



Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

2024

ESTIMATES BINDER

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Speaking Notes for

**Hon. Murray Rankin
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation**

Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation/Declaration Act Secretariat - Estimates 2024/25 Introductory notes

BC Legislature

Date: May, xx 2024 TBD

Time: x:xx am/pm TBD

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INTRODUCTION

- Acknowledge: Lekwungen [*Luh-KWUNG-in*] peoples and Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.
- It is my pleasure and honour to speak today on the estimates for the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and the Declaration Act Secretariat as part of Budget 2024.

[PAUSE]

- Joining me for Estimates from the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation are:
 - Deputy Minister Tom McCarthy,
 - Ranbir Parmar, Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer,

- Carolyn Kamper, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Negotiations and Regional Operations Division.
- Ann Marie Sam, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Reconciliation, Transformation and Strategies Division,
- Jennifer Melles, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships Division, and
- Richard Purnell, Executive Lead for the New Fiscal Framework.

[PAUSE]

- Joining me from the Declaration Act Secretariat, which is separate from the ministry...
- Si Sityaawks [*See-Sit-Yowks*] Jessica Wood, Deputy Minister...

- ...and cáʔaa [*Sah-ahh*] Priscilla Sabbas-Watts, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Legislative Transformation and Engagement.
- Additionally, I'd like to introduce Tracey Herbert, CEO, First Peoples' Cultural Council.

[PAUSE]

Truth and Reconciliation

- I am honoured and humbled to speak on the tremendous work Indigenous Peoples and this government are doing together to implement the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.
- I'd like to start by reminding every member of this house of how we got to this point.

- It starts in 2015 - when the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada released the “Calls to Action.”
- The 94 Calls to Action lay out the path to be followed if we are to achieve true and meaningful reconciliation.
- Six years of hearings, and testimony from 6,000 residential school survivors and their loved ones.
- The survivors spoke truth to the legacy of the residential school system and its intergenerational and ongoing impact on Indigenous Peoples.
- It was residential school survivors who asked **ALL** governments to adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as our guide.

- It was survivors who asked for its adoption not just into customary international law, but into domestic common law here in BC and Canada.
- If reconciliation starts with truth and respect, then our collective journey begins here with the Calls to Action.
- That's why B.C. was the first to adopt the UN Declaration into law.

[PAUSE]

- I am proud to say since those days of denial and court battles, B.C. has deeply and fundamentally changed our relationship with Indigenous Peoples.
- I am proud of the work of the Secretariat, the Ministry and whole of government to advance of reconciliation...

- And specifically, to implement the UN Declaration in B.C. through the Declaration Act.
- Our government does things differently.
- By working together with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people, through consultation and cooperation, we are finding solutions and building a stronger BC for all British Columbians.

[PAUSE]

Budget

- Budget 2024 provides dedicated funding that supports the advancement of reconciliation and the ongoing process of establishing and maintaining respectful relationships with Indigenous Peoples.

- The combined budget for the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and the Declaration Act Secretariat is \$160 million.
- The budget expenditure numbers are slightly smaller than last year; however, this is the result of accounting practice.
- More agreements are being funded through revenue sharing.
- In fact, **gross payments** are higher at **\$491 million as compared to \$462 million** in the previous year...
- ...with **\$378.4 million being funded through revenue sharing this year compared to \$328.4 million the previous year.**

- Budget 2024 will allow us to meet our current and ongoing obligations under treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements...
- ...to work in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, and to effectively deliver the Ministry's and Secretariat's mandates.

[PAUSE]

- Like all provincial budgets, the numbers on their own do not convey the scope of the work underway...
- ...or the quality of the relationship with First Nations, Métis, or Indigenous Peoples as a whole.
- Reconciliation is a provincial imperative.

- And creating meaningful and lasting reconciliation is everyone's responsibility.

[PAUSE]

Declaration Act

- The Declaration Act supports government in deepening proper relationships with Indigenous Peoples.
- It does so:
 - Through an Action Plan that outlines 89 actions to advance the objectives of the UN Declaration...
 - Through annual reporting on progress...
 - Through the alignment of provincial laws with the UN Declaration...

- By enabling government to enter into shared decision-making agreements...
- And by allowing flexibility for the Province to enter into agreements with a broad range of Indigenous governments.

