

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

### **MINISTRY PROFILE**

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General works in partnership with the Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing as the justice and public safety sector to advance a shared vision of a safe, secure, just, and resilient British Columbia.

#### **Overview of the Justice and Public Safety Sector**

**Ministry Mandate:** Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The mission of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General is to develop public safety policy and deliver associated services and programs, administer regulations for the liquor, non-medical cannabis and gaming sectors, and lead the development and coordination of an effective emergency management system for the province.

The ministry is responsible for: policing and law enforcement superintendence; correctional services; crime prevention and reduction; victim services; restorative justice; coroners services; civil forfeiture; liquor, non-medical cannabis and gambling regulation and enforcement; problem gambling prevention and treatment services; road safety; criminal record checks; the protection order registry; private security industry regulation; and consumer protection.<sup>1</sup>

The ministry also includes responsibility for Emergency Management BC (EMBC), which is supported by the Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness. EMBC is the Province's lead coordinating agency for emergency management, through the four-pillar approach of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, as well as fire prevention and safety through the Office of the Fire Commissioner.

**Ministry Mandate:** Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing

The Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing works to keep communities safe and provide certainty, proportionality and, above all, fairness when dealing with criminal, civil and family law matters and to protect people, especially those who are most vulnerable. The ministry, while dealing with these matters, is focused on promoting confidence in the integrity of the sector to ensuring continued public participation and support.

The ministry is responsible for legal services including sheriff and court administration services, legal aid, prosecution services, administrative tribunals, civil and family justice services, protection and promotion of human rights, and providing legal advice to government. It is also responsible for providing British Columbians access to more affordable, safe, and appropriate housing through policy and programs, strata property legislation, technical codes and standards, and services for landlords and tenants, as well as promoting multi-culturalism and leading anti-racism initiatives through the Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives.

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<sup>1</sup> See the appendix for a list of the agencies, boards, commissions, and tribunals for which the Ministers are responsible.

## **Appendix: Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Tribunals**

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

- Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia
- Consumer Protection BC
- Insurance Corporation of British Columbia
- Municipal Police Boards
- Organized Crime Agency of British Columbia
- Vehicle Sales Authority of British Columbia

### **Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing**

- Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC
- Association of BC Forest Professionals
- British Columbia Ferry Commission
- BC Family Maintenance Agency
- BC Housing Management Commission
- BC Human Rights Tribunal
- British Columbia Institute of Agrologists
- British Columbia Review Board
- British Columbia Utilities Commission
- British Columbia Safety Authority (Technical Safety BC)
- Building Code Appeal Board
- Building Officials Association of British Columbia
- Civil Resolution Tribunal
- College of Applied Biology
- Community Care and Assisted Living Appeal Board
- Employment Standards Tribunal
- Engineers and Geoscientists BC
- Environmental Appeal Board
- Financial Services Tribunal
- Forest Appeals Commission
- Health Professions Review Board
- Hospital Appeal Board
- Independent Investigations Office of BC
- Industry Training Appeal Board
- Investigation and Standards Office
- Judicial Council of the Provincial Court of BC
- Labour Relations Board
- Legal Services Society
- Mental Health Review Board
- Notaries Public Foundation and Board of Examiners
- Oil and Gas Appeal Tribunal
- Property Assessment Appeal Board

- Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia
- Safety Standards Appeal Board
- Surface Rights Board
- Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal



November 26, 2020

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

Dear Minister Farnworth:

Thank you for agreeing to serve British Columbians as Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General. You are taking on this responsibility at a time when people in our province face significant challenges as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 has turned the lives of British Columbians upside down. None of us expected to face the challenges of the past number of months, yet British Columbians have demonstrated incredible resilience, time and time again. We will get through the pandemic and its aftereffects by building on this resilience and focusing on what matters most to people.

British Columbians voted for a government focused on their priorities: fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, providing better health care for people and families, delivering affordability and security in our communities, and investing in good jobs and livelihoods in a clean-energy future.

I expect you – and the work of your ministry – to focus on the commitments detailed in our platform, *Working for You*, along with the following foundational principles:

- **Putting people first:** Since 2017, our government has focused on making decisions to meet people's needs. That focus drove our work in our first term and will continue to be our priority. British Columbians are counting on the government to keep them safe and to build an economic recovery that works for everyone, not just those at the top. Keeping people at the centre of everything we do means protecting and enhancing the public services people rely on and working to make life more affordable for everyone.
- **Lasting and meaningful reconciliation:** Reconciliation is an ongoing process and a shared responsibility for us all. The unanimous passage of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* was a significant step forward in this journey. True

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reconciliation will take time and ongoing commitment to work with Indigenous peoples as they move toward self-determination. Our government – and every ministry – must remain focused on creating opportunities for Indigenous peoples to be full partners in our economy and providing a clear and sustainable path for everyone to work toward lasting reconciliation.

- **Equity and anti-racism:** Our province's history, identity and strength are rooted in its diverse population. Yet racialized and marginalized people face historic and present-day barriers that limit their full participation in their communities, workplaces, government and their lives. Our government has a moral and ethical responsibility to tackle systemic discrimination in all its forms – and every ministry has a role in this work. While our caucus elected a record number of women, more work remains to address gender equity. Delivering on our commitments to address racial discrimination will require a commitment by all of government to ensure increased IBPOC (Indigenous, Black and People of Colour) representation within the public service, including in government appointments. Our efforts to address systemic discrimination must also inform policy and budget decisions by reviewing all decisions through a Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens.
- **A better future through fighting climate change:** In 2018, our government launched our CleanBC climate action plan. CleanBC puts British Columbia on the path to a cleaner, better future by building a low-carbon economy with new clean-energy jobs and opportunities, protecting our air, land and water and supporting communities to prepare for climate impacts. It is every Minister's responsibility to ensure your ministry's work continues to achieve CleanBC's goals.
- **A strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone:** We will continue our work to support British Columbians through the pandemic and the economic recovery by investing in health care, getting people back to work, helping businesses and communities, and building the clean, innovative economy of the future. Our plan will train the workforce of tomorrow, help businesses hire and grow and invest in the infrastructure needed to build our province.

The pandemic has reminded us that we're strongest when we work together. Delivering on our commitments to people will require a coordinated effort with your cabinet and caucus colleagues, supported by the skilled professionals in the public service. You will also support your cabinet colleagues to do their work, particularly where commitments cross ministry lines.

British Columbians expect their elected representatives to work together to advance the broader public good despite their partisan perspectives. That means seeking out, fostering and championing good ideas, regardless of their origin. I expect you to reach out to elected members from all parties as you deliver on your mandate. Further, you will build thoughtful and sustained relationships through public and stakeholder engagement plans that connect with people to incorporate their perspectives early in the policy development process. These plans must include measurable outcomes and ensure active dialogue and ongoing outreach in your ministry's actions and priorities.

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