

Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

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MINISTRY OF JOBS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

The mission of the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation is to incorporate key lines of government services to grow British Columbia's economy for the benefit of all residents and communities. The ministry's work includes establishing British Columbia as a preferred location for new and emerging technologies, supporting programs related to economic growth, job creation and community transition, providing integrated trade and investment programs to help increase exports for British Columbia businesses, supporting innovation and strategic investments across the province, and developing British Columbia's national and international trade relations.

MINISTRY SUMMARY

(\$000)

	Estimates 2023/24 ¹	Estimates 2024/25
VOTED APPROPRIATION		
Vote 37 — Ministry Operations.....	112,805	115,278
STATUTORY APPROPRIATION		
Northern Development Fund Special Account.....	500	500
OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>113,305</u>	<u>115,778</u>
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES ²	3	3
LOANS, INVESTMENTS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS ³	—	—
REVENUE COLLECTED FOR, AND TRANSFERRED TO, OTHER ENTITIES ⁴	—	—

NOTES

¹ For comparative purposes, figures shown for the 2023/24 operating expenses; capital expenditures; loans, investments and other requirements; and revenue collected for, and transferred to, other entities are restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2024/25 *Estimates*. A reconciliation of restated operating expenses and capital expenditures is presented in Schedule A.

² A listing of estimated capital expenditures by ministry is presented in Schedule C.

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

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

SUMMARY BY CORE BUSINESS

(\$000)

OPERATING EXPENSES	2023/24	2024/25 ESTIMATES		
	Net	Gross	External Recoveries	Net
Core Business				
Trade and Industry Development.....	29,064	29,743	(4)	29,739
Small Business and Economic Development.....	35,377	35,896	(6)	35,890
Investment and Sustainable Economy.....	13,503	13,939	(3)	13,936
Transfers to Crown Corporations and Agencies.....	26,020	26,499	—	26,499
Executive and Support Services.....	8,841	9,217	(3)	9,214
Northern Development Fund Special Account.....	500	500	—	500
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>113,305</u>	<u>115,794</u>	<u>(16)</u>	<u>115,778</u>
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES				
	Capital Expenditures	Capital Expenditures	Receipts and P3 Liabilities	Net
Core Business				
Executive and Support Services.....	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>3</u>

MINISTRY OF JOBS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

Estimates
2023/24

Estimates
2024/25

VOTE 37 — MINISTRY OPERATIONS

This vote provides for the programs, operations, and other activities described in the voted appropriations under the following core businesses: Trade and Industry Development, Small Business and Economic Development, Investment and Sustainable Economy, Transfers to Crown Corporations and Agencies, and Executive and Support Services.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

Voted Appropriation

Trade and Industry Development.....	29,064	<u>29,739</u>
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Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for the facilitation of trade development and investment attraction to advance strategic sectors and industries in all regions of the province; promoting British Columbia internationally; showcasing British Columbia at national and international events; and the operation of the Province's international network of trade offices. This sub-vote supports the development and delivery of inbound and outbound trade and investment missions in conjunction with public and private sector partners and programming to assist British Columbia based companies to conduct international business. This sub-vote provides for domestic and international partnerships with public and private sector organizations with the aim of better alignment and efficiency in achieving the Province's trade and investment objectives. This sub-vote provides for the management of British Columbia's participation in domestic and international trade agreements and initiatives; the facilitation of trade and investment through resolution of trade disputes; the promotion of business development opportunities provided by trade agreements; and the provision of strategic advice with respect to the Province's trade obligations. This sub-vote provides for the development of research and analysis to support effective market and sector strategies that will benefit all regions of the province. This sub-vote also provides support for the development and implementation of strategies to strengthen domestic industries across a range of sectors, including core and emerging industries through research, business intelligence, strategy and support for industry growth, and acts as lead in working with Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd. This sub-vote provides for operational and industry support activities related to the implementation of mass timber and construction innovation. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown corporations and agencies, boards and commissions, other levels of government, and parties external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.

SMALL BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Voted Appropriations

Small Business and Economic Development.....	7,701	7,903
Regional Development.....	27,676	27,987
	<u>35,377</u>	<u>35,890</u>

Voted Appropriations Description: This sub-vote provides for the development and implementation of provincial plans, programs, and policies related to small business and regulatory reform in British Columbia, including negotiating and entering into agreements or arrangements with parties inside and outside of British Columbia. This sub-vote also provides for operational, programming, and research activities related to small business; the operation of the Small Business Roundtable; the provision of strategic direction to the Province regarding advancing economic development and competitiveness, and streamlining access to government services; and the development and implementation of regional economic strategies, initiatives, and policies and legislation. This sub-vote also provides for the delivery of regional and provincial economic development programs, community transition services, and services to foster economic growth and job creation, as well as leads the ministry's partnerships and economic development activities with Indigenous organizations and communities. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown corporations and agencies, boards and commissions, other levels of government, other public-sector organizations, and parties external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.

