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## MINISTRY PROFILE

### Ministry of Attorney General

#### Ministry Mandate:

The Ministry of Attorney General and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General work together as the justice and public safety sector to advance a shared vision of a safe, secure, just, and resilient British Columbia. The ministry works to keep communities safe and provide certainty, proportionality and, above all, fairness when dealing with criminal, civil, and family law matters and to protect people, especially those who are most vulnerable. The ministry, while dealing with these matters, is focused on promoting confidence in the integrity of the sector and ensuring continued public participation and support.

The ministry is responsible for sheriff and court administration services, legal aid, prosecution services, administrative tribunals, civil and family justice services, protection and promotion of human rights, providing legal advice to Government, and developing justice policy and justice reforms.

The ministry is also responsible for promoting multiculturalism and leading anti-racism initiatives through the Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives.

The Indigenous Justice Secretariat, housed in the Ministry of Attorney General, is a unique commitment between the Province and the BC First Nations Justice Council to cement their relationship and commitment to decreasing the overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples in the criminal justice system along two tracks of change: (1) Reform of the existing justice system; (2) Transformation through the rebuilding of Indigenous justice systems. The Indigenous Justice Secretariat was designed and implemented to build capacity toward an Indigenous-based justice system.

**Full Time Equivalent (FTEs):** 5,115 FTEs as of July 31, 2024. Full year average FTEs forecast for fiscal 2024/25 is 5,143 FTEs.

## Executive Organizational Chart:

<b>Deputy Attorney General</b>
<b>Corporate Management Services Branch Assistant Deputy Minister &amp; Executive Financial Officer</b>
<b>Information Systems Branch Assistant Deputy Minister &amp; Chief Information Officer</b>
<b>BC Prosecution Service Assistant Deputy Attorney General</b>
<b>Court Services Branch Assistant Deputy Minister</b>
<b>Indigenous Justice Secretariat Assistant Deputy Minister</b>
<b>Justice Services Branch Assistant Deputy Minister</b>
<b>Legal Services Branch Assistant Deputy Attorney General</b>
<b>Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Branch Assistant Deputy Minister</b>

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## Budget:

## Financial Summary

(\$000s)	2023/24 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2024/25 Estimates	2025/26 Service Plan	2026/27 Service Plan
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Justice Services	177,620	197,467	200,879	202,446
Indigenous Justice Secretariat	23,519	22,363	20,333	20,333
Prosecution Services	173,671	212,499	212,505	212,510
Court Services	148,684	156,067	156,133	156,198
Legal Services	32,267	40,682	40,682	40,682
Agencies, Boards, Commissions & other Tribunals	48,781	52,506	52,480	52,480
Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism	2,361	6,804	6,604	6,604
Executive and Support Services	37,110	40,936	40,482	40,482
Judiciary	93,617	110,671	110,809	110,956
<i>Crown Proceeding Act</i>	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500
Independent Investigations Office	11,564	12,428	12,428	12,428
Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>773,694</b>	<b>876,923</b>	<b>877,835</b>	<b>879,619</b>
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>				
Agencies, Boards, Commissions & other Tribunals	10	10	10	10
Executive and Support Services	5,768	8,925	4,450	4,450
Judiciary	770	819	770	770
Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account	363	363	363	363
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,911</b>	<b>10,117</b>	<b>5,593</b>	<b>5,593</b>

<sup>1</sup> For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2023/24 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2024/25 Estimates

\* Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

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## **Ministry of Attorney General**

### **ROLE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

The Attorney General of British Columbia has two distinct roles.

The first role is that of a Cabinet minister, exercising administrative and ministerial functions to superintend a large and diverse ministry. In this role, the Attorney General is responsible for representing the interests and perspectives of the ministry at Cabinet, and accordingly the government, to the ministry and the ministry's communities of interest. The minister introduces policies and programs that not only change the law but are intended to influence the way the law is applied, how the legal system functions and how individuals interact with the system.

The second, and markedly distinct role is as chief law officer of the Crown. In relation to prosecutions, the Attorney General acts independently of the cabinet, government, and partisan politics. This constitutional convention is now so firmly entrenched in the Canadian political system that any deviation would likely lead to the resignation of the Attorney General or would, at the very least, spark a constitutional crisis (M. Rosenberg, "The Attorney General and the Administration of Criminal Justice", *Queen's Law Journal* 34(2), 2009).

As chief law officer, the Attorney General is the official legal advisor of the Lieutenant Governor, Cabinet, and government. The Attorney General is the guardian of the rule of law and the independence of courts and prosecutions.

The duties and powers of the Attorney General are codified in section 2 of the *Attorney General Act*, which states:

#### **2 The Attorney General**

- (a) Is the official legal advisor of the Lieutenant Governor and the legal member of the Executive Council;
- (b) Must see that the administration of public affairs is in accordance with law;
- (c) Must superintend all matters connected with the administration of justice in British Columbia that are not within the jurisdiction of the government of Canada;
- (d) Must advise on the legislative acts and proceedings of the Legislature and generally advise the government on all matters of law referred to the Attorney General by the government;
- (e) Is entrusted with the powers and charged with the duties which belong to the office of the Attorney General and Solicitor General of England by law or usage, so far as those powers and duties are applicable to British Columbia, and also with the powers and duties which, by the laws of Canada and of British Columbia to be administered and carried into effect by the government of British Columbia, belong to the office of the Attorney General and Solicitor General;
- (f) Must advise the heads of the ministries of the government on all matters of law connected with the ministries;
- (g) Is charged with the settlement of all instruments issued under the Great Seal of British Columbia;
- (h) [Repealed 1997-7-17.];

- (i) Has the regulation and conduct of all litigation for or against the government or a ministry in respect of any subjects within the authority or jurisdiction of the legislature, and
- (j) Is charged generally with duties as may be assigned by law or by the Lieutenant Governor in Council to the Attorney General.

### **Official Legal Advisor and Legal Member of Executive Council**

The role of official legal advisor is linked to the Attorney General's overall responsibility as the independent legal member of the Executive Council. The independence of the role is fundamental to the position and well established in common law, statutes and tradition.

The Attorney General has a special responsibility to be the guardian of the rule of law, which protects individuals and society from arbitrary measures and safeguards personal liberties. The Attorney General also has a particular role to play in advising Cabinet to ensure the rule of law is maintained and that Cabinet actions are legally and constitutionally valid. This role does not necessitate, however, that the post must be held by a person entitled to practice law. The British Columbia Court of Appeal (*Askin v Law Society of British Columbia*, 2013 BCCA 233) upheld the BC Supreme Court decision and confirmed that there is no “express or necessarily implied requirement that a person appointed to the office of the Attorney General be a member of the Bar of British Columbia for five years or even be qualified to practice law.”

In providing advice, it is important to keep in mind the distinction between the Attorney General's policy advice and preferences and the legal advice being presented to Cabinet. The Attorney General's legal advice or constitutional advice should not be ignored; however, when providing policy advice, the Attorney General's recommendations have the same authority as that of other ministers.

### **Legislative Responsibilities**

The Attorney General is responsible for overseeing that all legislative enactments are in accordance with principles of natural justice, fairness, civil rights, and consistent with other provincial legislation. Significantly, the Attorney General also advises on the constitutionality of legislation, including consistency with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The Attorney General's legislative responsibilities are manifested in a variety of roles, including the relationship with Legislative Counsel, which plays a key role in ensuring the legal integrity of government legislation. Although Legislative Counsel's reporting relationship to the Attorney General does allow the Attorney General to provide guidance and set standards, individual pieces of legislation are drafted on instructions from client ministries and are not within the sole control of Legislative Counsel or the Attorney General. In addition, legislation must meet requirements in some treaties such as the requirement for consultation.

The Attorney General has a further role to play as part of the Legislative Review Committee to review legislation and regulations and to comment on the technical issues related to legislation and regulations prior to Cabinet consideration.

The Attorney General's role on legislative matters is as an advisor to the Cabinet. Although unlikely, Cabinet could, in theory, receive the Attorney General's legal opinion on legislation and choose to disregard it. Such a situation could, however, in extreme circumstances, result in the Attorney General tendering a resignation. Failure to accept and comply with the advice provided could be construed as lack of confidence in the Attorney General's counsel or an attempt to compromise the independent determinations of the Attorney General. Such a situation occurred in 1988 when the Honourable Brian R. Smith Q.C. resigned as Attorney General on the basis that then Premier William Vander Zalm apparently lacked confidence in him and sought to weaken the independence of the office of the Attorney General, which Mr. Smith described as one of "great sensitivity and neutrality in the administration of justice".

### **Civil Litigation**

In addition to specific responsibilities to conduct civil litigation on behalf of the government and its agencies, the Attorney General has broader litigation responsibilities. These powers are based on the Crown's *parens patriae* (parental) authority. The Attorney General's authority is not only to conduct litigation in cases directly affecting the government or its agencies but also to litigate cases where there is a clear matter of public interest or public rights at stake.

This has been characterized as a constitutional responsibility to ensure that the public interest is well and independently represented. It may involve interventions in private litigation or Charter challenges to legislation, even if the arguments conclude that the legislation does contravene constitutionally protected rights.

### **Court Administration**

A key component of the Attorney General's constitutional responsibilities to ensure the administration of justice in the province is the administration of the courts. This includes responsibility for maintaining liaison with the judiciary.

Given the fundamental importance of the independence of the judiciary, the responsibility for court administration is often a very sensitive and delicate issue. Great care and respect for the principles of judicial independence must be exercised in this area. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Attorney General and the three courts has been developed to provide clarity regarding roles and responsibilities applicable to this relationship.

### **Criminal Prosecutions**

The Sovereign has the constitutional right and obligation to maintain peace and prosecute crimes. The duty to prosecute offences flows directly and exclusively from the Sovereign to the Attorney General as the chief law officer of the Crown (*Regina v Smythe* (1971), 3 CCC (2d) 97 (CA), *aff'd* [1971] SCR 680). In criminal prosecutions, the Attorney General has to stand alone, acting independently of Cabinet and of political or other external influences. The Attorney General's independence is "so fundamental to the integrity and efficiency of the criminal justice system that it is constitutionally entrenched" (*Miazga v Kvello Estate*, 2009 SCC 51).

The Attorney General is ultimately responsible for all prosecutions within provincial jurisdiction and must fulfill this constitutional role in an independent and nonpartisan manner. The Attorney General's responsibility for individual criminal prosecutions must be undertaken – and seen to be undertaken –

on rigorously objective and legal criteria, free of any political considerations, and in accordance with the accused's constitutional rights.

Any exercise of prosecutorial discretion is neither a matter of government policy nor subject to interference by other arms of government and other external bodies (*Miazga v Kvello Estate*, 2009 SCC 51). In superintending prosecutions, the Attorney General exercises an independent function resembling that of a judge (Ian Scott, "The Role of the Attorney General and the Charter of Rights" (1986-87) 29 *Criminal Law Quarterly* at para 190).

The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS), which is the Criminal Justice Branch of the Ministry of Attorney General, administers the prosecution service under the leadership of the Assistant Deputy Attorney General (ADAG). The BCPS is responsible for approving and conducting all prosecutions in British Columbia that are not within the jurisdiction of the federal prosecution service, as well as appeals and ancillary proceedings arising out of these same prosecutions. The ADAG appoints Crown Counsel to represent the Attorney General before the courts on criminal prosecutions and appeals under the *Crown Counsel Act*.

The Attorney General's prosecutorial function is delegated to Crown Counsel, who exercise the prosecution function as the Attorney General's lawful agents. Crown Counsel's "'Minister of Justice' obligations of objectivity and independence ... is an essential protection of the citizen against the sometimes overzealous or misdirected exercise of state power. It is one of the more important checks and balances of our criminal justice system..." (*R v Regan*, 2002 SCC 12). Prosecutorial independence ensures that Crown Counsel can properly fulfill their quasi-judicial role as ministers of justice.

The principle of prosecutorial independence is critical to maintaining the rule of law. The independence of Crown Counsel ensures that they can take the right decision in a case without fear or favour, without being subjected to improper pressure from another source, whether it be the media, politicians, the police, a victim seeking revenge or even a misguided public opinion. Prosecutorial independence promotes public confidence that criminal justice will be administered impartially and free from partisan political concerns. Crown Counsel possess transcendent public duties of objectivity, independence and integrity in pursuit of ensuring a fair trial for the accused and maintaining public confidence in the administration of justice. The prosecutor's core duties are to act objectively and independently in the interests of the integrity of the system and the rights of the accused (*Ontario (AG) v Clark*, 2021 SCC 18).

Crown Counsel must not act for improper purposes, such as purely partisan motives. This constitutional principle safeguards the rights of the individual and the integrity of the justice system (*R v Cawthorne*, 2016 SCC 32). Their responsibility is to present the case fairly, not necessarily to seek a conviction.

Although the Attorney General can become involved in decision making in relation to individual criminal cases, such a practice would leave the minister vulnerable to accusations of political interference. Accordingly, it is traditional to leave the day-to-day decision-making in the hands of Crown Counsel "as it is uncommon for a single prosecution to attract the Attorney General's personal attention" (*Krieger v Law Society of Alberta*, 2002 SCC 65).

The *Crown Counsel Act* governs the relationship between the BCPS and government through the Attorney General and provides the BCPS with significant independence in the exercise of its mandate. It imposes transparency by requiring that any directions from the Attorney General or Deputy Attorney



General (DAG) on specific prosecutions be set out in writing and published in the Gazette. Any policy directions provided by the Attorney General or DAG must also be set out in writing and may be published in the Gazette at the discretion of the ADAG. Transparency avoids allegations of improper political influence that, even when unfounded, can have significant adverse implications for the Attorney General, for the government, and for the public's perception of justice (*Blackmore v British Columbia (Attorney General)*, 2009 BCSC 1299).

The *Crown Counsel Act* also protects politically sensitive prosecutions from actual or perceived improper political interference by providing the ADAG (and only the ADAG) with the authority to appoint a Special Prosecutor. Special Prosecutors make their decisions on prosecution files independent of the BCPS and outside any immediate supervisory authority of the AG. The ADAG may give a direction to a special prosecutor in respect of any matter within the mandate of the special prosecutor, but that direction must be given in writing and be published in the Gazette.

The *Crown Counsel Act* also provides the BCPS a measure of independence and autonomy with respect to public communications. When the ADAG determines it is in the public interest to release a public statement about a decision in a high-profile case, the BCPS may release a Clear Statement.

The *sub judice* rule strictly prohibits the Attorney General, legislators, and government officials from commenting on matters before the courts. The rule protects the authority, independence and impartiality of the courts, as well as the fairness and integrity of legal proceedings. Breaches of this rule may constitute contempt of court and can jeopardize on-going prosecutions. Comments by members of government that could be interpreted as pressuring the BCPS or the courts to act in a certain way may compromise the constitutional rights of accused persons, potentially resulting in applications for stays of proceedings or changes of venue. They also erode public confidence in the justice system, which must be seen as being free from improper political inference at every level.

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Barbara Carmichael, KC  
Deputy Attorney General  
Ministry of Attorney General

**Biography:**

Barbara Carmichael, KC, was appointed as Deputy Attorney General, effective April 12, 2023, after acting in the position since October 2022. She joined the Legal Services Branch (LSB) of the Ministry of Attorney General as an articling student in 1997, after obtaining her law degree from the University of Victoria and clerking with the B.C. Supreme Court. In 2019 she was appointed King's Counsel. Over the past 25 years, during her time at LSB, Barbara was involved in a number of significant matters and appeared before administrative tribunals, all levels of the B.C. Courts, and the Supreme Court of Canada.

Barbara has provided legal advice to government on complex policy questions and played a key mentoring role with lawyers, professional staff and articled students. Barbara's priorities have included, and will continue to include, supporting meaningful reconciliation and the implementation of the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, as well as championing efforts to make our public service more anti-racist, equitable, diverse, and inclusive. Her past roles include Assistant DAG, Legal Services Branch; Legal Counsel, Law Policy and Strategic Advice; and chair of the LSB Articled Student Committee.

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## EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Trevor Shaw  
Acting Assistant Deputy Attorney General  
BC Prosecution Service  
Ministry of Attorney General

**Biography:**

Trevor Shaw is the Acting Assistant Deputy Attorney General for the BC Prosecution Service, Ministry of Attorney General. He has been the Director of Prosecution Support, Criminal Appeals and Special Prosecutions since 2013. He is a graduate of Queen's University (Kingston) and the University of Paris (Panthéon-Assas).

He was a law clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada before becoming a prosecutor in 1995 with Crown Law Office-Criminal in Toronto. He moved to British Columbia in 2006. In 2011, he worked as a consultant for the Office of Legal Affairs, at INTERPOL headquarters in Lyon, France. His practice has involved economic crime, constitutional litigation, and cases with international and comparative law components such as extradition, mutual legal assistance and extraterritoriality. He has appeared as counsel in ten cases before the Supreme Court of Canada. With the Justice Education Society, he works on a regular basis with judges, prosecutors and police in Central America to improve their criminal justice systems. For that work, he was awarded the 2021 Humanitarian Award by the Canadian Heads of Prosecutions Committee.

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## EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Alex Chandler  
Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer  
Corporate Management Services Branch  
Ministry of Attorney General  
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

### **Biography:**

Alex joined the Ministry of Attorney General / Public Safety and Solicitor General in June of 2024 as Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer. Alex has almost 20 years of experience in the BC Public Service. During his career he has held a variety of financial and governance related positions.

Most recently he was the Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer at the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness where he supported its establishment as a standalone ministry. He has held a variety of executive and management level positions in his public service career, including ten years with Treasury Board Staff in progressively more senior roles. As the Treasury Board Executive Director, he developed and oversaw budget plans for the natural resource sector.

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## EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Jenny Manton  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Court Services Branch  
Ministry of Attorney General

### **Biography:**

Assistant Deputy Minister Jenny Manton is responsible for more than 1,500 primarily front-line staff who serve the public and justice sector stakeholders in 90 court locations across the province. As ADM, Jenny fulfills the roles of Chief Court Administrator and Director of Sheriffs and has been ADM since December 2020. Key aspects of the position include strategic and operational leadership regarding all matters of court administration, court security and the harmonization of court and judicial administration processes to support an effective justice system.

Jenny has more than 30 years of experience in the BC Public Service, primarily in the justice and public safety sector with the BC Prosecution Service and Court Services Branch. <sup>Personal Information</sup>  
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## EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Colleen Spier, KC  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Indigenous Justice Secretariat  
Ministry of Attorney General

**Biography:**

Colleen Spier leads and provides executive oversight of the Indigenous Justice Secretariat, which works in partnership with First Nations and Indigenous Peoples to develop and implement justice strategies to eliminate the overrepresentation of First Nations and Indigenous Peoples involved in, and impacted by, the justice system. The Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM), Indigenous Justice Secretariat is a joint appointment of the British Columbia First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC), the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the Ministry of Attorney General. As the ADM, Colleen is a key leader in Indigenous legal and justice initiatives including, legal policy development, proposed legislative reform and justice transformation.

Colleen Spier, who received her King's Counsel Designation in 2023, is a Métis-Cree lawyer and mediator. She was called to the bar in 2008, practicing primarily in the areas of family and child protection, while advocating for justice transformation. Colleen joined the public service in 2018 as the executive director of the Indigenous Justice Policy and Legislation Division in Justice Services Branch and was appointed as ADM of the newly established Indigenous Justice Secretariat in March 2023.

Before joining government, Colleen managed her own law practice (2010-2018) and concurrently (2012-2018) held the position of executive director of Island Métis Child and Family Community Services Society. Colleen has served on several not-for-profit Boards, including three terms through ministerial appointment on the Board of the British Columbia College of Social Workers, and served four years as an inaugural Director on the British Columbia Aboriginal Justice Council, now the BCFNJC.

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## EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Chris Mah  
Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Information Officer  
Information Systems Branch  
Ministry of Attorney General  
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Ministry of Housing  
Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

**Biography:**

Chris Mah's current responsibilities include executive oversight of the Information System Branch for the Ministry of Attorney General, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the Ministry of Housing. Some support is also offered to Emergency Management and Climate Readiness.

The Chief Information Officer (CIO) leads the development, implementation and oversight of Information Management and Information Technology (IM/IT) strategy, policy and standards for the justice and public safety sector. The CIO is responsible for the sector's vision and mandate for digital transformation and manages the sector's IM/IT investment portfolio, ensuring alignment with government priorities and support for common capabilities, integrated services, reusable data, and value for money.

As Assistant Deputy Minister, Chris leads a high performing team of professionals who provide IM/IT advice and services to program areas and stakeholders. The team includes security and privacy specialists, enterprise architects, service designers, system engineers, database analysts and administrators, client portfolio specialists, strategic planners, service desk support, application support technicians, and internal business operations.

Chris joined the Ministry of Attorney General in 2004. Since that time, Chris has held a number of different positions with responsibility for diverse teams within the branch including Enterprise Architecture, Service Design, Strategic Planning, Information Security, Service Desk, and Project Coordination.

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## EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Paul Craven  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Justice Services Branch  
Ministry of Attorney General

**Biography:**

Paul Craven has served as Assistant Deputy Minister for JSB since March 2021 and is proud to have led the branch headquarters to its recognition as a Top Work Unit in 2022 and 2024. Paul is a committed advocate for justice modernization and innovation, driven to improve access to justice for those living in British Columbia. Paul assists the branch, the Ministry, and Ministry partners in advancing policy, legislation, projects and services that focus on the actual user.

Paul has over 19 years of experience at senior levels of the BC Public Service. Before becoming ADM, he was the executive director of JSB's Policy and Legislation Division and the inaugural Superintendent of Professional Governance, where he led the implementation of the Professional Governance Act. Before that, Paul combined policy and operational responsibilities as the executive director responsible for policy and compliance in the BC Environmental Assessment Office.

Paul joined government at the Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat in the Office of the Premier responsible for federalism and Canadian intergovernmental policy after practising law at a downtown Vancouver law firm. Paul has a BA in Political Science and English from Western University and attended law school at the University of Victoria.

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## EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



John Tuck  
Acting Assistant Deputy Attorney General  
Legal Services Branch  
Ministry of Attorney General

### **Biography:**

John Tuck joined the Legal Services Branch (LSB) of the Ministry of Attorney General as an articling student in 1995 after he obtained his Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree from Queens University at Kingston and his law degree from the University of Victoria. John practiced for many years in the information and privacy area, which was then part of LSB's Constitutional and Administrative Law Group. He became Acting Supervisor of the Constitutional and Administrative Law group in 2019, sharing that role with another LSB lawyer. John then became Supervising Counsel of LSB's Central Services Group in 2020 before becoming A/Assistant Deputy Attorney General in July of 2024.

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He also teaches the information and privacy course at the University of Victoria Law School in tandem with another LSB lawyer.

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## EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Haiqa Cheema  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Branch  
Ministry of Attorney General

**Biography:**

Haiqa Cheema was appointed as Assistant Deputy Minister, Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Branch, on March 6, 2023. Haiqa has a master's degree in public policy and brings experience as Director of Policy with the Office of the Premier, and Ministerial Advisor to the Attorney General. She led the work on the Anti-Racism Data Act, National Redress for Japanese Canadians, Anti-Racism Act, and Racist Incident Helpline.

Haiqa was instrumental in Alberta's Anti-Racism Action Plan. She currently sits on University of Toronto's Advisory Committee on Mobilizing Justice. She has previously served on the board for Paths for People, Friends of Royal Alberta Museum Society, Ask Her YYC, Muslim Association of Canada and TakingITGlobal.

As Assistant Deputy Minister, Haiqa will support and lead a wide breadth of multiculturalism and anti-racism priorities and initiatives, including conducting a full review of anti-racism laws in other jurisdictions. With the new Anti-Racism Act now in place, she engages in stakeholder consultations to ensure the act represents the diverse cultures, experiences, and backgrounds of British Columbians.

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## BC Prosecution Service

**Acting ADM and Assistant Deputy Attorney General Responsible: Trevor Shaw**

### **Overview of Core Business / Program Area:**

The BC Prosecution Service mandate is defined by statute, the Crown Counsel Act. The mandate includes:

- Approving and conducting regulatory and criminal prosecutions and appeals;
- Providing criminal law advice to government;
- Developing policies and procedures on the administration of criminal justice in BC;
- Liaising with the media on prosecutions and appeals; and
- Any other functions or responsibilities assigned by the Attorney General.

The Service is responsible for prosecuting all criminal and regulatory offences that fall within the jurisdiction of the provincial Prosecution Service. This includes all homicide, gang-related, and organized crime. The Constitution requires these functions to be carried out independent of partisan political considerations. The Service does not generally prosecute violation tickets, which (with some exceptions) are generally prosecuted by the issuing enforcement officers.

The Service receives approximately 60,000 proposed charges annually from police and investigative agencies across the province for assessment, approval, and prosecution. At any given time, the Service will typically have conduct of 20,000 to 30,000 active prosecution files before the three levels of court in BC. Another 10,000 to 15,000 prosecutions may be in abeyance because of an outstanding bench warrant and subject to re-entering the system at any time.

Conducting a prosecution involves managing the prosecution from charge assessment to conclusion of the prosecution, including sentencing and any ensuing appeals. This includes bail; disclosure to the defense; victim notification; preparation for preliminary inquiries and trials; legal research; marshalling evidence (including witnesses); all pre-trial motions; crafting submissions; and presenting the case in court.

The Branch has 40 staffed offices in five separate regions, serving over 80 court locations across BC. Additionally, the Criminal Appeals and Special Prosecution (CASP) division is responsible for indictable appeals, and prosecutions of organized crime, commercial crime, proceeds of crime offences, major cases, and criminal legal support. Business operations, including financial, strategic planning, human resources, security, and communications functions are handled from headquarters in Victoria. With the exception of approximately 60 excluded employees, the Prosecution Service is comprised of approximately 530 members of the Crown Counsel Association and 530 members of the BC General Employees Union.

The BC Prosecution Service Plan is currently focused on building and maintaining system improvements in case management practices, specifically management of electronic disclosure; advancement of an Indigenous Justice Framework; the implementation of a Comprehensive Bail Program, and the promotion and support for mental health and wellness of our employees.

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**Budget:**

<b>\$ Millions</b>	<b>2023/24 Restated Estimates Budget</b>	<b>2024/25 Estimates</b>	<b>Service Plan 2025/26</b>	<b>Service Plan 2026/27</b>
<b>Budget</b>	173.671	212.499	212.505	212.510

**Note:** Assume ReVOII funding moves into base for FY25/26, 26/27.

**Full Time Equivalents (FTEs):** 1,136 FTEs as of July 31, 2024.

**Related Legislation:**

- *Crown Counsel Act*
- *Criminal Code*
- *Youth Criminal Justice Act*
- *Provincial Offence Act*
- Provincial regulatory statutes, such as the *Motor Vehicle Act* and the *Wildlife Act*.

**Organizational Chart:**

<b>Assistant Deputy Attorney General</b>	
<b>Regional Crown Counsel, Region 1 – Vancouver Island &amp; Powell River</b>	<b>Executive Director Business Operations</b>
<b>Regional Crown Counsel, Region 2 – Vancouver</b>	<b>Executive Director Criminal Appeals and Special Prosecutions (Major Cases)</b>
<b>Regional Crown Counsel, Region 3 – Fraser</b>	<b>Director Criminal Appeals and Special Prosecutions</b>
<b>Regional Crown Counsel, Region 4 – Interior</b>	<b>Director Policy and Justice Issues</b>
<b>Regional Crown Counsel, Region 5 – North</b>	<b>Director Legal Operation</b>

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## Corporate Management Services Branch

**ADM and Executive Financial Officer Responsible: Alex Chandler (AG/PSSG) / Tracy Campbell (HOUS)**

### Overview of Corporate Management Services Branch:

Corporate Management Services Branch's (CMSB) vision is to be trusted partners and leaders in providing outstanding service. Our mission is to provide leadership and expertise in the delivery of corporate services, matched to the needs of the sector through the dedication and professionalism of an empowered and innovative workforce.

CMSB serves as the consolidated corporate services resource for the Ministries of Attorney General (AG), Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG) and Housing (HOUS). Services include finance, strategic human resources, facilities management, business planning, facilitation, process improvement, change management, internal communications, corporate security, strategic planning and project delivery, and safety and risk management supports. Additionally, CMSB acts as the lead strategic link between the various branches and organizations in our sector, government's central agencies (Treasury Board Staff, Office of the Comptroller General), as well as shared service agencies. CMSB provides oversight and expert advice while performing day-to-day corporate functions for the sector.

CMSB supports AG, PSSG, and HOUS, with the branch represented organizationally as part of PSSG. Across the range of corporate services, CMSB delivers services and provides leadership, advocacy and governance to all stakeholders in the justice and public safety sector, matched to meet their needs. The sector also provides minor support to the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, which includes inclusion in the sector's finance governance committee.

CMSB consists of the following core business areas:

- **Business Planning and Priorities** works collaboratively in the sector to lead, manage and support a diverse group of essential services in, corporate communications, risk and security management, business continuity planning, Justice Summit planning and development, strategic planning and corporate reporting, and identifying, monitoring, and tracking key priorities to ensure the sector achieves its goals, objectives, and vision.
- **Ministry Human Resources** works in partnership with sector executive and employees to provide sound, value-added and innovative strategic human resource management, organization development services and interventions. The Division also provides strategic, ministry-wide direction and consultation to help branches achieve business priorities and to support employee engagement.
- **Finance** provides strategic, ministry-wide direction, consultation and training support regarding Budgets, Forecasting, Accounts Payable, Financial Reporting, and Compliance and Procurement. Finance is also responsible for improving the governance and guidelines related to financial standards, policy and procedures. Finance advocates for sustainable branch fiscal management across the sector, including funding, budgeting, contingencies, and treasury board submissions.
- **Facilities Services** manages and maintains government operated buildings for the sector, supporting each individual client's program, tailored to their specific requirements. The division ensures that each client's facilities are maintained and serviced to the highest government facilities standards, while expenditures remain within approved budgets.

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**Budget:**

<b>\$ Millions</b>	<b>2023/24 Restated</b>	<b>2024/25 Estimates</b>	<b>Service Plan 2025/26</b>	<b>Service Plan 2026/27</b>
<b>Budget</b>	18.324	19.077	19.077	19.077

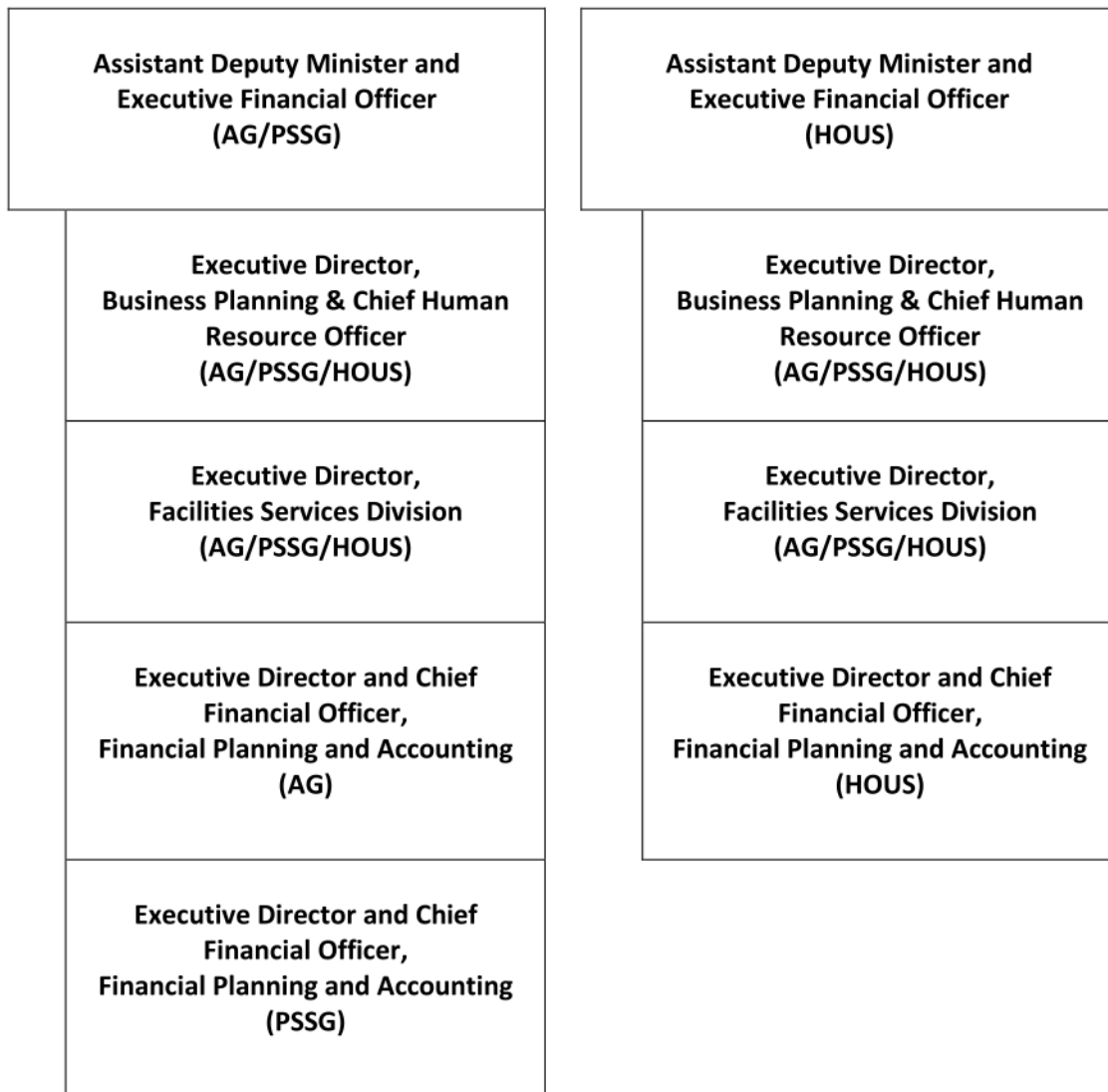
**Note:** The budget for CMSB is with Public Safety and Solicitor General and is included in the Estimates for Executive and Support Services, which is what is presented here for information.

**Full Time Equivalents (FTEs):** 108 FTEs as of July 31, 2024.

**Related Legislation:**

- N/A

**Organizational Chart:**



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## Court Services Branch

**Assistant Deputy Minister Responsible: Jenny Manton**

### Overview of Court Services Branch:

The Court Services Branch is responsible for the delivery of all court administration services in BC. The ultimate authority for provision of the courts is provided in the *Constitution Act* (1867), which sets out the jurisdictional powers for provinces and the federal government. Section 92.14 of the Act outlines provincial powers, granting sole authority to the provinces in several areas: “property and civil rights in the province, the administration of justice in the province, including the constitution, maintenance, and organization of provincial courts, both of civil and of criminal jurisdiction, and including procedure in civil matters in those courts.”

In matters of court administration, facilities and registries, the Chief Administrator of Court Services, the Assistant Deputy Minister, receives direction from the Attorney General and, in matters of judicial administration, the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Chief Justice of the BC Court of Appeal provide direction as defined in statute.

The Branch is divided into two divisions with Headquarters providing corporate oversight and operational support. The Court Administration Division is responsible for case documentation and adjudication support for all matters going before the court, including case initiation and processing, fee collection, file and exhibit management, court clerking, court records and transcripts, interpreter services and the preparation and dissemination of court orders. The Sheriff Service Division is responsible for courtroom and courthouse security, prisoner custody and escort, document service, and jury administration.

### Budget:

\$ Millions	2023/24 Restated	2024/25 Estimates	Service Plan 2025/26	Service Plan 2026/27
<b>Budget</b>	148.684	156.067	156.133	156.198

**Full Time Equivalents (FTEs):** 1,574 average FTE for FY25 as of July 31, 2024.

### Related Legislation:

The British Columbia authorities for these functions are found in several pieces of legislation:

- *Constitution Act*
- *Provincial Court Act*
- *Supreme Court Act*
- *Court of Appeal Act*
- *Small Claims Act*
- *Sheriff Act*
- *Jury Act*

The Sheriffs’ status as peace officers and their use of firearms are governed by Federal Legislation:

- *Firearms Act*
- *Criminal Code of Canada*

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**Organizational Chart:**



**Indigenous Justice Secretariat**

**Assistant Deputy Minister Responsible: Colleen Spier**

**Overview of Indigenous Justice Secretariat:**

The Indigenous Justice Secretariat leads the transformative work and implementation of the B.C. First Nations Justice Strategy within Government, including influencing social sector areas that provide health and housing supports for individuals in the justice system. At the core of the B.C. First Nations Justice Strategy is the rebuilding of First Nations justice systems as an expression of self-determination. The Indigenous Justice Secretariat has a vital role in supporting First Nations in that rebuilding work.

The Indigenous Justice Secretariat works in partnership with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, the Federal Government, and First Nations collaboratively with the BC First Nations Justice Council to advance the B.C. First Nations Justice Strategy.

The Indigenous Justice Secretariat is also responsible for working with Métis Nation BC to develop, endorse, and advance the Métis Justice Strategy.

**Budget:**

<b>\$ Millions</b>	<b>2023/24 Restated</b>	<b>2024/25 Estimates</b>	<b>Service Plan 2025/26</b>	<b>Service Plan 2026/27</b>
<b>Budget</b>	\$23.519	\$22.363	\$20.333	\$20.333

**Full Time Equivalent (FTEs):**

- The Indigenous Justice Secretariat has 11 FTEs as of July 31, 2024.

**Related Legislation:**

- N/A

**Organizational Chart:**



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## Information Systems Branch

**Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Information Officer: Chris Mah**

### Overview of Information Systems Branch:

The Information Systems Branch (ISB) provides information management and information technology (IM IT) advice and services to four ministries: Ministry of Attorney General, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, and the Ministry of Housing.

ISB is represented organizationally as part of the Ministry of Attorney General within Ministry Operations Executive and Support Services, and supports the goals of the Ministry, the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General, and the Ministry of Housing by:

- Developing technology strategies, plans and roadmaps
- Facilitating technology research and solution options analysis
- Managing a portfolio of IM/IT capital investments
- Developing reusable technology services and capabilities
- Accelerating legacy systems modernization and digital service transformation
- Ensuring adherence to IM IT standards
- Developing and managing information security and privacy policies and procedures; and
- Liaising with government's central agencies and the Office of the Chief Information Officer to deliver coordinated IM IT services.

The branch's services include:

- Operating and maintaining line-of-business applications and databases;
- Delivering technology platforms and infrastructure for use by ministry systems and projects;
- Providing application support and user access management to line-of-business applications;
- Developing and overseeing designs for new systems;
- Developing integrations between systems;
- Overseeing the delivery of IM IT projects;
- Providing Service Design and user-experience related services to business areas;
- Managing IM/IT procurements and relationships with contractors/service providers;
- Delivering information security-related services (e.g. policy guidance, risk assessments, vulnerability scans)
- Delivering Freedom of Information (FOI) coordination services
- Providing Privacy Impacts Assessments (PIA) and consultations
- Ordering hardware and software and provisioning custom technology solutions to business areas;
- Managing web and intranet pages.