[PAUSE]

- Much of the ministry's work in this budget focuses on the negotiation and implementation of treaties, reconciliation agreements, including shared decision-making mechanisms, and other constructive arrangements.
- Our government is focused on upholding Indigenous rights, including title, Section 35 of the Constitution, and supporting long-term, flexible agreements that can evolve over time.

- I have quite a list of agreements and I am sure the members will wish to get into the specifics of those in their questions.
- I will note there are two transfer of programs areas this year.
- The First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund is moving to the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation.
- And the Land Strategies and Services Branch is moving to the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship to form a centralized land transfers branch for the sector.
- In both instances, these transfers will provide more efficient services to First Nations and are in the public interest.

[PAUSE]

New Fiscal Framework

- This Ministry's Operation Budget includes making permanent the dedicated team that supports the New Fiscal Framework.
- Up until 2017, B.C.'s fiscal relationship with First Nations governments was largely short-term, reactive and ad hoc.
- This government knows reconciliation is a rising tide that lifts all boats.
- By focusing on agreements with First Nations that prioritize the broader economy, we are taking recognition of rights to its full potential.

- Indigenous governments, like all governments, require sources of revenue to deliver services and meet accountabilities to their citizens.
- Indigenous Peoples should be able to exercise and have full enjoyment of their rights to self-determination and self-government.
- We've already taken big steps.

[PAUSE]

- In 2019, we started sharing \$100 million a year in gaming revenue with every First Nation.
- In 2022, we more than doubled forestry revenue sharing to more than \$120 million a year.
- Through ongoing agreements with all First Nations, we are making a real difference in peoples' lives.

- We knew when we started this work that developing a new fiscal framework would take time, effort, and deep engagement.
- It requires bringing everyone along.

[PAUSE]

First Nations Equity Fund

- While it is a budget item that sits with the Ministry of Finance, I am incredibly pleased to see the development of a provincial First Nations Equity Financing Framework.
- By establishing tools to help support equity financing opportunities for First Nations, they can develop strong economic development partnerships.

- These include equity loan guarantees and other supports for First Nations' meaningful participation in projects, where there is shared interest and readiness with the Province.
- Budget 2024 legislation will establish a First Nations Equity Financing special account, with a \$10-million inaugural balance to help support immediate capacity needs for those First Nations actively considering equity participation in priority projects.
- The special account also allows us to provide provincial guarantees for equity loans undertaken by First Nations interested in projects.
- Consistent with the approach in other jurisdictions, the special account will have a cumulative loan guarantee limit of \$1 billion and will be reviewed annually.

- Throughout the coming months, I look forward to supporting the Ministry of Finance as they consult and cooperate with First Nations and organizations, and engaging business leaders across B.C. to help develop a First Nations Equity Financing Framework.
- These new equity financing tools will support inclusive project partnerships as we continue to support First Nations self-determination and meaningful participation in economic opportunities.

[PAUSE]

- Back to my own Ministry, sharing revenue with First Nations communities remains an important reconciliation tool.
- It supports implementation of the UN Declaration and the self-determined pursuit of economic, social, and community development.

- This year we are forecasting \$385 million projected revenue sharing for forestry, mining, tourism, and oil and gas.
- And a forecast \$100 million in gaming revenue sharing.
- Recognizing First Nations as orders of government with their own rights and responsibilities, and sharing the wealth generated by economic opportunities helps support economic growth in First Nations communities and for all British Columbians.

[PAUSE]

Engagements

- We continue our efforts to bringing partners, industry and the public along in our work with Indigenous Peoples in the province.
- Open houses, public information sharing and a 'what we heard' report were developed on engagements for the Kitselas Treaty and Kitsumkalum Treaty...
- ...as well as several open houses with the Te'mexw Treaty Association.
- Public and stakeholder engagement has been a cornerstone of the process during the Treaty Land Entitlement settlement and lands agreements...

- ...And we've been engaged deeply with our many partners for the past four months on Bill 13 - Land Title and Property Law Amendment Act, 2024.
- Gaining awareness and support for administrative changes to the ways First Nations can acquire, hold and register fee simple land in B.C....
- And reducing discriminatory and racist barriers.
- Again, engagement has been foundational in our work with the people of Haida Gwaii and continues to be a significant focus for the Ministry at the community level.
- We all witnessed that support by local government leaders and others in the gallery during first reading of Bill 25.

- To them and all those who support reconciliation, I say Ha'waa – thank you for being good people working together.