MINISTRY OF JOBS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

	Estimates 2023/24	Estimates 2024/25
INVESTMENT AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY		
Voted Appropriation		
Investment and Sustainable Economy.....	13,503	13,936
Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for the coordination of investment programming and working with investors to facilitate investment in British Columbia, including working with stakeholders to identify barriers impeding investment projects and working to overcome them. This sub-vote also provides for the delivery of investment capital and venture capital programming by administering tax credits under the <i>Small Business Venture Capital Act</i> and the <i>Employee Investment Act</i> and acts as a lead in working with and providing transfers to InBC Investment Corp. This sub-vote provides for the policy, administration, operation, delivery, and support of research, innovation, technology sector development, and commercialization programs, projects, and services; and providing strategic direction to remove barriers to innovation and commercialization, including acting as lead in working with Innovate BC and other technology and innovation focused organizations. This sub-vote provides for programming, research, and analysis for clean and inclusive economic growth and strategy, advice, and initiatives to support long-term economic planning, performance tracking, and reporting. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown corporations and agencies, boards and commissions, other levels of government, other public-sector organizations, and parties external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.		
TRANSFERS TO CROWN CORPORATIONS AND AGENCIES		
Voted Appropriations		
Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd.....	19,811	20,187
Innovate BC.....	6,209	6,312
	<u>26,020</u>	<u>26,499</u>
Voted Appropriations Description: This sub-vote provides for transfers to Crown corporations and agencies including Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd. and Innovate BC.		
EXECUTIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES		
Voted Appropriations		
Ministers' Offices.....	1,212	1,364
Corporate Services.....	7,629	7,850
	<u>8,841</u>	<u>9,214</u>
Voted Appropriations Description: This sub-vote provides for the offices of the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation, the Minister of State for Trade, and for the Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development. This sub-vote also provides for executive direction of the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation and administrative services for the operating programs of the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation; the Ministry of Labour; the Ministry of Municipal Affairs; and the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport; including financial administration and budget coordination, strategic and business planning and reporting, human resources, office management, accommodation, and information systems. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown corporations and agencies, boards and commissions, other levels of government, and parties external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.		
VOTE 37 — MINISTRY OPERATIONS	112,805	115,278

MINISTRY OF JOBS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

STATUTORY DESCRIPTIONS
(\$000)

Estimates
2023/24

Estimates
2024/25

STATUTORY APPROPRIATIONS

This statutory appropriation provides for the programs, operations, and other activities of the following special account: Northern Development Fund.

NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT FUND

Statutory Appropriation

Northern Development Fund.....	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>
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Statutory Appropriation Description: This statutory appropriation provides for the Northern Development Fund which is governed under the *BC-Alcan Northern Development Fund Act*.

MINISTRY GROUP ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY

GROUP ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION

Salaries and Benefits	40,813	42,975
Operating Costs	17,824	19,174
Government Transfers	55,821	54,950
Other Expenses	188	188
Internal Recoveries	(1,325)	(1,493)
External Recoveries	(16)	(16)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES.....	<u>113,305</u>	<u>115,778</u>

MINISTRY OF JOBS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS¹
(\$000)

	Estimates 2023/24	Estimates 2024/25
NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT FUND		
This account was established by the <i>BC-Alcan Northern Development Fund Act</i> in 1998. The purpose is to promote sustainable economic development in north-western British Columbia. Expenses are to support investment in new or existing businesses, to create new employment or stabilize existing employment, to support other goals consistent with the Act, and for the Nechako-Kitamaat Development Fund Society. Interest earned on the fund balance is credited to the account as revenue. Administration costs are funded through the Ministry Operations Vote.		
SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR ².....	703	703
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Revenue.....	500	500
Expense.....	(500)	(500)
Net Revenue (Expense).....	—	—
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS		
Receipts.....	—	—
Disbursements.....	—	—
Capital Expenditures.....	—	—
Net Cash Source (Requirement).....	—	—
PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR ².....	703	703

NOTES

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

² The Spending Authority Available at the Beginning of the Fiscal Year 2023/24 is based on the 2022/23 *Public Accounts*. The Projected Spending Authority Available at the End of the Fiscal Year represents the cash and temporary investments projected to be available at the end of each fiscal year.

