



# **MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY**

## **MINISTRY TRANSITION BINDER**

October 2024

# Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

## Transition Binder

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# SECTION A

## MINISTRY OVERVIEW

## Ministry Profile

### Ministry: Environment and Climate Change Strategy

#### Ministry Mandate:

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is mandated to protect and steward the Province's environment by addressing the causes and impacts of climate change; preserving natural spaces and recreation values; and protecting ecosystems; all while advancing meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

The ministry is responsible for the protection, management and conservation of British Columbia's water, land, air and living resources. The ministry delivers its mandate through several key pieces of legislation including the *Environmental Management Act*, the *Integrated Pest Management Act*, the *Park Act*, the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, the *Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act*, the *Climate Change Accountability Act*, and the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

The ministry administers the province's parks and protected areas, and recreation sites and trails; monitors and enforces compliance with environmental laws and regulations; manages discharge to the environment from human activities; and protects B.C.'s biodiversity, ecosystems, native species, and natural habitats in parks and protected areas. It acquires, manages, and analyzes environmental and climate data to provide a robust platform for decision-making across the province. It mitigates and manages the risks and consequences from climate change, including developing plans to meet greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets; responds to the impacts of climate change; and oversees provincial environmental assessment through the Environmental Assessment Office.

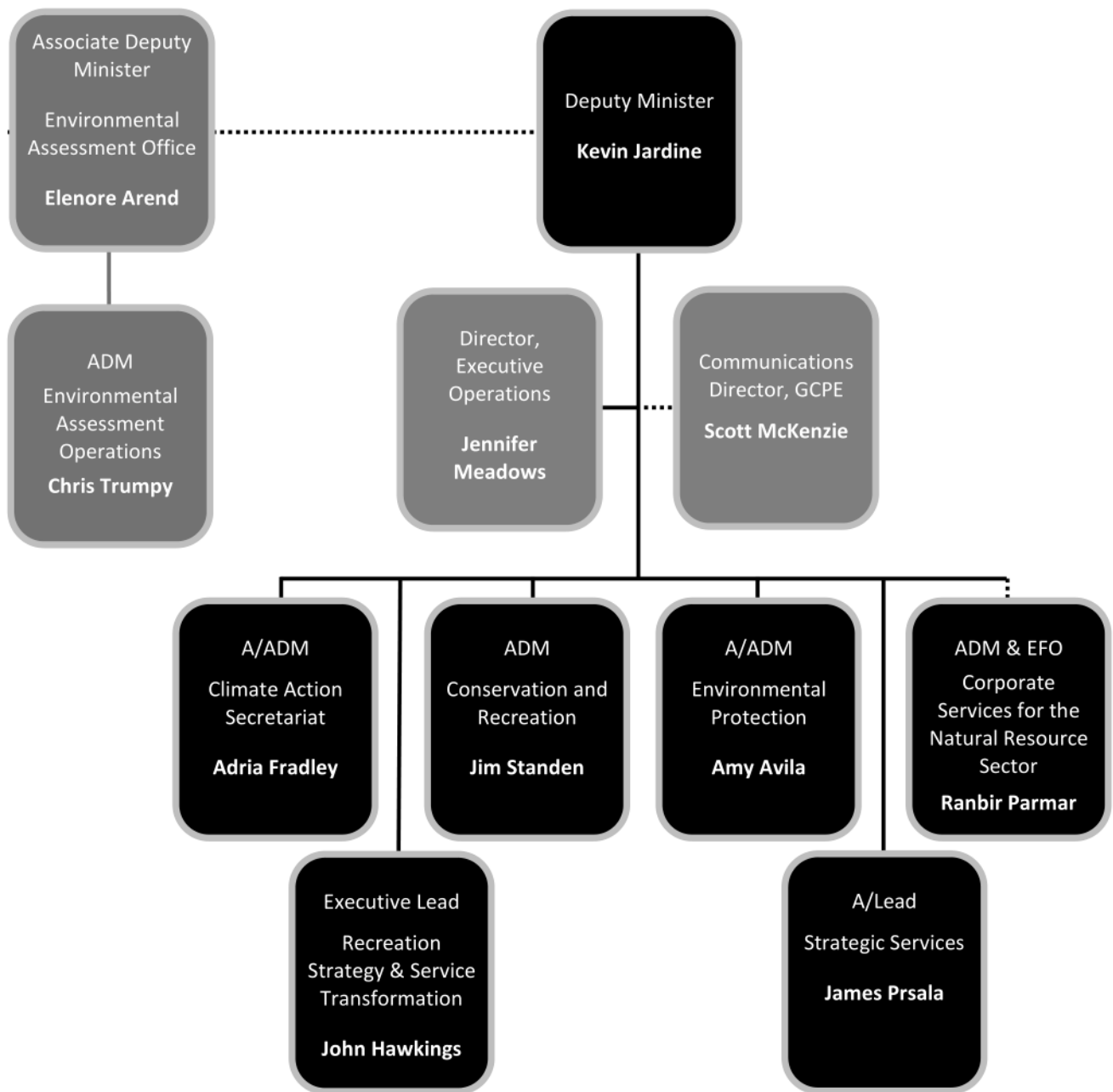
Services are delivered directly through staff across the province, as well as through partnerships and agreements with Indigenous peoples, local governments, the federal government, and stakeholder groups.

**Full Time Equivalent (FTEs): 1,401**

#### Budget – Operating Expenses:

\$188.053 M	Ministry Operations
\$ 12.989 M	Park Enhancement Fund special account
\$ 26.135 M	Sustainable Environment Fund

# Executive Organizational Chart



# **Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy**

## **2024/25 – 2026/27 Service Plan**

**February 2024**



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## Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2024/25 – 2026/27 Service Plan was prepared under my direction in accordance with the Budget Transparency and Accountability Act. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "G. Heyman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Honourable George Heyman  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
February 9, 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 Environment and Climate Change Strategy](#) will support the government's priorities and selected action items identified in the December 7, 2022, Minister's [Mandate Letter](#).

## Purpose of the Ministry

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

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

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



## Operating Environment

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

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

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

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

## Performance Planning

### **Goal 1: Effective protection and conservation of the environment**

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

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

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

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

#### **Key Strategies**

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

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

## Discussion

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Key Strategies**

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

### **Discussion**

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

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

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

BC Parks is completing a report in consultation and cooperation with First Nations partners, to develop recommendations on how to address mandate commitments to increase Indigenous cultural expression within provincial parks. The report is expected to be made public in 2024.

## Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2021/22 Baseline	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target	2026/27 Target
1.1a Per capita municipal solid waste disposal (kg per person)	506	490	480	470	460

Data source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, manually compiled.

## Discussion

This year, the ministry introduced a new baseline for the Performance Measure 1.1a to reflect the reported disposal rates that have been provided by regional districts. Significant debris clean-up and restoration activities after disaster events, including floods and fires have led to increasing amounts of waste being disposed. Construction and demolition debris are also contributing to increases in disposal rates across many regional districts, and regional authorities have communicated the need to continue to adjust future waste reduction targets in the short-term to recognize these changes.

## Goal 2: A sustainable, clean economy

The ministry works to reduce greenhouse gas pollution, support clean and diverse economic development, and assist British Columbians to prepare for a changing climate.

### Objective 2.1: Implement the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 to provide a pathway for B.C. to prosper economically while significantly reducing our greenhouse gas pollution to meet our legislated emissions reduction targets.

The [CleanBC Roadmap to 2030](#) (Roadmap) is a government-wide strategy that includes initiatives across different areas of the economy to reduce greenhouse gas pollution in a cost-effective way. Timely implementation of actions described in the Roadmap are expected to meet our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets while supporting affordability and business competitiveness.

## Key Strategies

- Continue working with the [Climate Solutions Council](#) to meet the GHG emissions reduction targets legislated under the Climate Change Accountability Act by:
  - Implementing the Roadmap to achieve 2030 climate change targets by reviewing and measuring progress and updating approaches as needed;
  - establishing a new net-zero GHG emissions target for 2050; and

- publishing annual accountability reports as required under the Climate Change Accountability Act.
- Continue to work with the Ministry of Finance to implement annual increases to the carbon tax to meet federal requirements of \$170 t/CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2030.
- Implement the B.C. Output-Based Pricing System to replace the CleanBC Industrial Incentive Program, which aligns with federal carbon pricing rules and promotes a competitive business environment.
- Develop policy and measures to achieve the Roadmap commitment to require new large industrial facilities to have credible plans to be net-zero GHG emissions by 2050 (or 2030 for new, large liquefied natural gas facilities that are already in or are entering into the environmental assessment process), and address government's 2030 and 2040 legislated targets.
- Establish policies that will reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas sector by 75% by 2030 (as compared to 2014) and achieve near elimination of industrial methane by 2035. Ensure oil and gas emissions are reduced in line with sectoral targets.

## Discussion

Roadmap actions are being implemented by several ministries across government and include:

- Increases to the climate action tax credit. This credit now provides up to \$893.50 for a family of four and up to \$447 for a single person (Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy).
- Investing in 59 infrastructure projects around B.C. for renewable energy, clean transportation, and building efficiency through the federal-provincial CleanBC Communities Fund (Ministry of Municipal Affairs).
- Supporting 41 new projects in 2022 through the CleanBC Industry Fund that are expected to reduce GHG emissions by more than 2.5 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e over a 10-year period (Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy).
- Creating a New Energy Action Framework that will:
  - Put in place a regulatory emissions cap for the oil and gas sector to ensure it meets its 2030 sectoral target of 33-38% reduction over 2007 levels; and
  - require that all proposed liquefied natural gas facilities to develop credible plans to be net-zero GHG emissions by 2030 (Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation and Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy).

As more of the policies and programs described in the Roadmap are implemented and begin to yield results, they will have a larger impact on GHG emission reductions. Government is required by legislation to publish the Climate Change Accountability Report annually to report on progress towards its targets.

## **Objective 2.2: Effective management of the risks and consequences associated with a changing climate.**

Climate change is already causing significant impacts to British Columbia's environment, communities, and economy. Adapting to a changing climate and managing climate risks effectively is key to maintaining a robust economy, healthy ecosystems, and safe communities.

### **Key Strategies**

- Coordinate implementation of the provincial [Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy](#) (CPAS) that will support a thriving and healthy province that is resilient to a changing climate.
- In partnership with Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, conduct a provincial disaster and climate risk and resilience assessment that is co-developed with Indigenous Peoples, applies an equity lens, and builds on local and regional input.
- In partnership with Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, develop a province-wide disaster and climate risk reduction plan that assesses risk priorities and systematically coordinates and implements cross-government interventions consistent with those priorities.
- Build community and government adaptation capacity and resilience, including partnerships with First Nations.
- Further develop a climate risk reporting program that meets the requirements of the [Climate Change Accountability Act](#).

### **Discussion**

In June 2022, the government of B.C. released the first CPAS following engagement with Indigenous Peoples, local governments, the public, and other partners. Implementation, now underway, is being done cooperatively with Indigenous Peoples consistent with Action 2.12 of the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan](#).

The ministry is monitoring the effectiveness of actions taken across government as part of the CPAS and reports annually on progress in the annual [Climate Change Accountability Report](#). Key priorities for 2024/25 include:

- Working in partnership with the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness on developing a provincial disaster and climate risk and resilience assessment and disaster and climate risk reduction plan;
- reporting out on the \$2M [Indigenous Climate Adaptation Pilot Project](#), and developing recommendations for next steps with First Nations partners;
- developing climate adaptation indicators to help B.C. measure its climate adaptation progress; and
- negotiating with the Government of Canada to develop a bilateral adaptation agreement under the federal [National Adaptation Strategy](#).

## Performance Measures

Performance Measures	2021/22 Baseline <sup>1</sup>	2022/23 Forecast	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Forecast
2.1a B.C.'s annual GHG emissions as compared to 2007 levels (goal of 40% below 2007 levels by 2030)	2021 emissions are 3% below 2007 levels	2022 emissions are 1% below 2007 levels <sup>2</sup>	2023 emissions are 5% below 2007 levels	2024 emissions are 9% below 2007 levels	2025 emissions are 15% below 2007 levels <sup>3</sup>	2026 emissions are 19% below 2007 levels
2.1b Carbon intensity of B.C.'s economy (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e per million dollars of gross domestic product)	220 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e per \$M GDP	219 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e per \$M GDP	205 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e per \$M GDP	192 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e per \$M GDP	178 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e per \$M GDP	166 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e per \$M GDP

Data source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, based on emissions data from the National Inventory report and GDP data from the B.C. government.

<sup>1</sup> The 2021/22 baseline emissions have been updated with 2021 data. Last year's service plan used 2020 emissions data, which was the most recent available at the time.

<sup>2</sup> The forecast suggests that emissions may rise in 2022 following a continued return to pre-COVID-19 levels of economic activity before the impact of CleanBC policies returns emissions to a downward trajectory.

<sup>3</sup> Emissions modelling estimates that 91% of B.C.'s 2025 interim reduction target (16% below 2007 levels) will be achieved.

## Discussion

British Columbia has set ambitious targets in the Climate Change Accountability Act to reduce GHG emissions to 40% below 2007 levels by 2030, 60% by 2040, and 80% by 2050. There are also targets set by Ministerial order including an [interim target of 16% reduction by 2025](#). This will allow for the recalibration of actions to ensure that the government of B.C. meets the 2030 legislated and sectoral GHG emissions reduction targets and it will provide measurement of progress in key sectors of the economy. In October 2021, the Roadmap was released, which builds on the previous work of CleanBC Phase 1 (2018), adding significant new and expanded actions that will accelerate GHG emissions reductions.

The government of B.C.'s GHG emissions reporting is based on the [National Inventory Report](#) from Environment and Climate Change Canada. Due to the necessary 16-24 month period to collect, verify and review the data from the federal government, the targets for this performance measure look at data from approximately two years behind the current year. The latest GHG emissions data for British Columbia is for 2021, published in the [Provincial GHG Inventory](#).



Performance Measures 2.1a and 2.1b include two interrelated metrics to ensure that GHG emissions reductions are occurring and that the carbon intensity of B.C.'s economy is decreasing. These metrics are: 1) the most recent data on progress toward B.C.'s GHG emissions reduction targets; and 2) B.C.'s GHG emissions per million dollars of gross domestic product (GDP).

These metrics demonstrate that achieving a low-carbon economy requires both low emissions and a robust economy. These performance measures have been updated to include the most current data provided in the [2023 Climate Change Accountability Report](#).

Performance Measure	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target	2026/27 Target
2.2 Develop provincial and regional risk assessments and provincial plan	<p>1. Foundational risk assessment methodology completed</p> <p>2. Initiate a joint <b>provincial scale</b> Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment (DCRRA) with the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness and in collaboration with First Nations partners</p>	<p>1. Complete and publish the provincial scale DCRRA</p> <p>2. Initiate a joint <b>regional scale</b> DCRRA with the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness and in collaboration with First Nations partners</p> <p>3. Support the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness to develop a Provincial Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Plan</p>	<p>1. Complete and publish the regional scale DCRRA</p> <p>2. Complete and publish the Provincial Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Plan</p>	TBD <sup>1</sup>

Data source: Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness and Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, manually compiled.

<sup>1</sup> Targets for 2026/27 will be determined in future service plans and is dependent on continued funding beyond 2025/26.

## Discussion

Performance Measure 2.2 tracks progress toward completing provincial and regional Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessments (DCRRA) and a Provincial Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Plan. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy will support the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness in this work. In 2023/24 the ministries completed development of the risk assessment methodology. Hazards for assessment were selected in collaboration with First Nations partners, and through engagement with other partners. These hazards include coastal and riverine flooding, extreme

heat, drought, wildfire, earthquake, and a scenario of cascading and compounding risks. The B.C. government will establish a risk assessment First Nations advisory group. A series of working groups involving subject matter experts from Indigenous organizations, various provincial ministries, academia, and non-governmental organizations will assess risk and resilience for each hazard. The provincial DCRRA is targeted for release in summer 2024 on [ClimateReadyBC](#). The provincial DCRRA will inform the [Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan](#) and Provincial Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Plan.

Following completion of the provincial DCRRA, the ministries will continue collaboration with First Nations and engagement with local authorities and other partners to complete each regional DCRRA. These assessments will focus on hazards and values that are priorities for each region. Regions will be defined by watersheds and First Nations language groups. Results of these assessments will also be made available on ClimateReadyBC and will support local authorities and critical infrastructure owners to complete risk assessments as required under the [Emergency and Disaster Management Act](#) and associated regulations. Regional and local risk assessment results will inform development of emergency management plans and prioritization of investments in disaster mitigation.

## **Goal 3: Thorough, timely, transparent, and impartial environmental assessment**

The [Environmental Assessment Office](#) (EAO) assesses major project proposals (e.g., mines, oil and gas pipelines, tourist destination resorts, etc.) for impacts on people and the environment. The assessments inform decision-making on whether proposed projects should be approved to proceed, and if so, what measures are necessary to reduce or eliminate potential adverse environmental, social, cultural, economic, and health effects.

### **Objective 3.1: Implement and evaluate the revitalized environmental assessment process.**

The revitalized [Environmental Assessment Act](#) (the Act) came into force on December 15, 2019. The renewed environmental assessment process supports reconciliation by ensuring the rights of First Nations are respected and the public's expectation of a thorough, timely, transparent, and impartial process are met. As such, the process and outcomes achieved promote sustainability in B.C. by protecting the environment, meeting government climate targets, fostering a resilient economy, and supporting the well-being of British Columbians and their communities.

#### **Key Strategies**

- Continue to develop the remaining regulations, policies, and guidance materials for the Act to be fully supported along with digital tools that improve and streamline the [environmental assessment process](#) and [public engagement](#).
- Continue to support EAO staff, proponents, practitioners, government reviewers, First Nations, local governments, and the public with learning and development to effectively participate in regulatory activities under the Act.

- Negotiate government-to-government strategic agreements with First Nations (including decision-making agreements under section 7 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act), and federal agencies to support efficient environmental assessment processes that result in effective protection and mitigation conditions.
- Engage early in the process with First Nations to enable feedback on project design to improve or provide alternative approaches to develop a proposed project.
- Establish a framework to evaluate if the EAO is achieving its purposes as laid out by the Act.

## Discussion

On an ongoing basis, the EAO develops new regulations, policies, and guidance to support the implementation of the Act and ensure the environmental assessment processes for projects are appropriately supported. In 2024, the [Dispute Resolution Regulation](#), a key regulation under the Act will be presented to Cabinet for approval.

Additionally, within five years of the Act coming into force, the Minister must initiate a review to determine what changes, if any, should be made. To prepare for this formal review process to begin in late 2024, the EAO in partnership with First Nations, industry, and other key stakeholders will co-develop a framework to inform the scope of the review and evaluate the performance of the Act. Based on the findings of the review, further policy and legislative updates may be undertaken in 2025/26.

The EAO negotiated and is now implementing the [first two agreements](#) under section 7 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act that require the Tahltan Central Government's consent in relation to environmental assessment decisions for the Eskay Creek Revitalization Project and the Red Chris Mine. These agreements uphold Tahltan jurisdiction, represent a significant milestone towards reconciliation, and provide clear and transparent decision-making processes.

## Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target	2026/27 Target
3.1 Environmental Assessment Act implementation	1. Finalize regulations and/or policies that enhance functionality of the Act  2. Finalize framework to evaluate whether implementation of the Act is achieving the intended purposes	Begin an evaluation of whether the Act is achieving the intended purposes	Complete the evaluation of the Act	Work through the legislative development process to update the Act, if needed, based on the evaluation

Data source: Environmental Assessment Office, manually compiled.

## Discussion

Performance Measure 3.1 was chosen because it tracks the major milestones of one of the EAO's most important initiatives: the implementation of the revitalized Environmental Assessment Act. Implementation of the Act drives directly toward Goal 3: thorough, timely, transparent, and impartial environmental assessment. Changes to the Environmental Assessment Act focused on enhancing public confidence, advancing reconciliation with First Nations, and protecting the environment, while offering clear pathways to sustainable project approvals. In 2024/25 the EAO will begin an evaluation of whether the Act is achieving these intended purposes, and in the process of evaluation, other potential performance measures will be considered.

## Financial Summary

(\$000s)	2023/24 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2024/25 Estimates	2025/26 Plan	2026/27 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Environmental Protection	29,940	31,989	32,018	32,018
Conservation and Recreation Division	89,986	99,123	99,008	99,043
Climate Action	43,755	19,864	19,864	19,864
CleanBC Program for Industry and BC-Output Based Pricing System	5,650	5,661	5,661	5,661
Executive and Support Services	30,351	31,416	31,356	31,356
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>199,682</b>	<b>188,053</b>	<b>187,907</b>	<b>187,942</b>
Park Enhancement Fund	12,920	12,989	12,989	12,989
Sustainable Environment Fund	26,135	26,135	26,135	26,135
<b>Total</b>	<b>238,737</b>	<b>227,177</b>	<b>227,031</b>	<b>227,066</b>
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>				
Executive and Support Services	46,975	44,686	32,616	32,616
Park Enhancement Fund	400	400	400	400
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,375</b>	<b>45,086</b>	<b>33,016</b>	<b>33,016</b>
<b>Other Financing Transactions</b>				
Climate Action Greenhouse Gas Emissions Offsets				
Disbursements	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Receipts	0	0	0	0
<b>Net Cash Requirement (Source)</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</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: Environmental Assessment Office

(\$000s)	2023/24 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2024/25 Estimates	2025/26 Plan	2026/27 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Environmental Assessment Office	16,392	17,074	17,074	17,074
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,392</b>	<b>17,074</b>	<b>17,074</b>	<b>17,074</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 2024, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is responsible and accountable for the following organizations.

### **Climate Solutions Council**

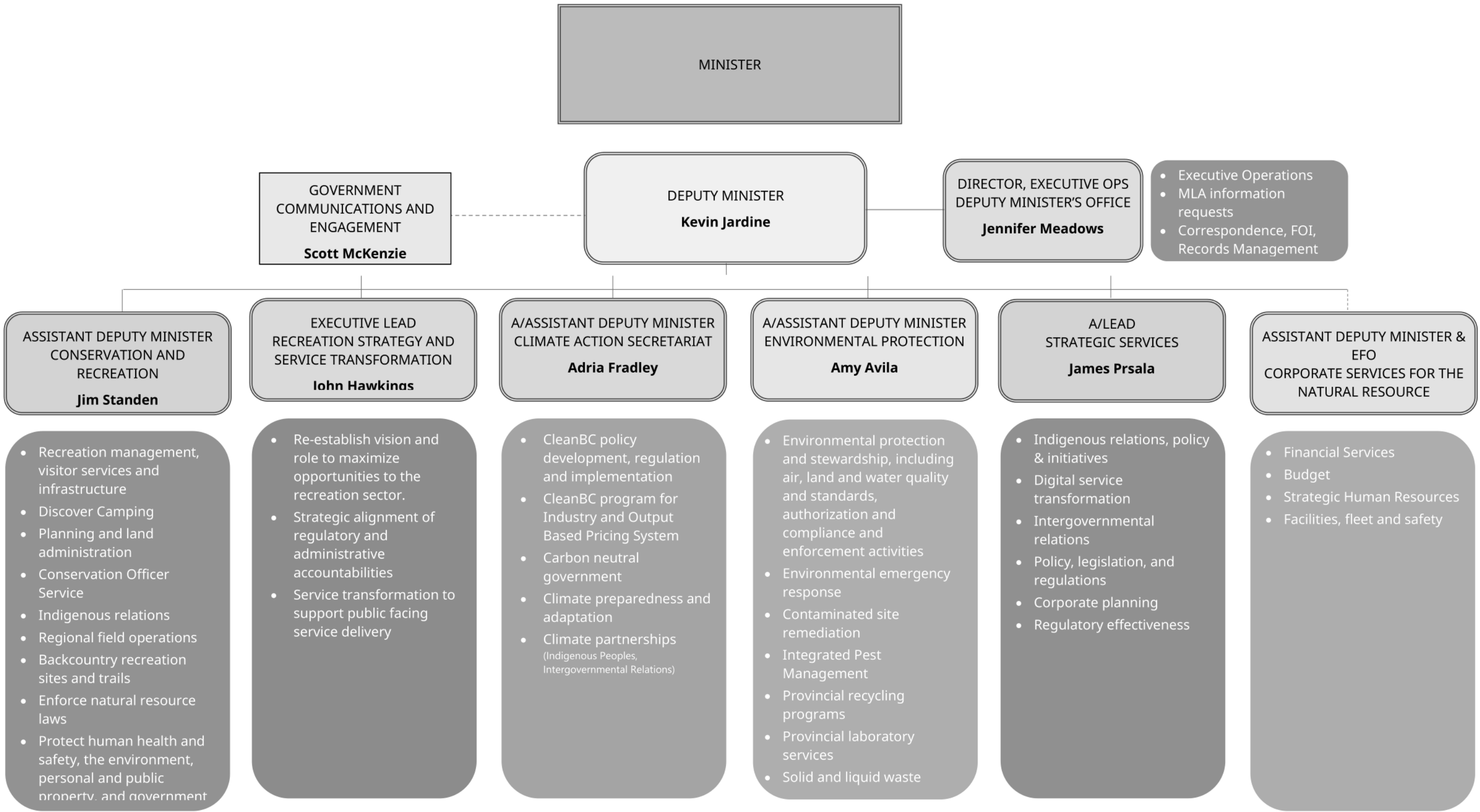
The Climate Solutions Council (the Council) was created in October 2017. The Council provides strategic advice to government on climate action and clean economic growth. It includes members from First Nations, environmental organizations, industry, business, academia, youth, labour, and local government. The Council supports a steady and committed approach to climate action that drives down emissions, increases economic opportunities, and improves community resilience.

# SECTION B

## CORE BUSINESS AND PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Functional Organization Chart  
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy



## Deputy Minister's Office

### Overview of Core Business / Program Area:

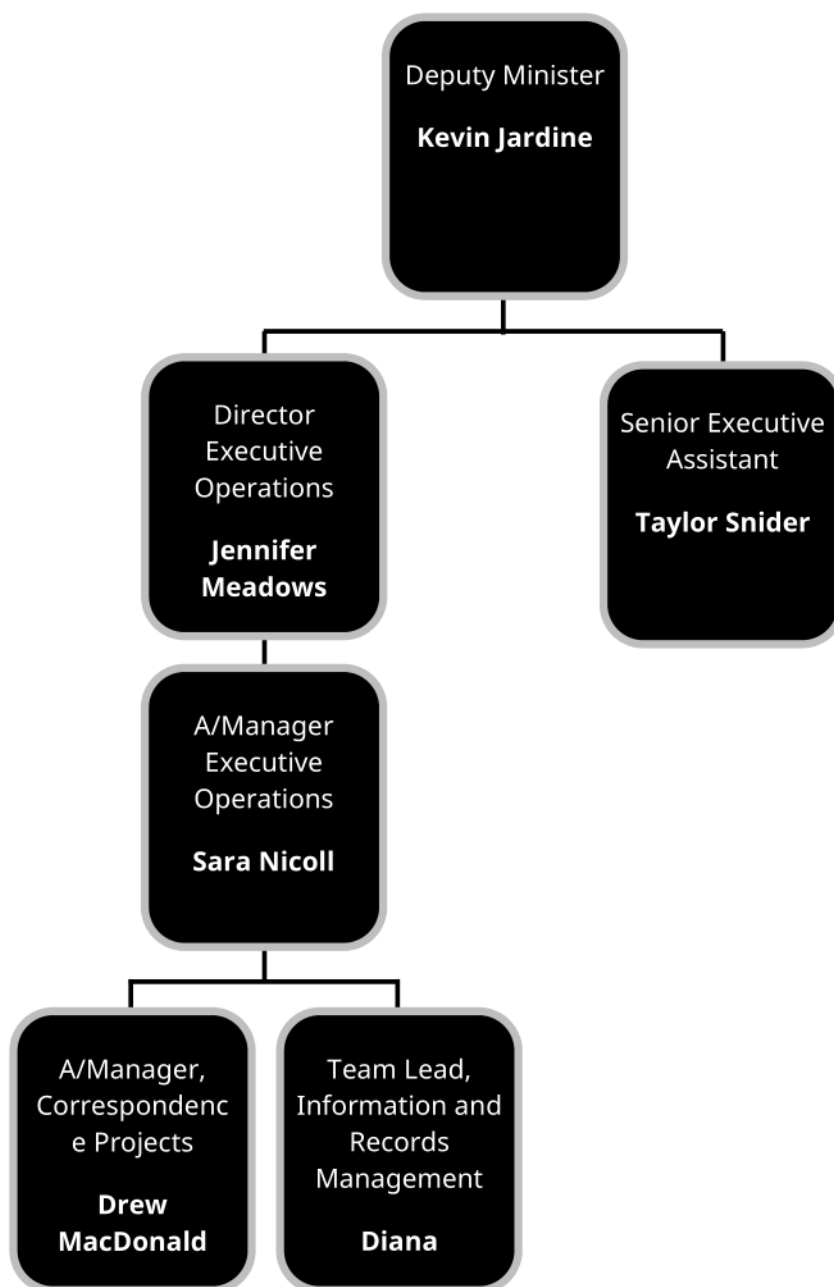
The Deputy Minister's office (DMO) provides analysis, support and advice to the Ministry executive and staff on issues relating to the ministry's diverse mandate. The office takes a lead role in managing the coordination, integration and consistency of planning and operational activities required to achieve the Ministry's strategic goals and business outcomes.

The DMO is primarily accountable for managing three core business areas:

1. Executive Operations
  - Conduit between the ministry and Minister's Office for:
    - Scheduling Minister meetings
    - Coordinating Minister briefing and meeting materials
    - Managing approval items such as Cabinet documents and decision notes
  - Liaison and coordination with central government, such as Cabinet Operations and the Premier's Office
  - Support for the effective business delivery of ministry programs and initiatives
  - First point of contact for the public phone line
2. Information and Records Management
  - Freedom of Information
  - Litigation document discovery
  - Records management
3. Correspondence
  - Tracking, assigning, editing and drafting correspondence received in the ministry. Approximately 50,000 pieces of correspondence are received annually.
  - Providing advice to the Minister's Office, ministry executive and staff on incoming and outgoing correspondence and related processes.
  - Coordinating responses to MLA requests for information

**Budget:** \$1.874M

**Full Time Equivalents (FTEs):** 18

**Organizational Chart:**

**Executive Member Biography**

**Name:** Kevin Jardine

**Title:** Deputy Minister

**Ministry:** Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

**Biography**

Kevin Jardine was appointed Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy on April 23, 2020. Prior to this appointment, Kevin was Associate Deputy Minister of the Environmental Assessment Office for five years, where he led the development and implementation of B.C.'s new Environmental Assessment Act (2018). Kevin's career with the BC Public Service began in late 2000 after almost a decade working as a natural resource management consultant. In his early years with the Province, Kevin held a variety of senior management roles working on key files such as species at risk in BC and development of recovery plans for the Spotted Owl and Mountain Caribou. In 2005, Kevin assumed a leadership role in the Integrated Land Management Bureau as Assistant Deputy Minister, where he established GeoBC. In 2008, Kevin was appointed Deputy Cabinet Secretary of Cabinet Operations and, in 2010, was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government where he had accountability for public service revitalization and led open information and data initiatives. From 2011 to 2015, Kevin served as Assistant Deputy Minister, Court Services Branch in the Ministry of Justice.

Kevin holds a Bachelor of Science in Geography (Honours) from the University of Victoria, and graduate diplomas in project management and executive leadership.

## Climate Action Secretariat

**Acting ADM Responsible:** Adria Fradley

### Overview of Core Business / Program Area:

The Climate Action Secretariat (CAS) is responsible for development and implementation of B.C.'s climate strategies. This includes both reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing the province for the impacts of climate change. It is responsible for several of B.C.'s climate-related pieces of legislation, regulation, and programs.

CAS works to achieve provincial climate action goals through engagement and collaboration with Indigenous peoples, the provincial public sector, other orders of government, research institutions, non-governmental organizations, professional and industry associations and business and industry. As well, CAS works directly with industrial operators and verification bodies to ensure compliance under the B.C. Output Based Pricing System, manages the CleanBC Industry Fund, and develops new industrial climate policy such as Net Zero New Industry, which requires new industrial facilities to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 (2030 for new LNG).

### Budget:

\$18.988 M

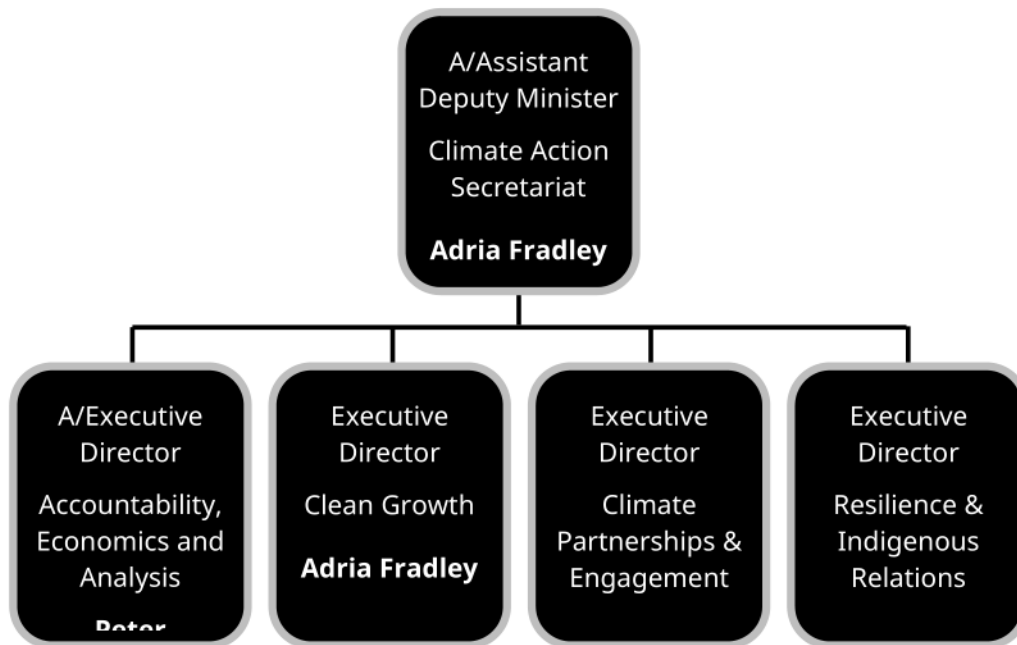
\$5.661 – CleanBC Program for Industry and BC Output Based Pricing System

**Full Time Equivalents (FTEs):** 137

### Related Legislation:

- *Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act* (ENV)
- *Greenhouse Gas Emission Reporting Regulation* (ENV)
- *BC Carbon Registry Regulation* (ENV)
- *Emission Offset Project Regulation* (ENV)
- *Greenhouse Gas Emission Administrative Penalties and Appeals Regulation* (ENV)
- *Climate Change Accountability Act* (ENV)
- *Carbon Neutral Government Regulation* (ENV)
- *Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Emissions Standards) Statutes Amendment Act* (ENV)
- *Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Vehicle Emissions Standards) Act* (ENV – not in force)
- *Carbon Tax Act* (FIN)
- *Carbon Tax Regulation* (FIN)
- *Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Renewable and Low Carbon Fuel Requirements) Act* (EMLI)
- *Utilities Commission Amendment Act* (EMLI)
- *Clean Energy Act* (EMLI)
- *Energy Efficiency Act* (EMLI)
- *Drilling and Production Regulation* (EMLI)
- *Local Government (Green Communities) Statutes Amendment Act* (MUNI)
- *Building Code Amendments and Regulations* (HOUS)

**Organizational Chart:**



**Executive Member Biography**

**Name:** Adria Fradley

**Title:** A/ADM Climate Action Secretariate

**Ministry:** Environment and Climate Change Strategy

**Biography:**

Adria Fradley is the Executive Director of Clean Growth Branch within Climate Action Secretariat. Under her leadership, the Branch leads policy development and program for industrial climate policy including the output based pricing system, oil and gas emissions cap, B.C. Carbon Offsets, and the CleanBC Industry Fund.

With 15 years of experience in policy and program development worked in developing policy related industrial policy, forest policy and vehicle licensing policy in her roles at the Climate Action Secretariat, Ministry of Forests and Insurance Corporation of British Columbia. Adria studied political science and international development at Dalhousie University and public administration at the University of Victoria.

## Conservation and Recreation Division

**ADM Responsible:** Jim Standen

### Overview of Core Business / Program Area:

BC Parks is a land management, regulatory and recreation service provision program that is responsible for the acquisition, designation, administration, planning, management and regulation of natural resources and activities occurring on over 15 percent of the provincial land base. British Columbia has the highest percentage of its land base dedicated to protected areas of all provincial Canadian jurisdictions. There are 1,050 provincial parks, recreation areas, conservancies, ecological reserves, and protected areas within the system.

Recreation Sites and Trails B.C. (RSTBC) provides public recreation opportunities by developing, maintaining, and managing a network of recreation sites and recreation trails throughout the province. RSTBC plays an integral part in the management of recreation resources on provincial public land, outside of provincial parks and urban areas. RSTBC is responsible for managing over 1,900 recreation sites and 600 recreation trails, approximately 200 trail-based areas, and 18 interpretive forest sites. These outdoor recreation experiences are delivered through partnerships with Indigenous Nations, not-for-profit recreation clubs and organizations, and local governments.

The Conservation Officer Service (COS) provides public safety and environmental enforcement services to British Columbians. The agency's core mandates include natural resource law enforcement and human-wildlife conflicts prevention and response. The COS is the lead agency in BC to respond to problem wildlife, including predator attacks on people that cause serious injury and death.

### Budget:

\$100.736 M

\$12.989 M -Park Enhancement Fund

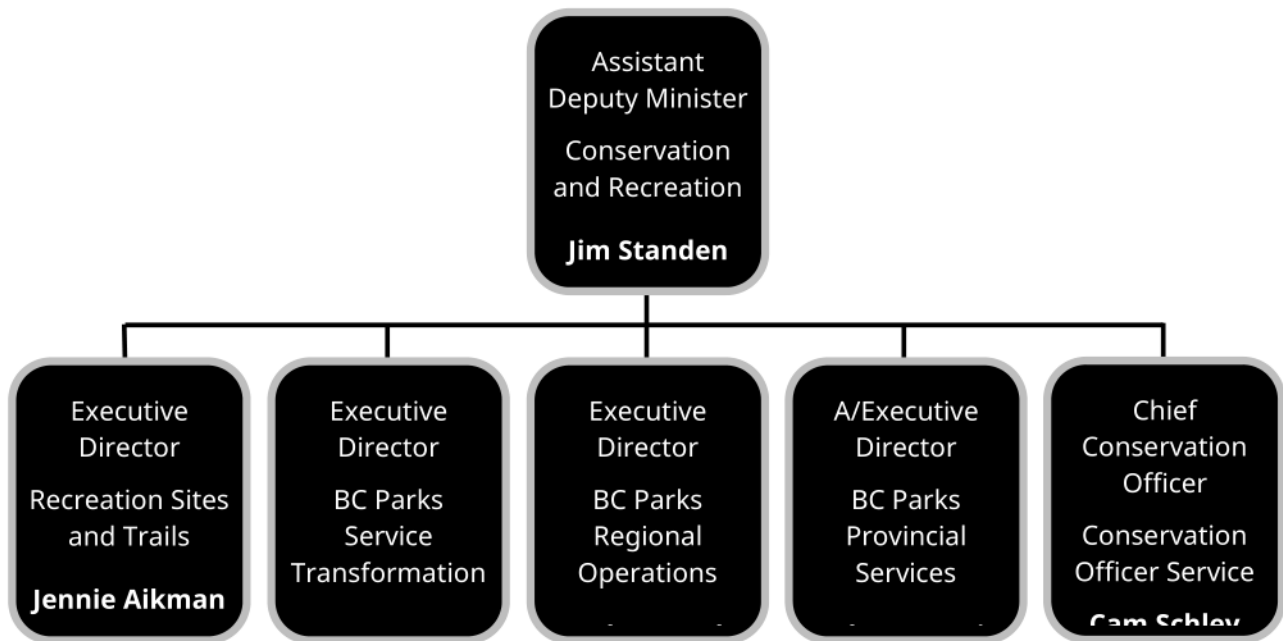
**Full Time Equivalents (FTEs):** 593

### Related Legislation:

- *Park Act* (ENV)
- *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act* (ENV)
- *Ecological Reserve Act* (ENV)
- *Environmental Management Act* (ENV)
- *Forest and Range Practices Act* (ENV)
- *Environment and Land Use Act* (FOR)
- *Wildlife Act* (WLRS)



**Organizational Chart:**



**Executive Member Biography**

**Name:** Jim Standen

**Title:** Assistant Deputy Minister, Conservation and Recreation Division

**Ministry:** Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

**Biography:**

Jim Standen was confirmed as the Assistant Deputy Minister of Conservation and Recreation Division with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy on April 1, 2023. Jim has been a proud member of government executive since 2010. Prior to his current role Jim was the Assistant Deputy Minister of BC Parks Recreation Sites and Trails from 2021-2023, BC Parks and the Conservation Officer Service from 2014-2020, and for the Environmental Protection Division from 2010-2014. Jim started his career in government as an auxiliary Fisheries Technician in Kamloops in 1992. He is proud to have spent his entire 30+-year career working throughout the Ministry of Environment leading teams of dedicated scientific and technical specialists. Jim has a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of British Columbia, as well as having studied accounting/business at UBC and Thompson Rivers University. He spent nine years as an elected trustee on the Saanich Board of Education from 2005 to 2014 and is one of the founding Directors of the British Columbia Parks Foundation, active since 2017.

**Personal Information**

## Environmental Protection Division

**Acting ADM Responsible:** Amy Avila

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

The Environmental Protection Division holds primary responsibility to develop, administer, and maintain the legislation and regulations necessary to prevent and manage the discharge of waste and prevent pollution. The division delivers provincial programs focused on environmental emergencies and spill response, contaminated sites remediation, and extended producer responsibility (recycling) among others through site specific permits, and province-wide regulations. The division is comprised of a team of environmental, scientific and policy experts working in 13 communities across B.C. to support industry and local governments in preventing pollution through:

- Provide timely scientific analysis and advice to environmental assessments of all major industrial and resource development projects.
- Developing strategic policy to support government environmental protection priorities
- Administering economic stimulus and relevant Clean BC funding programs such as Clean Coast, Clean Waters; Plastics Action Fund; Organics Infrastructure Program; Organics Infrastructure and Collections Program; and Community Woodsmoke Reduction Program.
- Environment sector lead under the Disaster Recovery Framework.
- Protect the welfare of the public in the event of an environmental emergency such as an atmospheric river event.
- Provide direction and leadership regarding management of flood debris in watercourses.
- Ensuring sound management of municipal liquid and solid waste through the pollution prevention hierarchy and polluter pay principle.
- Coordinate and manage the acquisition, provision and application of science-based information and knowledge including the State of Environment reports.
- Management of the Analytical Laboratory and the provision of lab services for the natural resource ministries.
- Development of standards and guidelines including the B.C. Environmental Laboratory Manual, Legal Sampling Guidelines, the B.C. Field Sampling Manual.
- Delivery of the ambient provincial air, groundwater, surface water, snow and water quality monitoring networks and expansion of hydroclimate monitoring programs under the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy.

### **Budget:**

\$30.654 M

\$26.135 Sustainable Environment Fund

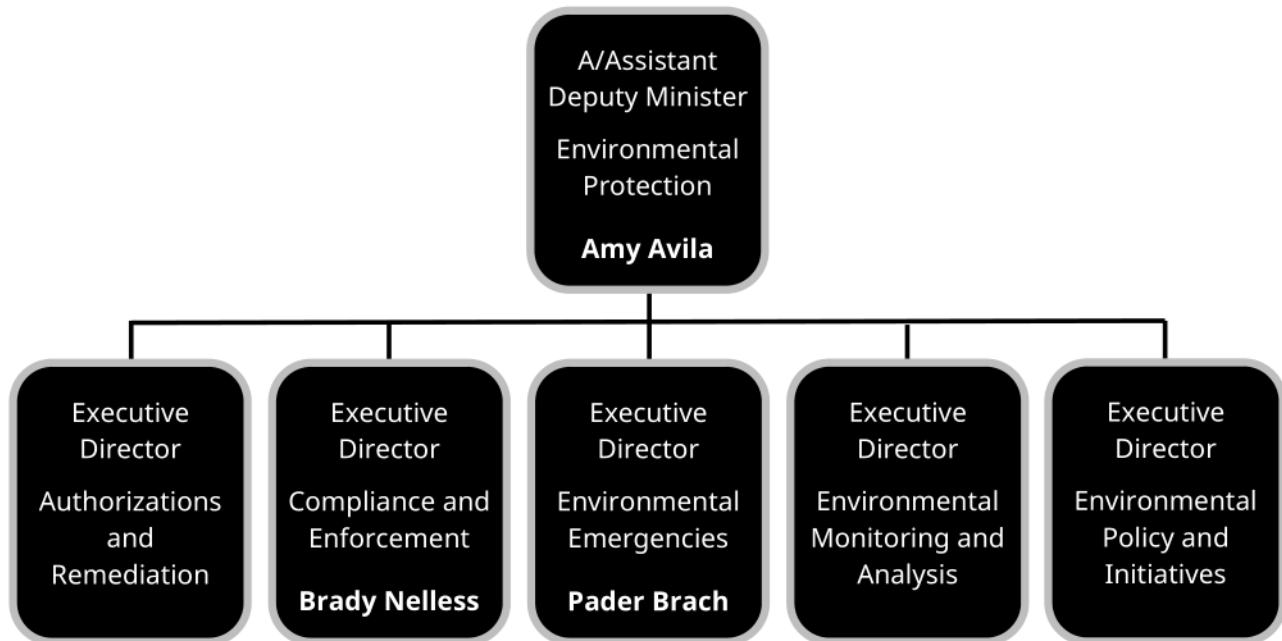
**Full Time Equivalents (FTEs):** 439

### **Related Legislation:**

- *Environmental Management Act (ENV)*
- *Integrated Pest Management Act (ENV)*

- *Ministry of Environment Act* (ENV)
- *Sustainable Environment Fund Act* (ENV)

**Organizational Chart:**



**Executive Member Biography**

**Name:** Amy Avila

**Title:** A/Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Protection Division

**Ministry:** Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

**Biography:**

Amy Avila is the Acting Assistant Deputy Minister for the Environmental Protection Division at the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. In her previous role, Amy was the Lead for the Strategic Services Division at the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. Amy was also previously the Executive Director of Regulatory Negotiations at the BC Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) and led the negotiation of the first agreement under the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act with the Tahltan Nation. Amy worked with the Indigenous Implementation Committee and directly with nations across BC to develop policies to support the new Environmental Assessment Act (2018) including the Indigenous Knowledge Guide and collaborative approaches to undertaking assessments with Indigenous Nations.

Amy's past work in the BC Public Service includes working with Indigenous nations on a wide variety of initiatives, from consultation for mine exploration projects to the review of the Columbia River Treaty, negotiations on hydro and oil and gas projects, and major mine development as the Executive Director of the Major Mine Permitting Office. Amy studied political science at St. Mary's University and dispute resolution at the University of Victoria.

## Recreation Strategy and Service Transformation

**ADM Responsible:** John Hawkings, Executive Lead

### Overview of Core Business / Program Area:

The Recreation Strategy and Service Transformation (RSST) program is project specific and time limited, focused on developing a shared vision for outdoor recreation service delivery, a provincial recreation strategy and implementing service transformation within the BC Parks and Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) programs. The program has three primary objectives:

1. Revision the role of the BC Parks, Recreation Sites and Trails Division in delivering recreation opportunities across the spectrum of regulated and enabled activities on Crown land;
2. Make recommendations to restructure and align Divisional regulatory and administrative accountabilities to support the new vision; and,
3. Lead the transformation of the technical environment to support and enable Divisional operations and public facing service delivery.

Developing a Shared Vision for Outdoor Recreation brings together multiple provincial agencies that share an interest in the social, economic, cultural and health benefits created by a thriving outdoor recreation sector. The Shared Vision will be foundational to development of a provincial outdoor recreation strategy including policy and program delivery priorities.

A key component of the recreation strategy is the realignment of BC Parks and RSTBC into a single agency positioned to meet the growing public demand for exceptional outdoor recreation and to fulfill government priorities related to community economic development, reconciliation, conservation, and modernized land-use planning. Implementation of the new organization structure will likely require a phased approach with the earliest phases being initiated in mid-November. Some implementation steps with fiscal implications may not occur until the next fiscal year, April 2025.

The RSST program works closely with the broader BC Parks and Recreation Sites and Trails executive and management teams. It is anticipated that the RSST program will culminate in March 2025 following implementation of the BC Parks and Recreation Sites and Trails service integration and the completion of a shared vision and recreation strategy.

**Budget:** \$0.450 M

**Full Time Equivalents (FTEs):** 3

### Related Legislation:

- *Park Act* (ENV)
- *Forest and Range Practices Act* (ENV)

**Organizational Chart:**



**Executive Member Biography**

**Name:** John Hawkings

**Title:** Executive Lead, Recreation Strategy and Service Transformation

**Ministry:** Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

**Biography:**

John Hawkings began the role of Executive Lead, Recreation Strategy and Service Transformation in the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy in November 2022. Prior to his current role, John was the Executive Director of Recreation Sites and Trails BC from 2015 to 2022 and the Provincial Trails Manager in same branch for the preceding eight years.

Before joining the Public Service in 2007, John spent much of the previous 15 years involved in forest-based recreation planning and implementation throughout the Sea to Sky Corridor in both the public and private sector and also worked for 3 years in US National Parks.

John lives in Squamish where he enjoys all the opportunities available in a BC mountain town with his wife Tanya and two teenage kids.



## Strategic Services Division

**Acting Lead Responsible:** James Prsala

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

The Strategic Services Division (SSD) is a corporate resource that provides guidance and strategic policy services to the ministry in four different areas:

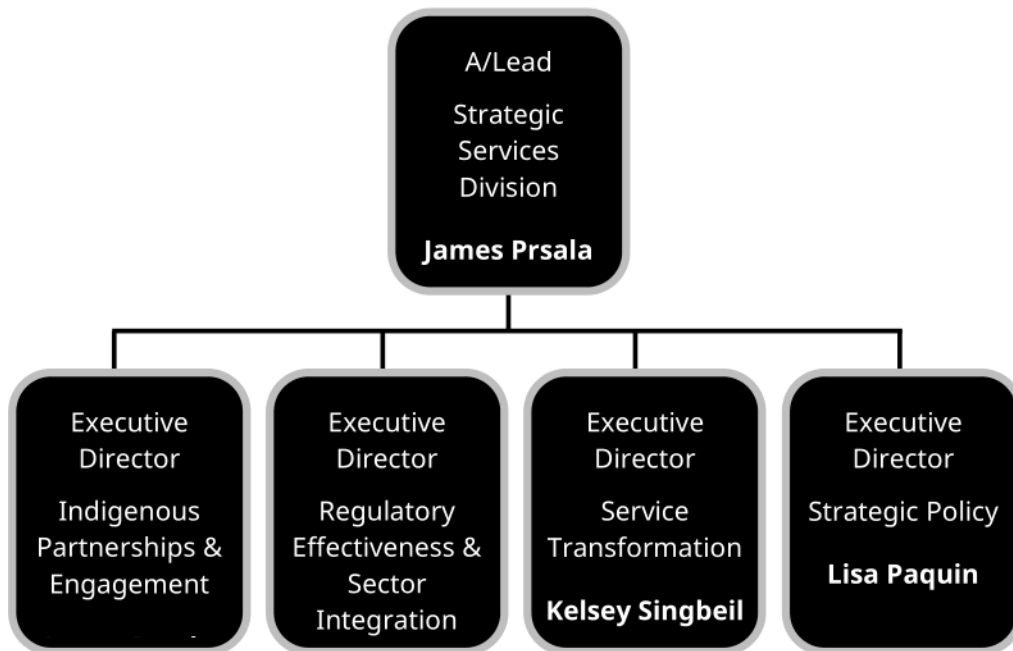
1. **Indigenous Partnerships and Engagement:** Ensure the ministry takes a coordinated and informed approach to engaging with Indigenous Peoples. Represents the Ministry at negotiation tables and other initiatives with First Nations, provides leadership for the Ministry's implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and works with other agencies in meeting the Province's reconciliation objectives.
2. **Service Transformation:** Provides ministry surge capacity and strategic support around data, design and digital services to improve ministry service delivery. The branch works directly with ministry teams to discover opportunities to improve service delivery – and then helps them build the digital products, processes and policy that can make these improvements real. The branch partners with corporate and natural resource sector digital service delivery partners and vendors, and helps coordinate the ministry's overall IM/IT strategic investments.
3. **Strategic Policy:** Includes Intergovernmental Relations, Legislation, and Business Improvement. Staff support the Minister, Deputy Minister and Ministry Executive by providing corporate leadership, coordination, analysis and inter-agency communication services, including management of inter-governmental relations and legislative matters involving the ministry and strategic planning/business improvement initiatives. Success in these areas is based on building and maintaining constructive and co-operative relationships with partners, both within and outside of the Ministry.
4. **Regulatory Effectiveness and Sector Integration Branch:** provides strategic policy support for ENV and other NRS ministries. The branch provides ministry-wide leadership and service in support of achieving compliance with regulatory requirements established to protect the environment, human health and safety, such as developing new C&E tools.

