Regulation.

- All BC provincial correctional centres have occupational health and safety committees, with both employer and union representation, where concerns about staff safety at the centre-level are discussed.
- If staff injury occurs, management and union personnel conduct a joint investigation and the results are forwarded to the local occupational health and safety committee, as per WorkSafeBC regulations.
- To date, WorkSafeBC has found our workplaces to be safe; 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 10 orders resulting from those inspections have been implemented.
- Over the past 10 years BC Corrections has significantly increased staffing levels as part of our capital expansion plan.
- In the last year alone, 240 new full time correctional positions were added with the opening of OCC.

## 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** Against Staff | Incidents of Inmate on Inmate Assaults* | Other Incidents of Inmate on Inmate Violence** | Total Incidents of Violence | Average daily inmate count |
|---------------|--|--|---|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2017          | 115                                    | 89   | 759                                     | 419  | 1382                        | 2667                       |
| 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 |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|-----------------|
| 2017          | 4.0                                   | 2.8   | 23.9                                   | 13.3  | 44.1            |
| 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 2017, with a daily average count of 2,667, in any given month across all centres in the province, there were 4.0 incidents of assault against a staff member for every 1000 inmates in custody and 23.9 incidents of inmate-on-inmate assaults for every 1000 inmates in custody. Overall, the violent incident rate decreased by 2.4 per cent from 2016 to 2017.

## Incidents of Inmate Assaults on Staff by Correctional Centre

| Correctional Centre             | 2012       | 2013      | 2014      | 2015      | 2016       | 2017       |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Alouette for Women              | 3          | 8         | 13        | 12        | 9          | 6          |
| Ford Mountain                   | 1          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1          | 0          |
| Fraser Regional                 | 10         | 12        | 5         | 10        | 15         | 7          |
| Kamloops Regional               | 12         | 15        | 7         | 7         | 9          | 8          |
| Nanaimo                         | 0          | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0          | 0          |
| North Fraser Pretrial Centre    | 33         | 31        | 10        | 19        | 21         | 35         |
| Prince George Regional          | 21         | 9         | 10        | 12        | 19         | 13         |
| Surrey Pretrial Services Centre | 15         | 3         | 20        | 23        | 25         | 26         |
| Vancouver Island Regional       | 10         | 4         | 6         | 15        | 18         | 12         |
| Okanagan                        | N/A        | N/A       | N/A       | N/A       | N/A        | 8          |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>105</b> | <b>82</b> | <b>71</b> | <b>99</b> | <b>117</b> | <b>115</b> |

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 Inmate Violence Against Staff\* by Correctional Centre

| Correctional Centre            | 2012      | 2013      | 2014      | 2015      | 2016      | 2017      |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Alouette for Women             | 1         | 7         | 20        | 18        | 2         | 3         |
| Ford Mountain                  | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0         |
| Fraser Regional                | 10        | 13        | 6         | 15        | 13        | 6         |
| Kamloops Regional              | 22        | 24        | 9         | 17        | 15        | 17        |
| Nanaimo                        | 1         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| North Fraser Pretrial Centre   | 11        | 18        | 5         | 13        | 10        | 25        |
| Prince George Regional         | 15        | 12        | 19        | 6         | 7         | 5         |
| Surrey Pretrial Service Centre | 4         | 5         | 16        | 15        | 3         | 6         |
| Vancouver Island Regional      | 2         | 8         | 6         | 9         | 10        | 15        |
| Okanagan                       | N/A       | N/A       | N/A       | N/A       | N/A       | 12        |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>66</b> | <b>88</b> | <b>81</b> | <b>94</b> | <b>60</b> | <b>89</b> |

\*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       | 2017       |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Alouette for Women             | 3          | 26         | 17         | 28         | 27         | 27         |
| Ford Mountain                  | 5          | 3          | 2          | 4          | 8          | 4          |
| Fraser Regional                | 102        | 119        | 64         | 100        | 120        | 56         |
| Kamloops Regional              | 57         | 69         | 69         | 80         | 111        | 72         |
| Nanaimo                        | 15         | 9          | 9          | 16         | 10         | 10         |
| North Fraser Pretrial Centre   | 137        | 211        | 96         | 159        | 159        | 165        |
| Prince George Regional         | 51         | 78         | 65         | 106        | 121        | 91         |
| Surrey Pretrial Service Centre | 60         | 51         | 125        | 194        | 196        | 134        |
| Vancouver Island Regional      | 81         | 94         | 87         | 95         | 118        | 106        |
| Okanagan                       | N/A        | N/A        | N/A        | N/A        | N/A        | 94         |
| <b>Totals</b>                  | <b>511</b> | <b>660</b> | <b>535</b> | <b>782</b> | <b>870</b> | <b>759</b> |

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

| Correctional Centre            | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|--------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Alouette for Women             | 6    | 17   | 14   | 18   | 15   | 10   |
| Ford Mountain                  | 2    | 5    | 2    | 3    | 5    | 1    |
| Fraser Regional                | 70   | 68   | 53   | 96   | 107  | 66   |
| Kamloops Regional              | 17   | 26   | 26   | 33   | 52   | 27   |
| Nanaimo                        | 16   | 17   | 15   | 9    | 11   | 12   |
| North Fraser Pretrial Centre   | 78   | 98   | 41   | 80   | 71   | 82   |
| Prince George Regional         | 64   | 37   | 44   | 50   | 50   | 44   |
| Surrey Pretrial Service Centre | 38   | 46   | 65   | 116  | 72   | 91   |
| Vancouver Island Regional      | 36   | 34   | 31   | 35   | 51   | 50   |
| Okanagan                       | N/A  | N/A  | N/A  | N/A  | N/A  | 36   |
| Total                          | 327  | 348  | 291  | 440  | 434  | 419  |

\*Other incidents of violence include: Threats, attempted assaults, inmate-on-inmate fights.

|                               |                     |              |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
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|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|

## **2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE**

## **Adult Custody Staff Recruitment, Hiring, Retention and Wages**

### **Suggested Response:**

- I've met with senior BC Corrections officials and the BCGEU and I am very much aware of staff concerns about their compensation.
- I am also mindful that the collective agreement between the BC Public Service and the BCGEU, which specifies the terms and conditions of employment for correctional officers, is scheduled for renegotiation within the next year.
- BC Corrections has made significant progress through its new recruitment strategies, and continues to explore options to enhance the retention of correctional centre staff with input from the union.
- Those recruitment initiatives resulted in nearly 1,400 applications in 3 months, which is a 150% increase over previous job postings.
- In the last two years BC Corrections has hired more than 600 correctional officers throughout the province, which included 240 new positions at the Okanagan Correctional Centre – our largest centre.
- With the recent signing of the Federal Corrections collective agreement resulting in a pay gap of more than 30% between federal and provincial staff, and others pursuing careers in other law enforcement agencies for a variety of reasons, we will continue our recruitment and retention efforts to keep up with operational demand.

### **Background:**

#### Rate of pay and overtime

- According to the most recently available data, BC Correctional officers have the 5<sup>th</sup> highest hourly salary amongst the provinces, and are 6<sup>th</sup> highest out of 14 jurisdictions in Canada.
- Comparison of hourly rates for correctional officers from comparable Canadian jurisdictions (current to January, 2018) are represented in the following table:

| Ranking | Jurisdiction*        | Maximum hourly rate  |
|---------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1       | CSC (Federal)        | \$37.38****          |
| 2       | Alberta              | \$35.30              |
| 3       | Ontario              | \$34.09**            |
| 4       | Manitoba             | \$33.67 <sup>1</sup> |
| 5       | Saskatchewan         | \$33.11**            |
| 6       | British Columbia     | \$33.04 <sup>2</sup> |
| 7       | NFLD and Labrador    | \$31.30***           |
| 8       | Quebec               | \$30.19***           |
| 9       | New Brunswick        | \$29.63***           |
| 10      | Nova Scotia          | \$29.48 <sup>3</sup> |
| 11      | Prince Edward Island | \$28.88 <sup>4</sup> |

\* Northwest Territories (\$44.50/hour), Nunavut (\$40.78/hour) and Yukon (\$37.87/hour) have been removed from this analysis because they are isolated and sparsely populated regions, and as such do not offer comparable wage data for our jurisdiction.

\*\*Currently in contract negotiations and this could change.

\*\*\*Awaiting responses from NFLD and Labrador, Quebec, and New Brunswick.

\*\*\*\*Based on 2080 hrs of work per year, the overall salary under the new agreement is \$77,765 per year for a correctional officer at entry level CX1.

- The majority of correctional posts are required to be backfilled when vacant and are covered by existing staff at overtime rates until permanent replacements can be put in place.
- Overtime costs have decreased from \$4.6M in 2008 to \$3.1M in 2017.
- Living units may be closed in response to staffing levels when required on a temporary basis.

#### Retention and recruitment efforts

- Over the last two years, Adult Custody Division (ACD) has implemented significant changes to its recruitment and retention strategy. These efforts include:
  - A province wide radio, newspaper, social media and online marketing campaign that has resulted in more than 58,000 views and 1,362 applications in 3 months, which is a 150% increase over previous job postings.

<sup>1</sup> Rises to \$34.34 with 20 years' service. Increasing March 1, 2018 to \$34.01 and \$34.68 respectively

<sup>2</sup> As of February 4, 2018

<sup>3</sup> Increasing April 1, 2018 to \$29.92

<sup>4</sup> Increase expected within 2018

- A move away from part-time hiring to a full time only model to position the role as a career vs. a job - "Be a Role Model."
- Implementation of a provincial recruitment program with a team dedicated to enhancing the application experience (these efforts saw a 26% reduction in repeat applicants and an increase of nearly 100% in applicant to hire ratio over previous postings as well as a recruitment incentive program).
- Increased focus on staff training conferences and staff forums along with Organizational Health and staff wellness initiatives to improve retention.
- The ACD's attrition rate has increased more than 20% in the last year from 9.28% in 2016 to 11.32% in 2017 (the average rate of attrition over five years is 10.3%).
- Based on responses from departing staff and the feedback from senior management, staff primarily left due to low wages.
- With federal correctional staff now making on average 30% more in pay than Provincial correctional staff attrition rates may be further impacted.

#### Staffing levels

- As of December 31, 2017, the ACD has 1,882 staff:
  - 1,388 Correctional Officers;
  - 245 Correctional Supervisors;
  - 120 Managers;
  - 86 Administrative staff;
  - 28 Instructors; and
  - 15 Chaplains.

Terminations and Permanent Transfers Out

|  | GO's   | GS's                                    |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Number Terminated or Permanently Transferred Out 2017</b> | 148  | 7                                       |
| <b>Breakdown of Seniority - Years of Service 2017</b>        | 33%-less than 1yr<br>42%-less than 5 yrs<br>25%-5yrs or more | 14%-less than 1 yr<br>86%-5 yrs or more |
| <b>Number Terminated or Permanently Transferred Out 2016</b> | 132  | 11                                      |
| <b>Breakdown of Seniority - Years of Service 2016</b>        | 26%-less than 1yr<br>33%-less than 5yrs<br>41%-5yrs or more  | 100%-5yrs or more                       |
| <b>Number Terminated or Permanently Transferred Out 2015</b> | 110  | 12                                      |
| <b>Breakdown of Seniority - Years of Service 2015</b>        | 23%-less than 1yr<br>27%-less than 5yrs<br>50%-5yrs or more  | 100%-5yrs or more                       |
| <b>Number Terminated or Permanently Transferred Out 2014</b> | 118  | 10                                      |
| <b>Breakdown of Seniority - Years of Service 2014</b>        | 30%-less than 1yr<br>30%-less than 5yrs<br>40%-5yrs or more  | 100%-5yrs or more                       |
| <b>Number Terminated or Permanently Transferred Out 2013</b> | 112  | 14                                      |
| <b>Breakdown of Seniority - Years of Service 2013</b>        | 18%-less than 1yr<br>37%-less than 5yrs<br>45%-5yrs or more  | 100%-5yrs or more                       |

|                               |                     |                        |
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## **2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**

## **Mental Health and Substance Use within the Criminal Justice System**

### **Suggested Response:**

- BC Corrections is committed to addressing the factors that contribute to the opioid crisis and creating a mental health and addiction strategy to improve access to services and ultimately result in better outcomes for people involved in the justice system.
- My ministry has assumed a leadership role in establishing partnerships to improve services for individuals with mental health and addiction needs 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; and,
  - Transferring **inmate health services to the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA)** to improve continuity of care for inmates.
- We will continue to build links with our partners both inside and outside government.
- Integrated teams, such as Downtown Community Court, Vancouver Intensive Supervision Unit, Drug Treatment Court of Vancouver, and the Victoria Integrated Community Outreach Team are examples of partnerships between Corrections staff, health authority staff and other justice partners to ensure the mental health and addictions needs of shared clients are addressed.
- Mental health and homelessness are collective problems, and we are building a collective solution.

### **Government-wide Mental Health Strategy**

- BC Corrections participated in the ADM committee supporting the Cabinet Working Group on Mental Health (CWGMH) in the development of a government-wide strategy to respond to the mental health needs of British Columbians.
- In 2016 the CWGMH approved the “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 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 action plan for the Branch.
- The BC Corrections Mental Health and Substance Use Strategy for Action establishes a coordinated framework and plan for mental health and substance use services and programs received by individuals under the supervision of BC Corrections, including linkages with community-based and culturally diverse and appropriate services.
- In establishing this framework, alignment with other provincial strategies, projects, and plans that focus on the mental health and substance use needs of our clients will be a priority.
- The strategy will assist the Corrections Branch in identifying available resources for Corrections clients, finding gaps in service delivery and opportunities for improvement, establishing priorities, and measuring progress.
- It is anticipated that taking these steps will improve outcomes for our Corrections clients and inform, support, and build capacity for our staff.

#### 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.

#### Inmate Health Care transfer to Provincial Health Services Authority

- BC Corrections worked with the Ministry of Health to transfer responsibility for providing health services in correctional centres to the BC Provincial Health Services Authority, effective Oct. 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 upon their release.
- As delivery of inmate health services is now the responsibility of PHSA, I would refer any inmate health services questions to the Minister responsible.

**Background:**

- Government currently invests approximately \$2 billion per year to fund mental health programs across several ministries.
- It is estimated that approximately \$20 million per year is spent to provide discreet services to the mental health population involved in the justice system.
- 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.
- 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 at least one mental health liaison officer, who is a correctional officer with specialized training in managing inmates with mental health needs. B.C. is the only jurisdiction in Canada with a dedicated Director of Mental Health Services.
- 11 full-time mental health liaison officer (MHLO) positions were created across the province in 2007-2008. 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.
- BC Corrections offers two-day training workshops for correctional officers working with inmates with mental health needs. The 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.
- Corrections has dedicated resources to work with the Ministry of Health, health authorities, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, police agencies and community resources to deliver integrated and enhanced services such as mental health support, addictions management, housing and employment.

- 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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**2018/19 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 has helped guide our actions, particularly in the areas of violence reduction in our facilities and inmate job readiness.
- 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.
- Three key projects were identified to improve inmates work opportunities:
  - A Social Enterprise and Employment Development project that aims to provide more work opportunities within correctional centres;
  - Expanding opportunities for certifiable trades training for inmates in correctional centres; and
  - Creating an initiative 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.
- BC Corrections 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.

- On October 1, 2017, the responsibility for inmate health services in all correctional centres was transitioned from BC Corrections to the Ministry of Health (MoH), and is delivered by the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA).
- This change improves the quality of health services for inmates through adherence to best practices, better integration and continuity of care with community health services upon release, and by expanded health care resources provided within each correctional centre.

**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 for a complete list of the 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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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Estimates 2018/19 Briefing Book**

**Policing and Security Branch  
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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Guns and Gangs Violence****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.
- Specialized provincial units such as the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit-BC (CFSEU-BC), Integrated Homicide Investigations Team (IHIT) and the Major Crime Section (MCS) remain committed to aggressively pursue gangs and those involved in the destructive world of organized crime.
- As the Province's anti-gang agency, CFSEU-BC is the largest integrated joint forces police unit in Canada and draws and develops highly-specialized officers from federal, provincial and municipal agencies around the province.
- Funding has steadily increased for CFSEU-BC, along with the Integrated Homicide Investigations Team (IHIT), Real Time Intelligence Center (RTIC-BC), Joint Illegal Gaming and Investigation Team (JIGIT) and the Provincial Major Crime Section (MCS) which are committed to aggressively pursuing gangs and those involved in the destructive world of organized crime.
- Despite the diversity of offenders and offences, CFSEU-BC has achieved tactical success through enhanced, collaborative investigative capabilities and continued commitment to targeting those who pose the highest risk to public safety due to their involvement in gang violence.

**Background:**

- For FY 2017/18 the total projected funding to anti-gang and organized crime initiatives is projected to be approximately \$81.77 million (provincial contribution of approximately \$58.04 million and a federal contribution of approximately \$23.38 million).
- On September 29, 2017 the government announced that as part of a new community crisis fund action is also being taken to protect public safety and cut off illegal fentanyl supplies.
- *Budget 2017 Update* provided an addition \$32 million over three years (2017/18 to 2019/20, \$25 million to Policing and \$7 million to BC Coroners Service) for critical enforcement and public safety initiatives, including:



- New dedicated anti-trafficking teams within the provincial RCMP and Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU-BC), with additional officers and support staff. This puts more boots on the ground to go after, arrest and prosecute dangerous and violent drug traffickers to disrupt the drug supply line in communities.
- Resources for all police agencies for enforcement activity against organized crime importers and traffickers, through the province's gang unit (CFSEU-BC), including more funding for projects that specifically target traffickers, to stem the flow of fentanyl into B.C.
- Increased support for police-based outreach in their communities and funding for multidisciplinary approaches to bring together mental health, social service and police agencies to proactively reach people who are seen to be of elevated risk.
- The government doubled funding for Wrap to \$500,000 in August 2017 to help eliminate the program's waitlist. The September announcement made annual funding of \$500,000 for Wrap permanent.
- Additionally, the previously announced 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:
  - Leading the development of a new Gang Suppression Action Plan to build upon successes and address current challenges in addressing gun and gang violence in B.C.
- A working group comprised of key Ministry and Justice Partners was convened in the Summer/Fall 2017 to identify comprehensive, focused and sustained strategies, actions and activities over several years to bolster the response to guns and gangs and enhance the safety of BC communities.
- The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General has also been participating at Federal Provincial and Territorial (FPT) levels where work has been ongoing to ensure BC's interests are represented in national anti-organized crime strategic plans and legislative changes. This representation includes participation in:
  - The National Coordinating Committee (NCC) on Organized Crime, which draws from the experiences of front-line law enforcement to assist in identifying current trends and issues and developing enforcement strategies in combating organized crime; and
  - The Coordinating Committee of Senior Officials (CCSO), which examines proposals for law reform (primarily criminal) and other policy issues with the objective of improving the ability to respond to organized crime threats in Canada.

***Ongoing Enforcement Strategies***

- 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 (IHIT), Major Crimes Section, and CFSEU-BC align with the Guns and Gangs Strategy.
- 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 (PTEP) targeting process and the Violent Prolific Offender Management (PVGO) 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) 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.
- 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.

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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Illegal Firearms Task Force****Suggested Response:**

- The Illegal Firearms Task Force (ITFF) Report provides findings and recommendations that could help our government respond to the public threats from illegal firearms in B.C.
- The ITFF made 37 recommendations dealing with issues relating to policing, legislative and policy changes, education and prevention.
- These recommendations support new and innovative approaches, as well as ongoing activities, to combat illegal firearms and the violence that results from their use in B.C.
- We will continue to engage the ITFF members as the recommendations are examined.
- The Report also identified a number of areas within federal jurisdiction including firearms legislation and legislation designed to prevent dangerous illegal firearms and firearm parts from entering Canada.
- Recommendations in the report call for the federal government to review these recommendations and make changes that will assist law enforcement and the courts in effectively dealing with illegal firearms.