Budget 2024/25 Questions and Answers

Contents

1. Why has JEDI's budget increased by \$2.473 million from 2023/24?
 2. Why has the Minister's Office Budget increased by \$152,000 from 2023/24?
 3. How much funding was allocated to supports for forestry workers and rural communities?
 4. How much funding has been allocated to the B.C. Manufacturing Jobs Fund?
-

1. Why has JEDI's budget increased by \$2.473 million from 2023/24?

JEDI's 2024/25 budget of \$115.778 million increased by \$2.473 million from the 2023/24 restated estimates budget of \$113.305 million:

Budget Increase/(Decrease) Summary	\$ 000's
Compensation increases: Shared Recovery Mandate ¹	\$2,376
Budget lift: Ministerial Assistant	\$108
Minister's Office decrease ²	(\$11)
Net Budget Increase	\$2,473

1. Budget increase attributed to a base budget lift for compensation increases under the Shared Recovery Mandate.
2. This adjustment was approved by the Premier's Office in *Budget 2023*; the (\$11,000) decrease is resulting from a one-time increase temporarily in *Budget 2023* for Supplementary Salary Costs as a result of maternity, parental and sick leaves in the Minister's Office.

2. Why has the Ministers' Offices Budget increased by \$152,000 from 2023/24?

- \$55,000 increase related to compensation increases under the Shared Recovery Mandate.
- \$108,000 increase for a Ministerial Assistant to support the Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development.
- (\$11,000) decrease resulting from a one-time increase temporarily in *Budget 2023* for Supplementary Salary costs as a result of maternity, parental and sick leaves in the Minister's Office.

Note: Overall, there is a net increase to the Ministers' Offices. Any questions on the review of Ministers' Offices budgets should be directed to the Ministry of Finance.

3. How much funding was allocated to supports for forestry workers and rural communities?

- *Budget 2022* provided more than \$185 million over three years to bring forth coordinated and comprehensive supports to help forestry workers and contractors, industry, communities, and First Nations to adapt and respond to impacts of old growth deferrals

Included in the programs through JEDI are:

- **Forest Employment Program (FEP):** Creates short-term employment to help forest and land-based contractors explore new work.
- **Rural Business and Community Recovery Initiative (RBCRI):** Hires advisers to help create jobs and support rural businesses and communities in hard hit areas.
- **Enhanced Community Transition Services:** Ensures supports are in place for workers and communities after a community transition event (e.g. mill closure).
- **Rural Economic and Diversification Infrastructure Program (REDIP):** Promotes economic diversification, clean growth and infrastructure development.
 - In 2024/25 the Province is investing up to \$33M (\$23 million base budget).

- As part of the original FWCS suite of programs, the BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund (MJF) will support value-add manufacturing from all manufacturing sectors, with an investment of \$180 million (see Question # 5).

4. How much funding has been allocated to the B.C. Manufacturing Jobs Fund?

- As part of the Forestry Worker Community Supports announced in November 2021, the Province committed to supporting innovation in Regional B.C. through investments in value-added forestry and other manufacturing to mitigate the impacts of old growth deferrals.
- On January 17, 2023 the Province announced up to \$90 million over three years for the B.C. Manufacturing Jobs Fund; on February 15, 2023 the Province announced that the program has been expanded to include manufacturing projects in all areas of B.C.; up to \$180 million is now available.
- Two funding streams provide up to \$50,000 for business planning, and up to \$10 million for new or renovated infrastructure, equipment, and technology (capital investments).
- Funding contributions under the capital investment stream are limited to a maximum of 20% of capital costs and will be provided upon completion of project milestones.
- The fund will help manufacturing companies modernize, innovate, and grow by providing funding for capital projects in all regions in B.C., particularly in communities affected by economic impacts or downturns.

Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Mandate Letter Commitments

Mandate Letter Commitments January 2024	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Brenda Bailey Mandate Letter				
1. Continue to deliver the StrongerBC Economic Plan to build an inclusive, sustainable, and innovative economy that works for people.	Tim Lesiuk, SED	Danielle Grbavac	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Progress Update on the StrongerBC Economic Plan was released in August 2023. The Progress Update demonstrates that the Plan’s two fundamental goals – inclusive growth and clean growth – and the six core missions are working to grow the economy. Of the 70 actions outlined in the Plan, 28 are completed, 10 are substantially completed, and 32 are underway. Several strategic initiatives were launched or advanced in 2023. These include the B.C. Manufacturing Jobs Fund, Mass Timber Action Plan, B.C. Intellectual Property Strategy, Maritime Industries Strategy, Life Sciences and Biomanufacturing Strategy, B.C. National Biomanufacturing Training Centre, B.C. Centre for Agritech Innovation and the Trade Diversification Strategy.
2. Make B.C. a global destination for investment in clean industries by leveraging federal investments, taking steps to attract more new companies, and supporting B.C.-based clean business start-ups.	Kerry Pridmore, TIDD	William Hoyle	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Fall 2022, JEDI supported and adjudicated funding applications in B.C. for the CanExport Community Investments program (Federal). The program provides support to communities and non-profit organizations to help them attract, retain and expand their FDI activities. 11 B.C. community projects were funded in 2023. JEDI again supported the adjudication of applications for 2024. Leveraged growing global demand for green economy products and services by positioning B.C. to be among the world leaders in sustainable business including low-carbon investments in clean industries at targeted industry events in Canada (BC, AB, ON), Japan, South Korea, EU, USA, and China. As a result of these activities, several Inbound Missions and Executive Visits (FDI-focus) to B.C. were