### Budget:

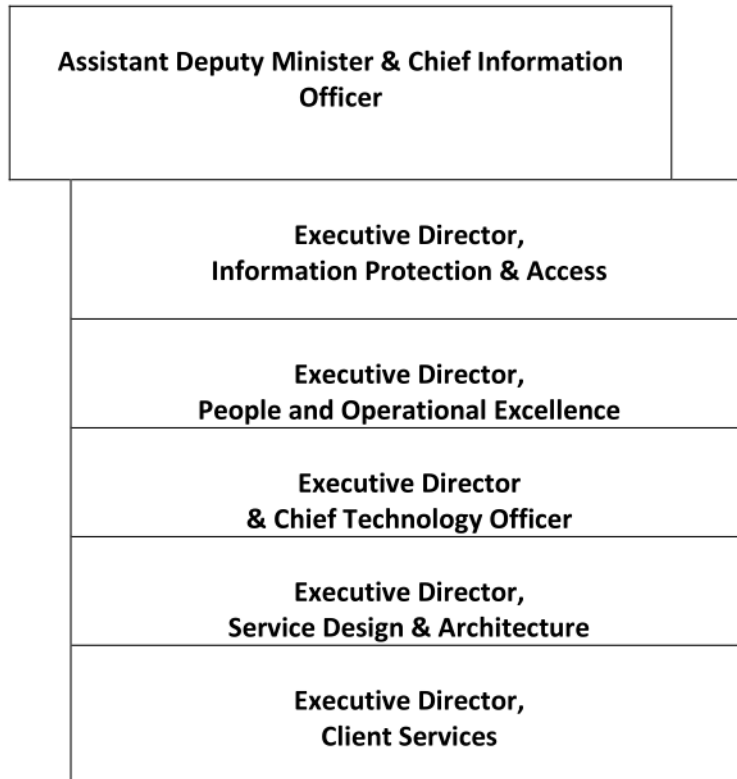
\$ Millions	2023/24 Restated	2024/25 Estimates	Service Plan 2025/26	Service Plan 2026/27
<b>Budget</b>	19.826	20.457	20.457	20.457

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**Full Time Equivalents (FTEs):** 128 average FTE for FY25 as of July 31, 2024.

**Related Legislation:** N/A

**Organizational Chart:**



## JUSTICE SERVICES BRANCH

**Assistant Deputy Minister Responsible: Paul Craven**

### **Overview of Justice Services Branch:**

The Justice Services Branch strives to enhance users' access to justice and their experience with the system by transforming aspects of the justice process through collaboration with the ministry, Indigenous Peoples, and other stakeholders. The Justice Services Branch:

- Works to advance systemic regulatory and policy initiatives that will serve to enhance the public's access to justice (i.e. modernizing the Family Law Act; legal aid).
- Develops policy, regulatory, and legislative solutions in the areas of civil, family, human rights, administrative, professional regulatory, commercial, and quasi-criminal law.
- Supports tribunals, agencies and independent offices within the ministry's mandate
- Delivers programs and services relating to family justice, operating family justice centers throughout the province, staffed by family justice counsellors.
- Leads high priority strategic projects to create meaningful change with a systemic impact on the justice sector. Recent examples include working on justice and court modernization projects across the Ministry and the sector.
- Supports the implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, to ensure that the changes to the laws of B.C. within the Ministry's mandate are aligned with the United Nations Declaration.

The **Policy and Legislation Team (PLT)** is responsible for over 150 statutes, the largest legislation program in government. PLT consists of three policy areas: Legal Access Policy Division, the Civil and Criminal Policy and Legislation Division, and Family Policy Legislation and Transformation Division. PLT has oversight of and provides support to Legal Aid BC.

The **Family Justice Services Division (FJSD)** provides services that promote the timely and just resolution of issues facing families experiencing separation and divorce. FJSD delivers family services justice services direct to British Columbians. FJSD includes Maintenance Enforcement and Locate Services and has oversight of the BC Family Maintenance Agency. FJSD areas of responsibility include:

- The operation of Family Justice Centres and Justice Access Centres, where family justice counselors and other staff provide information, referral, assessment and mediation services to encourage the early resolution of family law disputes outside of court;
- Provision of services available across the province in person, though itinerant services, or remotely through phone and video-conferencing;
- Provision of services to parties fulfilling requirements under the Provincial Court Family Rules (i.e. Parenting Education Registries, Family Justice Registries and Early Resolution Registries);
- Provision of Parenting After Separation (PAS) courses, offered online, including Parenting After Separation for Indigenous Families

The **Tribunal & Agency Support Division (TASD)** supports operations and transformation for over 20 tribunals and a growing number of agencies and independent offices accountable to the Attorney General, including the Investigation Standards Office (ISO). The ISO provides oversight to BC Corrections and conducts investigations at the request of the minister or the director on matters involving the administration of the *Correction Act*.

The **Project and Service Design Division (PSDD)** provides strategic and operational support for divisions within JSB and for court and justice modernization projects that span the sector. Service offerings include:

- Project management strategy, execution and skills development;
- Service design leadership and support by applying evidence based and human centered design;
- Business systems development and supports, developing strategies, delivering IT solutions and providing system maintenance and support for the branch and over 20 tribunals, agencies and independent offices;
- Leadership of the court and justice modernization committee for the ministry and secretariat support for the court and justice modernization ADM Project Board; and
- Internal and external communications and engagement planning and support, including correspondence, reporting, and website maintenance.

PSDD provides support on major initiatives such as Virtual Bail, Traffic Court Online, and Service Design initiatives while supporting legislation development and implementation like the *Intimate Images Protection Act*, *Money Judgement Enforcement Act* and the *Safe Access to Schools Act*.

JSB is assisted in its work by the **Business Solutions Office (BSO)** which is responsible for financial and budget management, facilities and asset management, human resources support and organizational design, procurement and contract management, as well as strategic financial planning and business continuity planning.

**Budget:**

\$ Millions	2023/24 Restated	2024/25 Estimates	Service Plan 2025/26	Service Plan 2026/27
<b>Budget</b>	177.620	197.467	200.879	202.466

**Full Time Equivalents (FTEs):** 342 average FTE for FY25 as of July 31, 2024.

**Related Legislation:** Sole or part responsibility for over 150 statutes.

**Organization Chart:**



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### Legal Services Branch

**A/Assistant Deputy Attorney General Responsible: John Tuck**

**Overview of Legal Services Branch:**

The mandate of Legal Services Branch (the “Branch”) is to deliver legal services to the Government of British Columbia in accordance with the *Attorney General Act*.

The Branch provides comprehensive legal and legislative services to all ministries and some agencies of the Government of British Columbia, including providing legal advice; acting for Government in civil suits and tribunal proceedings; drafting all government bills and regulations; and preparing the Revised Statutes of British Columbia.

The Branch is a centralized government service, consisting of lawyers, paralegals, and professional staff. Lawyers in the Branch provide legal and legislative services to the Provincial government. The Branch consists of five legal group practices: Central Services Group, Litigation Group, Natural Resource, Transportation and Indigenous Legal Group, Justice, Health, and Revenue Group, and the Vancouver Group, and the Office of Legislative Counsel and Director’s Counsel. More information is available at L@w Matters at <sup>Government Financial Information</sup>

**Budget:** The Branch operates as a cost-recovered entity, and its costs are charged to clients based on use of legal services. The Branch retains a budget to cover activities deemed to be “core” to the role of the Attorney General, including drafting of legislation, constitutional and administrative law matters, and aboriginal litigation.

\$ Millions	2023/24 Restated	2024/25 Estimates	Service Plan 2025/26	Service Plan 2026/27
<b>Budget</b>	32.267	40.682	40.682	40.682

**Full Time Equivalents (FTEs):** 691 average FTE for FY25 as of July 31, 2024.

**Related Legislation:**

- *Attorney General Act*
- *Crown Proceeding Act*

**Organizational Chart:**



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<p><b>Office of Legislative Counsel</b> Chief Legislative Counsel</p>
<p><b>Litigation Group</b> Group Supervisor</p>
<p><b>Central Services Group</b> Group Supervisor</p>
<p><b>Natural Resources, Transportation and Indigenous Legal Group</b> Group Supervisor</p>
<p><b>Justice, Health and Revenue Group</b> Group Supervisor</p>
<p><b>Vancouver Group</b> Group Supervisor</p>

## Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Branch

**Assistant Deputy Minister Responsible: Haiqa Cheema**

### Overview of Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Branch:

The Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Branch (MARB) develops and implements policies and legislation, programs, and strategic engagement initiatives that address and prevent racism and discrimination in all its forms. MARB supports community-led efforts through grants and collaborates with stakeholders to advance multiculturalism and anti-racism across British Columbia. The branch mandate emphasizes addressing systemic racism and improving access to government services for racialized communities.

In alignment with its broader goals, MARB is also responsible for advancing several critical initiatives, such as developing anti-racism strategies for specific communities, including Black and Asian populations, and supporting ongoing efforts to recognize and rectify historical wrongs.

Key Program Areas include:

#### 1. Policy and Legislation

- MARB's mandate includes the development and implementation of the Anti-Racism Act (ARA), passed in May 2024, to combat systemic racism affecting racialized and Indigenous communities in B.C. The ARA establishes a legal framework to ensure equity across education, healthcare, and employment sectors.
- The ARA is built upon the foundation laid by the *Anti-Racism Data Act* (ARDA), which was designed to collect and analyze race-based data across the province. ARDA provides critical data to identify and understand systemic disparities, while ARA provides actionable policies and legal protections.

#### 2. Programs and Grants

- The Programs and Grants unit directly supports communities across BC, funding and overseeing the Resilience BC Anti-Racism Network, a province-wide initiative that connects over 40 organizations focused on local anti-racism efforts. MARB distributes grants to over 100 community organizations annually, empowering them to tackle racism, hate, and discrimination at the grassroots level, with a focus on supporting racialized and Indigenous communities in their efforts to combat systemic racism.
- The unit launched the Racist Incident Helpline in May 2024, providing a vital resource for reporting and responding to incidents of racism.
- The unit administers the Historical Wrongs file, an initiative to acknowledge historical injustices experienced by communities such as Japanese Canadians and the Sons of Freedom Doukhobors, ensuring affected communities have the resources and support necessary to foster equity, and healing.

#### 3. Strategic Engagement and Communications

- The Strategic Engagement and Communications unit works to build and maintain strong relationships with cultural, racialized, and faith-based communities across British Columbia, ensuring initiatives are communicated through a trauma-informed and culturally agile lens.
- The unit produces the annual Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Awards, which recognize significant contributions to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- The unit manages requests for government correspondence and provincial proclamations, which are vital in promoting inclusion and celebrating the rich cultural diversity within the province.
- In accordance with ARA and the Multiculturalism Act, this unit develops and implements public education campaigns designed to shift attitudes and deepen understanding of the systemic nature of racism.

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**Budget:**

<b>\$ Millions</b>	<b>2023/24 Restated</b>	<b>2024/25 Estimates</b>	<b>Service Plan 2025/26</b>	<b>Service Plan 2026/27</b>
<b>Budget</b>	\$2.361	\$6.804	\$6.604	\$6.604

**Full Time Equivalents (FTEs):** 22 FTEs as of July 31, 2024.

**Related Legislation:**

- *Multiculturalism Act (1996)*
- *Anti-Racism Data Act (2022)*
- *Anti-Racism Act (2024)*

**Organizational Chart:**





December 7, 2022

Honourable Niki Sharma  
Attorney General  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Attorney General Sharma:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as Attorney General. 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.

.../2

- **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.

As Attorney General, part of your unique role is to ensure the rule of law is protected as a foundational principle in British Columbia. One of the greatest challenges and opportunities of modern British Columbia is to find ways to meaningfully recognize the two systems of law in our province – Indigenous and Colonial – that co-exist and are recognized by our Constitution, our Courts, and by our government through the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples incorporated into provincial law.

In addition to this historic work and partnership with Indigenous Peoples that you will continue, British Columbians expect government to enhance and build on remarkable modernization work undertaken in our Courts and Tribunals during the COVID-19 pandemic. Virtual bail hearings, remote testimony, virtual courts, and other innovations were embraced across the justice system during the pandemic. Our government will continue to support the Courts of British Columbia in further enhancing processes and services.

Currently, public concern about community safety coming out of the pandemic is also front of mind for British Columbians. The public, and our government, believes that social and health issues like mental health, addiction, and poverty are not matters for the criminal law, and yet many people struggling with these issues end up in conflict with the criminal law and the justice system in our province. Our response to this issue requires your ongoing support with colleagues in Cabinet and community members across the province.

.../3

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

- Launching the First Nations Justice Strategy with the BC First Nations Justice Council and the federal government toward dismantling systemic racism and discrimination from our justice system and revitalizing Indigenous legal traditions.
- Advancing recommendations from the German Report and the Cullen Commission on money laundering.
- Taking significant steps to honour Japanese Canadian internment survivors and their families.
- Adopting the *Anti-Racism Data Act* to dismantle systemic racism and improve access to government programs and services for Indigenous, Black, and other people of colour.

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 work with the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Indigenous communities and the BC First Nations Justice Council to advance the First Nations Justice Strategy.
- Continue to move forward to support the judiciary in the modernization of B.C.'s courts and legal processes to make it easier for the public to navigate our justice system and to better support victims and families.
- Work with community partners, including B.C.'s Human Rights Commissioner, to develop and pass an *Anti-Racism Act* to better serve everyone in B.C.
- In collaboration with the Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity, take steps to address non-consensual disclosure of intimate images.
- Support the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the work of the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions to build safe and healthy communities through implementation of the Safer Communities Action Plan.
- Support all ministries to deliver initiatives listed in the Action Plan required by the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, to keep building strong relations based on recognition and implementation of the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples protected in Canada's constitution.

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To assist you in meeting the commitments we have made to British Columbians, you are assigned a Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives. You will work closely together and ensure your Parliamentary Secretary receives appropriate support to deliver on the priorities outlined in the mandate letter issued to them.

Our work together must continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of people in this province. Issues not contemplated by this letter will come forward for government action and I ask you to bring such matters forward for consideration by the Planning and Priorities Committee of Cabinet, with the expectation that any proposed initiatives will be subject to the usual Cabinet and Treasury Board oversight and include measurable outcomes for British Columbians. Your ministry's priorities must reflect our government's overall strategic plan as determined by Cabinet.

British Columbians expect their elected representatives to work together to advance the public good. That means seeking out, fostering, and championing good ideas regardless of their origin. I expect you to reach out to elected members from all parties as you deliver on your mandate. Further, you will build thoughtful and sustained relationships both with title holders and through public and stakeholder engagement plans that incorporate diverse perspectives early in the policy development process. Federal partnerships and resources will be particularly important and, on behalf of our government, you will engage with the federal government on advancing priorities to improve the lives of British Columbians.

As a Cabinet, we will uphold the highest standards of ethics, collaboration, and good conduct in service of the public, and as a Minister of the Crown, you are expected to review, understand, and act according to the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act*. You will establish a collaborative working relationship with your Deputy Minister, and the public servants under their direction, who provide the professional, non-partisan advice that is fundamental to delivering on our government's priorities. Your Minister's Office must meet the highest standards for integrity and provide a respectful, rewarding environment for all staff.

The rural and urban challenges that we face are urgent and complex. In response, we must be forward-thinking, strategic, and ready to work across disciplines and old divisions in new ways. Labour shortages are a major issue globally, and British Columbia is no exception, including in the public service. Maintaining the BC Public Service as an employer of excellence will be key to retaining and recruiting the diverse professionals we rely on to deliver essential services, advice, and analysis.

.../5

At the core of this work is listening and responding to the priorities of people in B.C. Together, we can deliver results in very real ways – ways that people can see, feel, and touch, and that change their lives for the better. Thank you for doing this important work with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Eby", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Eby, KC  
Premier



December 7, 2022

Mable Elmore, MLA  
Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Parliamentary Secretary Elmore:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives. 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:

.../2

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**Office of the  
Premier**

**Web Site:**  
[www.gov.bc.ca](http://www.gov.bc.ca)

**Mailing Address:**  
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

**Location:**  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria

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- **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.
- **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.

As Parliamentary Secretary, you will assist the Attorney General in carrying out ministerial duties in the House and speaking on the government's behalf when issues arise in the absence of the Attorney General. You will also play an important role in engaging British Columbians by representing the Attorney General at public events, delivering speeches on behalf of the Attorney General, or acting as a spokesperson for the government's position. You will reach out to stakeholders, businesses, civil society, and people across B.C. to better understand their perspectives and bring their views to the Attorney General.

You will work with the Attorney General to help advance these shared responsibilities:

- Support the Attorney General's work with community partners, including B.C.'s Human Rights Commissioner, to develop and pass an Anti-Racism Act to better serve everyone in B.C.
- Continue work to advance the anti-racism hotline.
- Work with community partners to create an anti-black racism strategy in recognition of the International Decade for the People of African Descent.

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- Work with community partners to create an anti-Asian racism strategy.
- Work with the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society to deliver the Province's redress initiatives that honour the legacy of Japanese Canadians in B.C.
- Support the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport in consultation with affected communities to advance emerging museum programs and proposals, including the Chinese Canadian museum, a South Asian museum, and a provincial Filipino cultural centre.
- Support the Minister of Citizens' Services to continue collaborating with community partners on implementation of the *Anti-Racism Data Act* to dismantle systemic racism and improve access to government programs and services for Indigenous, Black, and other people of colour.

The Attorney General is responsible and accountable for their ministry and their mandate; all key decisions will be made by them. You will understand the Attorney General's policy goals, develop a deep understanding of the issues, build thoughtful and sustained relationships both with title holders and through public and stakeholder engagement plans, and provide your best advice to the public service as they develop options for decision by the Attorney General.

You will collaborate with the Attorney General, ministry, and the Premier's Office to develop a workplan to guide your efforts, including detail on how the professional public service will support your work.

All members are expected to review, understand, and act according to the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act* and conduct themselves with the highest level of integrity. As a Parliamentary Secretary, your conduct will reflect not only on you, but on the Attorney General and our government.

You will establish a collaborative working relationship with the Attorney General, the Attorney General's staff, and the public servants who provide the professional, non-partisan advice that is fundamental to delivering on our government's priorities.

The rural and urban challenges that we face are urgent and complex. In response, we must be forward-thinking, strategic, and ready to work across disciplines and old divisions in new ways. Labour shortages are a major issue globally, and British Columbia is no exception, including in the public service. Maintaining the BC Public Service as an employer of excellence will be key to retaining and recruiting the diverse professionals we rely on to deliver essential services, advice, and analysis.

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At the core of this work is listening and responding to the priorities of people in B.C. Together, we can deliver results in very real ways – ways that people can see, feel, and touch, and that change their lives for the better. Thank you for doing this important work with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Eby", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Eby, KC  
Premier

**Table 1: Progress Status of Current (2022) Mandate Letter Items**

MANDATE LETTER ACCOUNTABILITY	STATUS
<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> Continue to work with the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Indigenous communities and the BC First Nations Justice Council to advance the First Nations Justice Strategy.</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> – The BC First Nations Justice Strategy (the Strategy), was signed on March 6, 2020, and an implementation workplan was approved by Cabinet in July 2021. Since then, there has been significant progress made on the Strategy. Of the 25 strategies contained within it, there has been significant progress on:</p> <p><u>Strategy 4: Establishing a Network of Indigenous Justice Centres (IJC):</u> There are nine IJCs currently operating. The IJCs are in Chilliwack, Kelowna, Merritt, Nanaimo, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Surrey, Vancouver and Victoria, as well as a Virtual Indigenous Justice Centre (VIJC). IJCs provide legal advice and representation to Indigenous clients with criminal or family law legal matters who may not otherwise have access to legal representation. The Province has committed to funding the network of 15 IJCs as described in the Strategy by the end of fiscal year 2024/2025, with five more IJCs planned to open later in 2024, in Burns Lake/Hazelton, Cranbrook, Kamloops, Port Hardy, and Williams Lake. An additional centre is planned for Fort St. John, but its opening has been delayed due to impacts from wildfires in 2024.</p> <p><u>Strategy 5: Transitioning Indigenous Legal Aid Services to an Indigenous controlled entity.</u> During fiscal year 2023/24, BCFNJC and the ministry conducted engagement sessions throughout the province to meet with Indigenous people and the legal community about how legal aid services could be delivered to Indigenous clients in the future. This work has continued into fiscal year 2024/25 with the development of pilot projects by BCFNJC.</p> <p><u>Strategy 6: Implement a comprehensive Gladue strategy supported by a dedicated First Nations controlled Gladue implementation agency.</u> On April 1, 2021, BCFNJC took on delivery of Gladue Services from Legal Aid BC. Since then, the volume of Gladue Report requests increased in 2023/24</p>

to 575 requests (298 in 2019/20). Under BCFNJC’s leadership, the program has transitioned to a staff writer model, from what was previously a contracted writer model.

Strategy 9: Establishing an Indigenous Justice Secretariat: On March 6, 2023, B.C. appointed the Executive Director of the Indigenous Justice Policy and Legislation Division, Colleen Spier, to the role of ADM for the newly formed Indigenous Justice Secretariat. This is described in Strategy 9, which calls for B.C. to establish the Indigenous Justice Secretariat to advance the Strategy through coordination throughout the Provincial Government and the broader justice sector.

Strategy 16: Establish an annual Justice Summit on First Nations Issues. The BCFNJC hosted the First Nations Justice Forum on April 8-10, 2024 to provide a space for First Nations rights holders, leadership, and subject matter experts to attend and hear updates on Strategy implementation and provide their input and feedback. A ‘What We Heard’ Report was published by BCFNJC on August 30, 2024 outlining the event and the feedback received.

Strategy 17: January 16, 2024, the BCFNJC, BC and Canada hosted the Annual Tripartite Ministers meeting in Vancouver as called for under the Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding. In May 2023, Public Safety Canada signed onto the Tripartite MOU, signalling their support of the shared agenda, including the implementation of the BC First Nations Justice Strategy, and collaboration on the development of a Federal Indigenous Justice Strategy.

There continues to be progress across other areas of the Strategy, including securing funding from Canada to develop an Indigenous Women’s Justice Plan (Strategy 11), developing cultural competency standards for the justice system (Strategy 20), and developing the Indigenous Youth Justice and Prevention Plan (Strategy 10).

<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> Advancing recommendations from the German Report and the Cullen Commission on money laundering.</p>	<p><b>In Progress</b> – Justice Services Branch is advancing a small number of recommendations, including changes to the Notaries Act as part of our overall project to modernize the regulation of legal professionals. The Law Society is also advancing a number of recommendations relating to the regulation of lawyers. The remaining coordination work and recommendations are being advanced by the Anti Money Laundering Secretariat within the Ministry of Finance.</p> <p>Since March 2022, Ministry staff have worked with the Law Society, the Society of Notaries Public and the BC Paralegal Association to create a new framework that will provide for regulation of legal professionals that is more responsive to the public interest.</p> <p>On April 10, 2024, the Government tabled the proposed <u>Legal Professions Act</u> (LPA), which would, depending on the legal matter, offer people the choice of hiring a lawyer, a notary public or a new designation called a regulated paralegal to assist them.</p> <p>On May 16, 2024, the LPA received Royal Assent and currently the transitional board and transitional Indigenous council are working with the Law Society, the Notaries Society, and other partners to transition to the new Legal Professions British Columbia. It is anticipated that an orderly transition process to the new structure will take approximately 18-24 months.</p>
<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> Taking significant steps to honour Japanese Canadian internment survivors and their families.</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> – Ministry staff have delivered \$81.145 million out of the \$100 million commitment that BC Government made in May 2022. These funds sent to the Japanese Canadians Legacies Society (JCLS) are to support the new initiatives outlined in the communities’ historical wrongs redress proposal, which covered six pillars of work.</p> <p>The ministry is working closely with Citizens’ Services and JCLS to complete the “monument” initiative, which is the last remaining redress pillar. A Request For Decision was approved by Treasury Board which allowed the release of funds for the Monument. A Request for Proposal is now complete and the prime contractor has been selected.</p>

**2022 Mandate Letter:** Adopting the Anti-Racism Data Act to dismantle systemic racism and improve access to government programs and services for Indigenous, Black, and other People of Colour.

**Completed** – The Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Branch is working with the Ministry of Citizen Services on the Anti-Racism Data Act implementation. In Fall of 2022, the Anti-Racism Data Committee was appointed. The committee is made up of 11 members that represent a wide cross-section of racialized communities and geographic regions of B.C.

In collaboration with Indigenous Governing Entities (IGEs) and the Committee, on June 1, 2023, government released a list of anti-racism research priorities statistics, and other information that is relevant to our anti-racism efforts.

Specific to the research priorities, 10 were released by the Committee and Indigenous Governing Entities, and these include:

- Racial diversity within the BC Public Service and equity in hiring and career development.
- Interactions with the justice system and analysis of ‘complaints’ model.
- Health outcomes, building upon the health system performance framework to understand how the system is performing for different demographic groups.
- Understanding how students across demographic groups access and use education supports and their outcomes (from early childhood through to post-secondary education).
- Children, youth, and family wellness in home and away from home.
- Economic inclusion, including analysis of unpaid work and foreign credential recognition.
- Homelessness, housing supply and security.

Government also initiated a Demographic Survey that was conducted publicly and completed by over 200,000 British Columbians. This survey will allow the Province to begin the process of disaggregating data based on race. The survey outcomes will be compared to the results of the research priorities to expose any systemic racism evident in B.C. Provincial government programs, services or policies.

**2022 Mandate Letter:** Continue to move forward to support the judiciary in the modernization of B.C.'s courts and legal processes to make it easier for the public to navigate our justice system and to better support victims and families.

**In Progress** - The updated Court Digital Transformation Strategy (2024-2029) continues to guide the priorities for court modernization. In collaboration with the three levels of Court, Court Services Branch refreshed the roadmap of priorities for the Court Digital Transformation Strategy for its next cycle, building off the 2019-2023 strategy. The roadmap takes into consideration all of the advances made in the last four years and leverage those to continue to meet citizens' expectations for access to justice.

Other justice modernization initiatives continue to move forward, with a focus on achieving:

- Improved access to justice and timely resolution of matters.
- Enhanced online, integrated, and efficient citizen experiences.
- More reliable virtual proceedings, including secure access to court materials, and modernized court infrastructure/connectivity.
- Less costly and adversarial resolution options for citizen issues, including family justice, housing, and small claims matters.
- Modernized justice processes and tools that meet sector needs and reduce the risks created by interruptions to service delivery.
- Automated court form submission and eliminating manual data entry, improved infrastructure, enabling digital services and creating options for future online processes.
- Collaborated with BC Courthouse Libraries Society (BCCLS) in implementing a one-year pilot offering no fee access to Court Services Online eSearch functionality at over 90 Public Access Computers in BCCLS across the province. Librarians are trained on how to use CSO to assist clients in completing forms and seeking file information.
- 58 courthouses now have robust courtroom WiFi connectivity for both public and IDIR authenticated court participants to facilitate access to material in the courtroom.

<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> Work with community partners, including B.C.'s Human Rights Commissioner, to develop and pass an Anti-Racism Act to better serve everyone in B.C.</p>	<p><b>Complete</b> – MARB worked with the B.C.'s Human Rights Commissioner's office and completed the consultation and cooperation process with Indigenous partners in the co-development of the Anti-Racism legislation.</p> <p>The legislation received Royal Assent on May 16, 2024.</p>
<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> In collaboration with the Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity, take steps to address non-consensual disclosure of intimate images.</p>	<p><b>Complete</b> – The <i>Intimate Images Protection Act</i> came into force January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024. In partnership with PSSG, the ministry now has a program where people who have had their intimate images or videos shared without consent have new supports to get those images off the internet, stop their distribution, and seek monetary compensation. These services will help people who have had their intimate images shared without their consent quickly access self-help tools to assess their legal options, get information on their rights, and be connected to support.</p> <p>As of August 22, the Civil Resolutions Tribunal has received 145 claims (119 protection orders and 17 claims for damages) claims filed and issued 68 decisions. The Intimate Images Protection Service currently has opened 163 case files.</p>
<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> Support the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the work of the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions to build safe and healthy communities through implementation of the Safer Communities Action Plan.</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> – BCPS is working with PSSG (BC Corrections and Policing and Security Branch) to support the Safer Communities Action Plan through the development and ongoing management of the Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ReVOII brings together police and dedicated probation officers with the aim of identifying and intervening in cases involving repeat violent offending at the earliest opportunity possible, and where appropriate, connects individuals with services to help break the cycle of reoffending. Teams of dedicated prosecutors make decisions about charge assessment and, where appropriate, the conduct of prosecutions involving individuals prioritized into ReVOII.</li> <li>• To support this work, 12 ReVOII hubs began operating in May 2023 in Nanaimo, Victoria, Vancouver, Surrey, New Westminster, Abbotsford, Kamloops, Kelowna, Cranbrook, Prince</li> </ul>



George, Williams Lake and Terrace. The ReVOII hubs serve all communities within the province.

- The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) assigned dedicated Crown Counsel and professional staff to its High Risk Offender Identification Program, and five newly created Regional ReVOII prosecution teams. The regional prosecution teams include dedicated Crown Counsel who make decisions about charge assessment and, where appropriate, conduct the bail hearings and prosecutions involving individuals prioritized into ReVOII. The regional prosecution teams also provide criminal law advice to law enforcement.
- BCPS made system enhancements to permit improved tracking and reporting on ReVOII prioritized individuals and to enhance information available to prosecutors for use at charge assessment, bail, trial and sentencing.
- The goals of ReVOII include early intervention in cases involving prioritized individuals, and improved information sharing from investigative agencies to Crown Counsel, helping Crown Counsel to make better informed decisions about charge assessments and prosecutions. ReVOII assists Crown Counsel in making more effective decisions and court submissions about bail and sentencing, which can reduce the risk prioritized individuals pose to the community.
- ReVOII also focuses on helping prioritized individuals interrupt the cycle of reoffending, improving justice system responses to immediate public safety concerns, and holding prioritized individuals more accountable through enhanced community supervision, case management and release planning for those transitioning from custody into the community. ReVOII also helps prioritize individuals who identify as Indigenous to gain access to available culturally appropriate supports, and to much needed mental health and addictions treatment by engaging community stakeholders and service providers.
- ReVOII’s multi-agency response ensures that prioritized individuals are continuously monitored from investigation, charge assessment, bail, trial or plea, and sentencing, through

	<p>to enhanced release planning and ongoing case management of community supervision orders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ReVOII Crown Counsel continue to fulfill their constitutional obligations to act as independent ministers of justice, applying the governing law and BCPS policies, including the revised BCPS bail policy and recent amendments to the <i>Criminal Code</i>. ReVOII Crown Counsel also continue to apply the law and principles governing the BCPS Indigenous Justice Framework to cases involving prioritized individuals who identify as Indigenous.</li></ul> <p>Through the Safer Communities Action Plan, the Province has committed to funding 10 additional Indigenous Justice Centres to bring the network of 15 IJCs active, as described in the BC First Nations Justice Strategy by the end of fiscal year 2024/2025. There are currently nine IJCs operating in Chilliwack, Kelowna, Merritt, Nanaimo, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Surrey, Vancouver and Victoria as well as a Virtual Indigenous Justice Centre, all of which provide legal advice and representation to Indigenous clients with criminal or family law legal matters who may not otherwise have access to legal representation. Five more IJCs are planned to open later in 2024, in Burns Lake/Hazelton, Cranbrook, Kamloops, Port Hardy, and Williams Lake. An additional centre is planned for Fort St. John, but its opening has been delayed due to impacts from wildfires in 2024.</p>
<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> Support all ministries to deliver initiatives listed in the Action Plan required by the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, to keep building strong relations based on recognition and implementation of the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples protected in Canada’s constitution.</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> – Action 3.12: Prioritize implementation of the First Nations Justice Strategy. Please see above for overview of progress.</p> <p><u>Action 3.13: Prioritize endorsement and implementation of the Métis Justice Strategy:</u> The ministry obtained Provincial endorsement of the Métis Justice Strategy in July 2024, and is currently working on implementation planning.</p>

**Table 2: Progress Status of 2022 Mandate Letter Items (Parliamentary Secretary)**

MANDATE LETTER ACCOUNTABILITY	STATUS
<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> Support the Attorney General’s work with community partners, including B.C.’s Human Rights Commissioner, to develop and pass an Anti-Racism Act to better serve everyone in B.C.</p>	<p><b>Complete</b> – MARB worked with the B.C.’s Human Rights Commissioner’s office and completed the consultation and cooperation process with Indigenous partners in the co-development of the Anti-Racism legislation.</p> <p>The legislation has ascended and was approved May 16, 2024.</p>
<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> Continue work to advance the anti-racism helpline.</p>	<p><b>Complete</b> - The Racist Incident Helpline was launched on May 30, 2024. It is a confidential, toll-free service offering support and referrals to anyone who has experienced or witnessed hate or racism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Helpline can be reached via phone at 1-833-457-5463 (1-833-HLP-LINE).</li> <li>• Available weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific Standard Time (PST).</li> <li>• Outside these hours, callers can leave a voicemail and receive a callback on the next business day.</li> <li>• Support is available in over 240 languages.</li> <li>• The Helpline offers: Emotional and peer support, Information about community resources, Referrals to local support agencies, Counselling services, Assistance in reporting incidents to law enforcement.</li> </ul> <p>The government recognized the pressing need for resources to address incidences of hate and racism. MARB received funds in FY 2023/24 to initiate the development of the Anti-Racism Helpline with industry experts, specifically United Way/ BC211 who have similar services provided through the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (VictimLink). The Helpline is a trauma-informed, multilingual service providing a culturally safe platform for witnesses or victims of hate to report an incident, and receive referrals to community support programs, including counselling.</p>

<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> Work with community partners to create an anti-black racism strategy in recognition of the International Decade for the People of African Descent.</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> - Government conducted extensive engagement with the Black community in 2021 to inform potential initiatives related to the work and recognition of the International Decade for the People of African Descent. The B.C. Government also funded the Black in British Columbia (BC) Convener pilot project through a \$0.100 million grant. As part of the Convener role, The African Arts and Cultural Community Contributor Society (AACCCS) led a community assessment process of the performance of our government, and provided their findings and recommendations through their report called Black In B.C.</p> <p>Work will continue with the Black community and an Anti-Black Racism strategy will follow the enactment of the <i>Anti-Racism Act</i>. The Act provides the necessary guidelines and actions required for anti-racism strategies. This information will help inform the process and development of specific anti-racism strategies.</p>
<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> Work with community partners to create an anti-Asian racism strategy.</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> - An Anti-Asian Racism strategy will follow the enactment of the <i>Anti-Racism Act</i>. The Act will provide the necessary guidelines and actions required for anti-racism strategies. This information will help inform the process and development of specific anti-racism strategies.</p>
<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> Work with the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society to deliver the Province’s redress initiatives that honour the legacy of Japanese Canadians in B.C.</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> – Ministry staff have delivered \$81.135 million out of the \$100 million commitment that BC Government made in May 2022. These funds sent to the Japanese Canadians Legacies Society (JCLS) are to support the new initiatives outlined in the communities’ historical wrongs redress proposal, which covered six pillars of work.</p> <p>The ministry is working closely with Citizens’ Services and JCLS to complete the “monument” initiative, which is the last remaining redress pillar. A Request For Decision was approved by Treasury Board which allowed the release of funds for the Monument. A Request for Proposal is now complete and the prime vendor has been selected.</p>
<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> Support the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport in consultation with affected communities to advance emerging</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> – This work is being led by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sports (TACS), but PS Elmore has met with the Minister of TACS and senior executives to determine how she can help move this important work forward and provide her full support throughout the process.</p>

museum programs and proposals, including the Chinese Canadian museum, a South Asian Museum, and a provincial Filipino cultural centre.	
<b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> Support the Minister of Citizens' Services to continue collaborating with community partners on implementation of the Anti-Racism Data Act to dismantle systemic racism and improve access to government programs and services for Indigenous, Black, and other people of colour.	<b>Completed</b> – Please see summary in Minister's table above.

# Ministry of Attorney General

## 2024/25 – 2026/27 Service Plan

February 2024



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## Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Attorney General 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, consisting of stylized initials 'NS' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Honourable Niki Sharma, K.C.  
Attorney General  
February 13, 2024



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## 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 Attorney General will support the government's priorities and selected action items identified in the [December 2022 Minister's Mandate Letter](#) and the [December 2022 Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives' Mandate Letter](#).

## Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Attorney General and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General work together as the justice and public safety sector to advance a shared vision of a safe, secure, just, and resilient British Columbia. The ministry works to keep communities safe and provide certainty, proportionality and, above all, fairness when dealing with criminal, civil, and family law matters and to protect people, especially those who are most vulnerable. The ministry, while dealing with these matters, is focused on promoting confidence in the integrity of the sector and ensuring continued public participation and support.

The ministry is responsible for sheriff and court administration services, legal aid, prosecution services, administrative tribunals, civil and family justice services, protection and promotion of human rights, providing legal advice to Government, and developing justice policy and justice reforms.

The ministry is also responsible for promoting multiculturalism and leading anti-racism initiatives through the Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives.

The recently established Indigenous Justice Secretariat, housed in the Ministry of Attorney General, is a unique commitment between the Province and the BC First Nations Justice Council to cement their relationship and commitment to decreasing the overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples in the criminal justice system along two tracks of change: (1) Reform of the existing justice system; (2) Transformation through the rebuilding of Indigenous justice systems. The Indigenous Justice Secretariat was designed and implemented to build capacity toward an Indigenous-based justice system.

## Operating Environment

In 2024/25, the Ministry of Attorney General will further modernize the justice system, through enhancing technology and supporting infrastructure that will facilitate increased access to justice. Modernization initiatives will increase Government's ability to provide timely access to justice, convenience to citizens, streamline processes, and support the Courts of British Columbia in continuous improvement of processes and services. Collectively, these efforts will respond to ongoing challenges resulting from case backlogs, delays resolving disputes and criminal cases, processes that are expensive for Government as well as for system users, and complex processes and procedures that act as a barrier to access. Many of today's justice processes developed incrementally, with an emphasis on the perspectives and capabilities of people working within the system. Modernization will shift the emphasis to also include the citizens attempting to access justice, in addition to those who have historically been unable to do so.

The ministry will build on previous work to make justice processes easier to navigate through increased access to modern, convenient, and reliable service options. The Traffic Court Online project offers an example of this work and could facilitate the modernization of other processes in the justice system. At the same time, where appropriate, it is necessary to continue to support and expand in-person services, as well as blended and hybrid services, such as those offered in our Family Justice Centres, Justice Access Centres, and Indigenous Justice Centres. The current and future success of these citizen-focused services can be influenced by a range of challenges, including technology procurement, the rapid aging of technology-based systems, the need for security and protection of sensitive information, and maintaining a high degree of skills and expertise to ensure access to the services, whether citizens interact digitally, or in-person.

Over the next fiscal year, the ministry will advance an array of legislative reform initiatives. Implementation of the Money Judgment Enforcement Act will significantly modernize and streamline the court order enforcement process, addressing current challenges faced by British Columbians who obtain a judgment from a court or tribunal saying they are owed money but where the other party refuses to pay voluntarily. The Family Law Act modernization project continues to engage citizens in looking at how the law can be modernized to respond to the needs of B.C.'s families, address divergent caselaw, and respond to gender-based violence. These initiatives contribute to the ministry's ongoing commitment to improving access to legal tools and public justice processes for citizens.

The ministry's Justice Services Branch (JSB) plays a critical role in the implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (the "Declaration Act"), to ensure that the changes to the laws of B.C. within the ministry's mandate are aligned with the United Nations Declaration. JSB is uniquely placed, through its relationships with Indigenous partners and its expert knowledge of B.C.'s justice system to advance B.C.'s approach to legal pluralism, and to support the interface between Indigenous laws and legal institutions with B.C.'s laws and legal institutions. The diversity among Indigenous partners, ongoing changes to the law, the relative novelty of this new phase of collaboration, and the immense importance of this work

often combine to create an environment requiring extra time, resources, and responsiveness that is unique with respect to this area of work.

The ministry's Legal Services Branch (LSB) also plays a critical role in implementing the Declaration Act. This includes LSB internal training and facilitating cultural humility opportunities for staff, supporting interdisciplinary legal analysis, and participation in strategic meetings with external stakeholders. LSB supports training with clients, problem solving, and developing capacity within ministries to support their respective legislation and projects with respect to the Declaration Act. More recently, LSB created a team of bridging positions to help ensure a cross-branch and multidisciplinary approach to reconciliation. LSB also has an internal Indigenous Advisory Council to support Indigenous-led guidance and support to LSB operations. As the Province continues to emphasize achieving meaningful resolution to matters instead of litigation, LSB's role in facilitating that change is key.