**Background:**

- Total funding for the Guns and Gangs strategy included \$200,000 under the community safety and engagement pillar, for the creation of an Illegal Firearms Task Force.
- The objectives of the Illegal Firearms Task Force were to:
  - Examine current provincial and federal firearms legislation; interdictions; enforcement strategies; as well as educational and resource strategies related to illegal firearms;
  - Engage in meaningful dialogue with key stakeholders and subject matter experts;
  - Identify gaps and needs to combat illegal possession and use of firearms in B.C.; and
  - Develop options and recommendations for further strategies to complement existing legislation and educational, interdiction and enforcement strategies.
- On November 27, 2017, it was publicly announced that the Coordinated Forces Special Enforcement Unit of BC (CFSEU-BC) would be supported and designated as the lead agency responsible for coordinating a provincial firearms focused approach that includes enhanced

centralized intelligence and data gathering, and greater utilization of the Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority (PTEP). (Rec.# 1.1, 1.2,7,9,34 and 36)

- Also on November 27, 2017, it was announced that BC would seek financial support from the federal government from their recently announced funding to provinces/territories of \$326.7 million over five years, for help with the fight against guns and gangs. (Rec.# 1.3 and 1.4)
- Correspondence with Public Safety Canada has commenced and in addition to requests for resources and capital costs, has included the suggested amendments to federal legislation and federal programs that fall within several recommendations. (Rec. # 10-11,16,18,20-21 and 28-33)
- Collaborative meetings with the Ministry of Education with respect to considering enhancements to their programs and curricula, to include educational and preventative "guns and gangs" information where appropriate, have begun. (Rec.# 22-23 and 26)
- s.13
- 
- Work has begun to ensure that the Chief Firearms Officer and the Canada Border Service Agency are both provided with access to the Police Records Information Management Environment for BC (PRIME-BC) in support of comprehensive risk informed strategies that focus on the illegal use of firearms. (Rec. # 37)
- Some recommendations in the IFTF final report have already been successfully realized. PTEP participation has become a *Police Act* service standard for all law enforcement in BC, the federal government has restricted the import of certain types of receiver blanks, with more types under ongoing consideration and a process for cross border intelligence meetings is in place and being enhanced. (Rec. # 8, 21 and 36)

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## Appendix A: Recommendations of the Illegal Firearms Task Force

The Task Force recommends that:

### THEME #1: STRATEGIC APPROACHES

#### An Illegal Firearms-Focused Approach

1. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General should consider prioritizing illegal firearms trafficking and use by:
  - 1.1. Supporting the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU-BC) to become the lead agency for coordinating a provincial illegal firearms-focused strategy and cross-border illegal firearms investigations in partnership with the Canada Border Services Agency and other law enforcement agencies
  - 1.2. Ensuring province-wide and cross-border application of the firearms focus in the PTEP process
  - 1.3. Working with the federal Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness to request the participation of the Canada Border Services Agency in B.C.'s illegal firearms-focused approach
  - 1.4. Working with the federal Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness to provide additional funding for provincial and dedicated federal resources, Canada Border Services Agency investigators, operational funding, administrative and technical support and capital costs within CFSEU-BC, consistent with the commitment provided by the federal government

#### Road Safety and Illegal Firearms

2. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General and the B.C. Ministry of Attorney General should consider developing 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 & Solicitor General and the B.C. Ministry of Attorney General should consider developing road safety initiatives through amendments to legislation that enable:
  - 3.1. The roadside seizure of a driver's license, 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
  - 3.4. The creation of a reverse onus in the *Civil Forfeiture Act* (B.C.) requiring that, when individuals associated with organized crime are found in a vehicle carrying an illegal firearm or in a flight from police, they must show reason why their driver's license or vehicle should not be seized or forfeited
4. The B.C. Association of Chiefs of Police and the Civil Forfeiture Office should work with stakeholders to consider enhancing the impact of civil forfeiture on organized crime by creating provincial policies and protocols to ensure provincial agencies use civil forfeiture mechanisms where appropriate to remove vehicles associated with organized crime from public roads.
  5. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General and the B.C. Ministry of Attorney General should consider creating 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 determine a feasible manner to collect and coordinate information and evidence for a number of possible initiatives, including:
    - 5.1. Identifying businesses known to lease or rent vehicles to persons associated with organized crime
    - 5.2. Reviewing the business license of businesses that can be demonstrated to lease or rent vehicles to persons associated with organized crime
    - 5.3. Prohibiting individuals (nominees) from knowingly registering, leasing or renting vehicles on behalf of persons associated with organized crime when it can be demonstrated that the individuals (nominees) have done so in the past or intend to do so in the future
    - 5.4. Exploring options to require valid identification by vehicle leasing and renting customers, to record and retain the information and to make it available for law enforcement with judicial authorization
    - 5.5. Training staff on indicators of and response to the rental of a vehicle for criminal purposes
  6. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General and the B.C. Ministry of Attorney General should consider reviewing the road safety, injury and monetary ramifications of insurance claims associated with vehicles and organized crime, and where feasible and 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 supporting illegal firearm interdiction as a priority for the Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority (PTEP) process.
8. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety & 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.
9. The Board of Directors of the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of B.C. should consider supporting 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 indicators.

**Firearms Tracing Hub and Labs**

10. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General should consider working with the federal Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness to seek support from the federal government to increase current firearms forensic capacities that will 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. Enhanced capacity in RCMP laboratories, improved analysis response times and assured performance consistent with a firearms-focused approach

**Alignment of Law Enforcement Policy**

11. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General should consider working with the B.C. Association of Chiefs of Police, the Canadian Firearms Program Chief Firearms Officer, law enforcement agencies and others to develop comprehensive and aligned province-wide enforcement policies relating to the possession, trafficking and use of illegal firearms.

**"Bar Watch" Programs**

12. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety & 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 & 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 & 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 Mass Shooting And Firearms Violence Mitigation: A Model for Provincial Actions

#### PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION

15. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety & 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 & 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 firearms that are neither firearms nor replicas as defined in the *Criminal Code*
  - 16.2. Restrict to persons 18 years or older the possession of imitation firearms that are neither firearms nor replicas as defined in the *Criminal Code*, 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 firearms to verify proof of age and record the purchaser's identity for all sales
  - 16.4. Require all sellers of imitation firearms 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 firearms can be possessed, and specifically to prohibit possession of an imitation firearms in schools, community centers, public venues, public institutions, parks, roadways, public transit and taxis

#### PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION

17. In the event that the federal Ministry of Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness is not able to propose the amendments as recommended in Recommendation 16, the B.C. Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General should consider proposing amendments to the *Firearm Act* (B.C.) to:
  - 17.1. Restrict to persons 18 years or older the acquisition of imitation firearms that are neither firearms nor replicas as defined in the *Criminal Code*
  - 17.2. Restrict to persons 18 years or older the possession of imitation firearms that are neither firearms nor replicas as defined in the *Criminal Code*, 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 firearms to verify proof of age and record the purchaser's identity for all sales



- 17.4. Require all sellers of imitation firearms 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 firearms can be possessed, and specifically to prohibit possession of imitation firearms in schools, community centers, 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 & 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, which could be made available to law enforcement pursuant to judicial authorization on a case-by-case basis and subject 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 & Solicitor General should consider proposing amendments to the *Firearm Act* (B.C.) that require businesses, dealers and individuals selling firearms to keep point of sale records, which could be made available to law enforcement pursuant to judicial authorization on a case-by-case basis and subject to regulations governed by the Canadian Firearms Program.

#### **Manufacture of Untraceable Firearms**

##### **FEDERAL LEGISLATION**

- 20. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety & 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 & Solicitor General should consider working with the federal Ministry of Public Safety & 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 & 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

**Rural and First Nations Communities**

24. The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General should consider enhancing early intervention programs in communities, aimed at identifying youth at risk at the earliest possible opportunity and changing behavior through community-based interventions, where appropriate. The CTC, HUB and SMART programs provide useful models for community intervention programs.
25. The Chief Firearms Officer, firearms retailers and the B.C. Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General should consider improving community awareness on the safety, security, theft and criminal diversion of legal firearms by supporting culturally appropriate information and education programs.
26. In consultation with rural and First Nations communities, the B.C. Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General and the B.C. Ministry of Education should consider enhancing and supporting programs for youth tailored to schools that service rural and First Nations communities, with supporting parental and community education, regarding all aspects of legal and illegal firearms, gangs and organized crime.
27. In consultation with First Nations communities, the B.C. RCMP First Nations Community Policing

Services should consider designating an officer 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
  - create preventative illegal firearms strategies
  - improve enforcement efforts and compliance with regulations
  - develop performance metrics that meet both the regulatory program and law enforcement objectives
30. The federal Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness should consider clarifying information sharing between the Canadian Firearms Program and law enforcement agencies to remove barriers and ensure that each agency can effectively achieve its mandate with appropriate safeguards.

#### **Registration Issues From the Former 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 & 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 of the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of B.C. should consider supporting the creation of 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 & 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 & 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 keystakeholders.

**PRIME Access by All Key Stakeholders**

37. PRIMECorp and the B.C. Association of Chiefs of Police should consider ensuring PRIME access for Canada Border Services Agency and the Chief Firearms Officers who work with law enforcement in support of comprehensive risk-informed strategies that focus on the illegal use of firearms.

**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Surrey Crime****Suggested Response:**

- Surrey has experienced a significant number of shootings many of which were targeted, and many are believed to be connected to conflicts and competition over street level drug-trade.
- In response to the conflict, Surrey Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia (CFSEU-BC) and other stakeholders continue to partner to address the underlying causes of violence in the city, through the designing and implementation of multi-pronged tactics and strategies and establishing partnerships and policies to reduce the likelihood of violence and crime.
- The Province continues to actively collaborate with the City of Surrey and devotes a significant amount of resources to a number of initiatives aimed at improving community safety issues in the city including:
  - The provision of funds 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 (SMART);
  - Mayor's Task Force on Gang Violence Prevention; and
  - Targeted enforcement initiatives and police response.
- According to Surrey RCMP fourth quarter statistics report for 2017:
  - Homicides in Surrey have increased 9% from eleven in 2016 to twelve in 2017;
  - Overall, violent crime is down 8%; and
  - Attempted murders are down 29%; and robberies are down 20%.
- 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.
- 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.

**Background:****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 9% from 2016 to 2017.
- **Violent Crime:** According to the same report violent crime saw an 8% decrease in 2016 to 2017. Attempted murders were down 29%, abduction/kidnappings saw no change and, sexual offences are up 34%. 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 7% in Surrey from 2016 to 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.

***Ongoing Provincial Strategies:***

- The Surrey Wrap Program was launched in 2009 to help youth at risk of gang involvement. The program is one of Canada's leading youth gang intervention programs. The program is a partnership between the Surrey School District, Surrey RCMP and the City of Surrey; which brings together several community partners in Surrey to provide longer-term, encompassing services and support for gang-associated youth and their families.
- As of June 2017, the Wrap Program had 97 participants with 35 students on a waitlist. Evaluation has shown a significant decline (67%) in the negative police contacts of a Wrap participant group relative to a comparison group.

- In August 2017 the government doubled funding for the Surrey Wrap program to \$500,000 to help eliminate the program's waitlist. In September 2017 the Premier announced that the \$500,000 was now annual funding for the Wrap program.
- Launched in November 2015, the Surrey Mobilization and Resiliency Table (SMART) is an innovative way to address developing community problems before they become police problems or require other emergency services. SMART is made up of multiple human service agencies who are working together to mitigate risk before crisis can occur in the lives of individuals and families in Surrey's City Centre.
- SMART was modelled after the established "Hub" model which has been implemented in communities across Canada. This model has been instrumental in reducing child protection cases, violent crimes, and emergency room admissions. SMART is an innovative way to proactively improve the health and well-being of those who are most vulnerable in Surrey's City Centre.
- From its inception in November 2015 to April 27, 2017, **143 cases** were brought to the SMART table and approximately **48% were connected to services** that lowered their overall risk of harm.
- The Ministry, through the Office of Crime Reduction and Gang Outreach (OCR-GO), provided a grant in the amount of \$175K to the City of Surrey to build on its existing efforts to combat the opioid crisis and improve the capacity of front line workers to respond to the crisis by piloting new approaches. The grant will support the City of Surrey to enhance the Surrey Mobilization and Resilience Table (SMART) to better identify opioid users and connect them to services that can reduce their risk of an overdose and to develop a new Situation Table for Opioid Intervention to address high-risk opioid users.
- This new funding is part of \$1.2M received by the Ministry over three years (\$200K in 2017/18, \$500K in 2018/19 and \$500K in 2019/20) to expand Situation Tables in communities with high rates of overdoses.
- The City of Surrey has launched a Mayor's Task Force on Gang Violence Prevention. The Task Force has a mandate to review existing gang violence prevention programs and services, identify gaps, challenges and issues and prepare a final report for future actions to be presented to the City of Surrey Public Safety Committee in June 2018. The Task Force will meet six times prior to the completion of the report. The Director of the OCR-GO of the Ministry attends task force meetings in a liaison and support role.

#### *Ongoing Enforcement Strategies*

- Surrey has Canada's largest RCMP detachment. As of August 2017, Surrey 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 was fulfilled. Subsequent to this increase, the city authorized 16 additional positions in 2016, and 12 positions in 2017.
- In the fall of 2017, Surrey RCMP's Gang Enforcement Team (SGET) launched "Shattering the Image", a new presentation that shares the true story of gang life in Surrey and its consequences. Adapted from the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit's (CFSEU-BC) popular "End Gang Life" program, "Shattering the Image" talks about gangs and dial-a-doping, but information is specific to Surrey and geared towards a younger audience, primarily students in grades 6-7.
- In 2016, Surrey RCMP, supported by the National Weapons Enforcement Support Team and CFSEU-BC undertook Surrey's Safe City Project which aimed to educate firearms owners on current laws surrounding the registration requirements for restricted and prohibited firearms.
- Between April and May 2016, the project saw 500 firearms and 3,000 rounds of ammunition turned over to Surrey RCMP pending re-registration, plus another 50 unwanted firearms relinquished to police.
- Amongst others, Surrey Detachment draws on assistance from the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit-BC (CFSEU-BC), Integrated Homicide Investigations Team (IHIT) and the Major Crime Section (MCS), Emergency Response Team / Public Safety Unit and the Lower Mainland District Helicopter Patrol Unit which are committed to aggressively pursue gangs and those involved in the destructive world of organized crime.
- 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 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.
- 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.
- 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 (PTEP) targeting process and the Violent Prolific Offender Management (PVGO) program; and
  - Gang prevention and education with its End Gang Life campaign and other public engagement initiatives.
- 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.
  - Launched in January 2016, the Newton Safety Unit (NSU) is an initiative that aims to improve communication, and effectiveness in addressing street disorder and crime within the Newton Town Centre. NSU Officers are made up of members from Surrey RCMP, the City of Surrey Bylaws, Community Safety Patrol, Surrey Crime Prevention and other community stakeholders.
  - 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.

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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Biology Casework  
Analysis (DNA) Services****Suggested Response:**

- It is my responsibility to ensure adequate and effective policing in British Columbia.
- The payment of actual costs for Biology Casework Analysis services was imposed by the federal government and BC was the last to sign onto the new agreement. We do not think municipalities should pay; historically it has been a federal responsibility.
- However, the federal government threatened to withdraw DNA services if we did not sign, so we agreed.
- Municipalities with more than 5,000 population are responsible for the cost of providing their services, including DNA analysis and other investigative tools.
- I understand that municipalities have concerns. Those should be raised with the federal government, as the Union of BC Municipalities did by writing to the federal Minister.
- Currently there are a number of municipal governments that have outstanding payables for DNA services. The ministry is working with all parties to remedy this situation as well as finalize the Province's role in managing the administration of access and cost allocation of DNA services (see appendix for list)
- If municipalities are not satisfied with the costs or services provided by the RCMP Forensic Sciences and Identification Services lab, alternatives can be explored – the Province is doing that.

**Background:**

- Through the *Criminal Code of Canada*, the federal government is responsible for the scope of offences for which DNA samples can be collected and held in the National DNA Databank. DNA analysis and the databank are critical tools that enable police to solve crimes and link crimes to offenders.
- Since 2004, BC has contributed \$1.366 million per year to Canada under the previous Biology Casework Analysis Agreements. 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.
- The increasing provincial cost share, based both on consumption of resources and cost of resources, has escalated since the implementation of the agreement to now reflect actual costs at the 54% cost share:

## Financial Summary:

| (\$ millions)  | 2015/2016      | 2016/2017      | 2017/2018      | 2018/2019                     |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Total DNA Charges for BC</b>  | <b>\$3.632</b> | <b>\$4.904</b> | <b>\$4.955</b> | <b>\$4.791<br/>(estimate)</b> |
| Provincial Payment   | 1.366          | 1.366          | 1.366          | 1.366                         |
| - Transitional Payment   | 1.700*         | -              | -              | -                             |
| Provincial Share   | 0.104          | 0.647          | 0.653          | .632                          |
| Municipalities Billed  | 0.462          | 2.891          | 2.936          | 2.793                         |
| Municipalities Paid  | 0.392          | 2.485          |                |                               |
| <b>Balance Remaining<br/>(Paid by Province, to be<br/>recovered from<br/>Municipalities)</b> | <b>0.070</b>   | <b>0.406</b>   |                |                               |

*\*In 2015/2016 to ease with the transition of DNA costs to municipalities the Province made a one-time payment covering the period April to December 2015 and the Municipalities were billed only for the January to March 2016 period.*

- 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.
- Starting January 1, 2016, agencies became responsible for their actual costs. Agencies were invoiced for the final quarter of the 2015/16 fiscal year, and for the full 2016/17 fiscal year. Invoices to municipalities in 2016/17 ranged from \$1,200 to \$673,000 (see Appendix 1).

- 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 British Columbia.

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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Regional Policing****Suggested Response:**

- The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General continues to be 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 new South Island Dispatch Centre is an example of an opportunity for 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 9 Integrated Police Services Teams.
- 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 BC for several decades. In 1994, Justice Wally Oppal conducted a Commission of Inquiry into Policing in BC and ultimately did not recommend regional police services due to the lack of public interest and political will. He concluded that the main objective of regionalization was to improve efficiency in the delivery of police services, a goal which he recommended be achieved through the regional integration of specific services such as communication systems and major crime.
- During the 2012 Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, Justice Oppal reviewed the structure of policing in the Lower Mainland. He concluded that a regional police force is required for the Greater Vancouver area, while at the same time acknowledging that regionalized policing is a controversial issue with ardent supporters and detractors.
- Local governments have very different opinions on regionalization of policing and there is no clear consensus either for or against regionalization.
- In 2012 Justice Oppal recommended that the provincial government provide the direction and commitment required for the creation of a Greater Vancouver regional police force, including consultation with stakeholders and independent experts. He did not recommend a particular model; he stated that careful consideration of models is required to ensure that the underlying interests of all municipalities can be addressed and a commitment to community policing retained.
- In 2016 the South Island Dispatch Steering Committee (the 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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**2018/19 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.
- 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
- *Budget 2017* provided an addition \$23 million over three years for the Province's expanded Guns and Gangs strategy and other community initiatives, extending this commitment to 2019/20.
- Policing and Security Branch 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.

**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 2016, the authorized strength of the federal service in British Columbia was 1050 which included 132 protective policing positions.
- 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%.

- RCMP policing costs related to 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 maximize recoveries.

#### 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. Policing and Security Branch is working with these municipalities to sign Municipal Police Service Agreements, anticipated in March 2018. Also, in the 2016 Census Northern Rockies Regional Municipality experience a population decline below 5,000 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.
- Total forecasted costs for the Provincial Service in 2017/18 are \$588.2 million, which includes an estimated provincial share of \$409.4 million. This includes \$27.11 million for 2017/18 and prior year RCMP and PSE salary increases (\$12.1 million per year going forward) and \$3.5 million for the fentanyl emergency.

Total costs for RCMP services in 2016/17 were \$542.4 million with a provincial portion of \$380.8 million and a federal portion of \$161.6 million. These 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 total provincial service authorized strength was 2,602.

#### First Nations Policing

- Dedicated policing for First Nations communities is primarily provided by the RCMP under the First Nations Community Policing Services program. This agreement expires on March 31, 2018, however it contains a roll over clause and Canada is extending the agreements until March 31, 2019 to allow additional discussions surrounding the program.
- All First Nation policing agreements are cost shared at ratio of 48% provincial portion and 52% federal portion.



- The 2017/18 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 can impact the service level to First Nation communities.
- Total costs for RCMP First Nations policing in 2016/17 were \$18.0 million and, of this, the provincial share was \$8.6 million.
- Canada announced increases in FNP program funding for BC, however Policing and Security Branch analyses has determined the additional funding announced by Public Safety Canada is insufficient to fund 108.5 FTEs authorized under the current Framework Agreements. Preliminary analyses estimates the increased funding will only allow for 90 FTE's in 2018/19.
- There is a potential to obtain additional resources in the future through the 110 additional FTEs announced by Canada and allocated in 2019/20 and 2020/21.
- In addition, there is one self-administered First Nations police service in B.C. The Stl'Atl'Imx Tribal Police Service (STPS) provides service to ten First Nations communities in the Lillooet/Mount Currie areas. The service has an authorized strength of ten officers and a budget of \$1.4 million.
- In BC there is also a Quad-Partite Agreement between Canada, the Province, Tsawwassen First Nation, Corporation of Delta, and the Delta Police Board for one dedicated Delta Police member to Tsawwassen First Nation lands
- Additional funding has been provided by Canada for both the STPS and the TFN. Both these agreements expire March 31, 2018, however the additional funding is sufficient to enter into a further one agreement to allow for more in-depth negotiations and possibly a longer term agreement.

