



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Ministry of
Environment and
Climate Change Strategy

Estimates Debates 2024

Prepared for:

Honourable George Heyman

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

A	<u>Opening Remarks</u>
B	<u>Staff Contact List</u>
C	<u>List of MLAs</u>
D	<u>Budget Information</u>
E	<u>Opposition MLA Correspondence Report 2023</u>
F	<u>Green MLA Correspondence Report 2023</u>
G	<u>Opposition MLA Bullet Requests 2023</u>
H	<u>Green MLA Bullet Requests 2023</u>
I	<u>Green Caucus Estimates Questions and Responses 2024</u>

Estimates Notes

CLIMATE ACTION SECRETARIAT	
1	<u>Climate Action Secretariat Overview</u>
2	<u>Carbon Tax and BC Output Based Pricing System</u>
3	<u>CleanBC Program for Industry (CleanBC Incentive Program and CleanBC Industry Fund)</u>
4	<u>CleanBC Budget</u>
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION DIVISION	
BC Parks (BCP)	
5	<u>BCP Overview - General & Budget</u>
6	<u>Cultural Expression in Parks</u>
7	<u>BCP Facility Maintenance</u>
8	<u>BCP Recreation Expansion</u>
Recreation Sites and Trails (RST)	
9	<u>RST Overview</u>
10	<u>Provincial Rail Trail Funding and Maintenance</u>
11	<u>RST - Other Revenues/Funding</u>
Conservation Officer Service (COS)	
12	<u>COS Overview</u>
13	<u>COS Staffing, Deployment and Capacity</u>
14	<u>COS Equipment Resourcing</u>
15	<u>COS Other Revenues</u>
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION (EPD)	
16	<u>EPD Overview and Budget</u>
17	<u>CleanBC Plastics Action Plan including Plastics Action Fund</u>
18	<u>Neucel Former Mill Site, Port Alice & Quatsino First Nation</u>
STRATEGIC SERVICES DIVISION	
19	<u>Resourcing Permitting Solutions</u>

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OFFICE (EAO)	
Profiles and Program Areas	
20	<u>EAO Profile</u>
Environmental Assessment Overview	
21	<u>Environmental Assessment Projects</u>
Corporate Issues & Opportunities	
22	<u>EAO Compliance and Enforcement</u>
23	<u>Timeliness of EAs</u>



SPEAKING POINTS FOR
Hon. George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Budget 2024 Estimates

Wednesday March 13, 2024

Legislative Assembly

Table of Contents

Speaking Points

Introduction

- I'd first like to acknowledge that we're here on the territory of the Lekwungen speaking people the Esquimalt and the So-ngees First Nations.
- I'd also like to introduce the staff that will be supporting me through this debate – and who continue to support me every day.
 - Deputy Minister Kevin Jardine
 - Laurel Nash, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Environmental Protection Division
 - Jeremy Hewitt, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Climate Action Secretariat;
 - Jim Standen, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Conservation and Recreation Division;
 - Chris Trumpy, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Operations Division of the Environmental Assessment Office;
 - Amy Avila, Executive Lead for the Strategic Services Division;
 - and Ranbir Parmar, our Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer.
- And before I begin, I want to offer my sincere appreciation for the people of this institution who make this place work ...
- ... those in government, those in opposition, and the hardworking staff of the legislative assembly and in the public service.
- As you know, I won't be seeking re-election this fall, so I'm excited for one more debate of the estimates of my ministry's budget.

OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE PERSONAL STORY OF TIME IN OPPOSITION

- And as I look back at the last seven years, I'm proud of the steps we've taken in my ministry and across government...
- encouraged with the path that we're on to protect our natural environment, and everyone and everything that depends on it.
- Continue to be challenged by the effects of climate change; drought, floods and extreme heat.
- Global inflation also challenging people like never before, we're taking action to build a strong, inclusive and clean economy that works for everyone...
- Some possible examples:
 - Heat pump rebates
 - More EV charging stations
 - More campsites that are easier to book
- We continue to work towards more ways to help people with the cost of living.
- CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 is the strong action we need to make progress.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- Climate Change Accountability Report shows we're making progress.
- 2023 report shows emissions are down 5% from 2018, the year our CleanBC plan was released.
- Current and future actions put B.C. on track to achieve 96% of our climate targets by 2030.
- Continuing to accelerate thoughtful, effective CleanBC policies can meet our climate targets and secure a more affordable future.
- This includes a 50% decrease in methane emissions from oil and gas, surpassing our 2025 reduction target of 45%, and putting us on a path toward a 75% reduction by 2030.

Table of Contents

- Passenger electric vehicle sales continue to be the highest in Canada, with 22.9% of all new sales so far in 2023, progressing well to B.C.'s target of 26% by 2026.
- Public charging network grew by 24% to remain one of the largest public charging networks in Canada.
- More than 13,000 CleanBC rebates for residential retrofits in 2023, including 6,000 incentives to make heat pumps more affordable, for an 84% increase from the previous year.
- People can save as much as \$14,300 on equipment and installation by combining a provincial sales tax exemption with provincial, federal and municipal top-up and rebate programs.
- Budget 2024 reaffirms our commitment to climate action.
- It includes \$318 million to continue lower emissions through clean transportation, energy-efficient buildings and communities, and support for the transition to a low-carbon economy.
- Another \$93 million will help people and communities reduce emissions:
 - \$40 million for additional heat pump rebates for households with low and middle incomes to provide access to affordable, clean energy;
 - \$20 million for active transportation grants to communities;
 - \$30 million to continue the implementation of electric vehicle public charging infrastructure; and
 - \$3 million to support youth involvement in climate-action initiatives.