Mandate Letter Commitments January 2024	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Brenda Bailey Mandate Letter				
				<p>supported. FY22-23 results include MOUs and investors making Final Investment Decisions in B.C. Investing up to \$80 million in E-One Moli to secure the advanced battery manufacturing facility in Maple Ridge, leveraging \$205 million of federal investment, creating 350 new jobs and securing over 100 existing positions, and firmly establishing B.C. in the supply chain for critical minerals and electrification. JEDI supported the visit of Premier Eby, Ministers Bailey, Osborne and Brar to Vietnam, Japan, Korea and Singapore where they met with governments and companies to promote B.C. as a low-carbon supplier of goods and services, and as a destination for investments in clean industries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JEDI continues to engage with investment firms and companies regarding opportunities in B.C., supporting clean business scale-up – matchmaking capital sources and business investments to support company growth. • JEDI is actively working with the Clean Energy and Major Projects Office to support their list of clean energy projects, particularly those with an international proponent.
3. Continue to drive innovation in biotechnology, low carbon technology, and climate solutions and identify opportunities for communities across the province.	Paul Pawlowski, ID (biotech)	Maija Duffy	Completed	<p>The Life Sciences and Biomanufacturing Strategy was released in April 2023. The Strategy will position B.C. as an international hub for life sciences. Implementation initiatives are underway, to date Government has committed up to \$650 million on initiatives across the value chain, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Biomanufacturing Training Centre (NBTC), announced in February 2023, at BC Institute for Technology will provide hands-on biomanufacturing training with

Mandate Letter Commitments January 2024	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Brenda Bailey Mandate Letter				
				<p>leading-edge equipment in a cleanroom environment. NBTC is established to address talent shortage challenges. NBTC is to open in the fall of 2024. Leverages federal funding: \$5.2 million from PacifiCan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two new wetlab facilities will provide early-stage biotech companies with access to turnkey labs and equipment – one in Vancouver (Mt Pleasant) and one on Vancouver Island. \$10 million was provided to adMare BioInnovations, and \$2.5 million to Vancouver Island Life Sciences association. • Investing up to \$75 million towards AbCellera’s \$701 million project to create a state-of-the-art biotech campus equipped with a new preclinical antibody development facility. • To address a gap in B.C.’s life sciences ecosystem, the Government funded the establishment of a Clinical Trials Unit at Mt St Joseph Hospital for phase 1 non-cancer trials of innovative therapeutics (\$4.2 million through Ministry of Health). • To ensure B.C. has the investigators and clinical trial design expertise to support more clinical trials here, \$2.4 million has been provided to UBC for a Research Chair in Clinical Pharmacology (funding through Ministry of Health). • The new Clinical Support and Research Centre at St Paul’s Hospital and Health Campus will bring innovation closer to patients that will need it the most. The Province is funding \$331 million of the \$638 million project (through Ministry of Health). • Triumph’s Institute for Advanced Medical Isotopes in partnership with BC Cancer will benefit from a new cyclotron and radiopharmacy laboratories to advance

Mandate Letter Commitments January 2024	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Brenda Bailey Mandate Letter				
	Tim Lesiuk, SED (low carbon tech, climate solutions)	Kursti Calder	Completed	<p>cancer diagnostics and treatment (\$32 million funding through Ministry of Health).</p> <p>The Integrated Marketplace is underway, which will help industry to decarbonize and increase productivity while creating new customers for made-in-B.C. technology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In December 2022, the government announced an investment of up to \$11.5 million in funding over three years to support the program. • Three test beds have been announced: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vancouver International Airport (YVR) (December 2022); ○ Port of Prince Rupert (Prince Rupert Port Authority, April 2023); and ○ Port of Vancouver (Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, July 2023). • Projects have launched at both the YVR and PRPA test beds (April 2023) but have not yet been publicly announced. • In October 2023, PacifiCan committed \$9.9 million in funding to support expansion of the Initiative. • In October 2023, a fourth test bed was signed with the Provincial Health Services Authority, the first test bed in the IM program outside of the transportation sector. This has not yet been publicly announced. • In November 2023, the B.C. On-Farm Technology Adoption Program was launched through the IM in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. The program, funded under the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership, will

Mandate Letter Commitments January 2024	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Brenda Bailey Mandate Letter				
				<p>provide up to \$3 million to B.C. farmers over the next two years to support the adoption of new innovative technologies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is expected that a number of projects will come forward from all the four test beds in 2024 and that subsequent announcements will follow.
4. Continue to support advancement of clean industry in alignment with our CleanBC and StrongerBC plans and continue to provide support for industries in transition.	Debbie Smollett, SBED	Sonja Cunningham	Underway	<p>The BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund, announced in January 2023, will invest up to \$180 million into manufacturing companies to modernize, innovate and grow by providing funding for capital projects in all regions in B.C., particularly in communities affected by economic impacts or downturns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Fund focuses on helping the forestry sector retrofit and develop new, sustainable value-added business lines that reduce dependency on old growth logging and make innovative use of biomaterials. The program intake will be open for up to two years, with projects funded at regular intervals. As of January 2024, \$44.6 million has been announced to support 46 projects across B.C., creating and protecting nearly 2,000 jobs. Over two-thirds of the funding is directly supporting forest sector transition.