**Budget:** \$3.928 M

**Full Time Equivalents (FTEs):** 30

**Related Legislation:** none

Organizational Chart:



**Executive Member Biography**

**Name:** James Prsala

**Title:** A/Lead, Strategic Services Division

**Ministry:** Environment and Climate Change Strategy

**Biography:**

James began his career as a lawyer based in Toronto, specializing in immigration and refugee litigation. In 2017, he returned to Victoria to begin a career in the public service. James joined the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy in September 2022 as the Executive Director of the Indigenous Partnerships and Engagement Branch following roles within the natural resource sector of the public service, focusing on Indigenous Relations in both strategic policy and negotiations contexts.

James grew up in Metchosin (southern Vancouver Island) and graduated from University of Victoria where he studied history and English literature. He then moved to Toronto and obtained his law degree (J.D.) at Osgoode Hall Law School, York University. James now calls Saanich home, where he lives with his wife Fauziya. They are expecting their first child in November 2024.

## Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Ministries

**ADM Responsible:** Ranbir Parmar (AF, EMLI, ENV and MIRR) and Sonja Martins (FOR and WLRS)

### Overview of Core Business / Program Area:

Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Ministries (CSNR) is a corporate services organization providing services for approximately 8,000 employees in the natural resource ministries in over 100 locations throughout the province.

We serve the following ministries:

- Agriculture and Food (AF)
- Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI)
- Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV)
- Forests (FOR)
- Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR)
- Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS)

### CSNR Services:

#### Facilities, Fleet & Corporate Security

- Facilities – workspace accommodation, project and issue management for all six natural resource ministries
- Fleet and Assets – planning, analysis, reporting, maintenance and procurement for AF, ENV, FOR and WLRS
- Risk and Corporate Security – planning, response and recovery assistance for business disruptions and physical security issues for all six natural resource ministries

#### Financial Services

- Budgeting, forecasting and financial analysis/reporting and support; expenditure, revenue management and recovery processing and reporting
- Financial planning and reporting
- Financial operations
- Accounting
- Financial systems and data entry
- Financial policy, compliance and procurement

#### Human Resources

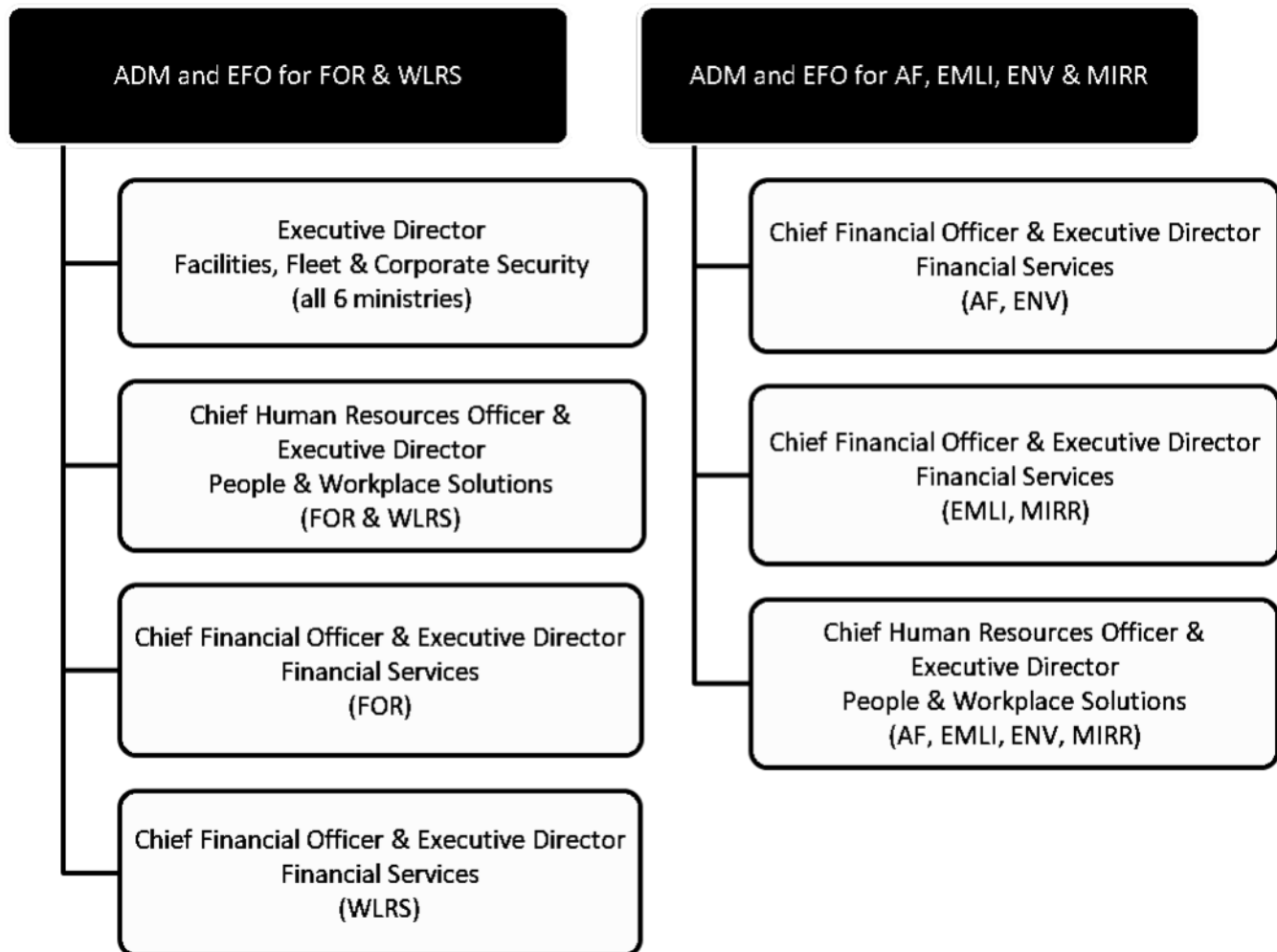
- Recruitment resources
- Hiring support services, including permitting recruitment team, onboarding and classification and exclusion support services
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion programs and resources
- Learning and development / Leadership development
- Corporate initiatives including Work Environment Survey reports and resources
- Health and workplace wellness
- Workforce planning including analytics

**Budget:** Government

**Full Time Equivalents (FTEs):** 365

**Related Legislation:** none

**Organizational Chart:**



**Executive Member Biography**

**Name:** Ranbir Parmar

**Title:** Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer

**Ministries:** Corporate Resources for the Natural Resource Ministries

**Biography:**

Ranbir Parmar is one of the Assistant Deputy Ministers (ADM) for Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Ministries (CSNR) and the Executive Financial Officer (EFO) for the Ministries of Agriculture and Food; Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation; Environment and Climate Change Strategy; and Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. He is also the lead for the Financial Services Branch and the People and Workplace Strategies Branch supporting those ministries.

Ranbir started his career in the public service in 1994 with the Ministry of Transportation. He has also worked in a variety of roles for the Ministries of Small Business and Revenue, Finance, and Ministry of Forests and Range (MoFR). As the Chief Financial Officer in MoFR his responsibilities included financial planning and reporting, financial operations and systems, and procurement and supply services for the ministry. Ranbir was permanently appointed as the ADM and EFO on April 1, 2022, has a Bachelor of Commerce Degree in Finance from the University of British Columbia, and is a Chartered Professional Accountant, CGA.

**Personal Information**

# SECTION C

## MAJOR CORPORATE ISSUE NOTES

<p><b>MAJOR CORPORATE ISSUE NOTE (2024)</b></p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p><b>Oil and Gas Emissions Cap</b></p>
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**Issue:**

- In March 2024, B.C. publicly committed to designing the provincial cap as a backstop to the federal oil and gas emissions cap and to have regulations in place establishing the provincial cap mechanism by the end of 2025.
- The federal oil and gas emissions cap regulations are in development and expected to be released in draft by the end of 2024.

**Background:**

- The oil and gas sector accounts for about 20% of B.C.'s total emissions and about 50% of B.C.'s emissions from industry.
- Emissions in the sector have gone down by 11% since 2007, from 14.9 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO<sub>2</sub>e) in 2007 to 13.3 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2022. Over the same period, gas production grew significantly in B.C. and the sector reduced its GHG emission intensity by half.
- The Province is also well on track to achieve its 2025 target of reducing methane emissions from the oil and gas sector by 45% from 2014 levels.
- Major LNG projects represent some of the largest potential sources of emissions in B.C., including from the liquefaction process itself but also from the additional incremental production of natural gas upstream in northeastern B.C. and transmission of gas to the LNG facilities on the north coast. (For example, LNG Canada Phase 1 is expected emit 3.45 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e in the oil and gas sector from production at the facility and in the upstream.)
- B.C. has made public commitments to address emissions related to new LNG development and limiting and reducing emissions from the oil and gas sector:
  - o One of the five conditions B.C. set out in 2018 for LNG development is that new LNG projects will fit within the province's climate commitments.
  - o In 2021, B.C. established sectoral targets to help identify the most feasible and cost-effective way to achieve our province-wide targets; the sectoral target for the oil and gas sector (including LNG) is a 33–38% reduction in emissions from 2007 levels by 2030.
  - o B.C. launched the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 in fall 2021, and included a commitment to implement policies and programs to ensure the oil and gas sector meets its sectoral targets.
  - o The 2022 mandate letters for ENV and EMLI directed Ministers to prioritize the CleanBC Roadmap commitment to put policies in place to reach the oil and gas sectoral targets.
  - o In March 2023, B.C. launched the New Energy Action Framework, which included a commitment to establish a regulatory greenhouse gas emissions cap to meet B.C.'s sectoral targets for the oil



and gas sector (33-38% below 2007 levels by 2030).

**Implications / Considerations / Opportunities:**

Advice/Recommendations

Business Information; Advice/Recommendations

<p>MAJOR CORPORATE ISSUE NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p><b>Progress Towards B.C.'s Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets</b></p>
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**Issue:**

- Progress towards B.C.'s legislated greenhouse gas emission reduction targets

**Background:**

- The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) is responsible for the *Climate Change Accountability Act* (CCAA), which includes establishing provincial greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets and reporting on progress towards these targets annually.
- The CCAA includes the following province-wide GHG emission reduction targets, which guide B.C.'s overall climate strategy (CleanBC):
  - o By 2025: achieve a 16% reduction below 2007 levels (established by Ministerial order)
  - o By 2030: achieve a 40% reduction below 2007 levels
  - o By 2040: achieve a 60% reduction below 2007 levels
  - o By 2050: achieve an 80% reduction below 2007 levels
- In the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 (Roadmap) Government committed to legislate a 2050 net-zero emission reduction target, which aligns with federal and international commitments.

Progress towards meeting GHG targets

- Since being announced in 2018, CleanBC and related measures have supported the transition towards low emission technologies (e.g., zero-emission vehicles) and contributed momentum towards B.C.'s longer-term emission reduction goals.  
Advice/Recommendations
- It is helpful to put our current GHG emissions in context of our growing economy and population:
  - o B.C.'s population has grown 25% since 2007 (compared to 18% for Canada)
  - o B.C.'s emissions per unit of GDP and per capita have both dropped during this time (by 29% and 20% respectively) since 2007.

Advice/Recommendations

- Advice/Recommendations

#### Publicly reported progress-to-targets projections

- Under the CCAA, a progress report (CCAR) is required each year that outlines the latest provincial GHG emissions data and describes both the Province's actions (including expenditures) to reduce GHGs and the outcomes that these actions and expenditures are expected to achieve.
  - The Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is required under the CCAA to table the 2024 CCAR during the first sitting of the Legislative Assembly in 2025.

Advice/Recommendations

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

- B.C. already has a strong climate action foundation formed by several pieces of complementary legislation, including:
  - *Climate Change Accountability Act*
  - *Clean Energy Act*
  - *Low Carbon Fuels Act*
  - *Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act*
  - *Carbon Tax Act*
  - *Zero-Emission Vehicles Act*
  - *B.C. Building Code*
  - *Environmental Management Act*
  - *Utilities Commission Act*
- B.C. has made tangible policy progress that will reduce emissions, most notably: the output-based pricing system for industry, the accelerated zero-emission vehicles mandate, the enhanced oil and gas methane regulations, the steadily increasing carbon tax and increased electrification.
- There has also been significant progress in enabling measures and market transformation approaches that have smaller direct emission reductions attributed to them but are critical to implementing those that do (e.g., building out public electric vehicle charging infrastructure to support greater adoption of zero-emission vehicles).

Advice/Recommendations

## Advice/Recommendations

- The CCAA requires the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to review the sectoral targets under the Act (currently established for the industrial, oil and gas, buildings and communities, and transportation sectors) before the end of 2025. This review would allow for an assessment of progress towards future targets, and a determination of appropriate next steps for climate policy progress in the province.

## Advice/Recommendations

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MAJOR CORPORATE ISSUE NOTE (2024)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Natural Resource Sector</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Southeast Initiatives</b></p>
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**Ministries:**

- Lead ministry: WLRS
- Other core ministries: ENV, EMLI, FOR, MIRR
- Associate ministries: EAO and MOTI

**Issue:**

Mining and other natural resource extraction activities in the Elk Valley have resulted in substantial adverse environmental impacts on water quality and aquatic ecosystems from elevated levels of selenium and other contaminants. There are also significant impacts on the land including rare ecosystems (including high elevation grasslands) and bighorn sheep. Indigenous rights held by the Ktunaxa Nation are adversely impacted by the current condition of the land and water.

**Background:**

Southeast B.C., specifically the Elk Valley, is critical to the provincial economy with metallurgical (or steelmaking) coal mining providing 12,820 direct, indirect and induced jobs in B.C. and 30,490 across Canada; \$4.6B towards B.C.'s GDP, and approximately 80% of the GDP for the region.

Southeast metallurgical coal deposits are a high-quality, strategic resource held by B.C. In 2023, the four operating Elk Valley Resources (EVR; formerly Teck Coal Ltd.) mines in the SE accounted for 83 percent of total coal production and 81 percent (\$663.5M) of all mineral tax collected from coal and metal mines in B.C.

The Elk Valley is part of the transboundary Kootenai/y watershed with water flowing across the border through Koocanusa Reservoir and into Montana and is in the core of Ktunaxa territory. This region is now the focus of an International Joint Commission Reference on water pollution. B.C. is part of the governance body Intergovernmental Intergovernmental Communications

EVR operates four mines (and one closed mine) and is currently proposing several expansions, including the Fording River Extension Project (FRX) which, if approved, may enable sustained production for several decades.

In addition to development pressures, the area is subject to numerous complex, overlapping and interrelated initiatives, including many stewardship priorities to heal the land. These efforts require prioritization and Intergovernmental Intergovernmental so they demand a coherent and timely strategic response. Intergovernmental Intergovernmental Communications

A Southeast Initiatives Secretariat (the Secretariat) was formed as a two-year pilot in July 2024 to enable a coherent strategic approach in the Southeast, supporting strong cross-ministry provincial governance and clear accountability.

The Secretariat is a cross-ministry team with representatives from ENV, WLRS, FOR, EMLI and MIRR under the leadership of a dedicated ADM who will provide relationship continuity, accountability and functional authority, oversight and leadership for the development and implementation of a cross-ministry cohesive strategy to advance SE priorities.

The mandate of the Secretariat is to develop and implement a coordinated and aligned cross-ministry strategy that allows for continuation of responsible mining of metallurgical coal in the Elk Valley while improving environmental quality, managing cumulative effects, healing the land, and advancing models of shared decision-making with First Nations to build prosperous and healthy communities for all.

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

A primary goal of the Secretariat is to address concerns and leverage opportunities which help establish conditions in the Southeast that could enable continued responsible mining supported by key stakeholders and First Nations. Business Information  
Business Information

A short-term priority is to put measures in place which will support the EAO with an upcoming decision about whether to allow an environmental assessment of the FRX project to proceed. EVR plans to submit a revised Detailed Project Description to the EAO for the FRX Project in late 2024 or early 2025. Teck (now EVR) initially submitted the project to the EAO in 2022. In 2023, the Chief Executive Assessment Officer and Associate Deputy Minister of the EAO did not allow the project to proceed with review as proposed. Instead, the Readiness Decision for the FRX Project EA required Teck to submit a revised detailed project description.

Intergovernmental Communications

The Secretariat is advancing initiatives to manage existing environmental impacts, mitigate future impacts, leverage broader stewardship opportunities, and advance reconciliation. Initiatives include:

- **Secretariat:** Improve coordination and alignment internal to the provincial government, but also with the federal government and First Nations; Intergovernmental Communications  
Intergovernmental Communications

## Intergovernmental Communications

- **ENV:** Update and improve the valley-wide water quality management strategy by amending the Elk Valley Area Based Management; Improve water quality by requiring and permitting more water treatment facilities; and developing and implementing strategies to address and prevent other emerging issues related to water and air quality.
- **WLRS:** Finalize and implement Valued Component (VC) objectives and targets to ensure proposed developments or stewardship initiatives can be evaluated for adequately managing for Cumulative Effects; advance conservation and stewardship initiatives to heal the land; and formalize cumulative effects management in Land Use Planning Intergovernmental Communications  
Intergovernmental Communications
- **FOR:** Initiate collaborative Forest Landscape Planning to establish clear outcomes for the management and use of forest resources, and as an opportunity to address cumulative impacts through road rehabilitation, ecosystem restoration and landscape resilience. Other priority work includes aligning partnerships with First Nations in the forest sector, supporting broader healing the land discussions, and managing cumulative effects in FOR decision making and permitting.
- **EMLI:** Ensure B.C. and EVR are demonstrating and planning for effective, long-term mine closure through EVR's Reclamation and Closure Plans; assess total liability of EVR's mines and ensure sufficient security is held by B.C.; Intergovernmental Communications  
Intergovernmental Communications
- **MIRR:** Continue to advance reconciliation priorities through implementing collective and individual agreements with Ktunaxa (including the Ktunaxa Nation Council Society and the individual Ktunaxa First Nations Governments) and through supporting and aligning SEIS initiatives.

**Decisions Required / Next Steps:**

- Lead ministries are responsible for decisions under their respective legislative and regulatory frameworks
- Key cross agency initiatives for SEIS include continued engagement on International Joint Commission, Area Based Management Plan and Dominion Coal Blocks

## Section D: 30-60-90 Day Issue Notes

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# SECTION D

## 30-60-90 DAY ISSUE NOTES

<p>30-60-90 DAY ISSUE NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p><b>30 Day Issue</b></p> <p><b>Annual Youth Climate Summit</b></p>
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**KEY FACTS:**

- CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 and the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy (CPAS) both include commitments to build youth climate literacy through involving and educating youth on climate action in B.C.
- As part of delivering on this commitment, the Climate Action Secretariat (CAS) holds an annual youth summit, co-developed and delivered by youth, with the goal of providing space for youth to connect on climate, showcasing young climate leaders, and (where possible) seeking youth input on government climate policy.
- In fall 2023, CAS hosted one virtual and one in-person summit with over 125 youth from across the province in attendance. The Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) spoke at the events, and the ADM committed to hosting an annual Summit.

## Advice/Recommendations

- CAS has tentatively scheduled the third annual Youth Climate Summit (Summit) for March 2025 in Vancouver, and intends to plan/deliver the Summit in partnership with a youth organization (TBD) and the non-profit organization Story Money Impact.
- Led by CAS, the Summit will include youth climate organizations, content creators, academia and industry. It will provide an opportunity for the Province to engage with youth on climate policy development, but also a space for youth to network with peers from other sectors, something that youth organizations have consistently requested.

## Advice/Recommendations

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>30-60-90 DAY ISSUE NOTE (2024)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>30 Day Issue</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Liquefied Natural Gas Treatment under the B.C. Output-Based Pricing System and Oil and Gas Emissions Cap</b></p>
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### Issue

- B.C. Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facilities will be regulated under the B.C. Output-Based Pricing System (OBPS) and the B.C. Oil and Gas Emissions Cap. Currently there are no LNG facilities operating in B.C. with emissions high enough for OBPS to apply and B.C. is still developing the Oil and Gas Emissions Cap. The B.C. OBPS and the emissions cap are separate from the consumer carbon tax.
- The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) must work with the Ministry of Finance (FIN) and Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI) to determine how emissions from LNG facilities will be priced under the OBPS and the emissions cap.
- LNG Canada (LNGC) Phase 1 is anticipated to begin commercial operation this year and LNGC is seeking to make a financial investment decision on the second phase of their project. LNGC has requested that the province provide policy certainty on future carbon costs including treatment under the B.C. OBPS.

### Background

- B.C. is expecting its first large-scale producing LNG operations to be operational within three years:
  - LNG Canada Phase 1 is under construction in Kitimat and expected to be operational in 2024.
  - Woodfibre LNG is under construction in Squamish and is expected to begin operations in 2027.
- Several additional LNG projects are either scaling up production or are at various stages of development under environmental assessment, permitting, and/or final investment decision, including:
  - FortisBC's Tilbury LNG facility is undergoing a series of expansions and is projected to be scaled up by 2025 and completed by 2028.
  - Cedar LNG, which has been granted an Environmental Assessment Certificate, is the only LNG project that is majority-owned by a First Nation (Haisla First Nation, at 51% ownership); the project expects to be in service by late 2028. *Advice/Recommendations*
  - Ksi Lisims LNG, led by project proponents Rockies LNG, Western LNG, and the Nisga'a Nation, has submitted its Environmental Assessment application.

*Advice/Recommendations*

- The B.C. OBPS came into effect on April 1, 2024, regulating industrial operators.
  - Given B.C.'s nascent LNG industry, OBPS stringency has not been set for LNG.

- In March 2023, B.C. launched a new energy action framework, which included commitments to ensure all new LNG projects and oil and gas development fit within B.C.'s climate plan. Specifically, it requires:
  - The oil and gas sector, including LNG, reduce its emissions by 33-38 percent below 2007 levels by 2030; and
  - all new LNG facilities i.e., those facilities without an environment assessment certificate achieve net zero emissions by 2030.
- In March 2024, B.C. publicly committed to designing the provincial oil and gas emissions cap as a backstop to the federal cap and to have regulations in place establishing the provincial cap mechanism by the end of 2025. The federal oil and gas emissions cap regulations are in development and expected to be released in draft by the end of 2024.
- In 2018, prior to the new energy framework, the Province developed an LNG Framework which included the development of the Operating Performance Payment Agreement (OPPA) which included provisions related to carbon pricing and the *Carbon Tax Act* for Phase 1 of LNGC project.

Intergovernmental Communications

- There is no similar OPPA agreement for the Phase 2 of LNGC's development.

Intergovernmental Communications

## Discussion

Advice/Recommendations

## DECISION REQUIRED:

☒ Yes      ☐ No

Business Information

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Advice/Recommendations ; Cabinet Confidences ; Government Financial Information

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Advice/Recommendations ; Business Information ; Cabinet Confidences ; Government Financial Information

<p>30-60-90 DAY ISSUE NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p>30 Day Issue</p> <p><b>Publication of <i>Approaching a Circular Economy in B.C.</i></b></p>
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**KEY FACTS:**

- In 2021, the *CleanBC Roadmap to 2030* committed to developing a “Circular Economy Strategy” to enhance B.C.’s ability to achieve waste and emissions reductions and continue to build a clean economy.
- A circular economy (CE) represents a paradigm shift from the linear “take, make, waste” economy linked to climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. The CE model aims to eliminate waste and pollution by keeping materials in use for as long as possible through strategies such as sharing, repairing, refurbishing, and recycling.
- The economic benefits of transitioning to a CE include the potential to drive innovation and market competition, facilitate more localized and resilient supply chains, and create green jobs across B.C.
- To continue to advance CE in B.C., the Climate Action Secretariat and the Environmental Protection Division jointly developed a visioning document titled *Approaching a Circular Economy in B.C.* (the Approach), which is ready for publication.
- There is a commitment in the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 to develop a Circular Economy Strategy. The Province also indicated its intent to release a public document during engagement to inform the development of the Approach. The release was originally targeted for summer 2024.
- Through ongoing engagement, municipalities in B.C. have requested that the Province show leadership on CE. There was also a Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) resolution in 2021<sup>6</sup> asking that the Province “develop a provincial Circular Economy strategy.”

Advice/Recommendations

**DECISION REQUIRED:**

☒ Yes      ☐ No

<sup>6</sup> UBCM (2021) [2021 UBCM Resolutions](#)



<p><b>30-60-90 DAY ISSUE NOTE (2024)</b></p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Protection Division</p>	<p><b>30 Day Issue</b></p> <p><b>Non-Residential Packaging and Paper Products</b></p>
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**KEY FACTS:**

- Through the Union of BC Municipalities and other avenues, the Province regularly hears from local governments, Indigenous communities, small businesses, and other interested parties about challenges with waste prevention, including recycling, from the non-residential sector, particularly in communities outside of the lower mainland.
- In the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Five-Year Action Plan (2021-2026), the Province committed to identifying a policy approach for improving waste prevention and recycling for non-residential (also known as Industrial, Commercial, Institutional (ICI)) sources of packaging and paper products by 2025.
- From April 23, 2024 to July 23, 2024, the Province hosted a 90-day public engagement on a discussion paper, enabling interested parties to contribute their knowledge and ideas to inform the development of policy approaches that will improve waste prevention and recycling of non-residential packaging waste in communities across B.C.
- The discussion paper identified desired outcomes as well as nine potential policy approaches, with two of the approaches relating to the expansion of recycling through EPR for packaging to more institutional, commercial, or agricultural sources.
- Feedback was gathered through an online survey, written responses and in-person engagement sessions with targeted audiences. Engagement sessions were also held with Indigenous participants in July and September 2024 to gather feedback.
- Two 'What We Learned' reports will be ready for publication in November 2024; one reflecting feedback gathered at the Indigenous engagement sessions and one reflecting feedback gathered through public engagement, including publication of the written responses submitted by industry, local governments, businesses, and environmental non-governmental organizations.

**DECISION REQUIRED:**

☒ Yes      ☐ No

- Decision required to publish the two 'What We Learned' reports in November 2024.
  - When speaking to external parties, it has been communicated that these reports are anticipated for release in fall 2024.

<p><b>30-60-90 DAY ISSUE NOTE (2024)</b></p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Protection Division</p>	<p><b>30 Day Issue</b></p> <p>Advice/Recommendations</p>
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**KEY FACTS:**

- Organic waste represents approximately 40% of material sent to landfills and includes compostable waste such as food scraps, yard and garden trimmings, food-soiled paper products, and biosolids (a byproduct of the wastewater treatment process).
- Diverting organic waste to compost facilities reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, preserves landfill space, and creates a valuable and environmentally responsible resource (compost) that can be used in B.C. communities, while creating green jobs.
- To support the diversion of organic waste from landfills, B.C. established two funding programs: the \$30M Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund – Organics Infrastructure Program (OIP) and the \$38.85M CleanBC Organics Infrastructure and Collection Program (OICP) to invest in new or expanded organics processing infrastructure and residential curbside collections programs.
- A total of 43 projects, including nine Indigenous Nation led projects, have been funded under OIP and OICP. Thirty-four projects are now complete or near completion; most remaining projects will be operational by March 31, 2025.

Business Information; Advice/Recommendations

**DECISION REQUIRED:**

☐ Yes      ☒ No

<p>30-60-90 DAY ISSUE NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Protection Division</p>	<p><b>30 Day Issue</b></p> <p><b>Public Interest Bonding Strategy</b></p>
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**KEY FACTS:**

- The Public Interest Bonding Strategy (PIBS) aims to fulfill the 2022 public commitment by government to:
  - Deliver the first phase of B.C.'s new bonding policy toward ensuring owners of large industrial projects are bonded moving forward so that they – not British Columbians – pay the full costs of environmental cleanup if their projects are abandoned.
- Over time there have been a number of cases where B.C. taxpayers have been responsible for covering the cost of abandoned industrial sites.
- The most recent case is the 2019 abandonment of Neucel pulp mill in Port Alice, B.C. To date, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) has spent over \$150M to stabilize and decommission the site. This does not include future cost or actions to remediate the contamination on site. The ongoing environmental, fiscal, and social uncertainty of the Neucel site continues to impact the Village of Port Alice, Quatsino First Nation and disaffected workers from Unifor 514.
- An intentions paper was posted in April 2024 for a 60-day period and outlined proposed policy for ordering of risk-based determination; decommissioning and closure plans; cost of clean-up; security; compliance approach and cost recovery provisions.
- Feedback was gathered through an online survey, written responses and in-person engagement sessions with First Nations, public and industry; as well as through targeted engagement with Council of Forest Industry and Business Council of B.C.
- An Indigenous and a public 'What We Learned' report will be available for posting in late fall 2024. The reports summarize feedback gathered at the First Nations sessions and feedback gathered through public engagement, including submissions by industry, local governments, businesses, and environmental non-governmental organizations.
- To date, Indigenous and industry feedback has played a key role in policy development allowing staff to thoughtfully balance the project's guiding principles.

**DECISION REQUIRED:**

☒ Yes      ☐ No

- Decision required to publish the two 'What We Learned' reports in November 2024.
  - When speaking to external parties, it has been communicated that these reports are anticipated for release in fall 2024.

<p>30-60-90 DAY ISSUE NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Protection Division</p>	<p><b>30 Day Issue</b></p> <p><b>Recycling Regulation Amendment</b></p>
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**KEY FACTS:**

- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is an environmental and economic approach to waste management that requires producers (manufacturers, distributors, and retailers) to take responsibility for collecting and recycling regulated packaging and products they put onto the B.C. marketplace.
- EPR shifts the costs of managing end-of-life material from taxpayers and governments to those that produce, use and benefit from it. EPR is intended to encourage producers to incorporate environmental considerations into the design of their products and to maximize diversion of material from landfill.
- B.C. is considered one of the leading jurisdictions in the world for EPR and often serves as a model for other jurisdictions. 19 EPR programs currently operate for a variety of products, including beverage containers, tires, household hazardous waste, electronic and electrical products, packaging and paper products.
- The [Extended Producer Responsibility Five-Year Action Plan 2021 to 2026](#) (the Action Plan), published in 2021, outlines the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's (ENV) priorities to advance recycling by:
  - adding more product categories to the Recycling Regulation (the regulation), and
  - improving recovery and recycling of non-residential packaging and paper (see 30 Day Issue Note: Non-Residential Packaging and Paper Products for further details).

Business Information; Advice/Recommendations

- In July 2024, key stakeholders were notified that the amendments were not progressing at that time, and that ENV would provide more information should the timeline extend beyond 2024.
- Local governments and the Indigenous Zero Waste Technical Advisory Group, representing 110 Indigenous communities, prioritized adding mattresses and single-use canisters (e.g., camping fuels) to EPR programs. Other products like automotive containers, aerosols, consumer products with batteries (e.g., vapes and e-cigarettes), and medical sharps are also important to them.
- Local governments continue to strongly advocate for EPR, and to expand EPR to new products and sectors to reduce high waste management costs, divert more recyclables from landfills, and reduce illegal dumping.
- EPR also supports B.C.'s growing recycling sector and a safer work environment. Business Information

Business Information

- Since the Action Plan timeline has been published, local governments, Indigenous communities, depots and recyclers have been anticipating the shift to EPR management and have therefore not budgeted these continued waste management costs for the phase 1 items including cleaning-up and landfilling illegally dumped mattresses which alone is estimated to cost \$9M/year.

Business Information; Advice/Recommendations

<p>30-60-90 DAY ISSUE NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Protection Division</p>	<p>30 Day Issue</p> <p><b>Release of Updated Integrated Pest Management Guidance Materials</b></p>
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**KEY FACTS:**

- The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) made amendments to the Integrated Pest Management Regulation (IPMR) that restricted the use of certain rodenticides because of their impacts on wildlife. These amendments came into force January 2023.
- From Fall 2023 to Summer 2024 staff engaged with stakeholders to assess implementation and understand any challenges stakeholders may be experiencing with the amendments.
- On July 10, 2024, the Minister provided direction to expand the engagement plan, complete engagement prior to the interregnum, assess the need for additional guidance material, and publish any required new or updated guidance material in November 2024.
- Staff completed engagement in August with stakeholders including the pest control industry, health authorities, local governments, restaurant sector, BC Housing, and Translink, and have recently completed analysis of the engagement.
- Based on the engagement, ENV staff have identified several areas for improvement of guidance materials, including clarifying certain regulatory requirements and improving information on best management practices to manage rodents.
- Updated guidance materials will be ready for web publication and sharing with stakeholders in November.

**DECISION REQUIRED:**

☐ Yes      ☒ No

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>30-60-90 DAY ISSUE NOTE (2024)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>60 Day Issue</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>2024 Climate Change Accountability Report – Progress to Targets Scenarios</b></p>
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**KEY FACTS:**

- The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is responsible for the *Climate Change Accountability Act (CCAA)*, which includes the legislation of provincial greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets.
- Under the CCAA, the B.C. government is required to submit a report to the legislature each year outlining progress on climate action – the Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR).
- The CCAR typically includes an assessment of B.C.’s current and projected performance against the 2025 and 2030 greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets (16% and 40% below 2007 levels, respectively) specified in the CCAA.
- Progress-to-targets reporting in past CCARs had only shown one scenario—B.C.’s greatest possible level of emission reductions assuming all CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 policies were implemented as originally described and on time (i.e., the “CleanBC” scenario).
  - In 2023, B.C. reported that the “CleanBC” scenario could achieve 91% of the 2025 GHG reduction target and 96% of the 2030 GHG target.
- The Province is no longer expected to achieve the level of emissions reductions in the “CleanBC” scenario, principally because several Roadmap policies have been changed from original intent in such a way that they have significantly less emission reduction than initially modelled. (see transition note on Progress to Targets, CleanBC Modelling and Risks for further detail.)
- In order to ensure emission forecasts portray what is expected under current climate policy, the 2024 CCAR is not modelling an updated “CleanBC” scenario as it is no longer accurate or workable. Instead, the Climate Action Secretariat is modelling both “legislated” and “defined” policy scenarios following modelling best practices and advice from the Climate Solutions Council.
- The “legislated” scenario includes all B.C climate policies that have been legislated and/or funded as of June 1, 2024, e.g., B.C.’s industrial carbon pricing system (see appendix for full list of policies under each scenario)
- The “defined” scenario includes all legislated policies but also includes policies that have not yet been implemented but have sufficient policy detail to be accurately modeled (e.g., the strengthened building code)

Advice/Recommendations

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Advice/Recommendations



<p>30-60-90 DAY ISSUE NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p>60 Day Issue</p> <p><b>Carbon Capture and Storage Offset Protocol Notification of Approval</b></p>
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**KEY FACTS:**

- An offset is a tradable credit representing a tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent, used to counterbalance greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Offsets can be generated for use in the B.C. Output-Based Pricing System, net zero new industry, or the voluntary offset market.
- To generate carbon offsets recognized as B.C. Offset Units, projects must comply with provincial regulations and adhere to a Director-approved offset protocol.
  - Protocols establish eligibility requirements and methodologies for calculating carbon emissions reductions and/or removals for specific activity types in B.C. projects.
  - Protocols define requirements for monitoring, reporting, and maintenance after the crediting period, including the required length of the monitoring period.
- A Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS) protocol is currently being developed to quantify GHG emission reductions and removal enhancements from projects that sequester captured carbon within B.C. The protocol will apply to projects that either inject and permanently store carbon in a reservoir within a storage complex or chemically transform it into a compound capable of permanent storage.
- The draft CCS protocol was released publicly for comments and feedback between September 13 and December 14, 2023, and a summary of the feedback, the “What We Heard” report, was released on June 5, 2024.
- The primary concern raised by stakeholders is the length of the post-crediting monitoring period, with many finding the proposed 100-year requirement to be prohibitively long and costly.
  - To ensure that only emissions that are permanently sequestered are credited with B.C. Offset Units, B.C.’s offset protocols credit only projects that prove the permanent sequestration of carbon emissions.
  - The draft CCS Protocol proposes a 100-year monitoring period for oil and gas or saline reservoirs, 20 years for mafic rock (basalt) reservoirs, and no monitoring for chemical transformation projects.
  - CCS developers are hesitant to proceed with projects due to the long-term responsibility of managing CO<sub>2</sub> in a reservoir for 100 years, impacting near-term investments. Concerns include liability, administrative burden on smaller projects, and annual inspections.
- Stakeholders have recommended shifting to a risk-based, data-informed approach that adapts the monitoring period based on the assessed risks of leakage, rather than imposing a fixed timeline for all projects.
- The ministry plans to conduct targeted engagement with key interested parties, including First Nations, the Oil and Gas sector, Validation and Verification Bodies, and environmental non-governmental organizations, focusing on revising the monitoring period for CCS projects based on risk, with input from the BC Energy Regulator and the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation.

- o Forms of engagement will include webinars and written submissions, with the process expected to last roughly two months.

Advice/Recommendations

**DECISION REQUIRED:**

☐ Yes      ☒ No

<p>30-60-90 DAY ISSUE NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p>60 Day Issue</p> <p><b>Federal Advocacy Strategy</b></p>
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**KEY FACTS:**

- There are many areas of alignment on climate-related goals between B.C. and Canada, and B.C. works with the Federal government on areas of shared interest through multiple channels, including bi-lateral engagements or negotiations, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) and targeted Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) tables.
- The Climate Action Secretariat (CAS) coordinates across ministries to identify federal advocacy priorities on climate and CleanBC. An existing federal advocacy strategy includes pathways for achieving B.C.'s objectives, including federal funding programs that may be leveraged where possible.

Advice/Recommendations

**DECISION REQUIRED:**

☒ Yes      ☐ No

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

<p>30-60-90 DAY ISSUE NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p>60 Day Issue</p> <p><b>Net Zero New Industry Legislation</b></p>
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**KEY FACTS:**

- The Net Zero New Industry (NZNI) policy is a CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 commitment designed to ensure new industrial projects do not hinder the Province in reaching its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets.
- The NZNI policy requires new large industrial facilities with estimated annual GHG emissions greater than 10,000 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (t CO<sub>2</sub>e) to:
  - o develop a credible plan to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 (2030 for large liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities);
  - o demonstrate that emissions will be reduced as far as practicable from initial operation;
  - o review and update the plan ever five years to consider new emissions abatement technologies; and,
  - o demonstrate how the proponent will offset any remaining emissions covered by the policy using B.C. Offset Units.
- Amendments to the *Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act* (GGIRCA) would be required to provide a legislative framework for the Net Zero New Industry policy.
- In the absence of legislation, the Net-Zero New Industry policy is being applied to projects currently in or entering the Environmental Assessment process, as per direction from the Minister of Environment & Climate Change Strategy to the Chief Executive Assessment Officer in May 2024.
- A clear legislative framework for the policy will provide industry certainty regarding the GHG performance expectations for new development and will apply requirements equitably across all new industrial projects.

**DECISION REQUIRED:**

☒ Yes      ☐ No

- A decision on whether to bring the Bill forward to Legislative Review Committee will be required to support introduction of the Bill into the Legislature in the Spring (or later) session.

<p>30-60-90 DAY ISSUE NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p>60 Day Issue</p> <p><b>Oil and Gas Emissions Cap</b></p>
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**KEY FACTS:**

- B.C. committed to establishing a regulatory emissions cap for the oil and gas sector that would reduce and limit emissions from the sector in line with the provincial sectoral target of 33-38% below 2007 levels by 2030.
- In March 2024, B.C. publicly committed to designing the provincial cap as a backstop to the federal oil and gas emissions cap and to have regulations in place establishing the provincial cap mechanism by the end of 2025.
- The federal oil and gas emissions cap regulations are in development and expected to be released in draft by the end of 2024.
- The oil and gas emissions cap is a shared priority for the ministries of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) and Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI).
- ENV and EMLI will seek direction to initiate engagement in early 2025 on the potential options to establish a regulatory backstop emissions cap mechanism with the oil and gas sector, environmental non-governmental organizations, and Indigenous organizations and First Nations rights and title holders.

**DECISION REQUIRED:**

☒ Yes      ☐ No

Advice/Recommendations

<p>30-60-90 DAY ISSUE NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p>60 Day Issue</p> <p><b>Output Based Pricing System Order in Council – Legislative Framework</b></p>
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**KEY FACTS:**

- Budget 2023 announced the introduction of a new industrial carbon pricing system, the B.C. Output-Based Pricing System (B.C. OBPS), in 2024. The 2023 Budget Measures Implementation Act included amendments to the *Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act* (GGIRCA) to enable the new system by April 1, 2024.
- The regulations under GGIRCA were amended in February 2024 to implement the B.C. OBPS. Further regulatory refinements were made in July 2024.
- Four regulations are currently in place under the GGIRCA:
  - B.C. Carbon Registry Regulation: Establishes the system of rules, accounts and transactions for B.C. offsets units and the OBPS.
  - Emission Offset Project Regulation: Sets framework for developing and managing offsets projects.
  - Greenhouse Gas Emission Administrative Penalties and Appeals Regulation: Outlines penalties for non-compliance and the process for appeals.
  - Greenhouse Gas Emission Reporting Regulation: Requires industrial facilities that emit over 10,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year to report and validate their annual emissions and production.
- The B.C. OBPS will ensure emissions reductions for industry continue while providing flexible options, such as earned units and carbon offsets, to meet their obligations under GGIRCA.
- ENV will seek direction in late 2024 to reengage with industrial operations covered by the B.C. OBPS to refine methodologies and policies to ensure reporting accuracy, administrative fairness, and equivalency with the federal backstop.
- Legislative or regulatory amendments may be required to meet these objectives, as an outcome of reengagement, or in response to commitments from government.
- Legislative and regulatory amendments may include methodological additions or improvements for some sectors, such as Liquefied Natural Gas, pulp and paper, oil and gas, the addition of new products, and administrative improvements for operations and staff.

Business Information; Advice/Recommendations

<p>30-60-90 DAY ISSUE NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p>60 Day Issue</p> <p><b>Province Wide Net Zero Target</b></p>
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**KEY FACTS:**

- B.C.'s *Climate Change Accountability Act* (CCAA) contains legislated greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets of at least -40% by 2030, -60% by 2040 and -80% by 2050 relative to 2007 emissions levels.
- The Province, and jurisdictions worldwide, have recognized that limiting human-caused climate change requires achieving net-zero emissions globally. Twenty-seven countries have already legislated net-zero emissions, as have 27 sub-national jurisdictions.
- The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's 2022 mandate letter instructed it to legislate "...an additional target to reach net-zero province-wide by 2050 while continuing to take action to meet B.C.'s 2030, 2040 and 2050 legislated reduction targets."
- The Cabinet-approved CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 stated: "B.C.'s commitment to a net-zero future will be backed by legislation."
- In addition, in their 2021 Annual Report, the Province's legislated climate advisory group, the Climate Solutions Council, recommended that the net-zero target be an urgent implementation priority.
- The Province Wide Net Zero (PWNZ) target would not remove B.C.'s existing 2050 GHG target under the CCAA to achieve province wide greenhouse gas emission reductions of 80%. Rather, the Target would require that remaining province-wide emissions in 2050 be balanced by emission removals.
- Engagement and consultation on the PWNZ target were completed in fall 2023 with Indigenous Peoples, local governments, interested parties, and the Climate Solutions Council. Feedback was supportive and no concerns were raised.
- The proposed amendments are not anticipated to have direct implications for businesses or the economy. Adding the PWNZ Target signals that climate change is a priority for Government but does not commit the Government to any specific proposals that would impact businesses.
  - However, achieving the Target will require B.C. to implement more stringent climate policy to put the Province in the position to achieve a PWNZ target, which will have implications across the economy.

**DECISION REQUIRED:**

☒ Yes      ☐ No

- Seeking approval to amend the *Climate Change Accountability Act* to add a PWNZ Target (Roadmap to 2030 commitment) early in the mandate.

<p>30-60-90 DAY ISSUE NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Conservation and Recreation Division</p>	<p>60 Day Issue</p> <p><b>Grizzly Bear Foundation Partnership</b></p>
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**KEY FACTS:**

- In September 2024, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) and Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) jointly announced a partnership between the Province and the Grizzly Bear Foundation, aimed at reducing human-wildlife conflicts and enhancing the well-being of grizzly and black bears in BC.
- An expert panel is being created that will explore and identify opportunities for reducing human wildlife conflict in BC.
- An independent third-party review committee is also being formed, which will work together with the COS and WLRS wildlife branch to develop recommendations for lessening human wildlife conflict within BC and improving human wildlife conflict prevention and response efforts.
- Throughout this work, direct engagement with First Nations will incorporate Indigenous perspectives, values and traditional ecological knowledge to inform the process and actions.
- This work will not encompass third-party oversight of Conservation Officer conduct.
- The project design includes opportunities for the public, local governments, stakeholders, and First Nations, to provide input through engagement sessions.
- The engagement process will look at improving prevention and response efforts in regard to human wildlife conflict within BC.
- Recommendations are expected to be developed by the spring of 2025.

**DECISION REQUIRED:**

☐ Yes      ☒ No



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Business Information ; Advice/Recommendations

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Advice/Recommendations

<p>30-60-90 DAY ISSUE NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Protection Division</p>	<p>60 Day Issue</p> <p><b>CleanBC Plastics Action Fund</b></p>
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**KEY FACTS:**

- The CleanBC Plastics Action Fund (the Fund) was first established in 2021 and has supported projects that design out plastic waste, promote the shift to reusable systems, and increase the use of post-consumer recycled content when manufacturing new plastic products.
- The Fund includes four categories:
  - Post-Consumer Recycled Content plastic recycling and manufacturing, focussing on recycling upgrades and manufacturing using recycled plastics.
  - Circular Economy Innovation to develop reuse and repair businesses, supporting plastic reduction at the source through reuse and repair.
  - Indigenous Projects to support Indigenous-led projects in Indigenous communities or with Indigenous-led businesses that prevent plastic waste.
  - Regional Plastics Innovation, supporting projects outside of the lower mainland.
- There has been a high amount of business interest in the Fund, Advice/Recommendations reflecting the interest and opportunity for the development of a plastics circular economy in B.C., where materials are kept in circulation and out of the landfill.
- The Fund is administered by a third-party non-profit, the Alacrity Foundation of B.C., with the Indigenous-led Funding category also supported by the Indigenous Zero Waste Technical Advisory Group (IZWTAG), an Indigenous run non-profit society with the aim of assisting First Nations to implement zero waste programs.
- Phase 3 of the Fund was announced in April 2023, with over \$20M in new funding made available for projects to prevent plastic waste and to develop B.C.'s circular economy.
  - The intake for the third phase of the CleanBC Plastics Action Fund was opened on October 16, 2023, and remains open until December 2, 2024.
  - A list of thirty-two projects totaling over \$14M selected under phase 3 was published in an information bulletin in September 2024.
  - A final round of project selection, disbursing the remaining \$8M, will be completed by the fund administrator in early 2025.
  - Successful phase 3 projects are required to be completed by February 2026.

**DECISION REQUIRED:**

☐ Yes      ☒ No

<p>30-60-90 DAY ISSUE NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Protection Division</p>	<p>60 Day Issue</p> <p><b>Newspaper Producer Compliance with the Recycling Regulation</b></p>
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**KEY FACTS:**

- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is an environmental and economic approach to waste management that requires producers (manufacturers, distributors, and retailers) to take responsibility for collecting and recycling regulated packaging and products they put onto the B.C. marketplace.
  - Producers of packaging and paper products, including newsprint, have been responsible for collecting and recycling their products under B.C.'s EPR framework, established by the Recycling Regulation (regulation), since 2014.
  - The majority of packaging and paper product producers have appointed Recycle BC (an industry-led non-profit entity) to meet regulatory obligations on their behalf.
  - News Media Canada (NMC), representing 127 newsprint titles from 11 newsprint producers in B.C., advised the Province in 2015 that it would not be joining Recycle BC or complying with its obligations under the regulation.
  - The Province negotiated a temporary arrangement (2017-2022) whereby NMC developed and submitted an EPR plan for approval that relied on Recycle BC's province-wide residential recycling system for the collection and recycling of newsprint;  
Government Financial Information
- o The Province's clear expectation was that the newsprint industry would become self-sufficient upon conclusion of the funding agreements, either by joining Recycle BC or by introducing its own collection system.
  - o NMC continues to be unwilling to comply with its obligations based on claims of financial hardship while developing its digital platforms for providing news.

Government Financial Information

Government Financial Information

Legal Information; Government Financial Information

- o If newsprint ceases to be collected and recycled, it will likely be disposed of in landfills.

Business Information

**DECISION REQUIRED:**

☒ Yes      ☐ No

Business Information

<p>30-60-90 DAY ISSUE NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p>90 Day Issue</p> <p><b>Climate Solutions Council Meeting Attendance</b></p>
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**KEY FACTS:**

- The Climate Solutions Council (the Council) is an advisory council with a legislated mandate under Section (4)(2) of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* (the Act) to provide strategic advice to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (Minister) on matters respecting climate change and managing climate change risks.
- The Council typically provides its advice to the Minister via letters and an annual report that is published on their website. The website is maintained by the Climate Action Secretariat.

## Advice/Recommendations

- The agenda for the meeting will include discussing the 2025 Council work plan, aligning ministerial and Council priorities, policy development needs, and Council Terms of Reference, with other agenda items to be determined. The meeting will be supported by the Climate Action Secretariat.
- There will be an opportunity for the Minister to attend the Council social after the first day, which would provide an opportunity for the Minister to be introduced to and build relationships with Council members.

## Personal Information

- The Council typically meets in-person at least three times a year, and virtually once, as stipulated in their Term of Reference.

**DECISION REQUIRED:**

☐ Yes      ☒ No

<p>30-60-90 DAY ISSUE NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p>90 Day Issue</p> <p><b>Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment</b></p>
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**KEY FACTS:**Background:

- The Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment (DCRRA) is a 2022 joint mandate commitment of the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.
- The DCRRA is being developed in collaboration with First Nations and Treaty Nations, taking a distinctions-based approach, and through engagement with Indigenous partners, all levels of government, industry, critical infrastructure owners, academia, non-governmental organizations and other key partners.
- The DCRRA aligns with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and is building on lessons learned through the 2019 climate risk assessment by including local and Indigenous knowledge, equity-focused analysis, and outputs that provide value to communities.
- The provincial phase of the DCRRA is nearing completion. Regional assessments are anticipated to begin in 2025.

Outcomes:

- The intended outcomes of the provincial assessment are to (I) assess risk and resilience in a way that can inform a provincial Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Strategy, and investments in disaster and climate risk reduction and management in B.C., and (II) provide a framework of information, analysis tools and guidance for use by ministries, local authorities and other regulated entities to meet risk assessment requirements under the Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA).
- Data, analysis and other products from the DCRRA will be made available through ClimateReadyBC; an online platform designed to provide guidance on disaster and climate readiness strategies and supports. For example:
  - o A DCRRA dashboard will include spatial information on hazards, assets, and population exposure distribution.
  - o A provincial phase final report will include hazard and value assessments, insights from geospatial analysis, extreme event scenarios to support understanding of hazards, change in likelihood of hazard events due to climate change, disproportionate impacts on equity-deserving groups, as well as case studies.