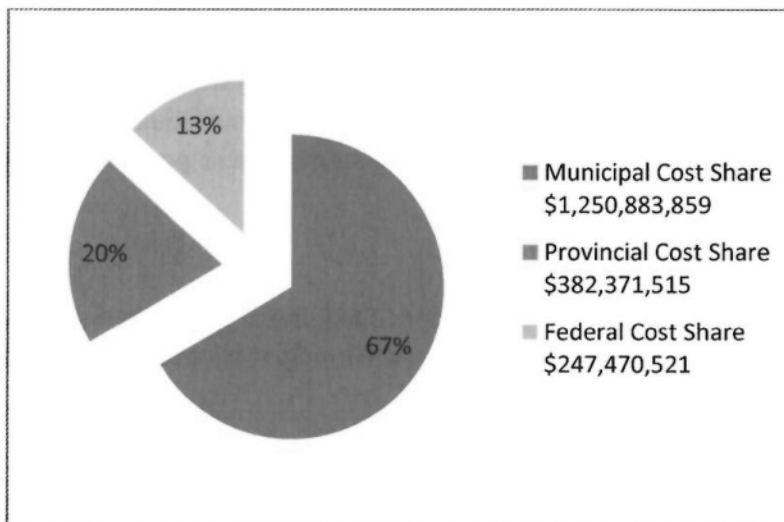
#### Municipal Services

- In 2016, 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 11 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 2016 the authorized strength of the RCMP municipal services was 3,769 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 2016, the authorized strength of the independent municipal police departments was 2,436 officers. This includes adjusted strength figures for departments participating in Lower Mainland District Integrated Teams.
- The 2017/18 forecasted municipal policing expenditures are \$1.251 billion. The total policing expenditures for 2016/17 was \$1.182 billion with an authorized strength of 2,016 officers. The table below outlines the 2017/18 forecasted costs share for policing between Municipal, Provincial and Federal governments.



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**2018/19 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 several 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.
- Participation in the program requires First Nations communities to 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 and 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; and
  - Self-Administered Agreements (SA) where the First Nations operate a tribal police service within their communities.
- The FNCPS is delivered to 132 First Nations communities through 55 CTAs. Under the Framework Agreement, the total 2017/18 budget is \$18.4M (Canada \$9.M, and B.C. \$8.4M) and will increase to \$19.4M in 2018/19 (Canada \$10.M, and B.C. \$9.4M).
- The Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police Service (STPS) is the only Self-Administered First Nations police force in BC. Since 2015, the Province has provided \$450,000 additional funding to the agreement to assist the STPS in their funding deficit, equipment purchase, and training.
- 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.

- 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 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. PSC notified all CTA partners of the one year extension of their agreements.
- 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.
- In January, 2018 the federal Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness announced an additional \$291.2M over 5 years starting in 2018/19 for the national FNPP, which included an annual 2.75% escalator to address inflation beyond 2022/23 if agreements are rolled over or negotiated for longer than 5 years.
- BC will receive a total of \$13.17M over 5 years (2018/19 – 2022/23) (FNPP and SA funding) comprised of a provincial contribution of \$6.32M and a federal contribution of \$6.85M.
- The 2018/19 funding allocation will increase STPS' current budget by \$0.374M, to \$1.81M (Canada \$940,000, and BC \$870,000).

#### FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY POLICING SERVICE

|   |  |
|---|--|
| CTA's RCMP-FNCPS                                    | \$19.4M in 2018/19.<br>Cost share: Canada \$10.1M, BC \$9.3M         |
| Quad-Partite Agreement –<br>Tsawwassen First Nation | \$184,000 in 2018/2019.<br>Cost Share: Canada \$96,000, BC \$88,000. |
| Stl'atli'imx Tribal Police Service                  | \$1.81M in 2018/19.<br>Cost Share: Canada \$940,000, BC \$870,000    |

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## FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY POLICING SERVICE

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

- s.13,s.16,s.17

## STL'ATL'IMX TRIBAL POLICE SERVICE

|                                  | <b>STPS<br/>10 Officers<br/>(authorized<br/>under the<br/>Police Act)</b> | <b>STPS<br/>8 officers<br/>(authorized by<br/>the Board)</b> | <b>STPS<br/>7 officers<br/>(current size of<br/>the force)</b> | s.13,s.16,s.17 |
|----------------------------------|---|--|--|----------------|
| <b>Annual Budget</b>             | \$1.4 million   | \$1.4 million  | \$1.4 million  |                |
| <b>Communities<br/>Served</b>    | 10  | 10   | 10   |                |
| <b>Residents</b>                 | 3,000   | 3,000  | 3,000  |                |
| <b>Cop/Pop Ratio</b>             | 1:300   | 1:375  | 1:429  |                |
| <b>Unit Cost per<br/>Officer</b> | \$140,000   | \$175,000  | \$200,000  |                |

**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE**

**Negotiations - Green  
Timbers, Integrate Homicide  
Investigations Team 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.
- As Minister responsible, I am committed to continued discussions with the federal government to make sure we land on a fair and equitable funding agreement and to ensure that municipalities don't get downloaded with unfair policing costs.

**Background:**

- s.16,s.17

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**Green Timbers:**

- The RCMP Headquarters, which was substantially build before signing the new RCMP 2012 agreement in March 2012, is not subject to the consultation / preconditions for new headquarters.

- s.14,s.16,s.17

- s.16,s.17

s.16,s.17 The 2012 agreement stipulates that the costs for new headquarters will be negotiated through a separate agreement to the Provincial Police Services Agreement; however, Public Safety Canada has not provided any such separate agreement.

- s.16,s.17

**Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT):**

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

- s.16,s.17

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s.16,s.17

**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, PSC provided options to the Provinces and Territories to pay the outstanding severance amounts (without interest).

s.16,s.17

- Other provinces and territories are currently looking at a mediation/arbitration process to seek a better outcome than currently proposed by PSC. In the event they are successful, the Province's proposals include a stipulation that BC would also benefit from the same settlement.

s.16,s.17

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s.16;s.17

**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Integrated Police Services  
Teams****Suggested Response:**

- Our 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 B.C.
- 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 are funded by contributions and dollars from the Province, Federal government, and municipal governments.
- The Province invested approximately \$85 million for 27 integrated teams and initiatives in 2016/17.
- Integrated teams and operations avoid duplication and optimize efficiency. Integrating specialized police services is a critical way to approach policing and we are looking for further opportunities to do so.

**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, or levels of government, contribute to funding the team.

The goal of integrated teams is to create service delivery models that centralize highly technical, capital intensive and specialized services, while at the same time decentralizing functions that provide service directly to the public. Integration optimizes operational efficiencies, improves effectiveness and facilitates the provision of a seamless, integrated professional police service.

- Based upon mandate and funding protocols, integrated teams in BC can be divided into three categories: regional, provincial and federal. For all agencies involved, contributions to the teams may be in the form of human and/or financial resources.
- For 2017/18, the Province has anticipated a contribution of approximately \$87.53 million at cost share to the RCMP for integrated teams.
  - New funding allocated this year includes a provincial contribution of \$15 for a new Anti-Trafficking Task Force to combat the illegal trafficking of drugs and firearms.
- In FY 2016/17, the Province contributed actual expenses of \$84.68 million for 27 integrated teams and initiatives.
  - This investment was \$5.20 million greater than in 2015/16, and included an additional 24 authorized FTEs.
  - Part of this increased investment included a Provincial contribution of \$15 to support the creation of two new Gang Suppression teams.

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**2018/19 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). The public report contains a single recommendation: the Board of Directors will ensure PRIMECorp implements the recommendations in the OAG's 2016 detailed internal management report (not released publicly due to security issues).
- By January 2018 the enhancements required to fulfill had been substantially completed by PRIMECorp, with the remaining activities scheduled completion in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2018.
- The Province supports PRIME-BC's ongoing commitment to implement recommendations in the Auditor General's report and strengthen controls that safeguard this confidential information system.

**Background:**

- In 2013, the OAG conducted an audit of PRIME-BC to examine security controls within the system. A public report was not released due to the systems high-level of confidentiality – instead, the OAG produced an internal management report detailing recommendations directly to PRIMECorp.
- The OAG closely monitored PRIME-BC's progress in addressing the recommendations from the 2013 Audit. PRIME-Corp acted promptly on the recommendations:
  - By January 2014, 95% of the audit recommendations were implemented.
  - The remaining 5%, pertaining to a major business continuity initiative, were completed by the end of 2017.
- In 2016 the OAG conducted a new audit which determined significant improvements had been made and the system has acceptable safeguards from external attacks. However, it identified further enhancements are needed to address internal vulnerabilities.
- As of January 2018, PRIMECorp had substantially completed the enhancements to fulfill the single recommendation outlined in the 2016 Public Report. Completion of the remaining activities is scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2018.

- PRIMECorp's Board of Directors accepted the 2016 Audit recommendations and continues to monitor status on a quarterly basis. The Policing and Security Branch is also tracking progress on implementation.
- On January 16, 2018, PRIMECorp presented an update on the status of the Audit recommendations to the Legislature's Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Emerging/Reverting  
Municipalities****Suggested Response:**

- As a result of the 2016 Canada Census, 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 (30%).
- The municipalities initially 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 have actively worked with the emerging municipalities on an individual basis towards signing of Municipal Police Unit Agreements (MPUA) and anticipate the MPUAs will be signed imminently.
- 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:****Financial Implications**

- Armstrong, Fernie, and Osoyoos are expected to enter into MPUAs with the Province for the provision of RCMP municipal services.
- Each municipality expressed resistance to entering into an MPUA, as well as policing responsibility; indicating that the costs are too high and that impact on tax payers transitioning from the Police Tax to full policing costs is too great even though they may have planned for the cost increase (Armstrong/Osoyoos).
- In addition, the unanticipated Census results and delays in information materials have caused anxiety amongst Fernie and Osoyoos Councils, not only for the transition to policing responsibility, but also in meeting the costs associated with the April 1, 2017 effective date as imposed by the RCMP Agreements.

- All municipalities opposed the recommended minimum resource levels for their municipality (resource levels are the major cost driver for policing); each municipality has also previously engaged their MLA on this topic.
- PSB methodology for recommended minimum resources levels under a new MPUA is to proportionally divide the current Provincial Unit's resources based on workload metrics as well as consultation with the RCMP. s.16

s.16

○ s.16

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- In 2016, the Police Tax for Armstrong was \$241,641, for Fernie \$350,587 and for Osoyoos \$387,566.
- With an MPUA in place for each municipality – Armstrong, Fernie and Osoyoos would be invoiced for their RCMP municipal police units. Under the RCMP agreements, invoices would begin April 1, 2017. s.16

○ s.16

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**Note:** These are high level contract cost estimates based on the minimum resource level recommended, and including proxy costs for support staff and accommodation. Costs will depend on the number of officers assigned to the Municipal Police Unit and a FTE utilization calculation of those officers. Estimates do not include all potential costs of policing, such as detention facility costs or requirement for specialized services.

- Armstrong, Fernie, and Osoyoos were removed from the Police Tax Roll in 2017. In addition, these municipalities were added as eligible for receiving Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing (TFRS) grants as administered by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.
- In addition, municipalities who are responsible for policing costs are eligible for Traffic Fine Revenue Grants, administered by Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

s.16

- s.16

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s.16

- The inequity of police funding has been previously identified through PSB consultations in the development of the British Columbia Policing and Community Safety Plan (BCPP). In addition, the topic has also been raised by numerous municipal governments at UBCM Convention meetings with the Minister and PSB staff.

**Note:** In the case of municipal incorporations or restructures resulting in policing responsibility (or significantly changes in policing service), the municipality is eligible to receive Restructure Assistance Grants to cover policing services for up to five years.

### 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 assessed 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 (Norther Rockies Regional Municipality was removed from the list).

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Estimates 2018/19 Briefing Book**

**Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch  
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**2018/19 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.
- We are delivering on this commitment – Budget 2018 provides \$18 million over the next three years to better meet the demand for programs and services such as counselling, outreach and crisis support for women and children who experience domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes.
- This will begin in fiscal year 2018/19 with a \$5 million increase in annual funding that will be allocated to two key priority areas:
  - Enhancing capacity across existing victim service, violence against women and court support programs (\$4.222 million); and
  - Providing stable, ongoing annual funding for Domestic Violence Units across the province (\$778,000).
- This funding will continue through fiscal year 2019/20 and increase to \$8 million in fiscal year 2020/21.
- This is in addition to the \$5 million in one-time grant funding that was distributed to victim service and violence against women programs in December 2017 as an immediate first step to address service needs.
- The funding announced in Budget 2018 is an important step towards strengthening the network of service and supports available to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This new funding will enable programs to enhance frontline service delivery, decrease waitlists and address long-standing operational pressures.
- In total, the ministry now provides over \$35 million annually in funding to support over 400 victim service and violence against women programs across the province.
- Going forward, we will be looking to build off of progress achieved through previous action plans as we continue to strengthen our response to violence against women. We will continue to work collaboratively to achieve our long-term vision of addressing violence

against women and children.

#### 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.
- New core funding of \$5 million starting in fiscal year 2018/19 will be allocated to two key priority areas:
  - Enhancing capacity across existing victim service, violence against women and court support programs (\$4.222 million); and
  - Providing stable, ongoing annual funding for Domestic Violence Units across the province (\$778,000).
- In December 2017, the ministry provided \$5 million in one-time grant funding to existing victim service and violence against women programs and other priority areas to address service pressures. This included:
  - \$4 million in one-time funding to address service pressures and enhance frontline services across the Branch's existing contracted victim service and violence against women service providers;
  - \$800,000 in one-time funding to support Interagency Case Assessment Teams (ICATs) to maintain community coordination efforts in responding to high-risk domestic violence cases; and
  - \$200,000 to support education and awareness initiatives aimed at preventing violence against women.
- In addition, the ministry continues to prioritize addressing violence against women through civil forfeiture grants. 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.

#### Additional Actions Related to Violence Against Women Initiatives Currently Underway

- Work is complete or underway on a number of initiatives, including:
  - Budget 2018 provides approximately \$141 million over 3 years to support transition houses including 1,500 new units for women and children fleeing abusive relationships.
  - Civil Forfeiture Office projects: Since 2011, \$9.1 million in civil forfeiture grant funding has supported projects related to sexual violence, sexual exploitation and human trafficking, coordinated responses to domestic violence, healing and rebuilding from

violence against indigenous women; vulnerable women; training and education for service providers; and child and youth advocacy centres.

- In December 2017, government renewed its call for grant applications to support projects and initiatives to address violence against women and is currently in the process of reviewing applications. Funding for successful projects will be provided by the end of March 2018.
- Government re-launched an expansion of the #SaySomething campaign in fall 2017, 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. In January 2018, the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training engaged in a public consultation process to strengthen the policy and understand what more we can do to prevent sexual violence on campus.
- Consultations have been undertaken with the British Columbia Dental Hygienists' Association regarding training related to domestic violence disclosures, risk factors and referrals.
- The provincial Third Party Reporting Protocol (TPR) supports Community-Based Victim Service programs and police to develop local interagency protocols to implement and maintain the TPR protocol. The TPR process may engage some women experiencing sexual assault within a relationship who might not otherwise report to police.

#### 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-being 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 to addressing violence against women: challenging beliefs and behaviours; ensuring services are responsive, innovative and coordinated; supporting women to rebuild their lives; addressing violence against Indigenous 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.
- 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, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, BC Housing and the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction.

Provincial Office of Domestic Violence or the Provincial Domestic Violence Plan

- See Estimates Note CSCPB 2 "Domestic Violence."

**Background:**

- The ministry provides approximately \$35 million in annual funding to support over 400 victim service and violence against women programs across the province.
- 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 \$9.743 million;
  - PEACE programs provide group and individual counselling for children aged three to 18 who have witnessed abuse, threats or violence in the home. There are 86 PEACE programs, with annual funding of \$6.298 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 \$3.184 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 \$1.358 million.
- 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 Indigenous women and girls – \$138,535 (four grants);
  - Healing and rebuilding after violence for Indigenous 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 fiscal year 2015/16 and \$5 million in fiscal year 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 Indigenous women; outreach and coordinated services to vulnerable or exploited women and youth; and developing/ enhancing domestic violence units.

|                                |                     |              |
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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Addressing Violence  
Against Women: New  
Funding****Suggested Response:**

- Budget 2018 provides \$5 million in new core funding starting in 2018/19, for a total of \$18 million over the next three years, to better meet the demand for programs and services such as counselling, outreach, and crisis support for women and children who experience domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes.
- In 2018/19, \$5 million in new core funding will be used to:
  - Enhance capacity across existing victim service, violence against women, and court support programs (\$4.222 million)
  - Provide stable, ongoing annual funding for Domestic Violence Units (DVUs) across the province (\$778,000).
- The funding announced in Budget 2018 is an important step towards strengthening the network of service and supports available to victims of domestic violence. This new funding will enable programs to enhance frontline service delivery, decrease waitlists and address ongoing operational pressures.
- The ministry now provides over \$35 million in funding to support over 400 victim service and violence against women programs across the province.
- In addition, budget 2018 provides approximately \$141 million over 3 years to support transition houses including 1,500 new units for women and children fleeing abusive relationships.

**Detailed Funding Breakdowns:****Increased Funding for Victim Services and Violence Against Women Programs**

- Violence against women counselling and outreach services are grouped into 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 \$9.743 million.
  - **Programs for Children and Youth Experiencing Violence (PEACE)** 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 PEACE programs, with annual funding of \$6.298 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 \$3.184 million.
- **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 \$1.358 million.
- The ministry also 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.
  - 91 Police-Based Victim Service programs (\$5.847 million); and
  - 70 Community-Based Victim Service programs (\$8.028 million).

**Table 1: Contracted Program Funding by Program Type, 2018-19**

| Program Type | Current 2018/19 Value | Funding Increase   | Total New 2018/19 Value | Total Hours per Week of Service |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| CBVS         | \$7,397,271           | \$630,382          | \$8,027,653             | 3,578                           |
| MCS          | \$1,159,021           | \$199,468          | \$1,358,489             | 543.0                           |
| ORS          | \$2,717,720           | \$466,008          | \$3,183,728             | 1,299                           |
| PBVS         | \$5,190,728           | \$655,827          | \$5,846,555             | 2,587                           |
| PEACE        | \$5,547,900           | \$749,740          | \$6,297,640             | 2,390.0                         |
| STVC         | \$8,634,170           | \$1,108,602        | \$9,742,772             | 3,706.0                         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$30,642,810</b>   | <b>\$3,810,027</b> | <b>\$34,456,837</b>     | <b>14,103</b>                   |

- The ministry also funds two province-wide helplines:
  - Senior First BC Support Helpline (\$81,506); and
  - VictimLink BC, a toll-free multilingual, confidential telephone service available across BC and the Yukon 24 hours a day, seven days a week, providing information and referral services to all victims of crime and immediate crisis support to victims of family and sexual violence (\$603,815).
- The Victim Services and Crime Prevention Branch supports the Provincial Protective Measures Unit (\$129,988) which specializes in assisting victims at risk of serious injury or death as a result of domestic violence.

- The branch also provides support to the Women's Information Safe Haven Drop-in Centre Society (WISH) for the delivery of the Mobile Access Project "Map Van". This is a specialized program that focuses on increasing the level of health and safety primarily for street level sex workers in Vancouver during the night, when no other services are available (\$241,868).

Table 2: Other Contracted Victim Services Funding by Program, 2018-19

| Program Type | Current 2018-19 Value | Funding Increase | Total New 2018/19 Value |
|--------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
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#### Increased funding for Domestic Violence Units

- The branch now provides stable, ongoing funding for existing Domestic Violence Units (DVUs) across the province. DVUs are an evidence-based model of co-located service delivery that pairs dedicated police officer(s), 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 9 communities: Abbotsford, Capital Region, New Westminster, North Shore (North Vancouver and West Vancouver), Surrey, Nanaimo, Kelowna, Vancouver and Prince George, with annual funding of \$778,000.

#### Increased funding for Provincial Services

- The Branch contracts with a number of provincial anti-violence associations and services, including the Ending Violence Association of BC ("EVA BC"), the BC Society of Transition Houses ("BCSTH"), and Police Victims Services of BC ("PVSBC").
- These organizations provide support, resources, training and service coordination for the Branch's contracted victim service and violence against women programs, with an annual funding of \$843,603.

Table 3: Contracted Provincial Association Funding, 2018-19

| Program Type | Current 2018-19 Value | Funding Increase | Total New 2018/19 Value |
|--------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
|--------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------|

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Increased funding for Court Support Program

- Victim Court Support Programs assist victims through the justice process by coordinating between victim service and justice system personnel (e.g., Crown).
- The Victim Court Support Program has 14 government FTEs embedded in 10 court locations throughout Metro Vancouver and Sea to Sky regions, and will have an additional 3 FTE positions in 2018/19.