[PAUSE]

First Peoples' Cultural Council

- Part of the Ministry's work toward reconciliation has to do with empowering Indigenous peoples to revitalize their culture and their languages.
- B.C. has exceptional language diversity, with half of all Indigenous languages in Canada originating here.
- Across the province, 35 distinct First Nations languages are spoken.

- We are working in partnership to support First Nations communities in their efforts to restore their languages, cultures, arts and heritage.
- I am pleased Budget 2024/25 continues to strengthen First Nations-led efforts to revitalize Indigenous heritage, languages, cultures and arts...
- ...continuing the \$6 million, permanent, per year operational uplift to the First Peoples Cultural Council.

[PAUSE]

- Providing funding for FPCC's core operations supports the increased investment and progress made in language revitalization since 2018.

- Through their partnership with the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation, FPCC is laying the groundwork so that First Nations languages, arts and heritage can be passed on to future generations.
- Communities are developing language revitalization plans, training staff and implementing programs that make a difference by documenting the languages and creating new speakers.
- We want to help build a province where First Nations languages and cultures are living, used and celebrated everywhere.

[PAUSE]

Declaration Act Secretariat

- It has been close to five years since the passage of the Declaration Act.

- We continue to advance legislation in accordance with section 3 of the Act.
- The steps that we have taken, in particular the formation of the Declaration Act Secretariat, have set the foundation for advancing such an approach.
- Funding for the Secretariat is expressed as a separate item in the Budget estimates.
- This is consistent with the Secretariat's unique reporting structure...
- The Secretariat is a central agency – reporting directly to me as Minister, independent and distinct from the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

- The Declaration Act Secretariat guides and assists ministries in meeting the alignment of laws obligations...
- Collaborates within government on changes to government's legislative and policy process...
- And helps establish government's legislative priorities related to alignment of laws.

[PAUSE]

- The Declaration Act Secretariat has been actively involved in supporting legislation and policy development including:
 - the Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act (Bill 38);
 - Human Rights Code Amendment Act (Bill 18);

- Forests Statutes Amendment Act (Bill 23);
 - Emergency and Disaster Management Act (Bill 31);
 - and School Amendment Act (Bill 40) among many others.
- This year, the ministry's fiscal plan reflects core funding to continue to fully resource the Declaration Act Secretariat.
 - Their work touches on every Ministry in this government and is incredibly important support to ensure we are consulting and cooperating with Indigenous Peoples.

[PAUSE]

- To that end, we have heard from directly from First Nations leaders on the vital need for financial resources to support consultation and co-operation on action plan items and legislative transformation.
- The First Nations Declaration Act Engagement Fund was established last year as a one-time, four-year fund to help break down financial barriers and support capacity.
- It is creating flexibility for engagement with the Province on areas of interest in ways that respond to your community's unique needs and priorities.
- This enhanced participation also greatly benefits the Province through the skills, advice, and guidance each community brings.

- Since last May when the New Relationship Trust began taking applications for the program, 189 First Nations have submitted applications.

Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

- [PAUSE]

Conclusion

- As you can see, funding decisions for Budget 2024/25 are underpinned by government's commitment to tangible reconciliation through the implementation of the UN Declaration...
- ...by prioritizing opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to be full partners in the inclusive and sustainable province we are building together.

- I look forward to questions from the members of this house.
- Thank you.

-END-

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
2024/25 Estimates
Finance Based Questions and Answers/
Government Communications and Public Engagement

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Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
2024/25 Estimates
Finance Based Questions and Answers/
Government Communications and Public Engagement

1. MIRR's 2024/25 budget is \$160.096 million. This is an (\$17.138 million) decrease (9.7%) from the previous year. Why?

- There is a (\$21.455M) net decrease in the Treaty and Other Agreements Vote as a result of more of the payments are revenue sharing payments, this reduces the Ministry's Net Budget, off set by:
 - \$4.074M increase in Ministry Operations
 - \$0.136M increase for the Declaration Act Secretariat
 - \$0.107M increase to planned returns in the First Citizens Fund Special Account.

2. The Treaty & Other Vote has decreased by (\$21.455M) over Budget 2023. Why?

- The ministry budget is funded to match signed agreement costs.
- Actual payments to First Nations are projected to increase by \$28.568M over 2023/24.
 - \$46.798M increase in revenue sharing payments offset by \$50.023M increase in revenue recoveries generating a net (\$3.225M) decrease. The increase in revenue recoveries reflects more agreements are funded by direct revenues generated.
 - (\$18.000M) decrease in non-treaty agreements. Primarily due to the acceleration of the payment under the Cheslatta Settlement agreement in 2022/23 and updated CGL LNG forecasts.
 - (\$0.230M) decrease in Treaty agreements.