With respect to the transformation of the relationship between Indigenous Peoples and the justice system, the Indigenous Justice Secretariat leads the transformative work and implementation of the First Nations Justice Strategy ("the Strategy")<sup>1</sup> within Government, including influencing social sector areas that provide health and housing supports for individuals in the justice system. At the core of the Strategy is the rebuilding of First Nations justice systems as an expression of self determination. As such, the Indigenous Justice Secretariat has a vital role in supporting First Nations in that rebuilding work. This includes the Secretariat advancing changes within government to laws, policies, and practices that are directly responsive to what First Nations determine is needed for Strategy implementation and rebuilding of their justice systems. In addition, the Indigenous Justice Secretariat is responsible for cross-ministry implementation of the Strategy and operationalization of the identified priorities within Government. This includes implementation of the Declaration Act where it intersects with justice, as well as supporting relationships with the Province and Canada to advance jointly identified priorities, funding, and partnership opportunities where the Strategy aligns with provincial and federal mandates.

Following the announcement of the Safer Communities Action Plan, cross-sector collaboration resulted in the development and implementation of the Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII), with BC Prosecution Services (BCPS) assigning dedicated Crown Counsel and professional staff to its headquarters, high risk offender program, and five newly established regional ReVOII prosecution teams.<sup>2</sup> In 2024/25, BCPS personnel will continue to work in support of ReVOII, including participating in the overall program evaluation led by BC Corrections. Factors that may impact ministry work could include developments in the law; impacts of resource allocations to other Safer Communities Action Plan initiatives; willingness

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<sup>1</sup> [BC First Nations Justice Strategy \(bcfnjc.com\)](https://bcfnjc.com)

<sup>2</sup> ReVOII serves as an enhanced case management model that is focused on prioritizing public safety through the coordinated management of risk a person presents to the community. Dedicated Crown Counsel and BCPS Professional Staff provide independent prosecutorial services and criminal law advice to local police agencies and the BC Corrections led ReVOII Community Hubs. ReVOII involves early intervention in cases involving prioritized individuals, along with enhanced information sharing from investigative agencies and BC Corrections that, in turn, allows Crown Counsel to make better informed decisions on charge assessment and prosecutions, including bail and sentencing.

of community stakeholders to participate and engage; resources constraints and delays within the Courts; stability of technology and use of virtual hearings; availability of resources within communities to assist offenders in breaking their offence cycle (i.e. housing, addictions treatment, mental health treatment); resources and delays in the forensic mental health system; and access to information from public safety partners.

Throughout 2024/25, the ministry will collaborate with internal and external partners and communities to advance core anti-racism initiatives, working to prevent racism and hate crime across the province. Within Government, the ministry will continue to develop cultural awareness, and encourage and foster a culture of equity, diversity, and inclusion. This is in alignment with Call to Action #57 from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, which calls upon governments to provide education and training to public servants on "skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism". Critical ministry work includes developing the anti-racism legislation and collaborating with the Ministry of Citizens' Services on implementation of the Anti-Racism Data Act. While the ministry remains steadfast in its vision of creating a fully inclusive society, this work is a long-term project that is subject to many factors outside of the ministry's control and will require commitment from all areas of British Columbia.

As a major component of the Declaration Act Action Plan, it was announced on April 22, 2022, that the ministry has implemented new Directives on Civil Litigation involving Indigenous Peoples. Developed collaboratively, these directives intend to better recognize the rights of Indigenous Peoples by reducing the number of lengthy court proceedings and enabling more negotiated resolutions, guided by recognizing and respecting Indigenous human rights, and implementing Aboriginal Rights. In this new approach to litigation involving Indigenous Peoples, factors that may impact ministry work could include developments in the law from the courts; impacts on negotiated resolutions from progress in the implementation of the UN Declaration; whether a party in litigation wants a court decision rather than a negotiated outcome; costs and timeliness of negotiating resolutions as opposed to proceeding through the court process; obtaining mandates for offers in negotiations; the number of new court proceedings commenced or dormant proceedings moving forward; the extent to which costs and complexity can be minimized by parties if proceedings do not settle; and legal counsel's cultural competency, understanding of Indigenous human rights and standards affirmed under the UN Declaration, s.35 rights, Crown obligations and the constitutional imperative of reconciliation.

## Performance Planning

### **Goal 1: The justice sector is fair and accessible**

A foundational underpinning of British Columbia's justice system is to be fair, navigable, and accessible for all.

#### **Objective 1.1: Enhance the user experience and modernize the justice system**

In ensuring the justice system is fair and accessible, the ministry will continually look to improve the experience of British Columbians interfacing with the justice system through service-design and offerings that are a part of the delivery of justice.

##### **Key Strategies**

- Advance the Courthouse Capital Asset Management Plan, including courthouse replacement and renovations, infrastructure remediation, WiFi expansion and facility enhancements across the province.
- Modernize the justice system for British Columbians through leveraging technology and user-centred design to assist users in navigating legal matters.
- Continue to improve early resolution services offered to families remotely and in-person at Family Justice Centres and Justice Access Centres.
- Support the 20 boards and tribunals accountable to the ministry with business operations, transformation, innovation, and modernization, including the Civil Resolution Tribunal, Mental Health Review Board, and BC Human Rights Tribunal, among others.
- Streamline the collection process for those who have obtained a court judgment or tribunal order for the payment of money, by continuing work to implement the Money Judgment Enforcement Act, which is expected to come into force in early 2025.

##### **Discussion**

Objective 1.1 reflects the ongoing efforts to orient justice system interactions around the experience of citizens who use it. While the ministry continues to explore increased reliance on technology and build on the lessons learned throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, considerable attention is also being directed toward simplifying or improving underlying processes and procedures. In some areas, new processes are being introduced to resolve issues without the emotional and monetary costs traditionally associated with the justice system. In addition to improving system efficiency, these new approaches are part of a strategic shift toward a modern justice system that will provide better outcomes and better serve British Columbians from all backgrounds.

Building on the successes from 2023/24, the ministry will continue to move forward in 2024/25 to improve the user experience, focusing on modernizing applications, continuous improvement, and innovation that supports virtual proceedings and virtual services,

enhancements to e-filing, online guided pathways, plain language, smart forms to help navigate the court system, system process improvements, online booking, online resolution of violation ticket disputes (Traffic Court Online), justice system process improvements, a Digital Evidence and Disclosure Management System, and technology deployment to support the Virtual Bail Initiative.

## **Objective 1.2: Increase access to justice**

The ministry will continue to advance systemic regulatory and policy initiatives that serve to enhance the public's access to justice.

### **Key Strategies**

- Advance the Legal Profession Act reform initiative, including implementation work, to create a single and modernized regulator for all legal service providers in the province, including lawyers, notaries public, and licensed paralegals.
- Further family justice reform initiatives, including support for those experiencing intimate partner violence, resolving disputes out of court, modernizing the Family Law Act, promoting the Child Support Recalculation Service, and working toward implementation of the 2007 Hague Child Support Convention.
- Continue to implement the Comprehensive Bail Program to expand access to justice through an improved bail hearing process for all justice participants.
- Support the delivery of legal aid services for low-income British Columbians through Legal Aid BC.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, and the Ministry of Children and Family Development, implement the Rights Advice Service for patients who are involuntarily detained under the Mental Health Act.
- Work with Indigenous nations to increase their access to justice, including through implementation of Treaty Nation violation tickets in Spring 2024 and implementation of Cowichan Tribes' child welfare law in Spring 2024.

### **Discussion**

This objective reflects work that will be undertaken in 2024/25 to reduce barriers for British Columbians who engage with the law or have their legal rights engaged, improving overall access to justice for those living at home and in the community. It also reflects steps being taken in the reconciliation process aimed at creating space in the justice system for Indigenous justice processes. Implementing Indigenous justice processes requires Indigenous law and B.C. law to work collaboratively.

Through ongoing initiatives like the Comprehensive Bail Program and the implementation of cross-ministry partnerships on the new Rights Advice Service, the ministry is working to expand access to justice across the province, while improving fairness and effectiveness. Much of the key strategies under this objective are focused on a broad spectrum of the population, including reforms aimed at increasing access to legal services. Through passing and implementing the Legal Profession Act reform initiative, the ministry will provide improved

access to legal services for British Columbians, through having a greater variety of options to assist with legal matters.

The ministry will build on its ongoing work of increasing access to justice for British Columbian families through an array of family justice reform initiatives. The ministry will continue supporting families in resolving their disputes out of court through parenting education, assessment, and mediation. The ministry will advance work on modernizing the Family Law Act, including undertaking engagement and policy development on issues pertaining to parenting, child centred decision-making, family violence, and protection orders. The ministry will also continue work on a potential prototype to support those experiencing intimate partner violence in navigating the court process.

The ministry will maintain momentum on facilitating access to child support, through further promotion of the Child Support Recalculation Service, an administrative service parties can enroll in to annually review and recalculate their child support obligations, in the event of a change in income, without having to return to court. Recent expansion of this initiative allows provincewide access. Furthermore, the ministry will work towards implementing the 2007 Hague Child Support Convention, an international treaty that applies to setting, changing, and enforcing child support duties when parents live in different countries. Ratification will increase the number of jurisdictions B.C. can work with regarding cross-border child support matters, making it easier to enforce and collect child support payments.

## Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2019/20 Baseline	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target	2026/27 Target
[1a] Percentage of respondents who agreed that the Parenting After Separation program gave them a better understanding of the family justice system, including its relevant laws and services <sup>1</sup>	74%	91%	85%	85%	85%
[1b] Percentage of respondents who agreed that the program gave them a better understanding of alternatives to court <sup>1</sup>	75%	90%	85%	85%	85%
[1c] Percentage of respondents who agreed that the program gave them a better understanding of making decisions in the best interests of the children <sup>1</sup>	77%	94%	85%	85%	85%

Data source: [Parenting After Separation \(English and Punjabi\)](#) and [Parenting After Separation for Indigenous Families](#). Participant evaluation surveys, conducted by Family Justice Services Division, with results compiled by Business Research and Diagnostics Group, Ministry of Attorney General

<sup>1</sup>All information is presented in aggregate form to ensure respondent anonymity pursuant to provincial and federal legislation and research ethical guidelines. All data for this survey was collected and managed under PIA PSSG19023 and is consistent with the Tri Council Policy Statement on the Ethical Conduct of Research.



**Discussion**

The Parenting After Separation Programs are free online courses for B.C. parents and other family members who are dealing with separation or divorce and facing decisions about guardianship, parenting arrangements, contact, child support, and spousal support. Most parents complete the course as an early step in a provincial court matter. The Programs assist parents in making informed decisions around separation, ensuring decisions are in the best interests of their children, while improving access to justice for participants by providing them with information about the justice system and alternatives to court.

The online Parenting After Separation program was introduced in 2011 and revised in 2021. Online Parenting After Separation for Indigenous Families began in 2019, and online Parenting After Separation became available in Punjabi in 2023. As of January 4, 2022, the Provincial Court Family Rules require that parties to Family Law Matter applications complete a Parenting After Separation course before a family management conference with a judge can be scheduled. Parents who complete the online courses are invited to complete an anonymous online course evaluation form and results are compiled quarterly by the Business Research and Diagnostics Group of the Ministry of Attorney General.

This performance measure reflects how the Parenting After Separation Program facilitates user understanding of navigating the justice system. A target of 85 per cent agreement with these statements is a strong indicator that the program has been successful with a large majority of users. Targets reflect the expectation that there will be some fluctuation in results from year to year, but results should not fall below the stated levels.

Performance Measure	2019/20 Baseline	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target	2026/27 Target
[1d] Percentage of eFiled Court Documents <sup>1,2,3</sup>	35.7%	45.0%	46.0%	47.0%	48.0%

Data source: Strategic Information and Business Applications, Court Services Branch. Extracted on October 11, 2023.

1. Data are preliminary and subject to change - small fluctuations in previously reported totals and percentages are expected due to continuing improvements in data quality.
2. Documents in scope are those that are eligible for electronic filing (eFile) through Court Services Online.
3. This dataset excludes Supreme Motor Vehicle and Provincial Family documents. Supreme Court Motor Vehicle documents filed are expected to decline over the next three fiscal years after the implementation of ICBC Enhance Care Coverage and Provincial Family documents may be included once the audience for Provincial Family eFiling expands.

**Discussion**

The Court Services Branch and the three levels of Courts provide additional virtual mechanisms for users to interact with the Courts. This includes provisions for users to electronically file court documents through Court Services Online. The Percentage of eFiled Court Documents metric reflects the proportion of documents that are eligible for electronic filing that are eFiled through Court Services Online.

This performance measure demonstrates clear progress in the ministry’s focus on modernizing processes or court forms to enhance user experience when interfacing with the justice system. An uptake in the use of eFiling demonstrates that citizens are utilizing

alternative means offered by the ministry for advancing their court proceedings. The development or modernization of SmartForms, guided pathways within online applications using plain language, authentication methods, and document size capacity made the process easier for citizens to file electronically and continues to be a significant component in making court processes more accessible and navigable for British Columbians. The ministry recognizes, however, the role in-person filing will continue to play for some British Columbians, for those with different abilities, no access to technology, or the desire to access in-person services.

The forecast for 2023/24 suggests a slight increase over the previous fiscal year with an expected rate of 45 per cent of eligible documents eFiled.

## **Goal 2: British Columbian communities are protected and resilient**

The justice sector plays a critical role in initiatives that help protect all British Columbians, including communities, vulnerable sectors, families, and racialized groups.

### **Objective 2.1: Improved community and public safety for all British Columbians**

The ministry will contribute to a multi-faceted and cross-sectoral approach to protecting communities and individuals throughout the province. This will include addressing concerns about repeat violent offending, advancing legislation that protects vulnerable British Columbians, and implementing safe supports for family justice.

#### **Key Strategies**

- Dedicated BC Prosecution Service prosecutors and professional staff will continue to participate in the Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative.
- Implement new federally-funded pilot programs to support those experiencing intimate partner violence as they navigate the family justice system.
- Contribute to the implementation of the Province's gender-based violence action plan.

#### **Discussion**

Objective 2.1 reflects initiatives being taken across the ministry to enhance the safety of British Columbians in their communities. The ministry will support the Safer Communities Action Plan with dedicated Crown Counsel and staff working with police and corrections to make sure repeat offenders are dealt with according to law. As described in the Butler-LePard Report<sup>3</sup>, the factors that lead to repeat offending are complex and multifaceted, with personal and

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<sup>3</sup> In May 2022, the Province hired experts in mental health and policing, Amanda Butler and Doug LePard, to conduct a rapid investigation into the challenges of repeat offending and unprovoked, violent stranger attacks that some communities were facing, and recommend evidence-based solutions to keep people and communities safe. In September 2022, 28 recommendations were made in a full report. The report and recommendations can be viewed here: [Prolific Offender Report BCFNJC submission.pdf \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

social determinants playing a significant role in crime. The ministry acknowledges that federal criminal law and an independent judiciary determine whether accused persons should and will be detained in custody before trial.

Other key strategies in Objective 2.1 reflect the efforts being taken to ensure that everyone in British Columbia feels safe and secure in their home and community. The ministry is working to align its intimate partner violence legislation to better protect those that are vulnerable, while also taking steps regarding gender-based violence. This is being accomplished by ensuring that changes reflect the province's advocacy for a broad definition of violence, better protections when intimate partner violence is involved, and an increased ability for community impact to be considered in bail hearings. While some of this work is oriented toward a broad spectrum of people, other initiatives take a more specific focus on vulnerable populations, including efforts to address intimate partner violence and a provincial response to complement the federal ban on conversion therapy.

## **Objective 2.2: Address systemic racism and support Indigenous and other racialized communities to respond to public incidents of racism and hate**

Advancing equity and social justice is the cornerstone of new strategies to combat racism, reduce systemic barriers, and build understanding and respect for one another across British Columbia's diverse society.

### **Key Strategies**

- Introduce anti-racism legislation that better serves everyone in British Columbia.
- Work with the Ministry of Citizens' Services to implement the Anti-Racism Data Act, paving way for race-based data collection that is essential in dismantling systemic racism and improving public services and programs.
- Engage communities through the Resilience BC Anti-Racism Network, multiculturalism grants, and related initiatives, to provide them with the information, supports, and training needed to respond to and prevent future incidents of racism.
- Address hate incidents in B.C. by creating a Racist Incident Helpline to report, track and provide supports to individuals harmed by racist incidents.
- Continue to address historical wrongs with formal apology to Sons of Freedom Doukhobor community and ongoing work with the National Association of Japanese Canadians.

### **Discussion**

In 2024/25, the ministry will introduce anti-racism legislation. This legislation has been developed through close cooperation and consultation with Indigenous partners and communities to address Indigenous-specific racism and fulfils the commitment to Action 3.6 of the Declaration Act Action Plan. This work has also involved continuous collaboration with racialized communities and key partners such as the B.C. Human Rights Commissioner.

The ministry will also maintain ongoing community engagement through initiatives like the Resilience BC Anti-Racism Network and the Racist Incident Helpline, ensuring robust support is available in training, prevention, and response to incidents of racism affecting Indigenous and racialized individuals.

Efforts are ongoing to provide support where possible to the Ministry of Citizens' Services in the implementation of the Anti-Racism Data Act. It is anticipated these endeavours will contribute to enhancing the ministry and province's capacity to identify potential areas for improvement and assess performance in addressing systemic racism.

**Performance Measures**

Performance Measure	2017/18 Baseline	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target	2026/27 Target
[2a] Number of B.C. communities engaged in projects that build intercultural trust and understanding, and reduce racism and systemic barriers	45	50	50	50	50

Data source: Internally compiled data from the BC Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Grants Program, and the Resilience BC Anti-Racism Network.

**Discussion**

This performance measure reflects provincial support towards collaborative initiatives led by communities affected by racism. Community-led engagements build intercultural trust and understanding, combat racism, and promote diversity and inclusion in B.C. This is a core component of supporting Indigenous and racialized communities throughout B.C.

In 2022/2023, the ministry worked with communities affected by racism in the development of the Anti-Racism Data Act. As a result of this purposeful and direct contact with communities affected by racism to ensure their input in the development of the Anti-Racism Data Act, there was a significant increase from the baseline target of 45 to 60 in 2022/2023 until introduction of the Anti-Racism Data Act in June 2022. Targets have been readjusted back to 50 communities for future years.

Following the implementation of the Anti-Racism Data Act, the ministry will be able to leverage captured disaggregated race-based data to develop new performance measures that demonstrate progress in addressing systemic racism in Government.

## **Goal 3: The justice sector is safe and responsive to Indigenous Peoples**

The justice sector will continue to contribute to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples through partnerships, facilitating restoration of traditional justice systems, and taking a more collaborative approach to litigation with Indigenous groups.

### **Objective 3.1: Facilitate self-determination and restoration of traditional Indigenous justice systems in partnership with Indigenous leadership and communities**

Government has made commitments to reconciliation through the Declaration Act Action Plan and annual reporting processes. The ministry's actions in that plan aim to make the justice system safer and more responsive to Indigenous Peoples. This includes advancing the [BC First Nations Justice Strategy](#) which aims to reduce the overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples in the justice system and restore and revitalize First Nations legal institutions. Further, advancing the Métis Justice Strategy will make the justice system safer and more culturally relevant for Métis people in B.C.

#### **Key Strategies**

- In partnership with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, the Federal Government, and Indigenous communities, continue work with the BC First Nations Justice Council to advance the B.C. First Nations Justice Strategy and work with the Métis Nation BC to develop, endorse, and advance the Métis Justice Strategy.
- Improve access to culturally appropriate justice services, including expanding the network of Indigenous Justice Centres to 15 centres by the end of 2024/25, in alignment with the BC First Nations Justice Strategy and the Safer Communities Action Plan.
- Continue the design of a new legal aid model for Indigenous Peoples and develop a comprehensive work plan to transfer control of legal aid services to the BC First Nations Justice Council.
- Reduce Indigenous over-representation in the criminal justice system through ongoing policy review and changes, justice sector employee education, expansion of Indigenous courts (new locations or additional dates at existing locations), and outreach and partnerships with Indigenous communities.
- In consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, continue reviewing and ensuring alignment of B.C. laws with UNDRIP for all statutes within the ministry's mandate including new and amending bills.
- Support the interface between Indigenous laws and legal institutions and B.C.'s laws and legal institutions. Work collaboratively with Nations to assist them in the enforcement of their laws in multiple areas including child welfare, offences, education, and debts.

## Discussion

In partnership with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the BC First Nations Justice Council, the Indigenous Justice Secretariat will continue work to advance the BC First Nations Justice Strategy.

Track 1 of the BC First Nations Justice Strategy works to reform the existing justice system to be safer and more responsive to Indigenous Peoples. This will be accomplished through opening additional Indigenous Justice Centres in 2024/25, continued delivery of Gladue Reports through the BC First Nations Justice Council, and progressing work to transition Indigenous legal aid services to the BC First Nations Justice Council from Legal Aid BC.

Track 2 of the BC First Nations Justice Strategy focuses on transformation through the rebuilding of Indigenous Justice Systems, consistent with the standards of the UN Declaration, through coordinated action to support the development of First Nations justice systems, and in particular, reflect the right of self-determination and the inherent right of self-government. In March 2023, through funding provided to the BC First Nations Justice Council, B.C. provided \$10 million in funding to support First Nations' community-based justice programs.

The ministries will also continue to work with Métis Nation BC to advance the Métis Justice Strategy to Provincial endorsement.

The BC First Nations Justice Strategy and Métis Justice Strategy are Indigenous-led and require ongoing collaboration with Indigenous partners.

The ministry will also continue to support and advance projects that recognize legal pluralism is fundamental to the jurisdiction and self-determination of Indigenous Peoples. Integration of Indigenous laws and legal institutions into British Columbia's legal system will improve access to justice for Indigenous Peoples and provide tools for and responses to legal issues in ways not adequately addressed through the existing British Columbian and Canadian legal system.

## **Objective 3.2: Advance reconciliation through use of the Directives on Civil Litigation involving Indigenous Peoples**

While Indigenous claims can be pursued through litigation, negotiation is a preferable way of reconciling the complex and competing interests at stake. The core objectives are to prioritize and promote resolution, innovation, and negotiated settlement, in efforts to reduce the potential for litigation.

### **Key Strategies**

- Continue to work with Indigenous Peoples on implementation of the Directives.
- Review active litigation to ensure the Directives are being implemented as intended, which may include making pleadings amendments.
- Work with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation on identifying potential avenues for negotiation of the dispute, such as forms of alternative dispute resolution.

- Seek early internal government meetings to discuss the possible effects of litigation on the work of reconciliation and try to identify collaborative ways to resolve all or part of the potential or newly filed legal proceedings.
- When litigation has concluded, meet with clients to discuss preventing similar litigation in the future; as well as debriefing with counsel for the Indigenous parties to identify potential areas for improvement.

**Discussion**

This objective reflects a major component of the ministry’s reconciliation commitments. On April 22, 2022, formal direction was issued to legal counsel working for the province on civil litigation involving Indigenous Peoples and their interests. The Directives were co-developed with the First Nations Leadership Council. The Directives are consistent with the 10 Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia’s Relationship with Indigenous People<sup>4</sup>, which reflect a desire to achieve government-to-government relationships based on respect, recognition and exercise of Aboriginal title and rights, and reconciliation of Aboriginal and Crown titles and jurisdictions.

The Directives are in response to the need to shift from patterns of lengthy and expensive litigation to cooperative implementation through effective relationships and negotiations, consistent with the articles of the UN Declaration. The court process is generally adversarial for the parties involved and provides limited capacity to deal with these complex issues. This often drives the parties further apart rather than advancing reconciliation. Traditional court processes can also be very damaging to the relationship between Indigenous and Crown parties. While some specific legal issues may get resolved (and the court process may be necessary for those purposes), the broader relationship may be significantly damaged, and the process of lasting reconciliation may not be advanced to any great degree. The Directives prioritize and promote resolution, innovation and negotiated settlement, and reduce the potential for traditional litigation.

**Performance Measures**

Performance Measure	2020/21 Baseline	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target	2026/27 Target
[3a] Number of cases from Indigenous Clients supported at Indigenous Justice Centres <sup>1,2</sup>	254	500	720	1000	1000
[3b] Number of Indigenous Clients served by Indigenous Justice Centres.	N/A	182	600	820	820

Data source: BC First Nations Justice Council

<sup>1</sup>2023/2024 forecast based on based on year-to-date BCFNJC client, and case volume as of November 30, 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Future years forecast based on year-to-date BCFNJC client and case volume as of November 30, 2023, extrapolated to additional centres.

<sup>4</sup> [Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia’s Relationship with Indigenous People \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/indigenous/draft-principles)

## Discussion

The objective of improved outcomes for Indigenous Peoples in their interactions with the justice system will be met through more Indigenous clients receiving high quality legal and other services in a culturally safe and relevant way. Previous measures did not distinguish between the number of clients served and the number of cases opened, and/or referrals made for individuals who may not become a client of an Indigenous Justice Centre (IJC). In 2023/24 and moving forward, both figures will be measured and reported out on.

The targets in these performance measures were developed based on the current Indigenous Justice Centre caseloads and the planned opening of five additional IJCs in 2023/24. These targets will be adjusted when six additional IJC sites open in 2024/25, as the specific dates, sites, and target client volumes are not yet known. The BC First Nations Justice Council directly provides this data as the service provider.

The target measures are based on assumptions of usage at IJCs that are not yet open. These figures assume the forecasted staffing complement, opening dates, and community usage of services. The increase to target amounts for these measures is based on the expansion of the network of IJCs to 15 in person IJCs by end of 2024/25. Through 2022/23 there were only four in-person IJCs and one virtual IJC. In 2023/24, five new IJCs are opening in major urban areas. These IJCs employ more lawyers and support staff and are in more populated areas and are expected to serve more clients than the smaller IJCs previously opened. Six additional IJCs will be opened in 2024/25 bringing the total to 15 IJCs and one virtual IJC in the province.



# Financial Summary

(\$000s)	2023/24 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2024/25 Estimates	2025/26 Plan	2026/27 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Justice Services	177,620	197,467	200,879	202,446
Indigenous Justice Secretariat	23,519	22,363	20,333	20,333
Prosecution Services	173,671	212,499	212,505	212,510
Court Services	148,684	156,067	156,133	156,198
Legal Services	32,267	40,682	40,682	40,682
Agencies, Boards, Commissions & other Tribunals	48,781	52,506	52,480	52,480
Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism	2,361	6,804	6,604	6,604
Executive and Support Services	37,110	40,936	40,482	40,482
Judiciary	93,617	110,671	110,809	110,956
<i>Crown Proceeding Act</i>	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500
Independent Investigations Office	11,564	12,428	12,428	12,428
Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>773,694</b>	<b>876,923</b>	<b>877,835</b>	<b>879,619</b>
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>				
Agencies, Boards, Commissions & other Tribunals	10	10	10	10
Executive and Support Services	5,768	8,925	4,450	4,450
Judiciary	770	819	770	770
Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account	363	363	363	363
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,911</b>	<b>10,117</b>	<b>5,593</b>	<b>5,593</b>

<sup>1</sup> For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2023/24 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2024/25 Estimates

\* Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

## Financial Summary: Electoral Boundaries Commission

While the Electoral Boundaries Commission operates independently from the Ministry of Attorney General, their expenditures report out as the responsibility of the ministry. Therefore, they are not considered one of the core business areas accountable to the Attorney General, but they are included in the Annual Report.

(\$000s)	2023/24			
	Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2024/25 Estimates	2025/26 Plan	2026/27 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Electoral Boundaries Commission	147	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<sup>1</sup> For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2023/24 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2024/25 Estimates.

## Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations

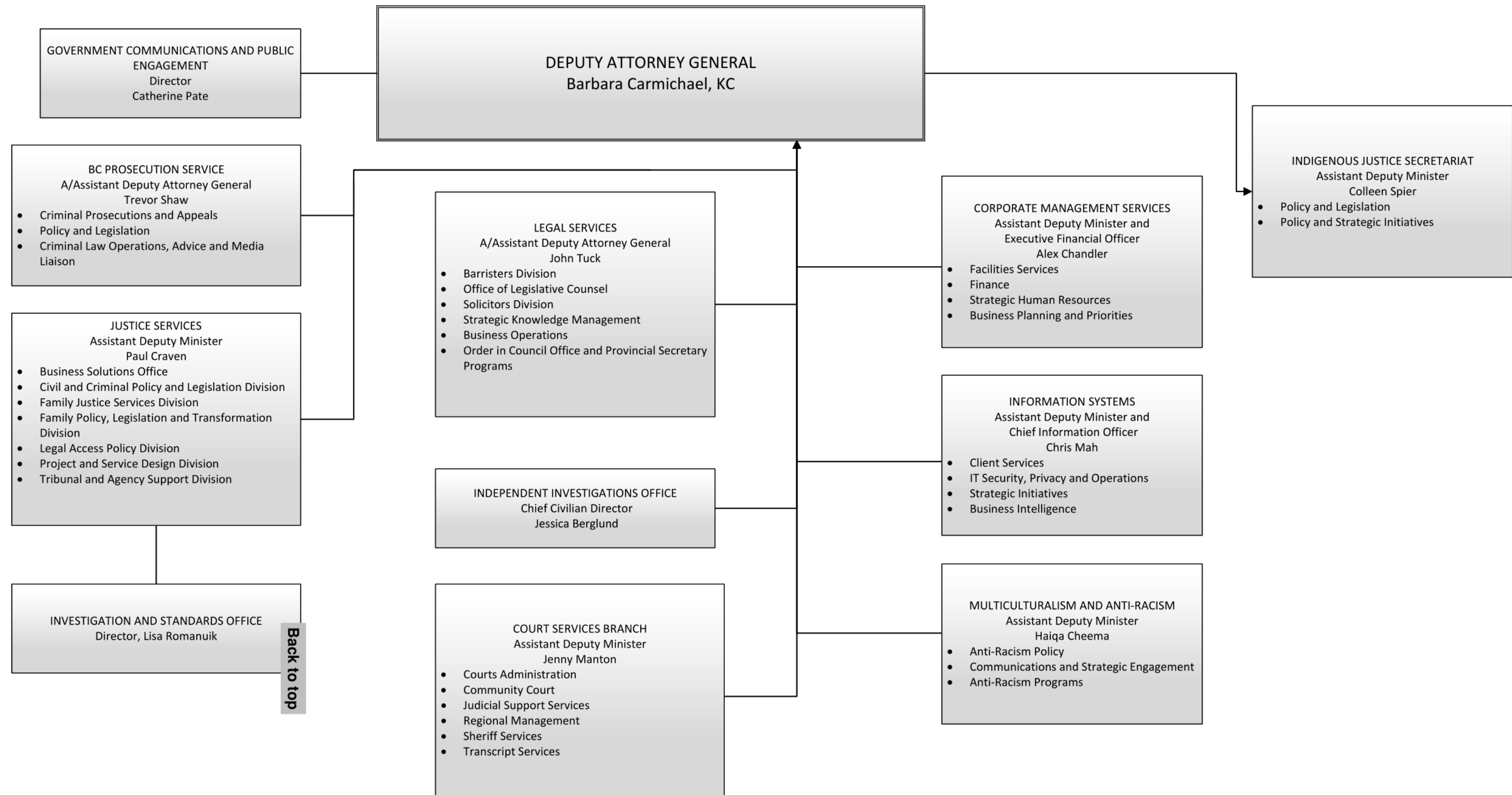
As of February 13, 2024, the Ministry of Attorney General is responsible and accountable for the following organizations:

- [Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC](#)
- [Association of BC Forest Professionals](#)
- [British Columbia Ferry Commission](#)
- [BC Family Maintenance Agency](#)
- [BC Human Rights Tribunal](#)
- [British Columbia Institute of Agrologists](#)
- [British Columbia Review Board](#)
- [British Columbia Utilities Commission](#)
- [Building Code Appeal Board](#)
- [Civil Resolution Tribunal](#)
- [College of Applied Biology](#)
- [Community Care and Assisted Living Appeal Board](#)
- [Employment Standards Tribunal](#)
- [Energy Resource Appeal Tribunal](#)
- [Engineers and Geoscientists BC](#)
- [Environmental Appeal Board](#)
- [Financial Services Tribunal](#)
- [Forest Appeals Commission](#)
- [Health Professions Review Board](#)
- [Hospital Appeal Board](#)
- [Independent Investigations Office of BC](#)
- [Investigation and Standards Office](#)
- [Judicial Council of the Provincial Court of BC](#)
- [Labour Relations Board](#)
- [Legal Aid BC](#)
- [Mental Health Review Board](#)

- [Notaries Public Board of Examiners](#)
- [Property Assessment Appeal Board](#)
- [Passenger Transportation Board<sup>5</sup>](#)
- [Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia](#)
- [Safety Standards Appeal Board](#)
- [Skilled Trades BC Appeal Board](#)
- [Surface Rights Board](#)
- [Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal](#)

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<sup>5</sup> The Passenger Transportation Board will transfer from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to the Ministry of Attorney General, effective April 1, 2024.



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The Attorney General makes appointments and/or recommends Lieutenant Governor-in-Council appointments to a number of other entities related to the ministry's mandate such as:

BC Law Institute	Judicial Council of the Provincial Court of BC	Law Society of BC
Continuing Legal Education Society	Judicial Justices Compensation Commission	Legal Services Society of BC
Electoral Boundaries Commission	Justice Education Society of BC	Notaries Public Board of Examiners Judges
	Law Foundation of BC	Notary Foundation

AG AGENCIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND CROWN AGENCIES

Appeal Board	Employment Standards Tribunal	Mental Health Review Board
BC Ferry Commission	Environmental Appeal Board	Oil and Gas Appeal Tribunal
BC Human Rights Tribunal	Financial Services Tribunal	Passenger Transportation Board
BC Review Board	Forest Appeals Commission	Property Assessment Appeal Board
BC Utilities Commission	Health Professions Review Board	Public Guardian and Trustee
Building Code Appeal Board	Hospital Appeal Board	Safety Standards Appeal Board
Civil Resolution Tribunal	Labour Relations Board	Skilled Trades BC Appeal Board
Community Care & Assisted Living	Legal Services Society of BC	Surface Rights Board

# Ministry Responsibilities

The BC Public Service is divided into ministries. Each ministry is responsible for a specific area of public policy, government function or service delivery.

Ministries may also be responsible for certain Crown corporations, agencies, boards, commissions and other affiliate organizations for which the Province appoints certain board members or has significant operational or oversight interests and responsibilities<sup>1</sup>.

## MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

*(Including Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives)*

### General Responsibilities

- Access to justice services including courts, tribunals, and family justice services
- Administrative law policy
- Authentication Program administered by the OIC Administration Office
- BC Bylaw Adjudication Program
- Civil, criminal and family law policy
- Court and sheriff services, and administration
- *Crown Proceeding Act* administration
- Family justice and mediation services
- First Nations Justice Strategy / Metis Justice Strategy
- Human Rights Clinic
- Improvements to justice services, including justice reform and law reform
- Independent Rights Advice Service
- Indigenous Justice Secretariat
- Investigation and Standards Office
- Justice data
- Legal aid services
- Legal services to government
- Liaising with the judiciary, including the BC Court of Appeal, BC Supreme Court, and the Provincial Court of British Columbia
- Maintenance Enforcement and Locate Services
- Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism, including Resilience BC Anti-Racism Network and Provincial Racist incident Helpline
- Prosecution services and Crown counsel services
- Protection and promotion of human rights and poverty law services
- Public inquiries
- Public legal education and information
- Tribunals – operation, administration and support services to the following:
  - British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal

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<sup>1</sup> Ministries may have direct responsibilities for certain Crown corporations, agencies, boards, commissions or other organizations through legislation or provincial ownership. Ministries may also have responsibility for key joint initiatives with other jurisdictions or external organizations which the Province does not own or control. In certain cases, ministries may appoint representatives to such entities under specific legislation, through the Province's Crown Agencies Secretariat (CAS) or other authorities. The lists include organizations to which the Province has appointed 1 or more representatives, and that are directly or indirectly integral to ministry operational interests or legislative oversight responsibilities.

- British Columbia Review Board
- British Columbia Utilities Commission
- Building Code Appeal Board
- Civil Resolution Tribunal
- Community Care and Assisted Living Appeal Board
- Employment Standards Tribunal
- Energy Resource Appeal Tribunal [formerly the Oil and Gas Appeal Tribunal]
- Environmental Appeal Board
- Financial Services Tribunal
- Forest Appeals Commission
- Health Professions Review Board
- Hospital Appeal Board
- Labour Relations Board
- Mental Health Review Board
- Passenger Transportation Board
- Property Assessment Appeal Board
- Safety Standards Appeal Board
- Skilled Trades BC Appeal Board [formerly the Industry Training Appeal Board]
- Surface Rights Board

#### Crown Corporations, Agencies, Governing Boards, and Other Key Organizations

- BC Family Maintenance Agency
- BC Ferries Commission
- Investigation and Standards Office
- Judicial Council of the Provincial Court of BC
- Legal Aid BC
- Notaries Public Board of Examiners

#### Independent Officers and Independent Offices of the Legislature

- Elections BC
- Independent Investigations Office of BC
- Office of the Conflict –of Interest Commissioner
- Office of the Human Rights Commissioner
- Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists for BC
- Office of the Ombudsperson of BC
- Office of the Representative for Children and Youth
- Public Guardian and Trustee of BC

#### Key External Organizations

- BC Law Institute
- BC First Nations Justice Council
- Law Society of BC and Law Foundation of BC
- Métis Nation of BC (MNBC)
- Native Courtworkers and Counselling Association of BC
- Society of Notaries Public of BC and Notary Foundation of BC
- Provincial Committee on Anti-Racism
- United Way – BC (Racist Incident Helpline contract)
- Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (ResilienceBC Network contract)

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## Ministry Overview

Last Updated: August 27, 2024

### Subject: Ministry of Attorney General's Legislative Program

#### BACKGROUND:

- The Ministry of Attorney General has responsibility for over 100 statutes. It has the largest legislative program in government.
- Each year, Cabinet Operations sends a “call for legislation” directing all ministries to provide their list of legislative priorities for the following year’s session.
- After consulting with all branches within the ministry, the Deputy Attorney General’s office provides a collated list of all legislation proposals to Cabinet Operations, who then sends to Cabinet for full review of legislative proposals.
- Cabinet makes their selection of proposals to proceed in the following year’s legislative session and identifies items to proceed in a later session.
- Details of the decisions are recorded in a Cabinet Record of Decision (ROD) and distributed to the Deputy Attorney General’s office.
- For reference, see the two-column list of acts below that fall under the Attorney General’s responsibility, taken from BC Laws.<sup>1</sup>

#### NEXT STEPS:

- The ministry will need to be mindful that, barring any unforeseen delays, Cabinet Operations will send out their call for 2025 legislation items very shortly after the 2024 election and a new provincial cabinet is assigned. This may cause a very tight turnaround in generating a Spring 2025 legislative session.