Indigenous Peoples Considerations:

- The Province is committed to developing the provincial and regional assessments in collaboration with First Nations and Treaty Nations. We are working with Indigenous Peoples taking a distinctions-based approach that aligns with the B.C. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Key Dates:

- Release of geospatial analysis dashboard to Ministries and external professionals (beta-version, password protected) – Fall 2024
- Final provincial report review and approvals – Fall 2024

Business Information

- Further development of the methodology prior to regional assessments – Winter 2024/25
- The regional DCRRA process is planned to begin in 2025.

**DECISION REQUIRED:**

☐ Yes      ☒ No



<p>30-60-90 DAY ISSUE NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p>90 Day Issue</p> <p><b>Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Strategy</b></p>
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**KEY FACTS:**Background:

- In December 2022, the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) and the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) received mandate letters instructing them to collaborate on the development of a provincial Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment (DCRRA) and a subsequent provincial Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Strategy (DCRRS).
- The DCRRS is intended to further implementation of the UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and builds upon the DCRRA, Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy (CPAS), and the implementation of the new Emergency and Disaster Management Act. CPAS is currently in its last year of implementation (2024/25).
- The DCRRS will be developed in collaboration with First Nations and informed by identified priorities and interests of Indigenous partners, local governments, people experiencing disproportionate impacts from disasters and climate change, critical infrastructure owners, public-sector organizations, industry, and academia.

Outcomes:

- The intended outcomes of the strategy are as follows:
  - Identify and address key gaps and build efficiencies across government,
  - Better coordinate, support and integrate work occurring across government on climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction, and
  - Evaluate and track overall progress towards disaster and climate resilience.

Key Dates:

- Work is underway on the DCRRS, with an anticipated completion and public release in Spring 2026. This timeline may be subject to change based on collaboration requirements with First Nations.

Business Information

**DECISION REQUIRED:**
☐ Yes      ☒ No

<p>30-60-90 DAY ISSUE NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Conservation and Recreation Division</p>	<p>90 Day Issue</p> <p><b>Critical Rail Trail Maintenance Funding</b></p>
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**KEY FACTS:**

- The Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) branch has a recreation trail designation under Section 56 of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* over 476 kilometers of abandoned rail corridor, referred to as “RSTBC rail trails”.
- RSTBC rail trails have engineered railway infrastructure that is very old and far exceeds the complexity of most recreation trails and Forest Service Roads. This engineered infrastructure requires resources for maintenance and capital replacement. If maintenance can not be funded, a decision to fund the deactivation of infrastructure is required.
- Due to a historical lack of funding, there is a significant maintenance backlog on rail trail infrastructure. In 2023, Treasury Board allocated \$6.5M (FY24 \$1.0M, FY25 \$2.5M, FY26 \$2.5M) in operational contingency funding over three fiscal years for critical rail trail maintenance. For context, the operational budget available for the entire RSTBC program including 20 districts, 4 regions and the headquarters program in RSTBC after staffing is \$2.9M.
- The current funding ends in March 2026. This includes funding for the staffing complement delivering on this maintenance work. Dedicated long-term funding is needed to address the risk of catastrophic failure of infrastructure and the resulting down-slope damage to communities, the environment and other infrastructure (i.e., highways, homes, etc.).

Advice/Recommendations

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Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

<p>30-60-90 DAY ISSUE NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Protection Division</p>	<p>90 Day Issue</p> <p><b>Directory of Qualified Laboratories Launch</b></p>
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**KEY FACTS:**

- Permits administered under the *Environmental Management Act* (EMA) require authorization holders to use qualified laboratories for environmental sample analysis.
- The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy maintains a Directory of Qualified Laboratories (“the Directory”) which lists labs meeting the qualification criteria of the Environmental Data Quality Assurance Regulation (EDQAR). For a laboratory to be qualified under the EDQAR they must also be listed in the Directory.
- The Directory has undergone a significant upgrade from the existing system which is outdated and does not allow for the addition of new labs.
- The updated Directory is ready to launch with some additional work required post launch.
- Communications materials and training resources for laboratories, accreditation bodies, proficiency testing providers, and authorization holders, are being prepared to support the launch.
- New requirements for labs to become qualified under the EDQAR take effect August 1, 2026. The updated Directory will allow for necessary adjustments once the new EDQAR requirements are in effect.

**DECISION REQUIRED:**

☒ Yes      ☐ No

- Approval to launch the updated Directory of Qualified Laboratories post election.
- Delaying the launch may include the following potential risks.
  - o Authorization holders will not be able to access a complete list of qualified laboratories to meet their permit requirements.
  - o Qualified laboratories not currently listed in the Directory may have a loss of revenue.
  - o There may be increased costs from the external contractor developing the database.
  - o Additional staff effort will be required to manually manage requests from labs, proficiency testing providers, accreditation bodies, and authorization holders.
  - o There is minimal risk of public opposition with the launch of the updated Directory, it is more likely we would receive complaints from stakeholders if it were delayed.

<p>30-60-90 DAY ISSUE NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Protection Division</p>	<p>90 Day Issue</p> <p><b>Organic Matter Recycling Regulation Updates</b></p>
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**KEY FACTS:**

- The Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR) regulates compost facilities, compost standards and quality standards for biosolids (the product of advanced wastewater treatment).
- The OMRR is a key part of the provincial organics strategy to facilitate a circular economy for organic waste, reduce greenhouse gases and extend operational space within existing landfills thereby reducing costs for local governments and taxpayers.
- For this reason, organics recycling (compost production and beneficial reuse of biosolids) is of keen interest to communities. It can also be controversial resulting in ongoing issues management and compliance responses from both local governments and the ministry (i.e. odour complaints; allowable feedstock). Regulatory updates are needed to improve environmental and health requirements for facility operations and land application in addition to enhancing the transparency of authorizations processes.

Advice/Recommendations

- The objectives of OMRR amendments are to:
  - o Align requirements with present day practices and advances in science, and to promote best achievable technologies and practices;
  - o Increase transparency and enhance Indigenous engagement through increased information sharing;
  - o Address community level leachate and odor concerns; and
  - o Address plastic contamination issues and support the SUPWPR by enabling fiber-based alternatives to single use plastic to be composted.

**DECISION REQUIRED:**
☒ Yes      ☐ No

Advice/Recommendations

<p>30-60-90 DAY ISSUE NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Strategic Services</p>	<p>90 Day Issue</p> <p><b>Proposed Federal Coal Mining Effluent Regulation</b></p>
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**KEY FACTS:**

- In addition to meeting provincial regulatory requirements for environmental protection, mines operating in B.C. must also comply with the federal *Fisheries Act* which prohibits the release of harmful substances into the environment.
- Over the past four years Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has been working to develop new regulatory requirements for coal mine discharges to establish a national baseline under the *Fisheries Act* (the proposed Coal Mining Effluent Regulation, (CMER)).

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

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# SECTION E

## TRANSITION NOTES

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Accountability and Provincial Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

### Accountability

- Accountability and transparent public reporting are cornerstones of B.C.'s action on climate change. (see Progress to Targets, CleanBC Modelling, and Risks note).
- The *Climate Change Accountability Act* (CCAA) contains B.C.'s legislated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets, including targets for 2030, 2040 and 2050. Sectoral targets for 2030 and an interim target for 2025 have also been set by Ministerial Order under the Act. The CCAA requires that in 2025 accountability reporting include a determination of climate risks.
- The CCAA requires the minister to appoint an advisory committee on climate change, currently known as the Climate Solutions Council (CSC). The CSC provided 19 letters of advice over 2021-2023 that influenced the design of B.C.'s action on climate change and continue to inform policy development and accountability reporting. (see Climate Solutions Council" note.)
- The CCAA requires B.C. to table a report (the Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR)) in the Legislature each year on progress towards targets and managing climate change risks, including spending, program results, and anticipated GHG emissions abatement, as well as forecasting emissions for three years into the future. The 2024 CCAR is anticipated to be tabled and published in early 2025.
- The CCAA also requires public sector organizations to be carbon neutral each year by purchasing carbon offsets from B.C.-based projects to negate their remaining emissions.

### Provincial Inventory of GHGs

- B.C.'s Provincial Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (PI) reports province-wide GHG emissions and removals and is published every year. The most recent public PI (released in August 2023) covers emissions from 1990 to 2021. The next PI must be published by the end of 2024 and will cover emissions from 1990-2022.
- The PI is the basis for accounting of B.C.'s legislated economy-wide and sectoral emissions reduction targets.
- The PI reports emissions broken down by activity category (fuel combustion activities, industrial processes, etc.), by economic sector, and by type of GHG (carbon dioxide, methane, etc.).

Estimates for most line items are taken from the *National Inventory Report: Sources and Sinks in Canada* (NIR), which is published annually by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and is Canada's submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The NIR's emission quantification methodologies comply with international standards.

- B.C.'s PI is different from the NIR in that it includes land-use change emissions (primarily afforestation and deforestation) in the provincial total. The NIR reports these emissions but does not include them in totals. B.C.'s PI reports other land use emissions (e.g., wildfire, wetlands) as memo items for

transparency (not in totals), as does the NIR, but in a different format. This year's PI will include increased detail in land use emissions as a result of data received from Natural Resources Canada.

- Each annual PI also re-estimates all previous years' emissions, by applying any new and improved methods or data sources to the current year's and all prior years' data, thereby ensuring an equivalent comparison of emissions for all years in the inventory. This means that B.C.'s historical estimated emissions, including the baseline year of 2007, typically change slightly each year (usually  $\pm 2.5\%$ ). This can make communicating on B.C.'s progress challenging because provincial GHG targets are tied to a past year's levels (e.g., 40% below 2007 levels by 2030), and therefore will change each year.

#### Provincial Emissions in 2021 and 2022

- The most recent PI reports emissions up to 2021, and was published in 2023. ECCC published its most recent NIR in May 2024, which reports emissions from 1990-2022. The upcoming PI will report emissions up to 2022 and is currently planned to be published in late 2024.
- Both the 2024 NIR, and the forthcoming 2024 PI saw revised past emissions levels, shifting totals upward, and an increase in emissions from 2021-22. Revisions to historical data as methods improve are a normal annual occurrence, and mainly affected transport and oil and gas emissions.
- In addition to differences due to land use emissions, PI emissions estimates in 2024 will differ from the 1990-2022 NIR published in May 2024 because of B.C.'s planned adoption of ECCC data for oil and gas vented methane that has been produced since the release of the NIR, and shared with B.C. in September.
- Emissions continue to increase after 2021 due to continued pandemic recovery and population and GDP growth that are higher than the Canadian average.
- PI data is a core input into the "progress to targets" modelling projections. The emissions increase observed in the 2024 PI will contribute to a widening of the projected gap to targets. Further detail on this is discussed in the "Progress to Targets, CleanBC Modelling, and Risks" note.

<p>TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p><b>Approaching a Circular Economy in B.C.</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

### Circular Economy Overview

- A circular economy (CE) represents a paradigm shift from the linear “take, make, waste” economy linked to climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. The CE model aims to eliminate waste and pollution by keeping materials in use for as long as possible through strategies such as sharing, repairing, refurbishing, and recycling.
- More than half of global greenhouse gas emissions are generated by harvesting resources, turning them into products and disposing them as waste.<sup>7</sup> CE models are being adopted and supported by many industries, businesses, and other levels of government. As such, B.C. has identified supporting the transition to the circular economy as a key approach to climate action.
- Circular economy principles and outcomes are already woven into several of ENV’s policies and initiatives that reduce waste and pollution, such as the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan, as well as partner ministry strategies, such as the Critical Minerals Strategy, the Manufacturing Action Plan, and the Mass Timber Action Plan.
- The national transition to CE is supported by the Government of Canada, and Quebec released a CE strategic plan in 2024. B.C. has also joined a government-to-government CE Policy Incubator working group, facilitated by Circular Economy Leadership Canada, which will run through December 2025.

### Development of *Approaching a Circular Economy in B.C.*

- The CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 commits to developing a Circular Economy Strategy to enhance B.C.’s ability to achieve waste and emissions reductions and continue to build a clean growth economy.

#### Advice/Recommendations

<sup>7</sup> CCI (2023) The Next Wave of Climate Action: How Circularity Can Contribute to Emissions Reduction in Canada

### Circular Economy and Affordability

- The economic benefits of transitioning to CE include the potential to drive innovation and market competition, facilitate more localized and resilient supply chains, and create green jobs across B.C.
- Research outlining the near-term impacts of CE on affordability is not widely available. However, engagement has provided examples that showcase net positive impacts on both economic development and affordability, which are highlighted in the Approach.
- More focused policy work is needed in this space and will be scoped into all future CE work.

### Fall/Winter 2024-25

#### Advice/Recommendations

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>B.C. Carbon Offsets</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- Carbon offsets, often called ‘credits’, are market instruments used to reduce, remove, or avoid greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from specified activities. They must be real, quantifiable, verifiable, permanent, and additional to business-as-usual, to count toward emissions reductions.
- Offset projects can support the adoption of new technologies, protect or restore ecosystems, and benefit First Nations, while generating income for project developers.
- Offsets are typically used either to reduce compliance costs for regulated operations in carbon pricing systems or are purchased voluntarily by corporations and individuals to meet sustainability goals, such as 'Net Zero' commitments.
- The B.C. government and Public Sector Organizations also purchase offsets annually to achieve carbon neutrality under B.C.'s Carbon Neutral Government commitment.
- Under British Columbia's Output-Based Pricing System for industry (B.C. OBPS), operators with a compliance obligation (i.e. a carbon tax obligation) can partially satisfy that obligation by retiring offset units. This partial obligation can be between 30%-50% of the total compliance requirement, depending on the year (2024: 50%, 2025: 40%, >2026: 30%).
- Offsets as compliance mechanisms are also being considered for new industrial projects subject to the Net-Zero New Industry policy, which in addition to the B.C. OBPS could increase demand for B.C. offsets.
- In B.C., offsets are generated under the *Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act* (GGIRCA) with projects regulated by the Emission Offset Project Regulation (EOPR). The B.C. Carbon Registry in ENV manages the issuance and tracking of these offsets, enabled and authorized under the B.C. Carbon Registry Regulation (BCCRR).
- In B.C., offset projects are audited by accredited third-party professionals and must undergo regulatory reviews by the Ministry to meet GGIRCA, EOPR, and BCCRR requirements. These audits and reviews ensure that the resulting offsets are real, additional, verifiable, and permanent.
- Carbon offset protocols are a set of instructions on how to quantify project emissions reductions and contain rules that govern projects. The Offset Protocol Policy, released in 2022, lays out straightforward steps for the development and maintenance of B.C.'s offset protocols, increasing transparency and supporting the expansion of B.C.'s suite of available offset protocols.
- The B.C. Offset Program is internationally accredited by the International Carbon Reduction and Offset Alliance (ICROA). International accreditation helps in both marketing B.C. offsets and supporting the stringency and conservativeness of B.C. offset protocols.
- Two offset protocols have been approved under GGIRCA:
  - Forest Carbon Offset Protocol 2.0: Available to those who wish to undertake forestry activities that reduce emissions and increase carbon sequestration through reforestation, conservation



and improved forest management. First Nations are predominantly interested in implementing forest carbon offset projects; Intergovernmental Communications

Intergovernmental

- o Methane from Organic Waste Offset Protocol: Applicable to projects that reduce methane emissions through landfill gas management or anaerobic digestion of organic wastes.
- In December 2023, B.C. completed public consultation for a new draft of the Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS) Protocol, to quantify GHG emission reductions and removal enhancements that result from projects sequestering captured carbon within B.C. B.C. is working on further targeted consultation in late 2024 to address concerns regarding monitoring requirements. This protocol will support accelerated deployment of carbon capture and sequestration across B.C. and is targeted for release in early 2025.
- The Ministry is also exploring the development of new protocols, such as biochar and refrigerants. A biochar offset protocol incentivizes the conversion of slash piles and non-merchantable wood into biochar, which permanently sequesters the CO<sub>2</sub> that would otherwise be emitted through combustion or decomposition. A refrigerants-based protocol incents the installation or retrofitting of refrigeration systems to reduce emissions stemming from leaked refrigerants.
- Federal government staff have communicated that units generated under FCOP 2.0 will be recognized in the Federal GHG Offset System, for use by regulated operations in the Federal Output-Based Pricing System.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>B.C. Carbon Tax and Output Based Pricing System</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

### Background:

- B.C.'s broad-based carbon tax provides a signal across the economy to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and encourages sustainable economic activity and green jobs.
- The carbon tax was introduced in 2008 at \$10 per tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e), and through annual \$5/tCO<sub>2</sub>e increases reached \$30/tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2012. In 2018, increases resumed at a rate of \$5/tCO<sub>2</sub>e per year until the carbon tax reached \$50/tCO<sub>2</sub>e on April 1, 2022.
- In the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 and Budget 2022, B.C. committed to meet or exceed the federal carbon price trajectory to \$170/tonne by 2030.
- The carbon tax increased by \$15/tCO<sub>2</sub>e on April 1, 2023, and increased again on April 1, 2024, to \$80/tCO<sub>2</sub>e. The carbon tax will continue to increase by \$15/tonne each year until it reaches \$170/tonne in 2030, a total of 37.43 cents per litre of gasoline. All Canadian jurisdictions are required to meet federal carbon pricing criteria or the federal government will impose its own system (referred to as the federal backstop).
- The carbon tax generated \$2.64 billion in the 2023/24 fiscal year and is projected to generate \$2.57 billion in 2024/25. Decreased revenue estimates for the 2024/25 fiscal year reflects lower projected fuel use and the transition to B.C.'s output-based pricing system, which exempts large regulated industrial operations from paying carbon tax at point of sale.
- Budget 2024 estimates growth in carbon tax revenues in fiscal years 25/26 (\$3.03B) and 26/27 (\$3.5B) due to increasing carbon tax rates.

### Estimated Impacts of the Carbon Tax Increase:

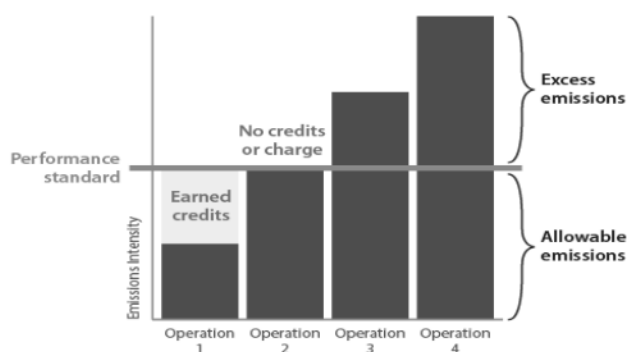
- In 2022, the Ministries of Finance and Environment and Climate Change Strategy reviewed the carbon tax and CleanBC Program for Industry to ensure that B.C.'s approach would meet or exceed Canadian carbon pricing criteria, all the while protecting household affordability, maintaining business competitiveness and supporting emissions reductions.
- The review included detailed economic modelling, as well as engagement with Indigenous groups, industry, and equity-seeking groups to assess implications and inform the design of a robust and credible system in B.C.
- Budget 2024 included an increase to the B.C. Climate Action Tax Credit to offset the costs of the carbon tax paid by low- to moderate-income individuals and families. Families that meet the income threshold are eligible to receive up to \$504 for an adult, \$252 for a spouse or common-law partner, and \$126 per child annually. A table that sets out the details is included in Appendix 1.
- On April 1, 2024, B.C. changed the way it prices carbon emissions from large industrial operations. B.C. transitioned to a new made-in-B.C. Output Based Pricing System (OBPS) to help support industrial

competitiveness while meeting equivalency requirements with the federal carbon pricing system. The B.C. OBPS will ensure emissions reductions for industry continue while providing flexible options, such as earned units and carbon offsets, to meet compliance obligations.

#### CleanBC Program for Industry (CPI) and Transition to the B.C. OBPS:

- In 2018, the Province established two programs to support B.C.'s industry to support competitiveness and reduce emissions, called the CleanBC Programs for Industry (CPI):
  - The CleanBC Industry Fund (Fund), which invests directly in emission-reduction projects.
  - The CleanBC Industrial Incentive Program (CIIP), which rewards operators based on how their emissions intensities compare to leading emissions benchmarks.
- Budget 2023 announced B.C.'s intent to transition away from the CIIP to a new carbon pricing mechanism for industry, the B.C. OBPS. B.C. OBPS design considered competitiveness and emissions reductions. *Advice/Recommendations*
- CPI was open to most industrial operations that report emissions under the *Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act* (see 'Climate Action Legislation and Regulations' note). The CIIP will be replaced by the B.C. OBPS and phased out by the end of 2024.
- Under the B.C. OBPS, large industrial facilities that emit over 10k tCO<sub>2</sub>e are exempt from paying the carbon tax up front, and can emit up to a specified product-specific limit, called a performance standard, without any cost. Any excess emissions above the performance standard are subject to a carbon price, called a compliance obligation.

**Figure 1: B.C. OBPS**



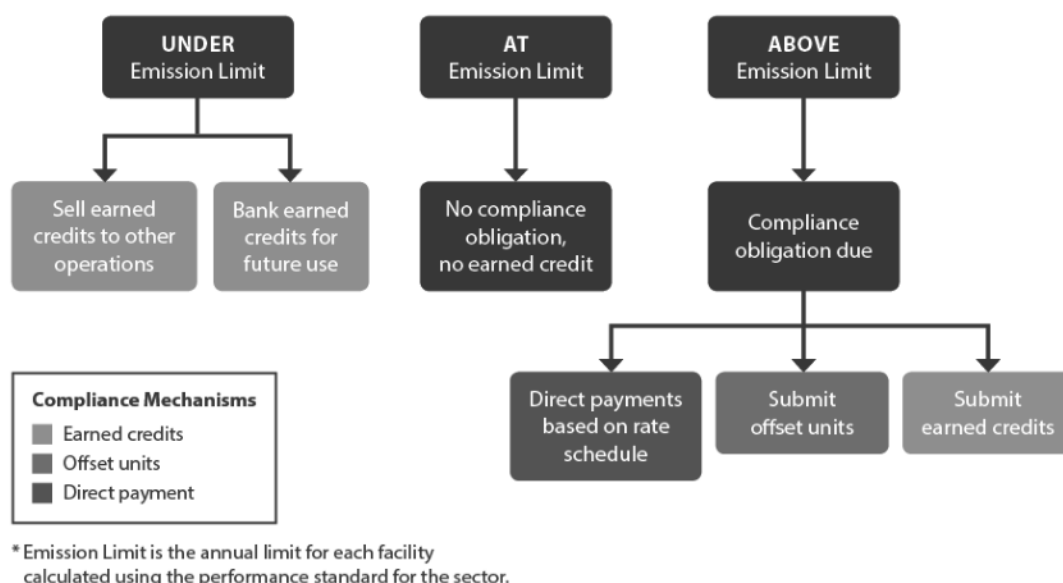
- Performance standards are calculated using provincial production weighted average emissions intensities data collected over three years (2019-2021) from the CIIP.
- In the B.C. OBPS, a performance standard is based on the following formula:

$$\text{Performance Standard} = \text{Reduction Factor} * \text{Production Weighted Average Emissions Intensity}$$

- The reduction factor determines the percentage of priced emissions for a specific product.
- The production weighted average is calculated as the total emissions of the products divided by the total production amount of the product.

- If a facility's emissions exceed their limit or performance standard, then it can use a combination of compliance mechanisms to meet their compliance obligations:
  - **Earned Credits:** Credits that are issued to a facility when its emissions are verified to be below their emission limit. An earned credit can be used to meet future compliance obligations or sold to another operation.
  - **Offset Units:** Verified units that represent emission reductions and removals generated from approved B.C. carbon offset projects. The amount of offsets that can be used against a facility's carbon tax obligation will be limited.
  - **Direct payment:** Is a monetary payment to meet the facility's compliance obligations at the full carbon price for that year (e.g., \$170/tCO<sub>2</sub>e for 2030).

**Figure 2: B.C. OBPS compliance Mechanisms**



#### Addressing Competitiveness Concerns:

- As the carbon price in British Columbia increases, this government is committed to working with businesses and industry in B.C. to ensure our province remains a competitive place to invest.
- Carbon pricing can affect business competitiveness, particularly for those sectors that are emissions-intensive and trade-exposed (EITE).
- The CleanBC Industry Fund will continue to support industry's transition to cleaner operations by investing carbon tax revenues directly into eligible emission-reduction projects and will continue to operate under the new B.C. OBPS system. (See "CleanBC Industry Fund" note for further details.)
- B.C.'s carbon price increase occurs within the context of increasing carbon prices nationwide and a growing global movement to pricing carbon, potentially mitigating effects on B.C. competitiveness. Seventy-five jurisdictions representing over 24% of global GHG emissions have put a price on carbon as of 2024.

**Appendix 1: Climate Action Tax Credit: Income threshold amounts for the July 2024 to June 2025 benefit year**

	Adjusted family net income threshold amount	Reduced credit if adjusted family net income is between	Adjusted family net income where credit is reduced to zero
Single	\$41,071	\$41,071 and \$66,271	\$66,271 or more
Married or common-law with no children	\$57,288	\$57,288 and \$95,088	\$95,088 or more
Married or common-law with one child	\$57,288	\$57,288 and \$101,388	\$101,388 or more
Married or common-law with two children	\$57,288	\$57,288 and \$107,688	\$107,688 or more
Married or common-law with three children	\$57,288	\$57,288 and \$113,988	\$113,988 or more
Single parent with one child	\$57,288	\$57,288 and \$95,088	\$95,088 or more
Single parent with two children	\$57,288	\$57,288 and \$101,388	\$101,388 or more
Single parent with three children	\$57,288	\$57,288 and \$107,688	\$107,688 or more

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Carbon Neutral Government and Public Sector Climate Leadership</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

### Carbon Neutral Government Program

- B.C.'s public sector is required to achieve carbon neutral operations under the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and the Carbon Neutral Government Regulation.
- Under this legislative framework and supported by the Carbon Neutral Government (CNG) program, provincial public sector organizations (PSOs) must achieve carbon neutrality annually by:
  - o Measuring greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from their operations;
  - o Planning and taking action to reduce those emissions;
  - o Purchasing offsets to achieve net zero emissions; and
  - o Reporting publicly on the above through an annual Climate Change Accountability Report.
- These requirements apply to 130 PSOs, including Crown corporations, health authorities, school districts, post-secondary institutions, and the provincial government (i.e., ministries, independent offices).
- The Climate Action Secretariat (CAS) is responsible for administering the CNG program and supporting PSOs in fulfilling their carbon neutral requirements by:
  - o Ensuring the methodology used to quantify public sector emissions is complete, accurate, and informed by current international protocols/standards and authoritative third parties;
  - o Providing GHG emission accounting services to PSOs through an online measurement and reporting tool;
  - o Procuring B.C.-based carbon offsets; and
  - o Strengthening PSO capacity to reduce energy use and emissions by developing policies and guidance on fleet and buildings.

### CNG Program Results and Accountability

- B.C.'s provincial public sector has achieved carbon neutrality every year since 2010.
- CAS invests in high-quality B.C.-based offset projects that reduce or sequester GHG emissions to compensate for, or offset, the emissions produced by the provincial public sector each year.
- In June 2024, CAS retired 623,231 carbon offsets to address the public sector's GHG emissions from 2023. This marked the fourteenth anniversary of carbon neutrality in B.C.'s public sector, with over 9.3 million offsets retired to date.
- Projects in the CNG offset portfolio support clean technology and jobs in B.C.'s clean economy. Projects also support healthy ecosystems and increase carbon stocks in B.C.'s forests.
- The Great Bear Forest carbon offset projects comprise a significant portion of the CNG offset portfolio. Benefits from these projects include ecosystem-based forestry management, improved timber harvesting practices, new conservation and heritage sites, and local jobs that support reconciliation with

Indigenous communities. Revenues from offset sales to the Province directly contribute to economic self-sufficiency in the local communities.

- There are two annual budgets applicable to the CNG offset portfolio. The first allocates \$10M to purchase offsets and build the portfolio. The second is for retiring offsets from the portfolio to achieve carbon neutrality and is currently set at \$7M, plus an additional \$0.5M in approved contingencies for each of FY 23/24 and 24/25.
- When approving contingencies for FY 23/24 and 24/25, Treasury Board directed ENV to engage with Treasury Board Staff (TBS) on the implications of the forthcoming industrial carbon pricing model on the carbon neutral government program as they become known. CAS is assessing the offsets market to inform budget discussions with TBS and the next round of offsets procurement.
- Annually, CAS publishes a summary report for the CNG program. This annual report includes the total annual emissions from PSOs, the number of offsets used to achieve carbon neutrality, and a summary of the offset projects in the portfolio, including the price paid per offset.

#### Public Sector Climate Leadership

- The 2018 CleanBC plan committed to reducing emissions from public sector buildings and government fleet vehicles by 50 percent and 40 percent respectively by 2030, compared to 2010 levels. Progress has been made, but would need to accelerate to achieve the 2030 targets.
- Over the past 14 years, public sector emissions decreased by almost 150,000 tonnes or 18 percent compared to the baseline year of 2010. Compared to the 2010 baseline, 2023 emissions from:
  - o Buildings decreased by 19 percent;
  - o Fleet decreased by 10 percent;
  - o Office paper decreased by 30 percent; and
  - o Business travel decreased by 55 percent (only in scope for ministries and independent offices).
- The CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 includes several commitments specific to public sector climate leadership. The commitments and progress to date are:
  - o Consider climate change in government decision-making and move to zero-carbon new public sector buildings:
    - Starting in 2022, Treasury Board's Environmental, Social, and Governance Framework for Capital, part of the major projects capital planning and approval process, includes CleanBC standards. All projects where the majority of the funding comes from Treasury Board must meet a green building standard, reduce GHG emissions, enhance their climate readiness, and be electric vehicle-ready.
  - o Develop a strategy by 2024 to transform existing buildings to meet low carbon and resiliency standards: Under development.
  - o Make zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) the default option for B.C. public sector fleets, with ZEVs accounting for 100% of light-duty vehicle acquisitions by 2027:
    - In 2022, CAS and the Ministry of Citizens' Services established the CleanBC Government Fleet Program to guide the transformation of the government fleet to ZEVs.
    - In 2021, B.C. signed the Under2 Climate Group pledge committing to converting all public sector owned and leased fleets to ZEVs by 2035 (for light duty vehicles) and 2040 (for medium and heavy-duty vehicles).

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CleanBC Industry Fund</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- The CleanBC Industry Fund (CIF) supports the development and deployment of projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from large industrial operations in British Columbia. Projects can directly reduce emissions, accelerate new innovative emissions reduction technologies, or study potential decarbonization opportunities, all while supporting the competitiveness of industry in the province.
- Emissions reduction projects help industry mitigate their environmental impact, reduce operating costs and implement cutting edge technology. For example, electric haul trucks in the mining sector have increased site efficiency while improving underground air quality, and created financial savings from both fuel and carbon costs.
- The fund is currently available to large industrial operations that emit over 10,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) per year and are required to report their emissions under the Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act. A list of funded sectors is included in Appendix A. The most frequently funded sectors are oil & gas, mining, and pulp & paper.
- Industrial operations have been very supportive and engaged with the program since it launched in 2019. The program works closely with industry, academia, governments and other investment stakeholders to ensure the program adapts to meet the evolving climate and competitive needs of industry in British Columbia.
- Budget for the program is provided by the carbon pricing revenues paid by large industry. In previous years, the CIF was a component of the CleanBC Program for Industry, which aimed to recycle all industrial carbon tax revenues above \$30/tCO<sub>2</sub>e in the form of either performance-based incentive payments or through competitive, project-specific funding via CIF.
- As part of Budget 2023, the Province announced a transition to a new carbon pricing system for large industry, the B.C. Output-Based Pricing System (B.C. OBPS). Budget 2023 also noted that “a portion of the revenues paid by industry under the B.C. OBPS will be directed to continuing the CIF.” ENV has been working to ensure that the CIF program is complementary to the new B.C. OBPS system and maintains a comparable budget.
- The program uses a competitive process to assess project proposals. Projects are assessed and ranked according to technical evaluation criteria, with the highest ranked projects selected for funding. Funding is distributed across industrial sectors and regions of the province.
- Funding is provided as shared cost arrangements, with binding funding agreements signed by the Province and industrial applicant. Provincial funding can be combined with funds from other programs up to a maximum of 75% of project costs, and require the applicant to contribute at least 25% of the project cost.
- Since 2019, CIF has approved 136 projects and provided over \$244 million in funding. Projects funded by CIF are expected to reduce over 9 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e over a 10-year period. See Appendix A for details of funded projects.



- The fund historically has offered three different funding options to eligible industrial operators:
  - o **Emissions Performance:** supports projects that reduce emissions at an industrial operation using commercially available technologies. The majority of CIF funding supports emission performance projects. This stream was launched in 2019 and has had four rounds of project approvals to date. Funding is offered up to 50% of project costs.
  - o **Innovation Accelerator:** supports projects that involve the demonstration, pilot, or trial of pre-commercial clean technologies or processes with potential for emissions reductions at an industrial operation. This stream was launched in 2021 and has had two rounds of project approvals to date. Funding is offered up to 75% of project costs.
  - o **Feasibility Studies:** supports preliminary studies that aim to provide clarity and confidence to potential projects intending to apply for funding through the Emissions Performance or Innovation Accelerator streams. This stream was launched in 2021 and has had three rounds of project approvals to date. Funding is offered up to 75% of project costs.
- Intakes for this fiscal launched on April 2, 2024. Successful projects have been notified, and contracts are expected to be finalized in late 2024 or early 2025.
- In April 2024, CIF also launched a fourth stream, the BC Hydro and CleanBC Industry Fund Industrial Electrification program. This initiative streamlines and expedites access to funding for industry to convert facilities to low-carbon electricity.
  - o This stream is jointly administered with BC Hydro and funds large facility electrification projects that require a new or upgraded connection to the BC Hydro integrated grid. Both capital projects and interconnection studies are eligible.
  - o Applications are accepted on a continuous basis. To ensure competitiveness, projects are offered funding that is comparable to what successful electrification projects historically received in Emissions Performance.

## Appendix A: CleanBC Industry Fund Projects

Funded projects and descriptions are listed on the CleanBC Industry Fund [website](#). A summary of the funded projects by stream is below:

CIF Overall	
	5-Year Total
# Of Projects:	136
Total CIF Contribution:	\$ 244,865,866.52

Innovation Accelerator	
	3-Year Total
# Of Projects:	11
Total CIF Contribution:	\$ 46,453,836.00

Feasibility Studies	
	3-Year Total
# Of Projects:	41
Total CIF Contribution:	\$ 6,565,503.15

Emissions Performance	
	5-Year Total
# Of Projects:	84
Total CIF Contribution:	\$ 191,846,527.37
Proponent + Other:	\$ 426,300,000.00
Total Project Costs:	\$ 618,146,527.37
Est. tCO <sub>2</sub> e Reduced:	\$ 10,007,541.74
Funding by Sector:	5-Year Total
Agriculture	\$ 822,965.00
Cement	\$ 8,048,000.00
Lime & Gypsum	\$ 1,537,605.00
Mining	\$ 25,118,549.73
Oil & Gas	\$ 117,142,075.58

Pulp & Paper	\$ 26,262,436.00
Utility	\$ 1,077,697.50
Waste	\$ 11,837,198.56
<b>Projects by Sector:</b>	<b>5-Year Total</b>
Agriculture	2
Cement	2
Lime & Gypsum	3
Mining	14
Oil & Gas	45
Pulp & Paper	14
Utility	1
Waste	3
<b>Projects by Region:</b>	<b>5-Year Total</b>
Cariboo	3
Kootenay	8
Lower Mainland / Southwest	15
Nechako	2
North Coast	2
Northeast	42
Thomson / Okanagan	7
Vancouver Island and Coast	5
<b>Emissions Reduced by Sector:</b>	<b>5-Year Total</b>
Agriculture	77,279.92
Cement	589,974.00
Lime & Gypsum	31,723.23
Mining	360,431.55
Oil & Gas	6,667,509.83
Pulp & Paper	970,003.26
Utility	20,378.38
Waste	1,290,241.57

<p>TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p><b>CleanBC Roadmap Overview and Implementation</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

### CleanBC Overview

- The CleanBC plan was launched in December 2018 with over 20 initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across our economy. The plan was projected to achieve ~75% of the 2030 climate target of reducing GHG emissions by 40% below 2007 levels.
- The CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 (Roadmap), released in October 2021, built on the initiatives in CleanBC and described foundational roadmap actions that aimed to fully achieve the 2030 target.
- Key Roadmap commitments include:
  - ensuring B.C.'s carbon price is aligned with or exceeding federal requirements,
  - strengthening the Low Carbon Fuel Standard,
  - accelerating the zero-emission vehicles mandate,
  - setting stronger industrial methane regulations,
  - capping the emissions from natural gas utilities, and
  - ensuring new space and heating equipment is at least 100% efficient by 2030.
- Responsibility for implementing CleanBC commitments is in several ministries, including Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV); Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI); Agriculture and Food (AGRI), Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI); Finance (FIN); Citizens' Services (CITZ); Housing (HOUS); Forests (FOR); and others.
- Government spent an estimated total of \$2.3 billion on climate-related initiatives in 2022/23, including on items such as transit and the climate action tax credit. Based on investments announced in Budget 2023 and previous budgets, government spending on climate-related initiatives totaled about \$2.8 billion in 2023/24. Budget 2024 included over \$1 billion in new spending for the fiscal plan period to protect British Columbians from the effects of climate change and build a stronger, cleaner economy. This includes over \$300 million to continue CleanBC grant and rebate programs for clean transportation and energy efficient buildings and communities.

### Advice/Recommendations

- While the Roadmap is focused on 2030, its actions are also intended to move B.C. toward its 2040 and 2050 climate change targets.
- In 2024, CleanBC priorities include continuing to implement key Roadmap commitments and

administering the CleanBC Spending Plan. The fifth Climate Change Accountability Report is anticipated to be tabled in early 2025.

#### Recent CleanBC Milestones and Highlights

- Aligning with federal carbon pricing requirements, starting April 1, 2023, B.C.'s carbon tax rate was set to increase annually by \$15 per tonne until it reaches \$170 per tonne in 2030. Effective July 1, 2023, more British Columbians are eligible to receive the climate action tax credit and the amounts paid have increased. An additional increase was implemented effective July 1, 2024.
- Amended the Low Carbon Fuel Standard by increasing the carbon intensity reduction requirement from 20% to 30% by 2030 and raising the non-compliance penalty.
- Oil and gas sector methane emissions continued to decrease putting B.C. on track to achieve the 2025 reduction target of 45%.
- B.C.'s Output-Based Pricing System (OBPS) came into effect on April 1, 2024, creating a price incentive for industrial emitters to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions while promoting innovation and protecting competitiveness.
- The CleanBC Industry Fund launched a sixth intake in spring 2024, which included a new CleanBC and BC Hydro Industrial Electrification Program to support large industrial low-carbon electrification projects that require a new or upgraded connection to the BC Hydro integrated grid; as well as extended the funding timelines for all programs from 3 to 5 years.
- Supported 193 communities through the first year of the Local Government Climate Action Program and 59 infrastructure projects for renewable energy, clean transportation, and buildings efficiency through the federal-provincial CleanBC Communities Fund. See Local Government Climate Action and Infrastructure Programs note for further details.
- Zero-emission vehicles accounted for 22% of new light-duty vehicle sales between Jan.-Oct. 2023 (highest uptake in Canada) and the Province amended the *Zero-Emission Vehicles Act* to accelerate zero-emission targets for new light-duty vehicle sales (26% by 2026, 90% by 2030 and 100% by 2035).
- Increased household heat pump adoption (12% in 2023 compared to 7% in 2021 of households with heat pumps as primary or secondary heating), in part due to increased uptake of the Better Homes & Better Buildings rebates.
- Released "Powering Our Future- BC's Clean Energy Strategy" in June 2024 highlighting the key energy challenges we are facing, describing our current approaches to meeting them, and making clear the Province's priorities for future clean energy actions.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Climate Action Legislation and Regulations</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- Four major elements of the Province's climate action legislative framework include the *Climate Change Accountability Act*, the *Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act*, the *Environmental Management Act* (EMA), and the *Carbon Tax Act*.
- Several ministries are responsible for climate legislation, regulations, and programming, with the Climate Action Secretariat coordinating, leading, and supporting its implementation across government and public sector organizations.

### Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Legislation:

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is responsible for three key pieces of climate legislation:

#### 1. ***Climate Change Accountability Act (CCAA)***

- The CCAA legislates provincial greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets, annual reporting by government, the independent Climate Solutions Council (CSC), and requirements for public sector organizations to be carbon neutral. Actions under and amendments to this legislation to date include:

#### *Targets:*

- In 2018, the CCAA established three emissions-reduction targets (% below 2007 levels):
  - 2030: 40%;
  - 2040: 60%; and,
  - 2050: 80%.
- In December 2020, the Province established an interim target of 16% below 2007 levels by 2025.
- In March 2021, the Minister established 2030 sectoral targets (% below 2007 levels) to serve as guideposts for four sectors. The sectoral targets must be reviewed before the end of 2025.
  - Transportation: 27 to 32%;
  - Industry: 38 to 43%;
  - Oil and gas: 33 to 38%; and,
  - Buildings and communities: 59-64%.
- Government has publicly committed to legislate a 2050 province-wide net-zero emissions-reduction target in the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030.
- The CCAA requires an annual Climate Change Accountability Report to be tabled by the Minister on climate change risks and progress towards provincial emissions reduction targets. The report publishes

the latest provincial emissions data, describes the actions taken (including expenditures) by the Province to reduce GHGs, and the outcomes that might be expected to be achieved due to those actions and expenditures.

*Climate Solutions Council:*

- The CCAA requires an independent and Minister-appointed CSC to provide strategic advice on climate action and clean economic growth. The CSC is made up of leaders representing Indigenous groups, academia, industry, environmental organizations, youth, labour groups and local government.

## **2. Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act (GGIRCA)**

- The GGIRCA legislative framework enables the Province to collect data about industrial carbon emissions. This data supports climate programs and policy development more broadly. It also establishes the B.C. Output-Based Pricing System (OBPS), the industrial carbon pricing program for the province. Specifically, the GGIRCA establishes requirements for industry operating in B.C. to report industrial GHG emissions, determine GHG emission limits, manage obligations in relation to emission limits, offset project development and administration, and enable enforcement mechanisms. Complying with GGIRCA requirements provides large industrial operators with a point-of-sale carbon tax exemption under *Carbon Tax Act*. It allows operators to pay compliance charges based on their GHG emissions rather than tax on fuels and enables industrial operators to reduce their carbon costs by mitigating their GHG emissions and using market based compliance mechanisms, such as B.C. verified offsets, to meet a portion of their annual compliance obligation.
- Budget 2023 announced an increase to B.C.'s carbon tax rate by \$15 per year to \$170/tCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2030, and the introduction of a new industrial carbon pricing system, the B.C. OBPS, in 2024. The *2023 Budget Measures Implementation Act* included amendments to the GGIRCA to enable the new system by April 1, 2024.
- The regulations under GGIRCA were amended in February 2024 to implement the B.C. OBPS. Further regulatory refinements were made in July 2024.
- Four regulations are currently in place under the Act:
  - o B.C. Carbon Registry Regulation: Establishes the system of rules, accounts and transactions for B.C. offsets units and the OBPS.
  - o Emission Offset Project Regulation: Sets framework for developing and managing offsets projects.
  - o Greenhouse Gas Emission Administrative Penalties and Appeals Regulation: Outlines penalties for non-compliance the process for appeals.
  - o Greenhouse Gas Emission Reporting Regulation: Requires industrial facilities that emit over 10,000 tonnes of GHG emissions per year to report and validate their annual emissions and production.

## **3. Environmental Management Act (EMA)**

- The EMA regulates industrial and municipal waste discharge and contaminated sites. This includes establishing requirements for landfill methane gas capture for large landfills and regulations for waste, such as the Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation.

### Other Climate Change Legislation:

- The Ministry of Finance is responsible for the *Carbon Tax Act*, which sets a price on the purchase and use of fossil fuels in B.C. The price is set on a per fuel basis. On April 1, 2024, B.C.'s carbon tax rate rose from \$65 to \$80 per tCO<sub>2</sub>e. This annual increase amounts to 3.3 cents per litre of gasoline.
- The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation is responsible for several pieces of climate-related legislation.
  - o The *Low Carbon Fuels Act* replaced the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act* on January 1, 2024, and sets renewable and low carbon fuel intensity requirements for B.C. fuel suppliers: 5% of total volume must be renewable fuel for gasoline and 4% for diesel; 30% carbon intensity reduction by 2030. Minimum renewable volumes for jet fuel commence in 2028.
  - o The *Clean Energy Act* sets provincial energy objectives and mechanisms, including those for electricity self-sufficiency, clean or renewable energy, affordability, energy efficiency, GHG emission reductions, and fuel switching to lower carbon intensity energy.
  - o The *Zero-Emission Vehicles Act*, amended in 2023 to accelerate targets, now requires 26% of light-duty vehicle sales to be zero-emission vehicles by 2026, 90% by 2030 and 100% by 2035, five years ahead of the original target set in 2019.
- Other pieces of legislation incorporate climate change strategies, such as the Energy Efficiency Standards Regulation, the B.C. Energy Step code within the B.C. Building Code, and the *Utilities Commission Act*.



<p>TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p><b>Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy and Climate Risk Management</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

### Climate change poses social, economic, and environmental threats to British Columbia

- B.C. is experiencing an increase in wildfires, heat waves, and floods, as well as impacts such as drought, sea-level rise, and ocean acidification.
- Managing this broad range of climate-related risks can help protect our health and well-being, reduce climate-related costs, and ensure that B.C.'s economy continues to thrive in a changing climate.

### Background: developing the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy (CPAS)

- BC released its first Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy (CPAS) in 2022.
- The Climate Action Secretariat (CAS) conducted broad engagement on CPAS's development.
- CPAS was also influenced by key reports such as the 2018 Auditor General report "Managing climate change risk: An independent audit, and the 2018 Chapman/Abbot Report "Addressing the New Normal: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Disaster Management in British Columbia."

### Implementing the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy (CPAS)

- Budget 2022 committed \$513M for CPAS from 2021/22 to 2024/25. Of this, \$83M (plus up to \$17M in contingencies) was committed to priority adaptation actions across multiple ministries which had been included in the draft CPAS released in 2021. \$30M was also provided to support watershed security projects. \$348M in funding was allocated to community and government preparedness for floods, wildfires and extreme heat, and emergency management (See Appendix I).
- CAS is responsible for overall governance of CPAS and providing cross-government leadership, coordination, and knowledge-building for climate adaptation programming and policy. This involves significant work with other ministries, federal and international partners, local governments funded through the Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP), the academic community, and Public Sector Organizations (PSOs) in the broader public sector.
- Consistent with the Declaration Act Action Plan Action 2.12, CPAS (like CleanBC Roadmap) is being collaboratively implemented with Indigenous Peoples. As part of this collaboration, ENV works with Indigenous partners to promote alignment between the Province's adaptation work and Indigenous-led strategies such as the First Nations Leadership Council's B.C. First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan.
- ENV also engaged with federal/provincial/territorial counterparts to show leadership on adaptation, and to advocate for enhanced action on B.C.'s climate adaptation priorities. Recently, BC has also brought the Indigenous Climate Adaptation Working Group (ICAWG) and First Nations Leadership Council Technical Working Group (FNLC TWG) into adaptation discussions with federal departments.

### Future Adaptation Strategy.

- The 2022 ENV and EMCR Ministerial Mandate Letters direct the ministries to collaborate on a provincial Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment that:
  - o Is developed in consultation with communities and Indigenous Peoples.
  - o Builds on B.C.'s 2019 Preliminary Strategic Climate Risk Assessment and integrates climate and disaster risk.
  - o Advances B.C.'s commitments to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

### Advice/Recommendations

- The 2022 ENV and EMCR Ministerial Mandate Letters also directed the ministries to develop a province-wide Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Plan (now being termed a "Strategy" - DCRRS), building off the risk assessment. This strategy is expected to be completed in 2026.
- Since CPAS concludes on March 31, 2025, ENV is currently working with EMCR on options for the inclusion of adaptation strategies in the DCRRS. EMCR and ENV will be seeking additional direction from government in the Winter of 24/25 regarding scope and direction for the DCRRS.
- ENV will be working to ensure that the DCRRS complements the multiple other streams of adaptation work currently underway.

## Appendix I: CPAS Funding Breakdown

Investments allocated to community and government preparedness for floods, wildfires and extreme heat, and emergency management:

- \$180M for funding streams under the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for flood and other hazard mapping, assessment and planning and non-structural and small-scale hazard mitigation projects and extreme heat preparedness
- \$90M for communities to manage wildfire risks through fuel management and other FireSmart activities
- \$98M for the BC Wildfire Service to advance cultural and prescribed burning and other wildfire mitigation policies and actions
- \$65M to improve highway system climate resilience

Breakdown of \$83 M in direct adaptation actions.

- Expansion of climate and streamflow monitoring networks for improved data and science to support climate adaptation decisions
- Improved flood preparedness with the BC Flood Strategy and flood resiliency plan, Provincial Floodplain Mapping Program and increased capacity for the River Forecast Centre
- BC Extreme Heat Alert Response System (HARS) and using it to monitor anomalous heat events
- Health sector training and a new Climate Resilience Unit to lead health system climate resilience strategic policy and initiatives
- Extreme Weather Preparedness for Agriculture Program and Food Security Emergency Planning and Preparedness Fund to help local government and industry associations prepare for climate-related disasters
- Future Forests Ecosystem Centre was established to better understand climate change impacts to ecosystems and inform natural resource management
- The Indigenous Climate Resilience Capacity-building Pilot Project and Indigenous Climate Resilience Forums to enhance climate adaptation capacity, connections, and expertise

CPAS also highlights the \$76M for the Local Government Climate Action Program, to support local governments and Treaty Nations to undertake climate adaptation and mitigation measures.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Climate Solutions Council</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- The Climate Solutions Council (the Council) is an advisory council with a legislated mandate under Section (4)(2) of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* (the Act) to provide strategic advice to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (Minister) on matters respecting climate change and managing climate change risks.
- The Act stipulates the Council can have up to 20 members. Please see the [Council webpage](#) and Appendix A for current membership. The Act also lays out other membership requirements (See Appendix B for full membership requirements). The Minister also typically appoints at least one youth member.
- Member appointments are made by the Minister via Ministerial letter and appointment terms have typically been two years in length. No term can exceed six years in length. Four members' terms are expiring in 2025, giving an opportunity for the new Minister to renew membership:
  - o Scott Maloney (Teck Resources)- February 8, 2025
  - o Andrea Reimer (Translink)- April 20, 2025
  - o Mayor Michelle Staples (City of Duncan)- April 20, 2025
  - o Tom Green (David Suzuki Foundation)– June 30, 2025
- Along with the Act, Council actions and processes are guided by their Terms of Reference (See Appendix B). Members sign confidentiality agreements and must meet a high standard of conduct, including avoiding conflict of interest.
- The Council generally meets four times per year to engage with government staff on priority climate policies and programs and to develop advice to government. The Council strives to achieve consensus in its feedback and advice for government. Letters of advice and their annual report are published on the Council webpage and referenced in government's annual Climate Change Accountability Report.
- The Council has formed a Technical Committee and an Adaptation Committee that meet monthly. Committees conduct analysis to inform Council letters of advice to the Minister and can provide informal verbal advice directly to ministries.
- The 2023 annual summary report, [Connectivity: Climate Policy in 2024 and Beyond](#) was the last piece of advice issued by the Council prior to the 2024 election. The report was generally supportive of CleanBC implementation, but voiced concerns about the Province's ability to meet emission reduction targets in the Act. See Appendix C for a summary of key recommendations.
- Government ex-officio members are the Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and Assistant Deputy Minister of the Climate Action Secretariat (CAS). CAS provides administrative support to the Council.