Mandate Letter Commitments January 2024	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Brenda Bailey Mandate Letter				
5. With support from the Minister of State for Trade, launch and implement the Trade Diversification Strategy that will diversify our trading partners to hedge against global uncertainty and position B.C. businesses on the global stage.	Kerry Pridmore, TIDD	Lori MacKenzie	Completed* Released May 2023.	<p>Trade Diversification Strategy Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market, sector, and programming research has been completed, and business intelligence from our teams here and in-market has been gathered. • Strategic goals and metrics have also been developed. • External engagement on the Strategy was carried out in Spring 2022 to understand the needs of B.C. exporting businesses, including businesses traditionally under-represented, and to inform actions in the Strategy. • Between April and May 2022, the Minister of State for Trade hosted 7 virtual roundtable engagement sessions. A total of 32 participants attended the sessions, including representatives from business and trade associations, industry associations, businesses, and organizations representing women, people of colour, LGBTQ2+, youth, and entrepreneurs with disabilities. • A tailored approach was taken to Indigenous engagement. Individual sessions were held with Indigenous groups instead of roundtables, and engagement materials included Indigenous context and appropriate questions. • The Strategy was released in May 2023, and focuses on two strategic goals: to increase trade and investment opportunities for B.C. businesses in Mexico, Taiwan and Vietnam; and, to increase the number and diversity of B.C.'s businesses exporting goods and services. • The office in Vietnam was officially opened by Minister Brar in May 2023. • B.C.'s Managing Director for Taiwan started in April 2023. The office has yet to be officially opened.

Mandate Letter Commitments January 2024	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Brenda Bailey Mandate Letter				
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hiring for two positions in Mexico City is ongoing, and the office will be open in 2024. The Ministry continues to provide \$1.2 million annually to support the Export Navigator Program. The Export Navigator (EN) program expanded to support new and early-stage exporters in Greater Victoria and Greater Vancouver. All Export Advisors have received training in equity, diversity and inclusion to support businesses led by under-represented groups in all regions across the province. The Ministry will launch a Special Advisor pilot which will provide advisory services to export navigator clients. The Ministry provided \$913,000 to the World Trade Centre Vancouver to deliver new cohorts of the Trade Accelerator Program (TAP), which supports B.C. businesses and entrepreneurs to be export ready. <p><i>*Note: There are some actions in it that have not been fully implemented yet (and are unfunded).</i></p>
6. Continue working with local governments to identify and preserve land suitable for supporting sustainable industrial activity and economic benefits in rural and urban communities throughout the province.	Kerry Pridmore, TIDD	Lori MacKenzie	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JEDI continues to support Metro Vancouver in their efforts to address industrial land challenges through their Regional Industrial Lands Strategy. JEDI is convening stakeholders such as Metro Vancouver, Fraser Valley Regional District and the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority to collaborate and work through shared issues related to industrial land. JEDI is also working with other Ministries such as Transportation and Infrastructure to identify opportunities for targeted investments in B.C.

Mandate Letter Commitments January 2024	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Brenda Bailey Mandate Letter				
7. With support from the Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development, work with rural communities to strengthen regional economic development and to build economic resilience in hard-hit forest sector communities.	Debbie Smollett, SBED	Kim Reid	Underway	<p>JEDI continues to lead government coordination and progress reporting on the suite of Forest Worker and Community Supports (FWCS) addressing the economic impacts for rural communities and workers from changes in the forest sector, including the Bridging to Retirement (LBR) and forest workers skills training programs (PSFS).</p> <p>JEDI delivers the following FWCS programs and supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Employment Program: Funding allocated to land-based projects to create short-term employment opportunities for forestry contractors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In FY22/23, the program approved nearly \$12 million for 99 projects. • Rural Economic Diversification & Infrastructure Program: Economic diversification program that includes supports for rural communities impacted by changes in the forestry sector. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In FY22/23, the program approved \$66 million for over 200 projects. • Community Transition Support: Enhanced community transition services to communities undergoing significant economic disruption. • Rural Business and Community Recovery Initiative (through funding to and delivery by the Regional Trusts): Temporary employment opportunities for advisors to support rural businesses and communities impacted by forest policy changes and other economic impacts. <p>JEDI supports the work of the Forest Worker Supports and Community Resiliency Council, Advice/Recommendations Advice/Recommendations</p>