ATTORNEY GENERAL	
Column 1 ACT	Column 2 DETAILS
Access to Services (COVID-19)	
Administrative Tribunals	
Adult Guardianship	
Age of Majority	
Anti-Racism	
Apology	

<sup>1</sup> BC Laws: [Attorney General - Statute Administration \(gov.bc.ca\)](http://gov.bc.ca)



Arbitration	
Assessment	Sections 43 (1), (4) and (8), 43.1, 44, 45, 46, 49, 51, 55, 57, 59, 60, 62 and 63, Part 7 and section 74 (2) (g) (iv), (k), (s), (t) and (u).
Attorney General	The Act except sections 2 (e), 5 and 6 as those provisions relate to the portfolio of the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General and Deputy Premier.
Builders Lien	
Building	Part 4.
Charitable Purposes Preservation	
Civil Resolution Tribunal	
Civil Rights Protection	
Class Proceedings	
Coastal Ferry	Part 4 and sections 70, 72 and 73.
Community Care and Assisted Living	Sections 29 (1), (1.1), (4) and (11), 29.1 and 34 (4) (c).
Conflict of Laws Rules for Trusts	
Constitution	The Act except sections 25 – 27.
Constitutional Amendment Approval	
Constitutional Question	
Correction	Division 5 of Part 2.
County Boundary	
Court Agent	
Court Jurisdiction and Proceedings Transfer	
Court of Appeal	
Court Order Enforcement	

Court Order Interest	
Court Rules	
COVID-19 Related Measures	
Crown Counsel	
Crown Franchise	
Crown Proceeding	
Debtor Assistance	
Disciplinary Authority Protection	
Election	
Electoral Boundaries Commission	
Electoral Districts	
Electoral Reform Referendum 2018	
Employment Standards	Part 12.
Energy Resource Activities	Division 2 of Part 2.
Enforcement of Canadian Judgments and Decrees	
Environmental Management	Division 1 of Part 8.
Escheat	
Estates of Missing Persons	
Evidence	The Act except section 51
Expropriation	
Family Compensation	
Family Law	
Family Maintenance Enforcement	
Federal Courts Jurisdiction	

Financial Disclosure	
Financial Institutions	Sections 242.1 and 242.2.
Foreign Arbitral Awards	
Foreign Money Claims	
Forest and Range Practices	The following: (a) Part 8.1; (b) section 166 as that provision relates to the portfolio of the Attorney General.
Fraudulent Conveyance	
Fraudulent Preference	
Frustrated Contract	
Good Samaritan	
Health Professions	Sections 50.51, 50.52, 50.65 and 55 (2) (r).
Health Professions and Occupations	The following: (a) sections 308, 309, 317, 323 and 324; (b) section 531 (d) as that provision relates to the portfolio of the Attorney General.
Holocaust Memorial Day	
Hospital	Section 46 (1), (4), (4.1) and (4.2).
Human Rights Code	
Infants	
Interjurisdictional Support Orders	
International Commercial Arbitration	
International Sale of Goods	
International Trusts	
Interpretation	
Intimate Images Protection	

Judicial Compensation	
Judicial Review Procedure	
Jury	
Justice Administration	
Justice Reform and Transparency	
King's Counsel	
Labour Relations Code	Sections 115 – 122, 125, 127, 129, 132 and 157.
Land Title	Divisions 2 and 3 of Part 17
Law and Equity	
Law Reform Commission	
Legal Profession	
Legal Professions	
Legal Services Society	
Legislative Assembly Privilege	
Legislative Library	
Legislative Procedure Review	
Libel and Slander	
Limitation	
Lobbyists Transparency	
Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement	
Members' Conflict of Interest	
Members' Remuneration and Pensions	
Mental Health	Sections 24.1, 24.2 and Part 5.
Ministry of Provincial Secretary and Government Services	The Act except sections 1, 2 (4) and 4.

Money Judgment Enforcement	
Multiculturalism	
Negligence	
Notaries	
Occupiers Liability	
Offence	
Ombudsperson	
Partition of Property	
Passenger Transportation	The following: (a) section 6 (1), (2), (3) and (3.1); (b) section 7 (1) (c) and (1.1) to (5); (c) Divisions 2 and 3 of Part 3; (d) section 22.1; (e) sections 50 and 51; (f) section 59.1 (1) (b) and (c) and (2).
Patients Property	
Perpetuity	
Petroleum and Natural Gas	Sections 146, 148 – 153, 155 and 156.
Police	Part 7.1.
Power of Appointment	
Power of Attorney	
Presumption of Death	
Privacy	
Property Law	The Act except sections 42 and 43.
Protection of Public Participation	
Provincial Court	
Public Guardian and Trustee	

Public Inquiry	
Public Interest Disclosure	
Recall and Initiative	
Referendum	
Regulations	
Representation Agreement	
Representative for Children and Youth	
Safe Access to Schools	
Safety Standards	Part 8.
Settlement of International Investment Disputes	
Sheriff	
Skilled Trades BC	Sections 42 and 45.
Small Claims	
Statute Revision	
Subpoena (Interprovincial)	
Supreme Court	
Trespass	
Trust and Settlement Variation	
Trustee (Church Property)	
Trustee	
Utilities Commission	
Wills, Estates and Succession	
Youth Justice	Part 1 and section 44 (2) (a) and (b).

Ministry of Attorney General  
30-60-90-Day Issues

Issue / Decision / Activity	Brief Description
<b>30 Days</b>	
Provincial Court Family Rules – Early Resolution expansion	<p><b>November 1</b> Launch of Early Resolution process in Port Coquitlam Provincial Court Family Registry.</p>
Cabinet Confidences	
<b>60 Days</b>	
Cabinet Confidences	
<b>90 Days</b>	
N/A	

**Ministry of Attorney General  
by Core Business**  
*From the Forecast Due August 9, 2024*

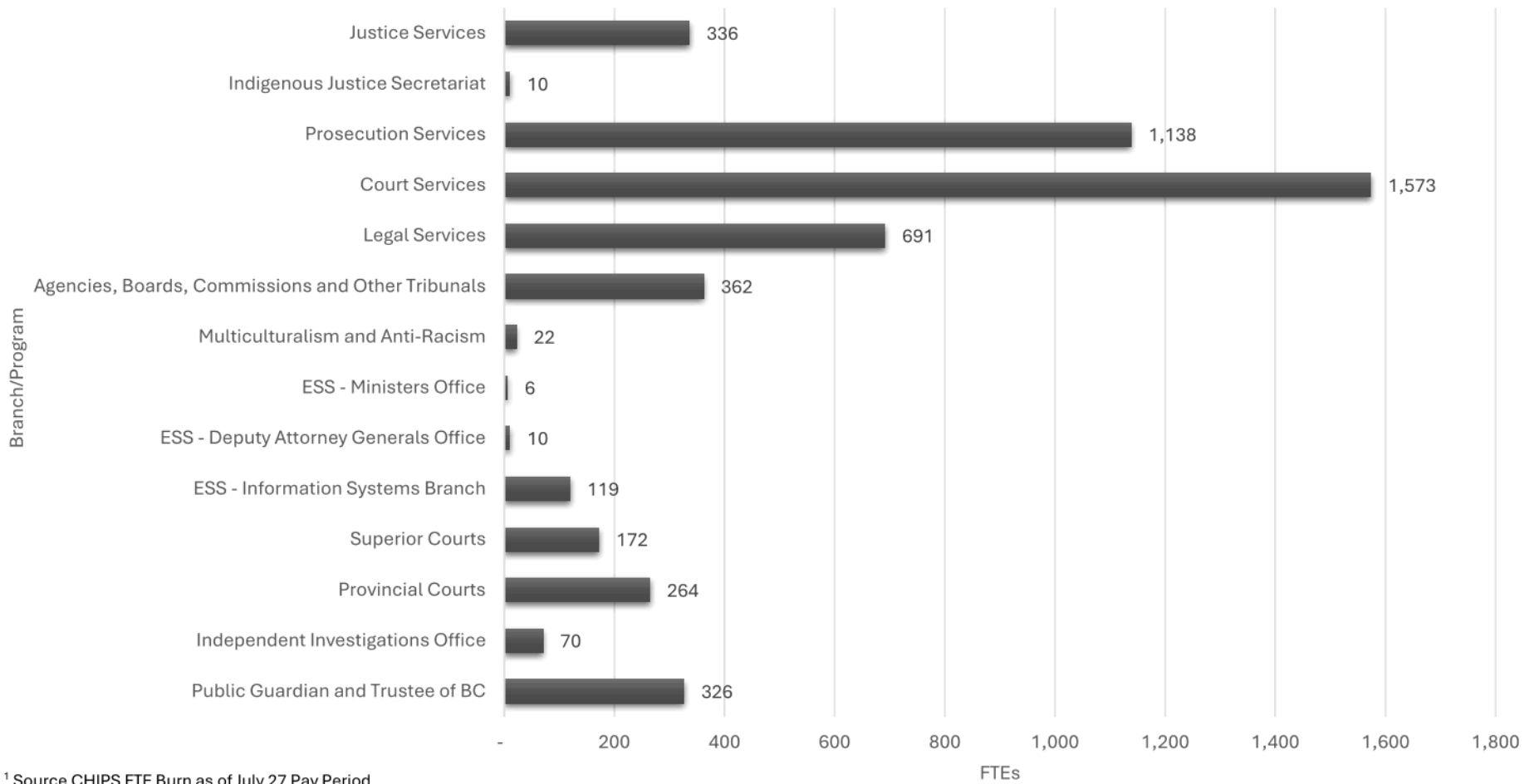
Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information



TB Tracking Sheet - AG							
<i>Updated</i>		Thursday, October 3, 2024					
FPA Tracking #	Item	Type	TB Sub Grouping	Branch	Deadline for signed version	Days remaining	
1	Cabinet Confidences						
2							
3							
4							
5							

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## Ministry of Attorney General FTEs by Branch/Program 5,099 Total FTEs<sup>1</sup> - July 2024



<sup>1</sup> Source CHIPS FTE Burn as of July 27 Pay Period

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Cabinet Confidences ; Government Financial Information ; Legal Information

**MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
**(\$000)**

**VOTE 14 Ministry Operations**

Description	Total 2023/24 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
<b>Justice Services</b>	<b>177,620</b>	<b>27,351</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>6,947</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>34,298</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
Indigenous Justice Secretariat	23,519	1,130	—	287	—	1,417	—	17	—	—	3	13	—	—	—
<b>Prosecution Services</b>	<b>173,671</b>	<b>156,356</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>39,715</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>196,619</b>	<b>2,019</b>	<b>1,416</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>8,232</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>2,980</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>431</b>
<b>Court Services</b>	<b>148,684</b>	<b>108,183</b>	<b>1,033</b>	<b>27,674</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>136,890</b>	<b>2,853</b>	<b>1,697</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>2,823</b>	<b>3,220</b>	<b>3,511</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,714</b>
<b>Legal Services</b>	<b>32,267</b>	<b>82,958</b>	<b>1,084</b>	<b>21,465</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>105,507</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>47,946</b>	<b>1,729</b>	<b>1,736</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Other Tribunals</b>	<b>48,781</b>	<b>41,174</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>11,055</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>52,738</b>	<b>5,703</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>5,534</b>	<b>1,772</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>5</b>
Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Other Tribunals	48,780	27,490	93	7,015	—	34,598	5,047	409	—	2,030	1,416	941	30	23	5
British Columbia Utilities Commission	1	13,684	416	4,040	—	18,140	656	254	—	3,504	356	299	8	5	—
<b>Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism</b>	<b>2,361</b>	<b>1,991</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,497</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Executive and Support Services</b>	<b>37,110</b>	<b>17,641</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4,512</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>22,246</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>10,898</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>
Minister's Office	863	550	—	171	75	796	—	60	—	—	10	22	—	—	3
Corporate Services	36,247	17,091	18	4,341	—	21,450	—	94	60	31	10,888	206	—	12	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>644,013</b>	<b>436,784</b>	<b>3,192</b>	<b>112,161</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>552,212</b>	<b>10,630</b>	<b>5,105</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>65,467</b>	<b>18,412</b>	<b>10,297</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2,153</b>

**VOTE 15 Judiciary**

Description	Total 2023/24 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
<b>Judiciary</b>	<b>93,617</b>	<b>76,691</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>19,640</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>96,461</b>	<b>5,159</b>	<b>2,112</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>2,747</b>	<b>2,108</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>135</b>
Superior Courts	21,628	16,235	80	4,124	—	20,439	1	191	—	250	1,849	800	—	—	26
Provincial Courts	71,989	60,456	50	15,516	—	76,022	5,158	1,921	29	274	898	1,308	—	—	109
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,617</b>	<b>76,691</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>19,640</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>96,461</b>	<b>5,159</b>	<b>2,112</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>2,747</b>	<b>2,108</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>135</b>

**VOTE 16 Crown Proceeding Act**

Description	Total 2023/24 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
<b>Crown Proceeding Act</b>	<b>24,500</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,500</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2024/25 Operating Expenses
64	—	56	1	1,991	2,516	—	160,955	163,471	—	—	110	110	—	(1)	(1)	(10)	(2,392)	(2,402)	197,467
—	—	—	—	33	—	—	22,767	22,767	—	—	1	1	—	(90)	(90)	(1)	(1,764)	(1,765)	22,363
88	—	64	300	16,346	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,224	1,224	(1,688)	(1)	(1,689)	—	(1)	(1)	212,499
2,259	—	2,065	739	20,964	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,067	1,067	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2,852)	(2,853)	156,067
—	—	3	167	52,508	—	—	—	—	—	—	760	760	—	(117,793)	(117,793)	(290)	(10)	(300)	40,682
—	—	250	1,381	16,614	552	—	—	552	12,394	—	40	12,434	—	(3)	(3)	(1,278)	(28,551)	(29,829)	52,506
—	—	—	21	9,922	—	—	—	—	12,394	—	40	12,434	—	(3)	(3)	(1,278)	(3,168)	(4,446)	52,505
—	—	250	1,360	6,692	552	—	—	552	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(25,383)	(25,383)	1
—	—	—	—	392	3,376	—	540	3,916	—	—	2	2	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	6,804
—	—	9,799	862	22,047	—	—	—	—	—	—	459	459	—	(3,814)	(3,814)	(1)	(1)	(2)	40,936
—	—	—	—	95	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	891
—	—	9,799	862	21,952	—	—	—	—	—	—	459	459	—	(3,814)	(3,814)	(1)	(1)	(2)	40,045
<b>2,411</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>12,237</b>	<b>3,450</b>	<b>130,895</b>	<b>6,444</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>184,262</b>	<b>190,706</b>	<b>12,394</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3,663</b>	<b>16,057</b>	<b>(1,688)</b>	<b>(121,704)</b>	<b>(123,392)</b>	<b>(1,582)</b>	<b>(35,572)</b>	<b>(37,154)</b>	<b>729,324</b>

70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2024/25 Operating Expenses
64	—	1,005	275	14,158	—	—	12	12	—	—	43	43	—	(2)	(2)	—	(1)	(1)	110,671
4	—	400	—	3,521	—	—	—	—	—	—	43	43	—	(1)	(1)	—	—	—	24,002
60	—	605	275	10,637	—	—	12	12	—	—	—	—	—	(1)	(1)	—	(1)	(1)	86,669
<b>64</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,005</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>14,158</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>110,671</b>

70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2024/25 Operating Expenses
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24,500	24,500	—	—	—	—	—	—	24,500
<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>24,500</b>	<b>24,500</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>24,500</b>

MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL  
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**VOTE 17 Independent Investigations Office**

Description	Total 2023/24 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
<b>Independent Investigations Office</b>	<b>11,564</b>	<b>7,821</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,174</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>9,995</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,564</b>	<b>7,821</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,174</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>9,995</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>20</b>

**Statutory Appropriations**

Description	Total 2023/24 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
<b>Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account</b>	<b>11,530</b>	<b>25,136</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>6,385</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>31,798</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,668</b>	<b>2,785</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,530</b>	<b>25,136</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>6,385</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>31,798</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,668</b>	<b>2,785</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>10</b>

70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2024/25 Operating Expenses
96	—	459	123	2,416	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	20	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	12,428
96	—	459	123	2,416	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	20	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	12,428

70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2024/25 Operating Expenses
—	—	503	166	6,259	—	—	—	—	—	—	417	417	—	—	—	—	(26,080)	(26,080)	12,394
—	—	503	166	6,259	—	—	—	—	—	—	417	417	—	—	—	—	(26,080)	(26,080)	12,394

## MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

The mission of the Ministry of Attorney General is to administer justice and provide legal advice to government; and to support inclusive communities that value multiculturalism and anti-racism.

### MINISTRY SUMMARY

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	Estimates 2023/24 <sup>1</sup>	Estimates 2024/25
<b>VOTED APPROPRIATIONS</b>		
Vote 14 — Ministry Operations.....	644,013	729,324
Vote 15 — Judiciary.....	93,617	110,671
Vote 16 — <i>Crown Proceeding Act</i> .....	24,500	24,500
Vote 17 — Independent Investigations Office.....	11,564	12,428
<b>STATUTORY APPROPRIATIONS</b>		
Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account Special Account.....	11,530	12,394
Less: Transfer from Ministry Operations Vote.....	(11,530)	(12,394)
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<u>773,694</u>	<u>876,923</u>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES <sup>2</sup></b>	6,911	10,117
<b>LOANS, INVESTMENTS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS <sup>3</sup></b>	—	—
<b>REVENUE COLLECTED FOR, AND TRANSFERRED TO, OTHER ENTITIES <sup>4</sup></b>	—	—

**NOTES**

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> A listing of estimated capital expenditures by ministry is presented in Schedule C.

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

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

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## MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

## SUMMARY BY CORE BUSINESS

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OPERATING EXPENSES	2023/24	2024/25 ESTIMATES		
	Net	Gross	External Recoveries	Net
<b>Core Business</b>				
Justice Services.....	177,620	199,869	(2,402)	197,467
Indigenous Justice Secretariat.....	23,519	24,128	(1,765)	22,363
Prosecution Services.....	173,671	212,500	(1)	212,499
Court Services.....	148,684	158,920	(2,853)	156,067
Legal Services.....	32,267	40,982	(300)	40,682
Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Other Tribunals.....	48,781	82,335	(29,829)	52,506
Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism.....	2,361	6,806	(2)	6,804
Executive and Support Services.....	37,110	40,938	(2)	40,936
Judiciary.....	93,617	110,672	(1)	110,671
<i>Crown Proceeding Act</i> .....	24,500	24,500	—	24,500
Independent Investigations Office.....	11,564	12,430	(2)	12,428
Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account Special Account.....	—	26,080	(26,080)	—
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES .....</b>	<b>773,694</b>	<b>940,160</b>	<b>(63,237)</b>	<b>876,923</b>

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	Capital Expenditures	Capital Expenditures	Receipts and P3 Liabilities	Net
<b>Core Business</b>				
Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Other Tribunals.....	10	10	—	10
Executive and Support Services.....	5,768	8,925	—	8,925
Judiciary.....	770	819	—	819
Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account Special Account.....	363	363	—	363
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>6,911</b>	<b>10,117</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>10,117</b>

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**MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**VOTE DESCRIPTIONS**

(\$000)

Estimates  
2023/24

Estimates  
2024/25

**VOTE 14 — MINISTRY OPERATIONS**

This vote provides for the programs, operations, and other activities described in the voted appropriations under the following core businesses: Justice Services; Indigenous Justice Secretariat; Prosecution Services; Court Services; Legal Services; Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Other Tribunals; Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism; and Executive and Support Services.

**JUSTICE SERVICES**

**Voted Appropriation**

Justice Services.....	177,620	197,467
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**Voted Appropriation Description:** This sub-vote provides for the administration, management, and transformation of justice services throughout the province, including administrative justice reform; public, criminal, civil, and family law reform; and broad justice system policy development to support a more accessible, efficient, and effective justice system. This sub-vote also provides for legal aid, human rights, poverty law services, and other publicly-funded legal counsel services; development and management of legislation; access to justice services; support for the federal/provincial/territorial process for discussion of national justice issues and negotiations between the various levels of government; the investigations of matters relating to the administration of the *Correction Act* and court services; services to locate individuals and assets; maintenance enforcement and services associated with inter-jurisdictional support court orders; information and alternative-to-court dispute resolution services for separating and divorcing parents and their children; preparation of Provincial and Supreme Court ordered parenting assessments and views of the child reports in *Family Law Act* matters; parenting after separation programs; developing and promoting non-adversarial dispute resolution options within the justice system and throughout the government; and public legal education and information coordination. Costs may be recovered from ministries, the Legal Services Society (Legal Aid BC), the federal government, and parties external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.

**INDIGENOUS JUSTICE SECRETARIAT**

**Voted Appropriation**

Indigenous Justice Secretariat.....	23,519	22,363
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**Voted Appropriation Description:** This sub-vote provides for the operations of the Indigenous Justice Secretariat, including the administration, management, reform, and transformation of Indigenous justice services throughout the province; support for reclamation of Indigenous laws, legal institutions, and legal traditions; and advancing self-determination. This sub-vote also provides for support for the federal/provincial/territorial process for the discussion of national Indigenous justice issues, negotiations between various levels of government related to Indigenous justice services, support for the process to establish new Indigenous Courts, and support for Indigenous-led justice strategies and action plans. Costs may be recovered from ministries, other entities within government, other levels of government, and parties external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.

**PROSECUTION SERVICES**

**Voted Appropriation**

Prosecution Services.....	173,671	212,499
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**Voted Appropriation Description:** This sub-vote provides for the operation of Crown counsel services, including approval and conduct of criminal prosecutions and appeals of offences; advice to government on all criminal law matters; and responsibility for all other matters mandated by the *Crown Counsel Act*. Costs may be recovered from the Victim Surcharge Special Account to enable compliance with the *Victims of Crime Act*. Costs may also be recovered from ministries and the federal government for activities described within this sub-vote.

**COURT SERVICES**

**Voted Appropriation**

Court Services.....	148,684	156,067
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**Voted Appropriation Description:** This sub-vote provides for court registry operations, court administration, juror support services, document service and warrants, prisoner escort, and court security support to the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court, and Provincial Court and for services provided under the *Sheriff Act*. Costs may be recovered from ministries and public bodies for activities described within this sub-vote; from the federal and municipal governments for costs related to ticket enforcement, circuit courts, and other justice-related initiatives; from contracted bailiffs for civil execution services; and from parties or the public for costs associated with activities described within this sub-vote.

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## MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

## VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

	Estimates 2023/24	Estimates 2024/25
<b>LEGAL SERVICES</b>		
<b>Voted Appropriation</b>		
Legal Services.....	32,267	40,682

**Voted Appropriation Description:** This sub-vote provides for legal and related services, including legal advice; representation in civil litigation; and drafting, preparing, filing, and publishing statutes, regulations, and Orders in Council to the Province and various agencies, boards and commissions, and other organizations. This sub-vote also provides for administration of Orders in Council and appeals to the Executive Council. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, boards and commissions, other levels of government, organizations, individuals, and parties external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.

**AGENCIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND OTHER TRIBUNALS****Voted Appropriations**

Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Other Tribunals.....	48,780	52,505
British Columbia Utilities Commission.....	1	1
	<u>48,781</u>	<u>52,506</u>

**Voted Appropriations Description:** This sub-vote provides for the costs of the British Columbia Ferry Commission and partial funding of the Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account. This sub-vote also provides for the operation, administration, and support services of the following tribunals: British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal; British Columbia Review Board; British Columbia Utilities Commission; Building Code Appeal Board; Civil Resolution Tribunal; Community Care and Assisted Living Appeal Board; Employment Standards Tribunal; Energy Resource Appeal Tribunal; Environmental Appeal Board; Financial Services Tribunal; Forest Appeals Commission; Health Professions Review Board; Hospital Appeal Board; Labour Relations Board; Mental Health Review Board; Passenger Transportation Board; Property Assessment Appeal Board; Safety Standards Appeal Board; Skilled Trades BC Appeal Board; and Surface Rights Board; including budgeting, expenditure management, human resources, information and systems management, performance management, appointments coordination, fees and expenses of appointees, and their governing legislation. Costs may be recovered from ministries, health authorities, regulated entities, Crown agencies, boards, commissions and other tribunals, other levels of government, parties external to government, public bodies, organizations, and individuals for activities described within this sub-vote.

**MULTICULTURALISM AND ANTI-RACISM****Voted Appropriation**

Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism.....	2,361	6,804
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**Voted Appropriation Description:** This sub-vote provides for policy development, research, and the administration and delivery of multiculturalism and anti-racism programs and services. Programs and services include branch operations, support for the Resilience BC Anti-Racism Network, public education, community engagement, and other programming that supports intercultural interaction, racism and hate prevention, addressing systemic barriers, and building community responsiveness. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown corporations and agencies, other levels of government, external organizations, licensees, and individuals for activities described within this sub-vote.

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**MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**VOTE DESCRIPTIONS**

(\$000)

	Estimates 2023/24	Estimates 2024/25
<b>EXECUTIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES</b>		
<b>Voted Appropriations</b>		
Minister's Office.....	863	891
Corporate Services.....	36,247	40,045
	37,110	40,936
 <b>Voted Appropriations Description:</b> This sub-vote provides for the office of the Attorney General, executive direction of the ministry, including the Deputy Attorney General's office; general services to support program delivery; policy development; and management services for the ministry and the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, the Ministry of Housing, and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, including information and systems management and service planning. This sub-vote also provides for other initiatives sponsored by the Attorney General and the ministry and for the Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, boards and commissions, other levels of government, organizations, and individuals for activities described within this sub-vote.		
<b>VOTE 14 — MINISTRY OPERATIONS</b>	644,013	729,324

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## MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

## VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

	Estimates 2023/24	Estimates 2024/25
<b>VOTE 15 — JUDICIARY</b>		
This vote provides for the programs, operations, and other activities described in the voted appropriations under the following core business: Judiciary.		
<b>JUDICIARY</b>		
<b>Voted Appropriations</b>		
Superior Courts.....	21,628	24,002
Provincial Courts.....	71,989	86,669
	<u>93,617</u>	<u>110,671</u>
<b>Voted Appropriations Description:</b> This sub-vote provides for administrative and support services for the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court located in the province and provides for the operational budget for the Provincial Court of British Columbia. Costs may be recovered from ministries and the federal government for activities described within this sub-vote.		
<b>VOTE 15 — JUDICIARY</b>	93,617	110,671

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MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS  
(\$000)

	Estimates 2023/24	Estimates 2024/25
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**VOTE 16 — CROWN PROCEEDING ACT**

This vote provides for the programs, operations, and other activities described in the voted appropriation under the following core business: *Crown Proceeding Act*.

**CROWN PROCEEDING ACT**

**Voted Appropriation**

<i>Crown Proceeding Act</i> .....	<u>24,500</u>	<u>24,500</u>
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**Voted Appropriation Description:** This sub-vote provides for the payments made under the authority of the *Crown Proceeding Act*.

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<b>VOTE 16 — CROWN PROCEEDING ACT</b>	<b>24,500</b>	<b>24,500</b>
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MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS  
(\$000)

	Estimates 2023/24	Estimates 2024/25
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VOTE 17 — INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE

This vote provides for the programs, operations, and other activities described in the voted appropriation under the following core business: Independent Investigations Office.

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE

**Voted Appropriation**

Independent Investigations Office.....	11,564	12,428
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**Voted Appropriation Description:** This sub-vote provides for the operation of the Independent Investigations Office which operates under the provisions of the *Police Act*. This office conducts investigations into all incidents where the actions or inactions of police may have caused serious injury or death to any person. This includes all on and off duty police who are members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in British Columbia, a municipal police force, and on duty special provincial constables. When such investigations result in Crown counsel laying charges under the *Criminal Code* of Canada or any other statute, the Independent Investigations Office supports prosecution of the charges. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, boards and commissions, other provincial governments, and other organizations for activities described within this sub-vote.

<b>VOTE 17 — INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE</b>	11,564	12,428
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## MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS<sup>1</sup>  
(\$000)

	Estimates 2023/24	Estimates 2024/25
<b>PUBLIC GUARDIAN AND TRUSTEE OPERATING ACCOUNT</b>		
This account was established as a special account by the <i>Public Trustee Amendment Act</i> in 1989 and is governed by section 24 of the <i>Public Guardian and Trustee Act</i> . The account's revenue sources are transfers from the Ministry Operations Vote. Approved expenses provide for services to clients and for the administration of the Public Guardian and Trustee. Costs may be recovered from clients and parties external to government and from fees, commissions, and charges earned.		
<b>SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR <sup>2</sup>.....</b>	<b>20,822</b>	<b>21,148</b>
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Revenue.....	—	—
Expense.....	(37,785)	(38,474)
Internal and External Recoveries.....	26,255	26,080
Transfer from Ministry Operations Vote.....	11,530	12,394
Net Revenue (Expense).....	—	—
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS		
Receipts.....	—	—
Disbursements.....	—	—
Capital Expenditures.....	(363)	(363)
Net Cash Source (Requirement).....	(363)	(363)
Working Capital Adjustments and Other Spending Authority Committed <sup>3</sup> .....	689	503
<b>PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR <sup>2</sup>.....</b>	<b>21,148</b>	<b>21,288</b>

**NOTES**

<sup>1</sup> 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*.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> The Working Capital Adjustments and Other Spending Authority Committed includes those adjustments that would change the cash balance of the Special Account. This may include amortization expense, changes in accounts receivable and payable, and the recognition of deferred revenue.

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## MAJOR CORPORATE ISSUE NOTE

### Ministry/Ministries:

- Attorney General – BC Prosecution Service
- Public Safety and Solicitor General – BC Corrections

### Issue: Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative

- As part of the government's *Safer Communities Action Plan*, the Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII) began serving all communities in the province by operating twelve hubs led by BC Corrections on May 1, 2023.
- Included within that plan was contingency funding to support the creation and implementation of ReVOII, a coordinated case management response involving dedicated Crown Counsel and BC Corrections staff (probation officers and correctional supervisors).
- The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) assigned dedicated Crown Counsel and professional staff to its Headquarters, High Risk Offender Identification Program and to five, newly created, Regional ReVOII prosecutions teams. The Regional prosecution teams include dedicated Crown Counsel who make decisions about charge assessment and, where appropriate, conduct the bail hearings and prosecutions involving individuals prioritized into ReVOII. The Regional prosecution teams also provide criminal law advice to law enforcement.

### Background:

- Following the report "*A Rapid Investigation into Repeat Offending and Random Stranger Violence in British Columbia*", the Province announced the *Safer Communities Action Plan*. Included within that plan was contingency funding to support the creation and implementation of ReVOII, a program that builds on a key recommendation of the report by adapting the prior prolific offender management model to tackle repeat violent offending in BC.
- The BCPS, along with BC Corrections and Policing and Security Branch (PSB) has worked on the development of ReVOII, with BC Corrections acting as the lead agency. A steering committee that governs ReVOII is currently comprised of representatives from BC Corrections, the BCPS, PSB and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
- ReVOII operates in conjunction with PSB's Specialized Investigation and Targeted Enforcement (SITE) program which provides supplementary operational funding to law enforcement for enhancements and/or additional investigative resources that target repeat violent offending.
- ReVOII began operating throughout the province on May 1, 2023.
- ReVOII is a coordinated case management response that attempts to tackle repeat violent offending in British Columbia and involves dedicated Crown prosecutors, dedicated probation officers and correctional supervisors, along with strategic enforcement and enhanced investigation and monitoring of repeat violent offenders ("prioritized individuals") by police agencies.



- ReVOII assists Crown Counsel in advocating for better crafted judicial interim release considerations along with sentences that are aimed at lessening the risk prioritized individuals pose to the community.
- ReVOII recognizes that those who engage in repeated acts of violence within the community present a public safety risk. To that end, an initial cohort of 430 prioritized individuals province-wide have been admitted into ReVOII since it began operating.
- 12 community hubs led by BC Corrections were stood up around the province to serve communities within their geographic region. These hubs are responsible for the identification and selection of prioritized individuals within their cohort. A prioritization tool has been developed to assist hubs with the selection and deselection of their cohort.
- ReVOII hub membership presently includes representatives from BC Corrections, BCPS, local Police Agencies and Community Integration Specialists from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction.

#### BC Prosecution Service – Regional ReVOII Prosecution Teams

- The BCPS has assigned the following dedicated resources to support ReVOII:
  - 21 Crown Counsel assigned to five regional ReVOII Prosecution Teams in each of the five regions within the BC Prosecution Service; and,
  - 21 Professional Staff assigned throughout the BC Prosecution Service to provide necessary administrative support to the ReVOII Prosecution Teams.
- Dedicated regional prosecution teams handle all violent matters concerning prioritized individuals, from charge assessment through to bail, and sentencing.
- Dedicated Crown Counsel provide criminal law advice to law enforcement on matters pertaining to prioritized individuals.
- Coordinated, consistent and streamlined information sharing, along with dedicated resources has assisted prosecutors in making principled and informed decisions about charge assessments, bail release, and prosecutions.
- ReVOII Crown Counsel continue to serve in accordance with their constitutional obligations as independent ministers of justice by applying the law and BCPS policies to their discretionary decision making, including the revised BCPS bail policy and the application of recent amendments to the *Criminal Code*. ReVOII Crown Counsel continue to make decisions in accordance with the law and principles governing the BCPS Indigenous Justice Framework where prioritized individuals are Indigenous.

## BC Corrections Branch

BC Corrections has assigned the following dedicated resources to support ReVOII:

- Four FTEs (director, program manager, policy and program analyst, and senior researcher) to centrally develop, coordinate, and evaluate the program;
- Nine correctional supervisors and nine probation officers based in correctional centres for release planning; and
- 12 probation officers based in community corrections offices to support community site teams.

BC Corrections has also dedicated two additional unfunded community probation officer positions to provide additional support to community site teams:

- Dedicated probation officers provide a higher intensity of community supervision and develop personalized case management plans to address the complex needs of individuals and connect them with other government services and community agencies.
- Police and correctional staff work collaboratively, focusing on enhanced investigation, enforcement and monitoring of individuals.
- Where an individual is returning to the community after serving a provincial custodial sentence, enhanced release planning tailored to their unique needs takes place prior to their release by a dedicated correctional supervisor and probation officer teams located in correctional centers.
- While it will take time before program effectiveness can be qualitatively measured, early experiences are promising and suggest ReVOII is working to interrupt the cycle of reoffending and improving justice response times to address immediate public concerns and hold prioritized individuals accountable.

### **Implications / Considerations / Opportunities:**

- Opportunity exists to make the program permanent. This would require the funding needed to support ReVOII be added to both the BCPS and BC Corrections base budget. Cabinet Confidences

### **Decision(s) Required / Next Steps:**

- BC Corrections is responsible for leading the ReVOII evaluation framework.
- Engagement continues by ReVOII Executive leads with other justice system stakeholders, including the BC First Nations Justice Counsel.

## MAJOR CORPORATE ISSUE NOTE

### Ministry/Ministries:

- Ministry of Finance (Public Service Agency); Ministry of Attorney General (Court Services Branch: BC Sheriff Service)

### Issue: Sheriffs

- The BC Sheriff Service (BCSS) has experienced severe recruitment and retention issues which impacted its ability to deliver basic service levels to the courts.
- This caused courtrooms to be closed or delayed because sheriffs were unavailable to staff the hearings, impacting parties (counsel, witnesses, victims and supporters) and creating future potential for serious court cases to be judicially stayed. Delays in the operation of the justice system undermines the BC Government's stated priority of improving public safety and has resulted negative media coverage.
- With significant effort and engagement focused on recruitment, applicants for positions have increased with record level recruit class sizes. However, retention remains a top concern.
- It is critical to retain experienced sheriffs who possess the skills, advanced training, and job knowledge to safely navigate and de-escalate complex situations involving increasing mental health and addictions challenges, clients experiencing homelessness, repeat and violent offenders, high security considerations, and organized crime.

### Background:

- BCSS employs approximately 550 sheriffs.
- Sheriffs in British Columbia are responsible for safety and security at courthouses, prisoner transportation, courthouse cellblocks for the purpose of housing prisoners attending court, high security and high-profile event planning at court locations, service of certain warrants and documents, jury administration, and threat and risk assessment services for provincial government employees and facilities experiencing threats of targeted violence stemming from employment related issues.
- Due to the nature and complexity of requirements (e.g., carrying a firearm), it takes up to 10 months to hire and train a sheriff, at a cost of approximately \$46k per recruit.
- Approximately 42% of sheriffs have under two years of service, which places an additional burden on senior sheriffs and management for training and oversight.
- In 2023, there were 250 instances of court being impacted due to sheriff shortages with 133 instances of closures or delays and 117 instances of the judge agreeing to proceed in the absence of a sheriff. To date in 2024<sup>1</sup>, there have been 378 instances of court being impacted with 262 instances of closures or delays.
- BCSS already heavily relies on overtime to maintain its current service levels. Overtime costs, which increase due to coverage for staff shortages, have increased dramatically in recent years.

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<sup>1</sup> As of August 22, 2024

This also results in staff burnout, increased STIIP, and is a factor in retention.

- Resignation rates over 2022, 2023, and 2024 have remained static.
- The primary factor impacting recruitment and retention of sheriffs is market competition. Other law enforcement organizations, which offer more diversified job duties and pay significantly more, recruit from the same applicant pool. Sheriffs make ideal candidates for recruitment by police departments, which pay up to \$42k more per year in base pay, plus potential for higher earnings given overtime pay.
- Deputy Sheriffs have received a Temporary Market Adjustment (TMA) since 2008. In the last round of bargaining, an additional TMA increase was negotiated for select categories of sheriffs (Staff Sergeants and Senior Intelligence and Training Officers) but there was not an additional TMA for Deputy Sheriffs who form most of the service.

#### **Implications / Considerations / Opportunities:**

- In July 2023, a research report prepared by Corporate Management Services Branch (CMSB, Ministry of Attorney General) was released identifying recommendations to improve recruitment and retention for BCSS. The top five recommendations (in priority order) were improved pay and benefits, separation from Court Services Branch to establish BCSS as its own branch, expanding duties and authorities of sheriffs, implementing a culturally relevant leadership program, and to assess the current radio platform used by sheriffs to address concerns.
- Exit survey and Work Environment Survey results reaffirm that pay and benefits continue to be the primary reason that sheriffs choose to pursue alternate employment.

Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

- BCSS continues to make significant efforts to address the other non-pay related priority retention items, including but not limited to: expanding duties, implementing a new leadership program, and enhancing the radio platform used by sheriffs.

**Decision(s) Required / Next Steps:**

- These efforts to improve recruitment appear to be working as record number of 829 applications were received to the December 2023 recruit intake. This was a 33% increase over the August 2023 intake which resulted in 51 new deputy sheriffs being hired and deployed to operations in July/August 2024.
- While the incentive is in its early stages, next steps include BCSS continuing to monitor for information and data on the efficacy of the incentive.
- Continued efforts to improve retention to explore include complex long-term initiatives; some of which may involve collective bargaining considerations, significant funding implications, potential legislative changes, and high-level consultations with judiciary and other justice system partners. It will take significant support and time to assess the efficacy of these initiatives on increasing retention.
- The Ministry of Attorney General will continue to support BCSS in responding to recommendations from the 2023 report from CMSB, which identifies changes to support a more healthy and sustainable organization.

PLACEHOLDER FOR MAJOR CASES NOTE. INCLUDED IN MINISTER'S BINDER ONLY

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**Ministry Issues Note**

*Last Updated: September 7, 2024*

**Subject: Major Cases Growth**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

Cabinet Confidences

Cabinet Confidences

When required,  
contingency funding has been provided by Treasury Board to address cost pressures.

Cabinet Confidences

**BACKGROUND:**

Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information

- The criminal litigation process for major cases is highly variable because of material shifts in the size or complexity of these cases once they have begun; the potential for plea resolution and collapse; the required number of pre-trial hearings; the amount of time needed for trial; and future unknown cases.

Cabinet Confidences

### **BC Prosecution Service :**

Cabinet Confidences

- In addition, technological change has made each case more complex in ways the criminal justice system is still grappling with. This includes the pervasive use of smartphones (with related interception, privacy, decryption and retention problems), Dark Web and Cloud-based material, and increasing volumes of video from those same smartphones, CCTV and soon, police body-worn cameras.
- Each major case is unique, which makes it difficult to use a standard costing model or compare one major case to another. There are numerous factors that can vary from one major case to another, including:



- Team Size – major cases may have as few as three or four FTEs while others could have 12, as it varies on the complexity and disclosure volume. Also, over the life of the trial to appeal and sentencing stage, the size of the team may increase or decrease depending on where the case is in the cycle.
- Number of Accused – the number of accused varies between major cases with some having one accused and others having multiple.
- Lay Witnesses – some major cases may have many witnesses, and some may be from out of Province/Country.
- Expert Witnesses – some major cases may have several expert witnesses and others may not have any.
- Travel – some major cases may require extensive travel to visit witnesses in distant and sometimes confidential locations. It may also require extensive travel by the trial team if the venue is moved after the major case team has already been formed.
- Transcripts – some major cases may require voluminous transcripts.
- Building Occupancy and Office and Furniture costs – some major cases require a separate space to be acquired.
- Security – some major cases may require heightened security, such as safes, equipment, escorts, guards, etc.

Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information

**Court Services Branch:**

- Court Services also faces increased costs for major trials. These include:
  - Increased security for the courtroom to deal with higher risk accused and higher risk participants including witnesses, victims and audience. A higher number of sheriffs are required in the courtroom to address these risks.
  - Increased prisoner transportation costs. More sheriffs are required to ensure safety during a high security transport. Major trials with multiple accused are likely to have the accused held in different remand centres that don't normally serve the courthouse. This creates the requirement for temporary daily transport routes.
  - Increased likelihood that a metal detector is used. This requires two sheriffs to staff at all hours which prevents weapons from being brought into the courtroom.
  - Longer hearings requiring more court clerk support. Great volumes of evidence are entered as exhibits, which requires additional court clerk support to manage.

**Justice Services Branch:**

- Legal Aid BC (LABC), formerly known as Legal Services Society, provides legal representation services for accused persons; in doing so, they utilize a case management program that monitors and manages the costs of large criminal cases. This program has been met with praise in a number of key reports, including the Ministry of Finance's Review of the Provincial Justice System, the LeSage-Code report in Ontario, and Professor Stephen Toope's report on BC's public service indemnity policy.
- LABC continues to look for ways to improve its management of large criminal cases, but trial costs are often quite high as they are driven by all parties as well as the complexity of the police investigation. These cases are often for serious criminal matters where clients are facing serious and complex charges with multiple accused in a single prosecution that may also require a defence team with a range of expertise to deal with specific issues within a case.
- Large cases require more than 20 half days of trial and the preliminary hearing can take 2 weeks or more. These cases often have complex or multiple pre-trial motions and require more than 50 hours to review the disclosure.
- In addition to services provided directly by LABC, on occasion, there are major cases (e.g., gang trials with multiple accused that have separate, independent defence structures), where the ministry contracts external services independently of LABC to avoid any perception of conflict of interest. Although some cases can end abruptly with guilty pleas, the volume of major case prosecutions has increased, and the trend has been towards cases running longer than anticipated.
- The cost of defending major cases is beyond the capacity of most citizens and many, if not most people charged in major criminal trials in BC require legal aid in order for the matter to proceed. An accused has the constitutional right to "make full answer and defence" and in cases with generally complex issues and serious consequences, government funding for the defence is required to avoid a judicial stay of proceedings.

Actions against organized gangs in the province have been a government priority for the past years leading to complex police investigations of these organizations and ultimately complex prosecutions.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Continue to ensure cost drivers across the ministry are well understood to support conversations with Treasury Board Staff to inform Budget Decision making. Noting that sufficient resourcing is critical to prosecuting these files.

<b>ADM RESPONSIBLE:</b>			
Trevor Shaw	A/Assistant Deputy Attorney General	BC Prosecution Service	Personal Security
<b>WITH CONTRIBUTION FROM :</b>			
Jenny Manton	Assistant Deputy Minister	Court Services Branch	Personal Security
Paul Craven	Assistant Deputy Minister	Justice Services Branch	778-698-9333

Ministry Issues Note

Last Updated: September 6, 2024

Subject: Bail

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

- Pursuant to the Attorney General's April 4, 2022, directive, the BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) has completed implementation of a Comprehensive Bail Program (CBP), covering all Crown Counsel bail functions on weekdays, weekday evenings and daytime hours on weekends and statutory holidays, during and outside of regular court sitting hours. This has eliminated almost all police-led bail hearings.
- CBP has been implemented in conjunction with the virtual bail program initiated by the Provincial Court Office of the Chief Judge (OCJ) to continue to hold bail hearings across the province "virtually" over MS Teams or by telephone, with some hybrid appearances in the lower mainland. This virtual bail program has now been implemented across the province.

**BACKGROUND:**

- In 2018, <sup>Security Concern</sup>  
Security Concern BCPS, working with the OCJ and other justice partners, expanded Crown-led after-hours bail coverage on weekends and statutory holidays (daytime hours) to all regions of the province. This after-hours bail coverage has further been expanded across the province in stages to all regular (non-holiday) weekday evenings, completing provincial roll-out in March 2023. This has almost eliminated all police-led bail hearings on criminal matters.
- The OCJ's provincial virtual bail program has now been implemented across the province, with rollout in the Vancouver Coastal region in September 2023 and the Fraser region in November 2023. Continuous improvement meetings with respect to the regional virtual bail programs, led by the OCJ and BCPS, involving all stakeholders, continue to be held to monitor progress, address concerns and ensure efficiencies. Standardized bail processes, forms and procedures are now used throughout the province.
- As part of the OCJ's virtual bail program, installation of MS Teams videoconferencing units in all police jail cells continue, with this project now in year two of a planned three-year roll-out.
- Implementation of the BCPS' Comprehensive Bail Program and the OCJ's provincial bail program has resulted in a significant expansion of access to justice across the province. The CBP has created more efficient file management and quality control at the front end of the bail process, more efficient workflows for police, Crown Counsel and court registry staff, and a likely reduction in the number of arrested suspects being charged and those charged being held in custody on short-term remand unnecessarily. It also facilitates the

application at the front-end of the process to all arrested persons of BCPS policies designed to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous persons in the criminal justice system.

- To support the Safer Communities Action Plan, the BCPS worked with BC Corrections and the Policing and Security Branch to develop the Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII). Regional prosecution teams make decisions about charge assessment and conduct bail hearings for individuals who have been prioritized into ReVOII. Improved tracking and reporting on the ReVOII prioritized individuals has made information available to prosecutors to assist in making more effective decisions and court submissions during bail hearings. This can reduce the risk prioritized individuals pose to the community.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- BCPS bail offices are currently addressing the now-very small number of police-led bail hearings that continue to be held due to the absence of Crown-led after-hours coverage on weekend and statutory holiday evenings, with a view to eliminating all police-led bail hearings on criminal matters. This has already been successfully achieved in the Vancouver Coastal region, and those best practices and protocols with police will be utilized by the BCPS bail offices in the rest of the province.
- The OCJ and BCPS jointly lead a continuing process of reviewing and monitoring of the OCJ's virtual bail provincial program, with communications with all justice partners, to ensure efficiencies and compliance with processes.

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- **Note 39 – Modernization in the Justice Sector**

<b>ADM RESPONSIBLE:</b>		
Trevor Shaw	A/Assistant Deputy Attorney General	BC Prosecution Service
		Personal Security

**Ministry Issues Note**

*Last Updated: September 10, 2024*

**Subject: Digital Evidence Management Systems**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

- The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) implementation of the Digital Evidence and Disclosure Management Solution (DEMS) is foundational to the modernization of the Criminal Justice Sector. Information management between police and prosecution is a national issue, and B.C. is a leader in Canada. Digital evidence management is critical to police modernization and resolving disclosure delays is critical to meeting Jordan obligations. Through DEMS, the sector will realize benefits related to greater operational efficiencies, cost savings from the move to cloud storage, and enhanced access to justice through the introduction of new online services for citizens.

**BACKGROUND:**

- The DEMS project has been a joint effort since 2018 between the Ministry of Attorney General (representing BCPS) and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General's Policing and Security Branch and PRIMECorp (representing police agencies), with support from our Information Systems Branch.

Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Once the technical architecture is finalized, capital and operating cost estimates will be updated. Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information  
Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information

**ADM RESPONSIBLE:**

Trevor Shaw

A/Assistant Deputy Attorney  
General

BC Prosecution Service

Personal Security

**Ministry Issues Note**

*Last Updated: September 6, 2024*

**Subject: Stress, Workload, and Mental Health**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

- Due to a significant number of new employees, frequent and increasing demands to respond and adapt to technological and organizational change, and an increasing recognition of the need for trauma-informed practices, BC Prosecution Service Crown Counsel and professional staff at all classifications and levels of seniority are expressing increasing concerns about, and manifesting the impacts of, stress, workload and challenges to their mental health.

**BACKGROUND:**

- The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) is committed to supporting the mental health and wellness of its members and recognizes that the cumulative impact of work-related stress and everyday life can have adverse impacts on mental health.
- BCPS Management regularly shares information on counselling and support resources that are available, including specialized services as needed, to support employees dealing with difficult files and other work-related issues.
- The BCPS has regular programming as part of its professional development program dedicated to mental health and resilience topics.
- All BCPS employees are regularly encouraged to take the Trauma-Informed Practice (TIP) online course, a one day cross-sector live course and participate in regular programming about TIP.
- The BCPS created a specific module to conclude the standard TIP course that includes many practical methods for reducing the risk of secondary trauma and compassion fatigue.
- The theme of the 2024 Annual Crown Counsel Conference (held from May 8-10, 2024) was “Mental Health & the Criminal Justice System.” Sessions focused on legal issues arising for defendants with mental illness, including those under Part XX.1 of the Criminal Code (Mental Disorder including Not Criminally Responsible, Review Board and Fitness), as well as trauma-informed practice and protecting one’s own mental health. Held during the same period, the theme of the 2024 Virtual Professional Staff Conference was “Health, Wellness and Productivity at Work,” featuring a number of similar topics.
- The BCPS HR Committee, led by executive sponsors and comprised of representation from all employee groups, is dedicated to raising awareness and reducing stigma about mental health issues. Activities include:
  - regular internal communications about resources and messages from senior leadership on mental health;



- a quarterly newsletter titled “Health Matters”; and
  - Crisis Training / Suicide Prevention Training for all BCPS Employees.
- The BCPS offered in-person Mental Health in the Workplace (People Leader) workshops for all Crown Counsel Managers, Excluded Managers, and Supervisors in the BCPS throughout 2023 and 2024. Similar training was held pre-pandemic in 2019.
- A joint Mental Health and Wellbeing Committee, with representation from the Employer and the BC Crown Counsel Association, provided their recommendations on mental health and wellbeing priorities for the BCPS. The Crown Counsel Association has expressed interest in increasing mental health support resources for their members Cabinet  
Confidence
- In 2018, Cabinet Confidences were commissioned by the Crown Counsel Association to perform a survey on Mental Health. They presented their findings to BCPS executive management members in June 2018.
- In 2020, a Mental Health Resources Survey was developed by the BCPS’s Mental Health and Well-Being Joint Committee, with representation from the Employer and the BC Crown Counsel Association. This survey was open to all BCPS employees. Key findings from this survey included the following:
  - 32.60% of participants agreed that there were adequate Mental Health Services available through their employment while 35.80% disagreed;
  - 42.60% of participants believed that the BCPS takes Mental Health seriously while 30.80% disagreed;
  - 91.10% of participants believed that it was important to be able to choose their own Mental Health Service provider;
  - there was low satisfaction with financial coverage for mental health services; and
  - there were suggestions to increase funding for counselling services with choice of provider left up to employees, along with addressing the root problems, such as workload, and building in proactive, ongoing measures to maintain good mental health.
- The Justice Sector (AG and PSSG) followed suit in early 2021, with a similar survey.
- In June 2023, the Crown Counsel Association performed another Mental Health & Workplace Culture Survey. To date, the BCPS has not received a copy of the results. In a subsequent media report, the Crown Counsel Association advised that BC prosecutors were overworked and burned out which is putting the public’s safety at risk.
- The BCPS has been working on an ongoing de-stigmatization campaign. A de-stigmatization video, Mental Health in the BCPS, was created and released in March 2021, featuring personal experiences from two well-respected BCPS Crown Counsel. De-stigmatization posters have also been developed and will be distributed to offices in 2024.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- The BCPS HR Committee is currently working on development of a new de-stigmatization video, including personal experiences from both Crown Counsel and professional staff.
- The BCPS HR Committee is exploring options for a BCPS peer support program.
- The BCPS is also exploring the Cumulative Stress Management Program offered through Employee and Family Assistance Services (EFAS).

<b>ADM RESPONSIBLE:</b>			
Trevor Shaw	A/Assistant Deputy Attorney General	BC Prosecution Service	Personal Security

**Ministry Issues Note**

*Last Updated: September 12, 2024*

**Subject: Justice and Public Safety Council**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

- The BC Justice and Public Safety Council will be delivering a sector-wide strategic plan and a Justice Summit in 2025, in accordance with the Justice Reform and Transparency Act (2013).

**BACKGROUND:**

- The Justice and Public Safety Council was created in 2013 through the Justice Reform and Transparency Act to provide strategic direction to the justice and public safety sector.
- The Council is chaired by the Deputy Attorney General with the Deputy Solicitor General acting as Vice-Chair. Membership consists of Deputy Ministers and Assistant Deputy Ministers from across the justice and public safety sector who are appointed by the Attorney General through Ministerial Order (Appendix 1).
- The Council's objectives are to:
  - Develop and publish a 3-year Strategic Plan for the sector each fiscal year, reflecting desired outcomes for the justice and public safety sector.
  - Advise the Minister on convening a yearly Justice Summit to facilitate innovation in and collaboration across the sector.
  - Promote cooperation and facilitate the collection and sharing of information to enhance performance and efficiency across the sector.
  - Provide advice and recommendations to the Attorney General.
- The 2025-2028 Strategic Plan will be published by March 31, 2025. It proposes goals and strategies that advance the Council's vision for the sector, outlines areas for improvement and identifies performance measures to assess progress.
- The last Justice Summit was virtual and was held online on November 24, 2023 with a theme of "Strengthening Partnerships for a Safer British Columbia."
- Due to the timing of the Provincial election, the Justice Summit will not be held in 2024. The next Summit is tentatively scheduled for Fall 2025 and the proposed agenda is being developed in consultation with sector partners, including non-profit service providers, the BC First Nations Justice Council and the Justice and Public Safety Council.
- The Council will seek approval from the Attorney General to finalize the Summit date and theme.
- The Justice Reform and Transparency Act came into force in 2013 and since then, the purpose and value of the Justice Summit has shifted over time. Evolving from the pandemic, Justice Summits moved to an online format to accommodate regional diversity and travel restrictions. In addition, the Summits shifted away from providing

strict recommendations for the sector, instead focusing on information sharing of innovative developments and best practices in the sector.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Advice/Recommendations
  
- The Council will seek approval from the Attorney General:
  - To appoint new members to the Justice and Public Safety Council through Ministerial Order; and,
  - to confirm the theme and date of the 2025 Justice Summit.

**ADM RESPONSIBLE:**

Alex Chandler	Executive Financial Officer & Assistant Deputy Minister	Corporate Management Services Branch	778 698-1542
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**Appendix 1: Positions represented on the current Justice and Public Safety Council**

- Deputy Attorney General (Chair), Ministry of Attorney General
- Deputy Solicitor General (Vice-Chair), Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
- Deputy Minister, Ministry of Children and Family Development
- Deputy Minister, Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions
- Assistant Deputy Minister, Policing and Security Branch, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
- Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Information Officer, Information Systems Branch, Ministry of Attorney General
- Assistant Deputy Minister, Court Services Branch, Ministry of Attorney General
- Assistant Deputy Minister, Indigenous Justice Secretariat, Ministry of Attorney General
- Assistant Deputy Minister, Corrections Branch, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
- Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Safety and Crime Prevention, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
- Assistant Deputy Attorney General, BC Prosecution Services, Ministry of Attorney General
- Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Strategic Initiatives, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

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Government Financial Information

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Government Financial Information

**NEXT STEPS:**

**Sheriff Service**

- The branch is exploring further changes with the PSA through the upcoming bargaining process with BCGEU.
- The Ministry successfully marketed BCSS as a career path:
  - 624 applicants submitted for the August 2023 posting. 60 new recruits were selected to attend training in March and April 2024, netting 51 graduates.
  - 829 applicants submitted for the December 2023 posting. 24 recruits joined the July 2024 class and are currently going through training.
  - 533 applicants submitted for the April 2024 posting. Recruit selection is underway to fill a class of 24 recruits starting in November 2024.
- The Ministry is continuing to pursue recommendations made in the “Understanding Recruitment and Retention in the BCSS” Report.
  - In particular, the sheriffs being designated as a public safety occupation in the Canadian Income Tax Regulation - currently with the federal Minister of Finance.

**Court Administration**

- In the upcoming round of collective bargaining, there may be opportunities to attract or retain employees. In the meantime, a court clerk classification review is underway to reflect the additional duties, especially around the use of technology. As well, a classification review of Deputy District Registrars is underway to better align the classification with similar positions in CA.
- There is an opportunity for further cross training of registry clerks to be available to serve in the courtroom, but this can result in delays to file processing, which limits timely access to the court.

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- Note 24 – Major Corporate Issues Note: Recruitment and Retention in the BC Sheriff Service – drafted by the Public Service Agency and Ministry of Attorney General.
- Appendix A: Understanding Recruitment and Retention in the BC Sheriff Service Report.

**ADM RESPONSIBLE:**

Jenny Manton

Assistant Deputy Minister

Court Services Branch

Personal Security

**Ministry Issues Note**

*Last Updated: September 5, 2024*

**Subject: Court Digital Transformation Strategy**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

- The Ministry is committed to fair, equitable and timely access to justice through technology innovation. This is reflected through the [2024-2029 Court Digital Transformation Strategy](#) (CDTS) that was officially launched August 13, 2024.

**BACKGROUND:**

- The CDTS is endorsed by the Court Technology Board (CTB), comprised of representatives from the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court, Provincial Court and the Ministry of Attorney General.
- This refreshed strategy builds off the success of the prior 2019-23 strategy. It will provide our sector with a framework that can be leveraged to advance, expedite, and transform how citizens interact with the justice system and the tools used to deliver services in a modern and user centric manner.
- The work to date has put the Court Services Branch (CSB) in a position to improve and enhance access to justice and the user experience. Some of the successes over the past year include:
  - Access to Court Materials leverages verifiable credentials, which is a dual-factor authentication tool, to enable practicing lawyers access to the digital court files through the web-based application, no longer requiring court service branch staff to pull the file and provide this information in-person. Access to Court Materials is currently available to any counsel in good standing with the Law Society of BC.
  - Associate Judges Chambers Pilot Project enabled counsel to digitally file Application/Hearing Records and other court materials that they would rely on for short applications before an Associate Justice. These virtual “binders” are filed through Court Services Branch’s online filing portal.
  - The Court Interpreter Scheduling Application (CISA) is designed to increase transparency in scheduling court interpreters, streamline booking and invoicing processes, and align interpreter availability and qualifications to ensure the most appropriately qualified interpreter is scheduled for each matter. CISA was piloted to a few locations in April 2023, providing valuable feedback for continued application improvements and then expanded provincially in April 2024. The



CISA provides users with a searchable directory that is updated in real-time as interpreters are booked throughout the province. Data collected from the CISA will provide ongoing business intelligence to inform future business decisions.

- The *Family Law Act* (FLA) application provides self-represented litigants with guided pathways to be able to complete the required forms for applications to the Provincial Court. The application has allowed users to apply for and respond to various types of Provincial Court family law applications. It assists users based on answers to questions to complete the required forms and generate them for submission. In 2024, the FLA application was expanded to include an additional 16 guided pathways.
- The Sheriff Scheduling System (SSS) is a web-based application designed for use by the BC Sheriff Service supervisors and managers to support staff scheduling, business intelligence and training compliance. It was initially launched provincially for the tracking of mandatory Sheriff training and re-qualifications. In 2024, the BCSS has started to pilot the scheduling component of the system to track Sheriff resource assignments.
- The above are a few examples of projects under CDTS that have supported the judiciary, court services staff, court participants, media, citizens, and others.
- Collaboration with the Courts is essential and gives transparency to priority setting and the ability to leverage prior work or streams of innovation, ensuring greater access to justice.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- The CTB Planning Committee will map projects to the CDTS framework that will facilitate prioritization. Based on project prioritization and confirmation of detailed scope, funding requests (Treasury Board submissions and IMIT capital business cases) will be prepared.
- In order for the delivery of the CDTS and projects to be successful, sufficient funding is required.

**ADM RESPONSIBLE:**

Jenny Manton

Assistant Deputy Minister

Court Services Branch

Personal Security

**Ministry Issues Note**

*Last Updated: September 6, 2024*

**Subject: CSB Strategic Plan 2024-2027**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

- The Court Services Branch (CSB) 2024-27 Strategic Plan guides our commitments to the justice sector for the next three years.

**BACKGROUND:**

- The CSB Strategic Plan complements those of the Courts and other organizations in the justice sector, as well as the Ministry Service Plan.
- The plan highlights CSB's four strategic priorities for the next three years:
  - Staff Experience
  - Citizen & Partner Experience
  - Service & Operational Excellence
  - Organizational Sustainability
- Annually CSB executive identify priority projects and activities that support the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan.
- A 'Year in Review' document is prepared annually and reports on accomplishments. The report for fiscal year 23/24 is expected in fall 2024.

**ADM RESPONSIBLE:**

Jenny Manton

Assistant Deputy Minister

Court Services Branch

Personal Security

# CSB STRATEGIC PLAN

Court Services Branch **2024-2027**

I'm proud to share with you the Court Services Branch 2024-2027 Strategic Plan. The priorities contained in these pages act as our goals to guide us for the coming three years. Working together with the judiciary, other justice sector partners and government, this plan demonstrates our commitment to improvements and innovations that make life better for every person who works in the sector, walks through a courthouse door, or interacts with us online. I encourage you to raise your hand to be part of these initiatives, to be part of our success and learn new skills. Thank you for all you do. Our branch values your expertise, dedication and contributions.

Much thought, consultation, and deliberation have gone into this document. When the next branch strategic plan is issued in 2027, I know those who put it together will be inspired by how much was accomplished and how many processes were made more efficient. I hope you all feel that you have contributed, improved, and bettered how we work within the justice sector.



Jenny Manton, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Court Services Branch  
Ministry of Attorney General

## Branch Executive

### Personal Information



**Dan Chiddell**  
Executive Director,  
Corporate Support

**Kevin Conn**  
Executive Director,  
Policy & Service Reform

**Paul Corrado**  
Chief Sheriff and  
Executive Director, BCSS

**Jennifer Earl**  
Manager of Business  
Operations, ADMs Office

**Stephaney Kolp**  
Regional Executive  
Director, Fraser

**Jenny Manton**  
Assistant Deputy  
Minister (ADM)

### Personal Information



**Melanie Neal**  
Regional Executive  
Director, Vancouver Island

**Roger Phillips**  
Deputy Chief of  
Operations, BCSS

**Jackie Smith**  
Deputy Chief of Central  
Programs, BCSS

**Joel Statton**  
Regional Executive Director,  
Vancouver Coastal

**Michelle Thomson**  
Regional Executive  
Director, Interior

**Marlo Waldie**  
Regional Executive  
Director, North

## Leadership Advisory (LEAD) Team

We want to express a special thank you to the LEAD Team for their contributions to the development of the Strategic Plan 2024-2027! Team members include:

Sean Adam ● Landon Blundell ● Anthony Corrado ● Kristen Gregory ● Teresa Harsell ● Dana Hilton ● Tyler Lorenz ● Tamara Lumsden  
Lisa Milligan ● Julie Morrison ● Carmen Perez ● Edelaine Roca ● Jenn Scheelar ● Kristyna Volling ● Shelley Wiggins ● Mark Williams

### Sponsors

Dean Cantelon ● Stephaney Kolp

## Personal Information

The Ministry of Attorney General and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General work together as the justice and public safety sector to advance a shared vision of a safe, secure, just, and resilient British Columbia. The Ministry works to keep communities safe, secure, applying fairness to ensure resiliency as stated in the Ministry Service Plan. We also work with the judiciary and other justice system partners to develop innovative reforms to increase access and improve processes to serve the public.

Court Services Branch (CSB) has three divisions: BC Sheriff Service (BCSS), Court Administration, and Headquarters. Together we serve 90 court locations within British Columbia — ensuring the province and its citizens have confidence in the justice system by providing safe and accessible court services.

Resource: Ministry of Attorney General Service Plan - Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca - <https://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2024/sp/pdf/ministry/ag.pdf>)



### CSB Vision

*To provide the citizens of British Columbia with effective, timely, safe and impartial access to justice.*



### CSB Mission

*To ensure protection and access to court administration with integrity and compassion, while respectfully working together as an engaged team towards the common goal of service excellence.*

While aligning with the CSB's vision and mission, BCSS is also guided by distinctive vision and mission statements that represent and reflect their unique role, practices, and activities within the branch.

### BCSS Vision

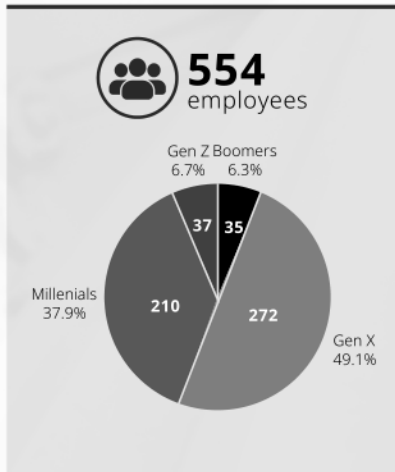
Continue to be recognized as an international leader in providing protective and enforcement services for the British Columbia justice system.

### BCSS Mission

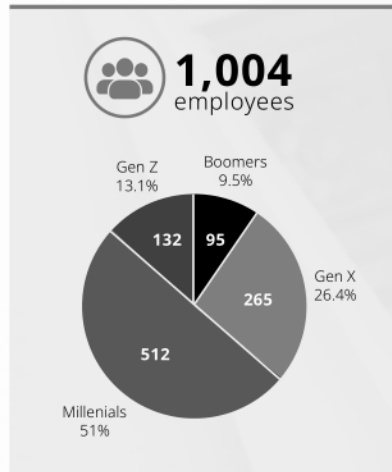
The British Columbia Sheriff Service continues to be committed to the integrity and protection of the court system in British Columbia through service and operational excellence.

# Who We Are - Demographics<sup>1</sup>

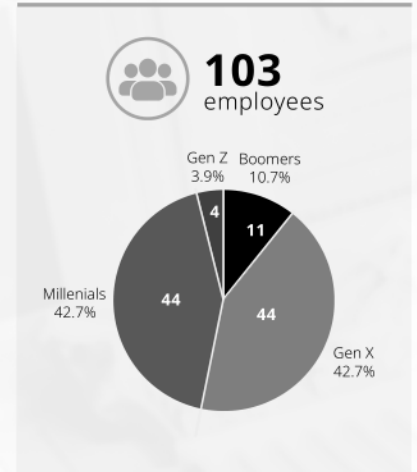
## BC Sheriff Service



## Court Administration



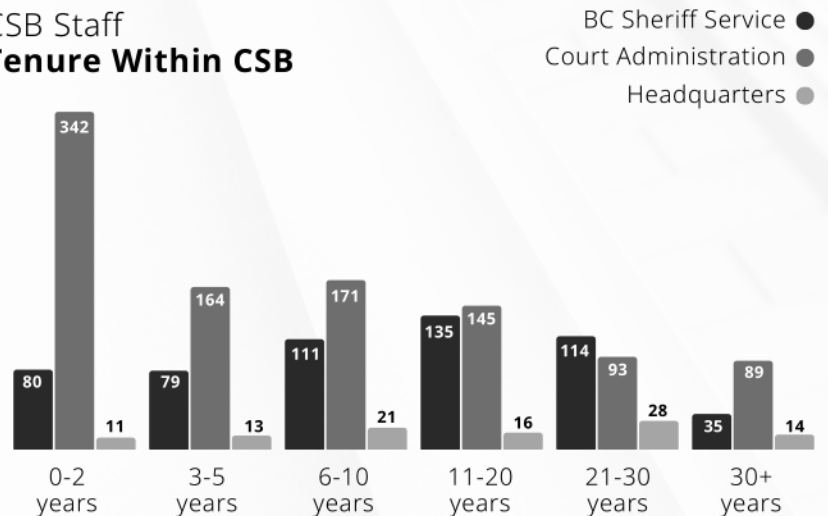
## Headquarters



## CSB Staff by Division

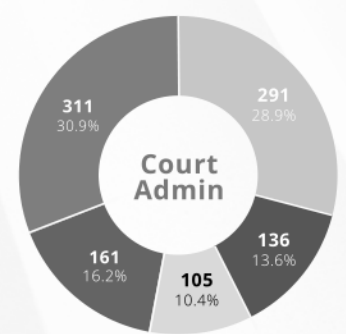
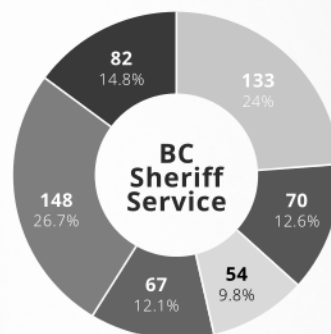


## CSB Staff Tenure Within CSB



## CSB Staff By Region

- Vancouver Island
- Vancouver Coastal
- Fraser
- Interior
- North
- ED & Central Programs



<sup>1</sup> Totals as of March 31, 2024

British Columbia's court system comprises three levels of court (Provincial Court, Supreme Court and Court of Appeal).

The Court Services Branch of the Ministry of Attorney General is responsible for the delivery of all sheriff and court administration services in British Columbia. The branch supports safe, timely, equitable access to the court system and provides administrative services to the judiciary in a manner that supports the requirements for independent decision making.

CSB operates in 90 locations across British Columbia and is divided into five geographic regions: Vancouver Island, Vancouver Coastal, Fraser, Interior, and North.

## Personal Information

### BC Sheriff Service

BC Sheriff Service is responsible for:

- Safety and security of court participants.
- Prisoner custody and transport.
- Document and warrant service.
- Jury management.
- Assessing and managing threats and risks.
- Provincial Programs – fleet operations, security administration office, court bailiff program and quartermaster.
- Recruitment and training of sheriffs.

### Court Administration

Court Administration ensures citizens and partners can access the justice system regardless of their location through in-person, telephone, virtual and online services. They are responsible for case documentation and adjudication support for all matters going before the courts including:

- Case initiation and processing.
- Fee collection.
- File and exhibit management.
- Recording of court proceedings.
- Documenting court orders.
- Court records and transcripts.
- Booking interpreter services.
- Preparation and dissemination of court materials.

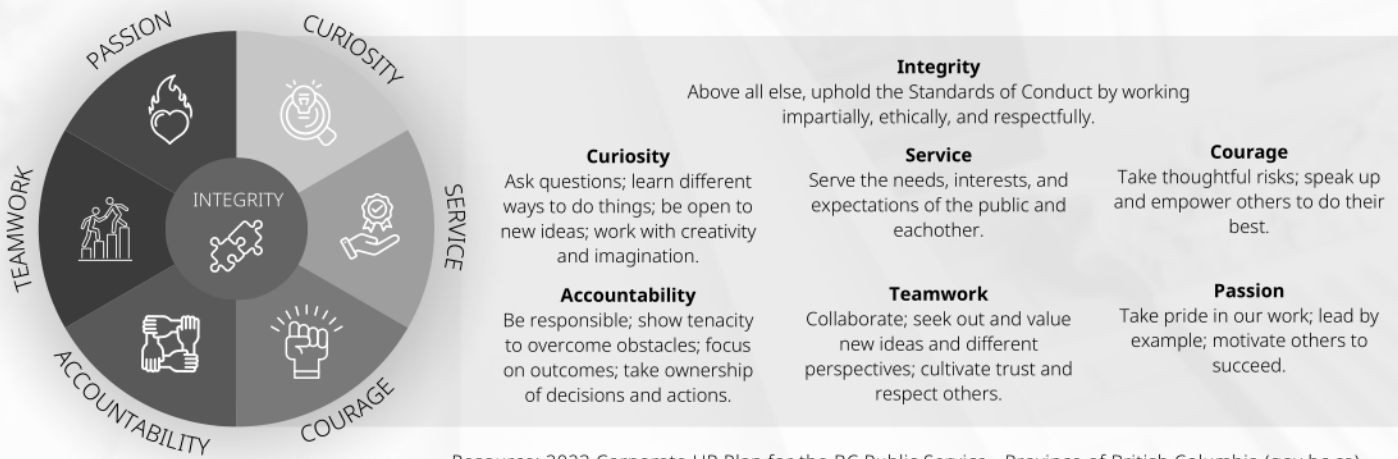
### Headquarters

Headquarters supports the branch with the following services:

- Budgeting, revenue and financial policies.
- Business operations.
- Business intelligence.
- Branch-wide communications.
- Correspondence and Freedom of Information requests.
- Courthouse facilities oversight.
- Branch-wide human resources management.
- Corporate training programs development and delivery.
- In and out court technology.
- Line of Business application enhancement and support.
- Office of Professional Standards.
- Policy and program development, legislative reform.
- Procurement and contract management support.
- Project and program management.

CSB works with the judiciary and other justice system partners to develop innovative reforms to increase access and improve processes to serve the public. We are stabilized by the foundation of our people and their commitment to providing service excellence to each other, our partners, the justice system and all British Columbians.

We subscribe to BC Public Service **Standards of Conduct** and are guided by the **Corporate Values**.



BC Public Service Corporate Values

Resource: 2023 Corporate HR Plan for the BC Public Service - Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca) - [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/careers/about-the-bc-public-service/corporate-digital/corporateplan\\_2023.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/careers/about-the-bc-public-service/corporate-digital/corporateplan_2023.pdf)

## Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy

In working on our priorities, CSB is committed to achieving the goals of equity, diversity and inclusion to ensure that we are reflective of our province and inclusive of Indigenous peoples, racialised communities, immigrants, persons with disabilities, and the 2SLGBTQ+ community. This will see us supporting an increasingly diverse workforce, enhancing inclusion and removing barriers to accessibility in the workplace, and building a strong foundation for lasting and meaningful reconciliation.

Resource: Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Strategy for the BC Public Service - Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca) - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/careers-myhr/about-the-bc-public-service/diversity-inclusion/diversity-inclusion-strategy>

## Indigenous Initiatives

CSB recognizes that we have a responsibility to advance principles of reconciliation in a way that honours and respects the unique constitutional and legal status of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples. We will remain focused on creating opportunities for Indigenous peoples and supporting British Columbia's Indigenous and First Nations Courts. As we work on our priorities over the next three years, we will continue to strengthen the representation and inclusion of Indigenous employees.

Resource: Indigenous Initiatives in the BC Public Service - Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca) - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/careers-myhr/about-the-bc-public-service/diversity-inclusion/indigenous-initiatives>

## Climate Preparedness

The B.C. Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy outlines pathways to help ensure we stay safe and prepare for a changing climate. In CSB, we are adopting sustainable practices through various initiatives from reducing paper usage, promoting digital access to preparing and filing documents online, virtual counter services, and virtual court appearances.

Resource: BC Climate Preparedness and Adaption Strategy - Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca) - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/climate-change/adaptation#CPAS>



# Purpose of the Plan

CSB's Strategic Plan 2024-2027 provides a connection to government priorities and details how our work supports wider ministry and corporate goals.

The plan directs our efforts and resources toward a clearly defined vision, written to guide the focus of our work and meet the expectations of staff, judiciary, partners, and citizens.

It is a key planning tool that is used to prioritize initiatives, resources, goals, operations, and projects.



## The Approach

We are guided by our strategic priorities to modernize and transform the justice system to ultimately make it easier for the public to navigate and to better support victims and families. Our priorities are shaped by the Attorney General's mandate letters, government initiatives, legislative reform, public commitments, input from partners, public reports and recommendations, as well as guidance from CSB Executive and the Judiciary.

## CSB Strategic Priorities

CSB's four Strategic Priorities for the next three years are:

- Staff Experience;
- Citizen & Partner Experience;
- Service & Operational Excellence; and
- Organizational Sustainability.

They are aligned with government and corporate priorities, including the justice sector's vision of a safe, secure, just, and resilient British Columbia.



CSB Strategic Priorities



## Personal Information



CSB is dedicated to fostering a culture of continual growth, diversity, and inclusion, ensuring employees can develop their careers in a respectful, balanced, and supportive environment.

We prioritize equal opportunities, fair treatment, and teamwork – recognizing that personal and organizational progress thrives on learning, respect, and the unique contributions of every individual.



## Objectives

- Deliver a branch HR plan with an emphasis on succession planning, retention, and professional development.
- Empower and support staff to identify and pursue their career aspirations and learning objectives through performance development platform discussions and actions.
- Enhance training opportunities.
- Promote transparency in hiring practices.
- Support and encourage staff wellness.
- Increase employee engagement.



## Examples

- CSB Leadership Academy
- Health and Well-Being Workshops
- Personal Development Planning for all staff
- CSB Learning Management System
- Increased opportunities for flexible work arrangements
- CSBeHealthy
- CSB Blog
- “In Conversation With...” ADM engagement series
- Context Podcasts
- “Ask the Techie” sessions
- Finance and Administration Learning Sessions
- Refreshed Succession Planning
- BC Sheriff Service Recruitment and Retention report





Personal Information

We are dedicated to making our processes and interactions as simple and compassionate as possible, defining our success from the perspective of the people we serve. We value all input and prioritize improving access to justice by considering all court users' needs in our changes and processes.

Recognizing the complexity of the court system and that people often encounter it during challenging times in their lives, we ensure efficient and effective service delivery to all British Columbians.



## Objectives

- Promote safe and accessible courts.
- Seek citizen and court user feedback.
- Streamline processes and improve services based on user needs through existing or emerging technologies.
- Increase the use of plain language in printed and online materials to make it easier for citizens to understand our services.
- Simplify and humanize our processes and define success by our service impact, especially during challenging times.



## Examples

- Bill C-78 (Bilingual Divorce Act services)
- Courthouse security upgrades
- Court audio speech to text
- Expansion of access to court materials
- Improving ban details online for clarity
- Interpreter Program Policy updates
- Modernization of Court Services Online (CSO)
- Probate online pathways
- Testimonial Accommodations
- Traffic Court Online
- Transcript Program Review
- Victim-Witness Support

Personal Information



Personal Information

At the heart of our commitment to service and operational excellence is a collaborative approach that seeks input from the judiciary, Indigenous communities, and other partners to maintain, modernize, and transform our services. We actively take feedback and act on it, ensuring that our services continually improve and meet the needs of all court users and stakeholders.

Our dedication to service excellence is built on a strong history of operational excellence, and we remain steadfast in our efforts to promote diversity and inclusion within the workplace. By fostering a culture of collaboration and responsiveness, we aim to create an environment where every voice is heard and valued – driving our mission to deliver exceptional service.



## Objectives

- Maintain collaborative communication with staff, partners, indigenous persons and judiciary.
- Continue efficient, effective, and timely delivery of court services in a safe environment.
- Continue to modernize court technology to improve access to justice through digital services.
- Build on existing service excellence practices.
- Staff are confident in the information they deliver and have reliable resources to support them.



## Examples

- Court Administration Scheduling System
- Courthouse User Committees
- Court Interpreter Scheduling Application
- Deputy District Registrar (DDR) Training Program Review
- Indigenous & Cultural Awareness Program
- Service Excellence training
- Sheriff Scheduling System
- Virtual Counter

Personal Information



We ensure effective service delivery to British Columbians by maintaining a robust organizational structure, leveraging evolving technology and business processes, enhancing network connectivity for seamless communication, and preparing our resources, including staff, facilities, and systems to deliver required services efficiently.



## Objectives

- Develop accessible, efficient, and innovative ways to provide court services.
- Modernize courtroom infrastructure to support the systems we need.
- Support future resource needs that are informed through business intelligence models.
- Proactively prepare for change and equipping staff with the technology tools and support to deliver excellent services.
- Resolve retention challenges and effectively manage attrition.

