

MINISTER'S TRANSITION BINDER

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MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION

MINISTRY OVERVIEW

Ministry:

Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

Ministry Mandate:

The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction focuses on providing a system of supports to British Columbians in need to help them achieve their social and economic independence and secure a better future. The ministry's key responsibilities include:

- Providing income and disability assistance to those in need;
- Delivering employment programs and services to unemployed and underemployed individuals;
- Supporting community living services to help adults with developmental disabilities and their families develop connections and inclusion with their community;
- Leading implementation of the Accessible B.C. Act, including supporting the work of the Parliamentary Secretary for Accessibility;
- Poverty Reduction; and
- Supporting the work of the Parliamentary Secretary for Parliamentary Secretary for Community Development and Non-Profits

The ministry is guided by five key pieces of legislation: the *Employment and Assistance Act*, the *Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act*, the *Poverty Reduction Strategy Act*, the *Community Living Authority Act*, and the *Accessible B.C. Act*.

Ministry programs and services are designed to help individuals build a solid connection with communities and the labour market to secure their future and in support of governments view that people who can work want to be self-sufficient, support their families and contribute to their communities. By providing temporary help to those who can work, and longer-term aid to those who, through disability or other barriers, have a more difficult time working or who cannot work, the ministry is ensuring the needs of British Columbians are being addressed.

The BC Employment and Assistance caseload is divided into two groups: temporary assistance for individuals who are unemployed or underemployed and disability assistance for individuals who have a disability designation. Both caseloads are impacted by the economy and changing demographics.

The ministry is committed to providing quality service that is consistent and responsive no matter where or how it is delivered. The public may access ministry services through

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traditional channels such as by phone, face-to-face, email, online and fax, and more recently by providing additional self-serve options. The diverse geography of the province and the needs of the people served have guided how the ministry develops its service delivery strategy.

Individuals who disagree with a ministry decision regarding their eligibility to receive assistance can appeal for reconsideration from the Ministry and ultimately to the Employment and Assistance Appeal Tribunal, an independent, quasi-judicial body that provides an independent and accessible appeal process.

The Minister is responsible for Community Living BC (CLBC). CLBC is a provincial Crown agency that delivers supports and services to adults with developmental disabilities and their families. CLBC is accountable to the legislature through the ministry. The Ministry funds CLBC, sets and communicates government's mandate, establishes key policy and priority direction, and oversees performance.

Through the implementation of the *Accessible B.C. Act* government seeks to identify, remove, and prevent barriers experienced by people with disabilities. Passed in June 2021, the Act establishes the legal authority for the development of Accessibility standards in a range of areas and the ability for those standards to be brought into law by regulation. Work to implement the new legislation is ongoing and expected to occur over multiple phases.

Budget:

\$4.456B

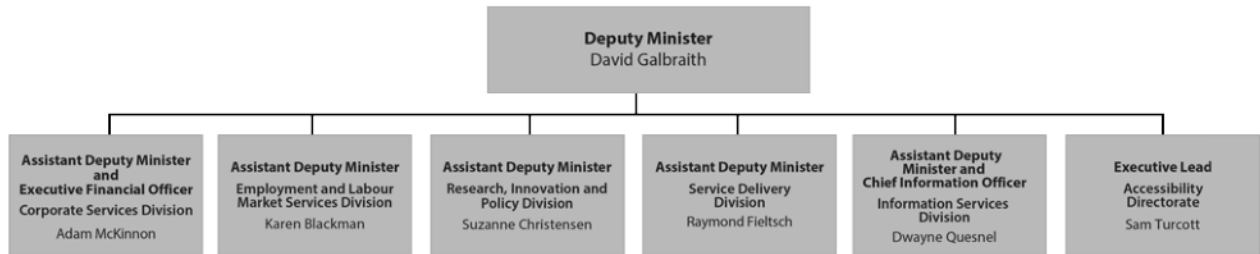
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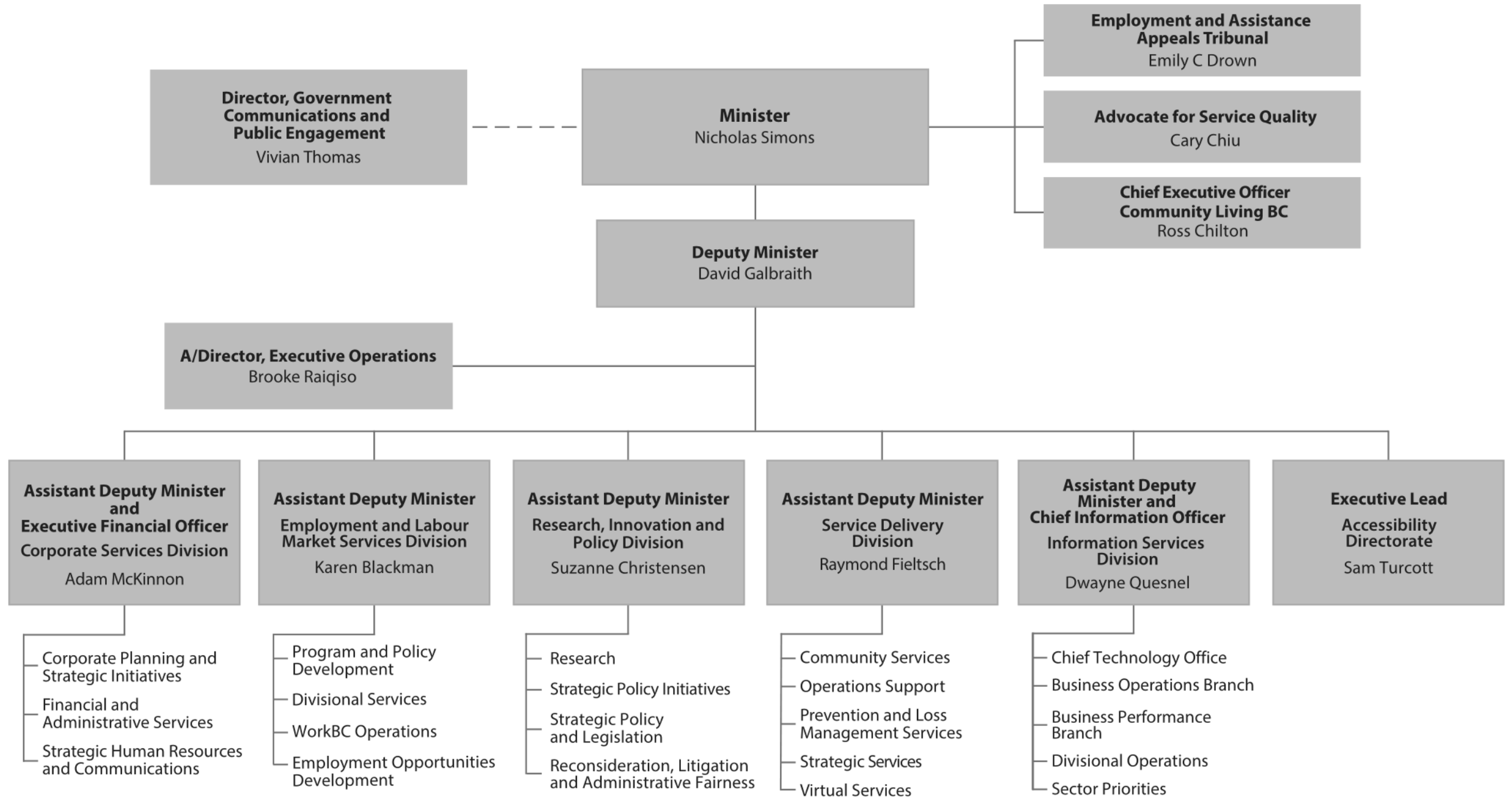
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Organizational Chart:





Organizational Chart

October 2022



Ministry of
Social Development
and Poverty Reduction