Mandate Letter Commitments January 2024	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Brenda Bailey Mandate Letter				
8. Support the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills to deliver the Future Ready Skills plan so British Columbians have the skills they need for the jobs of the future and to support B.C. employers impacted by global labour shortages.	Tim Lesiuk, SED	Matt Zahynacz	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan (FRAP) was released in spring of 2023. FRAP is focused on five pillars and will help thousands of people get the skills they need to succeed in the changing economy and help close the skills gap many businesses are facing. • Up to \$14.4 million will be provided over three years (2023/24 to 2025/26) to make progress on three initiatives: Mass Timber, Manufacturing, and Digital Skills training. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$3.3 million is allocated for new skills for new building products related to Mass Timber. ○ Training programs will be offered by post-secondary institutions, with the development and delivery of comprehensive mass timber programs, including mass timber design, mass timber development and construction skills, and mass timber digital skills. ○ \$3 million will be used to expand manufacturing workforce development by providing 500 youth (ages 16-21) with short-term work placements to develop skills and work experience that positions them for success in post-secondary training and in the workforce. ○ \$8.1 million will be used to expand and extend the Digital Skills Bootcamp and the Canadian Tech Talent Accelerator. Funding will provide thousands more with training opportunities to help people get their start in tech.

Mandate Letter Commitments December 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Jagrup Brar Mandate Letter				
<p>1. Continue to leverage our role as the trade gateway to Canada by seeking new strategies to expand export opportunities and diversify our trading partners across the globe, and by arranging opportunities for B.C. to showcase our remarkable products and services to potential trading partners with strong prospects for growth in trade with our province.</p>	<p>Kerry Pridmore, TIDD</p>	<p>Lori MacKenzie</p>	<p>Completed Released May 2023.</p>	<p><u>Trade Diversification Strategy Update:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market, sector, and programming research has been completed, and business intelligence from our teams here and in-market has been gathered. • Strategic goals and metrics have also been developed. • External engagement on the Strategy was carried out in Spring 2022 to understand the needs of B.C. exporting businesses, including businesses traditionally under-represented, and to inform actions in the Strategy. • Between April and May 2022, Minister of State for Trade hosted 7 virtual roundtable engagement sessions. A total of 32 participants attended the sessions, including representatives from business and trade associations, industry associations, businesses, and organizations representing women, people of colour, LGBTQ2+, youth, and entrepreneurs with disabilities. • A tailored approach was taken to Indigenous engagement. Individual sessions were held with Indigenous groups instead of roundtables, and engagement materials included Indigenous context and appropriate questions. • The Strategy was released in May 2023, and focuses on two strategic goals: to increase trade and investment opportunities for B.C. businesses in Mexico, Taiwan and Vietnam; and, to increase the number and diversity of B.C.'s businesses exporting goods and services. • The Ministry delivers a robust annual program of trade initiatives in B.C. and globally, to promote B.C.'s products and services.

Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Mandate Letter Commitments

Mandate Letter Commitments December 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Jagrup Brar Mandate Letter				
2. Work with all ministries to ensure more regular interactions with the federal government on B.C.'s international trade and economic priorities, including increased opportunities for face-to-face meetings with staff and key ministers in Ottawa.	Kerry Pridmore, TIDD	William Hoyle	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represented B.C.'s trade and investment interests at Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) tables to advance discussions on economic priority areas and sectors to seize opportunities and address challenges that open markets for B.C. (e.g. FPT Agri-Food Investments, FPT Director Generals on FDI, FPT Economic-based National Security Community Practice, etc.). • Initiated face-to-face discussions for Ministers with federal counterparts (Global Affairs Canada) on the new Indo-Pacific Strategy, China bi-lateral relations and collaboration on trade and investment initiatives and the role of B.C. in new programs (with the goal of advancing B.C. economic priorities in alignment with Indo-Pacific Strategy). • Collaborate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to deliver the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Program which supports the promotion of B.C. agrifood to global markets.
3. Build on relationships with B.C.'s neighbouring jurisdictions – including through the Pacific Coast Collaborative, the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region, and inter-provincial trade – to expand trade opportunities for B.C. businesses and support our shared efforts to reduce emissions.	Kerry Pridmore, TIDD		Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with PCC affiliated organizations during March 2023 Ministerial trip to Portland, OR. • Supported the release of the Pacific Coast Leaders Strategy for Building More with Less Carbon, a Vision and Action Plan to promote a regional low-carbon construction sector that promotes equity-centered policies, job creation, and regional markets. • Additional meetings are planned with government and corporate officials to further trade relations and explore commercial opportunities, particularly in Mass Timber.