INDUSTRY/OBPS

- While we're making great progress, we all agree that to make true progress on climate change, the economy and the environment need to go hand in hand.
- In February, we announced our finalized, updated carbon pricing system for large industry that will incentivize companies to lower pollution and create

Table of Contents

more good, clean jobs.

- Starting in 2024, B.C.'s output-based pricing system will see large industry pay for its emissions above a set target...
- ... and ensure companies have flexibility, support and incentives to reduce emissions and transition to a clean-energy future.
- This was the key request of industry
- ...and we have had great response from both industry – including the Mining Association of BC, Teck and Rio Tinto, as well as the Canadian Climate Institute and Clean Energy Canada.
- Industrial operators also have access to the CleanBC Industry Fund, which supports their transition to clean-energy solutions.
- We've invested \$215 million back into industry and reduced almost nine million tonnes of carbon emissions – the fund will be open for new applications in spring 2024.
- And last year, we announced our New Energy Action Framework, to support a strong economy and good, clean jobs.
- The plan will require proposed LNG facilities in B.C. to have a credible plan to achieve net-zero emissions by 2030 to proceed through the environmental assessment process.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- Another key mandate of my ministry is our work to make sure the environment is protected, clean, safe and resilient.
- All British Columbians deserve access to a sustainable and healthy environment.

- Clean Coast Clean Waters Initiative partners with communities to clean our coastlines, remove plastic waste, derelict vessels, and other harmful debris.
- The initiative protects our marine environment, creates jobs, and fosters economic recovery in coastal communities, all while aligning with the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan and B.C.'s commitment to a healthy future.
- The CleanBC Plastics Action Plan is a crucial step towards a cleaner future for our province.
- It tackles plastic pollution at its source by phasing out single-use plastics and transitioning to a circular economy.
- This protects our environment and encourages innovation, clean jobs and helps people make sustainable choices.
- We have also increased grants through the Community Wood Smoke Reduction Program, which helps people breathe healthier air in their homes and in their communities.
- In partnership with the BC Lung Foundation, the Government of B.C. will provide \$240,000 in rebates this year to help replace 350 wood stoves with cleaner alternatives, including heat pumps.
- By offering rebates of up to \$3,000, we're encouraging residents to transition from older, polluting wood stoves to cleaner alternatives, particularly efficient heat pumps.

BC PARKS

- I also want to touch on our work to continue improving BC's Parks and Recreation Sites, which have been a source of joy for millions of people in British Columbia.
- Since 2017, we have added more than 1,800 new campsites to BC Parks and recreation sites in regions with the highest demand – the Lower Mainland, Thompson-Okanagan, Kootenay Rockies and Mount Robson.

- Of those campsites, 500 are located in Lower Mainland parks including Cultus Lake, Golden Ears, Chilliwack Lake, Stawamus Chief and Garibaldi, with another 40 campsites under construction in the Lower Mainland this coming year.
- Since the journey for many people seeking outdoor experiences begins online, we have created a new BC Parks website and online reservation service to provide easier access to information people need to plan a trip to a park.
- Launched in March 2022, the new reservation service was designed with input from campers, park operators and other service organizations, and is more reliable and easier to use.
- In 2023, the new “notify me” feature was added to the reservation service. The feature provides email notifications when a previously booked campsite becomes available at a specific campground.
- In October 2021, we announced a \$21.5 million investment for new campsites, trails and better facilities – including more accessibility options as we work to provide a more inclusive experience.
- In 2022, we constructed a new, fully serviced 90-site campground in E.C. Manning Park. The project is the first of its kind since it offers sites with hookups for water, sewer, and electricity.
- And we have established three new conservancies – including the
 - Tsaa Nuna (sa-nuh-na) Conservancy,
 - Tenh Dzetle (ten-thet-luh) Conservancy,
 - and Incomappleux (in-comma-plu) Conservancy.
- Through the Land Acquisition Program, BC Parks has acquired nearly 1,200 hectares of private land to add to parks and protected areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OFFICE

- And lastly, I want to touch on our Environmental Assessment Office, which plays a critical role in ensuring responsible development of major projects in our province.

Table of Contents

- In October, Minister Osborne and I issued an Environmental Assessment Certificate for the Cariboo Gold mine.
- This is the first project to have gone through a full environmental assessment under the new Environmental Assessment Act, which came into force in 2019.
- The project is a clear example of what the revitalized Act was designed to do to:
 - Enhance public confidence, transparency and meaningful public participation;
 - Advance reconciliation with First Nations and Indigenous groups; and,
 - Continue to protect the environment, people and communities while offering clear pathways to approvals on sustainable projects that create economic opportunities for the province.
- An important part of the EAO's assessment of projects that are proposing large workcamps near existing communities is the consideration of ways to reduce the impacts from the large influx of workers on the community and on specific groups, including gender.
- For the Woodfibre LNG project, the EAO heard considerable concern from the community about the potential effects of the workcamp on the District of Squamish, given the project's proximity to the small town.
- In response, for the first time, the EAO has required a Gender and Cultural Safety Plan, which is set to become standard practice for future projects with large work camps.
- It supports B.C.'s Gender-based Violence Action Plan, and is a concrete example of work that responds to violence against women, girls and gender diverse people.
- In 2023, the EAO also signed a second consent agreement with the Tahltan Nation on the Red Chris project that will guide how we move forward on proposed projects on their land.