Table 4: Court Support Workers Funding, 2018/19

| Program Type            | Current 2018-19 Value | Funding Increase | Total New 2018/19 Value |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| 3 Court Support Workers | \$0                   | \$195,792        | \$195,792               |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>\$0</b>            | <b>\$195,792</b> | <b>\$195,792</b>        |

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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Domestic Violence****Suggested Response:**

- Government recognizes the devastating impacts of domestic violence on women, families and communities.
- The safety of all British Columbians remains a priority for this government. We are committed to increasing supports for people who need them – like those who experience domestic violence.
- We are delivering on this commitment – Budget 2018 provides \$18 million over the next three years to better meet the demand for programs and services such as counselling, outreach and crisis support for women and children who experience domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes.
- This will begin in fiscal year 2018/19 with a \$5 million increase in annual funding for victim service and violence against women programs. This funding will continue through fiscal year 2019/20 and increase to \$8 million in fiscal year 2020/21.
- This is in addition to the \$5 million in one-time grant funding that was distributed to victim service and violence against women programs in December 2017 as an immediate first step to address service needs.
- Given new investments in Budget 2018 and that the three-year Provincial Domestic Violence Plan is completed, we are taking this opportunity to move coordination and responsibility for addressing domestic violence to the ministry's Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch.
- As a result of this change the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence will be disbanded at the end of fiscal year 2017/18.
- Placing the responsibility for addressing domestic violence with the ministry will allow for a more harmonized approach that aligns service delivery with broader coordination efforts. Going forward, the ministry will support cross-government coordination as we work collaboratively to address all types of violence against women.

**The Provincial Office of Domestic Violence**

- The Provincial Office of Domestic Violence (PODV) 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 was responsible for ensuring a coordinated, systematic government approach to

domestic violence through monitoring, evaluation, reporting and consultation with stakeholders.

- Although the PODV operated under the Ministry of Children and Family Development, the majority of domestic violence programs are funded by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.
- Given new investments in Budget 2018 and that the 3-year Provincial Domestic Violence Plan is completed, we are taking this opportunity to move coordination and responsibility for addressing domestic violence to PSSG's Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch.
- As a result of this change the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence will be disbanded at the end of fiscal year 2017/18.
- Placing the responsibility for addressing domestic violence with PSSG will allow for a more harmonized approach that aligns service delivery with broader coordination efforts. Going forward, the Ministry will support cross-government coordination as we work collaboratively to address all types of violence against women.
- The \$ 878,000 budget for PODV will be transferred to the ministry and funding will continue to go towards supporting government priorities for addressing violence against women.

#### New Provincial Plan on Domestic Violence/Violence Against Women

- The three-year Provincial Domestic Violence Plan and the Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy identified important priority areas with respect to addressing violence against women, such as: challenging beliefs and behaviours; ensuring services are responsive, innovative and coordinated; supporting women to rebuild their lives; addressing violence against Indigenous women; and fostering strong relationships and new partnerships.
- Going forward, we will be looking to build off of progress achieved through previous action plans as we continue to strengthen our response to violence against women. We will continue to work collaboratively to achieve our long-term vision of addressing violence against women and children.

#### Domestic Violence Units

- Domestic Violence Units (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.

- Budget 2018 provides stable, ongoing funding for existing DVUs (10 positions for a total of \$778,000).

#### Interagency Case Assessment Teams

- Interagency Case Assessment Teams (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.
- 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 ICATs.
- In December 2017, the Ministry provided \$800,000 in one-time funding to support ICATs to maintain community coordination efforts in responding to high-risk domestic violence cases.

#### 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 \$660,000 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 PEACE 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 Report on Intimate Partner Violence Deaths

- The ministry worked collaboratively with the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, the Ministry of Attorney General, and community organizations in a working group to consider the above-noted report fully and assess options for addressing the recommendations.
- In December 2017, the Coroners Recommendation Working Group submitted an action plan that details completed and ongoing activities as well as planned deliverables to address the recommendations made in the report.

**Background:**

- In February 2014, the 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 DVUs, which will provide direct services to high-risk families;
  - \$2 million to develop and deliver programs specifically for Indigenous 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. PODV received an additional year of grant funding to extend the plan through fiscal year 2017/18.

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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Human Trafficking****Suggested Response:**

- Government takes its commitment to combating human trafficking seriously.
- Human trafficking has a profoundly negative impact on its victims, which is 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 by, 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 address 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 in B.C. on human trafficking charges under the Criminal Code 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 the 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 B.C. Court of Appeal overturned his conviction and a new trial was held last year, which resulted in a conviction for lesser charges.



- A sentencing hearing for Michael Bannon was held on February 7, 2018 at the B.C. Supreme Court regarding human trafficking-related charges. Crown and defense reached an agreement on a 14-year sentence. At an earlier court date, Mr. Bannon entered a guilty plea on 22 of 24 charges relating to the exploitation of nine young women, some under 19 years of age.

**Background:**

- Since 2011, government has provided more than \$2.4 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, to women and children impacted by violence and to trafficked persons.
- All Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch program staff have been encouraged to complete OCTIP's online training course, 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 frontline staff from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction are completing the training.
- Staff of the VictimLink B.C. telephone helpline are trained regularly by OCTIP on indicators of human trafficking and respond to calls for assistance from trafficked persons and service providers province-wide.
- Since 2014, approximately 8,000 people have accessed OCTIP's online training course, Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune. (English and French versions).

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

- Publicly released on March 15, 2013, the action plan focused on preventing and addressing the trafficking of youth for sexual exploitation, the trafficking of vulnerable workers, and the domestic trafficking of Indigenous 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 2017/18, many activities were supported through grant funding from civil and criminal forfeiture and with federal funding. Some highlights include:
  - Workshops to build capacity to respond to situations of human trafficking were held in various B.C. communities, reaching over 200 service providers, police, teachers, First Nations and youth workers, and border guards in Chilliwack, Kamloops and Richmond;
  - A new toolkit for frontline service providers about the trafficking of youth in B.C. has been published and training on the use of this toolkit was implemented in five communities (Penticton, Vancouver, Abbotsford, Victoria and Prince George), reaching over 150 participants. This toolkit is designed to increase police reporting and prosecutions in cases of youth sexual exploitation and human trafficking; and
  - A Knowledge Exchange event was held in Prince George in October 2017 on best practices to prevent and respond to human trafficking. A report documenting these best practices will be produced by March 2018.

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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Family Information  
Liaison Unit****Suggested Response:**

- The Province recognizes how important it is that families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls have access to consistent, reliable and fulsome information related to the loss of their loved one.
- Leveraging federal funding, the Province has developed a Family Information Liaison Unit (B.C. FILU) here in British Columbia - a frontline victim service unit that will provide a 'one-stop' information service for families.
- B.C. FILU works directly with families of missing or murdered Indigenous women and girls across the province.
- B.C. FILU staff support family members by acting as a liaison to gather information they are seeking from government agencies, and ensuring that this information is provided to them in a trauma-informed and culturally sensitive manner.
- In addition, FILU staff will support proactive referrals, based on the needs and wishes of the client, to community programs and resources that can promote wellness and healing.
- B.C. FILU began operations this July, ahead of the National Inquiry's family hearings process in the fall.
- Family members can access B.C. FILU directly through a toll-free number or by email. They may also be referred to B.C. FILU by Commission staff, community service providers working with the family, or by FILUs located in other jurisdictions.

**If asked about the structure and location of the B.C. FILU**

- B.C. FILU is a provincial unit that will provide service to families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls across the province.
- B.C. FILU includes one frontline administrative position that will provide initial assistance and information to individuals contacting FILU, two frontline support workers that provide direct service and supports to family members seeking FILU services, as well as two positions dedicated to working with identified agencies and government partners to facilitate ongoing information sharing processes.

- B.C. FILU is functionally located in the Victim Services and Crime Prevention Division in Vancouver, with one frontline support worker position located in Prince George to increase reach to communities in Northern B.C. Wherever appropriate, FILU staff are available to travel to meet with families in their home communities.

If asked why the B.C. FILU is located within government rather than a community agency

- According to federal funding requirements, FILUs are to be functionally located in provincial/territorial government Victim Services divisions.
- The rationale for this is that much of the information being sought is information held by governmental agencies and victim services can more readily access this information, as the information is regulated by accountability frameworks and privacy legislation.
- Further, this approach was intended to support greater accountability across all levels of government to share up-to-date information.

If asked about current FILU operations

- Since beginning operations in July, FILU staff has worked with 46 family members to address their informational and/or referral needs. This includes 40 information requests and 34 proactive referrals to relevant services or supports.
- To support awareness of and access to FILU services by families, FILU staff have also engaged in 123 outreach and awareness activities, which have included over 480 community agencies, Indigenous organizations, and band or tribal councils who work with families of missing or murdered Indigenous women and girls throughout the province.

If asked how it can be considered a provincial unit if offices are located in Prince George and Vancouver

- While BC FILU has physical offices located in Prince George and Vancouver, it is designed to be provincial in scope – providing services to families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls wherever they reside within the province.
- Families are not required or expected to travel to one of our physical office locations to access FILU services. The BC FILU team is intended to be mobile, travelling to meet with families in their home communities, wherever appropriate.
- Travel supports can be provided in circumstances where families would prefer to meet with FILU staff outside of their home community.

If asked about the relationship between B.C. FILU and National Inquiry process

- FILUs operate independently of the National Inquiry, complementing the work of the Commission on the broader systemic issues by providing direct support to the individual families to meet their informational and referral needs.

- FILU services are provided directly to the families of missing or murdered Indigenous women, whether or not they choose to participate in the Inquiry.
- The Commission may also refer family members to the B.C. FILU for the informational support and assistance central to its mandate.
- During the Commission's community visits, hearing, and statement taking events in B.C., the B.C. FILU has been present on-site to provide information and support through the FILU, facilitate referrals to the Commission for family members interested in participating in the Inquiry, and to provide information about local services and supports to both the families and the Commission teams.

If asked about on-site supports to families during the National Inquiry Community Hearings

- The Commission is coordinating the provision of all on-site supports to families during the community hearings process.
- B.C. FILU services and supports are provided to families independent of, but complementary to, any on-site supports provided through the Commission.
- B.C. FILU staff have been working with Commission teams to ensure seamless referrals and/or access to FILU services by families prior to, during, and following the community hearings.

If asked about eligibility for FILU services

- FILU services are available to all family members of missing or murdered Indigenous women or girls.
- Family members may include blood relations and non-blood relations, such as adopted families, cultural kin, foster care relatives and chosen family.
- Should families of missing or murdered Indigenous men or non-Indigenous persons contact B.C. FILU, staff will ensure appropriate connections are made to provincially-funded services and supports that are best positioned to respond to their request.

If asked about what services will be provided to other families of missing and murdered persons (Indigenous men/boys or non-Indigenous persons)

- There are over 160 provincially-funded victim service programs providing emotional support, information, referrals and practical assistance to victims of crime, including families of missing and murdered persons.
- VictimLink BC – a toll-free, multilingual, confidential telephone service - is also available 24/7 to provide information and referral services for victims of crime.

- Should families of missing or murdered Indigenous men or non-Indigenous persons contact the B.C. FILU, staff will ensure appropriate connections are made to provincially-funded services and supports that are best positioned to respond to their request.

If asked about access to and/or release of information to family members

- While FILU information services and assistance are available to all family members of missing or murdered Indigenous women and girls, it is sometimes the case that not all the information can be shared with the individual family member requesting it.
- The release of information to a family member must be in accordance with applicable privacy laws, regulations, and policy directives.
- In cases where the information being sought cannot be provided, FILU staff ensure that a clear explanation is provided to the family member (e.g. active investigation; FOIPPA restrictions).

If asked about engagement with Indigenous families, communities or leadership on development of the FILU

- As part of the development stage, a project team engaged with families of missing or murdered Indigenous women and girls across the Province, Indigenous leadership, and other key stakeholders to ensure the design of the B.C. FILU will be responsive to identified needs and priorities.
- The project team also worked closely with key government and system partners (e.g., police, coroner's service, ministry partners) to lay the groundwork for information sharing central to the FILU mandate – including the development of information sharing processes and principles.
- With operations having begun this July, FILU continues to engage with these key partners to inform ongoing process and practices that best serve the needs of families.

**Background:**

**Federal FILU Initiative**

- In August 2016, the Department of Justice Canada announced \$11.7 million in funding over three years for provinces and territories to establish new Family Information Liaison Units (FILUs) to assist families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, which will run parallel to the National Inquiry process.
- The FILU initiative was introduced in response to feedback received by families during the pre-Inquiry consultation process regarding the need for access to more consistent, reliable and fulsome information about the loss of their loved one.

- FILUs are intended to provide a 'one stop information service' for families of missing or murdered Indigenous women and girls, independent of but complementary to any on-site supports provided to family members during the National Inquiry hearings process.
- FILUs across the country are connected to address inter-jurisdictional requests from families.

**B.C. FILU**

- The Province submitted a proposal to the federal government for the establishment of a FILU in B.C., which was approved in November 2016. <sup>s.17</sup>
- Due to federal funding requirements, the B.C. FILU is functionally located within our provincial Victim Services and Crime Prevention Division. However, based on feedback received during phase one consultations, one of the two frontline support worker positions is located in Prince George.
- The FILU is the central access point to assist families seeking information about the loss of their loved one. B.C. FILU staff provides high-level general information directly to families of missing murdered Indigenous women and girls; for case-specific information regarding the loss of a family's loved one and/or more technical information, B.C. FILU staff works with agency partners to deliver that information to families directly in a trauma-informed and culturally sensitive manner.
- The B.C. FILU will also work with contracted victim service providers, as well as other community organizations, to support coordination and proactive referral to services outside of the scope of the FILU.
- B.C. FILU began operations in July 2017.

**Consultation and Engagement**

- Project team staff met with family members of missing and murdered Indigenous women from across British Columbia. Meetings took place with families from the Lower Mainland, North-Central B.C./Prince George area, Northwestern B.C. (Smithers, Hazelton), Northeastern B.C./Fort St. John area, Vancouver Island, Calgary and Edmonton.
- A number of Indigenous leadership tables/organizations were engaged at different stages of the development process, including MACAW, the Joint Partners Table (comprised of: the First Nations Summit; the Union of BC Indian Chiefs; the BC Assembly of First Nations; and Métis Nation of BC), the Coalition on Missing and Murdered Women, BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, and the First Nations Health Authority.

- Project team staff has defined processes to support information sharing with, the police (RCMP, municipal), BC Coroners Service, and ministry partners (Ministry of Child and Family Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction).

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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Surrey Wrap Program****Suggested Response:**

- Our 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 \$500,000 in stable, annual funding for the Surrey Wrap program. This funding is in addition to the \$500,000 in one-time civil forfeiture grant funding committed by the Ministry last year.
- This stable funding will allow the program to obtain the necessary staff resources and supports needed to help eliminate its current waitlist and serve additional youth.

**Expanding Wrap**

- Government is committed to ensuring that communities across B.C. benefit from successful intervention and prevention programs, such as the Surrey 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.
- Further expansion of the Wrap model would need to happen in a gradual and considered manner, to ensure that programming meets unique community needs.

**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 \$500,000 in annual funding committed by the government in October 2017 will help the program increase staffing and increase the number of clients served while also helping decrease its waitlist size.
- As of February 2018, the program has 132 participants (up from 95 in July 2017) and has 17 students on a waitlist (down from 48 in July 2017).
- Although it fluctuates, the program's waitlist has seen a net reduction of 65% since July 2017.

**Surrey Wrap Staffing and Resources**

- The Surrey Wrap team currently consists of 5 outreach workers, 1 manager, 2 social workers, 2 safe school liaisons, 1 clinical supervisor and 1.4 contract facilitators (1.0 for Pro Social Recreation Staffing and .4 as a clinical counselor) as well as administrative support staff (13 FTEs). These positions are supported through federal and provincial funding.
- Federal and municipal partners provide the Surrey Wrap program with in-kind contributions, including 3 full-time RCMP personnel, .2 FTEs from the City of Surrey, 2 outreach workers and 2.5 teachers plus support staff from the Surrey School District (8 in-kind FTEs).
- Youth participants are referred from various sources with the majority identified by school staff or the RCMP.

**Background:**

- Launched in 2009, the Surrey 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 over 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.
- s.17
- 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 Surrey Wrap Program**

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

**Federal**

- In May 2015, Public Safety Canada allotted approximately \$3.5 million in funding over five years for the Surrey Wrap program 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 between 2011 and 2013 to support the program.

Provincial

- The Ministry has recently committed to providing \$500,000 in annual funding for the Surrey Wrap program starting in fiscal year 2018/2019. Since 2009, the Ministry has provided over \$860,000 in one-time grant funding through the civil forfeiture program to support the program.
- The Ministry of Education provided \$270,000 in funding for the program in 2015.

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**2018/19 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 and families feel safe and are safe.
- The Ministry is coordinating the development and implementation of community safety initiatives in the region.
- In 2016, Williams Lake and the Cariboo-Chilcotin Region received \$500,000 in civil forfeiture grant funding to support the Integrated Community Safety Initiative (ICSI).
- The ICSI aims to strengthen collaboration among justice, health and social service partners to better address the root causes of crime and violence in the region. This initiative builds on discussions involving the province, the City of Williams Lake and First Nations leaders.
- The ICSI is led by a local Steering Committee comprised of First Nations representatives, social service organizations, police and other justice personnel.
- The ICSI Steering Committee held two meetings in two local First Nation communities to discuss ICSI priorities, gather ideas, and develop and finalize a grant process to fund community safety projects.
  - The first meeting was held at Xat'sull First Nation (Soda Creek) on October 26, 2017, and the second meeting was held in Tl'etinqox First Nation (Anaham) on November 14, 2017.
- The Steering Committee issued a call for grant applications on November 20, 2017 with funding of up to \$10,000 available to First Nations and community organizations in the region for projects aimed at reducing crime and increasing community safety in three 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 grant application closed on January 31, 2018. The ICSI Steering Committee has identified 32 successful grant applications, which were announced on February 28, 2018.

**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 Policing and Security 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 four interconnected strategies:
  - An RCMP Special Project Team that is operational and focused on crimes and prolific offenders that have the greatest impact on crime rates and public concern in the region. The team includes two dedicated officers focused on First Nations relationship-building;
  - Supporting enhanced coordination of public safety resources in the region, which is currently underway. Deployed resources are working closely with the ICSI partners to improve communications and coordination between policing, provincial and community partners;
  - Developing a prevention and outreach program in partnership with the local school district 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.
- The Policing and Security Branch is leading the implementation of the Cariboo-Chilcotin Community Safety Model, which was announced in February 2017, s.17

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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Civil Forfeiture:  
Programs****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 \$78.9 million dollars. In 2017, police across the province referred a record 1,016 files to the office for consideration.
- 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 \$33.5million 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 \$78.9million, 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 \$5.9 million remains in the special account as retained earnings.
- To date, the office has disbursed over \$ 33.5 million dollars in crime prevention grants and victim compensation payments.
- With respect to crime prevention, \$31.8 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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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Civil Forfeiture:  
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 2,924 administrative forfeitures. The total value of these forfeitures is \$12 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.

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## 2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE

Victim Services and Crime  
Prevention Fact Sheet

**2018/19 Total Net Operating Budget of \$48.873 million  
(Gross Expenditures of \$58.991 million)<sup>1</sup> with approximately 100 FTEs<sup>2</sup>**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>CRIME VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM</b>                                   | <b>BUDGET – \$12.343 million</b>  |
| Crime Victim Assistance Program  | Provides financial assistance and other benefits to victims of crime, their immediate family members, and witnesses to help with expenses related to physical and emotional recovery.   |
| <b>COMMUNITY PROGRAMS</b>  | <b>BUDGET – \$36.308 million</b>  |
| Victim Service Programs (\$15.725 million) <sup>3</sup>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 91 police-based victim service programs</li> <li>• 70 community-based victim service programs</li> <li>• VictimLink BC Helpline</li> <li>• Seniors First BC Support Helpline</li> <li>• Provincial Protective Measures Unit</li> <li>• Domestic Violence Units</li> <li>• MAP Van for Sex Trade Workers</li> </ul> |
| Violence Against Women Programs and Outreach Programs (\$20.583 million) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 94 Stopping the Violence Counselling Programs</li> <li>• 86 PEACE Programs (formerly CWWA)</li> <li>• 55 Outreach Service Programs</li> <li>• 11 Multicultural Outreach Service Programs</li> </ul>  |
| Division-funded Crime Prevention Programs/Initiatives                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BC Crime Prevention Association</li> <li>• BC Crime Stoppers (Local Program)</li> <li>• Block Watch Society of BC</li> <li>• Surrey Wrap</li> <li>• 45 community-based restorative justice programs (Community Accountability Programs)</li> </ul>   |
| Provincial Services (including Provincial Associations)                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ending Violence Association of BC</li> <li>• Police Victim Services of BC</li> <li>• BC Society of Transition Houses</li> <li>• Legal Services Society</li> </ul>  |
| <b>JUSTICE AND SAFETY PROGRAMS</b>                                       |   |
| Justice and Safety Programs  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victim Safety Unit</li> <li>• Victim Court Support Programs</li> <li>• Restitution Program</li> </ul>  |

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<sup>1</sup> The total 2018/19 operating budget figure of \$48.873 million excludes budgeted collections of \$9.818 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 \$58.991 million.