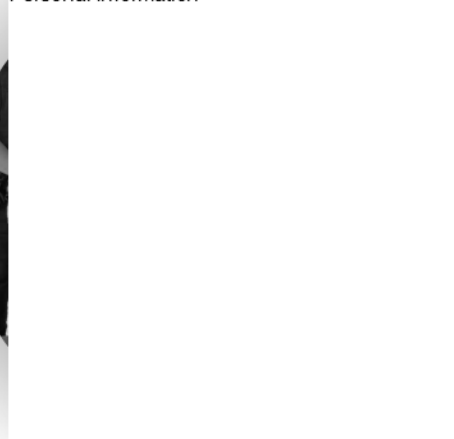


## Examples

- Business Continuity Planning
- Courthouse capital facility projects
- Implementing Courtroom Audio Recording Interface (CARI) functionality, replace redundant audio mixers and improve recording quality
- Network and connectivity upgrades
- Recruitment and Retention strategy (BC Sheriff Service and Court Administration)
- Replacement of Account Receivable and Collection Personal Information (ARC) system
- Sheriff Planning and Recruitment Model
- Staff Planning Technique
- WiFi expansion



Personal Information



# Accountability & Reporting

Court Services Branch is committed to monitoring its progress on operations, projects, and priority initiatives while annually reporting results. This commitment can take many forms and will be informed by staff to ensure your voice is heard. Current indicators include:

## BCSS

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Sheriffs recruited annually



Documents served



Jurors summoned



Sheriff hours facilitating video conferencing



Persons in custody



Prisoner transport distance



Integrated Threat Assessment Unit (ITAU) assessments completed

## Court Administration

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New court cases



Virtual court appearances held



Total appearances



Cases concluded (Provincial Court)



Court hours



Court documents filed



Documents e-filed



Post court documents processing timeliness

## Branch Wide

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Staff appointments by division



Employee attrition rates



Training sessions held



Work Environment Survey (WES) scores

# End Note

Strategic plans are meant to stretch our imagination from what is, to what could be. This one is no different. It is important to remember that the foundation of all plans are people: you, your colleagues, your leadership, our ministry, and our government.

We all come together to serve those who live in British Columbia and the justice system. We strive to improve services for people on both sides of the counter. We are focused on the people who come to us for information and service as they enter a courthouse or have a question about an online document. We are also focused on you and how we can make your jobs more fulfilling, meaningful, and rewarding.



Ministry of  
Attorney General

Ministry Issues Note

Last Updated: September 18, 2024

Subject: Courthouse Facility Issues

(1) SUMMARY OF ISSUE: Courthouse Capital Asset Management Plan (CAMP)

- Courthouse CAMP identifies large (greater than \$5M) and small-scale investment priorities to maintain the required condition and functionality of the courthouse portfolio across the province.

**BACKGROUND:**

- The 10-year CAMP was developed by the Ministries of Attorney General (AG and Citizens' Services (CITZ) in 2018 in consultation with the Judiciary. It was informed by an extensive review of the 89 courthouse facilities across the province considering demand, functionality, and facility condition of each location and investment required to support timely access to justice into the next decade.
- The CAMP defined investment priorities including increased accessibility, the incorporation of new technology and the security of courthouse facilities.
- The initial 10-year CAMP identified six large capital projects (greater than \$5M). The Victoria Law Courts (Vic LC) and Fort St. John Law Courts (FSJ LC) were identified as the Ministry's two highest priority capital investment needs. **These projects are currently not funded within the province's capital plan.**
- The CAMP also identified smaller-scale capital projects under \$5M (known as Minor CAMP). These improvement projects focus on wayfinding/signage, accessibility, functionality, security and information technology upgrades.
- Treasury Board approved funding of \$21.47M over 5-year (2019/20 through 2023/24 - extended to 2026/27) to address Phase 1 of Minor CAMP.

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information



**NEXT STEPS:**

Continue to deliver Phase 1 Minor CAMP projects with existing approved funding envelope.

- Prepare Minor CAMP Phase 2 submission in anticipation of invitation from Treasury Board to make a request.

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information

**(2) SUMMARY OF ISSUE: Vancouver Law Courts (VLC) Law Courts Inn (LCI) Renovations**

- VLC LCI renovations are in progress to accommodate Superior Courts (SC) need for additional Chambers space for the growing Judicial complement plus administrative staff.

**BACKGROUND:**

- For many years, there have been increasing space pressures in the VLC complex due to program growth and increased demand on the court system.
- The Colbran Report, an independent study on Judicial systems efficiencies, cited that it was critical to facilitate adequate workspace for the Judiciary to effectively manage caseload in the province.
- The Federal and Provincial governments agreed in Budgets 2021 and 2022 to increase the size of the SC complement by 5 judges, including 14.6 new CSB staff for Sheriffs (4.2 FTEs) and Court Administration (10.4 FTEs).
- LCI project addresses the increase in caseload backlog by creating space for additional judicial officers and staff by modify the former LCI space (the restaurant is now closed), the existing SC Bridge area and related supporting areas to meet Judiciary requirements.

Government Financial Information

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Design development drawings have been approved. Tender ready documents are 95% complete with award expected in October 2024.

Advice/Recommendations

**(3) SUMMARY OF ISSUE: Port Coquitlam Law Courts (PCLC) Renovations**

- The creation of two Supreme Court (SC) criminal courtrooms (including one jury courtroom), a registry counter and related ancillary spaces. SC presently occupies three courtrooms for family/civil matters.

**BACKGROUND:**

- The PCLC Renovation project funded through Ministry of Citizens’ Services (CITZ) 10-year priority capital investment project it is not funded through AG’s CAMP.
- PCLC renovation project is creating a Supreme Court presence in that courthouse to address continued scheduling challenges due to insufficient courtroom capacity for civil, family and criminal matters in the Fraser Region court locations.
- The project is proceeding in three phases:
  - Phase 1: Creating SC courtrooms for Civil/Family matters – completed April 2021.
  - Phase 2 (August 2025): Establishing a SC criminal in-custody courtroom (by repurposing one of the three SC civil/family courtrooms created in Phase 1), one jury courtroom (repurposing two Provincial Court courtrooms), a establishing a SC Registry and related ancillary spaces. Upon completion of the renovations, the new Law Courts will have 4 SC courtrooms and 7 PC courtrooms.
  - Phase 3 (August 2025): Relocation of the Family Justice Services Division (FJSD) off site to accommodate the additional BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) staff at the courthouse.
- The capital budget for the project is \$29.367M. AG was provided with funding of \$0.809M in 2024/25, \$2.061M in 2025/26, and \$2.058M in 2026/27 to address one-time operating costs associated with this project.
- Budget 2024 provided AG with \$490k /year in new funding to support for SC operations at PCLC including three court administration staff to provide registry services and one sheriff to support higher security matters and jury operations.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- PCLC Renovation project is in progress with an estimated completion date of August 2025.
- The SC Registry counter will be completed by the end of February 2025.

**ADM RESPONSIBLE:**

Jenny Manton	Assistant Deputy Minister	Court Services Branch	Personal Security
Alex Chandler	Assistant Deputy Minister & Executive Financial Officer	Corporate Management Services Branch	778-698-1542

**Ministry Issues Note**

*Last Updated: September 3, 2024*

**Subject: Legislation, Regulation, and Court Rule Initiatives**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

- Court Services Branch (CSB) is leading two legislation and regulations/rules initiatives for 2025/26.

**BACKGROUND:**

- CSB is responsible for maintaining the following legislation, regulations, and court rules:
  - **Court Agent Act**
  - **Court of Appeal Act** (Court of Appeal Rules)
  - **Court Rules Act** (Provincial Court (Adult Guardianship) Rules; Provincial Court (Child, Family and - Community Service Act) Rules; Patients Property Act Rules)
  - **Jury Act** (Jury Regulation)
  - **Provincial Court Act**
  - **Sheriff Act** (Sheriff Powers, Duties and Responsibilities Regulation, Sheriff Security Regulation)
  - **Small Claims Act** (Small Claims Rules)
  - **Supreme Court Act\*** (Supreme Court Civil Rules, Supreme Court Family Rules)  
\*Co-managed with Justice Services Branch
  - Sound Recording Regulation
  - Official Reporter (Supreme Court) Regulation
- The following legislation and regulations/rules initiatives are currently planned for 2024/25:
  - **Court of Appeal Rules**
    - A project requested by the Court of Appeal to make housekeeping and administrative amendments to the Court of Appeal Rules to improve clarity and address timelines for cross appeals, and for varying or cancelling an order of a justice or the registrar. The proposed

amendments will also address concerns about the application rule for an order that no fees are payable.

Advice/Recommendations

○ **Sheriff Act**

- Addressing the Sheriff Service’s ongoing recruitment and retention challenges is a priority for CSB. While low pay is a cause of these challenges, dissatisfaction with the job duties is also an important factor. Many sheriffs feel they are not being fully utilized, which leads to boredom and frustration.

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences

**NEXT STEPS:**

- No decisions or action is required at this time. Materials will be submitted to Cabinet following existing legislation and regulation amendment processes.

**ADM RESPONSIBLE:**

Jenny Manton

Assistant Deputy Minister

Court Services Branch

Personal Security

**Ministry Issues Note**

*Last Updated: September 6, 2024*

**Subject: First Nations Justice Strategy**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

- The Province endorsed the BC First Nations Justice Strategy (“the Strategy”) in March 2020. Work is underway to implement the Strategy to reform the existing justice system to be safer for Indigenous Peoples, and to restore First Nations justice systems and institutions.

**BACKGROUND:**

- The Ministry is working with the BC First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC) on the implementation of the Strategy.
- Implementing the Strategy is one of the Province’s commitments under the Declaration Act Action Plan.
- BCFNJC, Justice Canada, and the Province signed a Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2021 that committed to advancing the work under the Strategy and to collaboration on the Federal Indigenous Justice Strategy. Public Safety Canada signed onto the MOU in May of 2023.
- The Province is committed to working in partnership with BCFNJC, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples in the criminal justice system, which has its roots in long-standing systemic racism and the impacts of intergenerational trauma from residential schools.
- The Strategy is Indigenous led to ensure that Indigenous Peoples are central in shaping how they are treated by the justice system.  
*Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications*
- 
- A key commitment made by the Province was to fund the network of 15 Indigenous Justice Centres (IJC) throughout B.C. by the end of fiscal year 2024/2025 in alignment with the Strategy.
- The Province also funds the delivery of Gladue Services by BCFNJC as part of implementing the Strategy.
- Prior to interregnum, the Ministry implemented a Contribution Agreement for Fiscal Year 2024/25 with BCFNJC for funding provided to administer IJCs and Gladue Services. The  
*Advice/Recommendations*
- The Ministry has done work to identify areas of alignment between the Strategy and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Calls to Action. In particular, the Strategy is directly responsive to Call to Action #30, which calls for immediately reducing the overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples in custody.

- The Indigenous Justice Secretariat (IJS) leads the transformative work of implementation of the Strategy within Government, including influencing social sector areas that provide health and housing supports for individuals in the justice system.
- This work includes collaborating with BCFNJC to advance individual lines of action under the Strategy that involve other ministries. This work includes engagement across government on advancing the Indigenous Women’s Justice Plan, and collaboration with Ministry of Children and Family Development on the Indigenous Youth Justice Plan.
- At the core of the Strategy is the rebuilding of First Nations justice systems as an expression of self determination. The IJS has a vital role in supporting First Nations in that rebuilding work.
- To support Track 2 of the Strategy, revitalizing Indigenous Justice systems, including Indigenous laws, legal orders and institutions.  
Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications; Security Concern
  
- With federal Justice Partnership and Innovation Program funding, the Safe Supports project worked with the IJCs to introduce “Aunties” in Prince George and Nanaimo to support survivors of family violence navigate FLA matters in Provincial Court. Funding for the Safe Supports project goes until 2026.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- BCFNJC plans to open 5 more IJCs by the end of Fiscal Year 2024/25, in Burns Lake/Hazelton, Cranbrook, Kamloops, Port Hardy, and Williams Lake.  
Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications; Security Concern
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**ADM RESPONSIBLE:**

Colleen Spier, KC	Assistant Deputy Minister	Indigenous Justice Secretariat	Personal Security
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**Ministry Issues Note**

*Last Updated: September 6, 2024*

**Subject: Métis Justice Strategy**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

- The Métis Justice Strategy has been under development by Métis Nation of BC since 2019 and was endorsed by the Province in July 2024.

**BACKGROUND:**

- Advancing a Métis Justice Strategy is an action in the Declaration Act Action Plan, which outlines significant actions the Province will undertake in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples over the next five years to advance reconciliation.
- The Province received the Métis Nation of BC (MNBC) Board approved final draft embargoed Métis Justice Strategy (MJS) on December 23, 2021.
- The Indigenous Justice Secretariat (IJS) of the Ministry of Attorney General worked with MNBC to develop an Implementation Workplan to guide the implementation of the MJS.
- Consultation on the Workplan and final draft MJS occurred in early fall 2022.
- IJS consulted with eleven ministries on development of the Workplan.

*Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Intergovernmental Communications*

- The endorsement directed the ministry and MNBC to develop a detailed implementation workplan for the MJS.

*Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications*

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

- The services that are currently offered by BCFNJC are available to all Indigenous Peoples, including Métis.

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

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**NEXT STEPS:**

- Advice/Recommendations; Security Concern
  
- The ministry and MNBC will work to develop a detailed implementation plan for the MJS over the remainder of fiscal year 2024/25.

<b>ADM RESPONSIBLE:</b>			
Colleen Spier, KC	Assistant Deputy Minister	Indigenous Justice Secretariat	Personal Security



**Ministry Issues Note**

*Last Updated: October 3, 2024*

**Subject: Online Safety Action  
Table/Bill 12**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

- Exploration of actions that participating companies (Meta, X, Google, TikTok, Snap) would take on a voluntary basis to promote safety online for children, in addition to minor improvements to delivery of official information in emergency situations (e.g. wildfires) and non-consensual intimate images.

**BACKGROUND:**

Bill 12

- The introduction of Bill 12, the *Public Health Accountability and Cost Recovery Act* in the spring 2024 legislative session, was accompanied by public statements by government to create more effective tools to recover costs associated with the promotion, marketing and distribution of products that are harmful to adults and children in the province.
- The proposed legislation attracted criticism from social media companies and industry generally. Several Indigenous partners have made requests to be included in the legislation as governments, which would likely require extensive consultation and engagement to accomplish.
- Government subsequently announced it would pause Bill 12 in the legislative process and work directly with social media companies to promote safety online for children and address emergency information around wildfires in a new forum called Premier's Online Safety Action Table.

The Online Safety Action Table (OSAT)

- OSAT meetings between the Province and technology companies occurred throughout the spring and summer of 2024.
- The Province and social media companies reached agreement on:
  - Emergency information: new arrangements with Meta and other participating companies intended to mitigate negative impacts of removal of some news media sources from social media platforms in dispute over federal legislation.
  - Non-consensual intimate images: improvements were made with respect to the implementation of orders to stop distribution of intimate images made by a BC court or tribunal. A new process was created to allow the BC Intimate Image Protection Service to facilitate faster takedown of images, even without an order.
- On the topic of improving online safety for children:
  - The companies declined to sign on to a comprehensive Declaration on Online Safety for Children that included broad principles, specific safety changes and an independent evaluation component,

- Some companies committed to implementing new unilateral measures to promote online safety for children, including actions that respond to, or that were informed by, the OSAT process, the most notable of which were Meta’s creation of “teen accounts” for Instagram.
- The effectiveness of any unilateral measures taken by companies is uncertain in the absence of data, transparency and expert evaluation of the sort proposed by BC’s Declaration on Online Safety for Children.
- The Province was able to gain a better understanding of the views of the companies and their appetite for voluntary (non-legislated) actions to address the safety risks their products pose for children.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- The Province has several options for pursuing improved online safety for children, including:
  - Litigation for past harms,
  - Proposal of new legislation similar to Bill 12 (*Public Health Accountability and Cost Recovery Act*),
  - Proposal of new legislation to
    - regulate the behaviour of social media companies and to compel compliance with safety-oriented measures for children specifically, or adults and children generally, and
    - create access to redress for individuals who suffer harm from the use of social media platforms,
  - Creation of oversight and advocacy bodies to promote transparency, provide support for victims, and investigate the actions of companies,
  - Leading or supporting public education and awareness campaigns on the topic of online safety and risks to children,
  - Exploring potential coalitions or collaborations with other governments to provide a collective response to the challenge of online safety, and
  - Encouraging further research and innovation among experts, post secondary institutions and industry in this area

**ADM RESPONSIBLE:**

Paul Craven	Assistant Deputy Minister	Justice Services Branch	778-698-9333
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**Ministry Issues Note**

*Last Updated: Sept 6, 2024*

**Subject: Modernization in the Justice Sector**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

- The Ministry is committed to fair, equitable and timely access to justice through technology innovation and justice reform.
- Through ministry collaboration and a structured governance model, a Court and Justice Modernization committee brings together ministry leaders to lead and prioritize modernization initiatives and the sector’s delivery of accessible user-centered services, while maximizing the use of capital funding.
- Modernization projects increase accessibility by using a human-centered design approach and technology while also increasing operational efficiency.
- Outcomes of modernization include:
  - Improved access to justice and timely resolution of matters for people in B.C.
  - Enhanced, integrated, and efficient experiences, including online.
  - Reliable proceedings, including secure access to court materials, modernized court infrastructure and increased connectivity.
  - Less costly and adversarial resolution of issues in key areas such as family justice and small claims proceedings.
  - Modernized justice processes and tools that meet sector needs and reduce the risks created by interruptions to service delivery.

**BACKGROUND:**

- Budget allocations for Courts Modernization focus on access to justice by delivering citizen-centred services in the areas of modern electronic filing services, on-demand access to court materials, scheduling, virtual proceeding enablement, delivery, and training.
  - \$47.081 million has been spent on court modernization initiatives over the past four years, resulting in many improvements in digital service delivery, application enhancements, and the enablement of virtual appearances.
- The ministry works collaboratively to finding funding solutions, including seeking capital, to support initiatives that aim to transform policies, processes and technology across the justice sector. The 2024-2029 Court Digital Transformation Strategy outlines the Court’s focus on improving access to justice by using new technologies and other tools and processes. The Court and Justice Modernization Committee works internally to bring the projects and initiatives to life by prioritizing efforts, identifying opportunities for collaboration, and efficiently seeking funding and resources.

Court Modernization Initiatives include:

- Justice Application Modernization aims to de-risk our dependence on our legacy Oracle Forms infrastructure underpinning many Justice Applications and migrate

technologies to enable future transformational changes. This initiative helps reinforce the stability of our systems, critical data and the users that rely on them.

- Digital Evidence Management - streamlines information sharing between police and prosecution and provides efficient electronic disclosure which is a core element of court modernization. It ensures disclosure in criminal matters meet mandated timelines (criminal cases are not stayed due to delay – I.e. Jordan) and timely information sharing for decision-making (e.g. all relevant material available for bail hearings).
- Supreme Court Online Booking Tool - The Court is introducing an online booking system for court events, including Case Planning Conferences (CPCs), Judicial Case Conferences (JCCs), Trial Management Conferences (TMCs), and trials in civil and family matters. The new system delivers a process more convenient and equitable for all users. The Court of Appeal is already booking Appeals and Chambers, the Supreme Court is currently booking all conferences, and is expanding to Trials and Long Chambers. By 2025, all Superior Courts bookings will be done online using a BCeID or the BC Wallet, eliminating tens of thousands of calls per month, and enhancing access to justice, fairness, and transparency.
- Traffic Court Online –The Ministry launched tickets.gov.bc.ca, which includes a self-resolution tool and an end-to-end digitized process for citizens to initiate a traffic violation ticket dispute online. There has been a significant number of disputes submitted via the new online dispute system. The new technology creates opportunities for the modernization of other court processes.
- Virtual Bail Initiative has delivered resources and modernization of technology to support the transition from telephone bail hearings to video bail hearings. The initiative has received a total allocation of \$15.429M over the FY21/22-FY25/26 timeframe; with a total spent of \$13.200M as of March 31, 2024.
- Money Judgement Enforcement Act (MJEa) and the Money Judgment Enforcement Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions Act together significantly modernizes and streamlines the court order enforcement process, addressing current challenges faced by people in British Columbia who obtain a judgment from a court or tribunal saying they are owed money but where the other party refuses to pay voluntarily. Preparations are currently underway to implement the significant operational changes associated with modernizing the mechanisms used to enforce orders to pay money from the Supreme Court, Provincial Court and tribunals in British Columbia. Ministry staff are targeting bringing the MJEa into force in late 2025.
- Intimate Images Protection Act (IIPA) – came into effect on January 29th to address and prevent the online distribution of intimate images, near-nudes, videos, livestreams and digitally altered images, including videos known as deepfakes, without the subject's consent. Technology enhancements support the Civil Resolution Tribunal's (CRT) trauma-informed fast-track application process, Solution Explorer, to stop the distribution of images. PSSG's Intimate Images Protection Service (IIPS) provides emotional support, resources, help with

applying to the CRT, and communicating issued protection orders to get images taken down. The IIPS works collaboratively with the CRT to ensure trauma-informed information and support is available to victims throughout the process.

- Family Justice enhancements – expansion of the Early Resolution Process to the Port Coquitlam Provincial Court Registry will happen in November 2024, followed by Abbotsford, Chilliwack, New Westminster in April 2025 and North Vancouver, Pemberton, Richmond, Sechelt and Vancouver (Robson Square) in November 2025 (Family Justice Services). Progress continues on the multi-year initiative to modernize the *Family Law Act* (FLA). Evaluation is in progress for the Informal Trial Pilot in Kamloops, which offers a less adversarial trial option. Dr. Kim Stanton has been engaged this year to conduct a systemic review of the legal system’s treatment of sexual and intimate partner violence. Evaluation is also proceeding for Safe Supports, a limited term pilot project supporting survivors of family violence who have FLA matters in Provincial Court.
- Enterprise Content Management – We aim to build a transformative ECM ecosystem to position the sector as a leader in effective data and content management, which enables confidence in data accessibility, cross-sector collaboration, and process efficiency.
- Supporting and improving technology for administrative justice tribunals – enables the tribunals to resolve disputes more quickly and effectively, while virtual proceedings minimize travel and allow disputes to be resolved more efficiently.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Continue working collaboratively across the sector to prioritize projects that promote access to justice and modernization of the justice sector.

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- **Note 27 – Bail**
- **Note 28 – Digital Evidence Management Systems**
- **Note 32 – Court Digital Transformation Strategy**

**ADM RESPONSIBLE:**

Paul Craven	Assistant Deputy Minister	Justice Services Branch	778-698-9333
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**Ministry Issues Note**

*Last Updated: August 28, 2024*

**Subject: Responses to Family Violence**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

- Responses to family violence require a range of activities. This note is an overview of key current and ongoing Justice Services Branch (JSB) work to address family violence.

**BACKGROUND:**

- Family violence is defined broadly in the *Family Law Act* (FLA) to include physical and sexual abuse, psychological and emotional abuse including intimidation, harassment, coercion or threats, restrictions on personal/financial autonomy, stalking, intentional damage to property, and in the case of a child, exposure to family violence.
- Family violence can occur even if the person responsible for the violence doesn't intend or recognize their behaviour as violent and can be present even if the target of the violence does not recognize the behavior as family violence.
- Women and gender diverse people are at higher risk to be a victim of family violence and to suffer from the broader social impacts of that violence such as housing and financial insecurity.
  - Those risks are amplified for immigrant and newcomer women, and women with a disability (who are three times more likely to experience violent victimization than women living without a disability).
  - Indigenous women and girls are at a disproportionate risk and face among the highest rates of violent and non-violent victimization – including family violence – of all population groups in Canada.
  - A 2018 federal research brief on family violence in family law highlighted some commonly understood facts<sup>1</sup>:
    - The most dangerous time for a victim/survivor of violence is immediately after separation.
    - From 2007 to 2011, a woman's risk of being killed by a spouse she was separated from was nearly six times higher than the risk faced by a woman from a spouse she was living with.
    - Almost half of survivors (49%) indicated that violence increased in severity after the breakup of the relationship.
    - More than 90% of offences involving criminal harassment and harassing or indecent phone calls were committed after a separation.
- The FLA was an early leader by defining family violence broadly, for inserting risk factors in the legislation, for incorporating family violence into the best interests of the child test

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/jr/rq-cco/2018/sept01.html>

and for introducing protection orders which can be obtained when there is risk, but not necessarily an incident of family violence that has already occurred.

- JSB's current work in this area encompasses policy, strategy, legislation and testing innovative approaches through pilots and prototypes, as well as providing access to a variety of services across the province. This work requires not only expertise and action within JSB, but active collaboration with a wide variety of knowledge holders, experts and service providers within and external to government.

## **RESPONSES:**

### Policy, legislation, approaches and strategy

- The *Family Law Act* Modernization initiative includes looking at ways to improve the protection order regime and how family violence is considered in decisions about guardianship, parenting arrangements and contact with a child. Among other things, this project will include reviewing:
  - the scope of persons eligible to apply for protection orders,
  - the risk factors that the court must consider when assessing family violence in the context of the best interests of the child and whether to make a protection order,
  - terms that may be included in protection orders, and
  - barriers to recognizing and enforcing protection orders.
- The Safe Supports project is operating with temporary funding from the federal government (until 2026) to address family violence in the context of the family law system. Safe Supports focuses on survivors of intimate partner violence as a subset of family violence and is specifically supporting survivor parties navigating FLA issues in Provincial Court.
  - The project team has collaborated with internal and external partners to design, implement and now evaluate two new family justice prototypes:
    - an information gatherer role to assist survivor parties in collecting the related court data and documents to improve coordination across criminal, family, and child protection matters.
    - a family court support worker program to provide before-, during-, and after-care support for survivors of intimate partner violence as they navigate the family law system. In partnership with the BC First Nations Justice Council, the Safe Supports project is also prototyping an Indigenous-focused version of the family court support worker through the Auntie's project.
  - A third stream of exploring ways to insulate survivors of family violence from the risk of further trauma in family court processes, potentially through the provision of testimonial accommodations in family court, is in the options stage of development.

- The Systemic Review of the Legal System’s Treatment of Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence by Dr. Kim Stanton is an independent review of the treatment of survivors of sexual and intimate partner violence in the criminal and family legal systems.
  - Despite efforts to improve legal system access, outcomes and supports for survivors of sexual and intimate partner violence, statistics demonstrate that this type of violence is growing and remains drastically underreported.
  - Dr. Stanton’s review will examine the legal systems and the role of key actors, identify issues, and recommend practical and meaningful solutions that the Province can consider for implementation in the short and long term to address this challenge.

### Supports and services

- Family Justices Services Division (FJSD) has staff across the province at Justice Access Centres and Family Justice Centres providing a variety of free supports for families, including those experiencing violence. FJSD puts great emphasis on ensuring staff have specialized knowledge about the dynamics of family violence (including coercive control) and its effect on families and children.
- Screening for family violence occurs with all clients who initiate services with FJSD, and support is available when issues of safety and family violence are identified, including if there are urgent safety related issues. Support can include assistance with protection orders, safety planning and referral to specialized resources.
- Comprehensive assessment for family violence occurs in every case where a client receives services with a Family Justice Counsellor or Child Support Officer prior to any decisions about whether dispute resolution services are appropriate (even if referred by the courts).
- The initial assessment process explores how parties have typically made decisions and how the safety, power dynamic and potential imbalances influences decision making and capacity of all parties to negotiate. Dispute resolution services will not be offered if it is determined that it is not appropriate. Where dispute resolution proceeds, assessment continues throughout services. The dispute resolution process will be terminated if it becomes inappropriate to continue.
- FJSD has a specialized team of staff who prepare court ordered parenting assessment reports (under section 211 of the FLA). Full reports include a comprehensive assessment of family violence, and relevant information is included in the reports submitted to the court for consideration. Views of the Child reports include a screen for violence with the parents and the child’s perspective on family violence is included in the report.
- All Parenting After Separation courses include a section on family violence that covers information on the impact on children and parenting as well as safety measures.



- Provincial Court Family Early Resolution Process (ERP) – It should be noted that in designated registries where the ERP<sup>2</sup> applies, parties seeking orders such as those related to protection, enforcement, case management or priority parenting matters proceed directly to the court. The early resolution requirements do not apply to these applications.

### Family Legal Aid Expansion

- In February 2024, the Province announced \$29.1M over three years to expand financial eligibility for family legal aid services, improve intake capacity, and create a new multidisciplinary trauma-informed family law clinic.
- The Province, Legal Aid BC (LABC) and Centre for Family Equity (CFE) worked together to create changes to increase access to fast and free legal assistance for people. These changes resolved a longstanding constitutional challenge to the family law legal aid system by the CFE.

### *Financial Eligibility for Family Legal Aid*

- In 2024, income thresholds for family legal aid were increased to align with the most recently released Market Basket Measure.
- In addition, when calculating financial eligibility for applicants experiencing family violence, the applicant's assets will be excluded if the applicant is seeking family law legal aid within six months of leaving their abusive partner. For applicants experiencing family violence and who do not fit within the asset exclusion described immediately above, certain accounts will be excluded from the calculation, including accounts with a combined value of \$30,000 or less (net all liquidation costs) that are established for retirement, children's education and supporting an applicant's disability or their dependents' disability.
- In 2025 and 2026, further adjustments will be applied to align with the most recent Market Basket Measure plus 2% on April 1 of each year.

### *Multidisciplinary Intensive Family Law Clinic Model*

- The multidisciplinary, trauma-informed clinic will offer critical and extensive family law services to clients experiencing family violence.
- To be eligible for services from the new multidisciplinary intensive family law clinic, applicants must be financially eligible for LABC family law standard representation services and be experiencing family violence, as well as one or more family law issues covered by LABC's standard representation services.
- In addition to providing representation to help clients stabilize their family legal situation, the clinic will have paralegals and navigators to support clients by providing information and referrals to non-legal community-based support.
- The clinic will offer services both in-person (the physical locations for the clinic will be Victoria and Surrey), as well as virtually.
- It is expected that the clinic will begin offering services before the end of the year, and

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<sup>2</sup> Please see the Family Justice transition note for information about the Early Resolution Process in designated Provincial Court registries.

until then, lawyers with new clients (as of April 1, 2024) who would be eligible for clinic services once in operation, can access an additional 25 hours of legal aid services. Once the clinic model is operational, these hours will also be available if the clinic model does not have capacity to provide services to an otherwise qualifying client.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Advice/Recommendations
  
- Multidisciplinary Intensive Family Law Clinic Model - The two physical locations of the multidisciplinary intensive family law clinic have been identified (Victoria and Surrey) and are expected to open before the end of this year.
- Family Law Act Modernization project - It is anticipated that a subsequent policy intentions paper will be developed with recommendations for proposed amendments, inviting feedback from the public and interested partners and organizations.
- Advice/Recommendations

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- **Note 41 – Family Justice**

**ADM RESPONSIBLE:**

Paul Craven	Assistant Deputy Minister	Justice Services Branch	778-698-9333
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**Ministry Issues Note**

*Last Updated: August 28, 2024*

**Subject: Family Justice**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

- Overview of key areas of family justice activity, including Family Law Act (FLA) Modernization, Early Resolution Process (ERP) Expansion and Family Legal Aid Expansion.

**BACKGROUND:**

- Family justice is a complex policy area because family law issues often coexist with issues about finances, housing, employment, and mental and physical well-being. In addition, family law is a mixture of federal, provincial, and Indigenous laws and involves the jurisdiction of both the Provincial Court and the Supreme Court. To add to that complexity, the family justice system also includes a multiplicity of public, not-for-profit and private service providers.
- Within this systemic complexity, there is a diverse range of family situations and family legal issues that must be considered.
- The Justice Services Branch (JSB) is responsible for:
  - strategic policy and family justice legislation;
  - a province wide network delivering family justice services,
  - supports for enforcement of child and spousal support through its interjurisdictional support service, its locate services, the child support recalculation service and through oversight of the BC Family Maintenance Agency, the Crown corporation responsible for enforcing support orders, and
  - funding and oversight of Legal Aid BC (LABC) the Crown corporation responsible for delivering family legal aid services for low-income British Columbians.
- Key strategic issues in family law are well known and common across jurisdictions.
  - Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are scientifically documented categories linked to toxic stress and resulting in measurable detrimental impacts upon health, education and other success and wellness factors for individuals, generations of families and society. Research has identified separation/divorce and witnessing family violence are 2 of the 11 categories of ACEs.
  - Adversarial court processes increase conflict, toxic stress and damage relationships. For families, an adversarial model typically exacerbates conflict and harm instead of focusing on the needs of children.
  - Legislation must be kept current and relevant, as well as being responsive to reconciliation, such as BC's *Declaration Act*.

- Access to an appropriate range of services that place the needs of children and families at the centre.
- Key strategic responses:
  - BC is a leader in creating a legislative framework to enable action that addresses key issues, as well as prototyping and implementing innovative approaches. Key elements of BC's approach are:
  - Shifting the focus to be on children and working with a wide variety of partners and interest-holders.
  - Rebalancing the family justice system to improve access to justice.
    - Front end non-court services have greater social return on investment by building skills, minimizing conflict, and helping people with their non-legal problems. This increases court capacity and results in cost avoidance in courts.
  - Making court simpler for those who need it.
  - Responding to family violence through legislation, strategy, policy, services and testing of innovative approaches.
  - Working towards implementation of *Declaration Act* objectives.

Modernization and continuous improvement:

- The *Family Law Act* (FLA) is the main family law statute in B.C. First implemented in 2013, a multi-year three phase initiative is underway to review the Act to improve clarity of the law and ensure it is responsive to the needs of families.
  - The first phase resulted in a set of amendments was passed in 2023.
  - The second phase of the review focuses on of the following topics: guardianship, parenting arrangements and contact; relocation of a child; child-centred decision-making; children's views and parenting assessments and reports; and family violence and protection orders.
  - The second phase just completed consultations.
    - Five Indigenous dialogue sessions have been held and resulted in two publicly available What We Heard reports, one for the First Nations sessions and another for the Métis session.
    - Broad public engagement in early 2024 resulted in 42 written responses to a technical paper and 609 responses to the surveys. A What We Heard Report was published in September.
- Redesigned Provincial Court Family Forms were implemented in August 2024. The redesign increases clarity and usability. User-friendly design elements were the result of significant feedback gathering and user testing and provided to Court Services Branch for operationalization stages and implementation.

- Increasingly, the ministry is being called upon to participate in broad reaching, system-thinking conversations that directly or indirectly involve what is traditionally thought of as family justice. Some examples include participation in lines of action for the BC First Nations Justice Council's Women's Justice Plan, participation in the Gender-Based Violence Action Plan, as well as conversations with MCFD and the Representative for Children and Youth on issues relating to child well-being.

#### Family justice services and early resolution

- Across British Columbia, people have access to free family justice services through our network of 20 Family Justice Centres and 5 Justice Access Centres (JACs).
- Through virtual and in-person services, people with family law issues can receive early access to information and referrals, screening for family violence and online parenting education courses. The online parenting education course is now also available in Punjabi and in a version for Indigenous families. In addition, centres offer facilitated negotiation of child and spousal support with specialized Child Support Officers and accredited and specially trained Family Justice Counsellors provide consensual dispute resolution services to help families reach resolution out of court on issues such as parenting arrangements, contact with a child, guardianship, support, and ownership of companion animals.
- People with early access to information, referrals and services have better understanding of their non-legal and legal issues, are more likely to reach resolution through consensual dispute resolution processes and have increased awareness of how to access and work with other service providers or parts of the system.
- Building on existing family justice services, the Provincial Court of B.C. and the Ministry introduced the Early Resolution Process (ERP) for family law matters. This process is currently available in Victoria and Surrey and will be expanded to the Port Coquitlam Provincial Court Family registry in November 2024 and to Abbotsford, Chilliwack, New Westminster, North Vancouver, Pemberton, Richmond, Sechelt and Vancouver (Robson Square) between April and November 2025.
- Most families with family law matters in Early Resolution registries must complete services through a Family Justice Centre or Justice Access Centre prior to filing an application about a family law matter (or a reply to this application) in Provincial Court.
- Results from the evaluation of the ERP in Victoria indicated overwhelming support of the model from clients surveyed; families reaching resolution out of court and increased readiness for those who did proceed to court, resulting in a substantial reduction in new family court cases, appearances and overall demand for Provincial family court time.

#### Family legal aid

- LABC provides a range of free family law services to people with low incomes, including standard and limited representation contracts, duty counsel and Family LawLINE advice services, as well as legal information resources. Clients who are moving through the ERP can also receive access to legal advice from LABC's duty counsel.

- Government has made consistent investments in legal aid, increasing the annual LABC budget by \$75.22M since 2016/17. This includes investments to support families to access family legal aid.
- In December 2022, LABC adjusted financial eligibility thresholds across all areas of law to increase the number of clients who can access legal aid services. This resulted in over 3,400 additional contracts being issued between December 2022 and January 2024.
- In February 2024, the Province announced \$29.1M over three years to expand financial eligibility for family legal aid services, improve intake capacity, and create a new multidisciplinary trauma-informed family law clinic.
  - In 2024, family legal aid income thresholds were increased to align with the most recently released Market Basket Measure. Further adjustments will be applied on April 1, 2025, and April 1, 2026.
  - The new multidisciplinary clinic will offer critical and extensive family law services to clients experiencing family violence, including legal representation to help clients stabilize their family law situation, as well as support for clients from navigators and paralegals, including information and referrals to non-legal community-based support.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- **Family Law Act Modernization** – It is anticipated that a subsequent policy intentions paper will be developed with recommendations for proposed amendments, inviting feedback from the public and interested partners and organizations. There will be continued consultation and collaboration with Indigenous partners to ensure Indigenous feedback is reflected in the proposed amendments.
- **Early resolution process expansion** – Family Justice Services Division is working with the Provincial Court of BC, Court Services Branch, Legal Aid BC and contacts in specific communities on expansion of the process to the Port Coquitlam Provincial Court Family registry in November 2024 and to Abbotsford, Chilliwack, New Westminster registries in April 2025 and North Vancouver, Pemberton, Richmond, Sechelt and Vancouver (Robson Square) in November 2025.
- **Family legal aid expansion** – The two physical locations of the clinic have been identified (Victoria and Surrey) and are expected to open before the end of this year.

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- Note 40 – Family Violence

**ADM RESPONSIBLE:**

Paul Craven	Assistant Deputy Minister	Justice Services Branch	778-698-9333
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**Ministry Issues Note**

*Last Updated: August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

**Subject: Mental Health Rights Advice**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

- The Ministry of Attorney General (MAG) is leading the implementation of a Rights Advice Service for individuals who are involuntarily admitted under the *Mental Health Act*.
- In June 2022, the Province passed amendments to the Mental Health Act to introduce a new Part 5 – Rights Advice, which is the responsibility of MAG. A regulation to bring the amendments to the *Mental Health Act* into force will be made once the service is available province wide (projected for early 2025).

**BACKGROUND:**

- MAG, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, and the Ministry of Children and Family Development, is leading the implementation of a Rights Advice Service for individuals who are involuntarily admitted under the *Mental Health Act*.
- The Rights Advice Service is delivered by the Canadian Mental Health Association, BC Division, in partnership with several non-profit community partners. The contract for this service is administered by Justice Services Branch.
- The service employs Rights Advisors who meet with patients to explain their rights under the *Mental Health Act* and assist them to exercise these rights (e.g., applying for a review board hearing). Rights Advisors are not lawyers, but they can refer individuals to a lawyer or advocate if requested. The Rights Advice Service is primarily virtual, with most meetings taking place by phone or videoconference. In-person service is available in some locations to support those who may struggle to communicate virtually.
- In June 2022, the Province passed amendments to the *Mental Health Act* to lay the foundation for the Rights Advice Service. These amendments introduced a new Part 5 – Rights Advice to the Act, which is the responsibility of MAG. All other parts of the *Mental Health Act* are the responsibility of the Ministry of Health.
- The new Part 5 sets out the duties and responsibilities of the Rights Advice Service, as well as the duties of directors of designated mental health facilities to facilitate access to the Rights Advice Service. Since the amendments to the *Mental Health Act* introduce a new statutory right to meet with a Rights Advisor, the service infrastructure needs to be in place prior to bringing this new right into force. The amendments to the *Mental Health Act* will come into force through regulation once the Rights Advice Service is available province wide.
- The Rights Advice Service is being introduced in a phased approach: in phase 1, Rights Advice is available on the request of the patient and in phase 2, Rights Advice will be automatically provided at key points such as following initial admission.