- The work that the EAO is doing is some of the best in the country – possibly the world.

CONCLUSION

- That brings me to the end of my remarks.
- I look forward to your questions.

ENV ESTIMATES CONTACT LIST

NAME	ROLE	NUMBER
DEPUTY MINISTER'S OFFICE		
Responsibilities: All		
Kevin Jardine	Deputy Minister	250-361-6753
Jennifer Meadows	Director, Executive Operations	250-507-0063
Haley Ronda	Manager, Executive Operations	778-698-0426
CORPORATE SERVICES FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCES SECTOR		
Responsibilities: Budget		
Ranbir Parmar	Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer	250-213-8119
James Pittman	Chief Financial Officer and Executive Director	250 208-6616
Stefan Colantonio	Director, Financial Planning & Reporting	250-952-0701
GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT		
Scott McKenzie	Communications Director	250 893-4126
Matthew Borghese	Communications Manager	250-213-7655
CLIMATE ACTION SECRETARIAT		
Responsibilities: CleanBC, Roadmap to 2030, Program for Industry, Climate Adaptation		
Jeremy Hewitt	Assistant Deputy Minister	250-888-1466
Don D'Souza	ED, Accountability, Economics and Analysis	250-698-3662
Adria Fradley	ED, Clean Growth	250-893-4329
Elaine Cross	ED, Climate Partnerships & Engagement	778 974-2738
Cameron Lewis	ED, Resilience & Indigenous Relations	250-213-6882
Cheryl Tromp	Manager, Division Operations	250-978-9822
Cyndee Nurnberger	Executive Administrative Assistant	250-940-8686
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION DIVISION (Formerly BCRST)		
Responsibilities: Parks Future Strategy, Campsite Expansion and Parks Foundation, Recreation Sites and Trails, Conservation Officer Service		
Jim Standen	Assistant Deputy Minister	250-888-7299
John Hawkings	Executive Lead, Recreation Strategy and Service Transformation	604 815-8866
Bob Austad	ED, Regional Operations	250-889-5462
David Ranson	ED, Provincial Services	250-818-6859
Rumon Carter	ED, BC Parks Service Transformation	250-896-2329
Jennie Aikman	ED, Recreation Sites and Trails	604-398-5913
Cam Schley	Chief Conservation Officer	250-876-6831
Launa Murai	Issues Manager	250-208-5933
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION		
Responsibilities: Spills, Waste, Regulatory regime, Extended Producer Responsibility, <i>Environmental Management Act (EMA)</i> , <i>Integrated Pest Management Act (IPMA)</i> , EMA and IPMA Compliance and Enforcement		
Laurel Nash	Assistant Deputy Minister	250-508-1670
Douglas Hill	ED, Authorizations and Remediation	250-302-3586
Sonya Sundberg	ED, Environmental Standards	250-213-1843
Rod Allen	ED, Env. Emerg & Land Remediation	778-974-3731
Robyn Roome	ED, Env. Monitoring & Analysis	778-671-9190
Brady Nelles	ED, Compliance and Environmental Enforcement	250-645-9314

Kara Charlton	Director, Strategic Initiatives	778-974-5089
Abbey Askin	Manager, Divisional Operations	778-362-7118
STRATEGIC SERVICES		
Responsibilities: Intergovernmental Relations, Corporate Planning, Legislation, Indigenous Partnerships, Service Transformation, Corporate support for Estimates.		
Amy Avila	Lead	778-679-3522
Lisa Paquin	ED, Strategic Policy	778-698-4419
Kelsey Singbeil	ED, Service Transformation	250-883-4029
James Prsala	ED, Indigenous Partnerships & Engagement	778-698-7290
Marta Gimenez-Sanchez	Estimates Lead	236-478-2834
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OFFICE		
Responsibilities: <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> , Compliance and Enforcement, Indigenous Relations		
Elenore Arend	Associate Deputy Minister	250-415-6297
Chris Trumpy	Assistant Deputy Minister	250-415-7754
Julie Chace	ED, Strategic Services and Compliance	778-677-6365
Mirella Standbridge	ED, Corporate Services	250-514-8413
Ann Lockley	A/ED, Communications & Engagement	778-974-5803
Sabrina Loiacono	Manager, Executive Operations	778-698-9290

Members of the Legislative Assembly – Feb 2024

B.C. NDP Caucus (55)