<sup>2</sup> \$8.965 million of gross expenditures is allocated to general program operations; the remaining funding (\$50.026 million) is directed towards direct service delivery as outlined in this note.

<sup>3</sup> Note: all budget figures for contracted programs include budgeted negotiated wage increases related to 2014-2019 community social services collective agreements.

## **2018/19 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 fiscal year 2016/2017, CVAP received 4,105 applications, completed 6,254 decisions (original adjudications and reassessment) and distributed \$17.6 million in benefits.

### **Letter 63**

- CVAP was previously administered by WorkSafeBC under the *Criminal Injury Compensation Act* (CICA) and the Criminal Injury Compensation Program. Following CVAP's 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, 2,712 of 5,300 eligible applicants have received the financial benefit.
- Due to the sensitive nature of the offences, the process of contacting individuals has been lengthy. CVAP has a dedicated full-time staff member responsible for contacting the approximately 2,600 remaining eligible individuals and explain the benefit they are entitled to.

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**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.
- 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 CICA.
- 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 CICA.
- The process of assessing eligibility for the financial benefit began in 2006.
- 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 2,600 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.

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**2018/19 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 \$33.035 million as of December 31, 2017.
- As of December 31, 2017, the total revenue for the Victim Surcharge Account was \$9.447 million while \$10.144 million was expended from the Account.
- 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. Government 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 (judicial discretion to waive the surcharge was removed).
- Analysis indicates there is a 52% increase in federal victim surcharges in fiscal year 2016/17 compared to fiscal year 2013/14, when the legislation came into effect (\$503,434 2013/2014 vs \$767,505 in 2016/2017).
- However, the federal victim surcharge currently accounts for only 6.6% of all victim surcharge revenues (\$625,180 of the \$9.447 million in revenue in fiscal year 2017/18 up until December 31, 2017). The rest of the victim surcharge revenue comes from provincial surcharges, primarily on provincial fines such as traffic tickets (\$8.547 million in 2017/18) and interest earned on the balance of the Victim Surcharge Account (\$274,182 in 2017/18).
- 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.
- 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 B.C. 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 361 (CanLII)).
- The B.C. Supreme Court does not have the jurisdiction to strike down the law. This ruling applies only 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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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Estimates 2018/19 Briefing Book**

**BC Coroners Service  
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**Estimate Notes**

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6. Community Coroners – Recruitment and Retention
7. BC Coroners Service Statistics
8. Death Review Panels 2018 to 2008
9. Delays in Coroners Investigations
10. Distracted Driving – BC Coroners Service Statistics

**2018 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 was released later in 2017, outlining the safeguards and quality assurance processes already in place, and identifying opportunities for enhancement or improvement to quality assurance processes.
- Based on data reported to date:
  - In 2016, 194 medically assisted deaths occurred in B.C., while 677 medically assisted deaths occurred in 2017 in the province.
  - Between Jan. 1, 2016, and Dec. 31, 2017, 871 medically assisted deaths have occurred in B.C.
- New federal regulations for medically assisted deaths are coming this summer that will make collection and provision of prescribed information to the federal government mandatory.
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**Background:**

- 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. The table below indicates the number of individuals who sought and received medical assistance in dying in B.C. to Dec. 31, 2017:

**B.C. Medically Assisted Death Information\* Jan. 1, 2016 – Dec. 31, 2017**

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Island Health     | 376        |
| Interior Health   | 143        |
| Fraser Health     | 127        |
| Northern Health   | 35         |
| Vancouver Coastal | 190        |
| <b>Total:</b>     | <b>871</b> |

*\*This data is preliminary and subject to change.*

- s.12

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**2018 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 (police officer or sheriff).
- 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 investigations in which the chief coroner will review the circumstances to determine whether an inquest should be held include, but are not limited to:
  - Deaths 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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**2018 ESTIMATES NOTE****Child Death Investigations****Suggested Response:**

- The BC Coroners Service is mandated to both investigate, and review, all children's deaths in the province.
- The Coroners Service has a robust child death investigation and review process supported by a specialized Child Death Review Unit.
- In 2013, the Coroners Service expanded its model of child death review to encompass a multidisciplinary panel of experts to participate in the reviews and assist in developing recommendations to prevent future deaths.
- The multidisciplinary panel consists of senior level professionals from policing, medicine, public health, child welfare, 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.
- Nine multidisciplinary panels have been held since April 2013 with a tenth panel planned for the fall of 2018. 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 investigation is concluded.

**Background:**

- The Coroners Service 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 was publically released in October 2017.
- In December 2017, a panel was convened to review the deaths of youth transitioning out of government care. The report will be released in the spring of 2018.
- 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. Additionally, a panel on medical assistance in dying was convened in 2017 and the report was publically released in October 2017.
- 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 Coroners Service's website.

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**2018 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. since 2012, 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 cause of death.
- In many cases, thorough investigation of the scene of death, including examination of the deceased, and review of the deceased's recent history, including medical information, will enable the coroner to determine a reasonable cause of death without resorting to more intrusive measures.
- 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.
- Expedited toxicology testing, unique to B.C. since 2012, 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, performed by BC's Provincial Toxicology Laboratory, was completed in 12% of the 2016 deaths investigated.



**Number of Coroners Cases with Autopsies:**

|      |       |
|------|-------|
| 2011 | 1,985 |
| 2012 | 1,588 |
| 2013 | 1,482 |
| 2014 | 1,172 |
| 2015 | 1,124 |
| 2016 | 1,232 |
| 2017 | 1,247 |

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**2018 ESTIMATES NOTE****Response to *Misfire*  
(Ombudsperson's Report)****Suggested Response:**

- In April 2017, the Province confirmed publically that government will move forward on all 41 recommendations outlined by the Office of the Ombudsperson report *Misfire*.
- Specifically for the BC Coroners Service, Recommendation #39 recommends the development of policy on the disclosure of records stored on electronic devices.
- 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.
- In response to the Ombudsperson's Report, new policy regarding Release of Information was implemented in September 2017. Given the ever-increasing variety of digital sources where information is found, the BC Coroners Service will continually review its information management policies.

**If asked about why we no longer release names, age in our information release policy:**

- Legal advice is that the Coroners Service has no authority to routinely release names as they are personal information.
- The chief coroner can authorize the release of a name in a Coroner's Report, Inquest Verdict or Death Review Panel report after considering whether that information is necessary to support the findings and recommendations and whether the public interest outweighs the individual's right to privacy.

**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. One recovered electronic record was titled 'this is enough' and appeared to be the last document created on the device. A version of this withholding the names of other individuals was read over the phone to Mr. MacIsaac's family.
- 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., FOIPPA).

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**2018 ESTIMATES NOTE****Community Coroners -  
Recruitment and  
Retention****Suggested Response:**

- The Ministry, as well as the BC Coroners Service itself, is aware of challenges in recruiting and retaining suitable persons to act as coroners 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 Coroners Service is also working on several innovative recruiting strategies, including targeted local recruitment strategies engaging local media; recruiting through the 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 86 community coroners across the province. This is part of a staff of 150 total (96 FTEs) that works in five regions across B.C.
- 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's 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         | 2017          |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| <b>Total deaths reported<sup>1</sup></b>                          | <b>7,945</b> | <b>8,067</b> | <b>8,222</b> | <b>8,273</b> | <b>8,506</b> | <b>9,833</b> | <b>11,016</b> |
| • Non-reportable <sup>2</sup> (Section 15)                        | 3,780        | 3,975        | 4,232        | 4,334        | 4,370        | 4,885        | 5,289         |
| • Coroners' investigations (Section 16)                           | 4,165        | 4,092        | 3,990        | 3,939        | 4,136        | 4,948        | 5,727         |
| <b>Total deaths by type<sup>3</sup></b>                           |              |              |              |              |              |              |               |
| • Suicides <sup>4</sup>   | 526          | 512          | 525          | 639          | 615          | 598          | 566           |
| <i>Suicide rate per 100,000 population</i>                        | 11.7         | 11.3         | 11.4         | 13.8         | 13.1         | 12.6         | 11.8          |
| • Homicides   | 93           | 78           | 86           | 106          | 121          | 110          | 125           |
| • Child deaths  | 294          | 307          | 290          | 312          | 281          | 294          | 292           |
| • Illicit drug overdose deaths                                    | 294          | 269          | 333          | 369          | 518          | 996          | 1427          |
| • Accidental traffic-related motor vehicle deaths                 | 311          | 292          | 288          | 306          | 305          | 317          | 300           |
| <i>% of deaths with alcohol or alcohol &amp; drugs involved</i>   | 21%          | 21%          | 23%          | 23%          | 24%          | Note 5       | Note 5        |
| <i>% of deaths with drugs only involved</i>                       | 5%           | 6%           | 9%           | 5%           | 7%           | Note 5       | Note 5        |
| <b>Section 16 cases with post-mortem examinations<sup>1</sup></b> |              |              |              |              |              |              |               |
| • Autopsies <sup>7</sup>  | 1,985        | 1,588        | 1,482        | 1,172        | 1,124        | 1,232        | 1,247         |
| <i>Autopsies as % of Section 16 cases</i>                         | 48%          | 39%          | 37%          | 30%          | 27%          | 25%          | 22%           |
| • Toxicology  | 1,733        | 1,595        | 1,678        | 1,564        | 1,626        | 2,241        | 2,553         |
| <i>Toxicology as % of Section 16 cases</i>                        | 42%          | 39%          | 42%          | 40%          | 39%          | 45%          | 45%           |
| • Total cases with post-mortem examinations                       | 2,232        | 1,948        | 1,970        | 1,802        | 1,872        | 2,421        | 2,832         |
| <i>Total examinations as % of Section 16 cases</i>                | 53%          | 47%          | 49%          | 46%          | 45%          | 49%          | 49%           |
| <b>Inquests</b>   |              |              |              |              |              |              |               |
| • 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            |               |
| <b>Total number of staff<sup>8</sup></b>                          |              |              |              |              |              |              |               |
|   |              |              |              |              | 123          | 135          | 150           |

## 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. Alcohol involved includes alcohol or alcohol and drugs.

7. Includes external, simple and complex autopsy examinations.

8. Includes full-time coroners, part-time coroners and other staff. The 2017 total is the staff count as of Feb. 2018.

Revised: Feb. 6, 2018

## **2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE**

## **Death Review Panels 2018 to 2008**

### **Child Death Review Unit Youth in Transition Panel**

Held December 2017, with report released in 2018.

### **Drug Overdose Panel**

Held October 11, 2017, with report released in first half of 2018.

### **Medical Assistance in Dying Panel**

Held February 22, 2017 with report released in October 2017.

### **Child Death Review Unit First Nations Youth and Young Adults Panel**

Held December. 8 and 9, 2016 with report released in November 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.

|                                       |                     |              |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Contact: Lisa Lapointe, Chief Coroner | Phone: 250-356-9210 | Mobile: s.17 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|

**2018 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.
- While I am unable to comment on specific cases due to personal privacy and investigative integrity, it is entirely understandable that the family want answers as quickly as possible in such cases.
- The timeliness of an investigation is impacted by many things, including the complexity of the circumstances, the post mortem analyses required, concurrent investigations by other agencies (i.e. WorkSafeBC, Independent Investigations Office, law enforcement) and the challenges of competing investigations.
- The chief coroner and her staff understand the need for information in a timely manner and are working hard to continue to improve investigative timelines.

**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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## 2018 ESTIMATES NOTE

Distracted Driving –  
BC Coroners Service  
Statistics

## Suggested Response:

- The BC Coroners Service investigates all accidental deaths in the province, including all motor vehicle-related deaths. An important part of these investigations is the identification of risk factors. Information related to these risk factors is then rolled up in the aggregate and publicly reported.
- The Coroners Service defines “inattention” as “the voluntary or involuntary diversion of attention from activities critical for safe driving,” and defines “distraction” as “inattention caused by an *identifiable* distraction... examples include conversing with a passenger, eating, using an electronic device, looking at scenery, and adjusting vehicle controls.”
- Coroners’ conclusions are drawn at the conclusion of their investigation and include review of autopsy and toxicology reports, Traffic Analyst’s Reports, motor vehicle inspection reports, deceased’s medical history, and witness reports.
- ICBC data is drawn from roadside assessments by police and includes a number of risk factors, including inattention in its “distracted driving” category.

## Background:

- Lawyer Paul Doroshenko published an [FOI response](#) he received from the BC Coroners Service that indicated there were 14 fatalities between 2008 and 2016 related to the use of an electronic device while driving (determined to be contributory by the coroner or where use was suspected in a motor vehicle incident), noting a number of data limitations.
- On the Acumen Law Corporation blog on Jan. 30, 2018, (<http://vancouvercriminallaw.com/icbc-police-exaggerate-cellphone-driving-fatality-numbers/>), Doroshenko used the data to contrast what ICBC has been saying about the impact of distracted driving on fatal motor vehicle incidents in B.C., saying that ICBC and police are “exaggerating cellphone driving fatality numbers.”
- ICBC says “distracted driving is the second-leading contributing factor in vehicle fatalities in B.C. with 88 deaths a year” as a general message but does not define distracted driving in its literature, using images of cellphones in its graphics which Doroshenko says is misleading.

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|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Estimates 2018/19 Briefing Book**

**RoadSafetyBC  
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**2018 ESTIMATES NOTE****Distracted Driving****Suggested Response:**

- Distracted driving remains a serious concern for road safety in B.C. It takes time to change driver behaviour – but it needs to change now, because too many people are being killed or seriously injured, and there's just no excuse.
- Driver distraction and inattention is a serious, high-risk behaviour and, unfortunately, has consistently been one of the top two contributing factors to motor vehicle fatalities in the last five years—it remains a contributing factor in more than 25% of all traffic fatalities in our province.
- That's why we've taken action to make some of the toughest distracted driving penalties in Canada even tougher.
- In November 2017, it was announced that government would work to designate distracted driving as a high-risk driving behaviour under ICBC's Driver Risk Premium program, meaning, as of March 1, 2018, drivers who receive multiple convictions will pay considerably higher financial penalties.
- ICBC, in partnership with police, continues to 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 and a subsequent campaign is occurring in March 2018.
- There are currently two ICBC-led pilot projects evaluating possible use of 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.
- The Ministry will monitor the impact of the Driver Risk Premium change and continue to assess and consider what further actions may be necessary to change the behaviour of drivers who still don't get the message.

**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.
- Between 2010 and 2015, an average of 44,000 violation tickets were issued annually for distracted driving offences. In 2016, there were 42,800 violation tickets issued for distracted driving. While this represents a slight decline from the six year average, it is too early to tell to what extent this decline can be attributed to increases in sanctions for distracted driving.
- 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.
- Under the proposed changes to the Driver Risk Premium program that come into effect on March 1, 2018, drivers who receive multiple distracted driving offences will now face added and higher penalties, over and above their regular insurance premium. For example, a driver with 2 distracted driving tickets within a 3-year period could pay as much as \$2,000—that's \$740 above the current fine and demerit point amounts for distracted driving. Driver Risk Premium charges are separate from vehicle insurance premiums and are billed even if an individual does not own or insure a vehicle.

#### Current Status:

- There are two ongoing pilot projects 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. The first pilot involves using phone apps paired with telematics to block the use of a handheld device when the in-vehicle technology senses that the vehicle is being driven.

- The second pilot project is being conducted in partnership with police. The project is examining the potential use of a Bluetooth-enabled scope to capture distracted driving. The scope captures an image that can instantly be shared with other officers in that area and shown to the driver, after they have been stopped.
- ICBC also launched a new distracted driving education and awareness campaign this past September. Distracted driving public awareness and enforcement campaigns typically occur once or twice a year across the province, in partnership with police. The most recent campaign occurred in September of 2017 and the next one launched in March, 2018.

|                             |                     |              |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
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**2018/19 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 2017, almost 48,000 fewer Reports to Crown Counsel for impaired driving charges. That is approximately 6,800 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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**2018/19 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 Justice Sector system efficiencies and create a more effective, efficient and timely access to justice for citizens.
- Police will have the ability to issue tickets electronically (eTicketing) at the roadside which will help officers be more efficient and cut down time spent with drivers at the roadside.
- In addition, 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 and more timely 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
  - Delta Police Department,
  - Vancouver 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 for a pilot; however, for roll out, the decision is pending the completion of the pilot.
- 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).

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## 2018 ESTIMATES NOTE

## 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.

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**2018 ESTIMATES NOTE****Driver Medical 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.
- 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.
- There are over 3.3 million drivers in B.C. In 2017, 1,341 drivers were referred to DriveABLE, completing approximately 1,550 assessments. Of those, 800 were in-office assessments and 750 were on-road evaluations. Approximately 5,500 drivers were referred to an ICBC re-examination.
- The current contract to deliver DriveABLE assessments ends February 28, 2018.
- After significant research and consultation with stakeholders including seniors groups, in November of 2017, RoadSafetyBC announced a partnership with ICBC to provide the Enhanced Road Assessment (ERA).
- The ERA will be implemented on March 5 2018, and will include drivers with medical conditions who currently attend an ICBC re-examination and drivers who are currently referred for a DriveABLE cognitive assessment.

**DriveABLE 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.

**ERA Background:**

- The ERA was developed after consultations with other provinces in Canada including Quebec and Saskatchewan (who operate similar assessments), and Ontario (who are piloting a similar approach currently) as well as an examination of relevant literature and research.
- ERA changes will:
  - Extend the current ICBC re-examination to 90 minutes from 75 minutes, incorporating new components to assess driving errors that may result from cognitive impairment and other areas of medical concern.
  - Eliminate the in-office, computer-based screening that's part of the DriveABLE assessment.
  - Gradually increase the complexity of driving tasks, provide a break and feedback midway through, and have clear parameters for ending an assessment early if necessary, all to help maximize safety in real-world driving conditions.
  - Let drivers use their own vehicles, as many drivers have said that having to operate an unfamiliar vehicle affects their on-road assessment results.
  - Improve access and convenience, with approximately 80 ICBC locations delivering the ERA province wide.
- Drivers required to take an ERA will receive it at no cost.
- In order to assist drivers with the change to the ERA, RoadSafetyBC has implemented the following: information brochures sent with every referral, detailed information shared with driving schools and medical practitioners, updated information (including Q+A's) on the RoadSafetyBC website, a partnership with seniors groups on information sessions.

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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Motorcycle Safety –  
Graduated Licensing  
Program****Suggested Response:**

- There has been an average of 31 motorcycle related fatalities on B.C. roads over the five year period 2012-2016. While this average has been declining, motorcyclists continue to be over-represented in road trauma statistics as they represent 3.5% of all B.C. road users (insured vehicles) but were involved in approximately 12% of all road fatalities in 2016.
- 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:**

- Motorcycle fatality data over the last 10 years (2007-2016) show that between 2012 and 2016, an annual average of 31 motorcyclist fatalities occurred in the province, compared with an annual average of 42 fatalities for the previous five year period from 2007 to 2011.
- In 2012, there were 24 motorcyclist fatalities, the lowest number since 1997. While data for 2015 and 2016 fatalities show higher counts than 2012, 32 and 35 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 2011.
- 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.

- 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 2018.

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**2018/19 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 allowed Alcolock Canada to continue to deliver the program until September 30, 2017, for clients registered in the program prior to September 30, 2016.
- During the contract wind down, drivers with interlock devices from Alcolock Canada whose interlock terms went beyond the final wind down date were required to transfer over to Smart Start Canada, which required the removal of the Alcolock Canada interlock device and the installation of a new device from Smart Start Canada. 141 drivers successfully transitioned; 18 drivers failed to transition and had their driver's licenses cancelled as a result.

**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:**

- We know people want more options for getting around quickly, safely and affordably and government is committed to bringing in a safe, fair and accessible, “made in B.C.” solution for taxis and other passenger directed vehicles in B.C.
- Public safety will remain a priority in any decisions related to enabling ride-sharing in B.C.
- 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.
- Last fall, government hired transportation industry expert Dr. Dan Hara to consult with stakeholders including the taxi and ride hailing industry, and to make recommendations on how to improve the existing framework for taxi services so that when ride hailing is introduced in B.C. the taxi industry can thrive and compete. We expect this report and its recommendations in spring 2018.
- An all-party Select Standing Committee also studied ride hailing and held a series of public consultations hearing from various stakeholders and members of the public. The Committee released a report in mid-February containing 32 recommendations.
- Several ministries—including the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, the lead ministry for the development of a framework to allow ride-share services to operate in the province—are reviewing the Standing Committee’s recommendations and await the recommendations of the Hara Report.