3. What is the value of payments going to First Nations in 2024/25 funded by the Treaty and Other Vote?

- Treaty and Other Agreements budget is \$94.704, a net reduction of (\$21.455M) or (18.5%) over Budget 2023:

- \$473.096M is projected to be paid to First Nations through treaty and non-treaty agreements;
 - \$385.590M projected revenue sharing (forestry, mineral, resort, oil & gas, Columbia River Treaty);
 - \$83.262M non-treaty agreements (e.g. reconciliation; strategic engagement agreements, LNG);
 - \$4.244M in treaty related agreements.
- Of the \$473.096M, \$378.392M is projected to be recovered from taxation, stumpage, royalties, rents, and the Columbia River Treaty Canadian Entitlement. Recovered funds subtracted from \$473.096M provides the \$94.704 budget vote.
- The Gross payments to First Nations will total \$473.096M in fiscal 24/25 which is \$28.568M more than fiscal 23/24. As more of the payments are revenue sharing payments, this reduces the Ministry's Net Budget.

	2023/24 Restated	2024/25	Change
GROSS PAYMENTS			
Treaty	4,474,000.00	4,244,200.00	- 229,800.00
Non-Treaty	101,262,000.00	83,261,860.00	- 18,000,140.00
Non-Treaty (Revenue Sharing)	338,792,000.00	385,589,831.00	46,797,831.00
SUB TOTAL NON TREATY	440,054,000.00	468,851,691.00	28,797,691.00
Total Gross Payments	444,528,000.00	473,095,891.00	28,567,891.00
RECOVERIES			
Treaty	- 2,000.00	- 2,000.00	-
FCRSA Recoveries	- 138,398,000.00	- 176,780,000.00	- 38,382,000.00
Columbia River Treaty Recoveries	-	- 72,600,000.00	- 72,600,000.00
EBA & Other Oil & Gas Recoveries	- 18,891,000.00	- 15,449,000.00	3,442,000.00
ECDA Mining Recoveries	- 170,420,000.00	- 112,314,831.00	58,105,169.00
ECDA Resorts Recoveries	- 658,000.00	- 1,246,000.00	- 588,000.00
SUB TOTAL NON TREATY	- 328,367,000.00	- 378,389,831.00	- 50,022,831.00
Total Recoveries	- 328,369,000.00	- 378,391,831.00	- 50,022,831.00
Net Vote			
	116,159,000.00	94,704,060.00	- 21,454,940.00

4. Are you cutting funding to Indigenous Peoples?

- No.

- The Ministry's budget is funded to match signed agreement costs and adjusts along with our commitments.
- Budget 2024/25 will allow the Ministry to meet its commitments, continue to work in consultations and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, and to effectively deliver its mandate.
- Like all provincial budgets, the numbers on their own do not convey the scope of the work underway or the quality of the relationship with First Nations, Métis, or Indigenous Peoples as a whole.

5. What is generating the \$4.074M increase in Ministry Operations in 2024/25?

- \$2.133M increase to go from temporary positions to dedicated resources (11 FTEs) to support New Fiscal Framework (NFF) and the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh (MST) table.
- \$1.621M increase to support the Shared Recovery Wage Mandate
- \$0.260M incremental funding for the First Peoples 'Cultural Council (Budget 2023)
- \$0.119M increase to resource 1 additional FTE to support negotiation capacity (Budget 2023)
- \$0.002M to fund salary increments of Budget 2022 for Climate Action Initiatives
- (\$0.049M) transfer for lands team to Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
- (\$0.012M) net decrease to Minister's Office

6. What impacts Revenue Sharing Forecasts?

- Revenue Sharing Forecasts are impacted by several factors:
 - Total number of signed agreements,
 - Commodity price fluctuations for items such as copper and coal as well as mine operating profit margins (Economic and Community Development Agreements),
 - Resort income on accommodations (Resort Economic and Community Development Agreements),

- Increases in stumpage values and harvesting activities (Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreements),
- Higher oil and gas royalties (Revenue Sharing Agreements), and
- The economy as a whole

7. Why did \$3.033M get transferred to the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship?

- Part of the changes within the natural resource ministries (NRM) to support land negotiations and speed up the process of returning lands to First Nations in B.C.
- 28 FTEs in the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation were identified to move to the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.