**Appendix A: Climate Solutions Council Members**

	<b>Member</b>	<b>Representation</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Term</b>
<b>1</b>	Colleen Giroux-Schmidt (Co-Chair)	Business	Innergex	2024-2026
<b>2</b>	Nancy Olewiler- Co-Chair	Academia	Simon Fraser University	2024-2026
<b>3</b>	Denni Clement	Indigenous/youth	Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative	2024-2026
<b>4</b>	Linda Coady	Business	Council of Forest Industries	2024-2026
<b>5</b>	Ashley Duncan	Labour	BC Insulators	2024-2026
<b>6</b>	Mahmudur Fatmi	Academia	UBC - Okanagan Campus	2024-2026
<b>7</b>	Tom Green	eNGO	David Suzuki Foundation	2022-2025
<b>8</b>	Kathryn Harrison	Academia	UBC	2024-2026
<b>9</b>	Matt Horne	Local gov	City of Vancouver	2024-2026
<b>10</b>	Eden Luymes	Youth	Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society of BC	2024-2026
<b>11</b>	Scott Maloney	Business	Teck Resources	2023-2025
<b>12</b>	Skye McConnell	Business	Shell Canada	2024-2026
<b>13</b>	Madeleine McPherson	Academia	University of Victoria	2024-2026
<b>14</b>	Trent Moraes	Indigenous	Skidegate Band Councilor – Deputy Chief Councilor	2024-2026
<b>15</b>	Freya Phillips	Local gov	Regional District of Kootenay Boundary	2024-2026
<b>16</b>	DJ Pohl	Labour	Fraser Valley Labour Council	2024-2026
<b>17</b>	Andrea Reimer	Academia	UBC/Tawâw Strategies/Translink	2023-2025
<b>18</b>	Merran Smith	eNGO	New Economy Canada	2024-2026
<b>19</b>	Mayor Michelle Staples	Local gov	City of Duncan	2023-2025
<b>20</b>	Jill Tipping	Business	BC Tech Association	2024-2026

## **Appendix B: Council Terms of Reference (updated March 2024)**

### **A. Mandate**

1. The Climate Solutions Council (Council) is a legislated advisory group with a mandate to provide advice to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (Minister) on matters respecting climate change, including:
  - i. Plans and action to achieve climate targets and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
  - ii. Plans and action to adapt and prepare for climate risks.
  - iii. Opportunities for sustainable economic development and job creation while the Province transitions to a low-carbon economy.
  - iv. The effects on individuals and businesses that result from actions to address climate change, including actions to reduce GHG emissions and manage climate change risks.
  - v. Any other matters specified by the Minister respecting climate change.

### **B. Membership Composition**

1. The Climate Solutions Council will consist of up to 20 members representing broad aspects of B.C. society with varied areas of expertise. The Council must include at least one representative from each of the following groups:
  - Indigenous peoples;
  - local governments;
  - environmental organizations;
  - academics;
  - unions;
  - persons living in rural and remote communities; and
  - the business community.
2. At least half of the members must be women.
3. The members will bring their knowledge, perspective and experience and will take an evidence-based approach to discussions. While members will bring subject matter and expertise relative to their respective roles and affiliations, they are not considered formal representatives of their organizations or other groups they may belong to.
4. The Minister has discretion to appoint new members, and there will be no provision for alternate members.

### **C. Responsibilities and Activities of the Council**

1. In developing advice and feedback to government, the Council will:
  - i. Strive for consensus-based recommendations.
  - ii. Agree that information and ideas discussed at the meeting are confidential and not to be shared outside the meeting, except through agreed-upon messaging.
  - iii. Meet face-to-face at least three times a year and online at least twice a year for discussions to develop feedback and advice. In addition to face-to-face meetings, the chair(s) and the head of the Climate Action Secretariat (CAS) will meet monthly.
  - iv. Formalize the use of committees (e.g. Technical and Adaptation committees), with individual terms

of reference for each group. Committees may be established and/or concluded on advice of the chair(s) and/or CAS with agreement of the Council.

- v. Provide a summary report of the Council's advice to the Minister annually, delivered no later than the fiscal-year end, to include comments on progress to meeting climate targets, and mitigating and managing climate risks. The report will be made publicly available through a website maintained by the ministry.
2. At the beginning of each calendar year, the head of CAS and the chair(s) will meet to develop a work plan for the year that aligns with section A.1 and the priorities of the Minister and the chair(s). The work plan will be distributed to all Council members.

#### D. Responsibilities and Expectations of Membership

1. Council members are expected to meet high standards of conduct. Expected conduct is described in the General Conduct Principles for Public Appointees developed by the Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office.
2. Members must avoid any conflict of interest that might impair or impugn the independence, integrity, or impartiality of the Council. Members who are in any doubt must disclose their circumstances and consult with the chair(s) to identify mitigation strategies, which may include recusing themselves from Council topics.
3. With the exception of the chair(s), members interacting with the media, including social media, or otherwise providing a public opinion on a provincial climate-related matter, must not attribute their positions to the Council except by consensus of the Council and with spokespeople identified. Members may not use their position on the Council to lend weight to personal opinions.
4. Members should communicate with chair(s) and CAS in a timely manner and contribute to major activities, including development of advice and Council reports and letters.

#### E. Responsibilities of the Minister and Climate Action Secretariat

1. CAS will provide logistic support and act as the point of coordination for information from across government. All ministries across government with responsibility for climate and energy policy will provide expert support to the Council.
2. CAS will work with the chair(s) to identify additional and/or external resources and expertise needed to fulfil the Climate Solutions Council's mandate, subject to Assistant Deputy Minister approval. This approval will not be unreasonably withheld.
3. The Minister is required to include advice from the Climate Solutions Council in the annual accountability report to the Legislature and respond to advice received.
4. The Minister must publish the names of the Climate Solutions Council members on a publicly accessible website maintained by the ministry.
5. CAS will post letters of advice and annual reports to a publicly accessible website maintained by the ministry, after they have been received by the Minister. CAS will endeavour to post these materials within 2-3 weeks or as soon as possible.
6. CAS will reimburse members for travelling and out-of-pocket expenses reasonably incurred in fulfilling their duties on the Council.

#### F. Review of Terms of Reference

1. These Terms of Reference will be reviewed and updated biannually.

**Appendix C: Key Recommendations from the 2023 Climate Solutions Council Annual Report**

- Ensure new policies are targeted, predictable and supportive, acknowledging the connectivity between affordability challenges and climate goals.
- Avoid being overly specific on incentives for low-carbon technologies.
- Greater transparency in all aspects of CleanBC work, including more timely emissions reporting, clarity with respect to the basis for future emission projections, and for the province to release a modelling report at the same time as the Climate Change Accountability Report.
- Clear public communication on the actions the province is taking to accelerate the energy transition and the benefits these actions will generate.
- Clear communication on the role the carbon tax plays in reducing emissions, addressing misinformation about the tax and transparency on how revenues are deployed.
- Plan for a zero-carbon / zero-emissions energy system, rather than 'low-carbon.'
- Align provincial regulatory structure for energy and climate.
- Address climate adaptation by accelerating implementation of actions in the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy, developing cross-sector climate adaptation targets, and aligning across government to advance resilience for the province's greatest risks.



<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

### Disaster and climate-related impacts are increasing in B.C.:

- The first step to reducing climate impacts is understanding the risks.
- People and communities across B.C. are experiencing the escalating impacts of climate change emergencies and the Province is committed to mitigating, and adapting to, these impacts.
- To prioritize risk reduction and climate adaptation investments, the Province must first assess current and future disaster and climate risks.
- Assessing climate risk involves assessing public safety hazards such as floods and wildfires, as well as slow-onset risks, such as long-term drought and glacier mass loss, ocean acidification, and risks to ecosystems, economic sectors, and health.

### A new Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment for B.C.:

- ENV and EMCR are developing a combined Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment.
- The Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment (DCRRA) is a joint mandate of the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (per Ministry mandate letters in 2022).
- The intended outcomes of the assessment are to:
  - (i) assess risk and resilience in a way that can inform a provincial Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Strategy, and investments in disaster and climate risk reduction and management in B.C., and
  - (ii) provide a framework of information, analysis tools and guidance for use by ministries, local authorities and other regulated entities to meet forthcoming risk assessment requirements under the Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA).
- The DCRRA is being undertaken in two phases.
  - The provincial phase of the DCRRA is on track for completion and release in Winter 2024/25. This phase is assessing risks from several key hazards, including wildfire, flood, extreme heat, drought, and earthquake.

#### Advice/Recommendations

- The DCRRA is being undertaken in collaboration with First Nations and Modern Treaty Nations, taking a distinctions-based approach, and through engagement with Indigenous organizations, all levels of government, industry, critical infrastructure owners, academia, non-governmental organizations, and other key partners.

### Background on provincial disaster risk assessment and the DCRRA

- The partnership of ENV and EMCR on the DCRRA is based on aligned legislative and government commitments:
  - o In 2018, B.C. adopted the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction that provides guidance for using an all-hazards approach and considering climate change when assessing disaster risk and resilience.
  - o ENV is responsible for meeting the Climate Change Accountability Act requirements of assessing and publicly reporting on climate risks every five years.
  - o EMCR is responsible for implementing the Emergency and Disaster Management Act (including risk assessment requirements) and developing supporting regulations.
- The DCRRA is building on lessons learned through the 2019 climate risk assessment by including collaboration with First Nations and Treaty Nations, equity-focused analysis, engagement with key partners and diverse populations, and outputs that provide value to communities.
- The provincial DCRRA process has engaged partner ministries, including those with accountabilities for hazards under EDMA, through the ED Committee on Disaster and Climate Risk and the ADM and DMC committees on disaster risk and emergency management (ADMCDREM and DMCDREM)
- The DCRRA has convened subject matter experts to discuss disaster and climate risk and resilience in British Columbia through the lens of priority hazards and how they impact areas of value, such as the natural and built environments, economy, culture and social fabric, and health and wellbeing. This knowledge is being informed by climate change science, geospatial analysis and local knowledge and will uphold Indigenous Knowledges and Sciences where available.
- The final public report for the provincial phase will include multiple elements: geospatial analysis and a dashboard on ClimateReadyBC, provincial hazard and value overviews, a climate change influence overview, extreme event scenario descriptions; evaluation of likelihood changes due to climate change, case studies, as well as analysis related to equity, diversity and inclusion.
- The analysis provided by the DCRRA will be a key input into the development of the Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Strategy (DCRRS). The DCRRS is also a joint mandate commitment of EMCR and ENV.

<p>TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p><b>Engagement with Government of Canada and Other Governments on Climate Policy Priorities</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

### Engagement with Canada and Provinces and Territories

#### *Bilateral relations with Canada*

- There are many areas of alignment on climate related goals between B.C. and Canada. Conversations have continued to evolve with the release of the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 (2021) and the Federal Emissions Reduction Plan (2022), as well as B.C.'s Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy (2022) and the National Adaptation Strategy (2023).
- B.C. primarily works with Environment and Climate Change Canada and Natural Resources Canada to move ahead priority areas of work on climate.
- The Climate Action Secretariat (CAS) coordinates across ministries to identify federal advocacy priorities at the ministry level, including recommended advocacy for Ministers' use, and to facilitate linkages between relevant federal departments and provincial ministries to secure B.C.'s fair share of funding and a commitment on policy alignment.

Intergovernmental Communications

### *Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME)*

- B.C. is an active member of CCME, which is a Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) and minister-led intergovernmental forum for collective action on environmental issues of national and international interest.
- The Climate Change Committee, under the CCME, is currently focused on measuring adaptation and resilience and finding opportunities for alignment on carbon management (e.g., Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage).

Intergovernmental Communications

### Engagement with International Partners

#### *Pacific Coast Collaborative (PCC)*

- B.C. is a founding member of the PCC, which has been coordinating climate collaboration initiatives and commitments with partners in Washington, Oregon, and California since 2008. Recent B.C. priorities with the PCC include medium and heavy duty zero-emission vehicles and infrastructure, ocean acidification, and low carbon construction.

Intergovernmental Communications

### *Engagement with other Subnational Governments*

- B.C. engages with other sub-national governments as a member of international organizations and coalitions, including the Under2 Coalition, Carbon Pricing of the Americas, and the Transport Decarbonisation Alliance. B.C. promotes its climate plans and policies and exchanges innovative approaches globally.

### International Climate Events

- CAS leads planning for B.C.'s engagement at annual international climate events, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP) and Climate Week New York (CWNY).
- In 2023, B.C. participated in CWNY and COP28 (in Dubai, United Arab Emirates) through various speaking events, roundtables, bilateral meetings and networking receptions. B.C. is not attending CWNY or COP29 in 2024 due to overlap with the interregnum period.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Indigenous Engagement and Climate Action</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- The Climate Action Secretariat (CAS), through the Resilience and Indigenous Relations (RIR) Branch, coordinates engagement with Indigenous Peoples on climate action to ensure a consistent, cross-government approach that aligns with B.C.'s commitments the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA).
- The Province's CleanBC plan to address climate change was launched in December 2018. Since 2018, the CleanBC plan has advanced Indigenous engagement on both the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030, released in October 2021, and the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy (CPAS) released in June 2022. In FY 2024-25, CPAS is in its last year of funding and implementation.
- CAS is collaborating with the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness on Indigenous engagement to inform the Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment and the Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Plan.
- The Declaration Act Action Plan includes collectively identified goals and outcomes that form the long-term vision for implementing the UN Declaration in B.C. Action 2.12 commits the Province to "collaboratively develop and implement CleanBC and the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy to support resilient communities and clean economic opportunities for Indigenous Peoples that benefit our shared climate and advance reconciliation."
  - Action 2.12 implementation is in progress. Success indicators for Action 2.12 reporting were developed collaboratively with the Indigenous advisory groups noted below.
- The First Nations Leadership Council Technical Working Group on Climate Change (FNLC-TWG), established in November 2019 by CAS and the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), is a working group which meets monthly to progress collaborative implementation of CleanBC and CPAS, and develop/inform joint climate objectives.
- The Indigenous Climate Adaptation Working Group (ICAWG) was established by CAS in 2021 to support the implementation of CPAS. Its membership consists of members who identify as Indigenous and/or have been selected to represent an Indigenous community or organization. This group continues to meet monthly, and in 2024-25 is participating in trilateral meetings with representatives from the federal government (Environment and Climate Change Canada and Natural Resources Canada) and CAS.
- For the past 3 years, CAS has sponsored the Indigenous Climate Resilience Forum, a 3-day virtual event for Indigenous communities and organizations to share stories about climate action and adaptation initiatives.
- In FY 2023-24 CAS provided:
  - An additional \$250k to further support the \$2 million Indigenous Climate Resilience Capacity-building Pilot Project CPAS action funded in FY 2022-23. The Pilot is being co-led by Coastal First Nations – Great Bear Initiative (CFN-GBI) and First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS).

See Appendix A for more details on the Pilot.

- o \$590K to First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) to support implementation of the B.C. First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan, including \$200K for an Indigenous capacity/needs assessment. This work is being coordinated between FNLC and the partners engaged in the Indigenous Climate Resilience Capacity-building Pilot Project (FNESS and CFN-GBI).
- In FY 2023-24 and 2024-25 CAS worked across ministries to engage with Indigenous peoples on the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 and CPAS. See Appendix A for details of topics covered.
- General themes consistently heard in engagements include priorities for provincial climate plans to:
  - o Uphold and affirm Aboriginal Rights and Title and DRIPA.
  - o Adequately fund Indigenous Peoples to allow for informed participation in engagement and collaboration.
  - o Better coordinate engagement with the Province and reduce the burden on Indigenous Peoples.
  - o Uphold Indigenous knowledge as equivalent to Western science and improve and coordinate regional climate monitoring and data sharing.
  - o Include elder and youth perspectives in planning and decisions processes.
  - o Address the differentiated and disproportionate impacts of climate change on Indigenous peoples, health and wellbeing and cultural heritage.
- Funding sources:
  - o CPAS commits stable funding to the FNLC TWG and ICAWG for 2022-2025 (no specific amount was committed to in CPAS, but annual funding in this period has been approximately \$300K for FNLC TWG and \$300K for ICAWG).
  - o Indigenous engagement on the Roadmap and CPAS is funded through the Indigenous Funding Program (IFP), administered by the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and the CAS operations budget.
  - o Approved 2024-25 CAS-administered funding allocation for Indigenous engagement on climate action includes:
    - \$300K in capacity funding of the FNLC-BC Technical Working Group on Climate Change (\$150K from IFP, \$150K from CleanBC envelope)
    - \$30K for improvements to the Community Climate Funding Website (IFP)
    - \$100K for Indigenous engagement on CleanBC Roadmap. (CleanBC envelope)
    - \$305K to support ICAWG and Indigenous Climate Resilience Forum. (CAS base)

Intergovernmental Communications

## Appendix A: Indigenous Engagement & Climate: Supporting Information

- **2023 Industrial Climate Policy Engagement:** In FY 2023-24, CAS worked across ministries to engage with Indigenous Peoples on four industrial climate policies under the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 and CPAS: The Output Based Pricing System (OBPS), Net-Zero New Industry (NZNI), Province-Wide Net Zero (PWNZ) 2050 target and the Oil and Gas Emissions Cap.
  - o July – September 2023: Seven virtual sessions were held to share details about these.
- **2024 Indigenous Climate Resilience (ICR) Forum:** As part of CAS's 2023-24 Indigenous engagement, the third annual ICR Forum was held. It is a three-day opportunity for sharing, learning, networking and collaboration between attendees on insights related to Indigenous climate resilience and adaptation.
  - o All B.C. First Nations (FNs) are invited annually, as well as many different Indigenous and climate-focused organizations and representatives. This year saw 349 participants – including representatives from 143 B.C. FNs, 15 Nations outside of B.C., and 101 different organizations.
  - o The 2024 event was organized in collaboration with Sanala Planning. Speakers included keynote speakers David and Severn Suzuki, Knowledge Keeper Shane Pointe, and Youth Witness Taylor Behn-Tsakoza.
- **Pilot Project/RCAN:** In FY 2022-23, CAS provided \$2 Million to support the Indigenous Climate Resilience Capacity-building Pilot Project. The Pilot is being co-led by CFN-GBI and FNESS, with whom CAS has 2 separate shared cost arrangements of \$1.15 Million each to carry out the project. It is currently being re-branded as the Regional Climate Action Network (RCAN). The Pilot has three “braids” or focus areas, including:
  - o Enhancing Indigenous staff capacity – including hiring eight regional climate action coordinators (currently underway).
  - o Training and education for regional coordinators and ultimately First Nations engaged in climate action from communities around the province.
  - o Peer mentorship network for Indigenous communities to share information and expertise related to climate resilience and adaptation.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Industrial Methane Emissions</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- Methane, with a global warming potential 28 times that of carbon dioxide (i.e., carbon dioxide equivalent or CO<sub>2</sub>e) over a 100-year period, is the second largest contributor to climate change, leading to global efforts (e.g., Global Methane Pledge) for its swift mitigation.
- Methane represents 13.0% of the B.C.'s total greenhouse gas emission inventory (8.5 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e), with 57% of those methane emissions coming from industrial sources, primarily from oil and gas (O&G) and coal mining, with smaller contributions from the wood products and forestry sectors.
- The *CleanBC Roadmap to 2030* commits to the near elimination of industrial methane emissions by 2035. The Roadmap includes federally aligned interim methane reduction targets for the oil and gas sector of 45 percent and 75 percent by 2025 and 2030 respectively, from 2014 levels.
  - Internal modelling, using latest field measurements, shows B.C.'s research-informed O&G methane policy has put it on track to achieve its 2025 and 2030 targets. Reduction efforts in other industrial sectors require additional research to improve the Province's understanding of their methane emissions and mitigation options.
- Ongoing scrutiny of the oil and gas sector methane emissions had revealed large discrepancies between official methane totals (e.g., in the National Inventory Report (NIR) developed by Canada and B.C.'s Provincial Inventory (PI)) and actual field measurements. There remains significant uncertainty in the accuracy of methane estimates from coal, wood and forestry due to limited research.
- To improve reported methane emission inventories and achieve the near elimination target through evidence-based, cost-effective policy, B.C. continues to engage in methane research.

## Methane Emissions in the Oil and Gas Sector

- Methane emissions in the oil and gas sector are a result of unintentional (e.g., leaks) or intentional releases (e.g., venting) of natural gas to the atmosphere, with recent studies showing that natural gas combustion (e.g., flaring, compressor engines) is a significant source of methane due to incomplete combustion of fuel (methane) being released to atmosphere.
- B.C.-supported academic research into oil and gas methane emissions has led to improvements in the NIR, documented B.C.'s success in low methane-intensity natural gas production and facilitated the transparent development of regulations.
- Additional collaboration with Environment and Climate Change Canada on the NIR is planned to further integrate B.C. research and better align with provincial methane emission estimates.
- Oil and gas methane reductions are driven primarily through regulatory requirements under the *Energy Resource Activities Act* Drilling and Production Regulation (DPR) which is administered by the BC Energy Regulator (BCER). Output Based Pricing System and CleanBC Industry Fund, drive further methane emission reductions, targeting emissions not suited to regulation.



- B.C. has fostered collaborative research partnerships through the B.C. oil and gas Methane Emissions Research Collaborative (MERC) and is developing a methane monitoring program to improve emission estimates, provide actionable information and develop cost-effective policy.

#### Methane Emissions in the Coal Mining Sector

- Methane emissions are a by-product of coal mining and processing. Methane gas trapped in coal deposits and surrounding rock is released when rock is disturbed due to mining activities.
- B.C.'s coal mining industry currently extracts coal from shallow surface mines, with lower methane content than deeper underground mines. However, current methane capture/utilization techniques for surface mines are costly and have limited capture efficiency.
- Due to limited research, current B.C. coal sector methane emission inventories are uncertain and mitigation technologies are not well developed. Research in other jurisdictions (e.g., Australia) has indicated significant under-reporting of methane emissions from coal mining activities.

#### Advice/Recommendations

#### Methane Emissions from the Forestry and Wood Products Sectors:

- Methane emissions in the forestry and wood products sectors are a result of open burning of slash piles (i.e., post-logging residue) and anaerobic decomposition (i.e., decay in a low oxygen environment) in wood waste landfills. Although not included in the CleanBC target, wildfire growth has resulted in a significant increase in methane emissions and is reported in the PI.
- CAS is working with both the Ministry of Forests (FOR) and the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) on methane emission research initiatives.
  - CAS is supporting the FOR with their CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 target of near elimination of slash pile burning by 2030. Ongoing research into measuring methane emissions from slash pile burning will inform mitigation policy decisions.
  - To improve emission inventories and inform policy development, CAS and EPD are reviewing the magnitude, distribution and mitigation options for wood waste methane sources.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- The Province has publicly established five conditions for new proposed LNG operations in B.C., including the requirement to “protect our air, land and water, including living up to our climate commitments”.
- B.C. does not currently have any large-scale producing LNG operations, but two such operations are expected to be operational later this decade:
  - LNG Canada Phase 1 (LNGC1) is under construction and expected to be operational in 2024
  - Woodfibre LNG is under construction and is expected to begin operations in 2027.
- Several additional LNG projects are either scaling up production or are at various stages of development under environmental assessment, permitting, and/or final investment decision, including:
  - FortisBC’s Tilbury LNG facility is undergoing a series of expansions and is projected to be scaled up by 2025 and completed by 2028.
  - Cedar LNG, which has been granted an Environmental Assessment Certificate, is the only LNG project that is majority-owned by a First Nation (Haisla First Nation, at 51% ownership); the project expects to be in service by late 2028.
  - Ksi Lisims LNG, led by project proponents Rockies LNG, Western LNG, and the Nisga’a Nation, has submitted its Environmental Assessment application.
- The CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 modelling assumed ~16 million tonnes of B.C. LNG production (equivalent to production from LNGC1 and Woodfibre LNG), which it forecasted would add approximately 3.5 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent to the Province’s emissions. If more projects than these begin operations the Province’s LNG and upstream oil and gas emissions will be greater than projections in the Roadmap modelling, thereby further widening the gap to the Province’s 2030 emission reduction target. (see Major Corporate Issue Note for details on B.C.’s progress to targets.)
- The effect of B.C.’s export of LNG on global emissions is uncertain. Depending on the market that B.C. LNG is shipped to, it could displace the use of coal or other higher-emission fossil fuel and result in lower global emissions. Alternatively, it could also displace the use of renewable energy, which may increase global emissions.
  - The First Nations Climate Initiative, alongside industry and academia, is working to better understand the global emission reductions from BC LNG exports and explore alternative financial models and tools that could incentivize and/or finance LNG projects.
- B.C. LNG facilities’ emissions per tonne of LNG produced (i.e. their emissions intensities) are all expected to be lower than those of any existing large LNG facility in the world.
- All LNG projects that emit over 10 thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent must comply with the new B.C. Output-Based Pricing System. Final decisions on the LNG benchmark (i.e. the emissions intensity above which facilities are required to make compliance payments and/or purchase offsets)

have not yet been made.

- In March 2023, B.C. launched the new Energy Action Framework, which included commitments to ensure all new LNG projects and oil and gas development fit within B.C.'s climate plan. Specifically, it required that:
  - o All new LNG facilities (i.e., those that are in or have not yet entered the Environmental Assessment process) achieve net zero emissions by 2030; and
  - o The oil and gas sector reduces its emissions by 33-38 percent below 2007 levels by 2030, through a regulatory cap. New projects, as well as those projects such as LNG Canada Phase 1 that have achieved approvals, will be included in the cap mechanism, which is currently in development.

Business Information; Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

- The Province and LNG Canada developed an Operating Performance Payment Agreement which included provisions related to carbon pricing and the *Carbon Tax Act*. Discussions with LNG Canada related to Phase 2 of their project are underway and will consider actions related to climate change and greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Local Government Climate Action and Infrastructure Programs</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

### Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP)

- Local governments play a critical role in meeting the Province’s legislated climate targets by directly controlling or influencing over 50% of provincial energy and emissions. They are showing increased ambition as climate leaders, through Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) annual reporting, declarations of climate emergencies, net-zero commitments, and publicly posted climate plans.
- As of 2023, LGCAP’s performance metrics are included in the annual *Climate Change Accountability Report* to ensure:
  - o LGCAP funds are used to achieve objectives outlined in the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 (Roadmap) and the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy (CPAS); and
  - o Tracking of progress on climate action by local governments is aligned with the Roadmap and CPAS.
- Budget 2022 allocated \$76M over three years to support the establishment of LGCAP. The program, launched in May 2022, provides predictable and stable funding to local governments and Modern Treaty Nations to fund climate projects in communities.

Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

- In March 2024, the Province allocated the equivalent of three years of program funding, \$71,657,967, to all participants (2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27).
- By providing this funding, local governments and Modern Treaty Nations can plan and fund their climate action projects with more certainty.
- Of the funding that was provided via the program in for 2023/24:
  - o 44% was put into reserve to provide time for local governments and Modern Treaty Nations to hire new staff, determine allocation to most strategic investments and “lock-in” funding for climate action.
  - o 25% was allocated to buildings and transportation initiatives.
  - o 12% was attributed to adaptation planning, waste diversion, engagement and other climate related activities.
- Each year, CAS staff provide 1:1 support to communities to complete reporting requirements and ensure 100% participation.

### Climate Infrastructure – CleanBC Communities Fund (CCF)

- In 2018 Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC, formerly Infrastructure Canada – INFC) and B.C. signed the 10-year \$3.9B bilateral agreement ‘Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program’ (ICIP). In the Green Infrastructure - Climate Change Mitigation sub-stream of ICIP, CAS was allocated \$249M for the CleanBC Communities Fund (CCF), an applicant-based infrastructure program focused on greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions.
- The majority of ICIP funding (\$2.7B) went to Translink.
- CCF funds infrastructure projects that create economic growth; sustain well-paying jobs; build inclusive communities; and support a low-carbon, resilient, green economy.
- Proposals for funding through CCF must meet one of the following program outcomes:
  - o Increased capacity to manage renewable energy,
  - o Increased access to clean energy transportation,
  - o Increased energy efficiency of buildings; and
  - o Increased generation of clean energy.
- Proposals must support public infrastructure, defined as tangible capital assets primarily for public use and benefit.
- CCF allocated funding to 59 projects across three intakes.
  - o The majority of funding was allocated to projects that generate and manage clean energy (72% of funding), followed by those that support building efficiency (22%) and clean transportation (6%).
  - o Local governments were the primary recipients of funding (57%), followed by Indigenous groups (36%), non-profit entities (4%), and for-profit entities (3%).
- To date, seven projects have been completed and four projects have officially withdrawn due to funding constraints. CAS and MUNI staff are working with HICC to reallocate funds from withdrawn projects to other ongoing CCF projects to achieve greater GHG reductions.
- CCF is fully allocated and there are no additional calls for funds planned under ICIP. 35 CCF projects have been announced and the remaining are pending announcement or final approval from HICC.

### Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund (LCELf)

- In 2018, Environment and Climate Change Canada and B.C. signed the first LCELf agreement, with Canada contributing \$162M and B.C. contributing \$172M over five years (2017 - 2022).
- Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) was the lead signatory on the initial CAN-BC LCELf bi-lateral agreement and oversaw the development and delivery of three project portfolios in B.C.;
  - o CleanBC Better Homes and Better Buildings (EMLI) - \$24M
  - o Forest Carbon Initiative (FOR) - \$290M
  - o Organics Infrastructure Program (ENV) - \$20M

- The Climate Partnerships and Engagement Branch in ENV coordinated the delivery of LCELF programming, with financial oversight and administration conducted by Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Sector.
- Work on Organics Infrastructure Program projects is set to conclude by the end of fiscal year 24/25. B.C.'s claims process to receive matching funds from Canada will conclude in December 2024, as well as a required compliance audit of program activities.
- In 2022 a \$2.2B recapitalization of Canada's Low Carbon Economy Fund which included LCELF was announced as part of Canada's Emissions Reduction Plan/Budget. However, as of Budget 2024, Canada has reduced the fund by approximately 60% to fund other priorities. British Columbia was originally allocated \$105.6M, but this has been reduced to approximately \$61M.
- Canada and B.C. signed the recapitalized LCELF agreement in May 2024, leveraging the full \$61M in support of one program, the Better Homes and Better Buildings Energy Savings Program administered by Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation.

#### Community Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI)

- The CEEI is a data service that provides energy and emissions estimates at the community level to support local governments in their climate action planning, monitoring, and reporting.
- The CEEI helps local governments understand their community's energy use and resulting GHG emissions.
- Climate Partnerships and Engagement Branch is delivering on a business case that invests \$0.95M in capital and \$1.26M in operating funds to improve the service by automating business processes and enhancing usability of the CEEI.
- The project is in its final year and on track to deliver a digital system that automates business processes, revised public facing information to improve accessibility, and new data products that make the data and its insights more accessible to target users.
- Through enhancing and expanding the CEEI, the intention is to create a community disaggregated Provincial Inventory using bottom-up measured data to better capture the energy and GHG impacts of climate action policies, programs, and investments under CleanBC.

#### Accelerating Community Energy Transformation (ACET)

- ACET is an interdisciplinary research initiative led by the University of Victoria. ACET's mission is to develop and implement innovative solutions for community-based energy system transformation across B.C.
- Recently awarded \$83M from the Federal Canada First Research Excellence Fund, ACET's primary focus is on empowering rural, remote, and Indigenous communities in B.C. to transition to clean energy, addressing their unique local challenges and opportunities.
- CAS has established a strategic partnership with ACET, including the secondment of a full-time Band 3 ACET-CAS Engagement Manager. This position, fully funded by ACET, is integrated within CAS's Climate Partnership and Engagement Branch and has formed strategic working relationships with the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI).

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Net Zero New Industry; Net Zero LNG</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- Industrial emissions make up approximately 40 percent of B.C.'s total emissions. The 2022 Climate Change Accountability Report noted that new large industrial facilities with significant unabated emissions would jeopardize achievement of B.C.'s legislated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions targets.
- The Net Zero New Industry (NZNI) policy is a *CleanBC Roadmap to 2030* commitment that seeks to ensure new industrial development does not hinder attainment of the Province's targets.
- The NZNI policy requires new large industrial facilities with estimated annual emissions greater than 10,000 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) to:
  - o develop a credible plan to achieve net-zero emissions in the required timeframe (also known as a net-zero plan);
  - o demonstrate that emissions will be reduced as far as possible from initial operation;
  - o review and update the plan every five years to consider new technologies; and
  - o demonstrate how, for emissions not eliminated through reduction, the proponent will offset remaining emissions using B.C. Offset Units.
- The policy applies to all new large industrial facilities, including mining projects, energy projects and manufacturing facilities. Wastewater treatment facilities and landfills designed to receive primarily municipal solid waste are exempt from the policy.
- Amendments to the *Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act* to provide a legislative framework for the Net-Zero New Industry policy were approved by Cabinet in Fall 2023. Business Information; Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

## Interim application of the policy

### Business Information

- In the absence of legislation, in May 2024, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy directed the Chief Executive Assessment Officer of the Environmental Assessment Office to apply the policy to projects requiring an EAC.
  - o The direction included different arrangements for three non-LNG projects currently well advanced in the Environmental Assessment (EA) process.

### Advice/Recommendations

## Advice/Recommendations

Net-Zero New LNG

- In March 2023, the Province supplemented its CleanBC net-zero commitment with a commitment under the New Energy Action Framework (NEAF) that all proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities in or entering the Environmental Assessment process must pass an emissions test with a credible plan to be net-zero by 2030 (rather than 2050).
- There are three LNG projects currently in the EA process that, under the NEAF, will be required to have a plan to be net-zero by 2030: Fortis BC's Tilbury Phase 2 LNG project; the Nisga'a Nation-led Ksi Lisims LNG project; and Summit Lake PG LNG.

## Intergovernmental Communications

- Given the legislative timelines surrounding EA projects, the EAO anticipates referring the Ksi Lisims LNG project to Ministers for decision in January or February 2025.

Background

- Commitments in the Roadmap and NEAF collectively form the NZNI Policy.
- CAS has heard from industry that the most cost-effective emissions reductions occur at the facility design stage, rather than retrofitting existing equipment or processes later.
- To address this, the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 included a commitment to require all new large industrial facilities to demonstrate how they align with legislated targets and submit plans to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.
- Legislative consultations and engagement, including Indigenous consultation, were completed in 2023. The policy was largely supported by Nations and Environmental Non-Government Organizations, and was generally not supported by industry.



## Net-Zero New Industry – Frequently Asked Questions

### *What is the intent of the Net-Zero New Industry Policy?*

- The intent of the policy is to establish a policy framework to ensure that new industrial development does not jeopardize achievement of greenhouse gas emission reduction target by requiring new industrial operations to plan for and achieve net-zero by 2050 (or 2030 for LNG).
- This allows industrial growth to continue while:
  - o ensuring industry is planning and designing project that can thrive in a net-zero economy; and,
  - o supporting the development of technology-based sequestration projects in B.C. such as geological carbon capture and sequestration; and,
  - o addressing new emissions sources not currently account for in emissions forecasts.

### *How was the Policy initiated?*

Business Information

- The NZNI policy has since been re-confirmed and enhanced within the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030, the New Energy Action Framework and the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's mandate letter

### *Considering existing industrial pricing and climate policies, how does NZNI add value?*

- NZNI promotes the achievement of emissions reductions immediately, when best available technologies are most cost-effective to implement.
- The policy complements other climate policies by ensuring that new projects fit within B.C.'s climate commitments, that proposed LNG facilities meet the Province's condition that LNG development fits within legislated climate targets, and it will create new opportunities for people in clean energy and technology.

### *Who does the Policy apply to?*

- Currently the policy applies to industrial facilities that are "Reviewable Projects" within the *Environmental Assessment Act* and have annual greenhouse gas emissions greater than 10,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>-e) annually.

Business Information

- o Examples include mining projects (e.g., coal, gold, silver, etc.), energy projects (e.g., hydrogen, petroleum and natural gas), and manufacturing facilities.

Advice/Recommendations

## Advice/Recommendations

- o Most B.C. Local Governments have their own climate change targets and new infrastructure investments are increasingly aligned with those targets. More funders and lenders are requiring a climate lens assessment be conducted to understand the GHG impact of new major infrastructure projects.

*What is considered “as much as reasonably practicable” in demonstrating project emissions reductions in a Net-Zero Plan?*

- The plan must show how the proponent will:
  - o ensure that the emission intensity of the project will be in line with the emissions intensity of world-leading facilities in the same class (for example, other LNG facilities, or other open-cut coal mining operations), taking into consideration any advances in technology that have occurred since the world-leading facility was constructed (e.g. electrification of LNG facilities).
  - o implement changes in technology over time that would allow the project to further reduce emissions,
  - o Or justify that either of these are not reasonably achievable.

*What emissions sources are included in the Policy?*

- The Policy includes all GHGs directly emitted by the new industrial facility (scope 1 emissions) and emissions associated with the generation of purchased electricity, heat, steam, and hydrogen (scope 2 emissions).
  - o Examples include emissions from stationary combustion, venting, flaring, fugitives, industrial processes and on-site transportation.
  - o Examples of emissions not included are those from land-use change or other emissions associated with the construction of the facility and off-site transportation (e.g. logging trucks and marine vessels).

*How can proponents of industrial facilities net residual emissions?*

- Under the current application of NZNI, proponents must offset the remainder of the facility’s emissions through the retirement of offset units under GGIRCA.

## Business Information

*How does NZNI apply to the 3 proposed projects that have already submitted an initial application in the EA process?*

- Proponents of projects that have already submitted an initial application (Tenas Coal, Crown Mountain Coking Coal, Teck HVC Mine Life Extension) do not need to provide a net-zero plan as part of the EA process. However, these project proponents are required to provide sufficient information to support inclusion of net-zero conditions in a draft Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC).

*What was heard during Indigenous consultation on the Policy?*

- Nations were largely supportive of the objective of the policy, however, were concerned that the policy and its operation be in line with the principle of reconciliation.
- Indigenous nations voiced that any revenue the government receives (such as compliance payments in lieu of offsets) should go towards Indigenous-led environmental projects (e.g., investing in clean/renewable energy) in areas directly impacted by the project.
- First Nations indicated a strong preference for the policy to apply to facility expansions.

*What was heard during other engagement on the Policy?*

- Industry noted that emissions reductions are achieved most cost-effectively when they are planned for in initial facility design, rather than retrofitting equipment later.
- Industry was concerned that the policy would introduce additional time and administrative burden to an already lengthy process, and expressed a preference that the policy not be enforced.
- There was also a preference that any revenue from compliance payments go towards investment in emission reductions at industrial projects.
- Other concerns include the longer-term supply of offsets to address residual emissions from new facilities,
- LNG projects were concerned about the challenges in obtaining sufficient supply of electricity to electrify operations.
- ENGOs indicated a strong preference for the policy to apply to facility expansions, and raised concerns that upstream emissions from oil and gas extraction were not included in the scope of the policy.
- ENGOs also had concerns about whether carbon capture and storage would provide the level of net emission reductions that is anticipated.

*How are net-zero plans enforced?*

- Under the existing approach to NZNI implementation, Ministers will consider net-zero plans and any supporting information in developing conditions attached to EACs. These conditions could include requiring adherence to the project's net-zero plan. In this case, monitoring compliance with net-zero plans will be undertaken as per usual Environmental Assessment Office compliance and enforcement processes.

*How do the NZNI Policy and B.C. Industrial Carbon Pricing (OBPS) policies work together?*

Business Information

*How would the Policy evolve with the introduction of supporting legislation?*  
Business Information

*How do the net-zero requirements align with those required from the federal Strategic Assessment of Climate Change (SACC)?*

- The NZNI Policy is designed to generally align with SACC requirements. This includes the development of a net-zero plan for new facilities, the assessment of Best Available Technologies/Best Environmental Practices, and five-year reviews and updates.
- NZNI goes further than SACC in requiring adherence to net-zero plans and the netting of residual emissions.
- NZNI also has a more stringent requirement for new LNG facilities to be net-zero by 2030.

*What is the expected economic impact the Policy will have on industry in B.C.?*

- Navius modelling suggests that industry is largely able to absorb the additional NZNI Policy costs and maintain output with limited effects to the economy. The annualized effect to provincial GDP is estimated to be \$-22.4M over the 25 years to 2050.
- Industry has raised concerns about additional administrative burden and potential impacts on competitiveness. Modelling indicates that industry is largely able to absorb the incremental cost of the Policy.
- Industry also raised concerns about the readiness of net-zero technologies and offset supplies. Both the Net-Zero New Industry Policy and other industrial climate change policies will incentivize investment in emissions reduction technologies and offset projects, providing the necessary stimulation to further develop these options.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Oil and Gas Emissions Cap</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- The oil and gas sector accounts for about 20% of British Columbia's (B.C.'s) total emissions and about 50% of B.C.'s emissions from industry.
- B.C.'s natural gas sector creates emissions from gas extraction and processing, from transporting gas and gas liquids through pipelines, and from liquefaction of natural gas – called Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) production – for export overseas.
- Major LNG projects represent some of the largest potential sources of emissions in B.C., including from the liquefaction process itself but also from the additional incremental production of natural gas in northeastern B.C. and transmission of gas to the LNG facilities on the north coast.
- B.C. has made public commitments to address emissions related to new LNG development and limiting and reducing emissions from the oil and gas sector:
  - o One of the five conditions B.C. set out in 2018 for LNG development is that new LNG projects will fit within the province's climate commitments.
  - o In 2021, B.C. established sectoral targets to help identify the most feasible and cost-effective way to achieve our province-wide emissions targets; the sectoral target for the oil and gas sector (including LNG) is a 33–38% reduction in emissions from 2007 levels by 2030.
  - o B.C. launched the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 in fall 2021, and included a commitment to implement policies and programs to ensure the oil and gas sector meets its sectoral targets.
  - o The 2022 mandate letters for ENV and EMLI directed Ministers to prioritize the CleanBC Roadmap commitment to put policies in place to reach the sectoral targets for the oil and gas sector.
  - o In March 2023, B.C. launched the New Energy Action Framework, which included a commitment to establish a regulatory greenhouse gas emissions cap to meet B.C.'s sectoral targets for the oil and gas sector (33-38% below 2007 levels by 2030).
  - o In March 2024, B.C. publicly committed to designing the provincial cap as a backstop to the federal oil and gas emissions cap and to have regulations in place establishing the provincial cap mechanism by the end of 2025.

Advice/Recommendations

Advice/Recommendations

- Key challenges in establishing and meeting the emissions cap targets include (but are not limited to):  
Advice/Recommendations: Intergovernmental Communications

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Climate Action Secretariat</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Progress to Targets, CleanBC Modelling, and Risks</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

### B.C.'s Greenhouse Gas targets

- The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy implements the *Climate Change Accountability Act (CCAA)*, which includes updating, reviewing and providing public updates on progress towards provincial greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets.
- In 2018, GHG reduction targets for 2030 (40% below 2007 levels) and 2040 (60% below 2007 levels) were added alongside the existing 2050 target (80% below 2007 levels).
- In December 2020, the Province established an interim reduction target of 16% below 2007 levels by 2025. This is a benchmark for assessing progress towards longer term targets and to signal whether course correction through additional policy measures may be required.
- In March 2021, the Province established sectoral reduction targets in transportation, industry, oil and gas, and buildings and communities. As part of legislated requirements, government will review these targets by December 31, 2025.
- The ministry has also been mandated to legislate a 2050 net-zero emission reduction target but legislative amendments have not yet been brought forward.

### Current progress against GHG targets

- In the forthcoming release of B.C.'s 2024 provincial GHG emissions inventory (see Accountability and Provincial Inventories of GHGs note), 2022 GHG gross emissions (the most current data) are likely to be just below 65.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO<sub>2</sub>e). This does not include reductions from GHGs sequestered through offset projects that store carbon dioxide in B.C.'s forests.
- B.C.'s gross emissions have increased by approximately 0.1 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e (~0%) since 2007.
- B.C. must reduce *net* emissions, including reductions from offsets, to 55.3 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e to achieve its 2025 GHG target and to 39.3 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e to achieve its 2030 GHG target. Offsets contributed around 0.5 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e of reductions.

### Past reported progress to meeting GHG targets

- To project how climate policies could affect B.C.'s GHG emissions and economy, B.C. contracts Navis Research to conduct energy economy modelling.
- The modelling and analysis done in 2023, using policy designs based on original 2021 Roadmap announcements, suggested that B.C. could achieve emissions reductions of 15% by 2025 and 38% by 2030 below 2007 levels, nearly achieving B.C.'s targets. These projections were published in the 2023 Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR), the most recent public release.

Advice/Recommendations

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations



<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Conservation and Recreation Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BC Parks Operating Model</b></p>
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#### KEY FACTS

- BC Parks operates 215 campgrounds within 202 provincial parks, making it one of the Province's most-visible public service providers.
- In 1982, BC Parks shifted from a 'staffed model' to the current BC Parks' Park Operating Model, where most aspects of front country park operations are outsourced to private sector operators, small to medium sized enterprises, holding 3-10-year Park Operator Agreements ("POAs"). Since the current model was established, there have been minimal updates.
- The intent of the Park Operating Model was to reduce costs, increase adaptability and encourage innovation.
- POAs have a large scope of duties and complex range of responsibilities, including fee collection, customer service, facility maintenance, water system operation, grounds cleaning, and safety and security.
- The current Park Operating Model is no longer suited to meeting current challenges. BC Parks has seen rapidly escalating visitor numbers with changing expectations, increasing impacts of climate change (e.g., floods and wildfires), evolving public policies (e.g., minimum wage tied to inflation, danger tree assessments), high inflation and economic uncertainty, increasing liability, and provincial commitments to Indigenous reconciliation.

Business Information; Advice/Recommendations

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Conservation and Recreation Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Conservation and Recreation System Facts and Figures</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- Over 15%, or nearly 14.4 million hectares, of B.C.'s land base is dedicated to protected area status (this includes provincial and federal protected areas, as well as publicly announced protected areas from land use plans that have not yet been designated).
- BC Parks (BCP) manages 1,050 parks, conservancies, ecological reserves, recreation areas and protected areas (designated protected areas).
- Provincially designated protected areas total approximately 14% - 14.4M HA
- Federally designated protected areas (national parks, national park reserves, 1 national historic park) – approximately 0.6%.
- Private conservation lands, Wildlife Management Areas, and environmental non-governmental organization lands – approximately 1.05%.
- The 1,050 parks only includes areas managed by BCP. Management direction has been approved for 744 (71%) of these areas and there are active management plan projects underway for 45 protected areas in the province.

## BC Parks

- Contracted Park Operators manage 215 BCP campgrounds within 202 BC Parks, servicing 9,351 campsites with \$770 million worth of facilities. There are 60 different Park Operator contractors, employing over 1,000 staff, increasing BCP's on the ground presence five times over. Fifteen of our Park Operator contractors are Indigenous owned and operated companies.
- Since 2021, BC Parks has delivered an additional 215 new campsites in high-demand locations as part of the \$21.59 million Recreation Expansion program (2021-2026). BC Parks aims to deliver a total of 300 new campsites through this program by April 2026.
- BC Parks is directly involved with 41 Collaborative Management Agreements, 15 broader Strategic Engagement Agreements and/or Reconciliation Protocols and is currently engaged in negotiations at 7 active Treaty tables with First Nations.

## Recreation Sites and Trails BC System Management

- Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) currently manages 1,933 recreation sites and 818 established trails, including rail trails within their system.
- RSTBC is also responsible for the negotiation and management of over 400 site and trail partnership agreements and service delivery contracts, including with First Nations.

### Conservation Officer Service

#### *Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) hotline*

- In 2023, the RAPP hotline received 53, 092 calls, an increase from the previous year.
- Of those, more than 80% - 43, 991 - related to human-wildlife conflicts.
- The remaining 9,098 calls related to violations, such as unlawful dumping and illegal burning.
- In 2024, the RAPP line has received 29, 064 calls as of September 20.
- Of those, 23,461 relate to human-wildlife conflicts, while 5,603 relate to violations.

#### *Enforcement Actions*

- In 2023, Conservation Officers took 5,364 enforcement actions, resulting in \$629, 918 total fine amounts (not including court penalties).
- This included 2,969 warnings and 2,150 violation tickets. The most common violation tickets and warnings were issued under the *Wildlife Act*.
- 39 court convictions related to COS files were also recorded last year.
- During the first six months of 2024, Conservation Officers issued 716 violation tickets and 1,143 warnings.

## Appendix 1: Conservation and Recreation System Facts and Figures

### Current Parks and Protected Areas System

Designation	Number	Area (ha)
<u>Class A Parks</u>	630	10,781,924
<u>Class B Parks</u>	2	3,778
<u>Class C Parks</u>	13	484
<u>Recreation Areas</u>	2	5,929
<u>Conservancies</u>	169	3,143,935
<u>Designations under the <i>Environment and Land Use Act</i></u>	86	387,064
<u>Ecological Reserves</u>	148	160,292
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>14,420,416</b>

### Recreation Attendance Data

Attendance Type	Attendance (Person-Days) 2018/19, 19/20, 22/23 (average)	Attendance (Person-Days), 2023/24*	5yr Avg. Annual Growth Rate
Camping	3,300,037	3,564,711	5%
Day Use	22,522,398	23,172,609	1%
Boating	171,067	143,241	-6%
<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>25,993,502</b>	<b>26,880,561</b>	<b>1%</b>

\*2023/24 attendance data is representative of the season, however final data validation for the season is not yet complete.

Top 10 Parks – Total Attendance	2023/2024
Cypress Park	1,985,865
E.C. Manning Park	1,186,682
Rathtrevor Beach Park	1,095,681
Golden Ears Park	1,012,471
Cultus Lake Park	894,180
Mount Seymour Park	857,192
Goldstream Park	771,884
Stawamus Chief Park	746,547
Porteau Cove Park	742,978
Alice Lake Park	646,895

**Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) System Management:**

<b>Funding Directly to RSTBC:</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
Destination Development (Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport)	\$749,675	\$141,477
Forest Enhancement Programs (FEP)	\$1,413,352	\$1,025,033

<b>Funding to RSTBC Partners*</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
Rural Economic Diversity and Infrastructure Program (REDIP)	\$1,158,504	\$1,709,184

\* spent on Recreation Sites and Trails

**Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) hotline**

<b>RAPP Calls</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
ERS - Violations	8,412	10,751	10, 858	8, 809	9,098
Human-Wildlife Conflict Reports	37,291	36,604	42, 290	41, 911	43,991
<b>Total Calls Received</b>	<b>45,703</b>	<b>47,355</b>	<b>53, 148</b>	<b>50, 720</b>	<b>53,092</b>

**Enforcement Actions**

<b>Enforcement Actions (EA's)</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Violation Tickets	2,886	3,206	2,616	1,863	2,150
Warnings	3,976	4,874	3,450	2, 750	2,969
Dangerous Wildlife Protection Orders	360	371	264	126	135
Court Convictions	57	53	52	46	39
<b>Total EA's*</b>	<b>7,325</b>	<b>8, 484</b>	<b>6, 297</b>	<b>4,668</b>	<b>5,364</b>
<b>Total Fine Amounts</b> (does not include court fines)	<b>\$623,606</b>	<b>\$644,676</b>	<b>\$674,417</b>	<b>\$548,957</b>	<b>\$629,918</b>

\* covers 5 categories: provincial & federal contraventions; warnings; licence action; Info Form 2

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Conservation and Recreation Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Conservation Officer Service Operating Model</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

### Deployment Guidelines and Staffing Decisions

- The Conservation Officer Service (COS) uses deployment guidelines to ensure its operational mission and mandate to provide public safety and environmental enforcement services to the citizens of BC is delivered, while mitigating negative impacts to staff.
- There are 129 frontline Conservation Officers posted throughout B.C., with offices in 45 communities in eight regions.
- With all resource deployment decisions, the COS ensures there is the least amount of impact to staff and the communities they serve.
- Conservation Officer deployment is regularly reviewed and adjusted by the COS as required.
- The COS looks at several factors when determining where Conservation Officers are posted, including:
  - o Officer safety and call volume;
  - o Zone coverage and geographic location;
  - o Call demand for public safety and enforcement concerns;
  - o Population size;
  - o Level of industrial, commercial and recreational activity;
  - o Number of existing officers within the area, and
  - o Emerging environmental trends and partnership opportunities.
- To address temporary, time-sensitive public safety or enforcement pressures, the COS may augment resources from one zone or region as necessary.

<p>TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Conservation and Recreation Division</p>	<p><b>Digital Services: Foundations and Enhancements</b></p>
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#### KEY FACTS

- BC Parks (BCP) and Recreation Sites and Trails (RST) support approximately 40 million annual visits to parks, recreation sites, and trails across the province. Most of these visits begin online with people trying to find and/or reserve a recreation opportunity. Delivering opportunities for this level of visitation while balancing conservation values and reconciliation requires support from both public-facing and internal digital services.
- Over the past three years, BCP has greatly improved its digital service delivery. This includes:
  - o The launch of a modern user-friendly website (bcparks.ca) and content management system.
  - o A new camping reservation system operated by a third-party vendor - Camis.
  - o The day use pass reservation tool, built in-house by an agile development team.
  - o An attendance and revenue reporting tool built in-house.
  - o And government's first data register for park names, built in-house.
- These new tools were built based on user research with the public, staff, and partners. BCP has a user research participant pool of over 7,000 people who have volunteered to participate in providing feedback to improve services.