**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.

- Ride-sharing services currently operate in a number of provinces, including 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.
- On February 15, 2018, the Select Standing Committee on Crown Corporations released a report entitled "Transportation Network Companies in British Columbia". The report contains 32 recommendations. Recommendations related to the regulatory regime for driver licencing and public safety include the following:
  - Require transportation network company drivers to submit to a driver's abstract check, national criminal record and vulnerable sector check on an annual basis, to be performed by a third-party provider (recommendation #24); and
  - Require transportation network company drivers to meet Class 5 driver's license requirements, with additional provisions for medical exams, similar to what is currently required under Class 4 licensing, and consider extending this to taxi drivers (recommendation #25).

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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****High Risk Driving Incident Report****Suggested Response:**

- On December 1, 2017, RoadSafetyBC introduced a new program model, the High Risk Driving Incident Report (HRDIR), for police initiated reviews of high risk driving incidents.
- The HRDIR program utilizes the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles' (Superintendent) authority to immediately prohibit and remove dangerous drivers from our roads for high risk driving incidents such as street racing, stunt driving, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle and other high risk driving behaviours that threaten public safety.
- The HRDIR program replaced the previous 15 day prohibition program model for street racing and stunt driving.
  - The previous program model was vulnerable to legal challenges and was under-utilized by police.
- The HRDIR program is broader in scope, applicable to all high risk driving incidents, and may result in a driver being immediately removed from our roads for a period generally ranging from 3-36 months.
- The HRDIR compliments the existing vehicle impoundment provisions for street racing, stunt driving and excessive speed.

**Background:**

- The HRDIR program forms part of the Driver Improvement Program (DIP).
- The DIP is one of several intervention based programs administered by the Superintendent aimed at improving public safety on all British Columbia roads and highways.
- The DIP identifies and intervenes with drivers and encourages them to improve their driving behaviours through various interventions ranging from warning letters to prohibitions from driving.
- The HRDIR program provides police with a means of reporting the most egregious driving behaviour to the Superintendent for consideration to immediately prohibit and remove drivers from our roads.
- The HRDIR program requires police to submit a formal detailed report of a high risk driving incident including any witness statements to the Superintendent for consideration.

- The HRDIR program replaced the previous 15 day prohibition program for street racing and stunt driving.
- The previous program model was administered by Emergency Management BC on behalf of the Superintendent and did not allow for a driver to apply for a review of the driving prohibition. As such, the previous program was subject to legal challenges and resulted in a number of driving prohibitions being cancelled and removed from drivers' records.
- The HRDIR program is broader in scope and provides more discretion to issue longer prohibitions than under the previous model. Moreover, in accordance with the principles of administrative fairness, a driver immediately prohibited for a high risk driving incident may apply for a review of the prohibition.

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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Intersection Safety  
Camera (ISC) Program:  
100% Activation and  
Speed Activation****Suggested Response:**

- BC's Intersection Safety Camera program, which issues tickets to drivers who enter a sited intersection on a red light, operates 140 specialized cameras sited at high crash locations in 26 communities throughout the province.
- To help address the increased number and severity of intersection crashes, the ISC program is increasing its camera activation rate to 100% from 25%; this process is on track for completion in October 2018.
- BC also continues to explore new technologies and approaches to changing driver behaviours, including speeding:
  - Using BC's red light cameras for speed enforcement is an approach which we are currently studying.
  - We have heard from residents and businesses on Vancouver Island about innovative enforcement strategies to make the Malahat safer.

**Background:**

- In response to ICBC's current fiscal situation, the Province has initiated the Rate Affordability Action Plan (RAAP). Through this process, PSSG is pursuing 100% activation of the ISC-RL program as well as a move to utilize some of these ISCs for speed enforcement, with the overall goal of reducing crashes and related ICBC claims costs.
- Current annual ISC program costs at 25% activation are \$2.41 million with ICBC funding PSSG's portion of annual program costs at \$0.85 million under the ICBC – PSSG *Traffic and Road Safety Law Enforcement Funding Memorandum of Understanding*.

- s.12

- s.13
- A Business Case is also currently in development that will consider maximizing the ISC's technical and ticket processing infrastructure by implementing automated speed enforcement at selected high crash intersections.

- s.12

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
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**Consumer Protection  
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1. High-cost Alternative Financial Services
2. Ticket Reselling
3. Funeral Services and Cremation
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 more can be done to further strengthen protections, affordability and information for British Columbians who use these services.
- We want to make sure that British Columbians who access these kinds of services have as many protections as possible, without driving them to unlicensed illegal lenders.

**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 services and various high-cost loan products such as instalment loans.
- 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 804,000 payday loans were taken out in British Columbia.
- 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.
- Since B.C. began regulating the payday loan industry in 2009, the range of similar, unregulated services like instalment loans has grown, along with the borrowing costs and

debt loads of already vulnerable people. This industry has developed new products and services sometimes as a way to sidestep payday loan regulations. In 2017, there were 202 B.C. licensed payday lenders, including ten online only lenders.

- Ministry staff continue to develop a Consumer Financial Protection Action Plan which is based on research conducted by the ministry in fall 2016, subsequent consultation with government stakeholders, and ongoing monitoring of other Canadian jurisdictions. The plan presents a balanced approach to strengthen protections and affordability while ensuring access to a well regulated industry given the demand and lack of available alternatives.

- s.13

s.13

The plan is also looking at ways to ensure that people using or considering high-cost loans and services such as cheque cashing, have access to credible information on costs, alternatives, where to go if they need advice and other information to encourage better-informed financial decision-making.

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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Ticket Reselling****Suggested Response:**

- It is extremely frustrating when people cannot get tickets to an event without resorting to scalpers.
- We want to ensure that everyone has a fair chance of obtaining a ticket when purchasing online.
- We are monitoring Ontario's legislative changes, as well as processes in other jurisdictions including those brought forth in Alberta last year, so that we can make sure a B.C. solution is well thought out and works for everyone.

**Background:**

- A number of jurisdictions have recently modernized their ticket reselling laws and, in the course, engaged with the public and ticketing industry, including Ontario (2017), Alberta (2017), the United Kingdom (2017), USA (2016) and New York State (2016).
- Ontario's legislation, not yet brought into force, is a comprehensive approach to address problems in both the primary and secondary markets by:
  - Prohibiting the use and sale of 'bots';
  - Prohibiting the sale of tickets obtained with 'bots';
  - Setting resale price cap at 50% of the ticket's face value;
  - Improving consumer protections by requiring:
    - full ticket price disclosure, including any fees and service charges, and
    - ticket price refund guarantee if the ticket is sold for profit on the secondary market;
  - Requiring disclosure of ticket distribution in the primary market;
  - Prohibiting primary sellers from withholding tickets from sale in the primary market in order to be sold for profit directly on the secondary market; and
  - Establishing the right of civil action for consumers and ticket businesses.

- Alberta's legislation, not yet in force, takes a narrower approach by focusing on regulating bots and some consumer protection enhancements in the secondary market. It does not regulate ticket resale price or other processes in the primary market.
- s.12,s.13
- To inform the B.C. approach, a public engagement with an online survey is planned for early March. The public will have an opportunity to share information about their ticket buying challenges. The survey will offer an opportunity to gauge support for solutions being considered by government. Industry stakeholder engagement is planned to occur over the next few months.

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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Funeral Services and  
Cremation****Suggested Response:****Funeral Services in Small Remote Communities**

- I understand there are challenges in accessing funeral services locally in small remote communities in the province.
- Ministry staff are working on developing an approach for resident funeral services in small and remote communities.

**New Cremation Technologies**

- I understand that British Columbians are interested in new technologies for the disposal of human remains and in reducing environmental impacts of cremation.
- Ministry staff are researching new cremation technologies such as alkaline hydrolysis.
- Ministry staff are engaging with funeral industry representatives to determine priorities for changes to funeral services in British Columbia.

**Background:**

s.13

**Funeral Services in Small Remote Communities**

- 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 most 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).
- In 2012, CPBC received a complaint regarding an individual who was providing a range of funeral services on Haida Gwaii. In 2014, CPBC concluded that Mr. George Westwood was operating as an unlicensed funeral director.

- The community of Haida Gwaii would like to see licensing requirements changed to formally allow for Mr. Westwood to provide resident funeral services in the community. Local officials and the ministry have communicated on a number of occasions to consider ways to resolve the situation. This matter was also raised in the Legislature.

- s.13

#### Cremation

- Alkaline hydrolysis is an alternative to flame cremation and burial. It is a process that uses heat, water and alkali to reduce remains into bone fragments. The process is viewed by advocates as a “green” alternative to the traditional options of burial or cremation.
- Three Canadian provinces permit alkaline hydrolysis: Saskatchewan, Quebec and Ontario. However, there are only a few operators that perform this service.
- The Bereavement Authority of Ontario has recently commenced a comprehensive review of the alkaline hydrolysis process. In the interim licencing applications are not being processed.
- The ministry is in receipt of a recent proposal to amend the provincial legislative framework governing funeral services to permit alkaline hydrolysis. The ministry is engaging with the BC Funeral Association and other stakeholders more broadly to assess the implications of the new technologies, which may include environmental and health issues.

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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Home Inspectors****Suggested Response:**

- Home inspections are an important tool for home buyers, and we want to ensure that people who get a pre-purchase inspection are also getting the best possible information and protection out of that process, so there are no surprises down the road.
- Home inspectors are regulated and licensed under provincial consumer protection legislation, which is administered by Consumer Protection BC (CPBC), a not for profit corporation, who operates at arm's length from government.
- In 2016, new regulations came into effect to strengthen licensing requirements for home inspectors and improve consumer protections. Key changes were:
  - Establish, by regulation, minimum qualifications for obtaining a licence;
  - Requirements for home inspector to prepare contracts, outlining in advance what will be covered in an inspection, and written inspection reports; and
  - Requirement for home inspectors to hold professional and general liability insurance.
- Government continues to work with CPBC, industry groups and stakeholders on a regulatory model that will strengthen the home inspection profession and promote consumer confidence in home inspections.

**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 developing a licensing framework for home inspections.
- 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.

Regulatory Model

- 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.
- In fall 2013, the province committed to strengthen home inspector licensing requirements, following concerns about deficient inspections and inconsistent practices by home inspectors. 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 and CPBC are reviewing this work to determine how these tools may be applied in B.C.

Licensing Fee Increase

- In September 2017, CPBC undertook a fee consultation process to determine future licensing fees for home inspectors. CPBC is required by law to recover its costs for regulating the sectors it oversees and has authority to set licensing fees for each of the sectors it licenses.
- On December 29, 2017, CPBC notified home inspectors that their licensing fees will increase by 25% annually for 2018 to 2020, starting on April 1, 2018.

|                 | Current | Apr. 1, 2018 | Apr. 1, 2019 | Apr. 1, 2020 |
|-----------------|---------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Renewal Licence | \$525   | \$656        | \$820        | \$1025       |
| New Licence     | \$525   | \$713        | \$891        | \$1114       |

- Home inspector associations and individual home inspectors have raised concerns to the ministry about the increases to licensing fees, indicating that the increases are not sustainable. The ministry is working with CPBC and industry associations to develop a regulatory approach that will to ensure there are high quality and consistent home inspections across B.C., and a model that is cost-effective to deliver and administer.

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**Emergency Management BC  
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6. Fire Services Act – Fire Safety Act
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## **2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE**

## **BC Search and Rescue Association (BCSARA) Alternative Support Model Proposal**

### **Suggested Response:**

- In the past two years, the province has provided grants totaling \$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.
- s.13
- 
- 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 and its member teams in building capacity 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 1,700 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.

s.17

- 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. Also, increasing demand for services, along with static funding levels and an onerous process of accessing funding which are often 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.

s.13,s.16

- The province has reviewed this proposal in collaboration with BCSARA, and EMBC is currently consulting with BCSARA and other key partners, to develop a framework for a government-operated fund that will provide funding certainty and a clear governance framework for GSAR in BC.

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| Contact: Andrew Morrison, SAR Specialist, EMBC | Phone: 604-586-4380 | Mobile:      |

**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Disaster Financial  
Assistance (DFA) Program  
(Provincial 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 \$54 million to individuals and local governments.
- Twenty 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 Estimate Note EMBC 3 Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) (Federal Program).

**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 \$7,000. 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 for fiscal 2017/18 there have been two DFA events, both of which have been major provincial disasters for which the province will request federal support via the 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 495 families, 146 small businesses and 30 local governments, of which seven 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 are still ongoing is the largest wildfire disaster in B.C. history. The DFA costs for this disaster are limited to local government infrastructure damage<sup>1</sup> 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 \$430 million, of which approximately \$340 million will be eligible for cost-sharing under the federal DFAA.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Disaster Financial Assistance  
Arrangements (DFAA) (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 \$1.4 billion<sup>1</sup> to respond to and recover from 20 such major disasters and expects to recover \$900 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
  - s.16,s.17

**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

<sup>1</sup> Of the \$1.4 billion, \$55 million was paid to individuals and local governments via the DFA Program and \$1.35 billion was paid to restore provincial infrastructure, fight interface wildfires, support evacuees, and fund emergency operation centres.

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary estimates for 2017 firefighting costs are expected to exceed \$500 million, of which \$300 million is estimated for fighting interface fires (only interface firefighting costs are eligible for DFAA). EMBC also estimates \$130 million in other DFAA eligible costs including Emergency Social Services; operating PECC, PREOCs, EOCs, Reception centres, recovery centres; and restoring public infrastructure.

response and provincial DFA 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 and 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 Estimates Note EMBC 2 Disaster Financial Assistance Program (Provincial Program) for 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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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Emergency Program Act  
(EPA) Review****Suggested Response:**

- The Emergency Program Act (EPA) was enacted in 1993 and has received minimal amendment since that time.
- In 2015, the Government of B.C. initiated a review of the EPA to ensure that the legislation is effective and reflects best practices in the field of emergency management.
- Given the extensive flood and wildfire events of 2017, we are undertaking further internal and external reviews of priority elements such as declarations of emergency, evacuation orders, evacuation planning and other processes outlined in the act.

**Background:**

- The EPA provides a framework for the B.C. Government and local authorities to plan for, respond to and recover from emergencies. The EPA also:
  - Provides for the use of extraordinary powers if a state of emergency or state of local emergency is declared;
  - Authorizes and establishes eligibility for response and recovery expenditures; and
  - Protects emergency service workers from civil liability.
- In 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.
- To support public engagement on the review of the EPA, Emergency Management BC (EMBC) drafted a discussion paper with a number of policy proposals intended to achieve the objectives of modernizing the legislation, clarifying roles and responsibilities and supporting emergency response and recovery.

**Results from the 2016 Engagement Process**

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- EMBC received over 70 submissions from stakeholders, as well as blog-style comments from forum participants.
- The feedback received during the engagement period was generally supportive. However, there were also proposals that prompted a number of questions or concerns, specifically:
  - The prospect of forcible evacuations for competent adults;
  - The proposed powers of the Minister to direct changes to local authority plans; and
  - Powers to collect, use and disclose information not available under other enactments.
- Critical infrastructure providers who are regulated under other provincial and federal enactments, such as financial institutions and the energy sector, were also concerned about:
  - The potential for duplication of planning requirements; and
  - Uncertainty that could result from the proposed power of government to alter or suspend an authorization during an emergency.
- In addition, many submissions from local authorities expressed concern that the proposals could result in increased costs and downloading of emergency management requirements. UBCM's summary submission recommended that EMBC undertake additional engagement with its members prior to the introduction of new legislation.

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## 2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE

## Earthquake Preparedness

**Suggested Response:**General Earthquake Preparedness

- Emergency management and earthquake preparedness are responsibilities shared across every home, business and all levels of government in B.C.
- Preparedness begins in every home with an understanding of earthquake risks, preparation of an emergency kit, and having a family emergency plan.
- The province continues to explore all possible opportunities to enhance emergency preparedness for a catastrophic event, including the following initiatives:
  - Continued review and updates to The BC Earthquake Immediate Response Plan and Emergency Management BC (EMBC) sustained response planning;
  - Implementation of recommendations from Exercise Coastal Response, a \$1.2-million, full-scale, provincial-level earthquake exercise held in June, 2016;
  - s.17
  - Working with Natural Resources Canada and other partners to conduct an assessment of earthquake risk in B.C. through the Integrated Earthquake Risk Assessment project.
  - Launch of seismic public education initiatives, including the PreparedBC web site and guides for emergency preparedness. Additionally, the Master of Disaster public education program launched in 2016 in B.C. schools and is a fun, interactive resource, available in both English and French, to help students learn about emergency preparedness. This program has become a focus of the Great BC Earthquake Shake Out drill.
  - A \$95,000 investment to improve the speed of delivery for the Provincial Emergency Notification System, used to initiate tsunami alerts in B.C.;
  - Investing approximately \$17 billion in capital funding for seismic upgrades to schools, health facilities, and transportation infrastructure; and
  - Contribution to the development of policy recommendations for Vancouver seismic risk reduction through the Understanding Risk Vancouver Symposium first held in

March 2017 and the Understanding Risk BC event now planned for Victoria in April 2018.

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#### Early Warning Systems and Seismic Investments/Plans

- The province supports work that our partners are doing in improving seismic technologies.
- s.16
- In October 2016, the province also put out a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) for a seismic monitoring and earthquake early warning program in B.C.
  - Twenty expressions of interest were received, representing an excellent response from local, national and international organizations and firms.
  - The RFEI process, and subsequent meetings with its respondents, has provided the province an opportunity to listen to, and develop a better understanding of, extraordinary ideas and innovations that may improve public safety for all of B.C.
  - This is a task that requires ongoing attention to achieve continuous improvement, and it is expected that an update will be provided once government has had an opportunity to complete its review of the proposed programs.

#### 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 requirements generally apply to new construction and the renovation of existing buildings, and are intended to protect life by allowing people to escape buildings after an earthquake. However, they cannot ensure a building is safe to re-enter 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 address risk factors affecting the resiliency of B.C. infrastructure, and the expected damage to schools, hospitals, universities, colleges, roads, bridges and other public facilities following a major earthquake.
- Associated Engineering has been hired through a Request for Proposal process to assist in developing the plan.
- The plan will advance the province's work to make B.C. a world leader in managing 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 Director of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services from Oakland, California, was appointed chair of the province's year-long consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders. On March 26, 2015, he released a report detailing 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;
  - System-wide funding that 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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## **2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE**

## **Fire Services Act - Fire Safety Act**

### **Suggested Response:**

- The Fire Services Act is the governing provincial legislation currently in force outlining the regulatory framework for fire safety in the province.
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- The new Fire Safety Act (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.
- Subsequent to receiving Royal Assent, the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) requested an amendment to the FSA related to the mandatory appointments of fire inspectors/investigators by regional districts. This issue will be addressed prior to the issuance of the OIC.

### **Background:**

- The Fire Safety Act 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.

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- The new Act takes 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 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.

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**2018/19 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 the 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 representatives' communities.
- 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 communities.
- During the 2017 floods and wildfires, some First Nations communities were concerned that their infrastructure would not be protected if they chose to evacuate.
- Both EMBC and the BC Wildfire Service 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.

- When communities are evacuated, it is common practise for essential personnel, such as trained firefighters, emergency management staff and police officers, to remain behind to protect key infrastructure.

**Background:**

- A ten year service agreement signed between EMBC and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) came into effect on April 1, 2017.
- Prior to April 1, 2017, as mandated by a 1993 Letter of Understanding with ISC, 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 ISC extends EMBC's mandate to support First Nation communities in the preparedness and mitigation functions of emergency management.
- During the 2017 wildfire season, Tl'etinqox (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 a consistent relationship with Tl'etinqox 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 Tl'etinqox through the provisions of a satellite phone, food supplies and continued connection into the provincial emergency management structure.
- EMBC continues to build a positive relationship with Tl'etinqox 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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## **2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE**

## **Fraser River Debris Trap and Shxw'ōwhámel First Nation**

### **Suggested Response:**

- The Fraser River Debris Trap (FRDT) 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. The debris trap is estimated to save the province approximately \$8 million annually by preventing downstream damage.

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### **How is the Province Working with Shxw'ōwhámel First Nation on the Debris Trap?:**

- The province remains committed to working with the SFN on the safe and efficient operation of the debris trap.

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**Background:**

- The FRDT, located on the Fraser River just south of Hope, captures approximately up to 100,000 cubic metres of debris annually and has been operating on Crown land and a portion of the 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 \$8 million.
- The annual cost of operating the FRDT has increased since 2016 from approximately \$623,000 to \$1 million primarily due to increased permitting requirements by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.
- In 2011 EMBC assumed responsibility for FRDT. That same year SFN issued notice to EMBC that the approval to access and use SFN land had been terminated by SFN due to concerns over the potential impact to their land.
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- During past consultations, SFN has raised concerns with the FRDT including: safety; potential contamination of its reserve lands; and insufficient economic benefits flowing to SFN.
  - EMBC has addressed the safety concerns and investigated contamination concerns through extensive environmental site assessments (ESAs). Recent meetings with SFN have indicated that environmental concerns remain. EMBC, MIRR, and SFN are planning a joint scoping session for the next phase of ESA.
  - While economic benefits can be provided through employment opportunities through Drake, other benefits are difficult to establish given operations are on Crown land. The mandate discussions underway are seeking to explore this further.