8. Why did does this transfer only show up as land transfer only show up as \$0.049M?

- \$0.049M in 2024/25 represents the incremental budget transfer to WLRS against the 2023/24 Restatement of \$2.984M. The primary reason for this increased transfer is the Government Land Agreement Development and Implementation system (GLADIS) transferred effective April 1, 2024 and was not part of the 2023/24 restatement.

	23/24			
WLRS Transfer	Restatement	24/25	25/26	26/27
Budget	2.984	3.033	3.033	3.033
Increment		0.049	0	0

- The transfer occurred mid-year so only part of that transfer is reflected in the Ministry’s operating budget.

9. What is the purpose of this transfer?

- First Nations’ connection to the land supports healthy communities, revitalized cultures and growing economic opportunities for everyone.

- Responding to First Nations’ interests in the ownership of land – whether through treaties or other types of agreements- can be a catalyst to improve peoples’ lives and support First Nations’ self-determination.
- We recognize the need to make land returns more efficient and changes are underway to make that happen.
- As part of an organizational re-structuring in December 2023, the land return implementation division was shifted to the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.
- As the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship now holding authorities such as the Land Act and the Ministry of Lands, Parks, and Housing Act, it is well-positioned to lead decision making for land returns and increase accountable and transparent processes to First Nations.
- The move will also help build an integrated team that can streamline and find efficiencies to support land related negotiations with First Nations.

10. Why were the resources for New Fiscal framework (NFF) and Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh (MST) moved from contingency to Ministry Operations?

- The co-development and implementation of a new fiscal framework (NFF) is a long-term undertaking that will extend beyond the five-year term of the current Declaration Act Action Plan.
- The New Fiscal Framework is a cornerstone of the province’s reconciliation agenda, and there is significant focus and expectation among First Nations and Indigenous organizations.
- Dedicated resources are needed for the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil Waututh table in the Coast Region because of the complexity of the relationships and the strategic importance of advancing long-term reconciliation with the three Nations.
- A dedicated MST staffing complement is crucial to ensure consistency across projects as well as in maintaining the government-to-government relationship that is central to the successful implementation of projects in the Lower Mainland.

11. What is the purpose of the financing transactions allocated to the Ministry?

- Financing transactions for land transfers allow the ministry to prioritize private land purchases as part of treaty or other agreements. Planned

land purchases for 2024/25 are \$43.867M, which is a \$4.067M increase from 2023/24.

- Financing transactions for the BC First Nations Gaming Revenue Sharing Limited Partnership have been updated based on current revenue projections. The province forecasts to share \$100.000M in 2024/25.
- Financing transaction costs were added in Budget 2021.

12. Why are there no Schedule D disbursements planned in year 2 and 3 of the fiscal plan?

- Schedule D allows the ministry to purchase private land and hold in inventory until it is transferred to a First Nation under final agreement.
- Spending plans represent current needs and are updated annually as part of the budget process.

13. How does gaming revenue sharing with First Nations work?

- A commitment to share an estimated \$3 billion in revenue with First Nations over the next 25 years is supporting self-government and self-determination, strong, healthy communities and services that make life better for families.
- Amendments to the Gaming Control Act supported the Province and First Nations to finalize a long-term gaming revenue sharing agreement. Signed September 2020.
- Like every government, First Nations need stable, predictable sources of revenue to fund their priorities – critical things for every government, such as infrastructure, services that build healthy communities and the staff to get it done.
- All First Nations communities in B.C. are eligible to become members in the limited partnership.
- Each First Nation that participates in the revenue sharing agreement can use the gaming revenue to support priorities for its community, such as enhanced social services, education, housing, infrastructure, cultural revitalization and self-government capacity.

- The revenue may be used in six areas that support governance, capacity building and strengthened program and service delivery:
 - health and wellness;
 - infrastructure, safety, transportation and housing;
 - economic and business development;
 - education, language, culture and training;
 - community development and environmental protection; and
 - capacity building, fiscal management and governance.
 - Direct distribution of gaming revenue to individuals is not permitted.