Advice/Recommendations

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Conservation and Recreation Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ecosystem Protection and Conservation</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- Protected areas managed by BC Parks – covering approximately 15% of the provincial land base – are the core of ecosystem conservation in B.C., representing all major ecosystem types in the province and providing refuge for many species, including those at risk. Coordination of efforts across agencies is crucial to managing species and ecosystems.
- Climate change is transforming the protected areas system, in ways that are visible (e.g., fire, erosion, shrinking glaciers) and in ways that are hard to see but still significant (e.g., shifting ecosystems, longer visitor seasons). Through the BC Parks Living Lab Program we invest \$156,000 per year to partner with researchers at universities across B.C. to better understand climate change impacts in protected areas.
- BC Parks' general approach to conservation in protected areas is to let natural processes proceed unimpeded, while also exploring the need for more active recovery in a changing climate. Generally speaking, protected areas require active management for:
  - o threats that do not respect protected area boundaries (e.g., disease, invasive species, fuel spills, overuse by humans);
  - o threats to human wellbeing (e.g., high fire hazard areas near communities);
  - o ecosystem restoration (e.g., in areas with legacy impacts); and
  - o consumptive activities like hunting, trapping and range use by livestock.
- In the last five years, BC Parks has invested funds from branded licence plate revenues to deliver active conservation management projects including over \$2.7M for important inventory and monitoring, over \$2.5M protecting biodiversity and over \$1.8M restoring ecosystems. This investment prioritizes work with partners inside and outside of government and with First Nations.
- In October 2023, BC Parks was approved to make regulatory changes that would restrict take-off and landing of aircraft in seven key protected areas that overlap Southern Mountain Caribou critical habitat. This work, which would primarily impact heli-ski operations, helps deliver on a provincial-federal agreement to recover caribou. It is being delivered in partnership with the Caribou Recovery Program at the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS). First Nations consultation is complete. Engagement with the heli-ski industry is ongoing. WLRS staff are currently conducting a detailed economic analysis.
- BC Parks recently completed a new human-bear coexistence strategy in summer 2024 to be delivered over the next several years. The goal is to make protected areas safer for both people and bears in alignment with efforts by the Conservation Officer Service and WLRS outside of Parks. This strategy has not yet been shared publicly.
- BC Parks delivers annual invasive species management as part of the Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group. BC Parks strategically invests in invasive species using base budget (~\$100K annually), Licence Plate Program funding (~\$650K of additional investment over the last 5 years), and partnerships. The Minister has received past requests from the public and local governments for increased funding.



<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Conservation and Recreation Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Human-Wildlife Conflict Response</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- As the lead agency for preventing and responding to human-wildlife conflicts in B.C. – including predator attacks on people - the Conservation Officer Service (COS) has a primary mandate to protect human health and safety.
- In 2023, 43,994 human-wildlife conflict calls were made to the Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) line; an increase over the previous year. Of those calls, more than 60% – 27, 356 – related to black bears.
- For officers to attend every single call would simply not be operationally feasible. Conservation Officers prioritize public safety calls for service as the highest priority.
- Conservation Officers follow Human-Wildlife Conflict Response Guidelines when actioning complaints that involve bears that pose a serious threat to public safety, have caused significant property damage and/or are injured or suffering from distressed health.
- This includes animals that have attacked, injured, or killed humans, and/or attacked, injured, or killed a domestic pet or livestock. This may also include bears that have entered temporary or permanent dwellings.
- Garbage continues to be a significant cause of human-wildlife conflict and the unfortunate result of bears being put down to ensure public safety.
- To help prevent bear conflicts in communities, the COS works collaboratively with area officials, organizations, communities, residents, and businesses to increase awareness and education around the importance of attractant management.
- In 2023, Conservation Officers put down 603 black bears - the highest number since predator statistics began being published online in 2011 – but well below data from decades ago.
- Only 2% of the more than 27,000 black bear conflict calls led to Conservation Officers putting down bears to ensure public safety.

## Guidelines and Orphaned Bear Cubs

- Human-Wildlife Conflict Response Guidelines (under the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship) are based on extensive scientific research, literature reviews, wildlife experts consultation and more. This also includes input from wildlife biologists and the provincial wildlife veterinarian.
- In consultation with wildlife biologists and other experts, these guidelines and matrices are regularly reviewed and adjusted as necessary.
- Conservation Officers also regularly collaborate with wildlife biologists and the provincial wildlife veterinarian in specific incidents involving sick or injured animals.
- Conservation Officers will consider relocation or rehabilitation if circumstances allow. But once bears or cubs display food-conditioned behaviour that shows a minimal fear of people, they cannot be relocated or rehabilitated due to the risk to public safety.

- The COS is working under an Interim Response Guideline regarding orphaned black bear cubs. Currently, all orphaned black bear cubs that are not a threat to public safety are referred to a permitted rearing facility for assessment.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Conservation and Recreation Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Key Stakeholder Relationships</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- **Adventure Tourism Coalition (ATC):** Represents 18 member organizations across the adventure tourism sector in B.C. The ATC was formed to improve communications between the Province and the adventure tourism sector. They have an interest in policy supporting the issuance of permits for commercial tourism activities in parks, and in coordination between various ministries regulating the adventure tourism sector.
- **BC Cattlemen’s Association:** Representing ranchers and farmers across the province, the Conservation Officer Service (COS) works with this association to help mitigate wildlife conflicts; discuss strategies to lessen livestock predation and provide Verification Training to producers through the Livestock Protection Program, in coordination with ministry partners.
- **BC Parks Foundation:** An independent charitable foundation and official charitable partner of BC Parks established in 2017 through an initial provincial \$10M endowment. In 2023, the Province contributed an additional \$10M. The relationship between BC Parks and the Foundation is guided by a Collaborative Agreement with the Province, signed in May 2018.
- **BC Trappers Association:** Comprised of trappers across B.C., the COS works with this group to address any compliance and enforcement concerns, as well as attend annual general meetings.
- **BC Wildlife Federation:** The COS fosters and maintains relationships with this group, which represents hundreds of hunters, anglers, resource users and others Conservation Officers commonly interact with in the field during patrols or checks. Conservation Officers also address any compliance and enforcement concerns, attend annual general meetings, and collaborate on educational and training initiatives to ensure hunters and anglers understand regulations.
- **Camping Providers Alliance:** An ad-hoc group of government agency representatives and stakeholder associations representing camping service providers in British Columbia. Members include BC Parks, Recreation Sites and Trails BC, the Camping and RV’ing Coalition, Parks Canada., BC Parks’ Society of Park Operators and the Tourism Industry Association of BC.
- **Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC:** Registered under the B.C. *Societies Act* in March 2003, transforming British Columbia’s provincial hatchery program into a non-profit organization. Under a 30-year contract, the provincial government retained management authority of B.C.’s freshwater fisheries. Fish culture, fish health, and other biological and technical services were transferred to the Society.
- **Grizzly Bear Foundation:** Created in 2014 to protect the apex predator. Recently, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship entered into an MOU with the Foundation to form a partnership aiming at reducing human wildlife conflicts and to enhance the well-being of grizzly and black bears in B.C.

- **Guide Outfitters Association of BC:** The COS and BC Parks foster and maintain relationships with this association, which represents the guide outfitting industry in BC. Conservation Officers address any compliance and enforcement concerns and attend annual general meetings. BC Parks works closely with the organization with regard to Park Use Permits.
- **Indigenous Tourism BC (ITBC):** A non-profit, stakeholder-based organization committed to continued growth of sustainable, authentic, and culturally rich Indigenous tourism industry in B.C. ITBC provides support to their stakeholders in experience development, training, funding access, networking opportunities, marketing programs, and current industry research.
- **I-SPARC (Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council):** Formed in 2009, I-SPARC is a provincial, Indigenous-led sports and recreation organization that stewards the Aboriginal Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity Strategy, a comprehensive long-term plan designed to support a healthier future for our province's Indigenous communities, families, and individuals. In 2023, the ministry initiated a long-term relationship and Indigenous Funding Program funded project work with I-SPARC to form an Indigenous Outdoor Recreation Focus Group in 2024 that meet semi-regularly.
- **Mountain Bike Tourism Association:** A unique non-profit committed to establishing mountain biking as a safe and sustainable tourism experience in Western Canada. The association works collaboratively with a network of businesses, bike clubs, communities, resorts, and government agencies including Recreation Sites and Trails BC.
- **Outdoor Recreation Council of BC (ORCBC):** Founded in 1976, ORCBC is a provincial, collective voice for a wide-range of outdoor recreation groups and activities. In 2023, the Province contributed \$10M to ORCBC to establish the outdoor recreation endowment fund. In 2024, ORCBC distributed their first annual grants to 30 outdoor recreation organizations and First Nations across the province.
- **Society of Park Operators (SPO):** Represents many of the 56 park operator contractors delivering services in 200+ provincial parks across the province.
- **WildSafeBC:** The COS works with coordinators across the province to distribute attractant management and wildlife safety information to communities, including targeted outreach, provide support with communities seeking Bear Smart status, and supplement media interviews to help deliver important messaging.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Conservation and Recreation Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Legislation and Authorities</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

### BC Parks' Legislative Framework:

- BC's parks and protected areas system is founded in the *Park Act*, the *Ecological Reserve Act* and the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*.
- The *Park Act* provides for the establishment, classification, and management of parks, conservancies, and recreation areas and the *Ecological Reserve Act* provides for the establishment and administration of ecological reserves. The *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act* contains schedules listing most of the Class A parks, conservancies, and ecological reserves for the purposes of the *Park Act* and the *Ecological Reserve Act*. This act ensures that the boundaries of these areas cannot be modified to remove lands except by an act of Parliament.
- Park Rangers are appointed Pursuant to section 4(2) of the *Park Act* and are the enforcement arm of BC Parks. They are responsible for enforcing a number of provincial and federal statutes, including the *Wildlife Act* and regulations, *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*, *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act*, *Firearm Act*, *Motor Vehicle Act*, and the *Off-road Vehicle Act* and regulations, among others.
- The *Park Act* and Park, Conservancy and Recreation Area Regulation identify activities that are prohibited except as authorized by a park use permit. Park use permits may be issued under sections 20, 20.1, 30, 31, 31.1 of the *Park Act*. Section 5.1 of the *Ecological Reserve Act* requires permits for ecological scientific research and education activities within provincial ecological reserves. These are the only activities that may be authorized within ecological reserves
- BC Parks' Regional Operations Branch Executive Director and the six Regional Directors have all been designated to act on behalf of the Minister to make decisions to issue and enforce park use permits and ecological reserve permits, including the authority to determine the applicable fees and rate calculations

### Recreation Sites and Trails Legislative Framework:

- The *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) and supporting regulations including the Forest Recreation Regulation (FRR) provide a framework for managing outdoor recreation on provincial Crown lands.
- Under section 56 (1) of FRPA the Minister may order the establishment, variance of boundaries, or disestablishment of interpretive forest sites, recreation sites, recreation trails, and trail-based recreation areas on Crown land. The Minister's authority under section 56 (1) is delegated to the Assistant Deputy Minister, Conservation and Recreation Division.
- Under section 56 (3) of FRPA, the Minister may establish objectives for interpretive forest sites, recreation sites, recreation trails, and trail-based recreation areas. This authority is delegated to the Recreation Sites and Trails (RST) Executive Director and Regional Managers, RST.

- Section 57 of FRPA prohibits the construction, rehabilitation or maintenance of trails or other recreation facilities on Crown land unless authorized by the Minister. This authority is delegated to District Recreation Officers, the Executive Director, RST and Regional Managers, RST.
- Under section 58 of FRPA, the Minister may, if deemed necessary to protect recreation resources, restrict or prohibit a recreational use on Crown land or a non-recreational use of areas designated for recreation. This authority is delegated to the Executive Director, RST and Regional Managers, RST.
- Under section 118 of FRPA, an official may enter into an agreement with organizations and individuals to coordinate the management and operation of interpretive forest sites, recreation sites, recreation trails, and trail-based recreation areas.
- The FRR provides further regulatory authority for recreation management including procedures for amending, cancelling, or establishing recreation orders and procedures for application to construct, rehabilitate, or maintain a trail or recreation facility. The regulation also establishes rules (e.g., limitations on occupancy and use), a framework for determining fee amounts for the use of recreation sites and recreation trails, and details enforcement actions.

#### Conservation Officers Service Legislative Framework:

- Statutory authority of a Conservation Officer is largely set out under the *Environmental Management Act*, which provides the foundation for Conservation Officer powers and duties.
- Conservation Officers are also designated as federal fisheries officers under the federal *Fisheries Act*.
- Conservation Officers enforce a wide range of provincial and federal legislation aimed at protecting the environment, human health and safety and Crown resources and revenue.
- Conservation Officers enforce 35+ provincial and federal Acts and Statutes.
- Conservation Officers are authorized to use their discretion when determining potential enforcement actions, which can range from a written warning or issuing a violation ticket, to recommending charges and initiating a court process.
- Conservation Officers are provided with Special Police Constable (SPC) status pursuant to the *Police Act*. These appointments enable Conservation Officers to work alongside our law enforcement partners to help preserve and maintain the public peace, enforce laws in B.C. including the Criminal Code, apprehend criminals and support the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General with ensuring an adequate and effective level of policing and law enforcement in B.C.
- An additional aspect of the *Police Act* that directly applies to the Conservation Officer Service (COS) relates to the *Special Provincial Constable Complaints Procedure Regulation*. As a result of a recent B.C. Court of Appeal decision, the COS is now bound by case law and regulation to manage a misconduct complaint under the regulation.

**Appendix 1: Table of Authorities - Summary of the authorities for the various federal and provincial Acts and Regulations that Park Rangers are responsible for enforcing.**

Legislation	Which BC Parks Employees have Authority under this Legislation	What Park Rangers are Designated as under this Legislation	Mechanism for Providing Park Employees with Identified Authorities under this Act/Reg	Authorities Under this Act
<b>Criminal Code of Canada</b>	Park Ranger	Various: "every one" or "peace officer" or "person in lawful possession of property" Only Park Rangers are considered "Peace Officers" under the Criminal Code, Park Officers and Park Operators are not.	Criminal Code of Canada	<b>30-Detain for breach of peace</b> <b>37 (1)</b> -Use of force for self defence <b>494 (1)</b> -Arrest without warrant for indictable offence or criminal offence & escaping <b>494 (2)</b> -Arrest without warrant for criminal offences on or in relation to property
<b>Criminal Code of Canada</b>	Park Ranger	Peace Officer via Criminal Code	Criminal Code of Canada-Section 2 definitions	<b>25 (1)</b> -Use of force as necessary for purpose of enforcement  Peace officer status only provides protections, not authorities of a police officer.
<b>Park Act &amp; Park, Conservancy &amp; Recreation Area Regulation (PCRAR)</b>	Park Ranger	Park Ranger via <i>Park Act</i> (All Park Rangers are also Park Officers)	Appointed under section 4(2) of the <i>Park Act</i> . 4(3)(b) provides authority for <i>Park Act</i> & Regs	Many as identified within the Act & Regs (request information, evict, direct traffic, seize, etc.)
<b>Park Act &amp; Park, Conservancy &amp; Recreation Area Regulation (PCRAR)</b>	Park Officer	N/A	<i>Public Service Act</i>	Many as identified within the Act & Regs

Legislation	Which BC Parks Employees have Authority under this Legislation	What Park Rangers are Designated as under this Legislation	Mechanism for Providing Park Employees with Identified Authorities under this Act/Reg	Authorities Under this Act
<b>Ecological Reserve Regulations</b>	Park Ranger	Park Ranger via <i>Park Act</i> Enforcement Officer via <i>Offence Act</i>	Section 56 PCRAR & Offence Act	No enforcement powers. VT authority only.
<b>Motor Vehicle Act &amp; Regulations</b>	Park Ranger	Enforcement Officer via <i>Offence Act</i> Peace Officer via PCRAR	Section 56 PCRAR Section 22 PCRAR provides Peace Officer authority under MVA within parks	Jurisdictionally constrained to “within parks, conservancies and recreation areas”
<b>Environmental Management Act</b>	Park Ranger	Enforcement Officer via <i>Offence Act</i>	Section 56 PCRAR	Enforcement of S. 12 (2) and 13 of EMA, regarding littering, and RV waste disposal within Parks. Jurisdictionally constrained to “within parks, conservancies and recreation areas” No other enforcement powers, are provided to Park Rangers under EMA.
<b>Firearms Act</b>	Park Ranger	Enforcement Officer via <i>Offence Act</i> Peace Officer via <i>Interpretation Act</i>	Section 56 PCRAR	<b>Section 4</b> – stop, search a person or conveyance. Seize a firearm in relation to Section 9 only. <b>Section 9</b> – discharge or carry loaded firearm in motor vehicle. Constrained to “within parks, conservancies and recreation areas”.
<b>Off-Road Vehicle Act &amp; Regulations</b>	Park Ranger	Enforcement Officer via <i>Offence Act</i> Officer via NRO designation for Park Rangers.	Section 56 PCRAR	Park Rangers are NRO’s within a park or as designated individually outside of parks. <b>Section 21</b> – Stop vehicles, obtain ID,



Legislation	Which BC Parks Employees have Authority under this Legislation	What Park Rangers are Designated as under this Legislation	Mechanism for Providing Park Employees with Identified Authorities under this Act/Reg	Authorities Under this Act
				inspect vehicles and helmets <b>Section 22</b> - Seize for evidence <b>Section 23</b> – Seize for safety
<b>Liquor Control &amp; Licensing Act</b>	Park Ranger	Enforcement Officer via <i>Offence Act</i>	3.94	No enforcement powers. VT authority only. Constrained to “within parks, conservancies and recreation areas”.
<b>Cannabis Control &amp; Licensing Act</b>	Park Ranger	Enforcement Officer via <i>Offence Act</i>	Section 56 PCRAR	No enforcement powers. VT authority only. Constrained to “within parks, conservancies and recreation areas”.
<b>Trespass Act</b>	Park Ranger	Authorized Person/ Enforcement Officer via <i>Offence Act</i>	Section 56 PCRAR	Sections 2, 4,5, 6. Constrained to “within parks, conservancies and recreation areas”.
<b>Wildlife Act</b>	Park Ranger	Officer via WLA definition Enforcement Officer via <i>Offence Act</i>	<i>Park Act</i> Section 4	All powers prescribed to an “Officer” under the WLA either inside or outside Park Boundaries Violation Tickets and Appearance Notices pursuant to VTAFR.
<b>Canada Shipping Act- Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations (SOR/2008-120)  Small Vessel Regulations (Pleasure Craft). This is Federal Legislation</b>	Park Ranger	Enforcement Officer via Vessel Operation and Restriction Regulations  Enforcement officer for Part 10 (Pleasure Craft) under the <i>Canada Shipping Act</i> .	Section 16(21) of the VORR.  Pursuant to S. 196(1) of the <i>Canada Shipping Act, 2001</i> .	Powers and Authorities as described under the Act and Regulations including Federal Contravention Violation Tickets.

Legislation	Which BC Parks Employees have Authority under this Legislation	What Park Rangers are Designated as under this Legislation	Mechanism for Providing Park Employees with Identified Authorities under this Act/Reg	Authorities Under this Act
<b>Natural Resource Officer Authorities-Various Acts (e.g. <i>Forest and Range Practices Act, Heritage Conservation Act, Range Act, Water Act, Weed Control Act, Wildfire Act</i>)</b>	Park Rangers who have: -participated in NRO authorization training -have an NRO ID card -have received a designation and authorization letter			

**Park Officer** - means a director, an officer or an employee appointed under section 4 (1) of the *Park Act*. Generally all BC Parks employees are considered Park Officers, but not necessarily Park Rangers.

**Park Ranger** - means a person appointed as a park ranger under section 4 (2) of the *Park Act*. This is a specific legal designation and carries with it additional powers and responsibility under the Act and Regulations.

**Park Operator** - means a person authorized by a park use permit or resource use permit to operate facilities in any part of the park, conservancy or recreation area. These are usually contractors, or staff of contractors, and they have limited authority by virtue of their park use permit or as “agents” of the landowner.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Conservation and Recreation Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Planning and Land Management</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

### BC Parks

- BC Parks is responsible for managing and operating 1,050 parks, conservancies, ecological reserves, protected areas, and recreation areas, encompassing 14,420,416 hectares, or over 14% of the province's land base.
- BC Parks reports publicly bi-annually on the amount of protected area in BC through providing updates to the Canadian Protected and Conserved Area Database.
- BC Parks regularly receives requests from the public, other levels of government and Indigenous Nations to expand the province's system of parks and protected areas. Interest in further expanding the protected areas system arises from:
  - o The provincial commitment to protect 30% of the province by 2030 in alignment with federal protection targets of 25% of the land base by 2025 and 30% by 2030.
  - o Protection of identified species at risk critical habitat.
  - o Indigenous Nations' proposals for Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs).
  - o Environmental non-government organizations advocating for 50% protection as necessary to preserve essential biodiversity and ecosystem function.
  - o Public and local government requests to protect specific areas with local recreational or ecological importance.
- Recommendations for additions to the protected areas system are land use decisions usually led by the Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship. These are usually identified through initiatives such as the modernized land use planning (MLUP) process, the old growth strategic review and recovery plans for species at risk. BC Parks' role is to provide input and advice to these proposals, implementing the recommended new protected areas through appropriate legislation, and subsequent management of those sites in a manner consistent with those agreements.
- Establishment of new protected areas involves costs including compensation for Crown land tenures, foregone government revenues and resource-based job impacts. In addition, there are significant operating costs associated with the ongoing management of new protected areas. Decisions about establishing additional protected areas usually involve seeking a Cabinet mandate that includes analysis of the expected social, economic, and environmental costs and benefits of the proposal.
- BC Parks has a small annual budget (\$2M) to purchase key parcels of private land, on a willing seller basis, which contributes to outdoor recreation and conservation goals.
- Management plans and similar documents provide policy guidance for staff when making decisions on protected area management. Development of these plans includes engagement with First Nations and the public.

- The boundaries of most parks, conservancies and ecological reserves are set out in schedules to the *Protected Areas of BC Act*. This means that their boundaries can only be changed by an Act of the Legislature.
- BC Parks regularly brings requests for changes to schedules of the *Protected Areas of BC Act* to the Legislature for decision. Regular changes and updates to protected area boundaries are required to add new land to the system, to correct past errors, to change park names and to remove lands from parks to enable activities that are not allowed under legislation. A bill of this nature is being prepared for Spring 2025.

#### Recreation Sites and Trails BC

- Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) is responsible for managing over 1,900 recreation sites, more than 12,000km of recreation trail, and 18 interpretive forest sites on BC's public lands, outside of provincial parks and urban areas.
- Recreation sites and trails exist within the provincial forest – public lands that are managed for a range of uses such as forestry, mining, and outdoor recreation.
- Recreation sites and trails are established by ministerial order in accordance with the *Forest and Range Practices Act*. Statutory decision-making regarding establishments is delegated to the Assistant Deputy Minister, Conservation and Recreation Division.
- The establishment of recreation sites and trails ensures that places and features of significance are managed within an integrated resource management framework and are considered in land management and planning processes.
- Planning and land management decisions for recreation on the broader provincial land base are informed by land use direction and objectives laid out in land use plans, regional strategic land and resource management plans, and district recreation plans. That said, the development of these strategic level plans tend to be focused on high priority areas and so provide limited or no strategic planning to guide recreation-related decisions.
- Where forestry intersects with recreation sites and trails, RSTBC relies on management objectives for individual sites and trails, practice requirements, site-level authorizations, and a licensee's professional accountability to mitigate the impacts of forestry activities on recreation values.
- More recently, RSTBC has been engaged in provincial efforts to bring in a new forest planning regime, forest landscape planning, and is currently developing a comprehensive guidance document, referred to as the "Recreation Chapter" to inform planning tables and support the integration of key recreation values into operational forestry plans.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Conservation and Recreation Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Public Education and Outreach</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- BC Parks Engagement, Education and Enhancements team delivers public education, interpretation, and outreach programs in parks across the province, in collaboration with community partners.
- Located in each of our six regions, Community Liaison Officers are responsible for public education and outreach programs, partnerships, and initiatives.
- Jerry the Moose is BC Parks' popular mascot, who makes appearances at outreach events.
- BC Parks regularly posts social media content (Facebook, Instagram, blog) promoting visitor education and responsible recreation.
- Since 2020, BC Parks has partnered with the BC Parks Foundation to bring consistent, high-quality interpretive programming back to BC Parks through their Discover Parks program.
- In some parks, Park Operators run their own public education and interpretation programs.
- Discover Parks has four program areas:
  - o Discover Park Ambassadors: seasonal park interpreters who provide nature-based educational opportunities in 25+ parks in the summer months.
  - o Discoverparks.ca: A web platform launched in 2023 which contains guided and self-guided activities for visitors to experience in parks across the province.
  - o Discover Trails: interpretive signage in BC Parks with QR codes that link to digital activities on [discoverparks.ca](https://discoverparks.ca).
  - o Nature Houses: supporting the operation of Goldstream and Rathtrevor Nature Houses.
- Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) regularly posts social media content on its Facebook page promoting responsible recreation and highlighting recent enhancement projects at individual sites and trails.
- RSTBC staff support community outreach through attending partner events.
- The Conservation Officer Service (COS) public education and outreach efforts range from patrols that help raise awareness to residents about the importance of attractant management, to targeted communications delivered via social media.
- The COS utilizes its social media channels (Facebook and X) to help deliver public outreach, education, public safety information and results of enforcement activities.
  - o Posts highlight various aspects of the service, including human wildlife public safety messaging, court case results, investigative updates, Indigenous partnerships and requests for information in unsolved cases.

- Frontline Conservation Officers are also regularly interviewed by media in various formats. Media content is both proactive and reactive as it relates to the work of the COS and often serves to provide deterrence to future illegal activities.
- Conservation Officers regularly connect with various stakeholders, advocacy groups, municipalities, and partner agencies to help deliver important information and messaging.
- The COS also works extremely hard to build relationships with Indigenous communities through various outreach events and works collaboratively with First Nation guardians on monitoring and compliance issues.
- The COS also has an outreach trailer, which is made available at high-profile events, annual general meetings, and for our resource groups such as the BC Wildlife Federation, BC Trappers Association, and others.
  - o The trailer houses various displays that highlight the work the COS is involved in, as well as other partner initiatives.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Conservation and Recreation Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Reconciliation Challenges and Opportunities</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- Across the Conservation and Recreation Division (CARD), staff are working collaboratively with First Nations in land management, recreational use, compliance and enforcement, and environmental restorative justice.

**BC Parks (BCP)** is committed to working collaboratively with Indigenous peoples in land management and devotes significant capacity to addressing First Nations interests and resolving issues that arise.

- With over 14% of the provincial land-base to manage, BCP has been a leader in collaborative land management with Indigenous Nations. BCP recognizes that reconciliation and the interests of First Nations were not always a primary focus for the agency and many older parks were established with little to no consultation or consideration for First Nations.
- BCP is directly involved with 41 Collaborative Management Agreements, 15 broader Strategic Engagement Agreements and/or Reconciliation Protocols and is currently engaged in negotiations at 7 active Treaty tables with First Nations. Pressure to expand agreements has increased since the adoption of the *Declaration Act* on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and initiatives such as 30x30, B.C.'s Modernized Land Use Planning, Forest Landscape Planning and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA's).

**Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC)** engages with Indigenous communities across the province to advance reconciliation initiatives, establish working partnerships, carry out consultation as part of statutory decisions, and participate in Treaty negotiations.

- District staff are uniquely positioned to engage in meaningful relationship building with Indigenous communities through working partnerships and consultation work at the local level. District staff are supported by one dedicated Indigenous Relations Advisor position in RSTBC, whose focus is on improving district and regional staff support. Treaty participation is led by regional staff and supported by a two-year temporary Indigenous Relations Advisor position focused on the Northeast.
- Indigenous communities are increasingly concerned about recreation related access to, and increasing public use levels on, traditional use and culturally sensitive areas. RSTBC's ability to respond to and address these concerns is limited because recreation access authorization and management decisions depend on broader land use and landscape level planning processes.

**Conservation Officer Service (COS)** is committed to ongoing collaborative efforts to increase reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Across B.C., CO's build, and foster relationships with First Nations through several initiatives, including Guardian programs and training, Enforcement Memorandums of Understanding, outreach activities, and the COS developed environmental Restorative Justice program.

CARD Initiatives:

- Working in collaboration with First Nations and provincial partners to explore new land management and shared stewardship models and implement pilot projects, including:
  - Indigenous Guardian Pilot – Implementation and evaluation of the MOU with Indigenous Guardians from the Nuxalk and Kitasoo/Xai'xais First Nations on a shared compliance and enforcement pilot project to mentor, train, and extend ranger authorities in their territories.
  - Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Capacity Building – leading organization-wide training for regional and headquarters staff, along with in person training for Guardians and new Park Ranger recruits each year.
- Consultation processes – Coordinating across the ministry and natural resource sector to support staff in meeting government's consultation obligations by developing and implementing consultation tools, training, and processes (e.g., Aboriginal Rights and Title Impact (AR/TI) assessment tool and communication templates).
- Engagement and external communications – Providing policy and guidance for appropriate Indigenous territorial and/or cultural acknowledgement in all external-facing communications, as well as education and interpretive materials (e.g., website, management plans, signage, territorial acknowledgements etc.).
- Enhancing Indigenous Cultural Expression in parks and protected areas. This includes opportunities for park naming, partnerships and governance, funding, cultural projects, and a Reconciliation Action Plan.
- The Restorative Justice First Nations (RJ) directs and leads the Restorative Justice Program for the province to resolve environmental enforcement infractions. They provide expertise and deliver the RJ training to First Nations and the other natural resource ministries, including the Guardians Working Group.



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Conservation and Recreation Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Recreation Infrastructure Challenges and Opportunities</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

### BC Parks

- BC Parks (BCP) is responsible for managing approximately \$1.5B worth of assets across the province, including buildings, bridges, structures, roads, trails, water and wastewater systems, campsites, day-use, and backcountry facilities.
- BCP receives \$23.98M annually as base capital budget for facility maintenance and renewal. Before 2023/24, this amount was unchanged from \$13.98M for over a decade. Past facility reinvestment was inadequate to maintain assets, and there was a growing backlog of replacement and maintenance needs across the province. Deteriorating facilities led to the 2023/24 budget lift.
- BCP receives \$7.14M annually as a base operational maintenance budget. This budget is for minor facility repairs that do not meet capital betterment criteria.
- BC Parks has recently implemented an asset management system. This will strengthen existing asset management policies and practices, including capital expenditure planning and reporting, and provide better insight into the agency's total asset replacement value.

### Recreation Sites and Trails BC

- Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) manages over 1,900 recreation sites and a network of established trails spanning over 20,000 kilometers. In addition to camping, recreation sites include more than 80 managed snowmobile areas, 95 backcountry cabins, over 30 cross-country ski areas, day shelters, fire lookouts and many other unique recreation opportunities.
- RSTBC also manages 560 kilometers of former railway corridors that have been converted to recreational trails. These "rail trails" have significant and aging capital infrastructure including trestle bridges, culverts, and tunnels.
- The asset value of RSTBC's base facilities is estimated at \$904M, not including the full replacement value of the trail network.
- RSTBC receives \$1.434M annually for land improvement capital. Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information
- In addition to capital funding, in 2023, RSTBC received a \$3.5M operating budget uplift and \$934K in amortization relief to reinvest in operational priorities including making existing sites safe and sanitary.

### Challenges:

#### *User Demand*

- Demand for frontcountry and backcountry (day-use and camping) opportunities is increasing.

- Increased visitation is causing increasing wear and tear on facilities.

#### *Capital and Maintenance Investment*

- In recent years, most of the budget for the BCP Facilities Program has been allocated to high use frontcountry areas where BC Parks collects most of its fees and public scrutiny is the highest.
- Despite the recent budget increase for facility repair and replacement (noted above), BCP continues to have a large historic backlog of facility maintenance needs across the province.
- RSTBC also has a significant historic maintenance backlog, and while the recent budget uplift has addressed some of this backlog, sites remain closed due to a lack of staff and volunteer capacity to manage the full scope of maintenance requirements.
- Government Financial Information

RSTBC has not yet been able to secure dedicated long-term funding for the seasonal maintenance crew program.

#### *Climate Change Impacts*

- As extreme weather events have become more common over the past few years, BCP and RSTBC are experiencing increasing facilities damage and loss.
- Some of these events do not qualify for federal disaster relief and are creating unfunded financial pressures to repair (i.e., the rebuild of the Berg Lake Trail in Mt Robson is anticipated to cost approximately \$15M).  
Advice/Recommendations: Government Financial Information

#### Opportunities:

##### *Campsite and Recreation Expansion*

- In 2016/17, BCP and RSTBC received \$22.9M over 5 years to build new campsites as part of a joint Campsite Expansion Program, which added over 1,700 new campsites to high demand locations.
- In 2021/22, BCP received another \$21.5M over 5 years for a Recreation Expansion initiative with a focus on trail upgrades/expansion, addition of at least 100 new campsites per year; and \$15M Government over 5 years for BCP land acquisitions to support Recreation Expansion.
- Due to limited available expansion space in existing parks, and considering the amenities sought by park users such as water access, any additional new camping opportunities in the park system will require BCP to acquire new land. BCP and RSTBC are also exploring the potential to expand and develop certain recreation sites to a BCP facility standard.

##### *Accessibility*

- In 2023/24, BCP received \$5M over 6 years (\$1.2M/yr) to upgrade high-priority infrastructure to an accessible standard. Infrastructure upgrades are focused on toilet and parking facilities as well as trails to park features, in parks close to urban centers.
- BCP acknowledges that some people and groups have been excluded from BC Parks due to both visible and invisible barriers. To address these barriers, we created BC Parks' Commitment to Inclusion in collaboration with diverse community partners. This is BC Parks' pledge to work toward a provincial parks system that is welcoming and meaningfully accessible to everybody.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Conservation and Recreation Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Recreation Sites and Trails Operating Model</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- Recreation sites offering camping have traditionally been embraced by British Columbians as rustic, free, or low-cost alternatives to provincial parks and private campgrounds.
- Out of the 1,930 recreation sites managed by Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC), camping is the primary opportunity provided at 1,225 recreation sites.
- Demand for camping has increased significantly in the last decade. Similarly, public expectation for enhanced services like on-site supervision, regular maintenance/ upkeep, and online reservation services continues to grow, particularly in recreation sites in proximity to population centres where demand is the highest.
- To offset the costs of providing enhanced services, user fees have been introduced at a growing number of recreation sites (referred to as “fee sites”). Fees are paid on-site or online and collected by volunteers and/or site operators. Pursuant to the Forest Recreation Regulation, all funds raised through the collection of user fees must be applied entirely to the provision of services at the recreation site for the direct benefit of those paying the user fee.
- Fees are also charged at many recreation trails across B.C. (e.g., snowmobile, ORV, and Nordic trails) with high revenues collected, over \$500K in several cases, under partnership agreements.
- RSTBC relies on recreation organizations, community groups and volunteers to operate recreation sites on behalf of the Province. A “Partnership Agreement” template is used by RSTBC to manage recreation sites, regardless of total fees collected, services offered, cost to maintain, and use levels. RSTBC is empowered to enter into agreements to maintain recreation resources on its behalf under s.118 of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA).
- RSTBC currently administers nearly 400 partnership agreements with third party organizations. Of these, there are approximately 93 agreements covering fee sites with camping amenities.
- All fee sites offering camping are maintained under the current partnership agreement model. Partnership agreements may include a bundle of free and fee sites, with funds collected from fee sites going towards maintenance costs across all sites in the bundle. Partnership agreements are administered at the district level by Recreation Officers and typically run for 5- or 10-year terms.
- As public demand for enhanced services at recreation sites continues to grow, and more fees are implemented at popular recreation sites, there is a need to re-evaluate the effectiveness of the partnership agreement as a managing framework for recreation sites generating revenue over a certain threshold.
- RSTBC has initiated a review of its operating model as it relates to high-revenue fee sites.
- Concurrent, ongoing initiatives being carried out within the Conservation and Recreation Division offer linkages to RSTBC’s operating model review, and include the BC Parks’ Operating Model Review, related Fee Strategy Review, Shared Levels of Service initiative, and the cross-government Recreation Strategy and Services Transformation project.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Protection Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Atmospheric River Event– Flood Debris Management Secretariat</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- The Atmospheric River Event (ARE) of November/December 2021 resulted in unprecedented stream flows and widespread flooding and landslides across Vancouver Island, the lower mainland and Fraser Valley, southern coastal communities and the central interior. This has been the largest natural disaster in Canadian history.
- The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) has managed the environmental response and recovery to this event since 2021.
- ENV established the Flood Debris Management Secretariat (FDMS) to lead government's response to the ARE.
- Removal of more than 16,000 metric tonnes of anthropogenic and wood debris removal work is now complete.
- Sediment debris that is impacting infrastructure and public safety within communities continues to be removed and projects are expected to be complete by March of 2027.
- There are seven projects that have active construction during the 2024 summer fish window (August 1 – early fall) and 4 other projects with planned work in 2025.
- The current FDMS total spend on response and recovery work is forecast at \$209M.

## Response actions

- ENV response actions have included engaging with impacted First Nations, local governments and community members, onsite assessments of impacted areas, developing debris action plans for over 700 separate locations, and conducting removal and disposal activities.
- ENV developed a Flood Response webpage with an interactive debris reporting tool that enabled the public to report flood-related debris in waterways, upload photos, and continues to provide updates for on-going sediment projects.

## Finance

- ENV emergency response and recovery costs are funded by Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR), who tracks and seeks federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement (DFAA) reimbursements. Eligible expenses are funded through the province's consolidated revenue fund as outlined in section 10 of the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA).
- The majority of ARE response and recovery costs are expected to be reimbursed by the Government of Canada through the DFAA.
- ENV is providing capacity funding to First Nations to ensure engagement is supported at all levels of local governments and employment opportunities for cultural, heritage and archaeological artifact assessments are realized within community.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Protection Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Circular Economy and Waste</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

### Circular Economy:

- Transitioning B.C. to a circular economy (CE) presents a significant opportunity to achieve greater waste prevention, greenhouse gas reductions, and environmental protection while increasing the province's competitiveness, resilience, and economic productivity.
  - o In the traditional linear economy, we extract or harvest raw materials, make products from them, and eventually throw them away as waste.
  - o In a circular economy, we prevent waste by keeping products and materials in circulation for as long as possible through strategies like maintenance, reuse, repair, refurbishment, remanufacture, recycling, and composting.
- A circular economy is one where all materials at their end of life are returned to production through reuse or recycling. A circular economy supports sustainability by designing products that can be readily repaired and recycled, keeping the value of materials in the economy, and out of the natural environment.
- B.C.'s manufacturing sector is already moving to leverage the strategic benefits of a CE to increase value, resource-efficiency, integrity, transparency, and market competitiveness, and to reduce environmental impact.
- To continue to advance a CE in B.C., the Climate Action Secretariat (CAS) and the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) jointly developed a visioning document: *Approaching a Circular Economy in B.C. (the Approach), Advice/Recommendations*
- CE approaches present further opportunities for cross-sector and cross-ministry collaboration, with significant opportunities to systematically transform current production and consumption practices while achieving a significant reduction in pollution, waste and GHGs with circular and resource-efficient processes.
- The Approach highlights and supports the increased adoption of circular business models throughout B.C. in multiple sectors. *Advice/Recommendations*  
*Advice/Recommendations*
- EPD has been taking a circular approach to move waste and plastics into the circular economy. This includes actions under the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan, as well as other solid waste management initiatives including Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs and organic waste management programs. Supportive circular policies include:
  - o Repair and Reuse initiatives to support a system where items are used for longer, leading to increased affordability and reduced waste.

- o Recycling more materials back into the manufacturing process to reduce the environmental impact from landfilling and resource extraction.
  - o Ensuring that plastic materials and products can be reused, then recycled and used again in the manufacturing of new plastic products.
- B.C is a North American leader in developing circular economy solutions to reduce waste, such as our EPR programs which promote the design of more easily recyclable packaging and products and make recycling more accessible for consumers through province-wide collection networks.
  - o Only ~9% of plastic is recycled in Canada annually (2018 report). However, B.C. is viewed as having one of the best plastic recycling programs in North America due to our EPR programs. In B.C., there was a 43% recovery rate for residential plastic packaging in 2023, and 98% of that was sent to recycling end markets and processed in B.C.

### Non-Residential Packaging

- The Province publicly committed to identifying a policy approach for non-residential (Industrial Commercial and Institutional (ICI)) packaging by 2025.
- In B.C., we dispose of over 2.5 million tonnes of solid waste from our homes and businesses each year. Over half of our municipal solid waste being disposed is made up of highly recyclable packaging (i.e., plastic, paper, metal and glass) or compostable materials.
- Currently, residential recycling (e.g., curbside blue box) is regulated under the Recycling Regulation. Non-residential recycling (e.g., recycling at businesses, schools, or jobsites) is not regulated by the Province.
- Over 99% of British Columbians have access to residential recycling through curbside pickup or depots; however, non-residential packaging and plastic recycling are not consistently managed and there are opportunities to reduce waste and improve recycling through better management of non-residential packaging.
- Through the Union of BC Municipalities and other avenues, the Province regularly hears from local governments, small businesses, and other interested parties regarding the challenges of waste prevention, including recycling, in communities outside of the lower mainland. This also includes challenges for Indigenous communities in accessing recycling and waste prevention services.
- The Province developed a discussion paper to request feedback on how to prioritize actions to prevent packaging waste. The discussion paper was out for a 90-day engagement period, ending July 23, 2024. A Advice/Recommendations
- The discussion paper identified desired outcomes as well as nine potential policy approaches, with two of the approaches relating to the expansion of recycling through EPR for packaging to more institutional, commercial, or agricultural sources.
- No one approach will solve the waste management challenge for non-residential packaging; a combination of options is needed to move materials into the circular economy.

Advice/Recommendations

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Protection Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CleanBC Plastics Action Plan</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- Plastics are found throughout our environment, with negative impacts on ecosystems and human health.
- Many plastics are designed to be used once and thrown away, and certain plastics are challenging for our recycling (and compost) systems.
- Through previous public engagements hosted by the Province, over 35,000 responses have been received from citizens, Indigenous communities, local governments, industry and non-governmental organizations, all supporting more efforts from the Province to reduce plastic waste.
- Since 2019, several actions have taken place under the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan to prevent plastic waste and pollution, increase reuse, and recycle more plastic. Together these actions support a more resilient and circular economy for plastics in B.C. by helping to reduce pollution while generating more recycled content for new products.

### Prevention: Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation (SUPWPR)

- The SUPWPR (2023) restricts certain single-use plastics including shopping bags, food service accessories, food service ware and oxo-degradable plastic, while encouraging the adoption of reusable alternatives.
- The SUPWPR advances the government's previous commitment to phase-out specific single-use and plastic items. The provincial regulation is designed to complement and expand on the actions taken by B.C. municipalities and the federal government.
- Restrictions on single-use plastic cutlery came into effect in December 2023, with all other single-use food service accessories available only by request.
- As of July 15, 2024, single-use plastic shopping bags are banned, and fees must be charged for alternatives (paper and reusable bags); businesses are restricted from selling or distributing single-use food service ware made with certain hard-to-recycle plastics; and all single-use products and packaging made with oxo-degradable plastic are also banned.
- The ministry heard from the industry that more time is needed to transition to suitable alternatives, retrofit equipment and adjust operations accordingly. For this reason, the prohibition on polyvinyl chloride (PVC) film wrap and polystyrene foam meat trays will come into effect in July 2028 and July 2030, respectively.
- To support businesses and British Columbians, a comprehensive public education campaign has been implemented. This includes a range of printable resources (e.g., fact sheets, posters, tent cards and an Acceptable Alternatives Guide), all of which are available for download from [gov.bc.ca/reuse](https://gov.bc.ca/reuse).

### Reuse and Recycling: CleanBC Plastics Action Fund

- The ~\$40M CleanBC Plastics Action Fund (the Fund) supports projects that design out waste, promote

the shift to reusable systems, and increase the use of post-consumer recycled content.

#### Advice/Recommendations

- Projects are in four categories: post-consumer recycled content; circular economy innovation, including reuse and refill; Indigenous-led projects; and regional plastics innovation to support projects outside of the lower mainland.
- Phase 3 of the Fund was announced in April 2023, with over \$20M available for projects to prevent plastic waste and develop B.C.'s circular economy.
- Thirty-two projects selected under phase 3 was dispersed by September 2024, and a final round of project selection for the remaining \$8M, will be completed by the fund administrator in 2025.

#### Reuse and Recycling: Non-Residential Packaging and Expanding Extended Producer Responsibility (Programs)

- In B.C., we dispose of over 2.5 million tonnes of solid waste from our homes and businesses each year. Over half of our municipal solid waste is made up of highly recyclable packaging (i.e., plastic, paper, metal and glass) or compostable materials. There is an opportunity for significant improvement in waste prevention and recycling in the non-residential sector (e.g., recycling at businesses, schools, or jobsites).
- The provincial Extended Producer Responsibility programs have been expanded to collect more plastic material under the plan, including the release of the EPR Five-Year Action plan (2021-2026). (see Transition Note: Provincial Extended Producer Responsibility for further details)
- The province publicly committed to identifying a policy approach for non-residential (Industrial Commercial and Institutional (ICI)) packaging by 2025. (see Transition Note: Circular Economy – Waste and Plastics for further details)

#### Recycling: Clean Coast Clean Waters Initiative Fund

- The Clean Coast, Clean Waters Initiative (CCCW) has provided ~\$50M in funding to Indigenous Nations, local communities, and businesses to remove debris and derelict vessels from B.C.'s coastline. Advice/Recommendations
- The latest round of projects was announced in August 2024 with 17 projects funded for a combined \$8.3M. The application window allocated the remaining funds from the \$25M announced in May 2023. Under this window, projects are to be completed by February 2025. A new derelict aquaculture project category was announced in 2024, with two projects being funded during this round.
- Since 2020, CCCW has removed more than 2,100 tonnes of debris, including 215 derelict vessels, from more than 6,400 kilometers of shoreline, creating and maintaining nearly 2,400 well-paying jobs and recycling/upcycling over 65% of the material collected from the shoreline.

#### Federal and Global Commitments

- Through the United Nations, 175 nations have agreed to develop a legally binding agreement on plastic pollution by 2024. The fifth and final negotiation on the Global Plastic Treaty is taking place in November 2024 in South Korea. The federal government is the lead representative for Canada at the negotiations; B.C. participated in the fourth round of negotiations in Ottawa in June 2024.
- Canada is also taking action on six single-use plastic items through the federal Single-Use Plastics Prohibition Regulations.



<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Protection Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy – Hydroclimatological Monitoring Expansion</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) received 17 permanent FTEs and over \$10M (starting FY2022-23), to upgrade or expand ambient hydroclimatological monitoring networks by 16% over three years.
- Hydroclimatological monitoring programs are intended to provide long-term trend and state of the resource information that are essential for natural resource decision-making and future climate modelling and projection.
- Data collected through hydroclimatological programs are critical to assess the following risks: short-and long-term water shortage, saltwater intrusion, severe wildfire season, reduction in ecosystem connectivity and health, extreme precipitation and landslide, and moderate to severe flood risk.
- Proportional expansion of hydroclimatological monitoring will be split unevenly between climate, snow, groundwater, water quality and hydrometric (river flow) monitoring networks (see Appendix).
- Network gaps are being assessed using geospatial statistical tools with input variables such as land-use, water licenses, and ecoregions.
- Geospatial assessments and expansion plans are refined based on: Federal, Provincial, and local agency input; First Nation, and client engagement; local site characteristics (e.g., presence of suitable sites); and logistics.
- Installations and work to date are outlined in the Appendix and includes over 40 new stations and 23 station upgrades.
- Fiscal year 2025 expansion plans include 3 automated snow weather stations, 9 snow or climate station enhancements, 6 groundwater observation well replacements or upgrades, 16 new hydrometric stations, and 2 long-term river and 3 long-term lake water quality monitoring stations.

**APPENDIX: Proposed Hydroclimatological Monitoring Expansion by Network<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Network</b>	<b>Number of Current Sites</b>	<b>Proposed Number of New or Upgraded Sites</b>	<b>Percentage Network Growth</b>	<b>Actual Installs (as of FY24)</b>
Climate Monitoring	105 <sup>2</sup>	<b>Augmenting 24 sites</b>	23%	6 enhancements and 1 net new station
Snow Survey Program	47	12	26%	8 automated stations
BC Lake Monitoring Network	53 Lakes (74 sites)	9	17%	3 new lakes
Volunteer Lakes Monitoring Program	40	5	13%	25 new lakes
BC Provincial Groundwater Observation Well Network	219	26	12%	12 new wells drilled and 17 station upgrades
Canada-BC Hydrometric Agreement	455	20	5%	20 new stations selected
Provincial Hydrometric Monitoring	N/A	45	N/A	4 new gauge
Canada-BC Water Quality Monitoring Agreement	49	6	12%	2 new stations

<sup>1</sup>Schedule based on proposed and not approved CPAS annual and total funding. As a result, network expansion plan subject to change.

<sup>2</sup>105 ENV Climate Monitoring sites (Snow and Air) and a total of 813 Climate Monitoring sites (e.g. AGRI, FLNR, CRD, BCH) operated under the Climate-Related Monitoring Program Agreement.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Protection Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Compliance and Environmental Enforcement</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) continues to have an increased focus on compliance under the *Environmental Management Act* (EMA) and the *Integrated Pest Management Act* (IPMA) under a risk-based approach.
- ENV strives to provide a high level of service and confidence to the public on environmental protection through compliance activities, including:
  - Complaints response and issues management;
  - Improving awareness of new and existing authorization requirements;
  - Increasing voluntary compliance rates through compliance promotion; and
  - Using all enforcement tools available, including administrative penalties and prosecution to bring parties back into compliance.
- ENV recognizes the importance of strengthening the linkages between Indigenous Nations and staff that provide regulatory oversight for the EMA and IPMA. The Compliance and Environmental Enforcement Branch engages with Indigenous Nations through information sharing and accompanied inspections.
- Resources are allocated to the most significant, highest-priority areas based on risk. Risk – the actual or potential impact to the environment, human health or safety and the likelihood of occurrence – is the primary consideration in directing compliance resources to a file.
- Last fiscal year, almost 900 inspections were conducted and completed under the EMA and IPMA. Results from these inspections included:
  - 532 EMA inspections: 70% were out of compliance, resulting in 133 advisories, 200 warnings, 39 administrative penalties, and 1 investigation referral.
  - 282 IPMA inspections: 79% were out of compliance, resulting in 108 advisories, 111 warnings, and 3 administrative penalties.
- Last fiscal year, ENV responded to 966 complaints, with 96% being responded to within 7 business days of being received.
- Last fiscal year, 68 Administrative Monetary Penalties were completed totaling over \$1.2 million in fines.