- The current focus is on the implementation of the Rights Advice Service on request (phase 1). The service was initially launched at 6 facilities in February 2024 and is being expanded out to additional facilities in waves. Rights Advice is currently available at 43 designated facilities under the *Mental Health Act* (the current list of facilities is online at <https://irasbc.ca/current-service-areas/>). There have been approximately 200 Rights Advice meetings to date.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- The implementation plan includes the following target timelines:
  - The Rights Advice Service will be available at all 75 designated facilities under the *Mental Health Act* by November 2024.
  - Involuntary patients who are on extended leave and living in the community will have the option to directly book a meeting with a Rights Advisor by December 2024.
  - Advice/Recommendations
- The goal is to run the Rights Advice Service on request for at least one full year before proceeding to phase 2. A broad consultation process is planned to determine the specific points when automatic notification will be required and how it will operate.  
Advice/Recommendations

**ADM RESPONSIBLE:**

Paul Craven	Assistant Deputy Minister	Justice Services Branch	778-698-9333
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**Ministry Issues Note**

*Last Updated: September 6, 2024*

**Subject: *Legal Professions Act* (Legal Professions Regulatory Reform)**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

- Status of legal professions regulatory modernization project.

**BACKGROUND:**

- In May 2024, the Legislature enacted the *Legal Professions Act* (“the Act”). The Act aims to increase access to legal services for people in B.C. Key components include:
  - The creation of a new category of regulated legal service providers called regulated paralegals, who will be allowed to provide certain services directly to the public.
  - The expansion of the scope of practice of notaries public, to allow them to provide additional services to the public in addition to the ones they are currently able to provide.
  - The creation of a limited licence model that will allow licence holders to provide specific legal services directly to the public.
  - The creation of a new independent regulator called Legal Professions British Columbia, which will be responsible to regulate all regulated legal service providers (lawyers, notaries, regulated paralegals, limited licence holders) in the public interest.
  - Numerous components intended to increase the number of Indigenous people participating in the regulation of the legal professions, and as legal professionals themselves.
- The new single regulator will be governed by a board of directors composed of 17 people:
  - A majority of directors (9 of 17) are lawyers, and a supermajority (14 of 17) are licensees.
  - A majority of directors (9 of 17) are elected by licensees.
  - The government appoints 3 of 17 directors.
  - The board appoints 5 of the 17 directors.
  - At least 2 directors must be Indigenous.
- The Act received Royal Assent on May 16, 2024. Only a small number of its provisions came into force upon Royal Assent, including those that establish certain transitional bodies for the purposes of overseeing and participating in the preparations for the transition to an operational, unified regulator (a transitional board, a transitional Indigenous council, and an advisory committee).
- The remainder of the Act will come into force by regulation. That will not happen until the transitional bodies have had the opportunity to address all necessary considerations, such as the establishment of the first rules, policies, organizational structure and other

essential matters to establish a new amalgamated regulator. It is anticipated that this will take a period of approximately 18-24 months.

- The transition process is underway with required co-operation of the Law Society and the Notaries Society.
- The members of the transitional Board are:
  - Bryan Dybwad (lawyer, Law Society appointment)
  - Lindsay LeBlanc, KC (lawyer, Law Society appointment)
  - Bruce LeRose, KC (lawyer, Law Society appointment)
  - Scott Morishita (lawyer, Law Society appointment)
  - Elizabeth Kollias (paralegal, BC Paralegal Association appointment)
  - Scott Simpson (notary public, Notaries Society appointment)
  - Johanne Blenkin (retired lawyer, LGIC appointment)
- The members of the transitional Indigenous Council are:
  - John Borrows (law professor, BC First Nations Justice Council appointment)
  - Andrea Hilland, KC (law professor, BCFNJC appointment)
  - Christina J. Cook (lawyer, BCFNJC appointment)
  - Carly Teillet (lawyer, Métis Nation BC appointment)
- When the remainder of the Act comes into force, the current *Legal Profession Act* and the *Notaries Act* will be repealed.
- The Law Society and the Trial Lawyers Association of British Columbia have filed notices of civil claim, alleging the legislation is unconstitutional. The Attorney General has filed a response opposing that position.
- As part of the proceeding, the Law Society and the Trial Lawyers Association of British Columbia sought injunctive relief that would delay the implementation of the Act. The Court declined that request. Reasons for judgment are here: [2024 BCSC 1292 \(CanLII\) | Law Society of British Columbia v British Columbia | CanLII.](#)

**NEXT STEPS:**

- The Ministry has established a regulated paralegal working group, responsible to make recommendations to the Attorney on the services that regulated paralegals should be able to provide to the public. The working group will commence its meetings in Fall 2024 and convene on a regular basis for a period of approximately 12 – 18 months.
- Through the advisory committee noted above, the Ministry will continue to support the current regulators preparation for the transition to the single regulatory framework, as needed and as appropriate, recognizing the independence of the current regulators, and the future regulator.
- The litigation remains underway and an update on the status of the litigation can be found in LSB’s Strategic Litigation Report.

**ADM RESPONSIBLE:**

Paul Craven	Assistant Deputy Minister	Justice Services Branch	778-698-9333
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**Ministry Issues Note**

*Last Updated: September 5, 2024*

**Subject: Government Anti-Racism  
Action Plan**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

- The Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Branch (MARB) is developing an Anti-Racism Action Plan to implement the *Anti-Racism Act* (ARA) as part of Government’s plan to address systemic racism in B.C.

**BACKGROUND:**

- The ARA, enacted in May 2024, aims to address systemic racism within British Columbia’s provincial government policies, programs, and services, focusing on improving outcomes for racialized and Indigenous communities.
- MARB is leading the development of an action plan to implement the ARA, detailing the specific measures and strategies needed to achieve its goals.
- Engagement with racialized communities is a key component of the ARA’s implementation, primarily conducted through the Provincial Committee on Anti-Racism (PCAR), a body set to include 11 appointed members after the provincial election.
- Indigenous communities will be engaged separately through the Consultation and Cooperation process, which follows a distinction-based approach to ensure tailored and culturally appropriate engagement with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit groups.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Undertake comprehensive internal research and engage with relevant public bodies to gather data, insights, and best practices that will inform development of the action plan.
- Establish clear and culturally sensitive protocols for Indigenous engagement, ensuring that all consultation efforts are distinction-based and adhere to Indigenous laws, traditions, and governance structures.
- Design an assessment framework to measure the effectiveness of the action plan. This framework should include clear benchmarks, performance indicators, and reporting mechanisms to track progress toward addressing systemic racism and improving outcomes for racialized and Indigenous communities.

**ADM RESPONSIBLE:**

Haiqa Cheema

Assistant Deputy Minister

Multiculturalism and Anti-  
Racism Branch

Personal Security

Ministry Issues Note

Last Updated: September 4, 2024

Subject: Racist Incident Helpline

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

- The Racist Incident Helpline (RIHL) is an initiative under the Ministry of Attorney General in partnership with United Way BC, designed to provide immediate support and resources to individuals who experience or witness racist incidents in British Columbia.
- The helpline is a key component of the Province's broader anti-racism strategy, reflecting Government's commitment to addressing and mitigating the impacts of racism across communities.

**BACKGROUND:**

- The Racist Incident Helpline was launched as part of B.C.'s efforts to combat racism, following increased reports of hate crimes and racist incidents, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The helpline serves as a confidential, accessible resource, staffed by trained navigators who provide support, guidance, and connections to relevant services.
- Launch of the Racist Incident Helpline took place May 2024.
- The Helpline can be reached via phone at 1-833-457-5463 (1-833-HLP-LINE). The Helpline is available weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific Standard Time (PST). Outside these hours, callers can leave a voicemail and receive a callback on the next business day.
- Support is available in over 240 languages.
- The Helpline offers: emotional and peer support, information about community resources, referrals to local support agencies, counselling services, and assistance in reporting incidents to law enforcement.

Some key considerations related to the Helpline include:

- **Data Utilization:** The data collected through the Helpline is invaluable for shaping policy. It is essential that this data is analyzed and acted upon to inform broader anti-racism strategies, identify emerging trends and allocate resources effectively. The new Minister should be aware of the importance of this data and support initiatives that leverage it for meaningful change.
- **Service Accessibility:** Expanding the Helpline's accessibility, both in terms of hours of operation and language support, is a key area of focus. Currently, there is consideration for expanding to 24/7 availability and providing services in more languages to better serve BC's diverse population

- **Public Perception and Trust:** The success of the Helpline depends on public trust and perception. It is important to maintain transparent communication and continuous engagement with communities to further build this trust.

Some opportunities related to the Helpline include:

- **Strengthening Relationships:** The ministry has the opportunity to strengthen relationships with Indigenous and other underrepresented communities by actively engaging them in the ongoing development and promotion of the helpline.
- **Policy Impact:** By prioritizing the analysis and application of data collected through the Helpline, the ministry can drive significant policy changes that addresses the root causes of racism in BC.
- **Enhancing Accessibility:** The ministry can champion efforts to make the Helpline more accessible, ensuring it meets the needs of all British Columbians, regardless of their location, language, or other barriers.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- **Operational Hours Adjustment:** Considering whether the Helpline's hours of operation need to be adjusted based on call volume, accessibility needs, or other factors.
- **Data Collection and Reporting:** Finalizing the approach for collecting, analyzing, and reporting data on incidents to ensure it informs policy decisions effectively. Analyzing recent call data to identify trends, peak times, and any service gaps.
- **Stakeholder Consultation:** Engaging with key stakeholders, including community leaders and advocacy groups, to gather input on the Helpline's effectiveness and areas for improvement.
- **Update Protocols:** Reviewing and updating protocols as necessary to align with the latest developments in hate crime reporting and response strategies.
- **Monitor and Evaluate:** Implementing a system for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the helpline's impact, adjusting strategies as needed based on the findings.

**ADM RESPONSIBLE:**

Haiqa Cheema

Assistant Deputy Minister

Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Branch

Personal Security

**Ministry Issues Note**

*Last Updated: September 6, 2024*

**Subject: Historical Wrongs**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

- The Ministry of Attorney General has successfully implemented recognition initiatives for historical wrongs committed against Japanese Canadians and Sons of Freedom Doukhobors.
- The comprehensive package for Japanese Canadians, addressing six key themes, has been fully funded and operationalized.
- For the Sons of Freedom Doukhobors, the recognition package has been initiated, with the legacy fund and research and archival fund still to be implemented in partnership with Selkirk College.

**BACKGROUND:**

Japanese Canadian

- On May 21, 2022, a \$100 million recognition package to honour the legacies of the 22,000 Japanese Canadian internment-era survivors was announced.
- After the \$100 million commitment was announced in 2022, the National Association of Japanese Canadians formed the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society (JCLS) to oversee the funds.
- As of May 2024, \$81.185 million of this package had been released to the JCLS.
- Government Financial Information

Sons of Freedom Doukhobors

- Treasury Board approved a \$10 million recognition package for the Sons of Freedom Doukhobors, allocated as follows: \$5 million for Legacy Funds, \$3.75 million for Health and Wellbeing Funds, and \$1.25 million for Research and Archival Services.
- The Province has delivered three formal apologies to the Sons of Freedom: the Attorney General in Grand Forks on February 1, Castlegar on February 2, and the Premier in the Legislature on February 27, 2024.
- The Health and Wellbeing Fund, which provides support for health and wellness needs of living Sons of Freedom survivors, was successfully completed in partnership with the Canadian Red Cross. A total of 96 survivors have received their funds. The next phase will focus on the distribution of funds to the descendants of these survivors.
- The Province has partnered with Selkirk College to manage the Legacy Funds and Research and Archival Services.

**NEXT STEPS:**

Japanese Canadian

- The Province’s remaining commitment to JCLS includes constructing the Monument Park, with oversight from the Ministry of Citizens’ Services’ Real Property Division (CITZ-RPD) and the Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Branch (MARB), which oversees high-level engagement strategies and community fund agreement management with JCLS.
- CITZ-RPD has hired a team of consultants and contractors in the second and third quarters of 2024. Construction of the Monument Park will begin in the first quarter of 2025 and is expected to be completed by the third quarter of 2025.

Sons of Freedom Doukhobor

- Finalize the criteria, amount, and process for disbursing the remaining Health and Wellbeing funds to support the descendants of the Sons of Freedom by establishing clear guidelines, determining the allocation for each descendant, and outlining a transparent and efficient distribution process.
- Engage with the Sons of Freedom Doukhobor community to discuss the legacy fund, and research and archival initiatives with Selkirk College, ensuring comprehensive support and alignment with community needs.

**ADM RESPONSIBLE:**

Haiqa Cheema

Assistant Deputy Minister

Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Branch

Personal Security

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## CROWN AGENCY PROFILE

**Name:** BC Family Maintenance Agency

**Legislative Authority:**

- *Family Maintenance Enforcement Act*
- *Family Law Act*
- *Interjurisdictional Support Orders Act*

**Mandate:**

- The BC Family Maintenance Enforcement Program (FMEP) was established in 1988. In 2019, after 30+ years being operated by a contractor, the service delivery model transferred from a contracted service (Themis) to the BC Family Maintenance Agency (BCFMA), a Crown Agency.
- Responsibility for the relationship with the BCFMA lies with the Family Justice Services Division (FJSD) of the Justice Services Branch. The Executive Director of FJSD meets regularly with Joanne Hanson, the CEO of the BCFMA.
- Maintenance Enforcement and Locate Services (MELS) is a part of FJSD. MELS continues to have oversight of Family Maintenance Enforcement Act legislation and policy, as well as the budget for the BCFMA. The Director of Maintenance Enforcement is a legislative responsibility held by the Executive Director of FJSD.
- Together, the BCFMA and MELS help ensure BC families receive the financial support they are entitled to under court orders or agreements.
- In addition to providing legislative, policy and budget oversight, MELS programs support the work of the BCFMA. The model has created some shifts in the roles and responsibilities, how these shifts impact decision making continues to evolve.

**Current Appointees:**

- Richard J.M. Fyfe, Board of Directors, Chair
- Johanne Blenkin, Director
- Victoria Chan, Director
- Bikram Gill, Director
- Tracy Ann Porteous, Director
- Lisa Pryce, Director
- David Wells, Director

**Appointments Required:** N/A

**Issue(s):**

- A Memorandum of Understanding between the Province of BC, as represented by the Attorney General and the BCFMA is currently being developed to ensure roles and responsibilities for both are clearly set out.

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**Organizational Chart:**



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## CROWN AGENCY PROFILE

**Name:** BC Utilities Commission

**Legislative Authority:** *Utilities Commission Act and Insurance Corporation Act*

**Mandate:**

The British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) operates under the *Utilities Commission Act*, regulating utilities to ensure customers receive safe, reliable, and non-discriminatory energy services at fair rates, and that shareholders of those utilities are afforded a reasonable opportunity to earn a fair return on their invested capital.

**Current Appointees:**

Mark Jaccard, Chair and Chief Executive Officer	Elizabeth (Lisa) Brown, Commissioner (Full-time)
Anna Fung K.C., Deputy Chair, Commissioner (Full-time)	Wendy Royle, Commissioner (Full-time)
Carol Ann (Carolann) Brewer, Commissioner (Full-time)	Bernard A. Magnan, Commissioner (Part-time)
Dennis A. Cote, Commissioner (Part-time)	Thomas (Tom) Loski, Commissioner (Full-time)
Ana Dennier, Commissioner (Part-time)	Elizabeth (Blair) Lockhart, Commissioner (Full-time)
Richard Mason, Commissioner (Part-time)	Miriam Kresivo K.C., Commissioner (Part-time)

**Appointments Required:**

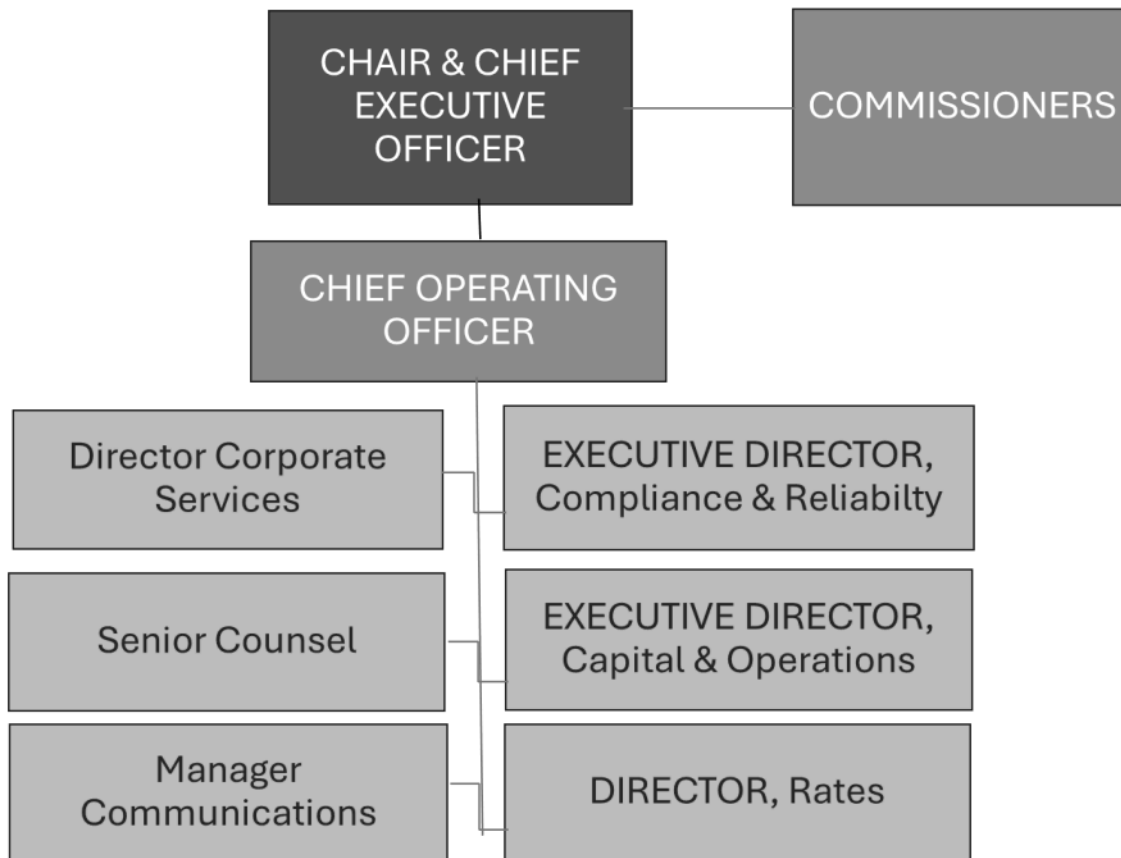
**30 Days**

- Thomas (Tom) Loski, Commissioner (Full-time)
  - Term expiry – November 26, 2024
  - Requested Term: 2 years
  - Bridge Appointment: November 26, 2024 – November 26, 2025

**Issue(s):** N/A

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**Organizational Chart:**



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## BRIEFING NOTE

### AGENCIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

**Name:** Tribunal Sector (20 tribunals)

**Mandate:**

There are 27 boards and tribunals in government, 20 of which are accountable to the Attorney General. The Tribunal and Agency Support Division (TASD) in Justice Services Branch supports operations and innovation within those tribunals accountable to the AG. Tribunals perform adjudicative or regulatory functions in the justice system. Tribunals are designed specifically to address the day-to-day needs of citizens seeking to resolve disputes or clarify their rights and entitlements within a specific legislative framework.

**Post Election Pending Appointments:**

- Bridged Appointments: 8
- Chair appointment: 1
- Reappointments: 6 members (Nov/Dec term expiry), 1 Chair (Feb. term expiry)

**Issue(s):**

- The collective operating budget for the 20 AG tribunals for 2024/25 is \$40.112 million.
  - The total number of FTE's is 374 as of September 9 forecast.
  - The total number of OIC and MO appointments is 289.
  - The total number of Section 6 temporary appointments is 4.
- Because of the design and the type of issues they deal with, tribunals and boards offer alternatives to the court system in a manner that is timely, appropriate, and more affordable to the public.
- Tribunals are part of “broader government” and are considered an arm of the Executive but operate independently when performing their decision-making functions. Tribunal independence means that they do not take direction from the Minister on the substantive issues before them. However, to ensure public accountability, tribunals must submit an annual report to the Minister Responsible on such topics as the nature and number of applications, or other matters they have dealt with, and the tribunal’s timeliness in dealing with them.
- Tribunals are accountable for their budgets and organizational operations and must disclose appointee remuneration every year to ensure the information is accessible and transparent to the public. Most tribunals employ a varying number of staff relevant for their operations. However, some have no staff, and are supported by ministry staff instead.
- The TASD supports this sector and improves access to justice by:
  - Developing consistent processes,
  - Clarifying accountabilities,

- Supporting business transformation,
- Introducing new technology, and
- Modernizing facilities.
- TASD collaborates with the Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office and the tribunal sector to recruit the most qualified and dedicated people for administrative tribunals and boards. TASD is also responsible for the Tribunal Performance Framework and Remuneration Plan, which outlines how remuneration is set and managed, in alignment with the Treasury Board Directive 1/24.

Boards and Tribunals (\*\* denotes accountable to AG)

Agricultural Land Commission  
 BC Farm Industry Review Board  
 BC Human Rights Tribunal \*\*  
 British Columbia Review Board \*\*  
 British Columbia Utilities Commission \*\*  
 Building Code Appeal Board \*\*  
 Civil Resolution Tribunal \*\*  
 Community Care and Assisted Living Appeal Board \*\*  
 Disciplinary and Professional Conduct Board  
 Employment and Assistance Appeal Tribunal  
 Employment Standards Tribunal \*\*  
 Energy Resource Appeal Tribunal\*\*  
 Environmental Appeal Board \*\*  
 Financial Services Tribunal \*\*  
 Forest Appeals Commission \*\*  
 Forest Practices Board  
 Health Care Practitioners' Special Committee for Audit Hearings  
 Health Professions Review Board \*\*  
 Hospital Appeal Board \*\*  
 Skilled Trade BC Appeal Board\*\*  
 Labour Relations Board \*\*  
 Mental Health Review Board \*\*  
 Passenger Transportation Board\*\*  
 Property Assessment Appeal Board \*\*  
 Safety Standards Appeal Board \*\*  
 Surface Rights Board \*\*  
 Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal

Key Contact:

- Zac Kremler
- Executive Director, Tribunal and Agency Support Division, Justice Services Branch
- Phone: 250-507-4464

## BRIEFING NOTE

### AGENCIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS

**Name:** Civil Resolution Tribunal

**Legislative Authority:**

*Civil Resolution Tribunal Act, Intimate Images Protection Act, Insurance (Vehicle) Act, Strata Property Act, Small Claims Act, Cooperative Association Act, Societies Act, Limitation Act*

**Mandate:**

The Civil Resolution Tribunal (CRT) provides dispute resolution services in relation to matters that are within its authority, including strata/condominium, small claims up to \$5000, societies and co-ops, and certain aspects of minor motor vehicle injury (MVI) disputes up to \$50,000. As of January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the CRT has new jurisdiction to hear claims under the *Intimate Images Protection Act*, enabling the tribunal to issue Protection Orders, Administrative Penalties or damages.

The CRT handles claims in a manner that:

- Is accessible, economical, informal and flexible;
- Applies principles of law and fairness, and recognizes any relationships between parties to a dispute that will likely continue after the tribunal proceeding is concluded;
- Uses electronic communication tools to facilitate resolution of disputes brought to the tribunal and prioritize pre-hearing resolution;
- Accommodates, so far as the tribunal considers reasonably practicable, the diversity of circumstances of the persons using the services of the tribunal.

**Current Appointees:**

Shelley Lopez, Chair	Debra Febril
Kate Campbell, Vice Chair	Mark Henderson
Eric Regehr, Vice Chair	David Jiang
Andrea Ritchie, Vice Chair	Peter Mennie
Kristin Gardner, Vice Chair	Maria Montgomery
Christopher Rivers, Vice Chair	Sarah Orr
Amanda Binnie	Deanna Rivers
J. Garth Cambrey	Navdeep Shukla
Mich Carmody	Megan Stewart
Jeffery Drozdiak	Alison Wake
Andrew Pendray	

Appointments:

- The CRT does not currently require any Appointments.

**Issue(s):**

**New Intimate Images Jurisdiction**

- *The Intimate Images Protection Act* was brought into force on January 29<sup>th</sup> 2024, and introduced new jurisdiction for the CRT that enables individuals to make a claim for intimate image protection orders, or request damages or penalties.

**New Chair**

- In April 2024, Shelley Lopez was appointed as Chair of the CRT, after acting in the Chair role since it became vacant in December 2023.

**Budget and Caseload**

- The fiscal year 2024/25 estimates budget for the tribunal sector is \$40.112 million.
- For internal budget management purposes, the Tribunal and Agency Support Division allocated the following amount to the CRT in 2024/25:  
Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information

- Caseload volumes (as of July 2024) are as follows:

	<b>Total disputes:</b>	<b>New disputes opened this month:</b>
All dispute areas combined	6837	800
Intimate Images	61	18
Motor Vehicle Injury	1,476	165
Accident Benefits	274	16
Accident Responsibility	166	24
Small claims	3,817	474
Strata Property	983	98
Societies and Cooperatives	60	5

**Key Contact:**

- Zac Kremler (he/him)
- Executive Director, Tribunals and Agency Support Division, Justice Services Branch
- Phone: 250-507-4464



## BRIEFING NOTE

### AGENCIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

**Name:** BC Human Rights Tribunal (BCHRT)

**Legislative Authority:** *Human Rights Code*

**Mandate:**

The BCHRT is an independent, quasi-judicial body created under the *Human Rights Code*. The tribunal is responsible for accepting, screening, mediating, and adjudicating human rights complaints. The BCHRT offers the parties to a complaint the opportunity to try to resolve the complaint through mediation prior to going to adjudication. Respondents have an opportunity to respond to a complaint and to apply to dismiss a complaint without a hearing. If the parties do not resolve a complaint and the complaint is not dismissed, the Tribunal holds a hearing.

**Current Appointees:**

Emily Ohler, Chair	Christopher Foy
Devyn Cousineau, Vice-Chair	Beverly Froese
Steven Adamson	Sonya Pighin
Ijeamaka Anika	Steve Perks
Shannon Beckett	Amber Prince
Kylie Buday	Andrew Robb
Jonathan Chapnick	Laila Said-Alam
Robin Dean	Kathleen Smith
Jessica Derynck	Karen Snowshoe
Theresa Etmanski	Edward Takayanagi

**Appointments required:**

- N/A

**Issue(s):**

- The Tribunals and Agency Support Division (TASD) is assisting the BCHRT to effectively manage its growing caseload, which is the result of systemic and unprecedented challenges within the past five years. These matters include the addition of gender identity and expression to the *Human Rights Code*, the establishment of the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner, which reinvigorated a focus on human rights issues, and many pandemic-related complaints.
- The Ministry has been actively working with BCHRT on initiatives aimed at addressing its caseload, which include:
  - relieving current resource and budgetary pressures, in addition to forecasting future budget needs as related to case volumes;
  - implementing changes to complaint screening practices and workflow model to improve processing times;

- increasing member and staff capacity through organizational restructuring and recruitment;
  - implementing projects to resolve the backlog of pandemic-related cases and applications to dismiss complaints without a hearing; and
  - developing strategies to address group and class complaints and multi-filers.
- The Ministry continues ongoing dialogue with the Tribunal to address the complaint volumes and backlogged files. While the BCHRT has made progress in increasing its case resolution rates, the volume of new complaints is projected to continue increasing in the coming years, presenting ongoing resource and capacity challenges for the Tribunal.

**Budget and Caseload:**

Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information

- BCHRT received 2,537 new cases in the 2023/24 fiscal year and resolved 2,023 cases.

**Key Contact:**

- Zac Kremler
- Executive Director, Tribunal and Agency Support Division, Justice Services Branch
- Phone: 250-507-4464

## BRIEFING NOTE

**Name:** Independent Investigations Office of BC

**Legislative Authority:** *Police Act*

**Mandate:** The Independent Investigations Office of BC (IIO) is a civilian-led oversight of law enforcement body, which is mandated to investigate incidents of death or serious harm involving police officers, including RCMP and special provincial constables, in British Columbia. The IIO is established as a police force under Part 7.1 of the *Police Act* and per s.38.9 and s.38.10, officers or the Chief of Police must immediately notify the IIO of any incidents that may be subject to the IIO's mandate.

The IIO is situated within the Ministry of Attorney General as a separate voted appropriation to support the independence of the office. The IIO is under the leadership of a Chief Civilian Director (CCD), who is, by statute, not permitted to have ever served as a police officer. The CCD is appointed for a 5-year term with the possibility of one additional term. As the IIO is part of the Ministry of Attorney General, the CCD is ultimately accountable to the Attorney General (AG) and functionally accountable to the Deputy Attorney General (DAG). The AG is, in turn, accountable to the Legislative Assembly with respect to the IIO's compliance with government-wide requirements.

Some aspects of the IIO operations fall under the superintendence of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, including standards related to training, use of force, cooperation between law enforcement agencies, and investigative standards.

Upon completion of an IIO investigation, the CCD of the IIO considers whether or not there are reasonable grounds to believe that an officer may have committed an offence. If the CCD concludes those grounds exist, they may refer the matter to Crown Counsel for consideration of charges. If the CCD does not find that reasonable grounds exist, a public report that includes the reasons for the decision, a synopsis of the incident, and a summary of the results of the investigation is published on the IIO website if it is in the public interest to do so.

In addition to the IIO, there are two other independent agencies mandated to provide police oversight in British Columbia. The Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner (OPCC) is an Independent Office of the Legislature with a mandate to observe and monitor administrative investigations into misconduct complaints made against municipal police. The Civilian Review and Complaints Commission (CRCC) for the RCMP oversees the handling of conduct issues involving members of the RCMP and ensures that public complaints made about the conduct of RCMP members are examined fairly and impartially.

### **Current Appointees:**

Jessica Charlotte Berglund (appointed September 20, 2024, for a 5-year term)

### **Issue(s):**

- The IIO has seen the appointment of a new CCD, commencing September 20, 2024. Upon orientation and through this transition, it is to be determined whether the CCD will identify/develop new organization processes and priorities.
- On April 29, 2022, the Special Committee on Reforming the *Police Act* (Special Committee) released its report containing 11 recommendations, one of which was to establish a single, independent, civilian-led oversight agency responsible for overseeing conduct, complaints, investigations, and disciplinary

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matters for all police and public safety personnel with powers or authority under new stand-alone oversight legislation. BC's Policing and Public Safety Modernization (PPSM) Initiative was developed in response to the Report and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG) is leading government's response to the Special Committee recommendations and the PPSM initiative, with a comprehensive review of the police oversight system in British Columbia.

- As part of the police oversight review, MNP, an independent consulting firm, was contracted by PSSG in November 2023, to analyze three different police oversight models under consideration.
  - MNP's final report was provided to PSSG on April 23, 2024, and provides an overview of BC's current police oversight system, along with detailed analysis and recommendations on three different options for police oversight reform.
  - Each model considers the potential impacts and requirements associated with an expansion of the IIO or a single oversight agency mandate to include sexual assault and intimate partner violence investigations. Each option also considers and includes elements of Indigenous oversight.
- Justice Services Branch (JSB) and Policing and Security Branch (PSB) staff have also been working to explore how to best address police cooperation with the IIO and determine avenues to strengthen the statutory duty to cooperate. This issue will be considered as part of police oversight reform.
- The former CCD has questioned the efficiency and efficacy of the referral process to Crown Counsel and has made public comments with respect to the perceived need to improve charge approval rates.
- The IIO has also raised concerns with respect to being subject to the BC Public Service management classification and compensation framework (the framework). The framework offers IIO Investigators a salary that is lower than many other law enforcement agencies, and does not provide any standby, call out, or overtime pay. This results in the IIO being at a significant disadvantage with respect to recruitment and retention, while competing for the same talent that other law enforcement agencies are seeking to hire.

**Key Contact:**

- Laurel Holonko
- Director, Strategic Relationship, Justice Services Branch
- 778-621-2137

## BRIEFING NOTE

### AGENCIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

**Name:** Mental Health Review Board

**Legislative Authority:** *Mental Health Act*

**Mandate:**

The Mental Health Review Board (“the Board”) conducts review panel hearings for patients admitted by physicians and detained involuntarily in provincial mental health facilities in a manner that is consistent with the principles of fundamental justice and section 7 of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. The Board has a duty to provide patients fair, timely and independent reviews of their loss of liberty.

The Board’s values are: Procedural Fairness of Hearings, Patient-Oriented Service Excellence, Public Confidence and Accountability, and Innovation.

**Current Appointees:**

The Board is comprised of 65 part-time members appointed in accordance with the *Mental Health Act* and the *Administrative Tribunals Act*. A list of all members is available on the Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office Website (<https://www.bcpublicsectorboardapplications.gov.bc.ca/s/tribunaldetail?boardNum=A-0545>).

The permanent part-time Chair is Paul Singh (date of MO expiry: May 2, 2025).

**Appointments required:**

- The Board Chair’s term will expire in May 2025, and he is not seeking reappointment.
- A merit-based competition process is currently underway, and appointment of a new Chair will be required once the competition concludes.

**Issue(s):**

- In partnership with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, the Ministry of Attorney General’s Legal Access Policy Division is leading the implementation of a Rights Advice Service for individuals who are involuntarily admitted under the *Mental Health Act*. The implementation plan anticipates that the Service will be available at all 75 facilities designated under the *Mental Health Act* by November 2024. The province-wide launch of the Service will impact the Board and the Tribunals and Agency Supports Division (TASD) is working to ensure support of the Board during this transition and implementation.
- Health Justice recently published a report titled “Upstream Barriers, Downstream Crisis: Denial of Justice under BC’s Mental Health Act” which included recommendations for the Board, including a review of the budget to ensure accessibility and fairness, and discontinuing one-sided funding of parties that appear before the Board. TASD supporting the Board in addressing the report’s recommendations.

**Budget and Caseload:**

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information

- In 2023/24 MHRB processed 2,569 applications at an approximate cost of \$1,190 per application.

Key Contact:

- Zac Kremler
- Executive Director, Tribunal and Agency Support Division, Justice Services Branch
- Phone: 250-507-4464

BRIEFING NOTE

AGENCIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS

**Name:** Passenger Transportation Board

**Legislative Authority:** *Passenger Transportation Act*

**Mandate:**

The Passenger Transportation Board (PTB) is an independent tribunal established under the *Passenger Transportation Act* that licenses and oversees passenger directed transportation in British Columbia.

The PTB ensures services like taxis, ride hailing, limousines and inter-city buses are safe, reliable, affordable and sustainable for the benefit of the public. With the introduction of ride-hailing in B.C. and the expansion of the PTB's mandate, the PTB now has regulatory authority over the licensing and operation of ride-hailing, as well as Passenger Directed Vehicles (PDV) and Inter-City Buses (ICB).

On April 1, 2024, the PTB transitioned from reporting to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to the Ministry of Attorney General. This transition is now complete. This change does not alter the role or mandate of the PTB.

**Current Appointees:**

Baljinder Narang, Chair	David Black
Patricia Bood	Garland Chow
Mary Childs	Kyong-ae Kim
Sophia Redmond	James Savage

**Appointments required:**

- The PTB has one bridged appointment that expires on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

**Issue(s):**

**Special Committee Report:**

- In February 2024 the Legislative Assembly agreed that a Special Committee to Review Passenger Directed Vehicles be appointed. In May 2024, a Special Committee appointed by the Legislative Assembly presented its report reviewing passenger directed vehicle services and transportation network companies administered under the Act.

Advice/Recommendations

-

**Budget:**

- Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences
- 

**Key Contact:**

- Zac Kremler (he/him)
- Executive Director, Tribunals and Agency Support Division, Justice Services Branch
- Phone: 250-507-4464



## BRIEFING NOTE

**Name:** Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia

**Legislative Authority:** *Public Guardian and Trustee Act*

**Mandate:**

The Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia (PGT) is a corporation sole established by the *Public Guardian and Trustee Act* (PGT Act). The office was established in 1963 and with the February 2000 implementation of the PGT Act, the name and role of the office changed from Public Trustee of British Columbia to the Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia. The PGT holds office for a fixed term of six years; the appointment may be renewed once for a further term of six years.

The PGT has roles under more than twenty provincial statutes.<sup>1</sup> British Columbians become clients of the PGT through legislation, court order, trust deed and by referral, and do so because they lack legal capacity to protect their own interests. The PGT is accountable to clients, the Court, and through the service delivery plan and annual report, the public.

The PGT's mandate generally relates to the following three areas:

- protecting the legal and financial interests of children under the age of 19 years,
- protecting the legal, financial, personal and health care interests of adults who require assistance in decision making; and
- administering the estates of deceased and missing persons.

Under the PGT Act, the PGT must, annually, submit a three-year service delivery plan to the Attorney General for approval which must subsequently be submitted to Treasury Board. The PGT must also submit an annual report to the Attorney General to be tabled before the Legislative Assembly.

The PGT is independent with respect to all client matters, including client finances and investment, client and program IT systems, and strategic planning and reporting. This independence allows for the PGT to take a position which is sometimes adverse to government on behalf of clients. The PGT is connected to government on all HR and corporate finance activities, and has legislated reporting and accountabilities including independently audited financial statements and performance measures.

The PGT meets quarterly with the Deputy Attorney General to provide updates on PGT initiatives, statutory accountabilities, and areas of concern that may impact government.

**Current Appointees:**

Dana Kingsbury, Public Guardian and Trustee (appointed May 1, 2021, for a 6-year term)

**Appointments required:**

- N/A

**Issue(s):**

- The PGT, with Ministry of Attorney General and Ministry of Health staff, are awaiting a report from the

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<sup>1</sup> Key provincial statutes include: *Adoption Act; Adult Guardianship Act; Child, Family and Community Service Act; Community Care and Assisted Living Act; Cremation Interment and Funeral Services Act; Employment Standards Act; Estates of Missing Persons Act; Family Law Act; Health Care (Consent) and Care Facility (Admission) Act; Hospital Act; Infants Act; Insurance Act; Insurance (Vehicle) Act; Limitation Act; Marriage Act; Patients Property Act; Power of Attorney Act; Public Guardian and Trustee Act; Representation Agreement Act; Trust and Settlement Variation Act; Trustee Act; Wills, Estates and Succession Act.*

Office of the Human Rights Commissioner regarding an Inquiry into involuntary detentions under the adult abuse and neglect response framework under the *Adult Guardianship Act*. It is anticipated that the report will be released in late Fall 2024. Prior to the Inquiry, work had commenced to review the province's adult abuse and response framework, and work will continue to progress the review.

• Advice/Recommendations

**Key Contact:**

- Laurel Holonko
- Director, Strategic Relationships, Justice Services Branch
- 778-621-2137

## BRIEFING NOTE

### STATUTORY OFFICERS/OFFICES UNDER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

#### Elections BC

**Legislative Authority:** *Elections Act*

**Mandate:** To serve democracy in British Columbia through the fair and impartial administration of electoral processes.

**Current Appointee:** Anton Boegman (appointed June 1, 2018, for two elections plus one year)

**Issue(s):** Currently managing the upcoming Provincial election.

#### Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner

**Legislative Authority:** *Members' Conflict of Interest Act*

**Mandate:** Works to ensure that Members do not use elected office to further their private interests.

**Current Appointee:** Hon. Victoria Gray, KC (appointed January 6, 2020, for a 5-year term)

**Issue(s):** Significant engagement with all Members of the Legislative Assembly to occur post-Provincial Election.

#### BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner

**Legislative Authority:** *Human Rights Code*

**Mandate:** To address the root causes of inequality, discrimination and injustice in B.C., including the strategic priorities of decolonization and combating hate and the rise of white supremacy.