MLA	Constituency
Alexis, Pam (Hon.)	Minister of Agriculture and Food , Abbotsford - Mission
Anderson, Brittny	Parl. Sec for Tourism , Nelson - Creston
Babchuk, Michele	North Island
Bailey, Brenda (Hon.)	Minister of Jobs, Economic Development & Innovation , Vancouver-False Creek
Bains, Harry (Hon.)	Minister of Labour , Surrey-Newton
Beare, Lisa (Hon.)	Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills , Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows
Begg, Garry	Surrey-Guildford
Brar, Jagrup (Hon.)	Minister of State for Trade , Surrey-Fleetwood
Chandra Herbert, Spencer	Vancouver-West End
Chant, Susie	Parl. Sec for Accessibility , North Vancouver-Seymour
Chen, Katrina	Burnaby-Lougheed
Chouhan, Raj (Hon.)	Speaker of the Legislative Assembly , Burnaby-Edmonds
Chow, George	Minister of Citizens' Services , Vancouver-Fraserview
Conroy, Katrine (Hon.)	Minister of Finance, Minister Responsible for the Columbia River Treaty , Kootenay West
Coulter, Dan (Hon.)	Minister of State for Infrastructure and Transit , Chilliwack
Cullen, Nathan (Hon.)	Minister of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship , Stikine
D'Eith, Bob (K.C.)	Parl. Sec for Arts & Film , Maple Ridge – Mission
Dean, Mitzi (Hon.)	Minister of State for Child Care , Esquimalt-Metchosin
Dix, Adrian (Hon.)	Minister of Health and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs , Vancouver-Kingsway
Donnelly, Fin	Parl. Sec for Watershed Restoration , Coquitlam – Burke Mountain
Dykeman, Megan	Parl. Sec for Community Development & Non-profits , Langley East
Eby, David (Hon.) (K.C.)	Premier and President of the Executive Council , Vancouver-Point Grey
Elmore, Mable	Parl. Sec for Anti-Racism Initiatives , Vancouver-Kensington
Farnworth, Mike (Hon.)	Minster of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Deputy Premier , Port Coquitlam
Fleming, Rob (Hon.)	Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure , Victoria-Swan Lake
Glumac, Rick	Port Moody-Coquitlam
Greene, Kelly	Parl. Sec for Fisheries and Aquaculture , Richmond - Steveston
Heyman, George (Hon.)	Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy , Vancouver-Fairview
Kahlon, Ravi (Hon.)	Government House Leader, Minister of Housing , Delta North
Kang, Anne (Hon.)	Minister of Municipal Affairs , Burnaby-Deer Lake

Leonard, Ronna Rae	Courtenay-Comox
Lore, Grace (Hon.)	Minister of Children and Family Development , Victoria – Beacon Hill
Ma, Bowinn (Hon.)	Minister of Emergency Management & Climate Readiness , North Vancouver-Lonsdale
Malcolmson, Shelia (Hon.)	Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction , Nanaimo
Mercier, Andrew (Hon.)	Minister of State for Sustainable Forestry Innovation , Langley
Osborne, Josie (Hon.)	Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation , Mid-Island – Pacific Rim
Paddon, Kelli	Parl. Sec for Gender Equity , Chilliwack-Kent
Parmar, Ravi	Parl. Sec for International Credentials , Langford-Juan de Fuca
Phillip, Joan	Vancouver-Mount Pleasant
Popham, Lana (Hon.)	Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport , Saanich South
Ralston, Bruce (Hon.) (K.C.)	Minister of Forests, Minister Responsible for Consular Corps , Surrey-Whalley
Rankin, Murray (Hon.) (K.C.)	Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation , Oak Bay – Gordon Head
Rice, Jennifer	Parl. Sec for Rural Health , North Coast
Routledge, Janet	Parl. Sec for Labour , Burnaby North
Routley, Doug	Parl. Sec for Value-Added Manufacturing , Nanaimo-North Cowichan
Russell, Roly	Parl. Sec for Rural Development , Boundary - Similkameen
Sandhu, Harwinder	Parl. Sec for Seniors' Services & Long-Term Care , Vernon – Monashee
Sharma, Niki (Hon.) (K.C.)	Attorney General , Vancouver-Hastings
Simons, Nicholas	Powell River-Sunshine Coast
Sims, Jinny	Surrey-Panorama
Singh, Aman	Parl. Sec for Environment , Richmond-Queensborough
Singh, Rachna (Hon.)	Minister of Education and Child Care , Surrey-Green Timbers
Starchuk, Mike	Surrey - Cloverdale
Whiteside, Jennifer (Hon.)	Minister of Mental Health & Addictions , New Westminster
Yao, Henry	Richmond South Centre

B.C. United (26)

MLA	Constituency
Ashton, Dan	Penticton
Bernier, Mike	Peace River South
Bond, Shirley	Prince George – Valemount
Clovechok, Doug	Columbia River - Revelstoke
Davies, Dan	Peace River North
De Jong, Michael (K.C.)	Abbotsford West
Doerkson, Lorne	Cariboo-Chilcotin
Falcon, Kevin	Leader of the Opposition , Vancouver-Quilchena

Halford, Trevor	Surrey-White Rock
Kirkpatrick, Karin	West Vancouver - Capilano
Kyllo, Greg	Shuswap
Lee, Michael	Vancouver-Langara
Letnick, Norm	Kelowna-Lake Country
Merrifield, Renee	Opposition Critic for ENV, Kelowna-Mission
Milobar, Peter	Kamloops-North Thompson
Morris, Mike	Prince George – Mackenzie
Oakes, Coralee	Cariboo North
Paton, Ian	Delta South
Ross, Ellis	Skeena
Shypitka, Tom	Kootenay East
Stewart, Ben	Kelowna-West
Stone, Todd	Kamloops-South Thompson
Sturdy, Jordan	West Vancouver – Sea to Sky
Sturko, Elenore	Surrey South
Tegart, Jackie	Fraser-Nicola
Wat, Theresa	Richmond North Centre