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**2018/19 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.
- 30 communities, ten of which were First Nations, and thousands of home owners<sup>1</sup> were impacted by flood waters with 39 evacuation orders and alerts issued. Ten homes are still under an evacuation order.
- 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), a provincial program, was declared for specified areas and applications could be submitted until October 27, 2017.

**Background:**

- Freshet started on April 27, 2017 with a report of a landslide near Rayleigh, along Highway 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 the 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.
- Emergency Management BC (EMBC) coordinated cross-government, multiple ministry efforts to support local governments and First Nations.

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<sup>1</sup> Thousands of homeowners were impacted, but only 495 applied for DFA. Many homes were not principal residences (vacation property is not eligible for DFA); many had overland flood insurance; some were First Nation band-owned homes (DFA for these was part of the local government/First Nation application), for some the amount of damage was below the DFA \$1,000 threshold; and for others there was no damage because of the extraordinary emergency response activity that kept flood waters from actually entering homes at risk.

- 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, Splatsin, Upper Nicola, and Westbank First Nations.
- First Nations in the central region engaged early in the emergency management role for their communities.
- The province continues to work in partnership with these groups to provide financial reimbursement in a timely fashion. As of February 8, 2017 reimbursements to First Nations, local governments, and vendors total \$15,943,763.
- 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 by EMBC:
  - 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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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Emergency Management BC and  
Indigenous Services Canada  
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., including First Nations communities.
- On April 1, 2017, Emergency Management BC (EMBC) began implementation of a ten-year, \$30 million service agreement funded by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to provide enhanced emergency management services and support to First Nation communities.
- Under the agreement, EMBC works 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 where EMBC is already making improvements.
- 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 ISC/EMBC Emergency Management Funding Agreement replaces a 1993 Letter of Understanding and allows EMBC to increase its capacity to better support First Nation communities.
- 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. These include:
  - Consistent implementation of a common emergency management system and methodology, resulting in more resilient communities across the province;
  - Enhanced 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 which is now 181 local governments and 193 First Nations.
- EMBC has hired 19 additional new staff members, expanded office space and acquired new resources such as vehicles and training materials.
- EMBC is providing enhanced training opportunities for First Nations communities.
- EMBC is working in collaboration with the First Nations Emergency Services Society to develop regional partnership tables with First Nations communities to guide implementation of the agreement.

#### First Nations Engagement

- The FNLC<sup>1</sup> was engaged by ISC and EMBC during negotiation of the agreement.
- To ensure ongoing engagement of the FNLC regarding implementation of the agreement, EMBC, ISC and the FNLC are continuing to explore the establishment of a formal tripartite relationship.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

**Financial Implications**

- In April 2016, government approved EMBC's request to enter into the agreement and increased EMBC's operating budget. This budget increase is offset by funding from ISC resulting in a net zero impact for the province.
- In fiscal year 2016/17 EMBC received \$1.033 million to prepare for agreement implementation and support engagement of First Nation communities.
- The total value of the agreement is \$30 million over ten years. See Appendix 1: EMBC and ISC Emergency Management Funding Agreement - Budget Impacts including yearly breakdown and 2018/19 details.
- In 2018/19, EMBC will receive \$2.75-million from ISC for implementation of the agreement.

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**Appendix 1: Emergency Management BC and Indigenous Services Canada  
Emergency Management Funding Agreement – Budget Impacts**

- In fiscal year 2016/17 Emergency Management BC received \$1.03 million to prepare for and support engagement of First Nation communities on the agreement.
- The total value of the agreement is \$30 million over ten years. Yearly contributions are as follows:

| <b>Year</b> | <b>INAC Funding<br/>(in millions)</b> |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2016/17     | \$1.03                                |
| 2017/18     | \$2.70                                |
| 2018/19     | \$2.75                                |
| 2019/20     | \$2.81                                |
| 2020/21     | \$2.86                                |
| 2021/22     | \$2.92                                |
| 2022/23     | \$2.98                                |
| 2023/24     | \$3.00                                |
| 2024/25     | \$3.10                                |
| 2025/26     | \$3.16                                |
| 2026/27     | \$3.22                                |

**2018/19 Proposed Budget**

| <b>Item</b>         | <b>Amount<br/>(in millions)</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Salaries            | 1.809                           |
| Staff Travel        | 0.100                           |
| Contracts           | 0.032                           |
| Engagement/Training | 0.741                           |
| Vehicle maintenance | 0.032                           |
| IT                  | 0.036                           |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>2.750</b>                    |

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

- Emergency Management BC (EMBC) has developed a three-year strategy (2016 to 2018) designed to enhance service delivery for local authority emergency management programs.
- The strategy is based on consultation with local authority 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 capacity.
- The strategy will also serve as an excellent foundation to support EMBC's new agreement with Indigenous Services Canada to provide enhanced emergency management support to First Nations communities.
- Lessons learned during the 2017 Freshet and wildfire activations are being incorporated into ongoing and future developments of 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 authority 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. For details see Appendix 1: Strategy to Advance Local Authority Emergency Management Programs Support - Project Status Report.
- 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:
    - The development of an emergency planning toolkit for local governments;
    - 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, seasonal 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.

For complete details see Appendix 1: Strategy to Advance Local Authority Emergency Management Programs Support – Project Status Report.

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**2018/19 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.
- 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 a broad cross section of partner agencies participating in the exercises including all levels of government, First Nations, non-government organizations, Crown corporations, volunteers, and critical infrastructure owners.

**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.
- The second full-scale exercise coordinated through the province, was Exercise Salish Sea conducted in October, 2017, which effectively tested joint operational readiness to respond to a Major Maritime Disaster.
- Future exercise planning includes a series of regional and increasingly complex exercises, incrementally building upon the previous one, culminating in a full-scale earthquake exercise in the lower mainland in 2021.

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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****National Disaster Mitigation Program****Suggested Response:**

- It is important to collaborate with the federal government on cost-sharing programs such as the National Disaster Mitigation Program 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 disasters 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 disasters on British Columbians and all Canadians.

**Background:**

- Public Safety Canada launched the five-year \$200 million flood focused National Disaster Mitigation Program in April 2015.
- The program fills a critical gap by providing funding for risk assessments, flood mapping, and on-the-ground projects that 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 Public Safety Canada.
- Eligible projects could include both non-structural investments, such as flood risk assessments and flood-mapping, and small-scale structural investments, such as retrofitting or modernizing existing structures to improve flood resiliency.
- The program employs 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 Branch. The branch evaluates each application against the established criteria, collaboratively reviews each application with the Ministry of Forests, Land, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development's Flood Safety Section, and prioritizes projects

with the cross-ministry Disaster Mitigation Oversight Committee. Approved applications are then submitted to Public Safety Canada for federal approval.

- Since inception of the program, there have been four intakes for applications. For each intake the following numbers of projects were approved:
  - Intake 1 – three projects approved;
  - Intake 2 – six projects approved;
  - Intake 3 – 21 projects approved; and
  - Intake 4 – 35 projects provincially approved and are awaiting federal approval.

For full details see Appendix 1: National Disaster Mitigation Program Approved Projects and Appendix 2: Projects Approved by EMBC, Awaiting Approval from Public Safety Canada.

- To date, the federal government has committed to funding approximately \$5.7-million toward provincial projects.
- The number of projects submitted by B.C. has increased with each program intake, as local governments and First Nations have become more aware of the program. More communities are being proactive by leading flood planning and mitigation projects to better understand and prepare for risks.
- The federal deadline for Intake 4 applications was October 31, 2017. EMBC submitted 35 approved projects to Public Safety Canada, with federal approval expected in spring 2018. The total value of the submitted projects is \$30.7 million.
- A fifth and final program intake is planned for fall 2018, with project approvals expected in spring 2019, and project completion by March 2020.
- 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 (NDMP) 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                         | \$1,475,000          | \$700,000       | \$775,000          |   |
| 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                                   |
| 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                                  |



| Program Area (NDMP Intake) | Proponent                              | Project Name   | Total Project Budget | Federal Portion | Provincial Portion | Other Portion e.g., local government, NGO |
|----------------------------|--|--|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---|
| 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                                  |
| 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               | \$161,250            | \$75,000        | \$75,000           | \$11,250                                  |
| 3                          | East Kootenay Regional District        | S3 - Elk River Flood Mapping and Hydrology Study           | \$250,000            | \$125,000       | \$125,000          | \$0                                       |

| Program Area (NDMP Intake) | Proponent                         | Project Name  | Total Project Budget | Federal Portion | Provincial Portion | Other Portion e.g., local government, NGO |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---|
| 3                          | Fraser Basin Council              | S2 - Hydraulic Modelling and Mapping in BC's Lower Mainland       | \$1,010,000          | \$500,000       | \$0                | \$510,000                                 |
| 3                          | Fraser Basin Council              | S1 - Thompson Watershed Mutli-jurisdictional Assessment           | \$645,000            | \$300,000       | \$300,000          | \$45,000                                  |
| 3                          | FLNRORD                           | S4 - Dike Consequence Classification                              | \$320,000            | \$150,000       | \$150,000          | \$20,000                                  |
| 3                          | FLNRORD                           | S4 - Climate Change Scenario Modeling for Fraser River Watershed  | \$258,000            | \$125,000       | \$128,000          | \$5,000                                   |
| 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                          | GeoBC                             | S4 - Kootenay Lake Region LIDAR and ortho-imagery Acquisition     | \$1,698,500          | \$790,000       | \$908,500          | \$0                                       |
| 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        | \$80,000           | 10,500                                    |

| <b>Program Area<br/>(NDMP Intake)</b> | <b>Proponent</b>     | <b>Project Name</b>                               | <b>Total Project Budget</b> | <b>Federal Portion</b> | <b>Provincial Portion</b> | <b>Other Portion<br/>e.g., local government, NGO</b> |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---|-----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 3                                     | Richmond, City of    | S3 - Flood Mitigation Strategy Update             | <b>\$500,000</b>            | \$250,000              | \$250,000                 | \$0  |
| 3                                     | Richmond, City of    | S1 - Steveston Island Flood Risk Investigation    | <b>\$1,620,000</b>          | \$810,000              | \$405,000                 | \$405,000  |
| 3                                     | Stewart, District of | S4 - Bear River Small Scale Structural Mitigation | <b>\$525,000</b>            | \$166,666              | \$166,666                 | \$191,668  |

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## **2018/19 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;
  - Emergency Social Services;
  - Emergency radio communications;
  - Provincial Emergency Program - 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.
- s.13

**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 the 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 program provides 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, including 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 collectively 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, BCSAR has been testing the use of its disbursement model for funding search and rescue teams, for which it is 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 this program 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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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Emergency Management  
BC (EMBC) Public  
Education Program****Suggested Response:**

- Public education is critical to building a prepared and resilient province.
- Depending on the size and scope of a disaster, British Columbians may need to manage on their own for a week, or even longer, while first responders and emergency officials manage the aftermath.
- This means individuals need to personally prepare their homes, workplaces and neighbourhoods and have a solid understanding of how they should cope during an emergency.
- To assist in this, Emergency Management BC (EMBC) created the PreparedBC program to provide disaster readiness information that spans all hazards in all regions. Information is provided online, in printed resources and through education campaigns.
- Disaster preparedness is a shared responsibility involving individuals, families, communities and all levels of government to create a prepared and resilient province that is able to respond to and recover from disasters.
- Building on the trusted and well-established PreparedBC brand, priorities for 2018/2019 are:
  - Ipsos-Reid Preparedness Survey: In December 2017, an Ipsos Reid survey was conducted to establish a baseline understanding of British Columbians' state of personal preparedness. The results will be used to focus public education efforts over the next two years. Subsequent surveys will measure improvements.
  - Partners in Preparedness: Set for launch in May, Partners in Preparedness is a new initiative that will enlist B.C. retailers to champion emergency readiness through the promotion and sale of disaster supplies.
  - Master of Disaster: Launched in 2016, Master of Disaster is a three-module learning program geared toward grade six students to help them learn about hazards in B.C. and how to prepare. The current focus is building awareness of the program by increasing student and teacher engagement.
  - Master of Disaster Indigenous Partnerships Project: In order to make the program more accessible, culturally sensitive and inclusive, EMBC is working with Indigenous leaders,



communities, teachers and students to inform the content so that it resonates with First Nations youth.

- High Ground Hike: Building on past High Ground Hike events, PreparedBC is partnering with the Royal Canadian Marine-Search and Rescue to tour communities at risk of tsunamis on the north coast. High Ground Hike event kits, t-shirts and posters will be shared along the way. PreparedBC will also be supporting community-led hikes in Tofino and potentially Ucluelet.

**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 B.C. 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](http://www.gov.bc.ca/PreparedBC).

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**2018/19 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 and the province, through Emergency Management BC (EMBC), have established a formal partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- RCMSAR has extensive resources along coastal B.C., and has offered 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 will move to engage this new partnership opportunity and the range of services RCMSAR offers, to best utilize these resources in support of 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 Department of National Defense Joint Rescue Coordination Centre.
- RCMSAR provides response supports through its inland station boat and volunteers on Shuswap Lake near Salmon Arm.
- RCMSAR has 1,100 volunteers in over 35 communities in B.C. and provides 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 continues to access RCMSAR volunteers to assist in search and rescue response and other emergencies through the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre. The new MOU provides for direct access to some resources.

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- 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 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.

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Memorandum of Understanding 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 and RCMSAR will carefully explore how to best utilize this partnership to provide maximum benefit to the province. There are potential benefits for EMBC and other ministries to access RCMSAR for humanitarian work, enhanced emergency training, and emergency response supports
- The process for costs and liability coverage for RCMSAR volunteers is being reviewed jointly between the programs.
- EMBC has established important working relationships with various entities to support emergency response in B.C. Public Safety Lifeline Volunteers are registered with EMBC or

local governments and includes five 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 refine the process and procedures related to operational costs, insurance and liability coverage for deployed RCMSAR volunteers.
- EMBC is consulting with other key ministries, legal services and the risk management branch on the RCMSAR MOU.

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**2018/19 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. This was unprecedented in duration.
- The province will continue to take every action necessary to ensure communities recover from the 2017 wildfire season.
- The 2017 fire season was extraordinary in its length, intensity, and widespread impacts as compared to the 2003 season, and as such, the province extended unprecedented amounts of support to communities impacted by the fires and those supporting evacuees through the season.
  - The 2003 fire season burned **260,000 hectares**, while the 2017 season burned more than four times that amount at just over **1.2 million hectares**;
  - The last provincial declaration of emergency was during the 2003 wildfire season, and it lasted **43 days (six weeks)** from August 2 to September 14, 2003. This year's provincial declaration of emergency lasted **70 days (ten weeks)** from July 7 to September 15, 2017.
  - Emergency Management BC (EMBC) estimates that 65,000 people were displaced by wildfire in 2017, compared to the 45,000 displaced in the 2003 fire season. 2,500 more people were forced from their homes by spring 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.
- The province was grateful to receive support from Canadian Forces and other federal partners through the 2017 season.

- 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, and with wildfire suppression; some 650 military personnel were engaged.

**Background:**

- The province experienced an unprecedented wildfire season with over 1.2 million hectares burned, more than 4,700 firefighter personnel 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 was exceptional and unprecedented in B.C.
- Following the wildfire season a focused after-action review process has been carried out to capture improvements and best practices from this epic wildfire season.
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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Public Alerting****Suggested Response:**

- No single alerting system or group of systems will be able to reach every person in an emergency. Local governments and the province use a variety of systems to contact residents to alert the greatest number of people when necessary.
- Most emergencies are local and the primary responsibility to notify people in the event of an emergency or impending disaster lies with local government.
- For tsunamis the province and local government have a variety of methods to warn people in the impacted zone:
  - The Provincial Emergency Notification System sends phone calls, emails and faxes to local government emergency officials, key partner agency stakeholders and to 24/7 media outlets.
  - Emergency Management BC (EMBC) uses Alert Ready to send alerts that interrupt radio and TV broadcasts for tsunami warnings. Starting sometime after April 6, 2018 these alerts will also be sent to 4G long-term evolution, also known as LTE, smartphones when they are connected to LTE networks.
  - Local governments have a variety of systems to alert people in their jurisdictions. These include sirens, subscriber based systems that will phone, email or text alerts, and having local government officials, first responders or volunteers go door to door.
- Even when provincial level notifications are sent for tsunamis, local governments still have an important role as the local effects of tsunamis can differ greatly based on geography and the response actions will vary from one area to another.
- The provincial government encourages people to connect with their local governments to avail themselves of local government alerting systems and inform themselves of local emergency plans and to understand areas at risk.

**Background:**

- Under the Emergency Program Act Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation, local governments have the responsibility to “establish procedures by which those persons who may be harmed or who may suffer loss are notified of an emergency or impending disaster.”
- For tsunamis, the province has two alerting methods:
  - The Provincial Emergency Notification System alerts local government emergency

contacts, key partner agency stakeholders and 24/7 media outlets by phone, email and fax.

- The province also can send alerts using Alert Ready. It is the national system run by Pelmorex, a private company that provides EMBC with the capability to send emergency alerts that interrupt radio and TV broadcasts in a given area. The Canadian Radio-TV and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) mandates that all radio and TV companies transmit alerts that are urgent, severe and certain as a condition of their broadcast license.
- In April 2017 the CRTC also mandated that wireless carriers must transmit, as a condition of their broadcast license, the same alerts to 4G LTE, smartphones when connected to LTE networks.
- The CRTC set the date for wireless companies to transmit alerts as April 6, 2018. This is subject to reports from a technical committee and a committee on wireless alerting public education. Both reports have been delivered to the CRTC but it is seen as unlikely that the CRTC will publish a finding prior to April 6, 2018. This means that while wireless carriers will likely be technically ready on this date, they will not be mandated to transmit alerts until the CRTC publishes its updated findings. Nevertheless, wireless companies may choose to transmit alerts voluntarily.
- Alerts are typically sent in situations where time is critical and pressure to send an alert quickly to save lives is immense. However, it has been shown that errors in alerts, even as simple as spelling mistakes, can lead the public to disregard or question the validity of alerts.
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- The RCMP agreed on February 6, 2018 to use Alert Ready for Amber Alerts. Following signature of a formal agreement and user training they will be able to issue Alert Ready alerts.
- To compensate for Alert Ready's deficiencies, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's Information Management Branch secured \$3.65 million of capital funding from the Office of the Chief Information Officer to develop and implement an alerting hub.
- The hub would rectify Alert Ready's deficiencies and have a single interface with alert templates for likely hazards and integration with existing alerting tools which would transmit alerts on multiple channels such as radio, TV, smartphones and social media.



- The alerting hub project was in its second year and was about to start procurement of the alerting hub when the 2017 flood and fire season, as well as a transfer to a new ministry interrupted the work.
- A limited initial capability was originally expected by March 2018 with full capability by March 2019. Initial capability is now projected for March 2019 with full capability for March 2020.
- The initial version of the alerting hub will be for a limited set of hazards with EMBC and some limited stakeholders as alert issuers. As confidence is gained in the system, the number of alerted hazards will expand and the number of alert issuers will grow to include key stakeholders for specific hazards such as the RCMP for Amber Alerts. The end vision is where local governments and selected key stakeholders issue alerts for their jurisdictions and/or areas of responsibility.

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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Tsunami Warning of  
January 23, 2018 - Event  
Summary****Suggested Response:**

- On January 23, 2018, at 1:32 a.m., a magnitude 7.9 earthquake in Alaska resulted in a tsunami warning being issued for the outer west coast of B.C. and east to Victoria (tsunami zones A, B, C and D). See Appendix 2: January 23, 2018, Tsunami Event Map and Appendix 3: B.C. Tsunami Zones.
- Emergency Management BC (EMBC) received the warning and notified:
  - Affected local governments, emergency response officials and selected media via the Provincial Emergency Notification System (PENS);
  - Radio and television broadcasters via the Alert Ready system, which interrupts regular programming to advise that a tsunami warning is in effect; and
  - The public directly via the EMBC Emergency Info BC blog and Twitter via @EmergencyInfoBC.
- Emergency Management BC also activated the Provincial Emergency Co-ordination Centre and five provincial regional operations centers.
- Many communities immediately activated their emergency plans and warning systems, while others chose to monitor the situation to determine if evacuations should be initiated.
- Although the tsunami warning was later cancelled at 4:16 a.m., this event demonstrated that coastal warning systems in B.C. do work.
- For a full list of events and actions see Appendix 1: Detailed Timeline of Events and Actions of January 23, 2018.
- In the event of a tsunami alert, residents should follow the instructions of their local governments.
- This event was another great reminder for British Columbians to understand the risks where they live and work, have an emergency plan and an emergency kit, and to know where to access trusted sources of information.