Mandate Letter Commitments December 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Jagrup Brar Mandate Letter				
<p>4. Continue to work across ministries and with the federal government to ensure British Columbia’s interests are protected and advanced in trade negotiations and disputes, including supporting the Minister of Forests on softwood lumber negotiations with the United States.</p>	<p>Kerry Pridmore, TIDD</p>	<p>Steve Anderson</p>	<p>Underway</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trade Policy, Analytics and Marketing Branch (TPAM) continues to lead B.C.’s domestic and international trade policy to secure new, preferential, and predictable market access for B.C. workers and businesses in other jurisdictions, as well as defend B.C. industries when they are being treated unfairly. • There are several trade negotiations currently ongoing: two negotiations with the UK (the Canada-UK free trade agreement negotiations and the UK’s accession negotiations to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership); the Canada-India Early Progress Trade Agreement negotiations; the Canada-Indonesia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations; the Canada-ASEAN free trade agreement negotiations; the Canada-Ukraine free trade agreement modernization negotiations; and negotiations to add financial services coverage under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement. TPAM works across Ministries throughout the negotiations to identify B.C.’s interests and potential impact to B.C., and engages with the federal government to ensure that B.C.’s interests are protected and advanced in trade negotiations. • TPAM continues to support the Ministry of Forests on the softwood lumber dispute with the U.S. B.C. continues to emphasize to Canada that resolving the dispute is B.C.’s number one trade priority. • TPAM is closely monitoring and supporting the Ministry of Agriculture and Food on dairy disputes under the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

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Mandate Letter Commitments December 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Jagrup Brar Mandate Letter				
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TPAM is currently monitoring the EU’s proposed implementation of a carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) for potential impact to B.C.

Mandate Letter Commitments January 2024	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
PS Roly Russell Mandate Letter				
1. Support the Minister of Housing’s efforts to address the housing challenges in rural, remote, and First Nations communities to support economic growth.	Debbie Smollett, SBED	Kim Reid	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development meets with rural stakeholders and communities to understand their rural housing needs and concerns. JEDI staff work with Housing staff to embed rural community needs and considerations into housing actions. To help address rural housing challenges, the 2023/24 intake of JEDI’s Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program extended eligibility to workforce housing planning projects. JEDI staff support rural communities with on-the- ground guidance and advice on rural housing initiatives, identify and share out pathways for rural housing funding, including the release of a guide with rural housing cases studies and resources.

Mandate Letter Commitments January 2024	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
PS Roly Russell Mandate Letter				
2. Engage directly with communities and provide regional perspectives to the work of government, with a focus on reflecting the unique needs of rural, remote, and First Nations communities, and implementing supports as needed.	Debbie Smollett, SBED	Kim Reid	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development meets regularly with rural stakeholders and communities to understand rural needs and concerns, and shares feedback within government to strengthen government’s support for rural areas. The PS works to increase awareness of and access to rural programs and services, and highlight the investments and opportunities outlined in the Rural Strategy. JEDI staff engage continually with and support rural communities, including those with diversification challenges and those in economic decline. JEDI staff develop and deliver programs to meet the needs of rural communities, including the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program. JEDI staff work with key Ministries in government to incorporate rural considerations into policy and program development, including collection and analysis of rural data to support evidence-based policy and program design that addresses rural needs.
3. Continue to support the Minister of Citizen Services to deliver high-speed connectivity throughout the province, with a goal of connecting all regions to a high-speed network.	Debbie Smollett, SBED	Kim Reid	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Memorandum of Understanding between CITZ and JEDI supports coordination on key issues that underpin rural connectivity. JEDI works to align community economic development opportunities and priorities with connectivity planning and education (e.g. facilitating discussions on digital readiness). JEDI staff meet with CITZ staff to share information, and rural data.

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Mandate Letter Commitments

Mandate Letter Commitments January 2024	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
PS Roly Russell Mandate Letter				
4. Support the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills and engage with sector partners to continue to expand access to skills training for people in remote, rural, and First Nations communities.	Debbie Smollett, SBED	Kim Reid	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development and JEDI staff engage directly with rural post-secondary institutions to support their role in identifying and delivering skills training to local communities and businesses. Engagement includes the role of post-secondary education in economic success in communities. JEDI staff work on a cross agency team supporting rural communities and workers impacted by changes to the forestry sector that includes coordination and input into forest workers skills training programs under PSFS.
5. Support the Minister of Health’s work to strengthen ambulance services in rural communities.	Debbie Smollett, SBED	Kim Reid	Underway	<p>To date, Ministry of Health has advised re the increase in ambulance for rural communities, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BC Emergency Health Services transitioned temporary ambulances and paramedic positions that staff 55 ambulances to permanent and added other positions where they were needed most to help stabilize and strengthen ambulance services in communities. The bulk of the 55 ambulances are in rural areas. BCEHA also added 60 ambulances throughout the province to increase capacity to provide care in rural and remote communities.