B.C. Green Caucus (2)

MLA	Constituency
Furstenau, Sonia	Leader of the BC Green Party, Cowichan Valley
Olsen, Adam	Saanich North & The Islands

Conservative Party of B.C. (2)

MLA	Constituency
Rustad, John	Leader of the Conservative Party of B.C., Nechako Lakes
Banman, Bruce	Abbotsford South

Independent (2)

MLA	Constituency
Robinson, Selina	Coquitlam-Maillardville
Walker, Adam	Parksville - Qualicum

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Budget Briefing

Fiscal 2024/25

Table of Contents

	Overview	Pages
1	<u>Budget Day Contact List</u>	1
2	<u>Budget Power Point Summary</u>	3
3	<u>Budget Highlights</u>	10
4	<u>Ministry Service Plan</u>	12
5	<u>Estimates Blue Book</u>	32
6	<u>Supplement to the Estimates (combined with Blue Book)</u>	41
7	<u>Budget Questions & Answers</u>	43
	Operating Budget Summaries	
8	<u>Budget 2024 Decisions Change Overview</u>	44
9	<u>Operating Budget Year Over Year Comparison</u>	45
10	<u>Operating Budget by Core Business</u>	47
11	<u>Operating Budget by Group Account Classification</u>	48
12	<u>Capital Budget</u>	49
13	<u>Revenue</u>	50
14	<u>Headcount (by Core Business & by Classification)</u>	51
15	<u>Key Messages/Stakeholder Requests (from GCPE)</u>	55
16	<u>Key Messages & Q&A - OBPS (from GCPE)</u>	57

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY (ENV)

Title	Contact	Private Office phone	Cell phone	Key Responsibilities/ Issues¹
Deputy Minister	Kevin Jardine	250-387-5429	250-361-6753	All
EFO / ADM, Corporate Services	Ranbir Parmar	778-698-3756	250-213-8119	Budget
Associate Deputy Minister EAO	Elenore Arend	778-974-3009	250-415-6297	Environmental Assessment projects, process, fees, review
ADM, Environmental Protection Division	Laurel Nash	250 953-4004	250 508-1670	Compliance and enforcement, contaminated sites and land remediation, environmental emergency program, extended producer responsibility, integrated pest management
ADM, Conservation and Recreation	Jim Standen	250-387-1288	250 888-7299	Environmental enforcement, Conservation Officer Service, BC Parks, Rec Sites & Trails
ADM, Climate Action Secretariat	Jeremy Hewitt	250-387-1134	250-888-1466	Clean BC, Climate Preparedness and Adaptation, climate policy and legislation
Executive Lead, Recreation Strategy and Service Transformation	John Hawkings	250-468-3918	604-815-8866	Outdoor recreation and guide recreation management service delivery

Lead, Strategic Services	Amy Avila	778-698-7296	778-679-3522	Indigenous partnerships, intergovernmental relations, business transformation, regulatory effectiveness, and sector integration, strategic policy and legislation.
Director, Communications (GCPE)	Scott McKenzie	778-698-7596	250-893-4126	All
Chief Financial Officer	James Pittman	778-698-5787	250-208-6616	Budget



Ministry of
Environment and
Climate Change
Strategy

Budget 2024

February 2024

[Table of Contents](#)

[Budget Info TOC](#)

Ministry Budget 2023/24 – 2026/27

	2023/24 Restated	Change	2024/25 Estimates	2025/26 Plan	2026/27 Plan
Ministry Operations					
Environmental Protection	29,940	2,049	31,989	32,018	32,018
Conservation & Recreation	89,986	9,137	99,123	99,008	99,043
Climate Action	43,755	(23,891)	19,864	19,864	19,864
CleanBC Program for Industry	5,650	11	5,661	5,661	5,661
Executive & Support Services	30,351	1,065	31,416	31,356	31,356
Sub-Total	199,682	(11,629)	188,053	187,907	187,942
Environmental Assessment Office	16,392	682	17,074	17,074	17,074
Sub-Total	16,392	682	17,074	17,074	17,074
Park Enhancement Fund SA	12,920	69	12,989	12,989	12,989
Sustainable Environment Fund	26,135	-	26,135	26,135	26,135
TOTAL Ministry	255,129	(10,878)	244,251	244,105	244,140

Budget 2024 Highlights

- Budget 2024 is decreased by \$10.878M over the restated 2023/24 budget. Changes include:
 - Increase of \$2.371M for additional Conservation Officers
 - Increase of \$2.589M to salary and benefits for the Shared Recovery Mandate
 - Decrease of \$23.886M due to payments under Local Government Climate Action Program being accelerated and provided early, in 2023/24