**Current Appointee:** Kasari Govender, KC (reappointed for a second 5-year term September 3, 2024)

**Issue(s):** Three reports involving the Ministry of Attorney General (MAG) mandate:

- Rights in Focus: Lived Realities in B.C.: A review of the state of human rights issues in BC, highlighting 10 key areas including housing, social safety net, education, employment, health care, public spaces, criminal justice, family, child welfare and the effects of environmental crisis. No recommendations made to government.
- Inquiry into detentions under the Adult Guardianship Act: The Public Guardian and Trustee, MAG and Ministry of Health staff are awaiting a report on this Inquiry; anticipated release date is late Fall 2024.
- From hate to hope Inquiry into hate in the COVID-19 pandemic: The report examines the dramatic increase in incidences of hate during the pandemic. A detailed, MAG-led initial government response to the report's recommendations has been provided to the Commissioner.

## **Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists for BC**

**Legislative Authority:** *Lobbyists Transparency Act*

**Mandate:** The office works to promote transparency by requiring lobbyists to declare details of their lobbying efforts on an online, publicly accessible lobbyists registry.

**Current Appointees:** Michael Harvey (appointed May 2024, for a 6-year term)

## **Office of the Ombudsperson of BC**

**Legislative Authority:** *Ombudsperson Act*

**Mandate:** The Office of the Ombudsperson oversees public sector services in order to ensure fairness and accountability. The Office investigates concerns for unfair treatment, systemic practices and wrongdoing, and works to negotiate resolution and/or make recommendations to government.

**Current Appointees:** Jay Chalke (re-appointed July 1, 2021, for a second 6-year term)

**Issue(s):** There is one report of note, Hire Power: The Ombudsperson's first report under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act*. Recommendations were made to and accepted by the Public Service Agency.

## **Office of the Representative for Children and Youth**

**Legislative Authority:** *Representative for Children and Youth Act*

**Mandate:** The Representative has three main functions respecting children and their families: advocacy; monitoring; and investigations of critical injuries and deaths. In addition, the Representative may advocate on behalf of included adults with respect to prescribed services.

**Current Appointees:** Jennifer Charlesworth (reappointed October 1, 2023, for a second 5-year term)

**Issue(s):** One current report involving the MAG mandate:

- Don't Look Away – How one boy's story has the power to shift a system of care for children and youth (the Report). The Report centres around the concept of transitioning services from a "Child Protection" approach to one of "Child Well-Being". The first recommendation is to "establish a Child Well-Being Strategy and Action Plan to guide a coordinated whole-of-government approach that will improve the well-being and outcomes for all children". Led by the Ministry for Children and Family Development, the Province will establish a cross-ministry group of senior public officials to commence responsive work.
- The Representative has expressed interest in examining mandate parameters in light of Indigenous Peoples' resumption of jurisdiction for their child welfare matters per the *Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act*.

Key Contact:

- Laurel Holonko
- Director, Strategic Relationship, Justice Services Branch
- 778-621-2137

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**MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KEY STAKEHOLDERS**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Key Issues / Interests</b>
Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formed in 2018 by Tsawwassen First Nation, Tla’amin Nation, and the Maa-nulth Treaty Nations. Nisga’a Nation joined the Alliance in 2019.</li> <li>• Aims to advance areas of shared interest relating to the implementation of modern treaties in BC and works on diverse issues requiring joint action, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• emphasizing the constitutional nature of treaty rights, and</li> <li>• improving government-to-government relationship.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>‘Shared Priorities Framework’ signed in 2022 between BC and the Alliance members establishes a shared path for advancing the implementation of modern treaties in BC.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative reform:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Consulted on the implementation of the Treaty First Nation Violation Ticket Disputes Project</li> <li>○ Quarterly meetings to keep them apprised of AG legislative and policy agenda</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Anti-racism legislation</li> <li>• The action plan of the Anti-Racism Act</li> <li>• Anti-Indigenous Racism strategy</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
Alternate Dispute Resolution Institute of BC	<p>Comprised of over 250 member Arbitrators and Mediators throughout BC and the Yukon, experienced in all professional fields, the Institute is a multifaceted organization that provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arbitration and Mediation training programs</li> <li>• National designations for its members</li> <li>• Referral and appointment services for arbitrators, mediators, clients and the public</li> <li>• Information on ADR and a member database search resource for the public</li> <li>• Annual Symposium and other professional development and networking events for ADR professionals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arbitration and Mediation</li> </ul>
BC Court of Appeal - Office of the Chief Justice	<p>Appeals from Provincial Court decisions go to either the Supreme Court of BC or the BC Court of Appeal, depending upon the nature of the case.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative reform</li> <li>• Court Modernization</li> <li>• Court staff resource allocation.</li> <li>• Policy improvements</li> <li>• Appeals process scheduling</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
BC Supreme Court Office of the Chief Justice	Hears both civil and criminal cases as well as appeals from Provincial Court. The Court also reviews decisions of administrative tribunals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative reform</li> <li>• Court Modernization</li> <li>• Court staff resource allocation.</li> <li>• Policy improvements</li> <li>• Scheduling court processes</li> </ul>
Provincial Court of BC Office of the Chief Judge	Jurisdiction includes criminal, family, child protection, small claims, traffic and bylaw cases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative reform</li> <li>• Court Modernization</li> <li>• Court staff resource allocation</li> <li>• Policy improvements</li> <li>• Provincial court matters scheduling</li> </ul>
Courthouse Libraries BC	To assist lawyers and the community to find and use legal information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-represented litigants</li> <li>• Low Bono</li> <li>• Pro bono</li> <li>• Online legal information</li> <li>• Lawyer training &amp; Education</li> <li>• Courthouse Meeting Space</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
Judicial Council of the Provincial Court of BC	<p>Objective is to improve the quality of judicial services. Its mandate includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Screening candidates applying for appointments as Judges and Judicial Justices,</li> <li>• Conducting inquiries into the conduct of Judges and Judicial Justices,</li> <li>• Considering proposals for improvements to judicial services,</li> <li>• Continuing the education of Judges and organizing conferences,</li> <li>• Preparing and revising a Code of Ethics for the judiciary, and</li> <li>• Reporting to the Attorney General when required.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advise government on appointments of Provincial Court judges and judicial justices.</li> </ul>
Society of Translators and Interpreters of BC	<p>A non-profit professional association and an affiliate of the Canadian Translators, Terminologists and Interpreter Council. Their goals are to promote the interests of Translators and Interpreters in BC and to serve the public by providing both a Code of Ethics and a system of certification. Consists of 12 founding members and approximately 300 certified translators and interpreters, certified in over 80 language combinations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative reform</li> <li>• Court staff resource allocation</li> <li>• Policy improvements</li> </ul>



Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
Association of Legal Aid Lawyers	ALL's purpose is to better serve members of the public in need of legal services through advocacy, public education and providing support to over six hundred members of the British Columbia Legal Aid Bar who provide legal aid services in the following areas: Criminal, Family, Child Protection, and Immigration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To educate the public, legislators and policy-makers concerning the need for properly funded legal aid services</li> <li>• Negotiating a tariff agreement with government (current agreement expires March 31, 2025)</li> <li>• Providing input into justice discussions on behalf of legal aid lawyers and their clients</li> </ul>
Trial Lawyers Association of BC	Mission is to support and promote diligence and excellence in advocacy and jurisprudence on behalf of consumers in BC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative reform</li> <li>• Court staff resource allocation</li> <li>• Policy improvements</li> <li>• ICBC shift to Enhanced Care coverage</li> <li>• Constitutionality of Civil Resolution Tribunal</li> <li>• Limits on expert reports and disbursements in motor vehicle litigation</li> <li>• Regulation of the legal professions</li> </ul>
Justice Institute of BC Corrections and Court Services Division	Partners with Family Justice Services Division to train all new Family Justice Counsellor recruits and to secure national accreditation as family mediators. Provides ongoing training to ensure staff meet legislative standards for family dispute resolution practitioners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education relating to public safety and conflict resolution.</li> </ul>
Access Pro Bono Society of BC	Promotes access to justice in BC by providing and fostering quality pro bono legal services for people and non-profit organizations of limited means. The Society partners with Family Justice Services Division to provide free legal advice for civil matters in Justice Access Centres.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pro bono legal services for people and non-profit organizations of limited means.</li> <li>• Regulation of legal professions</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
BC Civil Liberties Association	Mandate is to preserve, defend, maintain and extend civil liberties and human rights in Canada through their advocacy, public policy, community education, and justice programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law and policy reform to protect civil liberties and fundamental rights and freedoms.</li> </ul>
BC Council of Administrative Tribunals	A member-based organization that supports the administrative justice community, aiming to enhance the knowledge and specialized skills of tribunal and regulatory board professionals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issues concerning the administration, development and improvement of the administrative justice system.</li> </ul>
BC Family Maintenance Agency	<p>The BC Family Maintenance Agency (BCFMA) was incorporated in June 2019. The responsibility for the Family Maintenance Enforcement Program (FMEP) was transferred from a contracted service to the BCFMA on November 1, 2019.</p> <p>BCFMA works to support the goals of increasing access to justice, reducing child poverty and delivering services to citizens in a customer-focused way.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family maintenance enforcement</li> <li>• Access to justice</li> <li>• Reducing child poverty</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
BC First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC)	Aims to provide a collective approach to address key issues and concerns that First Nations people face with the justice system in British Columbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of First Nations Justice Strategy</li> <li>• Dual mandate of advocating to address the overrepresentation of First Nations peoples in jails and of First Nations children in care</li> <li>• Responsible for Indigenous Justice Centres which provide culturally appropriate information, advice, support and representation to Indigenous people at the community level</li> <li>• Justice reform</li> </ul>
BC Law Institute	Works to promote law reform, improvement of justice, and scholarly legal research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research and analysis in law reform</li> </ul>
BC211	Free and confidential service that connects the public to helpful and vital resources in their community, including legal information and advice.	<p>Provide information and referral to a broad range of community, government, and social services to assist with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic needs like food and shelter</li> <li>• Mental health and addictions support</li> <li>• Legal and financial assistance</li> <li>• Support for seniors, newcomers</li> </ul>
BC Review Board	Makes and reviews dispositions regarding individuals charged with offenses where verdicts of not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder or unfit to stand trial on account of mental disorder, have been rendered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review criminal court dispositions regarding verdicts of not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder or unfit to stand trial on account of mental disorder.</li> <li>• NCRMD matters.</li> <li>• Fitness assessments.</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
Canadian Bar Association BC Branch	The essential ally and advocate of all members of the legal profession, is committed to enhancing the professional and commercial interests of a diverse membership and to protect the independence of the judiciary and the Bar.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional development</li> <li>• Public Education</li> <li>• Justice reform</li> <li>• Regulation of legal professions</li> </ul>
Canadian Mental Health Association BC	Provides advocacy and resources that aim to help prevent mental health problems, support recovery and resilience, and enable all Canadians to flourish and thrive. At the BC Division (CMHA BC), CMHA's mandate also includes supporting people with substance use challenges.	Contracted to deliver the Independent Rights Advice Service which provides information to people who are detained and experiencing involuntary treatment under the Mental Health Act.
Civil Resolution Tribunal	An alternative to court for people seeking to resolve small claims and most strata property disputes.	Tribunal for handling strata, small claims disputes, and certain motor vehicle claims disputes, including disputes related to ICBC's new Enhanced Care coverage.
Community Legal Assistance Society of BC	Provides legal assistance to disadvantaged people throughout BC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-profit legal assistance to disadvantaged citizens.</li> <li>• Responsible for the Human Rights Clinic</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy	Improving quality of justice through criminal justice reform, policy and practice. Promotes democratic principles, the rule of law and respect for human rights in criminal law and the administration of criminal justice. Also provides advice, information, research and proposals for policy development and legislation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1096 238 1671 272">• Criminal justice reform, policy, and practice.</li> </ul>
Family Mediation Canada (FMC)	Supports the ongoing development of excellence and professionalism within its organization and in mediation practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1096 527 1860 594">• All Family Justice Counsellors (within Family Justice Services Division, JSB) are certified family mediators through FMC.</li> </ul>
Judicial Justices Association	British Columbia's judicial justices are judicial officers who exercise authority under various provincial and federal laws. They are assigned a variety of duties by the Chief Judge. Some judicial justices preside in courtrooms throughout the province, hearing traffic matters and ticketable offences under provincial laws, as well as municipal bylaw matters. They may also conduct small claims payment hearings. Others are assigned judicial duties at the Justice Centre, where they consider search warrant applications and hear applications for detention or bail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1096 790 1419 824">• Judicial compensation.</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
Justice Education Society BC	Mission is to build stronger communities by promoting understanding of, access to, and confidence in our justice system, at home and abroad.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to justice</li> <li>• Public legal education and information</li> </ul>
Justice Institute of BC Centre for Conflict Resolution	Offers courses designed to improve ability to respond to conflict and contribute to building stronger organizations and communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public legal education and information.</li> </ul>
Justice and Public Safety Council	The Justice and Public Safety Council was established in April 2013, in accordance with the Justice Reform and Transparency Act. The council, which is appointed by the Attorney General, is responsible for: setting the strategic direction and vision for the provincial justice system through an annual Justice and Public Safety Plan; engaging in dialogue with justice and public safety participants and stakeholders; and guiding the way to open, transparent and accountable leadership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Justice and public safety plan</li> <li>• Justice summits</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
Law Foundation of British Columbia	Their legislative mandate is to fund legal education, legal research, legal aid, law reform and law libraries for the benefit of British Columbians.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal education</li> <li>• Legal research</li> <li>• Legal aid, law reform, and law libraries.</li> <li>• The Ministry provides funding to the Law Foundation to support 8 legal clinics and 8 advocacy programs</li> </ul>
Legal Aid BC	Mandate is to help solve legal problems and facilitate access to justice, establish and administer a system for providing legal aid in BC, and provide advice to the Attorney General about legal aid and access to justice in BC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The provision of legal aid to low-income persons.</li> </ul>
Mediate BC	Mission is to lead, promote and facilitate mediation and other collaborative dispute resolution processes throughout BC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mediation</li> </ul>
Métis Nation British Columbia	<p>MNBC represents 38 Métis Chartered Communities in British Columbia.</p> <p>MNBC's mandate is to develop and enhance opportunities for Métis communities by implementing culturally relevant, social, and economic programs, and services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Métis Justice Strategy</li> <li>• Anti-racism legislation</li> <li>• The action plan of Anti-Racism Act</li> <li>• Anti-Indigenous Racism strategy.</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of BC	Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of BC operates in 51 of B.C.'s courthouses, as well as providing supports to clients in virtual bail hearings, two First Nations Courts (New Westminster and Duncan) and the Downtown Community Court in Vancouver.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Indigenous Courtworker (ICW) program ensures Indigenous Peoples in conflict with the law receive fair, equitable, and culturally sensitive treatment while in the court system.</li> </ul>
National Action Committee on Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters	The Action Committee provides high-profile national leadership to advance access to civil and family justice in Canada.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Track of Canada's Justice Development Goals</li> <li>Measuring the Impact of Legal Service Interventions</li> </ul>
Pivot Legal Society	Pivot works in partnership with communities affected by poverty and social exclusion to identify priorities and develop solutions to complex human rights issues. Their work is focused in four policy areas: police accountability, health and drug policy, homelessness, and sex workers' rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human rights</li> </ul>



Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
Provincial Court Judges' Association of British Columbia	The Provincial Court Judges Association of British Columbia supports the mandate of the Judicial Compensation Commission (JCC) to report to the Minister and the Chief Judge regarding all matters respecting the remuneration, allowances or benefits for judges and judicial justices of the Provincial Court of British Columbia and to make recommendations in relation to those matters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Judicial Compensation Commission Issues</li> </ul>
Public Guardian and Trustee of BC	Operates under provincial law to protect the legal rights and financial interests of children, to provide assistance to adults who need support for financial and personal decision making, and to administer the estates of deceased and missing persons where there is no one else able to do so.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocacy and protection of legal rights</li> </ul>
Society for Children and Youth	Operates a child and youth legal centre that provides free legal support for young people who are experiencing problems relating to family law, child protection, a breach of human rights and many other legal issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receives an annual grant of \$730k from the Ministry to provide services across the province</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
Society of Notaries Public of BC	Mission is to ensure that its members provide the highest standard of notary service to the public. The Notary Foundation of BC governs and administers all assets and affairs of the Notary Foundation and its associated fund. The Board of Examiners is to conduct the examinations of applicants for enrolment as a member of the Society of Notaries Public of BC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulation of Notaries in BC.</li> </ul>
BC Paralegal Association	With representation across the province, the BCPA gives a unified voice to paralegals in firms, at in-house roles, in government ministries, as contractors or students, and educational administrators. Provides key representation to government and governing bodies for paralegals during the transition to a single legal regulator.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal Professions Act transition</li> <li>• Scope of practice for paralegals to practice independently</li> </ul>
University of Victoria Access to Justice Centre for Excellence (UVic ACE)	The UVic Access to Justice Centre for Excellence (ACE) was established by the University of Victoria, Faculty of Law late in 2015 in response to the growing concern within the justice community about the problem of diminishing access to justice, and in the belief that there is a unique and important role that the academy can and should play in the resolution of this problem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to justice</li> <li>• Development of justice metrics</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
West Coast Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF)	Aims to end discrimination against women using equality rights litigation, law reform, and public legal education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law reform</li> <li>• Public legal education</li> </ul>
RISE Women’s Legal Centre	A community legal centre providing accessible legal services to self-identified women and gender diverse people in BC. The focus is on limited legal services for economically disadvantaged clients representing themselves on family law matters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issues related to family violence, including improving courthouse safety</li> <li>• Parenting assessments</li> <li>• Trauma-informed practices</li> </ul>
YWCA Metro Vancouver	Advocates for access to justice and supporting survivors of family violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting family violence survivors with family law, immigration and child protection matters</li> <li>• Transition housing and other supports</li> </ul>
BC Society of Transition Houses	Supports anti-violence workers in British Columbia who deliver support services and programs for women, children and youth experiencing violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivering training to anti-violence organizations</li> <li>• Advocating to government</li> <li>• Public education and prevention</li> <li>• Research on legal issues, policy and practice</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
Battered Women’s Support Services	Support for survivors and victims of gender based violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community-based legal clinic</li> <li>• Professional training and presentations</li> <li>• Provide data, research and policy analytics to community based campaigns</li> </ul>
Ending Violence Association of BC (EVA BC)	A member organization that supports, trains and advocates for anti-violence workers in almost 300 anti-violence programs across the province that respond to sexual and intimate partner violence, child abuse, and criminal harassment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program support services</li> <li>• Communities of practice</li> <li>• Consultation with government</li> <li>• Training, including Interagency Case Assessment Team training</li> <li>• Leads the Community Coordination for Survivor Safety; Justice Services Branch participates in the CCSS steering committee</li> </ul>
Independent Investigations Office	Conducts criminal investigations regarding police-related incidents involving death or serious harm.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police-involved matters</li> <li>• Public education</li> <li>• Oversight of policing</li> </ul>
Office of the Ombudsperson	Assists with and investigate complaints from members of the public about the administration of government programs and services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public interest disclosure act/whistleblower protection law</li> <li>• Investigates, notifies impacted people/services, makes recommendations</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
Department of Justice	The federal Minister of Justice and Attorney General are combined into one cabinet position. The Attorney General is the chief law officer of the Crown and the Minister of Justice is concerned with questions of policy in relation to the justice system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal counterpart for justice and federal Attorney General</li> <li>• Tracking and publicly reporting on the progress of commitments</li> <li>• Assessing the effectiveness</li> <li>• Aligning resources with priorities</li> <li>• Provides the Ministry with funding annually for criminal legal aid under a cost sharing agreement</li> </ul>
BC Notaries Association	The BC Notaries Association represents over 400 Notary Public professionals who provide non-contentious legal services across British Columbia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal professions reform</li> </ul>
Attorney General's Supreme Court Civil & Family Rules Committee	Assists the Attorney General in making recommendations for rule changes to the Lieutenant Governor in Council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative reform</li> <li>• Policy improvements</li> </ul>
Law Society of British Columbia	Regulates the legal profession in BC, protecting the public interest in the administration of justice by setting and enforcing standards of professional conduct for lawyers. Ensures the public is well served by legal professionals who are honourable and competent. Also brings a voice to issues affecting the justice system and the delivery of legal services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative reform</li> <li>• Court staff resource allocation</li> <li>• Policy improvements</li> <li>• Labour relations</li> <li>• Public education</li> <li>• Justice reform</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
Camosun College School of Business	LSB participates in practicum programs for paralegal and legal support staff, and supports some employees through Pacific Leaders in professional development and training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment</li> </ul>
Canadian Forum on Civil Justice	A non-profit, independent organization dedicated to bringing together the public, the courts, the legal profession and government in order to promote a civil justice system that is accessible, effective, fair and efficient.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law reform concerning civil justice</li> <li>• Research and advocacy</li> </ul>
Capilano University School of Legal Studies	LSB participates in practicum programs for paralegal and legal support staff, and supports some employees through Pacific Leaders in professional development and training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment</li> </ul>
People's Law School	A non-profit charitable society that provides public legal education and information to people in BC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public legal education and information</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
University of British Columbia Faculty of Law	LSB's Articled Student Program participates in recruitment programs at British Columbia law schools. Additionally, LSB has partnered with educational institutions for professional development activities. A number of legal counsels teach at various law schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment</li> <li>• Teaching</li> <li>• Responsible for the Law Students Legal Advice Program, which provides free legal advice and representation to clients in the Lower Mainland who would otherwise be unable to afford legal assistance.</li> </ul>
University of Victoria Faculty of Law	LSB's Articled Student Program participates in recruitment programs at British Columbia law schools. Additionally, LSB has partnered with educational institutions for professional development activities. A number of legal counsel teach at various law schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment</li> <li>• Teaching</li> <li>• Responsible for The Law Centre, which provides free legal advice, assistance and representation to clients who cannot afford a lawyer. Also provides legal education programs to the public.</li> </ul>
Thompson Rivers University Faculty of Law	LSB's Articled Student Program participates in recruitment programs at British Columbia law schools. Additionally, LSB has partnered with educational institutions for professional development activities. A number of legal counsel teach at various law schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment</li> <li>• Teaching</li> <li>• Responsible for the Thompson Rivers University Community Legal Clinic, which provides a student-staffed free legal clinic in the BC Interior to provide legal assistance and advice in a range of areas to those who would otherwise be unable to afford legal assistance.</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
Multicultural Advisory Council (MAC)	The Multicultural Advisory Council (MAC) is a legislated body created to provide advice to the Minister for Multiculturalism on issues related to multiculturalism and anti-racism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MAC were very active throughout the COVID-19 pandemic in providing the Minister and Premier with advice on issues of race and racism.</li> <li>• The members are keenly interested in seeing Government implement the new anti-racism legislation and have been providing continuous feedback. BC They are also keen to see Government continue with the Police Act review process in 2020/21.</li> <li>• MAC members supported the 2019 consultations on racism led by Parliamentary Secretary Ravi Kahlon, provide input and feedback into the annual Report on Multiculturalism and the provincial Anti-Racism and Multiculturalism Awards.</li> </ul>
Resilience BC Anti-Racism Network	The Resilience BC Anti-Racism Network offers a multi-faceted, province wide approach with greater focus and leadership in identifying and challenging racism. The program connects communities with information, supports and training they need to respond to, and prevent future incidents of, racism and hate.	The Resilience BC Hub is keen to engage with the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary to continue to develop a positive and collaborative relationship.
University of Fraser Valley – South Asian Studies Institute	The Institute fosters inter-disciplinary scholarly research, community and public engagement on issues related to South Asia and the Canadian South Asian Diaspora.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SASI is keen to engage with the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary to continue to develop a positive and collaborative relationship.</li> <li>• SASI is also a strong advocate for the future creation of a South Asian Canadian Museum.</li> </ul>



Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
National Association of Japanese Canadians	NAJC represents Japanese Canadians across Canada, including survivors and descendants of the approximately 22,000 Japanese Canadians who were forcibly relocated from coastal BC in 1942, interned in the Interior and the Prairies and prevented from returning to the coast until 1949.	MAG is working with the NAJC to advance the mandate commitment to recognize historical wrongs against the Japanese-Canadian community.
Canadian Chinese Alliance Churches Association	The CCCAC is an advisory council made up of a diverse group of Chinese Canadians that provides the Premier and the Minister of State for International Trade with advice on a wide variety of provincial government issues. The Minister Responsible for Anti-Racism and Multiculturalism occasionally attends meetings to seek feedback and advice on initiatives.	Prior to and during the pandemic, CCCAC members requested that government do more to address racism against Chinese Canadians and other people of colour.  Government has acted on this advice by implementing new tools and resources on hate crime in Asian languages and by investing \$10M in the new Chinese Canadian Museum.  The Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary may seek to reach out to the co-chairs in collaboration with the Minister of State for International Trade if appropriate.
Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC	A province-wide umbrella organization, with over 80 member agencies who deliver services to immigrant newcomers across BC and promote diversity and inclusion.	MAG does not have a formal funding relationship with AMSSA, although the organization can provide insight on anti-racism, diversity and inclusion priorities based on the members it represents.

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
BC Human Rights Tribunal	The BC Human Rights Tribunal is responsible for screening, mediating and adjudicating complaints under the Human Rights Code. It provides parties the opportunity to resolve complaints through mediation. Complaints that are not resolved through mediation proceed to a hearing before the Tribunal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human right complaints</li> </ul>
BC Utilities Commission	The British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) regulates energy utilities to ensure customers receive safe, reliable and non-discriminatory services at fair rates. It also works to ensure shareholders have a reasonable opportunity to earn a fair return on their investments. BCUC's areas of oversight include natural gas utilities, electricity utilities, intra-provincial pipelines and the Insurance Corporation BC's (ICBC) basic automobile insurance rates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BC energy utilities</li> <li>• Insurance Corporation of BC's basic automobile insurance rates</li> <li>• Common carrier pipelines</li> <li>• Natural gas Customer Choice Program</li> <li>• Mandatory reliability standards</li> </ul>
Building Code Appeal Board	Under the Building Act, the Building Code Appeal Board resolves disputes about whether a matter conforms to the British Columbia Building Code. The code establishes minimum standards for residential and commercial building construction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building regulations</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
Community Care and Assisted Living Appeal Board	The Community Care and Assisted Living Appeal Board was created under the Community Care and Assisted Living Act. It hears and decides on appeals of licensing, registration and certification decisions about community care facilities, assisted living residences, and early childhood educators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Licensing, registration and certification decisions about community care facilities, assisted living residences and early childhood educators</li> </ul>
Employment Standards Tribunal	The Employment Standards Tribunal was created under the Employment Standards Act (ESA). It conducts appeals of determinations issued by the Director of Employment Standards under the ESA and the Temporary Foreign Worker Protection Act. The Tribunal may also reconsider any order or decision it makes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employment standards</li> </ul>
Energy Resource Appeal Tribunal	The Energy Resource Appeal Tribunal hears appeals of BC Energy Regulator decisions. Decisions include certain orders, declarations, findings of contravention and administrative penalties. They also include permitting decisions about oil and gas activity, such as geophysical exploration, construction or operation of a pipeline, road construction, and the production, gathering, processing, storage or disposal of petroleum, natural gas, or both.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Considers and decides appeals from certain decisions under the Oil and Gas Activities Act</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
Environmental Appeal Board	<p>The Environmental Appeal Board (EAB) was established under the Environment Management Act (1981) and now operates under its replacement, the Environmental Management Act. The EAB has the authority to decide appeals of certain decisions made under nine provincial statutes and their associated regulations. Decisions appealed to the EAB relate to environmental issues such as water licenses, contaminated site remediation orders, pesticides permits and hunting licenses. The board helps protect the environment by providing a process for the public and industry to appeal certain government decisions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considers and decides appeals from certain decisions made under nine provincial acts:</li> <li>• <i>Environmental Management Act</i></li> <li>• <i>Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act</i></li> <li>• <i>Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act</i></li> <li>• <i>Integrated Pest Management Act</i></li> <li>• <i>Mines Act</i></li> <li>• <i>Water Sustainability Act</i></li> <li>• <i>Water Sustainability Act</i></li> <li>• <i>Water Users' Communities Act</i></li> <li>• <i>Wildlife Act</i></li> <li>• <i>Zero-Emission Vehicles Act</i></li> </ul>
Financial Services Tribunal	<p>The Financial Services Tribunal hears appeals from individuals and institutions who want to contest enforcement decisions made by the Insurance Council of British Columbia, the Real Estate Council of British Columbia, the Superintendent of Real Estate, the Superintendent of Pensions, the Registrar of Mortgage Brokers, and the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (BC Financial Services Authority (BCFSA)). It provides an avenue of appeal for those who believe that they have been wrongly limited or denied the ability to work in one of the regulated occupations to which responsibility for an appeal lies with the tribunal.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hears and decides appeals of enforcement decisions made by the Insurance Council of British Columbia, the Superintendent of Real Estate, the Superintendent of Pensions, the Registrar of Mortgage Brokers and the Superintendent of Financial Institutions</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
First Nations Leadership Council	The First Nations Leadership Council is comprised of the political executives of the BC Assembly of First Nations, BC First Nations Summit, and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs. The council works together to develop coordinated approaches to issues relevant to First Nations communities throughout the province.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative reform</li> <li>• Anti-racism legislation</li> <li>• The action plan of Anti-Racism Act</li> <li>• Anti-Indigenous Racism strategy</li> </ul>
Forest Appeals Commission	The Forest Appeals Commission was established in 1995 under the Forest Practices Code of British Columbia and operates today under the Forest and Range Practices Act. The Forest Appeals Commission resolves disputes about decisions made by government on forests and the environment under the Forest Act, the Forest and Range Practices Act, the Private Managed Forest Land Act, the Range Act, and the Wildfire Act.	<p>Considers and decides appeals from certain decisions made under five provincial acts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Forest Act,</i></li> <li>• <i>Forest and Range Practices Act,</i></li> <li>• <i>Private Managed Forest Land Act,</i></li> <li>• <i>Range Act,</i> and</li> <li>• <i>Wildfire Act.</i></li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
Health Professions Review Board	<p>The Health Professions Review Board is an independent quasi-judicial administrative tribunal created by the Health Professions Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 183 (the Act). The Act provides a common regulatory framework for health professions in British Columbia. The Review Board is responsible for conducting reviews of certain decisions of the Inquiry and Registration Committees of these 15 colleges. As such, the Review Board is an integral component of the health professions regulatory system in British Columbia. It is a specialized administrative tribunal, with a specific mandate and purpose, designed to address a few carefully defined subjects outlined in the Act.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviews how a health profession college’s inquiry committee disposed of a complaint against a registrant.</li> <li>• Reviews certain decisions of a health profession college’s registration committee.</li> <li>• Reviews complaint investigations that take longer than legislated timelines.</li> <li>• Provides guidelines and recommendations to health profession colleges on registration, inquiry and discipline procedures that are transparent, objective, impartial and fair.</li> </ul>
Hospital Appeal Board	<p>The Hospital Appeal Board is a quasi-judicial administrative tribunal continued under section 46 of the Hospital Act. The Board’s purpose is to provide a specialized, independent, accessible and cost-effective avenue of appeal, as an alternative to the court process, for health practitioners (doctors, dentists, midwives and nurse practitioners) who disagree with a decision of a hospital’s board of management regarding hospital privileges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides medical practitioners with an avenue of appeal from hospital board of management decisions affecting hospital privileges.</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
Labour Relations Board	The Labour Relations Board is an independent administrative tribunal with the mandate to mediate and adjudicate employment and labour relations matters related to unionized workplaces. The Labour Relations Code establishes the board and governs all aspects of collective bargaining amongst the provincially regulated employers and employees. The Labour Relations Board provides adjudication and arbitration for employees, employers, and union issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resolves issues that arise under the <i>Labour Relations Code</i>.</li> </ul>
Mental Health Review Board	The Mental Health Review Board conducts review panel hearings under the Mental Health Act for patients admitted by physicians and detained involuntarily in provincial mental health facilities in a manner that is consistent with the principles of fundamental justice and s. 7 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The Board conducts hearings to review and decides whether persons certified /detained at any mental health facility in B.C. should continue to be certified /detained based on criteria in the Mental Health Act. The Board has a duty to give patients fair, timely, and independent reviews of their loss of liberty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducts review panel hearings for patients admitted by physicians and detained involuntarily in provincial mental health facilities.</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
Passenger Transportation Board	<p>The Passenger Transportation Board (PTB) is an independent legal tribunal established under the Passenger Transportation Act. The PTB licenses and oversees passenger directed transportation in British Columbia, and is responsible for making decisions on special authorization applications relating to passenger directed vehicles (i.e. taxis, limousines, shuttle vans), inter-city buses, and transportation network services (i.e. ride-hailing). The PTB is an economic regulator, expected to balance the sectors of the passenger transportation industry in the public interest.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licenses and oversees passenger directed transportation in British Columbia.</li> <li>• Ensures services like taxis, ride hailing, limousines and inter city buses are safe, reliable, affordable and sustainable for the benefit of the public.</li> </ul>
Property Assessment Appeal Board	<p>The Property Assessment Appeal Board is a quasi-judicial tribunal established under the Assessment Act. It is the second level of appeal for all property assessments in the Province of British Columbia, following the Property Assessment Review Panels. There are four common issues in assessment appeals: market value, equity, or fairness compared to the assessments of other properties, classification, and exemptions. The Board is independent from the Property Assessment Review Panels and BC Assessment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appeals on assessments for all types of properties.</li> </ul>



Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
Safety Standards Appeal Board	The Safety Standards Appeal Board is an adjudicative tribunal established under section 43 of the Safety Standards Act and is responsible for administering provisions of the Safety Standards Act, the Homeowner Protection Act and the Building Act. Currently, the Board hears appeals of administrative decisions made by Technical Safety BC (formerly the British Columbia Safety Authority) and BC Housing – Licensing and Consumer Services (formerly the Homeowner Protection Office) as well as appeals under part 5 of the Building Act relating to the issuance of administrative penalties issued under the Building Act.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appeals brought under the <i>Safety Standards Act</i>, the <i>Homeowner Protection Act</i> and the <i>Building Act</i>.</li> </ul>
Skilled Trades BC Appeal Board	The Skilled Trades BC Appeal Board was established under the Industry Training Authority Act, SBC 2003, c 34, and has been continued and renamed under section 42 of the Skilled Trades BC Act, SBC 2022, c 4. The Act’s longstanding public policy purpose is to support the development and training of skilled trades workers which support BC industries. In 2003, compulsory skills trade certification was eliminated in BC. With the new Act however, the certification requirement was reinstated. The stated rationale for the Act is to “establish a made-in-B.C. system to support and train apprentices and modernize the Crown agency responsible for trades training”.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appeals from decisions of the Skilled Trades BC regarding trainees and industry training credentials.</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
Surface Rights Board	<p>The Surface Rights Board is a quasi-judicial administrative tribunal established under the Petroleum and Natural Gas Act (PNGA). The Board has jurisdiction to resolve disputes under the PNGA, Mining Right of Way Act, Mineral Tenure Act, Geothermal Resources Act, and Coal Act. The Board has authority under the PNGA to resolve disputes respecting compensation and terms of access between private landowners and person or companies requiring surface access to private land to explore for, develop, or produce subsurface resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disputes between landowners and companies that require access to private land to explore for, develop, or produce Crown-owned subsurface resources such as oil, gas, coal, minerals and geothermal.</li> </ul>
UVic Law Clinic	<p>Part of the Ministry of Attorney General's role in supporting improved access to justice and better support for human rights generally is to support a program of public education and information designed to promote better understanding of the Human Rights Code.</p> <p>The Law Centre delivers on this mandate and is the only Clinic to provide services to respondents.</p>	<p>UVic Law Centre - Provide information to assist the public to understand the <i>Human Rights Code</i> and the Human Rights Tribunal process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist respondents who have been notified of a complaint under the <i>Human Rights Code</i> in resolving the matter as early as possible or in filing a reply</li> <li>Assist complainants in resolving the matter as early as possible or in filing a human rights complaint</li> <li>Mediate complaints without involvement of the Human Rights Tribunal where possible, in order to achieve early resolutions</li> <li>Represent complainants and respondents at Tribunal hearings if necessary, cutting cost and delay at the Tribunal</li> <li>Provide activity reports to the Ministry every six months.</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
Representative for Children and Youth	JSB interacts with the Representative, an independent Officer of the Legislature, with respect to their enabling legislation the <i>Representation for Children and Youth Act</i> and the Representative's mandate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy; monitoring; and investigations of critical injuries and deaths with respect to designated services for children in the child welfare system.</li> <li>• Advocacy for prescribed services for included adults (individuals aged 19-27 that have touched the child welfare system).</li> </ul>
Elections BC & the Chief Electoral Officer	JSB interacts with the Chief Electoral Officer and Elections BC in relation to the <i>Election Act</i> and provincial election issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foreign interference in elections.</li> <li>• Keeping the <i>Election Act</i> up to date and modernizing it as necessary.</li> </ul>
Registrar of Lobbyists	JSB interacts with the Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists in relation to the <i>Lobbyists Transparency Act</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing interest in the application of the <i>Lobbyists Transparency Act</i> and preparation for the 2025 Statutory Review.</li> </ul>
Office of the Human Rights Commissioner	Works to address the root causes of inequality, discrimination and injustice in BC by shifting laws, policies, practice and culture. Authority under the Human Rights Code.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research and reporting</li> <li>• Inquiries</li> <li>• Advocacy at systemic level</li> <li>• Anti-racism legislation</li> <li>• The action plan of Anti-Racism Act</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner	Promotes public confidence in elected officials as they conduct public business. Authority per the <i>Members' Conflict of Interest Act</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advice</li> <li>• Oversee disclosure process</li> <li>• Conduct Inquiries</li> </ul>
Provincial Committee on Anti-Racism (PCAR)	<p>The Committee is mandated to advise public bodies (as defined in The Act) on dismantling systemic racism, and advancing racial equity in B.C.</p> <p>The Provincial Committee on Anti-Racism (PCAR) consists of 11 members, including a chair, as established pursuant to Part 3 of the Anti-Racism Act (The Act). The Committee is accountable to the Minister responsible for The Act.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To advise government with respect to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ developing and revising the Anti-Racism Action Plan</li> <li>○ implementing The Act and regulations</li> </ul> </li> <li>• To advise public bodies with respect to implementing The Action Plan.</li> <li>• Be responsible, in collaboration with racialized communities and in consultation with public bodies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Develop a framework, for public bodies to do anti-racism assessments; and</li> </ul> Set standards, targets, and indicators for public bodies in relation to anti-racism training curricula and training. </li> </ul>
Anti-Racism Data Committee (ARDC)	ARDC is a committee established mandated by the ARDA, to “advise the director of statistics on matters relating to the collection, use and disclosure of information for the purposes of identifying and eliminating systemic racism and advancing racial equity.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-racism legislation</li> <li>• The action plan of Anti-Racism Act</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
United Way	<p>Nine organizations across the province have joined together to ensure communities in BC's North, Interior, Lower Mainland, and Central &amp; Northern Vancouver Island thrive.</p> <p>It consolidates its resources to respond to urgent needs in real-time in order to drive positive, lasting change in our local communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Racist Incident Helpline</li> </ul>
Canadian Red Cross (CRC)	<p>CRC's mission is to assist people and communities in Canada and around the world in times of need and support them in strengthening their resilience.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sons of Freedom Doukhobor Health and Wellbeing Fund Disbursement</li> </ul>