January 15, 2024

Honourable Brenda Bailey
Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Bailey:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation. I trust in your leadership at this critical time to deliver results for the people of British Columbia.

British Columbians continue to recover from and respond to the upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and climate related natural disasters, while global inflation is driving up costs for more households and the world's economic outlook is concerning. Now more than ever, we need to focus on building a secure, low emission, sustainable economy, and a province where everyone can find a good home – whether you live in a rural area, in a city, or in an Indigenous community. We will continue working toward true and meaningful reconciliation by supporting opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to be full partners in the inclusive and sustainable province we are building together.

Our government is committed to delivering on the mandate British Columbians gave us in 2020. Together we can make life better for people in B.C., improve the services we all rely on, and ensure a sustainable province for future generations.

As we renew our work, my priority as Premier is to deliver results that people can see and feel in four key areas:

- **Attainable and affordable housing:** In the wake of soaring prices and record migration to B.C., we will take on the important work of building new homes that are actually attainable for the middle class, while continuing our work to address the housing crisis for those in distress on our streets.

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- **Safer communities:** To address concerns about public safety, both for the people struggling with mental health and addiction on our streets, as well as the feeling that downtown centres are not as safe as they were before the pandemic, we will work with our partners at all levels of government, the justice and health care systems, the non-profit sector, and community leaders to find solutions for this complex challenge facing our province, and work overtime to seize the assets of high-level criminals.
- **Improved health care:** Amid unprecedented pressures we will continue to work to strengthen our public health care system, from family doctors to new hospitals, so care is there for each of us when we need it.
- **A sustainable, clean, secure, and fair economy:** We will continue our work investing in British Columbians, fighting racism and promoting equity, and building a clean economy that addresses our obligations to combat climate change by driving down emissions, while creating good, family supporting jobs.

Global economic forces, from inflation to war to the ever-changing relationships between countries, have had profound effects on British Columbia. Putting people first and making life better for families and communities has paid off. Despite global economic headwinds, our economy and employment numbers remain strong. But change can come quickly. Our government will work hard to ensure we are preparing British Columbians to securely weather the economic storms of changing central bank policies, supply chain challenges, and labour shortages around the world.

Indigenous Peoples, the federal government, and local governments are all strong partners in our work to secure the gains British Columbians have seen as we move into uncertain economic times and address these pressing issues.

Our technology sectors, like hydrogen, cleantech, and biotech, are growing rapidly. The exciting developments in B.C. technology can help build resiliency in every industry, with growth sustained over the long term by building centres of research, education, and excellence. As Minister, you will work to ensure the many positive impacts from the tech sectors are distributed across the province to support all regions in their economic development activities, job creation, strategic investments, and economic diversification.

Supporting natural resource sector jobs by partnering with industry to add value to our resources will help B.C. develop technologies, systems, and manufactured goods that can be exported to other jurisdictions. Supporting farmers, ranchers, and food producers will help ensure food security at home while building export opportunities abroad. Supporting small businesses, Indigenous Peoples, and communities with economic development initiatives will help ensure everyone in British Columbia benefits from economic growth and weathers the downturns of the global market.

B.C. is the trade gateway to Canada. By prioritizing building and diversifying our trade relationships around the globe, we can ensure B.C. businesses find receptive markets for innovative clean technologies, sustainable value-added resource commodities, healthy foods, manufactured goods, and game-changing services. By building on B.C.'s competitiveness through our environmental, social, and governance advantages, our government will help B.C. stand strong and secure through changing global relationships. From the West Coast of the United States to across Canada to around the world, people are interested in buying sustainable goods, products, and services from B.C.

Since 2020, our government has made considerable progress on important initiatives including:

- Working with your colleagues and the people of British Columbia to launch the ambitious StrongerBC Economic Plan that focuses on the missions of clean and inclusive growth for our province.
- Supporting small businesses through COVID-19 with initiatives such as the Small and Medium Sized Business Recovery Grant and the permanent delivery fee cap to support restaurants.
- Launching InBC, a \$500 million strategic investment fund to support clean, inclusive jobs and economic growth.
- Creating the Office of Mass Timber Implementation and investing \$5.4 million to accelerate the use of mass timber demonstration projects, making B.C. a world leader in this new sector.
- Redesigning the Innovator Skills Initiative program, which provides B.C. companies with grants to hire employees for technology and tech-enabled jobs.

As you continue to make progress on items in the previous mandate letter, over the remaining period of this mandate I expect you to prioritize making progress on the following:

- Continue to deliver the StrongerBC Economic Plan to build an inclusive, sustainable, and innovative economy that works for people.
- Make B.C. a global destination for investment in clean industries by leveraging federal investments, taking steps to attract more new companies, and supporting B.C.-based clean business start-ups.
- Continue to drive innovation in biotechnology, low carbon technology, and climate solutions and identify opportunities for communities across the province.