## Integrated Environmental Enforcement Unit

- Established in the fall of 2020, the Integrated Environmental Enforcement Unit (IEEU) was created between the Conservation Officer Service and the Environmental Protection Division to investigate complex environmental files. The IEEU investigates significant environmental offences under the EMA and IPMA for ENV, pursuing both prosecutorial and administrative enforcement responses.
- Three files are currently under investigation by the IEEU, one is currently before the courts and another pending charge approval decision with crown council.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Protection Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Environmental Emergencies Overview</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- The *Ministry of Environment Act* delegates authority to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) to act as the provincial lead in planning for, coordinating, implementing, and managing a program to protect the welfare of the public and environment in the event of an environmental emergency or disaster.
- The *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*, administered by Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, delegates ENV as the ministry responsible for managing hazardous material spills in B.C.
- Section 88 of the *Environmental Management Act* (EMA) provides the Minister of ENV with the authority to declare an “environmental emergency” to manage the environmental impacts from a flood, landslide or spill.
- The Environmental Emergency Branch (EEB), is the branch within ENV that plans for, responds to and recovers from environmental emergencies and disasters.
- To deliver on ENV’s mandate, EEB carries out of the following activities:
  - o Prepares for and responds to spills of any substance that could affect or harm the natural environment
  - o Provides environmental emergency response officers (EEROs) to assess conditions and oversee the response when an incident occurs
  - o Oversees and regulates environmental recovery following a spill
  - o Provides scientific advice and site support during an incident
  - o Seeks cost recovery for government expenditures related to spill response actions
  - o Develops regulations, policies, procedures, plans, operational guidelines, cooperative agreements, and technical documents to ensure effective, coordinated action during an environmental emergency
  - o Works with partner agencies to effectively coordinate the roles and responsibilities of all responders during an incident
- EEB receives approximately 5,000 reports of spills and other environmental emergencies annually. Of those 5,000 reports, approximately 200 require EEROs to deploy to the incident site.
- Spill response is guided by the following principles:
  - o The “polluter pay principle” premise, where the responsible person (RP) is tasked with taking reasonable steps to contain the spill and address any damage done to the environment
  - o When an RP is unwilling to adequately address the spill EEB takes compliance and enforcement actions to ensure the behavior of responsible persons comply with regulatory requirements

- o The provincial government is prepared to take over an incident should the RP be unknown or unable to fulfill the response obligations set out in section 91.2 of EMA
- The Province may carry out the same spill response actions required of an RP and may recover government's costs from the RP for responder time, deployment expenditures, and contracts related to the response and clean-up.
- The Office of the Auditor General (OAG) conducted an audit titled Managing Hazardous Spills in B.C. to determine EEB's effectiveness in managing hazardous spills.
  - o The OAG made nine recommendations covering five themes: preparing for spills; oversight of response and non-compliance; oversight of recovery; cost recovery; and monitoring and reporting
  - o EEP has accepted and is acting on all the recommendations
  - o EEP has developed an action plan that addresses the audit recommendations to ensure that hazardous material spills are prevented, communicated, contained, and restored effectively
  - o In 2024/25, EEB will report on actions taken to implement the OAG's recommendations
- Following the November 2021 Atmospheric River Event (ARE), EEB established the Flood Debris Management Secretariat (FDMS) to respond and recover from the effects of the most significant natural disaster in Canadian history.
- The FDMS has removed over 16,000 cubic tons of anthropogenic and woody debris from impacted rivers across the southern interior, lower mainland and on Vancouver Island. The FDMS continues to manage sediment removal from rivers to lessen public safety risks of future flooding near communities.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Protection Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Extended Producer Responsibility</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- Recycling in B.C. is managed through an approach known as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). B.C. is considered one of the leading jurisdictions in the world in EPR and often serves as a model for other jurisdictions.
- EPR is established and regulated by the Recycling Regulation under the *Environmental Management Act*. The regulation requires producers (manufacturers, retailers) to collect and recycle specified products they make and sell.
- The EPR policy approach shifts the cost of managing material from taxpayers to those that produce, use and benefit from it. It is intended to encourage producers to incorporate environmental considerations into the design of their products (e.g., use less material or make it more recyclable) and to maximize diversion of material from landfill.
- In B.C., 19 programs currently operate for a variety of products, including beverage containers, tires, household hazardous waste, electronic and electrical products, packaging and paper products. This far exceeds all other jurisdictions in North America.
- A study based on 2014 data found that EPR programs reduce mixed waste collection and landfilling costs by an estimated \$32 million annually, resulted in \$47 million of recycled material sold to markets, and supports over 900 jobs in B.C. Additionally, programs reduced greenhouse gas emissions by more than 200,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent and saved 3.2 million gigajoules of energy.
- B.C.'s EPR programs collectively expend an estimated \$500 million annually to operate recycling programs and the beverage container deposit-refund system that ensures British Columbians have free and convenient access to recycling services. This is often recovered through 'Eco Fees' applied at point of sale, or costs embedded in the price.
- The regulation requires producers of regulated materials to have an approved EPR plan that sets out how products will be collected and managed, recovery targets and performance measures, and program objectives. Most producers designate an EPR agency (most often a not-for-profit) to carry out regulatory duties on their behalf.
- As an alternative to operating under an approved EPR plan, producers may opt to comply with prescriptive regulatory requirements. This option has seldom been utilized.
- Government's primary concern is monitoring performance, environmental outcomes and transparency. To build public trust and accountability, producers are required to submit annual reports detailing program performance, including third-party audits of key performance measures (ensuring products are recycled and outlining how monies are spent).
- B.C.'s regulatory framework is non-prescriptive, and results-based. Producers of regulated products support the flexibility afforded by this approach and industry support has assisted in B.C. being a leader in EPR programs.

- B.C.'s model is widely supported to the extent that there is often a demand to add new products to the regulation. Advice/Recommendations  
Advice/Recommendations
- Due to ongoing local government and Indigenous Nation demand, the EPR Five Year Action plan also committed to assessing options to increase diversion of packaging and paper products from the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) sector, similar to the blue box EPR program for the residential sector (see **Transition Note: Circular Economy – Waste and Plastics** for further details).
- B.C.'s EPR programs are high-profile and attract significant consumer and industry attention. Business Information  
Business Information

#### Security Concern

- o Consumer accessibility to recycling services – the regulation requires 'reasonable and free consumer access' to services. This requirement has been inconsistently applied across programs, with consumers and local governments often raising concerns about access - particularly in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities. The ministry completed an accessibility study in 2023 to develop a consistent framework/set of criteria to ensure that British Columbians have adequate access to recycling services for all EPR programs across the province. Analysis to determine how such criteria could be adopted and potential impacts to current service levels is underway to inform policy development.
- o Development of guidance materials - to support producers in designing and operating EPR programs, ENV provides guidance outlining how obligated parties can fulfill regulatory requirements. ENV staff are currently updating the Recycling Regulation Guide (2012) to clarify ENV expectations for EPR plans and annual reporting. Advice/Recommendations  
Advice/Recommendations  
Clear guidance results in improved EPR plans, which supports affected parties in determining impacts to their interests and ENV in streamlining plan reviews.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Protection Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Integrated Pest Management Program</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- Pesticide use in B.C. is regulated by both federal and provincial legislation. Municipalities may also create bylaws to regulate certain uses of pesticides on residential and municipal land.
- Pesticides can only be used in Canada if they have been evaluated and registered by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency of Health Canada. The agency's staff conduct health and environmental reviews and establish general conditions for the use of pesticides.
- B.C. further regulates the sale and use of pesticides under the *Integrated Pest Management Act* (IPMA) and the Integrated Pest Management Regulation (IPMR) by imposing additional restrictions beyond federal label conditions.
- The goals of the IPMA are to ensure that no unreasonable adverse effects occur from the application of pesticides and to promote the use of integrated pest management to reduce unnecessary pesticide use.
- The IPMR establishes site specific and area wide authorizations for pesticide use, standards for the use, sale and storage of pesticides, and training requirements for applicators and dispensers.
- Authorizations under the IPMA include both registrations and statutory decisions. Registrations enable Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) staff to efficiently regulate routine and lower risk pesticide use through standardized protection measures included in the IPMR.
- The IPMR regulates pesticides in a range of uses including forestry, vegetation management on right of ways, invasive plant and animal control, mosquito control, landscaping, and structural pest management (e.g. rodents, bedbugs). In addition, the IPMR regulates the sale of pesticides.
- The IPM Program is coordinated across three branches in Environmental Protection Division and is responsible for:
  - o Setting standards and developing best management practices
  - o Issuing authorizations and overseeing public and First Nation consultation
  - o Developing training material and certification exams
  - o Promoting and verifying compliance with the IPMA and IPMR

## Current topics of note:

### Implementation of Treaty 8 Government-to-Government Agreements

- The Province has established government-to-government agreements with Blueberry River First Nations and other Treaty 8 Nations for a collaborative approach to land use and natural resource development in their territories.
- The agreements include varying measures regarding pesticide use, including some that restrict herbicide use in commercial forestry and other activities.



- Under the IPMA framework almost all herbicide uses in forestry and other industrial activities are authorized under a registration system and are not statutory decisions.
- ENV staff are working with partners in the Ministry of Forests on potential policy and process changes to implement the herbicide provisions in these agreements.

Advice/Recommendations

### Rodenticides

- Rodenticides are pesticides that kill rodents, such as mice and rats, and are one tool in a suite of options to manage rodent infestations.
- Second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) were developed in the 1980s due to rodents developing resistance to existing products. SGARs are efficient at controlling rodents, but if other animals consume poisoned rodents there is a risk of poisoning.
- In 2013 Health Canada imposed sale and purchase restrictions on SGARs to reduce risk to wildlife following an increase in poisonings.
- Even with the federal changes, ENV received reports throughout 2019 of dead owls linked to rodenticide poisoning. Approximately twenty local governments requested provincial action to address secondary wildlife poisoning. The ministry also received a petition with over 22,000 signatures demanding provincial action on rodenticides.
- In July 2021, a Minister's Order was issued under the IPMA temporarily banning sale and use of key SGARs. Exemptions were provided for essential services.
- During the temporary ban, ENV conducted a science review of SGARs. Based on findings from the science review, ENV proposed amendments to the IPMR in Spring 2022.
- Following consultation on proposed changes, amendments to the IPMR came into force in January 2023 that limit the use of SGARs to essential services and established additional requirements for their use. Essential services include: agricultural producers, food services, emergency services, and supportive health services.
- Since Summer 2023, ENV staff have been engaging stakeholders to identify challenges, discover if there are any unintended consequences arising from the amendments, and explore opportunities to improve support and guidance during this transition.

Advice/Recommendations

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Protection Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mining Environmental Reviews and Authorizations</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- Mining activities in B.C. engage several natural resource laws including the *Mines Act* (MA), *Environmental Management Act* (EMA), *Water Sustainability Act* (WSA), and *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA).
- For major mine projects, agencies administering these laws work collaboratively through a Coordinated Authorizations Process. This Team BC approach to mining reviews and authorizations is referred to as a regulatory continuum to reflect a cross-agency approach from start to finish for mine permitting.
- Indigenous engagement occurs throughout the life of mine process. Participation of Indigenous nations begins with proponents engaging nations before starting exploration. Crown consultation for permit applications range from notification to deep level consultation depending on the potential impacts of the project.
- There are agreements with many nations that prescribe the process to be undertaken for the different levels of consultation. For deep consultation, representatives of Indigenous nations sit with agency staff on review committees and participate in submission of recommendations to statutory decision makers.
- Major mines in B.C. are required to go through an Environmental Assessment (EA) process under the EAA (2018) which is administered by the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO).
- The EA process assesses potential environmental, economic, social, cultural and health effects. The EAO seeks input from scientific professionals, Indigenous groups, proponents, the public, local governments and relies on the expertise of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) within federal and provincial agencies as part of the review process. The EA process ends in a strategic level decision by ministers that may include conditions that impact subsequent permitting decisions by statutory decision makers.
- The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) applies the EMA and its regulations to protect the environment from pollution. Under the EMA, the mining industry is required to hold a site-specific authorization called a Waste Discharge Permit to discharge any waste to the environment.
  - Wastes authorized under EMA, include mine-impacted water (effluent), air emissions and solid waste
- Waste Discharge Permits set requirements for how mining activities must be carried out to control the generation and discharge of waste. They set limits on how much and what kind of waste can be released into the environment. Permits also set requirements for environmental monitoring and reporting.
- For major mines, the permitting process is coordinated by the Major Mines Office (MMO) within the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI).
- A mine review committee (MRC), formed by the MMO, brings together technical reviewers from ENV/EMLI, Indigenous nations and their consultants, and local governments to review the application and develop recommendations to be provided to the Statutory Decision Makers (SDMs) of both EMLI and ENV.

- MRCs increase efficiency and effectiveness by reducing duplication, focusing on the project as a whole, and combining applications for multiple permits into a single review process. ENV is implementing new digital systems to enhance the single window approach.
- Both ENV and EMLI spend a large amount of time and resources to seek consensus with Indigenous nations on the permitting process. Key concerns are generally about water quality, impacts on wildlife (e.g., caribou and moose), closure and reclamation of the site, and economic benefits to the Indigenous communities.
- The length of the permitting process is a key concern from the mining industry. Challenges for permitting timelines include missing or poor quality information from applicants, insufficient mitigation proposals for preventing pollution, and lack of sufficient plans for site reclamation. As well additional time may be needed to meaningfully consult and accommodate Indigenous nations.
- Guidance documents and fact sheets have been published to explain information requirements and clear technical guidance is available for qualified professionals to follow for completing the technical assessments.
- Once permits are issued, compliance and enforcement inspectors from EAO/ENV/EMLI ensure mining companies follow the laws and regulations and meet permit requirements.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Protection Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Municipal Waste Management Plans and Community Infrastructure</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- Population growth in B.C. has had a significant impact on the aging community infrastructure in the province. With increases in housing comes an increase in the need to manage both solid and liquid wastes. It is important to note the infrastructure required to manage these waste streams are the most expensive assets for a local government to build and maintain.
- In B.C., municipal waste is generally accounted for in two broad categories – solid and liquid.
  - o Municipal solid waste is defined in the *Environmental Management Act* (EMA) as “refuse that originates from residential, commercial, institutional, demolition, land clearing or construction sources”
  - o Municipal liquid waste is defined in EMA as effluent that originates from any source and is discharged into a municipal sewer system and effluent from residential sources that is discharged to the ground.
- The *Environmental Management Act* (EMA) requires all regional districts have a solid waste management plan in place. In contrast, liquid waste plans are not required however EMA allows local governments to develop a Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) for approval by the Minister at either the regional district or municipal level.
- Additionally, the Minister has the authority under the EMA to require a municipality or regional district to develop or amend an LWMP.
- The two primary objectives for WMPs are to protect public health and the environment and properly consult the public and Indigenous nations.
- Both a SWMP and LWMP, if approved, become a form of authorization to discharge into the environment under the EMA.
- These plans are strategic in nature and develop community-specific solutions for municipal waste management that must meet or exceed existing regulations. Local government staff lead the WMP process with significant regulatory support from Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy experts.
- The B.C. *Community Charter* requires municipalities or regional districts to obtain elector assent (i.e. referendum) when incurring debt to finance municipal infrastructure. This requirement for elector assent is waived when the debt is incurred for wastewater projects under an approved WMP for which adequate public consultation has been completed.
- This assurance is a significant benefit and driver for municipalities in pursuing or updating a WMP and therefore it becomes a very powerful document.
- While the Minister approves the WMP, the director can issue a site-specific Operational Certificate under the plan that can specify detailed operational requirements for a municipal waste management facility (i.e. landfill or wastewater treatment plant).

### Liquid Waste Management Plans

- LWMP and the associated subsidiary Operational Certificates (OC), together with the Municipal Wastewater Regulation and the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation, form the pillars of municipal wastewater and residuals (aka biosolids) management.
- Additional provincial objectives for LWMPs are planning for community population growth, water conservation, stormwater management, drinking water source protection, resources from waste, energy conservation, climate change adaptation, mitigation and sustainable financing and asset management.
- The LWMP process is generally divided in three stages, broad options assessment, short listing options with recommendation of referred option, and summary of LWMP with commitments, financing and implementation schedule.
- The *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) and its regulations apply to municipal liquid waste discharges for projects that will serve > 10,000 people. However, the EAA's Reviewable Projects Regulation provides an exemption for projects that are completed under an approved LWMP.

### Solid Waste Management Plans

- There are many components to the solid waste management system which includes disposal facilities, collection networks, management of organic waste and recycling.
- Additional provincial objectives for SWMPs are planning for community population growth, embracing the zero waste/circular economy policies as well incorporating the 5R pollution prevention hierarchy (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover, Residual Management).
- The EAA and its regulations apply to municipal solid waste discharges for projects that are based on design capacity. A landfill with a design capacity of greater than 250,000 tonnes per year or a facility that uses waste to generate energy will trigger the EAA's Reviewable Projects Regulation. Unlike LWMP, there are no exemptions if an approved SWMP is in place.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Protection Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Neucel Pulp Mill Site Stabilization in Port Alice</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- The century old pulp mill in Port Alice (the Site) was effectively abandoned by its owner Neucel Specialty Cellulose Ltd. (Neucel) in February 2019.
- In 2019, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) intervened to prevent imminent risks of spills at the Site using its spill response authority under the *Environmental Management Act*.
- In April 2020, the court appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers Ltd. (PWC) as receiver and bankruptcy trustee over Neucel. The Province is funding PWC's costs through a contractual agreement between the Province and PWC. To date, ENV has provided \$128,574,318 to PWC and the borrowing limit for PWC is \$149,383,068. This was last increased by the courts on April 3, 2024. ENV's total spending towards the Site is anticipated to be just over \$170 M by the end of 2024/25. This includes costs incurred before PWC was appointed as the receiver.
- Since their appointment, PWC has been stabilizing the Site by removing chemicals and decommissioning and demolishing the mill. All chemicals have now been removed from the Site. The site decommissioning and stabilization phase led by PWC is anticipated to be completed about March 2026.
- The Site is anticipated to be contaminated due to its long history as a pulp mill, however no contaminated site investigation has occurred.
- The Village of Port Alice would like to be involved in future planning for the Site Intergovernmental Intergovernmental Communications
- The Site is in the Quatsino First Nation's (Quatsino) traditional territory, Legal Information  
Legal Information In recent years, Quatsino have increased their engagement and participation in decisions regarding work underway at the Site. Quatsino wants to be involved in decision making regarding the future of the Site, including input on future Site use, Legal Information  
Legal Information
- Quatsino has repeatedly requested a contaminated sites investigation at the Site. Additionally, Quatsino has concerns about potential contamination in the adjacent Neroutsos Inlet. To date, ENV has stated that this is outside of ENV's current scope of work.

Intergovernmental Communications

- ENV has been unable to provide any commitment to Quatsino regarding these future-looking and broader interests. In early 2024, the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) was introduced to Quatsino as the ministry that will lead discussions around future planning for the Site.

- WLRS is leading the development of a policy framework for private industrial sites with First Nations interests. This could inform next steps for this Site if the policy work is completed in a timely manner and deemed applicable.

Cabinet Confidences

Government Financial Information

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Protection Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Organic Matter Recycling Regulation - Biosolids and Compost Quality</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- The Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR) regulates compost facilities, compost standards and quality standards for biosolids (the product of advanced wastewater treatment).
- The OMRR is a key part of the provincial organics strategy to facilitate a circular economy for organic waste, support CleanBC's goal of reducing greenhouse gases and extends operational space within existing landfills thereby reducing costs for local governments.
- The ministry proposed amendments to OMRR in a 2018 Intentions Paper, which was the fourth significant engagement on regulatory proposals since 2006. The last outreach with local governments, First Nations and facility operators occurred in 2022 at the time a project update was released to outline specific refinements to policy.
- The objectives of OMRR amendments are to:
  - o Align requirements with present day practices and advances in science, and to promote best achievable technologies and practices;
  - o Increase transparency and enhance Indigenous engagement through increased information sharing;
  - o Address community level leachate and odor concerns; and
  - o Address plastic contamination issues and support the Single Use Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation (SUPWPR) by enabling fiber-based alternatives to single use plastic to be composted. (See related transition note: CleanBC Plastics Action Plan)

Advice/Recommendations

## Biosolids and Compost Quality:

- The proposed OMRR amendments include more stringent quality criteria for biosolids and compost for metals, plastic and pathogens to improve protection of human health and the environment.



- New requirements will also improve leachate and odor management at compost facilities. For example, there will be a requirement for large facilities that compost food waste or biosolids to have enclosures to better address leachate and odors.
- The proposed OMRR amendments will also:
  - o Enable the ministry to require sampling, monitoring, and publication of results for Contaminants of Emerging Concern;
  - o Require more stringent setbacks to watercourses and domestic water sources for land application;
  - o Require new consultation processes with First Nations and other local governments; and
  - o Increase transparency of application processes including proactively sharing authorization details and sampling results online.
- An external technical working group (TWG) was convened in 2022 to identify and share new scientific information on biosolids and compost. The TWG met through fall of 2023, convening on topics including:
  - o Research on the ecological impacts of land applying biosolids and compost.
  - o Contaminants of emerging concern, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and microplastics.
- A report that summarizes discussions and key messages from the 2022 TWG was published in August 2024: [Organic Matter Recycling Regulation: 2024 Technical Working Group Report \(PDF, 479KB\)](#)

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Protection Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Provincial Air Quality Program</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- The provincial air quality program protects human health and the environment by setting air quality standards and regulations, advising statutory decision makers, assisting communities with air quality planning, monitoring ambient air quality across the province, and communicating health risks during periods of poor air quality.
- The key driver of B.C.'s air quality program is the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) Service Plan Goal 1 "Effective protection and conservation of the environment" and specifically Objective 1.1 "Strong environmental regulation, compliance, and enforcement for a clean, safe and resilient environment."
- Within ENV, three organizational areas contribute directly to the air quality program:
  - The Clean Air (CA) Unit, Environmental Policy and Initiatives Branch (EPIB) sets provincial standards through *Environmental Management Act* (EMA) regulations, air quality objectives, policies, and guidance. The CA unit reports on provincial air quality and participates in national programs to improve air quality through the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment (CCME).
  - The Air Quality Section, Environmental Monitoring and Analysis Branch (EMAB) assesses the impact(s) of existing and proposed emission sources on ambient air quality, provides advice to decision makers regarding the authorization of emissions sources, assists communities with airshed planning, maintains the provincial air quality monitoring network, and supports real time publication of air quality and related health messages to inform the people of B.C.
  - The Air Audit Team, Laboratory Services, Data Management and Reporting Section, EMAB independently audits air quality monitoring equipment operated by ENV, permittees and partner agencies. The team ensures adherence to strict monitoring standards for compliance with permit requirements.
- B.C. and other jurisdictions committed to implementing the national Air Quality Management System (AQMS) through an agreement under the CCME. AQMS is a comprehensive and collaborative approach for addressing air quality issues.
- A key driver of AQMS is ensuring achievement of national air quality standards known as the Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS). CAAQS have been developed for four key air pollutants: fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and ground level ozone (O<sub>3</sub>).
- BC also developed provincial Air Quality Objectives (AQO) for air pollutants to account for B.C.-specific factors such as vulnerable populations, and achievability. The PM<sub>2.5</sub> objective, for example, is more stringent in B.C. than elsewhere in Canada based on recommendations from health studies and significant health concerns linked to PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposure.

- Pollution from PM<sub>2.5</sub> is considered by the World Health Organization as the pollutant of highest global concern. From Health Canada estimates, PM<sub>2.5</sub> contributes to the premature deaths of 10,000 people in Canada every year.
- The air quality program supports six EMA regulations addressing air pollutant emissions. Two key regulations are the:
  - o Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation, which sets rules to reduce the air quality impact of open burning of slash and other vegetative debris; and
  - o Solid Fuel Burning Domestic Appliance Regulation, which limits the sale of wood-burning appliances in B.C. to those meeting low emissions standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- AQ program staff operate and maintain 37 continuous air quality monitoring stations across the province. Data from these stations, plus another 82 stations operated by partner agencies and permittees, are collected by the ministry and displayed in real-time on the government website.
- Data from the monitoring stations are used to calculate the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI), a public communication tool that indicates the short-term risk from poor air quality. The AQHI includes important health-based recommendations for the general population and sensitive individuals.
- While air quality in B.C is mostly good, there are major challenges such as smoke from increasingly extreme and frequent wildfires, open burning of slash from forestry operations, wood smoke from residential wood burning, and industrial emissions.
- Emissions from the mining, forestry, and the oil and gas sectors are managed through authorizations under the EMA.
- Several communities in B.C. exceed the CAAQS for PM<sub>2.5</sub> due to local, non-wildfire related emissions. The primary contributor to these exceedances is from residential wood smoke. Under the AQMS management action is recommended to achieve the CAAQS.
- The air quality program works with local governments to support activities such as airshed planning, public education, and bylaw development, and funds initiatives such as the Community Wood Smoke Reduction Program (CWSRP). The CWSRP helps residents fund upgrades of old wood stoves to cleaner heating choices including heat pumps particularly in communities exceeding the CAAQS.
- PM<sub>2.5</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> can rise to extreme levels during increasingly severe wildfire season. A program priority is to use meteorology and air quality forecasts and observations to issue Air Quality Advisories and Smoky Skies Bulletins to warn people in B.C. about the poor air quality.
- Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) has delegated authority for air quality management under the EMA. MVRD and the Ministry work collaboratively on AQ management of the Lower Fraser Valley to address air quality issues such as summer smog caused by the interaction between PM<sub>2.5</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, and other pollutants.
- While work remains to be done, B.C. has made great progress in addressing air pollution over recent decades. Since 1990 B.C. has reduced emissions of PM<sub>2.5</sub> by 71%; nitrogen oxides and sulphur oxides by 35%; and carbon monoxide by 72%. Declining emissions are reflected in reduced concentrations of key pollutants except for PM<sub>2.5</sub> where recent wildfire activity has counteracted the trend towards better air quality.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Protection Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Provincial Organics Strategy</b></p>
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**KEY FACTS:**

- Organic waste typically represents 40% of material sent to landfills and it refers to compostable waste such as food scraps, yard and garden trimmings, food-soiled paper products, and biosolids.
- B.C.'s organics strategy promotes a circular economy approach to organic waste management, transitioning from the linear 'take-make-dispose' model to one where materials are reused, and nothing is wasted. This multi-pronged strategy involves preventing food waste in the first place, diverting organic waste from landfills to uses like composting, and regulating organic waste for beneficial reuse under the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR).
- To promote the prevention of food waste, B.C. invested in the Love Food Hate Waste campaign (\$150,000 between 2018 and 2021) to support the public and retailers with tools to reduce food waste and save money. ENV is currently supporting further food waste reduction by sharing information and best practices with local governments.
- Organic waste diversion is essential for preventing the loss of valuable nutrients, conserving limited landfill space and alleviating rising disposal costs for local governments and residents while reducing the emission of methane, a potent greenhouse gas that significantly contributes to climate change.
- To divert organic waste from landfills, B.C. established two funding programs: the \$30M Organics Infrastructure Program (OIP) and the \$38.85M CleanBC Organics Infrastructure and Collection Program (OICP). The two funding programs support the Province's commitments under CleanBC to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from organic waste by investing in new or expanded organics processing infrastructure and residential curbside collections programs.
- A total of 43 projects, including nine Indigenous Nation led projects, have been funded under OIP and OICP. Thirty-four projects are now complete or near completion; the remaining projects will become operational by March 31, 2025.
- The two organic funding programs support CleanBC's plan to reduce emissions from waste, including helping communities to keep 95% of residential food and yard waste out of landfills and reducing GHG emissions from waste by 0.7 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e by 2030.

**Advice/Recommendations**

- The OMRR was established in 2002 under the *Environmental Management Act* and the *Public Health Act*, creating a framework for the protection of human health and the environment. The regulation oversees compost facilities and quality standards for finished compost and biosolids produced by wastewater treatment plants. (See Organic Matter Recycling Regulation - Biosolids and Compost Quality note for further details).

- Proposed OMRR amendments will continue to support organic matter recycling and the organic circular economy while improving protections for human health and the environment, such as increased standards for biosolids and compost, and addressing concerns about leachate and odour.
- Proposed regulatory amendments would require that large compost facilities that compost food waste or biosolids be enclosed to better address odorous air contaminants. These changes will support the long-term operational viability of organics facilities which may face complaints from neighbors due to concerns about odours, material containment and other issues. *Advice/Recommendations*  
Advice/Recommendations
- The OMRR amendments will also support the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan by introducing new protective standards to address plastic contamination of compost and adopting new requirements for compostable plastics.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Protection Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Public Interest Bonding Strategy</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- The Public Interest Bonding Strategy (PIBS) aims to fulfill the 2022 Minister of Environment and Climate Change’s mandate to:
  - Deliver the first phase of B.C.’s new bonding policy toward ensuring owners of large industrial projects are bonded moving forward so that they – not British Columbians – pay the full costs of environmental cleanup if their projects are abandoned.
- Over time there have been a number of cases where B.C. taxpayers have been responsible for covering the cost of abandoned industrial sites
- The most recent case is the 2019 abandonment of Neucel pulp mill in Port Alice, B.C. To date, ENV has spent over \$150M to stabilize and decommission the site. This does not include future cost or actions to remediate the contamination on site. The ongoing environmental, fiscal, and social uncertainty of the Neucel site continues to impact the Village of Port Alice, Quatsino FN and disaffected workers from Unifor 514.

## Project Scope:

- In November 2021, Cabinet approved that the project scope would include a two-phased approach:
  - Phase 1: review financial assurance programs of ENV’s and EMLI’s statutes and policies
  - Phase 2: review a broader range of the ministry’s statutes and policies for foreseen and unforeseen costs.
- ENV completed phase 1A in November 2023 with amendments to the *Environmental Management Act* (EMA), and phase 1B is underway for the development of policy options for new regulations.
- An intentions paper was posted in April 2024 for a 60-day period and outlined proposed policy for ordering of risk-based determination; decommissioning and closure plans; cost of clean-up; security; compliance approach and cost recovery provisions.
- ENV is currently considering the feedback received and developing the final the policy approach including completion of the Gender-based Analysis and the Business and Economic Implications Framework. Focused engagement with industry and First Nations will continue through the policy refinement phase.

## Business Information

- Phase 2 will be considered only once Phase 1 is completed. Advice/Recommendations  
Advice/Recommendations
- ENV chairs a cross-agency working group that includes representation from Natural Resource Ministries,

BC Energy Regulator, Ministries of Attorney General, Finance, Municipal Affairs and Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation. The working group meets regularly and works collaboratively to provide input on project planning, advise on policy options, share information, and assist in facilitating engagement with partners.

#### Engagement:

- ENV has engaged with First Nations, industry and non-government organizations since project inception in 2020, and most recently during the intentions paper for new regulations.
- While industry is supportive of the polluter pays principle, they advocate to not penalize good actors with the actions of bad actors. ENV has received concern from some industry types (i.e. pulp and paper) that traditionally have not been held to similar requirements in other jurisdictions. ENV is receptive to this feedback and the timeline for policy refinement and frequent targeted engagement reflects the commitment to develop balanced policy.
- ENV engaged with B.C. First Nations through regular project updates and requesting participation at formal engagement sessions. First Nations are generally supportive of PIBS.
- To date, Indigenous and industry feedback has played a key role in policy development allowing staff to thoughtfully balance project's guiding principles.

#### Benefits

- Jurisdictional research has confirmed that new bonding requirements will not put B.C. industries at a competitive disadvantage. Instead, this initiative will benefit industry by enhancing their environmental reputation, supporting innovative practices to reduce environmental impacts and cleanup costs, increasing responsible investments in BC projects, and fostering confidence, trust and support from Indigenous nations, the public and other parties.
- Benefits of PIBS include protecting British Columbians from paying for environmental cleanup by enforcing the polluter pay principle; incentivizing industry to plan early/reduce liabilities through progressive cleanup; reducing end of life effects on environment and local communities; improving social license to operate; promoting innovation; and attracting responsible investment.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Protection Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Site Remediation Service Transformation</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

### Site Remediation Services

- Site remediation services are a critical step in protecting public health and safety during the development of both industrial and commercial businesses as well as important public infrastructure such as housing, roads, health care facilities, and schools.
- Contaminated sites processes can be triggered by a variety of factors, including due diligence during property transactions, municipal permit applications, land-use changes, and the decommissioning and closure of commercial/industrial operations.
- Process triggers can result in a high volume of site remediation service applications submitted to the Site Remediation Program causing a backlog of applications. The administration of these processes can take time to complete utilizing an application process that relies on needed technical information from qualified professionals.
- Ensuring that information received from qualified professionals meets the standard for processes to function appropriately can take some time to obtain, causing delays in application processing that contributes to the backlog of applications, resulting in development delays.
- Several steps have been taken to reduce the backlog and provide contaminated sites services in a timely and efficient manner including:
  - o Additional staffing to better reflect processing needs
  - o Re-aligned functional program teams
  - o Clarified roles and responsibilities for Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and the Contaminated Sites Approved Professional Society of BC
  - o Role-specific training materials for staff, qualified professionals and responsible persons who submit applications, including updated web-based guidance
  - o Reduction in the number of approvals needed prior to development
  - o Policy and operational procedure changes that streamline processes, focus on a cost recoverable polluter pay system, and align with new digital service products
- These steps will eliminate the backlog with only newly submitted applications in line for processing by 2026.

### Digital Service Transformation:

- The Environmental Protection Division is modernizing the way it delivers its mandate through the enhancement and development of new digital products to provide a streamlined digital user experience for the public and regulated entities.
- The Site Remediation System (SRS) web application is currently under development to combine and



modernize the site remediation service application intake and payment process and the site registry to decrease administrative processing timelines and provide real-time public access to site information in the future.

- The web application provides greater empowerment and access to information for the public, and more specifically to those who apply for site remediation services.
- It includes a suite of digital tools, that maximizes user experience, automating manual processes and improving transparency, which will result in increased productivity and service delivery.
- Objectives include:
  - Increase access to data, products and services related to site remediation activities for governments, businesses, industry, Indigenous nations, and the public through self-serve portals and automated publishing. This includes digitization of paper records to gain access through these digital portals.
  - Increase quality of service applications and improve business processes related to the intake, tracking and reporting of environmental protection activities.
  - Application processing status can be seen by applicants at any time in the review process to assist with development business decisions
  - Improve responsiveness during times of heightened capacity pressures from environmental disasters through process automation, workflow streamlining, and system integration.
  - Improve the public's sense of safety and security by being able to notify them of environmental protection activities in a modern, accessible and user-centred way.
  - Improve quality of guidance and resource information available to responsible persons, environmental practitioners and indigenous groups through web-based sources so that legal requirements and processes are better understood.

#### Fees Review:

- In 2022, the Service Enhancement project was initiated to evaluate the Contaminated Sites Regulation fee structure to determine if the existing fees and categories are still appropriate for the types of services provided and the need to sustain services to meet increasing demands from land development.
- This project considers additional services available via the digital transformation work on the SRS web application.
- The last fee review for Site Remediation services was in 2007.
- The Fee Review will:
  - Propose regulatory updates to the Contaminated Sites Regulation (CSR) fee structure to simplify and clarify costs for services.
  - Ensure fees charged are proportionate to the services provided.
  - Ensure First Nations interests are reflected.
- The next step will be First Nation and public engagement.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Recreation Strategy and Service Transformation</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Organizational Transformation BC Parks and Recreation Sites and Trails BC</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- BC Parks manages and protects over 1,300 parks and protected areas across British Columbia and provides internationally renowned outdoor recreation experiences. Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) is responsible for the management of over 2,000 designated recreation sites, 20,000 km of recreation trails, and hundreds of highly valued community-based trail networks outside of provincial parks across rural B.C.
- Following the Natural Resource Sector (NRS) realignment in 2022, RSTBC, which was then part of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, was reorganized into the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV), alongside BC Parks in the Conservation and Recreation Division.
- o Following the reorganization, ENV initiated the Recreation Strategy and Service Transformation project (RSST). The RSST project is a collaborative effort involving nine provincial ministries and agencies to develop a shared provincial vision for outdoor recreation and a strategic plan to achieve it.
- o A key component of the strategic approach is the realignment of BC Parks and RSTBC into a single agency positioned to better meet the growing public demand for exceptional outdoor recreation and to support community economic development, reconciliation and conservation. Establishing this single agency is a fundamental component of the shared provincial vision for outdoor recreation.
- The reorganization of BC Parks and RSTBC will achieve several key outcomes including strategic alignment of delivery across the spectrum of recreational offerings, greater operational efficiency, enhanced clarity of focus for public-facing services and greater program alignment with the broader NRS. It will also enhance the ability to manage all recreational facilities throughout their construction and maintenance lifecycle, addressing a long-standing operational gap.
- Having undertaken an extensive, multi-year review and engagement process involving multiple agencies, internal staff, First Nations and recreation organizations, the Conservation and Recreation Division has initiated the shift to a new structure for the combined organization.
- The re-organized structure will deliver services for both programs across 3 provincial areas (Coast, North and South) made up of seven regions, generally aligned with the NRS structure. Provincial services organized into two headquarters workgroups will support regional operations for both BC Parks and RSTBC.
- While work is already underway to implement the new structure, it is anticipated that full implementation will be phased in over a 1 to 2 year period.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Recreation Strategy and Service Transformation</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Recreation Strategy and Shared Vision for Outdoor Recreation</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- Following the 2022 reorganization of Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) into the same division as BC Parks in the Conservation and Recreation Division (CARD), the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) initiated the Recreation Strategy and Service Transformation project (RSST). The RSST project is a collaborative effort led by ENV and involving nine provincial ministries and agencies to develop a shared provincial vision for outdoor recreation and a strategic plan to achieve it.
- The “Shared Vision for Outdoor Recreation” was developed to address major changes in land management and the growing demand for outdoor activities, which have surged in popularity over the past five years. The vision, developed as part of an internal strategy, aims to coordinate and align ministries to create a thriving outdoor sector that meets the needs of both residents and visitors.
- The vision is the first framework in B.C. to unite multiple agencies around the social, economic, cultural, and health benefits of outdoor recreation. So far, eight provincial ministries and agencies—ENV, Forests (FOR); Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS); Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation (JEDI); Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport (TACS), Health (HLTH); Municipal Affairs (MUNI); Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) and Destination BC—have collaborated on this vision, which was endorsed by their Deputy Ministers in Spring 2024.
- A “Recreation Strategy” is currently being drafted to expand on this vision, outlining specific objectives and actions for the next 10 years. Its aim is to turn high-level goals into measurable outcomes. Over the past year, the strategy development team engaged with over 215 representatives from recreation organizations, over 40 First Nations, and staff from nine provincial ministries and agencies.
- The strategy emphasizes diverse, high-quality outdoor experiences, built on principles of environmental stewardship, economic resilience, and overall health and well-being. It aims to align with provincial goals, responding to the importance of inclusivity, accessibility and equity in outdoor spaces.
- The strategy offers solutions to balance the growing interest in outdoor recreation with commitments to reconciliation, stewardship, inclusion and conservation. It includes initiatives such as forming an inter-government outdoor recreation committee, establishing a resource stewardship framework, improving compliance and enforcement, modernizing commercial recreation, leveraging information and technology, and raising the profile of outdoor recreation as an economic driver.
- With no comprehensive review of outdoor recreation service delivery in over 20 years, the strategy is an important step in guiding the planning, developing, and managing a diverse range of outdoor recreation opportunities while emphasizing the importance of First Nations rights and title, conservation priorities, and growing public demand.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Strategic Services Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Implementation of Treaty 8 Agreements</b></p>
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#### KEY FACTS

- On June 29, 2021, the B.C. Supreme Court ruled that the Province had infringed Blueberry River First Nations (BRFN)'s Treaty 8 rights due to the cumulative impacts of decades of industrial development.
- Following the court decision, BRFN and the Province reached a historic agreement that initiates a new approach to natural resource management and protection of Treaty rights.
- In addition, six other Treaty 8 First Nations and the Province co-developed a Consensus Document that details a path forward to address cumulative effects in their territory and improve how land and resources will be managed together.
- The Consensus Document is being brought into effect through individual Letters of Agreement (LOA) with each of the signatory First Nations (Fort Nelson, Saulteau, Halfway River, Doig River, West Moberly and Prophet First Nations). An additional Letter of Agreement was signed with McLeod Lake Indian Band, who did not sign the Consensus Document.
- To implement the agreements, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) participates in cross-ministry executive committees and technical working groups. ENV leads implementation of commitments related to conservation officers and park management planning, co-leads commitments related to atmospheric benefits and herbicides with the Ministry of Forests, and participates in cross-ministry work to develop tools and policies to assess and manage the cumulative impacts of industrial development in Treaty 8 territory.

Intergovernmental Communications

- The Implementation Agreement will address cumulative effects in BRFN's Claim Area by enhancing restoration to heal the land, creating new areas protected from industrial development, and both supporting and constraining development activities. Measures to achieve these goals include:

- o A co-managed restoration fund of \$200 million by June 2025;
- o Land protections in BRFN's high-value areas, including more than 650,000 hectares of protection from new Petroleum and Natural Gas, and forestry activities;
- o Support for a BRFN carbon offset project;
- o Co-development of a new consultation process for natural resource activities;
- o Cessation on aerial herbicide use and ground-based herbicide use only in exceptional circumstances; and,
- o A dedicated conservation officer and funding to launch a community stewardship and guardian program.
- The Province will provide \$87.5 million to BRFN over three years as a financial package to support economic activity and implementation measures.
- The initiatives set out in the Consensus Document and LOAs build a path that meets the Province's obligations to uphold the constitutionally protected rights of Treaty 8 First Nations, restore the environment, and support responsible resource development and economic activity in the northeast.
- On September 1, 2024, the Northeast District Cumulative Impacts (Treaty 8) Order came into effect, which requires statutory decision makers under included acts to prepare a written record that sets out the impacts of the proposed activity on Treaty 8 rights and measures taken to avoid or mitigate those impacts.
  - o The only ENV legislation included is the *Forest and Range Practices Act* as it relates to the establishment of recreation sites and trails.
  - o The order is an interim measure to deliver on the Province's commitment in the Consensus Document to issue legally effective direction to decision makers to consider the cumulative impacts of their decisions on the exercise of Treaty 8 rights.
- Other priorities in the Consensus Document include:
  - o New land protection measures and land use plans;
  - o A cumulative effects management system linked to natural resource landscape planning and restoration initiatives;
  - o Pilots to advance shared decision-making for planning and stewardship activities;
  - o A multi-year shared restoration fund, to help heal the land;
  - o Potential carbon credit opportunities for Treaty 8 Nations in association with new land protections, management and restoration initiatives; and,
  - o A new revenue sharing approach to support the priorities of Treaty 8 First Nations communities.
- Honouring Treaty 8 is a critical part of British Columbia's work to advance reconciliation. Through the Implementation Agreement and Consensus Document, the Province and Treaty 8 Nations have agreed to take active measures to improve awareness and understanding of Treaty 8 and its importance locally.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Strategic Services Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>International Joint Commission Reference in the Elk Valley Watershed</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- The International Joint Commission (IJC) is a bi-national organization established by the United States and Canada governments with two main responsibilities: approving projects that affect water levels and flows across the boundary, and investigating transboundary issues and recommending solutions.
- Canada and the United States, in partnership with the transboundary Ktunaxa Nation, have initiated the IJC through a joint reference. The objective of the IJC reference is to reduce and mitigate the impacts of water pollution in the Elk-Kootenai/y watershed, as committed to in the Joint Statement of President Biden and Prime Minister Trudeau on March 24, 2023. The reference was transmitted to the IJC on March 11, 2024.
  - o The Elk/Kootenai/y watershed is located in the Rocky Mountains of southeastern B.C., and includes waters flowing through B.C., Montana, and Idaho.
  - o Metallurgical coal mining has been present in the Elk Valley for over 120 years and remains a major contributor of jobs and economic assets for the province.
  - o Waste rock generated in association with coal mining is the leading source of selenium and other water contaminants in the Elk Valley, which is a longstanding issue in the region.
- The reference instructs the IJC to assist governments in the establishment of a formal governance structure (Governance Body) to support information sharing and co-development of options for future action.
  - o The Governance Body has a consensus Terms of Reference (TOR) as of June 30, 2024. The TOR was approved by government representatives from B.C., Canada, the United States, Idaho, and Montana, and six Ktunaxa Nation Governments.
  - o Canada's approval is conditional to a signed Order in Council, which Canada anticipates completing in the fall 2024.

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences

- In addition to the establishment of a Governance Body, the reference also requests the IJC to establish a two-year Study Board to convene experts and knowledge holders, with the aim of supporting a common understanding of pollution in the Kootenai/y watershed.
  - o The Study Board is an independent body which reports directly to the IJC.
  - o The Study Board will provide the IJC with a plan of study, an interim report in September 2025, and a final report September 2026. These reports will provide an analysis of the current science

available and identify data and research gaps to improve understanding of the water quality issues in the watershed.

Intergovernmental Communications

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Strategic Services</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Natural Resource Permitting Transformation</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) has benefitted from the government's 2023 commitment of \$7 million dollars over three years to help speed up the permitting process for the natural resource sector.
  - o For the 24/25 fiscal year, ENV received approval of \$5.922M (\$3.319M in base budget and \$2.603M additional approval)
  - o This funding supported approximately 25 new full-time employees and digital systems work to support improved permitting processes.
- ENV is working with the Ministry of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) to contribute to priority permitting initiatives like the Housing Action Task Force:
  - o Every re-development project occurring on former commercial or industrial lands in B.C. must receive approval from the Land Remediation Branch (LRB) at ENV before proceeding, to ensure protection of human health and the environment.
  - o In 2023, ENV completed 199 housing-related contaminated sites applications, representing at least 64,000 housing units.
  - o Permitting funding has supported new positions that helped reduce the backlog of contaminated sites permit applications by 20% in 2023.
- A number of changes have been released or are currently under development to improve processing timelines to support the Housing Action Task Force:
  - o ENV launched a new digital application intake and information management system to streamline and automate many of the previous manual processing responsibilities within the LRB. The new system simplifies the application process and directs applicants to provide complete submissions.
  - o Clarified roles and responsibilities for ENV and the Contaminated Sites Approved Professional Society of B.C.
  - o Role-specific training materials for staff and qualified professionals who submit applications.
  - o Reduction in the number of approvals needed prior to development.
  - o Policy and operational procedure changes that streamline processes, focus on a cost recoverable polluter pay system, and align with new digital service products.
  - o These steps will help eliminate the backlog, with only newly submitted contaminated sites permit applications in line for processing by 2026.



- ENV is supporting the Connectivity Permitting pilot to improve permit processing and decision timelines within B.C. Parks:
  - o Staff guidance on responding to referrals for projects overlapping with *Land Act* map reserves has been developed to support timely recommendations on referrals.
  - o B.C. Parks has funded a new, temporary position to provide surge capacity, support and coordination for First Nations consultation on provincial priority projects. This position also supports existing operations staff with consultation training, guidance, and best practices.
  - o A new, temporary management position is supporting coordination and application tracking for connectivity projects. It functions as the central point of contact for Ministry of Citizens' Services/WLRS staff on connectivity files and issues management.
- ENV is working with WLRS to manage increasing permitting complexity as a result of the Province's need to assess the cumulative impacts of resource development and other land use objectives against current conditions of key ecosystem and wildlife values.
  - o The Environmental Protection Division and Conservation and Recreation Division are working to improve transparency and durability of decision-making through improved documentation and tools, in relation to cumulative effects assessment.
- ENV is working with WLRS through the Permitting Bold Initiatives (PBI) project to develop policy, regulatory and legislative changes that contribute to a better and faster permitting system, while maintaining B.C.'s high environmental standards.
  - o Improvements implemented in 2024 include:
    - Amending the Public Notification Regulation to eliminate public notification and comment period requirements for minor amendments to operational certificates, while also strengthening requirements for public display of notices of decision under the regulation.
    - Updating Contaminated Sites Protocol #6 (Pre-approvals) to reduce the number of situations that require pre-approval by a Director and clarify existing requirements.
    - Updating Contaminated Sites Protocol # 19 (Site Investigation and Reporting) to allow greater flexibility and more opportunity for professional judgement when selecting sampling parameters while maintaining human health and environmental protection.
  - o Ongoing work includes:
    - Progress toward additional Contaminated Sites Protocols improvements.
    - Collaboration with the Ministry of Forests to reduce duplication of engagement and consultation efforts on certain works occurring in parks.
    - Input to WLRS' proposed work plans for coordinated regulatory and legislative packages of improvements in 2025 and beyond.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Strategic Services</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Reconciliation Overview</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- The Indigenous Partnerships and Engagement Branch (IPEB) supports all Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) divisions. Key areas of work include:
  - o Facilitate priority agreement negotiations and representing the ministry in cross-government reconciliation initiatives and committees
  - o Provide advice and support for implementing the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act)
  - o Coordinate and report on reconciliation efforts.
- IPEB works closely with centralized Indigenous relations (IR) teams in the Climate Action Secretariat (CAS) and BC Parks, as well as directly with staff from across the ministry on request. The Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is in the process of establishing a centralized IR team.
- The work of IPEB and divisional IR teams is driven by the Province's constitutional and legislative obligations to Indigenous peoples and commitments that the Province has made through agreements and policy.

### Indigenous Funding Program

- IPEB co-ordinates Indigenous Funding Program (IFP) requests and reporting. ENV was allocated \$3.46 M from IFP in fiscal year 2025 to fund Indigenous participation in its work. IFP does not cover ENV staff or other internal costs associated with partnerships.

### Declaration Act Action Plan

- IPEB supports cross ministry development of and reporting on the Declaration Act Action Plan. ENV is responsible for two Actions in the current plan (2022-2027):
  - o Action 2.12, relating to the collaborative development and implementation of CleanBC and the Climate Preparedness Adaption Strategy.
  - o Action 4.28, drafting a report with recommendations for how BC Parks can better reflect Indigenous Peoples' histories and cultures in provincial parks and protected areas. This action is complete.
- ENV is also contributing to reporting on Action 2.6, which relates to collaborative stewardship of the environment.

### Alignment of Laws

- ENV is undertaking work to align laws, as well as major policy that will inform future laws, with the UN Declaration, in consultation and co-operation with Indigenous Peoples.

- IPEB provides guidance and resources to support staff with planning and implementing Indigenous engagement on policy and legislation projects, consistent with government's obligations and commitments to Indigenous Peoples.

#### Operational Engagement and Partnerships

- First Nations have strong interests in stewardship of the land and long-standing concerns regarding cumulative impacts in their traditional territories. This has led to increased requests for the ministry to establish collaborative processes and partnerships in relation to ENV's operational activities.
- ENV is developing and implementing a wide range of approaches that respond to these interests, including:
  - o Data, Monitoring and Stewardship Activities: collaboration on data sharing and data collection, and participation in provincial stewardship initiatives
  - o Compliance and Enforcement (C&E): partnerships and information sharing related to the ministry's C&E work and training and support for First Nations Guardians
  - o Cumulative Effects: collaboration with First Nations and across government to develop new tools and policies to assess and manage the cumulative effects of authorizations in First Nations' territories.
  - o Reflecting Indigenous Histories and Cultures in Parks and Protected Areas: collaborative projects include signage, events and utilizing First Nations' place names in parks and protected areas
  - o Spill Response: Collaboration and enhanced information sharing following spill events.
- IPEB supports this work through assistance with obtaining IFP funding and promoting cross-ministry dialogue to support co-ordination and information sharing across related initiatives.

#### Negotiations

- IPEB participates on behalf of and supports other divisions in agreement negotiations, especially where the potential implications of an agreement span divisions, or divisions do not have resources to participate, but are concerned about implications on their resourcing or decision-making processes.
- Key negotiations that IPEB supports are: Coastal First Nations Agreement, Treaty 8 Implementation Agreement, Blueberry River First Nation Consensus Document, and the Hullcar/Claahl Water Governance Agreement with Splatshin First Nation.
- IPEB provides advice and develops ministry specific guidance to help ensure that Indigenous engagement on policy and legislation development is undertaken in accordance with constitutional, legislative and contractual requirements.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Strategic Services Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Transboundary U.S. Relations</b></p>
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#### STATE OF IDAHO - KEY FACTS

- B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's (ID DEQ) work is guided by the 2003 Environmental Cooperation Arrangement and 2004 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- Transboundary work with Idaho is primarily focused on the Kootenai/y watershed and the downstream water quality impacts from the Elk Valley coal mines.
- Engagement with Idaho has increased over the past few years with ENV and ID DEQ executives meeting annually in 2022, 2023, and 2024, to discuss further collaboration in the watershed. Both B.C. and Idaho DEQ are members on the Governance Body for the IJC reference for the Kootenai/y watershed (see separate issues note).
- Idaho DEQ also participates in certain Environmental Assessment project reviews which have the potential for transboundary effects (most recently the Crown Mountain application) and will be invited to participate in the selenium target reassessment for Koocanusa reservoir as part of the Area Based Management Plan amendment for the Elk Valley, led by ENV.