Budget 2024 Changes by Core Business

Changes from 2023/24 Restated

	2023/24 Restated	2024/25 Estimates	Change	Budget 2024 Decisions			Budget 2022 & 2023 Decisions					
				Conservation Officer Services Uplift	Local Government Climate Action Program Acceleration	Shared Recovery Mandate	Clean BC Roadmap to 2030	CPAS Funding	Permitting	Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure	Shared Recovery Mandate	CleanBC minor Adj
Ministry Operations												
Environmental Protection	29,940	31,989	2,049			719	24	(105)	749		662	
Conservation & Recreation	89,986	99,123	9,137	1,999		863			325	5,040	910	
Climate Action	43,755	19,864	(23,891)		(23,886)	352	(505)	3			145	
CleanBC Program for Industry	5,650	5,661	11									11
Executive & Support Services	30,351	31,416	1,065	372		196		102	353		42	
Sub-Total	199,682	188,053	(11,629)	2,371	(23,886)	2,130	(481)	-	1,427	5,040	1,759	11
Environmental Assessment Office	16,392	17,074	682			419			115		148	
Sub-Total	16,392	17,074	682	-	-	419	-	-	115	-	148	-
Park Enhancement Fund SA	12,920	12,989	69			40					29	
Sustainable Environment Fund	26,135	26,135	-									
TOTAL Ministry	255,129	244,251	(10,878)	2,371	(23,886)	2,589	(481)	-	1,542	5,040	1,936	11

[Table of Contents](#)

[Budget Info TOC](#)

Fiscal Plan Comparison

Fiscal Plan Comparison (\$000)	2023/24 Restated	2024/25 Estimates	2025/26 Plan	2026/27 Plan
Budget 2023 - Baseline	255,129	263,177	263,550	263,550
Conservation Officer Uplift		2,371	1,852	1,887
LGCAP Acceleration		(23,886)	(23,886)	(23,886)
Shared Recovery Mandate		2,589	2,589	2,589
Budget 2024 Total Budget	255,129	244,251	244,105	244,140

Minister's Office

Minister's Office Budget	2023/24 Restated	2024/25 Estimates	Change
Ministry Operations			
Salaries and benefits	640	640	-
Legislative Salaries	75	75	-
Travel	75	75	-
Information Systems	10	10	-
Office Expenses	22	22	-
Total Budget	822	822	-

Capital Budget

3 Year Capital Budget (\$000)	2023/24 Estimates	2024/25 Estimates	2025/26 Plan	2026/27 Plan
Ministry Operations				
Land Acquisition	7,000	6,950	2,000	2,000
Land Improvements	31,614	30,565	26,614	26,614
Vehicles	5,932	4,384	1,900	1,900
Office Equipment	10	10	10	10
Specialized Equipment	2,419	2,777	2,092	2,092
Centralized Assets Total	46,975	44,686	32,616	32,616
Ministry Operations Total	46,975	44,686	32,616	32,616
Park Enhancement Fund				
Land Improvements	300	300	300	300
Specialized Equipment	100	100	100	100
Park Enhancement Fund Total	400	400	400	400
Ministry Total	47,375	45,086	33,016	33,016

- The Ministry budget of **\$244.251M** in 2024/25 is made up of the Ministry Operations vote, the Environmental Assessment Office vote, and two special accounts.

Ministry Operations

- Budget 2024 includes a **\$11.629M decrease** over the restated 2023/24 Estimates budget:
 - **\$5.040M increase** for Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure to enhance existing asset maintenance and replacement programs (Budget 2023 decision)
 - **\$3.889M increase** to salary and benefits for the Shared Recovery Mandate (incl. Budget 2023 and 2024 decisions)
 - **\$2.371M increase** for conservation officers to support First Nation agreement commitments, enhance natural resource monitoring and respond to increasing human wildlife conflict and climate-related emergencies
 - **\$1.427M increase** to fund the implementation of the Solutions Framework for permitting (Budget 2023 decision)
 - **\$0.011M increase** to Minister's Office to reflect current staff complement
 - **Decrease of \$23.886M** due to acceleration of payments under the Local Government Climate Action Program
 - **Decrease of \$0.481M** to CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 activities (Budget 2022 decision)
- The Ministry Operations budget (Vote 24) in 2024/25 is **\$188.053M**; **\$11.629M** or **5.82%** lower than the restated 2023/24 budget.

Environmental Assessment Office

- The budget for the Environment Assessment Office (Vote 25) in 2024/25 is **\$17.074M** – this represents an increase of **\$0.682M** over the restated 2023/24 budget.
 - **\$0.567M increase** to salary and benefits for the Shared Recovery Mandate (incl. Budget 2023 and 2024 decisions)
 - **\$0.115M increase** to fund the implementation of the Solutions Framework for permitting

Special Accounts

- The budget for the Park Enhancement Fund is **\$12.989M**
 - **\$0.069M** to salary and benefits for the Shared Recovery Mandate (incl. Budget 2023 and 2024 decisions)

- The budget for the Sustainable Environment Fund is **\$26.135M**
 - No changes to budget from FY2023/24

Capital

- The capital budget is **\$45.086M** in 2024/25.
 - **\$6.0M** for land improvements and specialized equipment for Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure.
 - **\$0.643M** for Vehicles and specialized equipment for Conservation Officers

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

2024/25 – 2026/27 Service Plan

February 2024



[Table of Contents](#)

[Budget Info TOC](#)

For more information on the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy contact:

PO BOX 9335
STN PROV GOVT
VICTORIA, B.C.
V8W 9M1

1-800-663-7867

Or visit our website at:

<https://www.gov.bc.ca/ENV>

Published by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Table of Contents

Budget Info TOC

Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2024/25 – 2026/27 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 that reads "G. Heyman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
February 9, 2024

Table of Contents

Minister’s Accountability Statement 3
Strategic Direction..... 5
Purpose of the Ministry..... 5
Operating Environment..... 6
Performance Planning 7
Financial Summary 18
Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations 20

Strategic Direction

In 2024/25, the Government of British Columbia will remain focused on providing the services and infrastructure that people depend on to build a good life. Government will continue delivering results that matter to British Columbians including helping people with costs, attainable and affordable housing, strengthened health care, safer communities, and a secure, clean, and fair economy. Government will continue working collaboratively with Indigenous Peoples as it implements the Action Plan for the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and delivers initiatives that advance reconciliation in ways that make a difference in communities throughout the province.

This 2024/25 service plan outlines how the [Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy](#) will support the government's priorities and selected action items identified in the December 7, 2022, Minister's [Mandate Letter](#).

Purpose of the Ministry

Under the [Ministry of Environment Act](#), the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy has responsibilities for the protection, management, and conservation of British Columbia's water, land, air, and living resources. Other ministries in the natural resource sector also have responsibilities in these areas in accordance with their own legislation and mandates.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy delivers its mandate through several other key pieces of legislation including the Environmental Management Act, the Integrated Pest Management Act, the Park Act, the Protected Areas of British Columbia Act, the Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act, the Climate Change Accountability Act, and the Environmental Assessment Act. A full list of provincial legislation can be found at [BC Laws](#).

The ministry administers the province's parks and protected areas, and recreation sites and trails; monitors and enforces compliance with environmental laws and regulations; manages discharge to the environment from human activities; and protects B.C.'s biodiversity, ecosystems, native species, and natural habitats in parks and protected areas. It acquires, manages, and analyzes environmental and climate data to provide a robust platform for decision-making across the province. It mitigates and manages the risks and consequences from climate change, including developing plans to meet greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets; responds to the impacts of climate change; and oversees provincial environmental assessment through the [Environmental Assessment Office](#). The ministry delivers services directly through staff, based in regional offices across the province, as well as through partnerships and agreements with First Nations, local governments, the federal government, and stakeholder groups.

Operating Environment

Looking into 2024/2025, the next fiscal year, the ministry expects to see continuing impacts on its operations due to climate change, most significantly due to extreme weather events across the province. The ministry will continue to dedicate resources to the clean-up of debris from the November 2021 atmospheric river event, which included significant damage to BC Parks infrastructure such as local access roads, park trails, tunnels, and bridges. The province recorded its worst ever wildfire season in 2023 in terms of area burned. Combined with the effects of the historic drought that the province is currently experiencing, there is a high likelihood of significant wildfires in 2024. Wildfires have serious impacts across the province, including damage to B.C. parks and protected areas. Wildfires can also create hazardous or toxic debris that must be managed during clean-up. Unfortunately, we can expect climate impacts like these will continue to affect the province and the ministry in the coming years.

The ministry is charged with helping the province prepare for climate change effects like these by implementing its [Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy](#), and launching the [ClimateReadyBC](#) platform to help communities and others identify and manage disaster and climate risks. Each year the ministry learns more about climate preparedness and will continue to examine resiliency efforts to help us focus our funding.

The ministry faces a complex regulatory environment as it continues its leadership in addressing climate change mitigation while maintaining alignment with evolving policy and legislation at the federal level. Government announced in Budget 2023 that it will be adopting an [Output-Based Pricing System](#) (OBPS) to align with federal legislation. Government will begin the transition to the OBPS in 2024, which will require significant staff resources from the ministry. In addition, as part of the [New Energy Action Framework](#), the B.C. government made a commitment to develop an oil and gas regulatory emissions cap to reduce and limit greenhouse gas emissions from the sector. Subsequently, the federal government introduced a national framework to cap greenhouse gas pollution from the oil and gas sector, which will require work at the provincial level to ensure that B.C. meets our greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets for the sector, while avoiding unnecessary duplicate regulations.

Finally, [BC Parks](#), and [Recreation Sites and Trails BC](#) will continue to manage increasing public use of recreational infrastructure. While this public engagement is encouraging, increasing visitation results in challenges that must be managed by staff, including: crowding and traffic concerns; visitor safety concerns; human-wildlife conflict; and the potential for damage to cultural and ecological values.

Performance Planning

Goal 1: Effective protection and conservation of the environment

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is responsible for the effective protection, management, and conservation of British Columbia's water, land, air, and living resources. The ministry engages and partners with First Nations in advancing this goal.

The ministry also seeks opportunities to continually improve the systems that govern natural resource decision-making and the sustainable stewardship of these resources.

Objective 1.1: Strong environmental regulation, compliance, and enforcement for a clean, safe, and resilient environment.

The ministry strives to protect the environment by managing risks to British Columbia's water, land, and air. It does this by setting robust regulatory requirements, verifying compliance, taking enforcement action where required, and evaluating environmental quality through air and water monitoring and assessment. It also promotes shared environmental stewardship and collaborative partnerships with First Nations.