**Alerting Systems**

- EMBC issued the alert of the tsunami warning via both the PENS and the Alert Ready intrusive broadcast system.
- The PENS system sends notifications via email, telephone and fax and is designed to alert local governments, emergency response officials and the media of tsunami alerts; they, in turn, are tasked with alerting communities at risk.

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- The government believes that every useful tool should be deployed to alert British Columbians of any potential public safety threat.
- Informing the public with accurate and timely information in the event of an emergency translates into saved lives and safer, more resilient, communities.
- For more information see Estimates note EMBC 18 Public Alerting.

**What can be improved on?**

- EMBC has initiated a review to identify what went well and what could be improved upon, particularly with respect to the notification and response of local governments.
- It will take some time for EMBC to consult all partners and stakeholders, and to complete its assessment of the incident.
- What we do know is that the majority of affected communities received the notification, deployed their emergency plans and were able to assess whether to evacuate residents from potential harm.
- Preliminary improvement opportunities include:
  - Simplifying alerting procedures;
  - Increasing public education around personal preparedness; and

- Validating contact information in the PENS database.

**Background:**

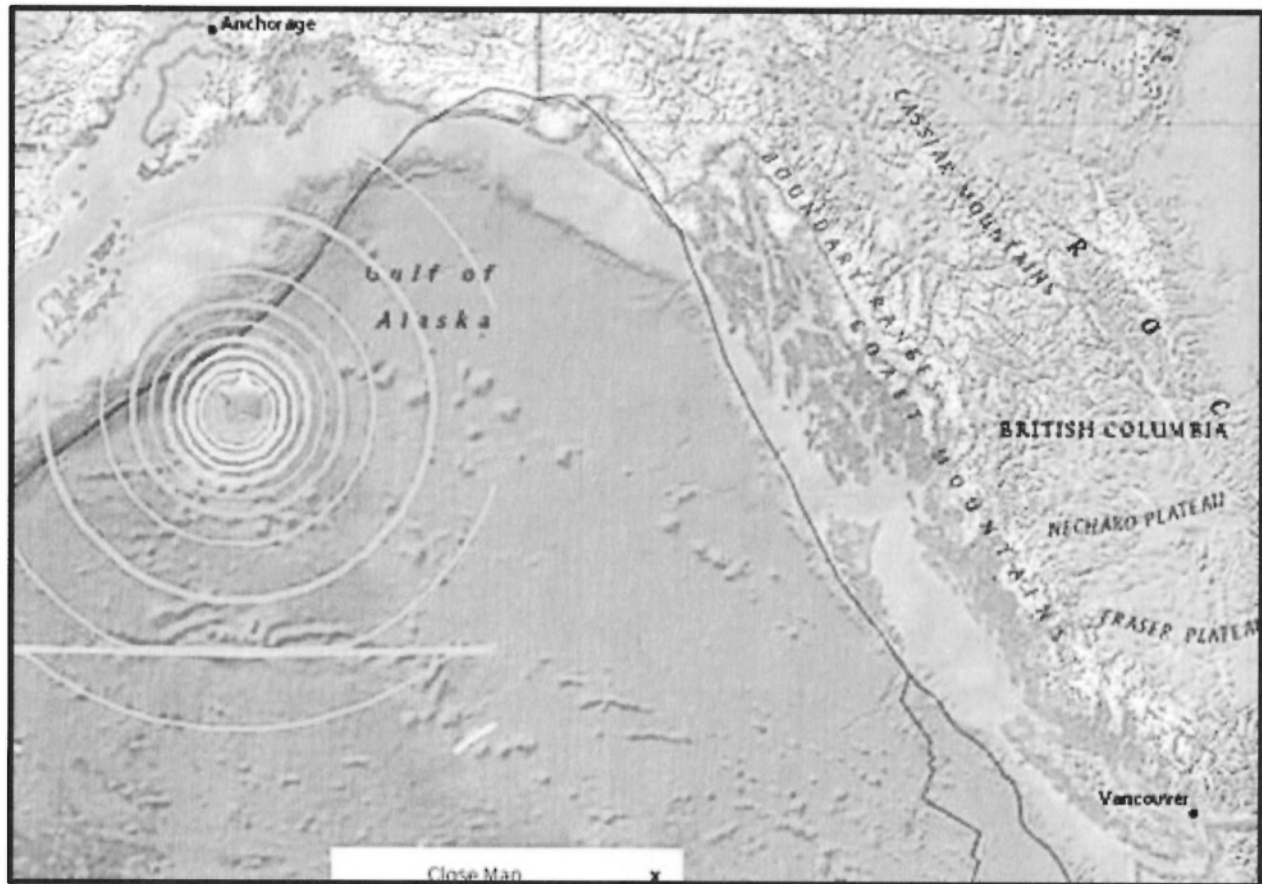
- The National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC), located in Palmer Alaska, is the authoritative source of tsunami information for the continental United States and Canada.
- EMBC is the primary B.C. contact for the NTWC and is responsible for coordinating the dissemination of provincial tsunami messages to local governments, media and other emergency management stakeholders.
- As part of the province's tsunami notification plan, EMBC re-issues tsunami alerts received from the NTWC through the PENS that distributes via email, telephone and fax. In addition, EMBC notifies the public thru the national Alert Ready system and EMBC's Emergency Info BC blog and Twitter via @EmergencyInfoBC.
- The primary role of local authorities is to notify individuals within their jurisdictions of tsunami watches, advisories, warnings and cancellations and they utilize a variety of systems, including sirens, systems that will phone, email or text subscribers, and door-to-door knocking.
- The primary role of the media is to provide up-to-date, accurate and timely information to the public in the interest of public safety. This includes broadcasting tsunami messages and public information to areas under threat.
- To ensure that B.C. communities receive the appropriate tsunami information, EMBC has divided the B.C. coastline into five separate Tsunami Notification Zones (see Appendix 3).

|                               |                     |              |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Contact: Brendan Ralfs (EMBC) | Phone: 250-952-5834 | Mobile: s.17 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|

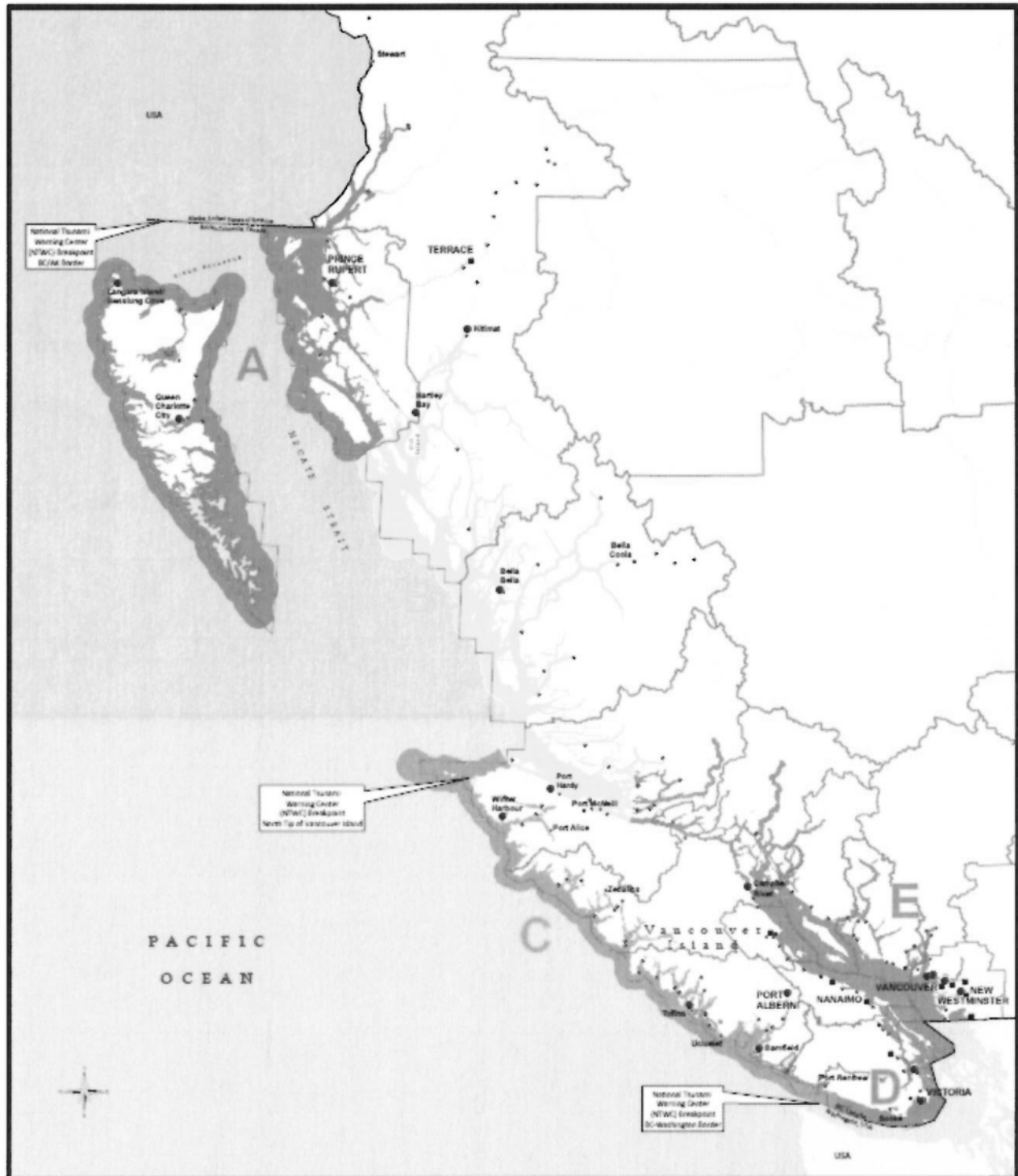
## Appendix 1: Detailed Timeline of Events and Actions of January 23, 2018

| Time (PST) | Event/Action   |
|------------|--|
| 1:32 a.m.  | A magnitude 7.9 earthquake occurred 280 km south east of Kodiak City, Alaska (580 km south of Anchorage, Alaska) at a depth of 25 km. See Appendix 2: January 23, 2018, Tsunami Event Map.   |
| 1:38 a.m.  | The National Tsunami Warning Centre issued a tsunami warning notification for the outer west coast of B.C. which was received by Emergency Management BC (EMBC). A tsunami warning is the highest level of alert issued due to imminent threat of a tsunami.   |
| 1:38 a.m.  | <p>The following B.C. Zones were under Tsunami Warning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zone A: The North Coast and Haida Gwaii;</li> <li>• Zone B: The Central Coast and northeast Vancouver Island including Kitimat, Bella Coola and Port Hardy;</li> <li>• Zone C: The outer West Coast of Vancouver Island from Cape Scott to Sombrio Point; and</li> <li>• Zone D: The Juan de Fuca Strait from Sombrio Point to Greater Victoria including the Saanich Peninsula.</li> </ul> <p>The following B.C. Zone was not under tsunami warning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zone E: The Strait of Georgia including the Gulf Islands, Greater Vancouver and the Johnstone Strait.</li> </ul> |
| 1:51 a.m.  | EMBC notified coastal communities via the Provincial Emergency Notification System, and the public directly via the Emergency Info BC Twitter feed and blog.   |
| 2:15 a.m.  | EMBC initiated a broadcast intrusive message over radio and television with the Alert Ready National Public Alerting System  |
| Next       | EMBC activated the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre in Victoria and five Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres (in Victoria, Surrey, Terrace, Kamloops and Prince George).  |
| Overnight  | Several communities along the B.C. coast activated their emergency plans and evacuated those at possible risk of tsunami waves.  |
| Overnight  | EMBC received no reports or indications that the earthquake had been felt in B.C. and none would be expected.  |
| Overnight  | EMBC received no reports of damage in Alaska due to the earthquake or any subsequent tsunami waves.  |
| 4:16 a.m.  | The National Tsunami Warning Centre issued notification that the tsunami warning had been cancelled for all B.C. coastal regions following an updated forecast which indicated that tsunami wave heights would be 15 cm or less for any impacted coastal areas of B.C.   |
| Next       | EMBC alerted B.C. communities that the tsunami warning had been cancelled for all B.C. Zones via the Provincial Emergency Notification System, the Emergency Info BC Twitter feed and blog, and the Alert Ready National Public Alerting System.   |

Appendix 2: January 23, 2018, Tsunami Event Map



### Appendix 3: BC Tsunami Zones



**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****EMBC Financial  
Reimbursements****Suggested Response:**

- The province is grateful for all the support local governments, First Nations, local vendors and volunteer groups provided through the past disaster season.
- The province continues to work in partnership with these groups to provide financial reimbursement in a timely fashion as well as to:
  - Support reimbursement claim development and documentation requirements; and
  - Support financial reconciliation relating to reimbursements received.

**Background:**

- Freshet started on April 27, 2017 near Rayleigh, along Highway 5 north of the City of Kamloops in the Central region. The freshet overlapped a provincial state of emergency that was declared on July 7, 2017, in response to the significant impacts of wildfire. The state of emergency ended on September 15, 2017.
- An estimated 2,500 people were impacted by freshet and 65,000 people by the fire season.
- Significant volunteer, community, business sector and inter-governmental resources were accessed to help support the events including local vendors, emergency social services (ESS), search and rescue (SA) groups, ministry partners, local governments and First Nations, the federal government and the RCMP.
- EMBC hired an additional 15 seasonal finance support staff to process reimbursement requests related to SAR, ESS, inter-ministry supports and local government and First Nation's response.
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Contact: Kyle Johnson (EMBC)

Phone: 250-893-7708

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**2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE****Parliamentary Secretary  
Jennifer Rice—Mandate  
Letter****Suggested Response:**

- On July 18, 2018 Jennifer Rice was appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness. Her role is to support me.
- Emergency Management BC is the province's lead coordinating agency for all emergency management activities, including planning, training and exercises. It has its own Deputy Minister.
- The appointment of a Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness reflects the province's increased focus on, and commitment to, emergency management, particularly preparedness given the likelihood of a catastrophic earthquake event on the west coast of BC, and large regional emergencies, such as the 2017 flood and wildfire events.
- Parliamentary Secretary Rice is the province's primary spokesperson for emergency preparedness; increasing public awareness and promoting individual and community planning for emergency events.
- As stated in her October 23, 2017 mandate letter, there are three priority areas in which she is expected to make substantive progress:
  - Under the direction of the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, she is to work with Emergency Management BC to assess the experience of recent incidents, including the spill from the Nathan E. Stewart and the 2017 wildfires, with a view to improving government responsiveness in the face of existing and emerging threats to community safety;
  - Work with key stakeholders, particularly those with expertise in strategies to improve community resiliency in the face of climate change, to propose new directions for government policy; and
  - Under the direction of the Minister and in liaison with relevant stakeholders, liaise with First Nations and organizations of indigenous peoples to assess and report on the specific challenges they confront during these incidents and make recommendations for action.

See Appendix 1 for the complete mandate letter.

- Parliamentary Secretary Rice has initiated work in those priority areas through, but not limited, to:

- The Cabinet Task Force convened in response to the 2017 wildfire event—one of six members providing provincial leadership in response to the event and, in the long-term, developing a comprehensive government strategy to address recovery and preparedness;
- The 2017 Post-Freshet and Wildfire After-Action Conference in Kamloops on January 23, 2018—by leading the recognition ceremony for affected First Nations communities; and
- The development of a work plan—by concentrating on key initiatives and engagement in support of emergency preparedness. Key initiatives and engagement include, but are not limited to: the PreparedBC website which contains preparedness information and resources; seismic monitoring and earthquake early warning; training and exercises; and, community engagement post-2017 flood and wildfire events.

**Background:**

- B.C. faces the risk of natural events of catastrophic proportions. According to Natural Resources Canada, there is a 33 percent chance that a major earthquake will occur on the West Coast of B.C. within the next 50 years. This event could be accompanied by tsunamis, floods, and landslides. Such an event would have massive social and economic implications for both the province and Canada.
- A number of influential reports have been released emphasizing the importance and benefits of preparedness related to earthquake impacts. They include the:
  - 2013 Insurance Bureau of Canada earthquake study;
  - 2014 Office of the Auditor General's report on the province's preparedness for a catastrophic event; and
  - 2016 C.D. Howe Institute and Conference Board of Canada reports on the economic impacts of a catastrophic earthquake.
- The release of these reports and recognition of the likelihood of a catastrophic earthquake, and the 2017 flood and wildfire events, have increased the level of focus and commitment within government on emergency management, particularly preparedness as evidenced by the large number of continuing and new actions and initiatives.
- Those actions and initiatives fall across a wide spectrum and include:
  - Continuity of government and government services;
  - Seismic monitoring and earthquake early warning;
  - Integrated seismic asset management;

- February 23, 2018  
Page 3 of 4

priority areas in her mandate letter.

|                             |                     |              |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Contact: Karen Rothe (EMBC) | Phone: 250-356-5324 | Mobile: s.17 |
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BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

October 23, 2017

Jennifer Rice, MLA  
Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness  
East Annex, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Parliamentary Secretary Rice,

Congratulations on your new appointment as Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness.

It has never been more important for new leadership that works for ordinary people, not just those at the top. It is your job to deliver that leadership in your ministry.

Our government made three key commitments to British Columbians.

Our first commitment is to make life more affordable. Too many families were left behind for too long by the previous government. They are counting on you to do your part to make their lives easier.

Our second commitment is to deliver the services that people count on. Together, we can ensure that children get access to the quality public education they need to succeed, that families can get timely medical attention, and that our senior citizens are able to live their final years with dignity.

These and other government services touch the lives of British Columbians every day. It is your job as parliamentary secretary to work within your budget to deliver quality services that are available and effective.

Our third key commitment is to build a strong, sustainable, innovative economy that works for everyone, not just the wealthy and the well-connected. Together, we are going to tackle poverty and inequality, create good-paying jobs in every corner of the province, and ensure people from every background have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

.../2

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Office of the  
Premier

Web Site:  
[www.gov.bc.ca](http://www.gov.bc.ca)

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

Location:  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria

These three commitments along with your specific parliamentary secretary objectives should guide your work and shape your priorities from day to day. I expect you to work with the skilled professionals in the public service to deliver on this mandate.

As you are aware, we have set up a *Confidence and Supply Agreement* with the B.C. Green caucus. This agreement is critical to the success of our government. Accordingly, the principles of "good faith and no surprises" set out in that document should also guide your work going forward. As parliamentary secretary, you are responsible for ensuring members of the B.C. Green caucus are appropriately consulted on major policy issues, budgets, legislation and other matters as outlined in our agreement. This consultation should be coordinated through the Confidence and Supply Agreement Secretariat in the Premier's Office. The secretariat is charged with ensuring that members of the B.C. Green caucus are provided access to key documents and officials as set out in the agreement. This consultation and information sharing will occur in accordance with protocols established jointly by government and the B.C. Green caucus, and in accordance with relevant legislation.

British Columbians expect our government to work together to advance the public good. That means seeking out, fostering, and advancing good ideas regardless of which side of the house they come from.

Our government put forward a progressive vision for a Better B.C. that has won broad support with all members of the legislature. There is consensus on the need to address many pressing issues such as reducing health-care wait times, addressing overcrowded and under-supported classrooms, taking action on climate change, tackling the opioid crisis, and delivering safe, quality, affordable child care for all. As one of my parliamentary secretaries, I expect you to build on and expand that consensus to help us better deliver new leadership for British Columbians.

As part of our commitment to true, lasting reconciliation with First Nations in British Columbia our government will be fully adopting and implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. As parliamentary secretary, you are responsible for moving forward on the calls to action and reviewing policies, programs, and legislation to determine how to bring the principles of the declaration into action in British Columbia.

In your role as Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness, I expect that you will make substantive progress on the following priorities:

- Under the direction of the Minister, work with the Emergency Preparedness Branch to assess the experience of recent incidents, including the spill from the Nathan E. Stewart and the 2017 wildfires, with a view to improving government responsiveness in the face of existing and emerging threats to community safety;

- Work with key stakeholders, particularly those with expertise in strategies to improve community resiliency in the face of climate change, to propose new directions for government policy; and
- Under the direction of the Minister and in liaison with relevant stakeholders, liaise with First Nations and organizations of indigenous peoples to assess and report on the specific challenges they confront during these incidents and make recommendations for action.

All members are expected to review, understand and act according to the *Members Conflict of Interest Act* and to conduct themselves with the highest level of integrity. Remember, as a Parliamentary Secretary of the Crown, the way you conduct yourself will reflect not only on yourself, but on your colleagues and our government as a whole.

I look forward to working with you in the coming weeks and months ahead.

It will take dedication, hard work, and a real commitment to working for people to make it happen, but I know you're up to the challenge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John J. Horgan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Horgan  
Premier

cc: Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General