Intergovernmental Communications

#### STATE OF WASHINGTON - KEY FACTS

- B.C. and Washington have a strong relationship and have established several transboundary tables to work on issues of common interest.
- The main active collaborative environmental forums are the Canada-U.S. Statement of Cooperation on the Salish Sea, Puget Sound Partnership Informal Transboundary Caucus, Intergovernmental Intergovernmental Communications , Pacific Coast Collaborative, B.C./Whatcom Clean Water Partners meetings, Intergovernmental
- B.C. and Washington State have signed several agreements on environmental issues. The most recent Premier-Governor umbrella MOU includes environmental cooperation and has been used to guide ministry-level cooperation since 2018. B.C./Washington MOU.
- Examples of active issues include:
  - **Nooksack Watershed Water Quality** – quarterly transboundary staff-level meetings coordinated by B.C. ENV and Washington State Department of Ecology to share information and identify measures to control transboundary fecal coliform pollution that impact Lummi Nation shellfish beds.
  - **Transboundary Flood Initiative** (led by Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, Water Land and Resource Stewardship, and Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat) – in response to

the 2021 historic flooding event, this initiative uses a collaborative framework to identify actions to reduce flood-risk and restore habitats in the Nooksack and Sumas watersheds.

- Washington's state election is in November 2024. Governor Inslee will be retiring and not seeking re-election. In addition to a gubernatorial race, there is a ballot initiative to repeal Governor Inslee's Climate Commitment Act.

#### STATE OF ALASKA – KEY FACTS

- There are concerns from the State of Alaska (Alaska) related to water quality and perceived mining impacts to transboundary rivers. To build cooperation and trust between the jurisdictions, an MOU and Statement of Cooperation were signed in 2015. The cooperation agreement has an appendix on Protection of Transboundary Waters signed in 2016.
  - o A formal Bilateral Working Group meets biannually and a staff-level working group meets monthly to share information related to mining projects and transboundary water quality concerns.

#### Intergovernmental Communications

- o B.C. has partnered with Teck, Taku River Tlingit First Nation to advance the reclamation and closure. Summer field work occurred in 2024 to understand technical and safety implications, and to inform reclamation planning.
- B.C. is working to improve proactive communications, information availability and accessibility through the Northwest Communications Plan.

#### STATE OF MONTANA - KEY FACTS

- ENV and Montana Department of Environmental Quality's (MT DEQ) work is guided by the 2003 Environmental Cooperation Arrangement between the Province of British Columbia and the State of Montana (Montana) and underpinned by the 2010 Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation on Environmental Protection, Climate Action and Energy, which also provides for reciprocal opportunities for Montana to participate in B.C.'s environmental assessment process.
- Transboundary work with Montana is primarily focused on the Kootenai/y watershed and the downstream water quality impacts from the Elk Valley coal mines.
  - o B.C. ENV and MT DEQ worked closely on the recently closed Lake Koocanusa Monitoring and Research Working Group (LKMRWG).
  - o B.C. and Montana are both participating in the current International Joint Commission (IJC) Reference and represented on the Governance Body established by the IJC for the Kootenai/y watershed (see separate transition note).
  - o Montana has been included in communications on the upcoming amendments to the Elk Valley Area Based Management Plan (see separate transition note).
- ENV Staff have been meeting regularly with Montana Department of Environmental Quality staff since the closure of the LKMRWG to maintain open communication and collaborative discussion between our jurisdictions.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Southeast Initiatives Secretariat</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Elk Valley Area Based Management Plan</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

- Decades of metallurgical coal mining in the Elk Valley in Southeastern B.C. has led to significant waste rock accumulation, alteration of land and water courses, degrading water quality (WQ) trends and other environmental impacts.
- In 2013, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) issued a Ministerial Order under Section 89 of the *Environmental Management Act* (EMA) requiring Teck Coal Ltd. (Teck), operator of the five active coal mines in the Elk Valley, to develop an Area Based Management Plan (ABMP) to stabilize and reduce mine-related contaminants in the watershed.
- The ABMP titled the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan is a comprehensive strategy to improve water quality in the Elk River watershed. It was developed using the best available science and information and is intended to be implemented in an adaptive manner. The ABMP:
  - Serves as a strategic policy framework that must be considered in all decisions in the Plan area;
  - Establishes short-, medium- and long-term WQ targets for selenium, nitrate, sulphate, cadmium and calcite at locations throughout the Elk Valley and in Koocanusa Reservoir; and
  - Provides a regional management approach that allows localized environmental effects as part of an overall strategy to address the most significant historical watershed-scale impacts.
- Having an approved ABMP has supported ministry decision makers to allow continued mining in the watershed while clean-up efforts proceed. Discharges are uniquely regulated on a watershed-wide basis from Teck's four operating (and one closed) mines.
- ABMP implementation efforts are ongoing and Teck is now authorized by permit to operate four water treatment facilities, with additional facilities required in the future. Operating facilities have a combined capacity of 77,500 m<sup>3</sup>/d and are removing record amounts of selenium and nitrate from mine-influenced waters.
- Two of these facilities rely on innovative Saturated Rock Fill (SRF) technology that does not exist anywhere else in the world and has been thoroughly vetted through robust provincial permitting processes.
- Some treatment facilities were delayed for a range of reasons, resulting in ongoing water quality non-compliances. ENV's Compliance and Environmental Enforcement Branch (CEEB) conducts regular inspections and holds Teck accountable for meeting permit requirements like all dischargers in B.C. CEEB has issued significant Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPs) to Teck. More large penalties are under review and consideration by the ministry statutory decision maker.
- Six new water treatment facilities need to be designed, constructed and permitted between 2024 and 2027 to achieve full compliance with WQ limits by 2028. This will be a significant workload for permitting agencies and Ktunaxa's technical reviewers.
- In July 2024, the majority sale of Teck's coal mines to Glencore was completed, and the mines are now

operated under the name EVR (Elk Valley Resources) Operations Ltd. Regulatory requirements and obligations were not affected by the sale.

- In July 2024 the ENV Minister issued an Order under Section 90.2 of EMA requiring development of amendments to the ABMP. The amendments will update the plan to make sure it reflects the latest science and information. The amendments will:
  - o Establish a government-led framework that will inform decision-making and clarify regulatory requirements in a designated area that includes multiple dischargers and describe the process for future updates to the plan based on new science and information (Amendment #1, to be complete summer 2025); and
  - o Review the Koocanusa Reservoir selenium target in consideration of new information and science (Amendment #2, to be complete 2026).
- Intergovernmental Communications an  
 independent facilitator has been retained to support an efficient and inclusive process over the next two years.
  - o ENV will continue deep engagement with Ktunaxa First Nations individually and collectively (as indicated by Ktunaxa), seeking consensus on recommendations.
  - o EVR and other proponents will be included throughout the amendment process in strategic and technical discussions.
  - o Independent experts will be retained to support scientific analyses.
  - o A venue will be established for U.S. Agency and Tribes participation in the transboundary Koocanusa portion of the work (Amendment #2).
  - o Local governments, NGOs and key stakeholders will receive updates, and there will be a public comment period once draft recommendations are ready.
  - o Information will be posted regularly on ENV's Elk Valley Water Quality Hub website to support transparency: <https://elkvalleywaterquality.gov.bc.ca>
- ENV is engaging significantly with U.S. Agencies in response to transboundary water quality concerns and U.S. Agencies have regular opportunities to receive updates and review information including permit applications. The International Joint Commission (IJC) is now engaged to assist in resolving transboundary concerns – see IJC Transition Note.
- ENV is a member of B.C.'s new Southeast Initiatives Secretariat, and is coordinating with other agencies on all efforts in the Southeast – See Southeast Initiatives Transition Note.

#### Air Quality in the Elk Valley

- Much of ENV's focus over the past 20 years has been water quality; air quality is outside the scope of the ABMP. However, fugitive dust is the most significant air emission source at EVR's mine sites and the ministry is taking steps to improve how it is managed.
- Each mine is regulated using site-specific air emissions permits issued under EMA. In recent permitting decisions the ministry has required EVR to undertake new studies to further improve understanding of air quality risks.
- The RAQMP is currently under review and may be updated to reflect some of these recent studies and new information.

# SECTION F

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



## Financial Overview

### Budget Highlights

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

#### Ministry Operations

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

#### Environmental Assessment Office

- The budget for the Environment Assessment Office (Vote 25) in 2024/25 is **\$17.074M** – this represents an increase of **\$0.682M** over the restated 2023/24 budget.
  - o **\$0.567M increase** to salary and benefits for the Shared Recovery Mandate<sup>9</sup>
  - o **\$0.115M increase** to fund the implementation of the Solutions Framework for permitting

#### Special Accounts

- The budget for the Park Enhancement Fund is **\$12.989M**
  - o **\$0.069M** to salary and benefits for the Shared Recovery Mandate<sup>1</sup>
- The budget for the Sustainable Environment Fund is **\$26.135M**. No changes to budget from FY2023/24.

#### Capital

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

<sup>9</sup> Includes Budget 2023 and 2024 decisions.

## Ministry Budget 2023/24 – 2026/27

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

## Budget 2024 Changes by Core Business

Changes from 2023/24 Restated

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

## Fiscal Plan Comparison

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

## Minister's Office Budget

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

## Capital Budget

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

# SECTION G

## LEGISLATION OVERVIEW

## Legislation Overview

Summary of Legislation Administered by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Strategy (ENV):

Legislation	Purpose	Notes <sup>10</sup>
<b>Climate Change Accountability Act</b>	Sets greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets for B.C. as a whole. Sets requirements for the provincial government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and become “carbon neutral”.	
<b>Ecological Reserve Act</b>	Provides for the statutory basis for ecological reserves to give the highest level of protection in the provincial protected areas system for ecological values.	
<b>Environmental Assessment Act</b>	Provides a comprehensive environmental assessment process for major projects in B.C.	
<b>Environmental Management Act</b>	Governs environmental protection and management in B.C. as concerns the regulation of industrial and municipal waste discharges, the management of hazardous waste, contaminated site remediation, and pollution prevention.	The Act except the following: (a) section 5 (f) as that provision relates to the portfolio of the Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS); (b) Division 1 of Part 8.
<b>Forest and Range Practices Act</b>	Governs forest and range activities on public lands in B.C. Most of the Act is administered by the Ministry of Forests (FOR), but the portions concerning the development and use of recreation sites and trails are assigned to ENV.	The following: (a) sections 56, 57, 118 (2) (d) and 148; (b) section 58 as that provision relates to recreation resources and the management of public recreation use on Crown land; (c) sections 142, 146 and 147 as those provisions relate to the portfolio of the Minister of ENV.
<b>Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act</b>	Provides performance standards (the Output-Based Pricing System, or OBPS) for greenhouse gas emissions from prescribed industries.	

<sup>10</sup> The whole Act unless otherwise indicated.

Legislation	Purpose	Notes <sup>10</sup>
<b>Integrated Pest Management Act</b>	Provides for regulations-based management of pesticide use and a permitting system for pesticide uses of high concern.	
<b>Land Title Act</b>	Governs B.C.'s land title registration system and is administered primarily by the Land Title and Survey Authority of B.C. Provisions concerning registration of covenants on title are assigned to multiple ministries for the purposes of each of those ministries.	Section 219 (1), (2), (3) (a) and (b), (4) – (10), (11) (a), (12) and (14) as those provisions relate to the portfolio of the Minister of ENV.
<b>Ministry of Environment Act</b>	Provides authority to administer matters relating to the environment, including undertaking studies, developing/sustaining education programs and maintaining all structures needed to carry out its mandate.	The Act except sections 4 (2) (b), (d), (f) and (g) and section 6.1 as those provisions relate to the portfolio of the Minister of FOR or to the portfolio of the Minister of WLRS.
<b>Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing Act</b>	This statute was enacted to create a ministry that no longer exists, its functions having been distributed among other ministries over time.	Sections 3 (3), 5 (b), 6 and 9 as those provisions relate to the portfolio of the Minister of ENV.
<b>Park Act</b>	Provides for the establishment, classification and management of provincial parks, conservancies and recreation areas dedicated to preservation of the natural environment for the inspiration, use and enjoyment of the public.	
<b>Protected Areas of British Columbia Act</b>	Consolidates in its schedules all legislated provincial parks, conservancies and ecological reserves for the purposes of the <i>Park Act</i> and the <i>Ecological Reserve Act</i> .	
<b>Special Accounts Appropriation and Control Act</b>	Establishes special accounts within the consolidated revenue fund where the authorization to expend money from the account is in an Act other than a <i>Supply Act</i> .	Section 9.6 (Park Enhancement Fund).
<b>Sustainable Environment Fund Act</b>	The Act establishes a fund from which the Minister may pay out money to reduce and manage solid, liquid, hazardous and atmospheric waste and for other environmental protection and environmental renewal initiatives.	

## Detailed Summaries

### ***Climate Change Accountability Act***

This Act sets greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets for B.C. as a whole. It also sets requirements for the provincial government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and become “carbon neutral”. The target levels are:

- by 2030 and for each subsequent calendar year, B.C. greenhouse gas emissions will be at least 40% less than the level of those emissions in 2007;
- by 2040 and for each subsequent calendar year, B.C. greenhouse gas emissions will be at least 60% less than the level of those emissions in 2007; and,
- by 2050 and for each subsequent calendar year, B.C. greenhouse gas emissions will be at least 80% less than the level of those emissions in 2007.

The carbon neutral requirements apply with respect to greenhouse gas emissions produced by government operations including government business travel and the operations of schools, colleges, universities, health authorities, Crown corporations and other public sector organizations that may be identified by regulation.

The Act also requires the appointment of an advisory committee and an annual report from the ministry on the status of B.C.’s greenhouse gas emissions, including emissions from public sector buildings and fleets.

### ***Ecological Reserve Act***

This Act provides for the establishment and administration of ecological reserves to give the highest level of protection in the provincial protected areas system for ecological values. New ecological reserves are created by Order in Council or through addition of area descriptions to the schedules of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*. BC Parks administers the Act and the ecological reserves.

### ***Environmental Assessment Act***

This Act provides a comprehensive environmental assessment process for B.C. An environmental assessment certificate is required before a major project can be built unless the Executive Director under the Act has determined that a Certificate is not required. The Act sets out the process that is required before a decision is made to issue a Certificate. Regulations under the Act set out what types of projects must undergo a review. The Minister may also designate a project as reviewable. The Environmental Assessment Office is responsible for receiving and processing all applications under the Act.

The current version of the Act was enacted in 2018 to ensure that the legal rights of First Nations are respected and that public expectations for transparent processes are met. Changes based on extensive consultations with Indigenous nations, industry and the public focused on enhancing meaningful participation, advancing reconciliation with Indigenous nations (including supporting the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples), and protecting the environment while offering clear and efficient pathways to sustainable project approvals.

### ***Environmental Management Act***

This Act, often referred to as the EMA, governs environmental protection and management in B.C. as concerns the regulation of industrial and municipal waste discharges, the management of hazardous waste, contaminated site remediation, and pollution prevention. The Act sets out authorities to correct detrimental environmental



impacts and to respond to environmental emergencies. It also contains the statutory basis for the Conservation Officer Service and the Environmental Appeal Board.

Specific legislated responsibilities under the EMA include:

- Conducting research and investigative activities;
- preparing policies, strategies, objectives and standards for the protection and management of the environment;
- preparing environmental plans for soil conservation, water resource management, waste management, and air quality management;
- requiring and regulating certain environmental assessments;
- issuing environmental protection orders;
- declaring environmental emergencies and allocating the required resources to control emergencies;
- recovering moneys spent during an emergency from the responsible party;
- regulating the confinement, storage, disposal and transportation of hazardous waste;
- approving discharges requiring a permit;
- regulating spill prevention, reporting and response activities;
- regulating the production of regional solid, liquid and biomedical waste management plans;
- designating sewage control areas;
- delegating waste management powers to the Greater Vancouver Regional District and other eligible regions;
- regulating contaminated sites;
- issuing pollution abatement orders;
- establishing and administering the Conservation Officer Service; and,
- establishing and operating the Environmental Appeal Board (EAB). (Note: Division 1 of Part 8 of the Act, concerning powers and procedures of the EAB, is assigned to the Ministry of Attorney General.)

### ***Forest and Range Practices Act***

This Act governs forest and range activities on public lands in B.C. (forest planning, road building, timber harvesting, reforestation, livestock grazing, and the development and use of recreation sites and trails). It also applies to private land associated with woodlots licences and tree farm licences. The Recreation Sites and Trails BC program area was transferred to ENV in 2022 and relevant sections of the Act (as shown on page 1) were accordingly assigned to the Minister of ENV to allow the Conservation and Recreation Division to administer that portion of the minister's portfolio.

### ***Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act***

This Act provides for the setting of performance standards for greenhouse gas emissions from prescribed industries. Operations that release carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) emissions above the threshold set in the

regulations are a “reporting operation.” Most reporting operations are also required to comply with benchmark requirements as a “regulated operation”.

The Act is the statutory basis for the output-based pricing system (OBPS) which came into effect on April 1, 2024, and delivers on commitments made in the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030. The OBPS applies to industries such as mining, cement, pulp and paper, oil and gas production and manufacturing. It ensures that there is a price incentive for industrial emitters to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while continuing to provide flexible compliance options.

Regulated operations are reporting operations that produce, or are designed and constructed to produce, a regulated product and must participate in the OBPS. Regulated operations have a compliance obligation to emit less than their annual emissions limit, or else pay for any excess emissions above their annual emission limit.

Regulated operations can meet benchmark requirements by adopting energy efficient technology or using clean energy to power the operation. They can also comply with the benchmark by making a monetary payment to government or by using previously generated earned credits or offsets, which can be traded on the BC Carbon Registry. The registry is also used for government to track compliance.

### ***Integrated Pest Management Act***

This Act provides for regulations-based management of pesticide use and a permitting system for pesticide uses of high concern. Industrial operators are required to develop pest management plans in accordance with the regulations and the principles of integrated pest management, submit a notification document of the intended use of pesticides to the Administrator, and use the pesticides strictly in accordance with the notice and the standards set by the administrator.

### ***Land Title Act***

[Only section 219 (1), (2), (3) (a) and (b), (4) - (9.2), (10), (11) (a), (12) and (14) as these provisions relate to the portfolio of the Minister.]

This Act governs B.C.’s land title registration system and is administered primarily by the Land Title and Survey Authority of BC. Certain authorities in the Act are available to some ministries for purposes warranting covenants (encumbrances) on parcels of land relating to the functions of those ministries.

Section 219 authorises the designation of a person as a covenantee for the purposes of registering a covenant as to use and alienation against the title to land. The authorities concerning covenants listed above are currently shared by ENV, WLRS, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. Each minister may exercise the general s. 219 authority insofar as it relates to the portfolio of the Minister. This authority was historically used by ENV’s predecessor ministries to support the establishment of conservation covenants, but, in recent years has not been used by ENV due to ministry re-organizations and allocations of program responsibilities.

### ***Ministry of Environment Act***

[The Act except sections 4 (2) (b), (d), (f) and (g) and section 6.1 as those provisions relate to the portfolio of the Minister of FOR or to the portfolio of the Minister of WLRS.]

The purposes and functions set out in the Act include:

- Administering matters relating to the environment;

- encouraging and maintaining an optimum quality environment;
- undertaking, commissioning and co-ordinating environmental studies;
- developing and sustaining public information and education programs; and,
- planning, designing, constructing, operating and maintaining all the structures necessary to carry out its mandate.

The Act also gives the Minister authority to acquire property and to enter into agreements with other governments with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council. In addition, the Minister is required to submit an annual report to the Legislative Assembly.

Provisions shared with FOR and WLRS concern authority to:

- Undertake inventories and to plan for and assist in planning, as required, for the effective management, protection and conservation of all water, land, air, plant life and animal life;
- set standards for, collect, store, retrieve, analyze and make available environmental data;
- undertake, commission and coordinate environmental studies;
- develop and sustain public information and education programs to enhance public appreciation of the environment; and
- disclose compliance and enforcement information (as authorized by section 6.1 of the Act).

### ***Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing Act***

[Sections 3 (3), 5(b), 6 and 9 only, insofar as they relate to the portfolio of the Minister of ENV.]

This statute was enacted to create a ministry that no longer exists, its functions having been distributed among other ministries over time. The authorities in the Act are currently distributed between ENV, the Ministry of Housing, and WLRS.

Section 3 (3) allows the Minister to delegate any of the minister's powers or functions under this Act to a public officer in the minister's ministry, a government corporation, or another member of the Executive Council.

Section 5(b) states that one of the functions of the ministry is to encourage outdoor recreation, establish parks and conserve the natural scenic and historic features of B.C.

Section 6 gives the Minister authority to enter into agreements (subject to the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council with the government of Canada, the government of another province, or with any other person or a municipality.

Section 9 gives authority to the Minister to dispose of, acquire, and manage land for ministry purposes.

### ***Park Act***

This Act provides for the management of provincial parks, conservancies and recreation areas for the purposes set out in the Act. These types of protected areas are established by an Act of the Legislature to add them to the schedules of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act* or by Order in Council.

***Protected Areas of British Columbia Act***

This Act consolidates in its schedules all legislated provincial parks, conservancies and ecological reserves for the purposes of the *Park Act* and the *Ecological Reserve Act*. The Act ensures that the boundaries of these protected areas cannot be altered except by an Act of the Legislature, unlike protected areas established by Orders in Council (most of which are subsequently incorporated into the Act).

***Special Accounts Appropriation and Control Act***

[Section 9.6 only]

This Act establishes special accounts within the consolidated revenue fund where the authorization to expend money from the account is in an Act other than a Supply Act. Section 9.6 concerns the Park Enhancement Fund, a special account into which money may be paid from sources as specified in this section (e.g., from the sale of informational material as authorized by the *Park Act*), and from which amounts may be paid by the *Minister* (*specified purposes in respect of protected areas*).

***Sustainable Environment Fund Act***

The Act establishes a fund from which the Minister may pay out money to reduce and manage solid, liquid, hazardous and atmospheric waste and for other environmental protection and environmental renewal initiatives.

# SECTION H

## COMMUNICATIONS OVERVIEW

## Communications Overview

### Government Communications and Public Engagement:

Government Communications and Public Engagement (GCPE) leads and co-ordinates both internal and external communications, ensuring the public through all media channels are informed about government policies and services.

The Deputy Minister, Government Communications and Public Engagement Office, advises Cabinet on Communications.

GCPE's mandate is to:

- communicate Cabinet's goals and promote major initiatives of government.
- develop long-term strategic communications plans.
- oversee communications associated with government's strategic initiatives.
- develop policy and procedures to cover all aspects of government communications.
- approve ministries' communications strategies and plans.
- coordinate multi-ministry communications.
- provide dedicated planning, professional and technical services.
- provide issue/crisis communications support to ministries.
- measure the effectiveness of government communications.
- augment staff development.
- maintain a media monitoring and analysis service.
- approve all government news releases.
- authorize government communications spending (communication product approval/advertising).
- ensure print and online communications products, whether produced by ministries or third parties, adhere to the provincial BC identity standards.

### GCPE Team - Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy:

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy GCPE communications team includes six positions: the Director, Manager and four Public Affairs Officers.

- **Communications Director** – Scott McKenzie
- **Communications Manager** – Matthew Borghese
- **Senior Public Affairs Officer** - David Karn: Media relations, Conservation Officer Service
- **Senior Public Affairs Officer** – Emma Keeler-Dugas Climate Action Secretariat
- **Public Affairs Officer** – Pamela Roth: BC Parks, Recreation Sites and Trails BC
- **Public Affairs Officer** – Sloane Zogas: Environmental Protection

The Communications Director is accountable for the planning and execution of all ministry-led public communications. As a member of the ministry's Executive Committee, the Director is responsible for:

- Ministry strategic communications planning, implementation and evaluation;
- providing communications expertise and advice to the Minister, Deputy Minister and senior Ministry staff;
- Ministry communications issue management;
- Ministry media relations;
- Announcement events.

While the Manager oversees all administrative and day-to-day work requirements of the branch, Public Affairs Officers are assigned to work primarily with a specific Ministry division or media relations and freedom of information requests.

#### **GCPE Services:**

The team provides professional services in:

- **Event planning and announcements.** Communications branch identifies opportunities to promote new programs and ministry accomplishments through news releases, information bulletins, social and digital media, speaking notes and media event. The team works with GCPE Events and Corporate Calendar Coordination to plan announcements and cross-government activities. Communications supports the Minister's Office (MO) lead role in providing information about Ministry programs, investments and policies to Caucus Communications. PAO's also review and edit program material developed for the introduction of legislation. The communications department is also responsible for review and approval of announcements via the Environmental Assessment Office.
- **Communications Coordination.** This function includes joint news releases, events, issues notes, co-branding of collateral communications materials, etc.). Along GCPE headquarters, the team coordinates cross-ministry CleanBC communications initiatives. Together with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's communications department, the ministry communications shop leads government announcements around TransLink.
- **Issues management.** Communications coordinates with ministry divisional leadership and the MO to identify current and emerging issues and develops response messages. Issues Notes provide a very brief summary of the issue and key messages and media responses to breaking issues. House and Question Period issues and scans for the Premier's Office or other ministries are the responsibility of GCPE Issues Management Division. Issues Managers coordinate the production of its briefing material with GCPE ENV.
- **Session Coordination.** During session, GCPE HQ host a cross-ministry morning call to identify issues and opportunities for the day. In follow-up, the ministry Communications Director and Manager hold a morning call with the MO to discuss ministry-specific issues and communications approach. In addition, a weekly planning meeting with participation of the MO and Communications Director and Manager is held.
- **Media relations.** When the Communications branch receives a media call, we send an alert to the MO to flag any requests for an interview with the Minister. Communications staff then assists with developing an appropriate response. Opportunities to interest media in positive ministry stories are also canvassed

and pitched as required. Media relations is a 24-hours a day/seven-days-a-week function of the Communications branch, which staffs an after-hours media phone number. Media requests are logged in a centralized media hub and at the end of each business day, a report is produced outlining media calls received, closed/open status, and responses provided.

- **Website and Social Media.** Communications is responsible for the content as well as the look and feel of the Ministry's website. The branch also ensures the Minister and ministry has a presence on the government newsroom page, in social media and on the B.C. government Flickr site. BC Parks marketing and digital team manages the BC Parks online presence.
- **Print and graphic design.** Communications coordinates program requests for design services and also works with third parties on requests to use the BC identity.



# SECTION I

## KEY STAKEHOLDERS

## Key Stakeholders

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
<b>AdventureSmart BC</b>	Non-Government Organization or Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitor safety &amp; education</li> <li>• Reducing search and rescue calls</li> </ul>
<b>Adventure Tourism Coalition</b>	Non-governmental organization coordinating and representing multiple member associations representing various parts of the adventure/commercial tourism sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Umbrella organization for 18 commercial recreation associations (Guide Outfitters of BC, BackCountry Lodges of BC Assoc., Indigenous Tourism BC, HeliCat Canada, BC Fishing Tourism Assoc., Mountain Biking BC, Commercial Bear Viewing Association, Tourism Industry Association of BC, Wilderness Tourism Association, Boating BC Assoc., BC Snowmobile Federation, Association of Canadian Mountain Guides, Canadian Ski Guide Association, Sea Kayak Guides Alliance of BC, BC Ocean Boating Tourism Association, BC River Outfitters Assoc., Sport Fishing Institute of BC, BC Commercial Snowmobile Operators Assoc.)</li> <li>• Support sustainable adventure tourism in BC by protecting and promoting tourism opportunities</li> <li>• Business certainty for commercial operators under permit (timely permit decisions, length of permit terms, costs and obligations under permit)</li> </ul>
<b>Alberta Environment and Parks</b>	Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality</li> <li>• Trans-boundary monitoring</li> <li>• Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME)</li> <li>• Climate change (Article 6)</li> </ul>
<b>Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation</b>	US State Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BC-Alaska MOU: Statement of cooperation</li> <li>• Water quality monitoring</li> <li>• Transboundary mining (Tulsequah)</li> <li>• Public Interest Bonding Strategy</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
<b>Association for Mineral Exploration BC</b>	Professional association / Industry association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulatory requirements under the <i>Environmental Management Act</i></li> <li>Protected area establishment</li> </ul>
<b>ATV BC (Quad Riders Association of BC)</b>	Promotes responsible, environmentally sustainable use of ORV's; advocates for publicly accessible, mixed-use trails across BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address any compliance and enforcement concerns</li> </ul>
<b>BC Agriculture Council</b>	Provincial-wide general farm organization representing the farmers and ranchers of British Columbia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulatory requirements under the <i>Environmental Management Act</i> and the <i>Integrated Pest Management Act</i></li> </ul>
<b>BC Bottle and Recycling Depot Association (BCBRDA)</b>	Industry association representing many depots across the province	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extended producer responsibility</li> <li>Industry association representing many depots across the province</li> </ul>
<b>BC Cattlemen's Association</b>	Professional association / industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parkland tenures</li> <li>Waste management</li> <li>Agricultural plastics</li> <li>Livestock predation; Livestock Protection Program</li> </ul>
<b>BC Clean Coast</b>	Supporting marine shoreline clean up and derelict vessel removal in coastal communities within British Columbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shoreline clean up</li> <li>Derelict vessel removal</li> </ul>
<b>BC Conservation Foundation</b>	Non-Government Organization or Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivers conservation programs and projects for BC Parks and staff in WLRS</li> <li>Founding partner of WildSafeBC</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
<b>BC Lake Stewardship Society</b>	Non-profit group that promotes Community-Based Stewardship of lakes, reservoirs and watershed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water Monitoring</li> <li>• Community-Based Monitoring</li> <li>• Water Protection</li> <li>• Cumulative effects</li> </ul>
<b>BC Mountaineering Club</b>	Non-profit organizations supporting outdoor recreation with a focus on climbing, hiking, backpacking and ski touring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to recreational opportunities</li> <li>• State of recreational infrastructure</li> </ul>
<b>BC Nature (Federation of BC Naturalists)</b>	Non-profit organization supporting conservation and environmental issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of ecosystems and species at risk</li> <li>• Education and awareness of the natural environment</li> </ul>
<b>BC Parks Foundation</b>	Non-profit organization and official charitable partner of BC Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks visitor experience and interpretation programs</li> <li>• Parks funding</li> <li>• Stewardship work</li> <li>• Private land acquisitions</li> <li>• Nature education and facilities in K-12 schools</li> </ul>
<b>BC Power Sports Coalition</b>	Coalition of motorised recreation associations including the BC Off-Road Motorcycle Association, BC Snowmobile Federation, and ATV BC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motorised recreation access</li> <li>• Participate in the review of the Off-Road Vehicle Fund allocation in partnership with Recreation Sites and Trails BC.</li> </ul>
<b>BC Product Stewardship Council (BCPSC)</b>	Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Represents all regional districts in B.C. on solid waste management issues</li> </ul>
<b>BC Snowmobile Federation</b>	Not for profit society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Represents 60 snowmobile clubs from all regions of the province</li> <li>• Advocates for land access and government authorizations supporting snowmobiling</li> <li>• Caribou-related closures; address any compliance or enforcement concerns</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
<b>BC Technology Association</b>	Clean Tech  Current member of Climate Solutions Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technology</li> <li>• Clean growth</li> </ul>
<b>BC Trappers Association</b>	Professional association / industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation</li> <li>• Wildlife stewardship</li> <li>• Address any compliance and enforcement concerns</li> </ul>
<b>BC Waste and Water Association</b>	Non-profit organization that represents 4,000 water professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wastewater</li> </ul>
<b>BC Wildlife Federation</b>	Non-government organization or association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat conservation</li> <li>• Spill response</li> <li>• Wetland restoration partnerships</li> <li>• Hunting, angling issues or concerns</li> </ul>
<b>Business Council of BC</b>	Professional association / industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies and regulations related to climate</li> <li>• Competitiveness</li> <li>• Low carbon opportunities</li> <li>• Corporate Social Responsibility</li> <li>• Regulatory streamlining</li> <li>• Cumulative effects / environmental mitigation</li> <li>• Spill response regime</li> </ul>
<b>Canada Border Services Agency</b>	Federal LE agency facilitating the flow of travelers/trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigations/enforcement</li> </ul>
<b>Canada Plastics Pact</b>	Industry partner, creating a circular economy in Canada in which plastic waste is kept in the economy and out of the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circular economy</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
<b>Canada West Ski Areas Association</b>	Not for profit trade association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Represents ski areas of western Canada. Primary areas of focus are safety and risk management, sustainable market growth, people and talent development, and government advocacy</li> </ul>
<b>Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers</b>	Key Oil and Gas sector association, significant participation in Provincial conservation initiatives (via funding and staff)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate policies including output-based pricing system and oil and gas emissions cap</li> <li>Species at risk (caribou in particular)</li> <li>Cumulative effects / environmental mitigation</li> <li>Land/habitat restoration</li> <li>Science and research</li> </ul>
<b>Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment</b>	The primary minister-led intergovernmental forum for collective action on environmental issues of national and international concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water protection and use</li> <li>National air quality management system</li> <li>Extended Producer Responsibility/Waste recovery</li> <li>Climate change</li> <li>Environmental quality guidelines for water and soil</li> </ul>
<b>Canadian Energy Regulator (Formerly National Energy Board)</b>	Federal Government Agency that regulates pipelines, energy development and trade in the Canadian public interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Projects regulated under the federal <i>Canadian Energy Regulators Act</i></li> </ul>
<b>Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society BC Chapter</b>	<p>Non-profit charity dedicated to parks and protected areas</p> <p>Current member of Climate Solutions Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flathead Valley</li> <li>Parks funding / infrastructure / services</li> <li>Proposed South Okanagan National Park</li> <li>Marine Protected Areas</li> <li>Species at Risk</li> </ul>
<b>Chemical Industry Association of Canada</b>	Represents Canada's chemistry and plastics sector leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Circular economy</li> <li>Chemical and plastic solutions for building a net zero future</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
<b>Clean Energy British Columbia</b>	Industry Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies and regulations related to environmental assessment</li> </ul>
<b>Clean Energy Canada</b>	Climate and clean energy program at Simon Fraser University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research, policy guidance and public engagement</li> <li>• Climate policy</li> </ul>
<b>Climate Caucus</b>	Climate Caucus is a non-partisan network of 250+ elected local leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies to align with Canada's fair share of holding global temperature to 1.5°C</li> </ul>
<b>Climate Risk Institute</b>	National non-profit society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change capacity building</li> </ul>
<b>Climate Solutions Council</b>	Climate Solutions Council is a statutory body through the <i>Climate Change Accountability Act</i> , tasked with providing advice to government on climate and clean growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate policy and clean growth</li> </ul>
<b>Coast Waste Management Association</b>	Non-Profit Sector Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Represents a broad range of coastal stakeholders (including local government, industry, non-profits)</li> <li>• Disseminates information</li> </ul>
<b>Columbia Basin Trust</b>	Trust was created in 1995 under the Columbia Basin Trust Act to administer an endowment to support community and environmental wellbeing in the Canadian portion of the Columbia River Basin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administers a \$45 million endowment and contributes funding to programs in the Basin.</li> <li>• Contributed long-term funding to Recreation Sites and Trails BC to deliver a Seasonal Maintenance Crew program within recreation sites and trails throughout the basin.</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
<b>Commercial Bear Viewing Association of BC</b>	Association that promotes sustainable bear viewing; protection of bears and ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addressing any concerns, best practices</li> </ul>
<b>Council of Forestry Industries</b>	Key Forestry sector association, significant participation in Provincial conservation initiatives (via funding and staff)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate policies, including output-based pricing system</li> <li>Land use and conservation of forested lands</li> <li>Cumulative effects</li> <li>Science and research</li> </ul>
<b>David Suzuki Foundation</b>	Environmental non-government organization  Current member of Climate Solutions Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitat Conservation</li> <li>Climate change</li> <li>Urban growth management</li> <li>Toxics</li> <li>Governance for sustainability</li> <li>Water management</li> <li>Spill response</li> </ul>
<b>Destination BC</b>	Crown Corporation supporting B.C.'s tourism industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tourism</li> <li>Recreation</li> </ul>
<b>Elk Valley Resources (Glencore)</b>	Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchase of Teck coal mines in SE BC</li> <li>Area Based Management Plan (Water quality)</li> <li>EMA authorizations</li> <li>Transboundary mining</li> </ul>
<b>Environment and Climate Change Canada</b>	Federal Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate Change mitigation and adaptation</li> <li>Water management</li> <li>Transboundary issues</li> <li>Water protection and use</li> <li>Crown Land concerns</li> <li>Air quality science and photochemical modelling</li> <li>Land remediation</li> </ul>



Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canada's Strategic Emergency Management Plan (SEMP): Spill response</li> <li>• Hydrometric (including cableways) and climate monitoring networks"</li> <li>• Joint investigation and enforcement</li> <li>• Ecosystem restoration and management in marine areas</li> <li>• Joint investigations/enforcement</li> </ul>
<b>Explorers and Producers of Canada (EPAC)</b>	Association of small oil and gas producers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate policy and regulation including output-based pricing system and oil and gas emissions cap</li> </ul>
<b>Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)</b>	Federal lead for safeguarding our waters and managing Canada's fisheries, oceans and freshwater resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spill response</li> <li>• Species at Risk</li> <li>• Joint investigations and enforcement</li> </ul>
<b>Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC</b>	Received revenue from fishing licences to fund research, conservation, and education program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving angler access</li> <li>• Provincial stocking program (including lakes in provincial parks and recreation sites)</li> <li>• Fishing regs</li> </ul>
<b>Friends of Ecological Reserves</b>	Provincial non-profit who advocates for ecological reserves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of new ecological reserves</li> <li>• Increased capacity for ecological reserves and ecological reserve wardens.</li> </ul>
<b>Grizzly Bear Foundation</b>	Charitable organization that promotes the conservation of grizzly bears through research, public education and advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership between Province and GBF aimed at reducing human-wildlife conflicts and enhancing the well-being of grizzly and black bears in BC</li> </ul>
<b>Guide Outfitters Association of BC</b>	Non-profit society representing the guide outfitting industry (approx. 60 – 70% of guide outfitters in BC, Yukon and the Northwest Territories)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address compliance and enforcement concerns</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
<b>Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation</b>	Non-Government Organization established under BC Wildlife Act and key funder of conservation projects across B.C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliance framework</li> <li>• Habitat protection (land acquisitions) and conservation</li> <li>• Stewardship (e.g. stream restoration)</li> <li>• Environmental education</li> <li>• Creative Sentencing (court case outcomes)</li> </ul>
<b>Helicat Canada</b>	Trade association of the Canadian helicopter and snowcat skiing industry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting helicopter-based recreation</li> </ul>
<b>Impact Assessment Agency of Canada</b>	Federal Government Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>Innergex</b>	Innergex is an independent renewable power producer which develops, acquires, owns and operates hydroelectric facilities, wind farms, solar farms and energy storage facilities. Current Co-Chair of Climate Solutions Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewable energy</li> <li>• Calls for power</li> </ul>
<b>Living lakes Canada</b>	NGO working to promote community-based watershed monitoring, protection and enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water Monitoring</li> <li>• Climate Change</li> <li>• Cumulative Effects</li> </ul>
<b>Montana Dept of Environmental Quality</b>	US State Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water Quality</li> <li>• Transboundary mining</li> </ul>
<b>Mountain Biking Tourism Association (Mountain Bike BC)</b>	Non-profit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotes mountain bike related tourism initiatives</li> <li>• Supports reconciliation, rural development, sustainable development</li> <li>• Also known as Mountain Bike BC who provides advocacy for mountain biking on crown lands, rather than as a tourism activity</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
<b>Mining Association of BC</b>	Professional association / industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Policies including output-based pricing system</li> <li>• Climate change (e.g. emissions)</li> <li>• <i>Environmental Management Act</i></li> <li>• <i>Water Sustainability Act</i></li> <li>• Cumulative effects / environmental mitigation</li> <li>• Species at risk (e.g. Peace northern caribou and coal)</li> </ul>
<b>National Zero Waste Council</b>	Professional association / industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastics</li> <li>• Zero Waste</li> <li>• Circular Economy</li> </ul>
<b>Natural Resources Canada</b>	Federal Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caribou</li> <li>• Mining</li> <li>• Cumulative effects</li> </ul>
<b>Nature Conservancy of Canada</b>	Private, non-profit national conservation organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flathead</li> <li>• Habitat conservation</li> <li>• Implementation of conservation framework</li> </ul>
<b>Okanagan Basin Water Board</b>	<p>Non-government organization</p> <p>Collaboration of the three Okanagan regional districts to provide leadership on water issues spanning the valley</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invasive Mussels Defence Program</li> </ul>
<b>Organizing for Change</b>	Non-Government Organization representing a loose coalition of BC environmental NGOs. Trusted advisor on conservation policy and implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build support for environmental initiatives</li> <li>• Water management</li> <li>• Spill response</li> <li>• Species at risk</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
<b>Outdoor Recreation Council</b>	Provincial umbrella organization representing outdoor recreation clubs in BC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administer the Outdoor Recreation Fund through an annual granting program (\$10M endowment from the province in 2023);</li> <li>• Advocate for outdoor recreation interests and promote sustainable recreation practices.</li> </ul>
<b>Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium</b>	Regional climate service centre that conducts quantitative studies on the impacts of climate change, variability in the Pacific and Yukon region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate data, modelling, monitoring, expert advice</li> <li>• Capacity Building</li> <li>• Hydrologic Impacts</li> <li>• Regional climate Impacts</li> </ul>
<b>Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions</b>	Research organization housed at UVIC that amplifies B.C. research and insights to answer complex climate change issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge Building – Climate Insights Course for professionals</li> <li>• Sea level rise</li> <li>• Indigenous leadership in climate change research, education and leadership</li> </ul>
<b>Parks Canada</b>	Federal Parks organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Park establishment</li> <li>• Species at risk</li> <li>• Bare Campsite Program</li> </ul>
<b>Pembina Institute</b>	Non-profit organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research, analysis and recommendations to inform policy related to energy</li> </ul>
<b>RCMP</b>	Federal police force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint compliance and enforcement; investigations; support</li> </ul>
<b>Society of Park Operators</b>	Society representing Park Operators (contractors) across B.C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park/recreation management</li> <li>• Park operations</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
<b>Solid Waste Association of North America – Pacific Chapter</b>	Leading organization in integrated waste resource management in B.C. and the Yukon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste management</li> </ul>
<b>South Okanagan-Similkameen National Park Network</b>	Advocacy/lobby group with thousands of members and numerous initiatives in the South Okanagan-Similkameen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting the establishment of a national park reserve in the South Okanagan-Similkameen.</li> </ul>
<b>State of Washington</b>	State Government, part of the Pacific Coast Collaborative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality</li> <li>• Trans-boundary monitoring</li> <li>• Parks</li> <li>• Conservation</li> <li>• Wildlife Management</li> </ul>
<b>Stewardship Association of BC (SABC)</b>	Industry Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Represents most EPR agencies/programs</li> </ul>
<b>Teck Resources</b>	<p>Canadian resource company focused on responsibly providing the metals essential for global development and the energy transition, headquartered in BC.</p> <p>Current member of Climate Solutions Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate policy including output based pricing system</li> <li>• Mining</li> <li>• Critical minerals</li> <li>• Industrial competitiveness</li> <li>• Innovation</li> </ul>
<b>The Nature Trust of British Columbia</b>	Non-profit land conservation organization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat conservation</li> <li>• Species at risk</li> </ul>
<b>Tourism Industry Association of BC</b>	Advocate for interests of BC's visitor economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable tourism</li> <li>• Environmental stewardship</li> <li>• Parks &amp; protected areas</li> <li>• Wildlife viewing</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
<b>Union of BC Municipalities; Green Communities Committee</b>	Joint Provincial-UBCM committee established under the Climate Action Charter to support local governments in acting on climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Action Charter</li> <li>• Invasive mussels, species at risk</li> <li>• Land remediation</li> <li>• Waste management</li> </ul>
<b>UVIC - POLIS Project on Ecological Governance Water Sustainability Project</b>	Research and academia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental management</li> </ul>
<b>Waste Management Association of BC</b>	Independent businesses focused on the hauling, recycling and processing industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste Management</li> </ul>
<b>West Coast Environmental Law</b>	Non-profit group on environmental lawyers and strategists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change</li> <li>• Environmental management, law and policy</li> <li>• Cumulative effects</li> <li>• Spill response</li> <li>• Species at risk</li> <li>• Waste and Plastics</li> </ul>
<b>Wild Sheep Society of BC</b>	Non-profit promoting the enhancement of wild sheep and habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address any sheep hunting compliance and enforcement concerns</li> </ul>
<b>Wilderness Committee</b>	Non-government organization or association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mount Polley</li> <li>• Spill response</li> <li>• Species at risk</li> </ul>
<b>WildSafeBC</b>	Program working to prevent wildlife conflicts through collaboration, education and community solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivers wildlife safety and wildlife conflict reduction strategies, including attractant management</li> <li>• Public outreach and education, including via media interviews</li> <li>• Provides expertise to communities seeking Bear Smart status</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
<b>Wildsight</b>	Non-government organization advocating for strong and enforceable mining and environmental legislation that upholds Indigenous Rights, effective conservation, and land-use decisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation</li> <li>• Sustainable communities</li> <li>• Mining impacts</li> </ul>
<b>Yukon Department of Environment</b>	Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality</li> <li>• Trans-boundary monitoring</li> <li>• Parks</li> <li>• Conservation</li> <li>• Wildlife Management</li> <li>• CCME</li> </ul>

## First Nation Organizations and Technical Advisory Groups

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
<b>First Nations Climate Initiative (FNCI)</b>	Indigenous-led initiative that was established in October 2019 and is now led by Haisla, Metlakatla, Nisga'a and Halfway River First Nations prioritizing nature-based solutions, renewable energy, and strategic partnerships to advance climate action and reduce poverty in First Nations' communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northwest Coast Transmission Line</li> <li>• Liquefied Natural Gas</li> <li>• Hydrogen Opportunities</li> <li>• Net Zero</li> <li>• Nature-based Solutions</li> </ul>
<b>First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS)</b>	FNESS is a charitable non-profit organization incorporated under the Society Act of BC and is the organization that First Nations communities reach out to for support and delivery of essential emergency and forest fuel management programs and services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency management</li> <li>• Fuel management</li> <li>• Project partner (along with CFN-Great Bear Initiative) in the Indigenous Climate Resilience Capacity-building Pilot Project (or Regional Climate Adaptation Network)</li> </ul>
<b>First Nations Fisheries Council</b>	A separate legal entity with their own mandates and priorities and receive mandates from Chiefs through the resolution process at the First Nations Leadership Council organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste Management</li> <li>• Marine debris</li> <li>• In Fall 2019, the Province completed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Fisheries Council to explore and support First Nations' involvement in the implementation and development of policy, management, and initiatives</li> </ul>
<b>First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC)</b>	Comprised of the political executives of the BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit, and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies and regulations related to environmental assessment</li> </ul>
<b>First Nations Leadership Council Climate Technical Working Group</b>	Technical representatives from First Nations Leadership Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working collaboratively to provide strategic advice on climate change issues, including implementation of Action 2.12 of the Declaration Act Action Plan</li> <li>• Indigenous climate capacity assessment</li> <li>• Advance DRIPA Action Plan 2.12 (Collaborative development and implementation of CleanBC and Climate Preparedness and</li> </ul>



Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
		Adaptation Strategy to support resilient communities and clean economic opportunities for Indigenous Peoples that benefit our shared climate and advance reconciliation.
<b>Indigenous Climate Adaptation Working Group (ICAWG)</b>	Technical Indigenous representatives from across B.C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides technical advice and guidance on a range of matters related to the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy (CPAS) and Action 2.12 of the Declaration Act Action Plan</li> <li>Indigenous Climate Resilience Capacity Building Pilot Project (also called the Regional Climate Adaptation Network). CAS has provided \$2.25 million to date to support the pilot (ending March 2025).</li> <li>Advance DRIPA Action Plan 2.12 (Collaborative development and implementation of CleanBC and CPAS to support resilient communities and clean economic opportunities for Indigenous Peoples that benefit our shared climate and advance reconciliation.</li> </ul>
<b>Indigenous Tourism Association of BC (ITBC)</b>	Development and promotion of Indigenous cultural tourism in BC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural and sustainable tourism experiences</li> <li>Responsible recreation</li> </ul>
<b>Indigenous Zero Waste Technical Advisory Committee</b>	Non-profit society assisting First Nations to implement zero waste programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero waste</li> </ul>
<b>First Nation Governments</b>		
<b>Ktunaxa Nation Council (KNC)</b>	First Nations tribal council government comprising four Ktunaxa (Kutenai) bands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SE coal mining</li> <li>Wildlife management</li> <li>Fish &amp; aquatic systems</li> </ul>

# Section J

## Environmental Assessment Office

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# SECTION J

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OFFICE

## Environmental Assessment Office Profile

**Ministry:** Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) - Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

### Ministry Mandate:

The EAO is a neutrally administered and independent office of the provincial government, reporting to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV). The EAO partners with the ENV on corporate administration and matters of mutual benefit, but has a separate mandate, budget (vote), and human resources authority. The EAO was established in 1995 to administer the *Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act) and its regulations.

The EAO's legislated mandate requires a publicly accessible, and neutrally administered process under the Act. The 3 to 5 year process assesses environmental, economic, social, cultural, and health effects of major projects proposed in British Columbia (B.C.); identifies means for preventing or reducing adverse effects; and regulates certified projects to ensure compliance with legally binding project conditions.

The Act requires the EAO to promote sustainability and support reconciliation with First Nations. The EAO also facilitates public participation in EAs and coordinates assessments with other governments, including Indigenous nations, and with other provincial ministries and agencies. Where projects have proceeded successfully through the process, the EAO leads compliance and effectiveness monitoring, audit, and regulatory management, often in collaboration with other government agencies.

The EA process is the first authorization process in the regulatory continuum that First Nations and the public encounter on a major project that is considered reviewable under EA legislation, requiring our processes to address a wide range of issues, and engage/consult with a variety of interested parties. Without receiving an EAC, a project cannot proceed.

### Advice/Recommendations

The office's vision is delivering "Excellence in Environmental Assessment" and its mission is to "Inspire confidence through transparent regulatory oversight that protects the environment, fosters a sound economy, and advances Indigenous reconciliation." This is achieved through our highly skilled and supported team in an integrated and effective organization and through the application of timely and transparent regulatory oversight.

The EAO is led by Associate Deputy Minister, Elenore Arend and comprised of four divisions: the EA Operations Division, led by Assistant Deputy Minister, Chris Trumpy, the Strategic Services and Compliance Division, led by Executive Director, Julie Chace, Corporate Services Division, led by Executive Director, Mirella Stanbridge, and the Communications & Engagement team, led by Executive Director, Sarah Plank.

**Related Legislation:**

*Environmental Assessment Act* 2002 and 2018  
 Responsible Minister Order  
 Reviewable Projects Regulation  
 Reviewable Projects Transition Regulation  
 Environmental Assessment Transition Regulation  
 Violation Ticket Administration and Fines Regulation  
 Environmental Assessment Fees Regulation  
 Conservation Officer Service Authority Regulation  
 Natural Resource Officer Authority Regulation  
 Protected Areas Regulation  
 Administrative Penalties Regulation

**Full Time Equivalents (FTEs):** 150

**Executive Organizational Chart:**

**Budget:** \$17.074 Million for 2024/25

**Financial Summary: Environmental Assessment Office**

(\$000s)	2023/24 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2024/25 Estimates	2025/26 Plan	2026/27 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Environmental Assessment Office	16,392	17,074	17,074	17,074
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,392</b>	<b>17,074</b>	<b>17,074</b>	<b>17,074</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.

## Environmental Assessment Office – Corporate Functions: Communication and Engagement and Corporate Services

### **Associate DM Responsible: Elenore Arend.**

Communication and Engagement led by Executive Director of Communication and Engagement Sarah Plank  
Corporate Services led by Executive Director, Corporate Services Mirella Standbridge

### **Overview of Core Business / Program Area: Communications and Engagement**

The Communications and Engagement team supports internal and external communications for the Environmental Assessment Office, including public engagement activities for project assessments. The overall mandate of the team is to increase the public's understanding of environmental assessment processes and outcomes and support more meaningful public participation in the environmental assessment process, thereby building confidence in environmental assessments and compliance and enforcement by the EAO.