Key Strategies

- Transform, through the use of new digital tools, the review of contaminated sites services applications resulting in timelier issuance of approvals in alignment with the recently announced [Permitting Strategy for Housing](#). Contaminated sites remediation supports the sustainable redevelopment of usable land and provides community benefits through environmental clean-up, improved human health protection, and increased economic development and housing availability.
- Implement the [CleanBC Plastics Action Plan](#), including the province-wide phase-out of single-use plastics. Key actions include:
 - Introducing a new regulation to limit the use of single-use and plastic waste, including restrictions on single-use plastic shopping bags, [oxo-degradable plastic packaging](#), food service ware, and food service accessories (such as lids and utensils);
 - managing and expanding the [CleanBC Plastics Action Fund](#);
 - phasing-in new product recycling under the [Extended Producer Responsibility Five-Year Action Plan](#) between now and 2026; and
 - supporting the largest coastline clean-up in B.C.'s history through the [Clean Coast, Clean Waters Initiative](#).
- Reduce municipal solid waste through regional solid waste management plans, promotion of organics recycling, food and plastic waste prevention initiatives, and continuous improvement and expansion of extended producer responsibility programs.

- Deliver the first phase of the B.C. government's new public interest bonding policy through the development of regulations over the next two years. This will ensure owners of large industrial projects are bonded moving forward so that they – not British Columbians – pay the full cost of environmental clean-up if their projects are abandoned.

Discussion

New digital tools will increase the timeliness and transparency of contaminated sites application services, many of which are associated with housing development projects in B.C. In addition, expanding the scope of applications that can be reviewed by professional reliance partners and increasing government's own review capacity will contribute to this objective.

Actions from all levels of government that encourage waste prevention, support the development of a circular economy, and contribute to our long-term reduction target of 350kg solid waste disposal per person. Managing municipal solid waste minimizes environmental impacts by supporting sustainable land management practices, reducing plastic pollution, improving air and water quality, and reducing greenhouse gas.

The [Single-Use Plastic and Waste Prevention Regulation](#) was introduced in 2023, and will phase-in prohibitions on the use of single-use plastics and waste. The [CleanBC Plastics Action Fund](#) was further supported with an additional \$25M investment, for a nearly \$40M investment in the past three years, towards reducing plastic waste through recycling innovation and reusable alternatives to single-use products.

The multi-phased implementation of recycling new products under the [Extended Producer Responsibility Five-Year Action Plan](#) is underway until 2026. This includes having more products listed by early 2024 and operational programs by 2025/26. Products include mattresses, single-use compressed canisters, refillable propane and spray foam tanks, fire extinguishers, automotive containers, batteries, and medical sharps.

Over the last 15 years, and particularly in the last five years, the ministry has supported communities to increase processing infrastructure, expand organics collection, and reduce food waste. This has diverted materials from landfills and is helping communities achieve their waste reduction goals. In partnership with the federal government, the government of B.C. funded 18 organic waste processing facilities with a combined grant investment of \$20M under the [Organics Infrastructure Program](#). Further, the government of B.C. contributed \$25.9M towards 17 organic waste collection programs and eight organic waste processing facilities under the [CleanBC Organics Infrastructure and Collection Program](#). These activities decrease greenhouse gas emissions and provide beneficial products such as nutrient rich compost to communities. All these projects will be operational by 2024/25.

Objective 1.2: Support the sustainability of British Columbia’s environment and provide high-quality user experience through sound management of the protected areas system, recreation sites and trail networks.

The B.C. protected areas system includes representative and special natural places that are set aside for world-class conservation, outdoor recreation, education, and scientific study. B.C.’s protected areas system consists of over 14 million hectares, or 14% of the provincial land base. Many of these areas are important for the conservation of the province’s environment and biodiversity.

Key Strategies

- Manage parks and protected areas for ecological restoration, biodiversity, and landscape connectivity.
- Create new camping opportunities, recreation sites, trails, and protected areas. Improve infrastructure and ensure provincial parks and recreation sites remain accessible and affordable for British Columbians.
- Lead work with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship to co-develop and implement recommendations to better reflect [Indigenous Peoples’ history and culture](#) as a component of BC Parks’ broader effort on the path of reconciliation.
- Support the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship to implement the [Framework Agreement](#) to meet government’s commitment to protect at least 30% of terrestrial areas in B.C. by 2030.

Discussion

Together, [Recreation Sites and Trails BC](#), and [BC Parks](#) are among the principal providers of outdoor recreation opportunities for British Columbians. Demand for outdoor recreation continues to grow across the province. In response, BC Parks continues to deliver on government’s \$21.59M commitment to expand recreation opportunities in campgrounds and day-use areas. Since 2021, BC Parks has added 135 new campsites, 26 kilometres of new trail, 38 kilometres of refurbished trail, and 137 new parking stalls at high-use parks. Many new projects are currently underway and will be completed over the next two years.

In addition to expanding recreation facilities, BC Parks has received \$3.6M over three years to improve accessibility in parks. This funding will be focused on replacing high-priority park amenities to a universal design standard (e.g., toilets), providing accessible parking, and improving trails to access park features.

BC Parks is committed to creating and delivering a strategy in 2024 for supporting the safe coexistence between people and bears in protected areas. This comprehensive strategy will focus on a wide range of activities including facility upgrades, bear safety education, and attractant management. It will be delivered in a phased approach beginning in 2024.