14. How much gross gaming revenue has been shared since approval in Budget 2019?

Fiscal Year	Amount \$
2019/20 & 2020/21	\$194,840,000
2021/22	\$58,059,120
2022/23	\$113,646,000
2023/24	\$109,620,000
Total	\$463,360,120

15. Why is there a 10% reduction in projected gaming revenue sharing over Budget 2023?

- Reduced forecasted revenue is occurring in two categories (iGaming and Casino & Community Gaming Centres).
- This is primarily due to the current economic environment, including high cost of living, high interest rates, and inflation.
- Players have less disposable income for entertainment spending such as gambling.
- Current economic pressures and competitiveness with illegal online gaming operators are expected to impact future year revenue projections.

16. Will the ministry restore the level of funding to the First Citizens Fund previously seen years ago?

- The First Citizens Fund is a special fund within government's Consolidated Revenue Fund and the monies do not come from the ministry budget.
- As fund revenue is interest-driven, recent low interest rates have affected revenue that supports programs and will provide approximately \$1.823M to support programs in 2024/25 which is an increase of \$0.107M from 2023/24.
- This funding supports Indigenous small business development, First Nations language preservation, bursaries for Indigenous post-secondary students, and assistance for elders to attend their annual gathering.

17. Why did the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund (FNCEBF) Special Account transfer to the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation?

- The FNCEBF has been administered by the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) since 2010.
- Over time, First Nations have proposed various improvements to the capacity, equity and revenue sharing components of the fund. MIRR does not have the expertise or capacity to implement these proposals and has historically been supported by the expertise of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low-carbon Innovation (EMLI).
- EMLI has long provided clean energy subject matter expertise to support MIRR's administration of the FNCEBF and operates the EMLI database currently also used by MIRR to administer the fund.
- EMLI would like to leverage its subject matter expertise to explore fund improvements that align with First Nations' desires for the future of the fund. Any recommended changes to the FNCEBF would be subject to engagement and Cabinet approval.

18. Does Budget 2024 provide funding for First People's Cultural Council?

- Yes.

- Budget 2023 provided \$19.060M over the fiscal plan (\$6.40M in 2023/24, \$6.300M in 2024/25 and \$6.720M in 25/26 ongoing).
- This core operational funding will allow FPCC to maintain current staffing levels and deliver on current and future commitments.
- Ensures that FPCC is a viable, fully functioning Crown Corporation
- Permanent operational funding will allow FPCC to retain the highly specialized program and technical experts necessary to deliver language, arts and cultural heritage programming and documentation efforts in First Nations communities across BC.
- Will also address the equity issue between FPCC and other Crowns of similar size and mandates.

19. Why is there a decrease in the Minister's Office?

- Minister Office budgets were reviewed as part of Budget 2023 to reflect positions within Minister's Office staff, as well as to bring current budgets in line with the approved budgets set by the Office of the Premier.

Budget 2023	837
Budget 2023 Review adjustment	-12
Shared Recovery Wage Mandate	46
Budget 2024	871

- There are no changes in staffing levels as a result of this decrease.
- 2024/25 continues to support 7 positions including Minister.

#	Position
1	Chief of Staff
2	Ministerial Assistant
3	Ministerial Assistant
4	Executive Assistant
5	Administrative Coordinator
6	Administrative Assistant

20. Will government consider property tax revenue sharing with First Nations in urban areas where there is no forestry?

- We have started with forestry because it means so much to so many.
- But we acknowledge that work is going to have to be more flexible to deal with the realities of an urbanized environment or suburban environment.
- In our commitment under the action plan, our long-term goal is to co-develop a holistic framework that comprehensively supports the operation of Indigenous governments and provides new revenue sharing arrangements and other fiscal mechanisms.
- The new fiscal framework is a significant change in how British Columbia works with First Nations government.
- Rather than the transactional approach that we've had in the past, we're moving to a recognition that Indigenous governments, like all governments, have a need for secure sources — stable, certain sources — of funding if they're going to provide the goods and services for their communities.
- It's a challenge, but we're taking that challenge head-on — taking it on because it has to be done.

21. What kind of capacity building support is government providing for First Nations to develop the administrative and technical expertise needed to participate in consent-driven shared decision-making and government-to-government processes, including major projects within their territories?

- Whether it is the Ministry of Indigenous Relations or another Ministry leading, typically government provide specific capacity funding to the First Nations or Indigenous Governing Bodies with whom they are negotiating these types of agreements.

22. What is going on with the New Fiscal Framework and Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreements?

- We are continuing discussions with First Nations on principles for a new fiscal framework and a new forestry revenue sharing model.