The team supports public comment periods, including open houses and virtual information sessions, at various stages of the environmental assessment process. The team works with project assessment teams and compliance and enforcement staff to ensure information on project updates, milestones and enforcement actions posted to the EAO's project information website are accessible to a general public audience. Communications and Engagement maintains the EAO's external public website, the internal intranet site and manages the @BC\_EAO Twitter account. The team also works with Digital Services on internal and external digital engagement tools.

Communications and Engagement liaises with the GCPE-Environment team to respond to media requests related to the EAO's work, and to provide issues management materials on EAO matters, including for Question Period preparations. The team works with the Minister's Office to finalize public communications materials for project decisions, and prepares issues management materials as required and speaking notes for the Minister for environmental assessment-related meetings and events.

The team also supports communications planning for Cabinet and Treasury Board submissions and supports project teams with correspondence and other communications related to high-profile or controversial files.

### **Budget:**

\$590,300 Falls under Associate Deputy Minister's Office.

### **Full Time Equivalents (FTEs): 6**

### **Related Legislation: none**

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

The Corporate Services Division delivers a portfolio of core corporate services in support of the EAO's mandate. Specifically the Division is responsible for: Budget Management including development, monitoring, forecasting, and reporting; Financial Management including policy compliance, procurement and contracting, accounts payable, grant and contribution processing and revenue recognition; Human Resources including transactional HR (recruitment and on-boarding processes) and strategic HR (recruitment & retention, and succession & workforce planning); Strategic Planning including performance monitoring, measuring, and reporting; Organizational Learning & Development including gap analysis and creation of learning plans (role specific and

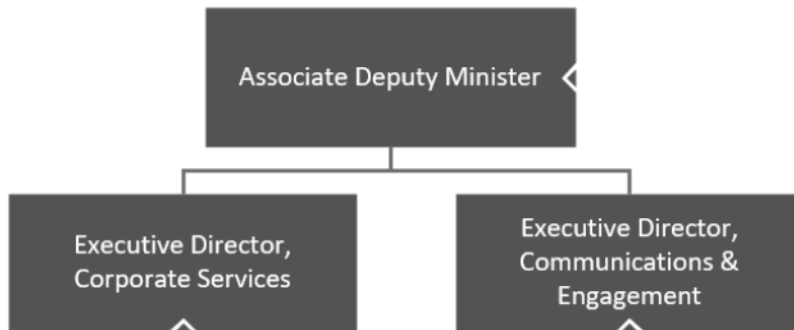
corporate priorities); Freedom of Information & Records Management; and, Business Logistics including building access & security, space planning, and telecommunications.

**Budget:**

984,980 Falls under Associate Deputy Minister's Office.

**Full Time Equivalents (FTEs): 12**

**Organizational Chart:**



## Operations Division

**ADM Responsible:** Chris Trumpy

**Overview of Core Business / Program Area:** Environmental Assessment Operations (EAO) Division

The Environmental Assessment Operations Division (Division) is accountable for conducting the Environmental Assessment (EA) process under the Act and its regulations for projects seeking an EA certificate. Additionally, the division leads other project-related reviews under the Act, such as Exemptions from the requirement to have an EA Certificate, Amendments, Timeline Extensions to an EA Certificate, Minister's Designation Requests, and Project Notifications. The Division maintains the necessary independence of regulatory process and decision making, while working directly with other government agencies on operational and policy/regulatory issues that impact the successful completion of EAs on individual projects, and on cross-sector issues that impact multiple projects. The division works in partnership with First Nations to deliver EA processes that respect Indigenous governance and meet provincial legal and policy requirements.

### EAO Operations Teams

The Division includes four sector-focused project teams: (1) Metal Mining; 2) Coal, Industrial Minerals, Aggregates and Resorts; 3) Oil, Gas & Industrials; 4) Power, Infrastructure, Water, Waste & Manufacturing and one Indigenous Partnerships and Engagement Branch. Project teams are responsible for administering the EA process efficiently and effectively, to support durable regulatory decisions. This work includes public engagement, managing technical expert committees from multiple government agencies, and working closely with project proponents.

The Indigenous Partnerships and Engagement Branch is responsible for supporting sector teams working in partnership with First Nations across B.C., including engagement on project reviews, negotiation and implementation of agreements to support collaborative or consent-based EA processes that respect Indigenous governance (e.g. Declaration Act Agreements). In addition, this Branch ensures linkages to broader agreements such as treaties or comprehensive reconciliation agreements, ongoing government-to-government relationship building and supporting teams through evolving environmental assessment practice to ensure consistency and alignment with shifts in Indigenous legal and policy landscape to advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

**Budget:** 9,374,678.73

**Full Time Equivalents (FTEs):** 89

### Related Legislation:

*Environmental Assessment Act 2018*

*Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act 2019*

Responsible Minister Order

Reviewable Projects Regulation

Reviewable Projects Transition Regulation

Environmental Assessment Transition Regulation

Violation Ticket Administration and Fines Regulation

Environmental Assessment Fees Regulation



**Organizational Chart:**



## Strategic Services and Compliance Division

**Responsible:** Julie Chace, Executive Director

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

Strategic Services and Compliance Division (SSCD) is responsible for the development of legislation, regulation and policies that support the EAO mandate, compliance oversight on Environmental Assessment (EA) certificates and supporting all EA participants and internal staff with the technology to ensure process transparency. In addition, this program area leads the development or refinement of a range of strategic and operational initiatives to ensure the success of the EA process. The Executive Director of SSCD also has delegated authority from the Chief Executive Assessment Officer under Section 60 the *Environmental Assessment Act* to make decisions regarding administrative penalties in cases where Environmental Assessment Certificate holders are not in compliance with their certificates.

SSCD oversees EA certificate compliance through a robust compliance and enforcement program, increases awareness and understanding of compliance requirements both with EA certificate holders and Indigenous nations, and supports the development of clear, measurable and enforceable EA certificate conditions. EAO Compliance and Enforcement works in a coordinated manner with our provincial and federal regulatory partners to ensure efficient compliance and enforcement activities consistent with the expectations of the public and Indigenous groups. EAO Compliance and Enforcement uses a “best placed regulator” approach in areas with shared regulatory jurisdiction, such that the partner agency with the most effective tools and capacity lead the enforcement response.

SSCD also oversees our Digital Services, which aims to increase transparency regarding key information on projects that are going, or have gone, through the EA process and institutes continuous improvement processes to increase functionality and usability of the EAO’s Project Information Centre (EPIC).

**Budget:** \$ 3,787,488.15

**Full Time Equivalents (FTEs):** 42

### **Related Legislation:**

*Environmental Assessment Act* 2002 and 2018

Responsible Minister Order

Reviewable Projects Regulation

Reviewable Projects Transition Regulation

Dispute Resolution Regulation

Environmental Assessment Transition Regulation

Violation Ticket Administration and Fines Regulation

Environmental Assessment Fees Regulation

Conservation Officer Service Authority Regulation

Natural Resource Officer Authority Regulation

Protected Areas Regulation

Administrative Penalties Regulation

**Organizational Chart:**



## Executive Member Biography



**Name:** Elenore Arend

**Title:** Associate Deputy Minister and Chief Executive Assessment Officer

**Ministry:** Environmental Assessment Office - Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy

With over thirty years of public service, Elenore Arend is the Associate Deputy Minister & Chief Executive Assessment Officer for the Environmental Assessment Office. She has been in this role since 2020.

The Environmental Assessment Office is a neutral regulatory agency that conducts environmental assessments on major projects to ensure that any potential environmental, economic, social, cultural and health effects are thoroughly assessed and addressed. The office also conducts compliance and enforcement on projects where an Environmental Assessment Certificate has been granted. In addition to leading the office, Elenore is a statutory decision maker under the Environmental Assessment Act and is charged with decisions related to the environmental assessment process and post-certificate compliance and enforcement activities.

### Personal Information

Throughout her career, Elenore has taken leadership roles on issues related to policy and program development and promoting excellence in service delivery over the course of her career. She also has significant experience working with Indigenous partners and comes to this work with great respect for the importance of these government-to-government relationships. Elenore is proud to apply her experience to support the continued standard of excellence of the Environmental Assessment Office.

## Executive Member Biography



**Name:** Chris Trumpy

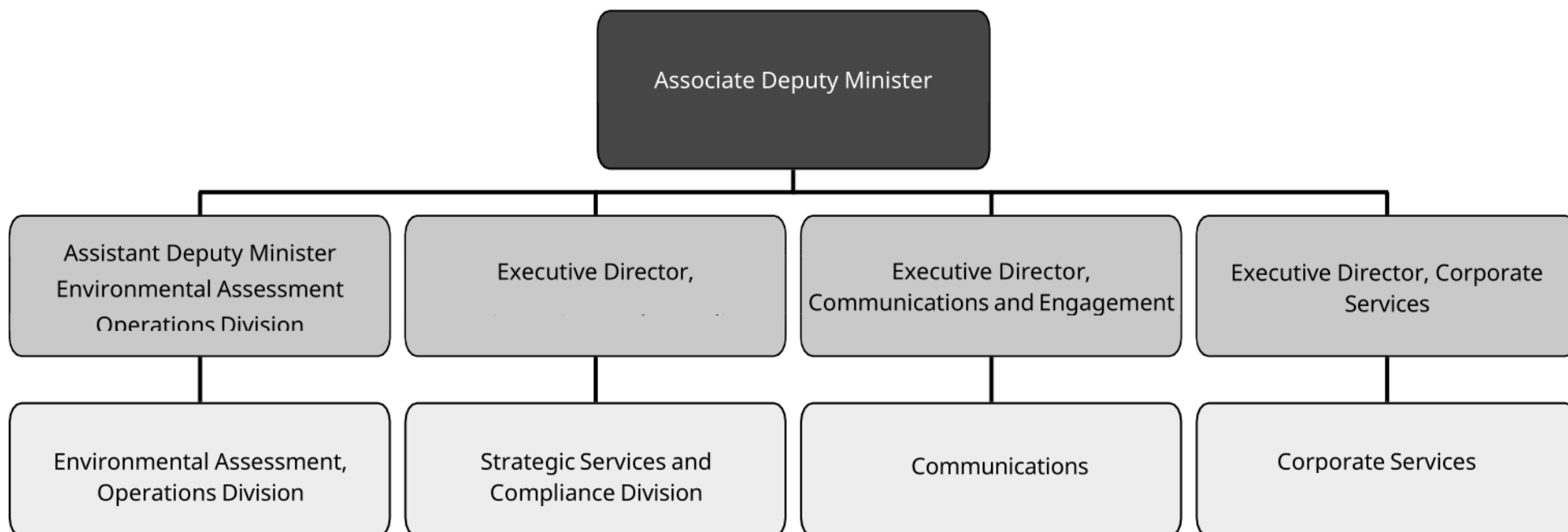
**Title:** Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations Division

**Ministry:** Environmental Assessment Office - Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy

Chris Trumpy was appointed to the Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations Division with the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO), effective September 26, 2022. In this role he has responsibility for providing leadership to the Operations Division in EAO and for the effective delivery of environmental assessment projects pursuant to the Environmental Assessment Act.

### Personal Information

## Environmental Assessment Office Organizational Chart



## Vote Description

### Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2025

#### MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

#### VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

Estimates 2023/24	Estimates 2024/25
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#### VOTE 25 — ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OFFICE

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

#### ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OFFICE

##### Voted Appropriation

Environmental Assessment Office.....	16,392	17,074
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**Voted Appropriation Description:** This sub-vote provides for the administration and continuous improvement of an objective, publicly accessible, and neutrally administered process under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. The process assesses environmental, economic, social, cultural, and health effects of major projects proposed in British Columbia; identifies means for preventing or reducing adverse effects; and regulates certified projects to ensure compliance with legally-binding project conditions. The Environmental Assessment Office promotes sustainability and supports reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in British Columbia. The Environmental Assessment Office also facilitates public participation in environmental assessments and coordinates assessments with other governments, including Indigenous nations, and with other provincial ministries and agencies. Where projects have proceeded successfully through the process, the Environmental Assessment Office leads compliance and effectiveness monitoring, audit, and management, often in collaboration with other government agencies. Costs may be recovered from ministries, other entities within government, other levels of government, organizations, businesses, and individuals for activities described within this sub-vote.

<b>VOTE 25 — ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OFFICE</b>	16,392	17,074
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# Supplement to the Estimates Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2025

## VOTE 25 Environmental Assessment Office

Description	Total 2023/24 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Environmental Assessment Office	16,392	9,524	62	2,426	—	12,012	1	496	645	852	125	160	—	—	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,392</b>	<b>9,524</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>2,426</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>12,012</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3</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
2	—	5	1	2,290	2,400	—	1,150	3,550	—	—	124	124	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(900)	(901)	17,074
<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2,290</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>3,550</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(900)</b>	<b>(901)</b>	<b>17,074</b>



## Key Stakeholders Environmental Assessment Office

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
<b>Association for Mineral Exploration of BC</b> Keerit Jutla President and CEO 778 772-4410 <a href="mailto:KJutla@amebc.ca">KJutla@amebc.ca</a>	Predominant voice of mineral exploration and development in BC.	Consent agreements – Stakeholder engagement on all agreements with Tahltan.
<b>Alliance of British Columbia Modern Treaty Nations</b> Angela Polifroni Executive Director 250 588-3273 <a href="mailto:AngelaP@alliancebcmtn.ca">AngelaP@alliancebcmtn.ca</a>  Kylie Barwise Coordinating Support 613 237-3613 ext. 225 <a href="mailto:KBarwise@Nvisiongroup.ca">KBarwise@Nvisiongroup.ca</a>	The Alliance works together to advance and advocate for areas of shared interest relating to the implementation of modern treaties in British Columbia. Membership includes each of the eight Modern Treaty Nations in BC.	EAO Act Review team has engaged with ABCMTN during the Review Preparation Phase of the legislative review (Act Review) of the <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> (2018) (EA Act). It's anticipated that the Alliance will want to participate in the Act Review.
<b>British Columbia Energy Regulator</b> Michelle Carr Commissioner, CEO 250 794-5200 <a href="mailto:Michelle.Carr@bc-er.ca">Michelle.Carr@bc-er.ca</a>	Regulatory responsibility is delegated by the Province of British Columbia to the BC Energy Regulator through the Energy Resource Activities Act and includes specified enactments under the Forest Act, Heritage Conservation Act, Land Act, Environmental Management Act, and Water Sustainability Act.	Coordinating compliance and enforcement activities in areas of regulatory overlap.
<b>BC First Nations Energy and Mining Council</b> Dave Porter CEO 604 924-3844	Non-profit organization with a mandate from FNLC to support and facilitate responsible energy and mining resource development.	Consent and consent decision making. Legislative review and regulations.

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
<a href="mailto:Dave.Porter@fnemc.ca">Dave.Porter@fnemc.ca</a>  Yvonne Prince 604 924-3844 <a href="mailto:Yvonne.Prince@fnemc.ca">Yvonne.Prince@fnemc.ca</a>		
<b>BC Stone Sand and Gravel Association</b> Rick Kovach President 250-596-5633 <a href="mailto:president@gravelbc.ca">president@gravelbc.ca</a>	Represents the aggregate industry that includes all types of quarry materials such as sand, gravel and rock. They are used to build and maintain our roads, construct bridges and buildings, provide solid bases for playing fields, water lines and sewer systems. It is the main component in both concrete and asphalt.	Thresholds in the Reviewable Project Regulation.
<b>Business Council of British Columbia</b> Laura Jones President and CEO 604 684-3384 <a href="mailto:Laura.Jones@bccbc.com">Laura.Jones@bccbc.com</a>	Non-partisan organization that provides timely and exceptional public-policy research and advice on issues to enhance BC's competitiveness and prosperity.	Stakeholder engagement on all consent agreements with Tahltan. Engaged as an industry association in summer 2024 to identify priority issues for consideration in the upcoming Act Review process.
<b>Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers</b> Lisa Baiton President & CEO 403 267-1100 <a href="mailto:Lisa.Baiton@capp.ca">Lisa.Baiton@capp.ca</a>	The voice of Canada's upstream oil and natural gas industry that enable the responsible growth of their industry.	Engaged as an industry association in summer 2024 to identify priority issues for consideration in the upcoming Act Review process.
<b>Canada Energy Regulator (Formerly National Energy Board)</b> Tracy Sletto CEO 403 299-2724 <a href="mailto:Tracy.Sletto@cer-rec.gc.ca">Tracy.Sletto@cer-rec.gc.ca</a>  Jonathan Wilkinson	Federal government agency that regulates projects such as pipelines, energy development, and trade that are in the Canadian public interest and regulated under the federal <i>Canadian Energy Regulators Act</i> and the B.C. <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> .	Coordinating compliance and enforcement activities in areas of regulatory overlap.

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
Minister of Energy and Natural Resources 613 995-1225 <a href="mailto:Jonathan.Wilkinson@parl.gc.ca">Jonathan.Wilkinson@parl.gc.ca</a>		
<b>Clean Energy British Columbia</b> Cole Sayers <b>Executive Director</b> <a href="mailto:kwatuuma@cleanenergybc.org">kwatuuma@cleanenergybc.org</a>	Promotes and supports the growth of BC's Clean Energy industry.	Engaged as an industry association in summer 2024 to identify priority issues for consideration in the upcoming Act Review process.  Thresholds in the Reviewable Projects Regulation.  Industry representative regarding BC Hydro Call for Power.
<b>First Nations Leadership Council</b> Terry Teegee Regional Chief 250 962-1603 <a href="mailto:TTeegee@cstc.bc.ca">TTeegee@cstc.bc.ca</a>	Comprised of the political executives of the BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit, and the Union of BC Indigenous Chiefs.	Consent and consent decision making.  Legislative review and regulations.  Key First Nations organization to be engaged early and throughout any policy and/or legislative amendment to understand First Nations priorities and approaches to co-development. Note: Not all First Nations view FNLC as representation their interests. Work with FNLC does not preclude the need for direct consult and cooperate activities with First Nations.
<b>First Nations LNG Alliance</b> Karen Ogen CEO 604 329-8712 <a href="mailto:ceo@fnlngalliance.com">ceo@fnlngalliance.com</a>	The First Nations LNG Alliance is a collective of First Nations participating in, and supportive of, sustainable and responsible LNG development in BC.	
<b>First Nations Major Projects Coalition</b> Niilo Edwards Chief Executive Officer 604 949-3230	A collective of over 90 Indigenous nations across Canada working towards the enhancement of the economic well-being of its members.	Consent and consent decision making.  Legislative review and regulations.

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
<a href="mailto:ceo@fnmpc.ca">ceo@fnmpc.ca</a>		
<b>Impact Assessment Agency of Canada</b> The Honourable Steven Guilbeault Minister of Environment and Climate Change 1 613 992-6779 <a href="mailto:Steven.Guilbeault@parl.gc.ca">Steven.Guilbeault@parl.gc.ca</a>  Terence Hubbard President, IAAC 613 948-2671 <a href="mailto:Terence.Hubbard@iaac-aeic.gc.ca">Terence.Hubbard@iaac-aeic.gc.ca</a>	Federal government agency that regulates projects under the federal Impact Assessment Act and the B.C. Environmental Assessment Act.	Coordinating compliance and enforcement activities in areas of regulatory overlap. Coordinating negotiation of agreements related to EA (mainly treaty). Master Agreement between IAAC and EAO that commits both regulatory agencies to coordinate their assessments on projects requiring assessments by federal and provincial legislation.
<b>Mining Association of BC (MABC)</b> Michael Goehring President and CEO 604 681-4321 ext.110 <a href="mailto:MGoehring@mining.bc.ca">MGoehring@mining.bc.ca</a>  Tim McEwan Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs 604 761-1892 <a href="mailto:TMcEwan@mining.bc.ca">TMcEwan@mining.bc.ca</a>	The predominant voice of mining in BC, they represent coal, metal, industrial mineral companies and smelters in BC.	Consent agreements – stakeholder engagement on all agreements with Tahltan. Engaged as an industry association in summer 2024 to identify priority issues for consideration in the upcoming Act Review process. Thresholds for mineral mines in the Reviewable Project Regulation. Regulatory overlap with EMLI, and general concerns the confusion and inefficiency that may stem from lack of consistency in definitions between the EA Act and regs and the leg/regs for mining. Timelines for EAs.
<b>Union of BC Municipalities</b> Trish Mandewo UBCM President 604 362-4650 <a href="mailto:TMandewo@coquitlam.ca">TMandewo@coquitlam.ca</a>	Is the common voice for local government holding an annual convention that continues to be the main forum for UBCM policymaking. ENV has UBCM Green Communities Committee	Legislative review and regulations

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
<b>University of Victoria Environmental Law</b> Deborah Curran Executive Director 250 853-3105 <a href="mailto:DIC@uvic.ca">DIC@uvic.ca</a>	Operates Canada's largest public interest environmental law clinic in partnership with the University of Victoria, Faculty of Law. They have two primary objectives: to provide legal capacity to community organizations, First Nations and individuals to improve environmental health; and to train the next generation of public interest environmental lawyers.	Legislative review and regulations
<b>West Coast Environmental Law</b> Lisa Mattheus President 604 684-7378 <a href="mailto:Lisa@organizingforchange.org">Lisa@organizingforchange.org</a>	Provides citizens and organizations with the knowledge, tools and innovative solutions needed to protect the environment and build sustainability locally, nationally and internationally.	Legislative review and regulations

# OVERVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OFFICE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

NOVEMBER 2024



**EAO**

Environmental  
Assessment Office

# Objectives

- Learn about the Environmental Assessment Office
- Provide an overview of environmental assessments (EA) in B.C.
- Explain what Environmental Assessment Revitalization was
- Explain who participates in an EA and how
- Provide an overview of current projects

# About the Environmental Assessment Office

- **Neutral regulatory agency responsible for administering the Environmental Assessment Act and regulations. The Act defines the purpose of the EAO:**
  - Carry out its responsibilities under the Act,
  - Promote sustainability by protecting the environment and fostering a sound economy and the well-being of British Columbians and their communities, and
  - Support reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in B.C., including implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

## Quick Facts

### Small office with a focused mandate

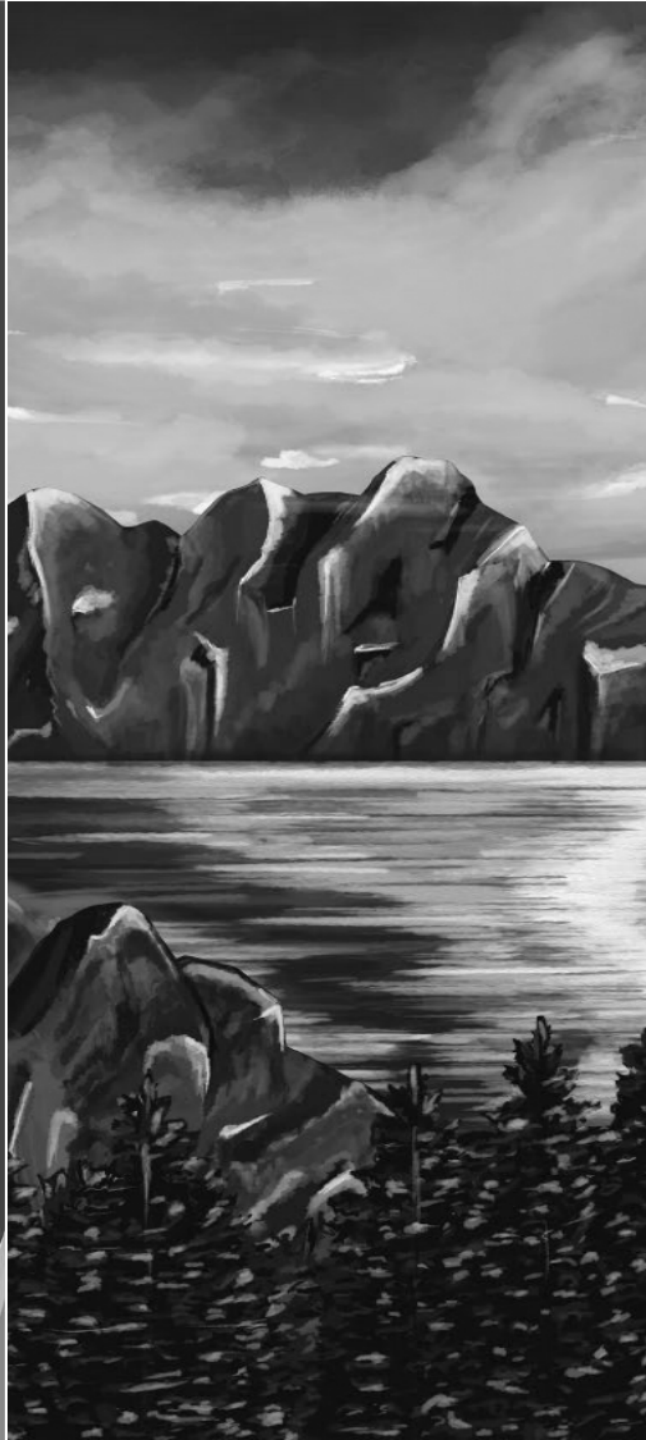
- Headed by an Associate Deputy Minister (Chief Executive Assessment Officer)
- 140 employees

Only province in Canada to have a stand-alone office dedicated to EAs

\$16.392 million operating budget (2023/2024 Estimates), with fees going to Consolidated Revenue Fund



# Strategic Plan (2022- 2025)



## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OFFICE

### VISION

EXCELLENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

### MISSION

INSPIRE CONFIDENCE THROUGH TRANSPARENT REGULATORY OVERSIGHT THAT PROTECTS THE ENVIRONMENT, FOSTERS A SOUND ECONOMY AND ADVANCES INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION

### PRIORITIES & GOALS

#### HIGHLY SKILLED & SUPPORTED PEOPLE

- Position the EAO as a progressive learning organization that supports our people to continuously grow and be skilled in their duties.
- Retain, support and recruit an innovative, diverse and skilled workforce.
- Promote a workplace of respectful, professional and diverse individuals.

#### AN INTEGRATED & EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION

- Enhance organizational effectiveness.
- Enhance efficiency, transparency and accessibility through technology advancement.

#### THOROUGH, TIMELY & TRANSPARENT REGULATORY OVERSIGHT

- Administer timely project assessments using consistent practices that support durable decisions.
- Continuously enhance our practices to ensure a neutral and effective compliance and enforcement program.
- Facilitate meaningful public engagement that inspires confidence.
- Position the EAO to navigate significant strategic issues that support environmental assessments.

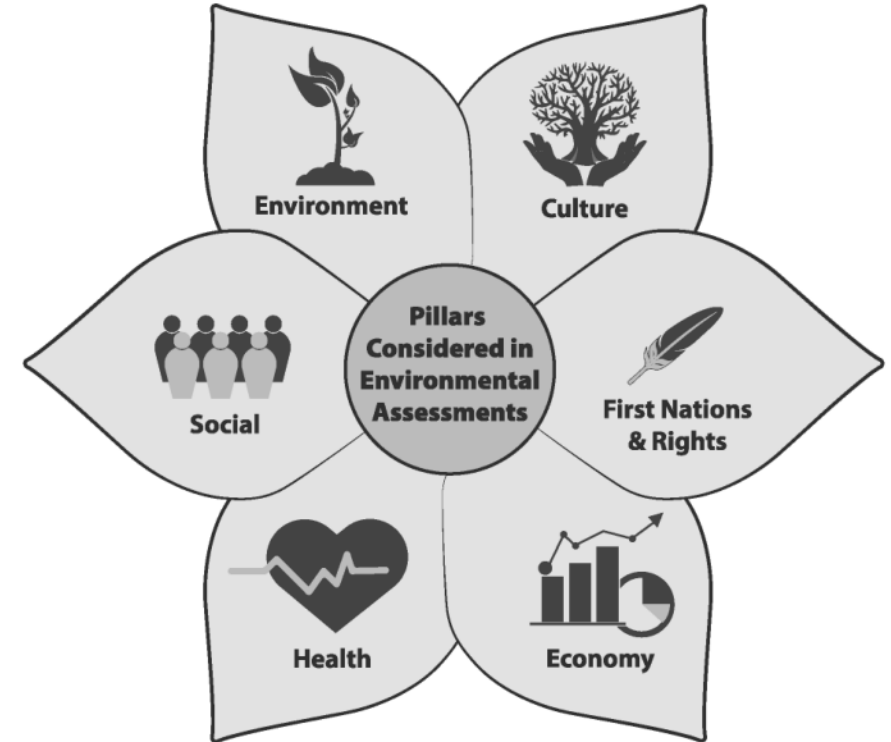
#### ADVANCE RECONCILIATION WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

- Build relationships to support the delivery of environmental assessment processes and advance reconciliation.
- Develop policies and practices that support implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the Environmental Assessment Act.
- Support Indigenous governance and decision-making in environmental assessment.

# What is an Environmental Assessment?

- Decision-making process used to help identify and evaluate potential positive and negative effects of a proposed project before decisions are made
- Informs provincial decision-makers' decision on whether or not to approve a project to proceed
- Identifies measures to impose on the project to mitigate potential effects

## PILLARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS IN B.C.



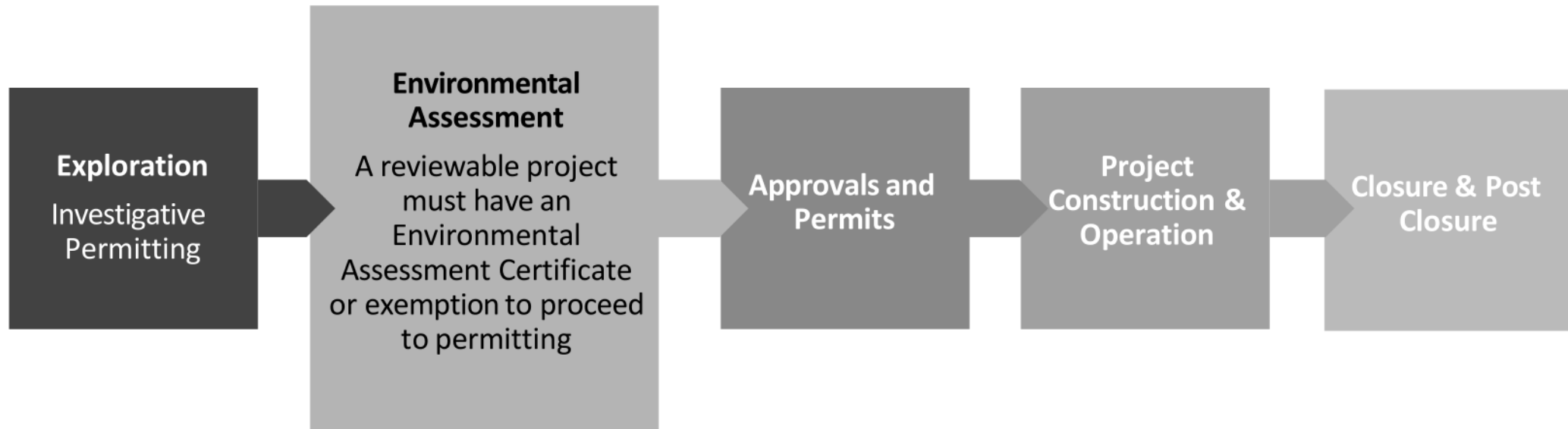
**EAO**

Environmental  
Assessment Office

**EAO**

Environmental  
Assessment Office

# Where is Environmental Assessment in the life-cycle of a project?



# When does a project need an environmental assessment?

- Reviewable projects require an Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) or an Exemption Order before continuing to permitting – both are legally binding authorizations.
- If a project is reviewable, the following are prohibited until either an EAC or Exemption Order is granted:
  - Undertake or carry on any activity, or construct, operate, modify, dismantle or abandon all or part of the facilities.
  - Issuance of permits and authorizations by other agencies.



The principle of 'One Project, One Assessment' means that Canada and B.C. agree to cooperatively exercise their respective powers and duties, while retaining the power to make their own decisions on projects.

# Coordination with Federal Impact Assessments

- Some reviewable projects may require a federal impact assessment by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada.
- Alberta challenged the constitutionality of the federal *Impact Assessment Act* (2019), resulting in amendments (2024) clarifying federal jurisdiction.
- The B.C. - Canada Impact Assessment Cooperation Agreement is scheduled to be updated in 2025.

## WHAT IS THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT?

- Establishes a framework between B.C. and Canada for cooperation on assessments. Cooperation models include:
  - **Substitution:** where B.C. conducts the EA on behalf of B.C. and Canada, followed by separate decisions;
  - **Coordination:** where federal and provincial EAs are coordinated to the greatest extent possible; or
  - **Joint Review Panels:** where B.C. and Canada jointly appoint panel members and agree to terms of reference.

# What was EA Revitalization?



**EAO**

Environmental  
Assessment Office

In 2017, the Province of British Columbia announced its plans to revitalize the EA process “to ensure the legal rights of First Nations are respected, and the public’s expectations of a strong and transparent process is met” (ENV Mandate Letter).

# EA Revitalization

## WHAT WERE THE OBJECTIVES?

1. Enhancing public confidence and meaningful participation
2. Advancing reconciliation with First Nations
3. Protecting the environment while offering clear pathways to sustainable project approvals

## NEW *ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT* (2018)

- Received royal assent November 27, 2018
- Came into force on December 16, 2019
- New regulations, policies and guidance developed
- Act Review must be initiated on or before December 16, 2024

# Who participates in an EA and how?



**EAO**

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# Who participates in EAs?

- First Nations
- The public
- Stakeholders
- The proponent
- Provincial and Federal agencies
- Local governments
- Technical Advisors
- Community Advisory Committee
- Other jurisdictions, as applicable



# How are First Nations involved in EAs?

## LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- The Act sets out a new legal framework, including:
  - A reconciliation purpose for the EAO, including implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and recognition of the inherent jurisdiction of Indigenous peoples;
  - First Nations are identified to participate in the EA process;
  - Broad procedural rights including consensus seeking, access to dispute resolution, assessments tailored to meet the needs of First Nations, and membership on the Technical Advisory Committee for participating Indigenous nations; and
  - Capacity funding.

Facilitating meaningful public participation throughout the EA process is one of the purposes of the EAO identified in the Act.

## How is the Public Involved in an EA?

- Public engagement is central to the EA process – to inform the public, understand what is valued, get input on potential effects, and understand the consequences of effects.
- There are four EA public engagement periods in the Act. Public interest informs the total number of public engagement opportunities.
  - These may include in-person and/or virtual engagement.
- Information about projects is publicly accessible through the EAO's Project Information Centre (EPIC)

# EA Process Overview



**EAO**

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# Environmental Assessment Process (2018)

## SUMMARY OF THE PROCESS FROM EARLY ENGAGEMENT TO POST-CERTIFICATE

### Timelines



Seek consensus with participating Indigenous nations throughout the process



# Environmental Assessment Decision

MINISTERS MUST DECIDE TO ISSUE OR REFUSE AN EAC

## Purpose & Objectives:

- The Minister responsible for administering the Act and a Responsible Minister with responsibility for activities in the sector decide whether to issue an EAC for the proposed project and attach any conditions.
- Ministers are required to offer to meet with participating Indigenous nations if their notice of consent or lack of consent is not aligned with the recommendation of the Chief Executive Assessment Officer (CEAO).

## Deliverables & Outcomes:

- Ministers' Decision
- Ministers' Reasons for Decision
- Final EAC (if granted)

# Responsible Ministries Order (RMO)

An alternate responsible minister is designated for each of the categories for situations where the organization proposing to build a project is a government agency (for instance, a Crown corporation or a ministry) and the responsible minister is in charge of that government agency.

Category of Reviewable Projects	Responsible Minister	Alternate Responsible Minister
Energy	Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation	Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation
Mine	Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation	Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation
Industrial (Forest Products Industries)	Forests	Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation
Industrial (other than Forest Products Industries)	Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation	Forests
Tourist Destination Resort	Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport	Municipal Affairs
Waste Disposal	Municipal Affairs	Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Water Management	Water, Land and Resource Stewardship	Municipal Affairs
Transportation	Transportation and Infrastructure	Municipal Affairs

# Primary Statutory Decisions

MINISTERS MUST DECIDE TO ISSUE OR REFUSE AN EAC

EAC decisions are made by the Minister and the Responsible Minister while other decisions are made by the minister, or can be delegated to the CEO or Deputy CEO

- **EA Amendments** - required for proposed changes to the project, Certificate holders can seek amendments at any time, the CEO can also make amendments in certain circumstances such as in response to mitigation effectiveness reports or audit outcomes. Delegation: CEO (complex), Deputy CEO (simple/typical).
- **Designation Requests** - For projects that do not meet the thresholds to become reviewable, the Act provides an opportunity for any person to apply to the Minister for a project to be considered reviewable.
- **Project Notifications** – Certain thresholds are identified in the RPR that require a proponent to seek out a determination from the EAO that no further review is required before they can start the project. Delegation: Deputy CEO.
- **Substantial Start** - EACs must specify a deadline (up to 10 years) for the project to be substantially started. A one-time extension of five years may be granted upon application by the holder.



# Post Certificate Overview



**EAO**

Environmental  
Assessment Office

The EAO is also responsible for ensuring regulatory oversight and compliance on projects once they are certified or provided an exemption.

# Post-Decision – Certificate Requirements

## Management Plans

EACs often have conditions that require a Certificate Holder to develop an associated management plan, which provides a mechanism to design and communicate how detailed project implementation requirements will be fulfilled. Management plans are a key regulatory tool that ensure that adverse effects identified during the EA of a proposed project are avoided or mitigated as the project progresses through construction to operations and beyond.

## OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Other post-certification related activities outlined in conditions can include annual / mitigation effectiveness reporting; development of contribution agreements; and working with other parties listed in the table of conditions on certificate requirements. The EAO also works with First Nations and other identified parties in the conditions if issues arise during the management plan (or other post certificate activity) development and review process.

Compliance and enforcement continues throughout the life of the project.

There are approximately 150 inspectable projects with EACs or Exemption Orders.

# Post-Decision – Compliance and Enforcement

## COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT

EAO's Compliance and Enforcement Branch (CEB) inspects projects and, where appropriate, uses enforcement to ensure projects are designed, built, operated and decommissioned or reclaimed in compliance with legally-binding requirements of the Act, its regulations, and any EAC or Exemption Order. CEB works closely with partner agencies where there is a shared regulatory responsibility.

## INSPECTIONS

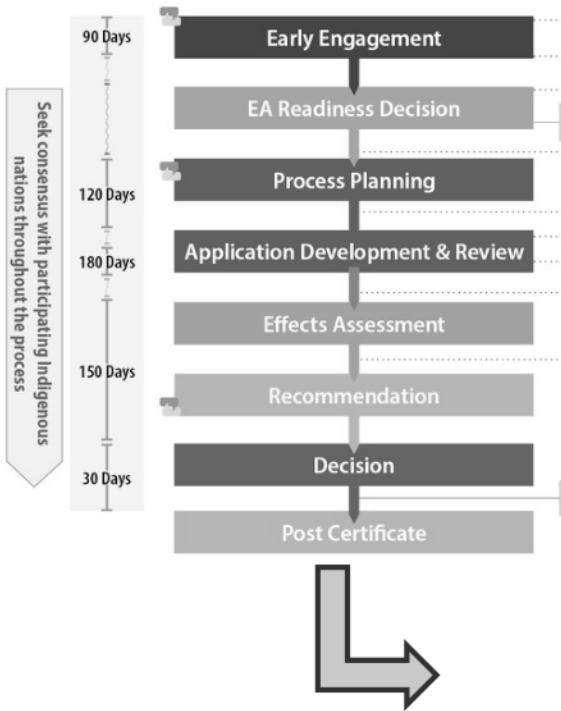
CEB Inspects against EAC Conditions, Certified Project Descriptions, Management Plans, and previously issued enforcement. Guided by policy and procedure with enforcement tools such as Orders to Prevent, Cease or Remedy and Administrative monetary penalties. CEB also engages with First Nations to ensure meaningful participation in C&E.

## CURRENT PROJECTS

Key projects currently include: Site C, Prince Rupert Gas Transmission, Woodfibre LNG, Eagle Mountain Pipeline, Blackwater Gold, Pattullo Bridge Replacement

# EA Post Certificate

## Compliance & Enforcement Decision Framework



### POST CERTIFICATE

Data Capture (Digital Services)

Compliance Verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Management Plan review and approval</li><li>• Administrative compliance and enforcement</li></ul>
Field Compliance & Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inspections</li><li>• Investigations</li><li>• Enforcement</li></ul>
Mitigation Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monitoring/reporting, if required by EAC conditions</li><li>• Section 30 order: requirement for mitigation effectiveness reporting</li></ul>
Regulatory Efficacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Section 32(5)(a): EAC amendment requested by person, board, tribunal, or agency</li><li>• Section 74: Audits</li><li>• Section 76: 5 Year Review</li><li>• Cross-agency cooperation</li></ul>
EAC Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Substantial start determination</li><li>• Extensions</li><li>• EAC amendment</li></ul>

# Upcoming Decisions



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# Near Term Ministers' EAC Decisions

MINISTERS MUST DECIDE TO ISSUE OR REFUSE AN EAC

## Highland Valley Copper Mine Life Extension

- Proposed extension of the operating open pit copper-molybdenum mine near Logan Lake, British Columbia, owned by Teck Highland Valley Copper Partnership.
- Currently in 150-day Effects Assessment phase, which is expected to end with referral from the Chief Executive Assessment Officer to Ministers for decision

Advice/Recommendations

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

# Near Term Ministers' EAC Decisions

MINISTERS MUST DECIDE TO ISSUE OR REFUSE AN EAC

## **Ksi Lisms LNG – Natural Gas Liquefaction and Marine Terminal**

- A floating LNG export facility on the northwest coast of British Columbia jointly developed by Nisga'a Nation, Rockies LNG Limited Partnership and Western LNG
- Substituted under the *Impact Assessment Act*.
- Currently in the Effects Assessment phase, the EAO anticipates referring the Application for an EA certificate to the Responsible Ministers by <sup>Advice/Recommendations</sup>

# Upcoming Decisions Expected in the Next Six Months

Project	Type	Decision Timeline	Decision Makers
Coastal GasLink Racoon Lake	Amendment	October 2024	Deputy Chief Executive Assessment Officer
Cabin Gas Plant	Transfer	November 2024	Chief Executive Assessment Officer
Coastal GasLink Electrification	Amendment	November 2024	Chief Executive Assessment Officer
Galore Creek Cooper-Silver-Gold	Amendment	November 2024	Chief Executive Assessment Officer or Deputy Chief Executive Assessment Officer
Gibraltar Mine Expansion	Designation Request	Advice/Recommendations	Chief Executive Assessment Officer
Highland Valley Copper Mine Life Extension	EA Certificate Referral		Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy & Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
Tranquille on the Lake	Designation Request		Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Line Creek Operations Phase II	Amendment		Chief Executive Assessment Officer
McLymont Creek Hydroelectric (two submissions)	Amendment		Chief Executive Assessment Officer
Basal Aquifer Dewatering	Amendment		Chief Executive Assessment Officer or Deputy Chief Executive Assessment Officer
Ksi Lisims LNG	EA Certificate Referral		Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy & Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
Prince Rupert Gas Transmission	Substantial Start		Chief Executive Assessment Officer



Project	Type	Decision Timeline	Decision Makers
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# Questions?



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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Business Information ; Advice/Recommendations

B.C. Government Natural Resource Sector ministries and agencies, and relevant health, social and economic ministries (including EAO staff, permitting agencies and reconciliation teams);

B.C First Nations, Indigenous governing bodies, and First Nations organizations;

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada;

Industry associations; and

The Union of B.C. Municipalities.

The EAO is currently analyzing feedback from consultation / engagement and developing draft recommendations for the Minister. The EAO's analysis is also informed by the strategic priorities and obligations of government, and the EAO will be engaging with NRS executive committees on its draft proposal.

The EAO has been guided by the *Interim Approach* in its consultation and cooperation with B.C. First Nations and Indigenous governing bodies. Consultation and cooperation discussions have paused during the interregnum, and will resume in late 2024 / early 2025 as directed by the Minister, to continue discussions on proposed process and areas of focus for the Review.

<p>TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Assessment Office</p>	<p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROJECTS</b></p>
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**KEY FACTS**

As of September 20, 2024, there are 48 project-works at various stages of the environmental assessment (EA) process. 21 of those are new major projects seeking EA certificates, and the remaining project-works have different levels of activity: seeking amendments or approvals to existing EA certificates, other post certification activities, or designation/notification application review. The EAO is currently conducting an analysis of three designation requests that don't meet the threshold to automatically be reviewable.

Of the 21 project-works seeking EA certificates: three are metal mining, five are coal mining, one is industrial aggregates, two are transportation, seven are energy, two are industrial, and one is waste management.

16 of the 21 project-works undergoing an EA represent an estimated \$24 billion in potential capital investment.

An estimated 23 incoming requests for Environmental Assessment Certificates (EA requests) may enter the EAO over the next 1-2 years. Historical volumes include 1-3 EA Requests per year. The anticipated increase is driven by current provincial priorities including Call for Power, Critical Minerals, Hydrogen, Public Infrastructure and projects already in operation.

Since December 2022, the Ministers have taken decisions on whether to approve an EA certificate for five projects to responsible Ministers.

Under the 2002 *Environmental Assessment Act*, Ministers granted an EA certificate on March 13, 2023, for the Cedar LNG project near Kitimat; on September 28, 2023, for the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 project in Delta; and on March 27, 2024, for the Tilbury Marine Jetty Project (referred to Ministers in October 2022) in Delta. On December 21, 2022, Ministers declined to issue an EA certificate for the proposed Sukunka Coal Mine project.

Since the 2018 *Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act) came into force, one project has completed a full EA: The ministers granted an EA certificate on October 10, 2023, for the Cariboo Gold Project in Wells.

Since December 2022, fifteen amendments to existing EA certificates, six designation requests and six project notifications have received decisions.

Three projects are currently (or in negotiation to be) subject to a *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Consent-Based Decision-Making Agreement with the Tahltan Central Government: The Eskay Creek Revitalization and Red Chris Mine Expansion projects have signed agreements currently being implemented, while the Galore Creek Copper-Gold-Silver project's agreement is currently being negotiated

**BACKGROUND**

Upcoming Minister's decisions on EA Certificates include the Highland Valley Copper Mine Life Extension (HVC MLE) project (referral date Advice/Recommendation In 2025, expected referrals include the Ksi Lisims LNG Project (expected referral Advice/Recommendation); and the Tilbury Phase 2 LNG Expansion Project, expected for referral in Advice/Recommendation. The Act sets out that a Minister's decision must be made within 30 calendar days of referral.

Highland Valley Copper Mine Life Extension Project (HVC MLE)

HVC MLE is a proposed extension of the operating open pit copper-molybdenum mine near Logan Lake, B.C.,

owned by Teck Resources.

HVC MLE would extend the mine's life from 2028 until approximately 2043, producing an additional 900 million tonnes of ore, 1.95 million tonnes of copper and 1 billion tonnes of tailings (approximately). The project currently employs 1,320 employees.

HVC MLE would extend the existing Valley and Highmont pits, waste rock dumps and the Highland tailings storage facility, increase mill capacity, reroute local power and gas lines, and potentially relocate an adjacent section of Highway 97C. The new disturbance area is 731 hectares.

The EAO, the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy are implementing a combined EA and permitting strategy for HVC MLE.

Parties from both the Nlaka'pamux and Secwepemc Nations have been deeply engaged and consulted by the EAO and permitting agencies during the combined EA and permitting process.

Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC) and Citxw Nlaka'pamux Assembly (CNA), and the Lower Nicola Indian band have asked to meet with responsible ministers after the EAO's referral of the project to Ministers and before Ministers decide on the project. Business Information; Advice/Recommendations  
Business Information; Advice/Recommendations

The EA is currently in the Effects Assessment phase of the EA (the last stage prior to referral).

#### Ksi Lisims LNG – Natural Gas Liquefaction and Marine Terminal (Ksi Lisims)

Nisga'a Nation, Rockies LNG Limited Partnership and Western LNG LLC (together, the Proponents) are proposing to jointly develop Ksi Lisims, a floating natural gas liquefaction facility and marine export terminal at Wil Milit on the northern end of Pearse Island on the northwest coast of B.C.

The upland portions of Ksi Lisims would be located on Nisga'a Treaty Category A Lands (District Lots 5431 and 7235) owned in fee simple by the Nisga'a Nation and on an adjacent un-surveyed proposed water lot located on Pearse and Portland Canals.

At full build-out, Ksi Lisims would receive up to 2 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) of pipeline grade natural gas and export a maximum of 22.4 billion cubic metres per year of liquified natural gas. Ksi Lisims is designed to process approximately 575 to 695 billion cubic feet per year (Bcf/yr) of natural gas during an expected project life of at least 30 years.

The Proponents intend for Ksi Lisims to be net-zero ready by 2030.

The Assessment of the Ksi Lisims Project has been substituted under the *Impact Assessment Act*.

Nisga'a Nation has opted to not engage in the Ksi Lisims EA as a participating Indigenous nation. The EAO, Nisga'a Nation and the Impact Assessment Agency, have jointly developed a collaborative workplan for the Ksi Lisims EA. This workplan is designed to cooperatively support assessments required under Chapter 10 of the Nisga'a Treaty, the *Environmental Assessment Act* and the *Impact Assessment Act*. There are consensus-seeking points built into the collaborative workplan throughout the EA process.

The EA is currently in the Effects Assessment phase of the EA (the last stage prior to referral).

#### Tilbury Phase 2 LNG Expansion (Tilbury Phase 2)

FortisBC is proposing to expand an existing liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility on Tilbury Island in Delta, B.C. The proposed expansion is to increase the LNG storage capacity of the facility by 142,400 cubic metres (3.5 petajoules), for a total capacity of 216,400 cubic metres

(5.3 petajoules) of LNG and increase the LNG production capacity of the facility by up to 7,700 tonnes per day through the construction of a storage tank, liquefaction trains and supporting infrastructure.

The operational life of Tilbury Phase 2 is expected to be at least 30 years.

The assessment of Tilbury Phase 2 has been substituted under the *Impact Assessment Act*.

A number of ENGOs have actively opposed Tilbury Phase 2.

The City of Richmond, City of Vancouver, City of New Westminster, and City of Port Moody have passed resolutions to oppose Tilbury Phase 2. The EAO continues to share information with these local governments during the assessment.

Tilbury Phase 2 is now in the Application Development and Review phase of the EA. FortisBC anticipates submitting its Application in *Advice/Recomm*, which will include a public comment period, as well as First Nation and Technical Advisory Committee review and triggers a 180-day Application Review period.

## Appendix 1: Decisions

### List of the Projects that have received Environmental Assessment Certificates since 2018

Project	Sector	Region	EAC Issuance Date
<b>Under the 2018 <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i></b>			
Cariboo Gold Project	Mines (Mineral)	Cariboo	October 10, 2023
<b>Under the 2002 <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i></b>			
Tilbury Marine Jetty	Transportation (Marine Port Facilities)	Lower Mainland	March 27, 2024
Roberts Bank Terminal 2	Transportation (Railways)	Lower Mainland	September 28, 2023
Cedar LNG	Energy (LNG Plant)	Skeena	March 13, 2023
Vopak Pacific Canada	Energy (Storage Facility)	Skeena	April 20, 2022
Blackwater Gold	Mines (Mineral)	Omineca	June 21, 2019
Pattullo Bridge Replacement	Water (Shoreline)	Lower Mainland	May 2, 2019
Revelstoke Generating Station Unit 6	Energy (Power Plant)	Kootenay	November 27, 2018
Red Mountain Underground Gold	Mines (Mineral)	Skeena	October 5, 2018
Burnco Aggregate	Mines (Gravel)	Lower Mainland	March 18, 2018
Kootenay West Mine	Mines (Stone/Quarry)	Kootenay	January 24, 2018

### List of the Projects that were Denied an Environmental Assessment Certificates since 2018

Project	Sector	Region	Decision Date
Sukunka Coal Mine	Mines (Coal)	Peace	December 21, 2022
Morrison Cooper/Gold	Mines (Mineral)	Skeena	February 7, 2022



**List of Amendments decided on since December 2022**

EA Project	Request Type <sup>11</sup>	Proponent	Sector	Date
Trans Mountain Expansion	Typical Amendment	Trans Mountain Pipeline ULC	Energy (Pipelines)	June 19, 2024
Ridley Island Energy Export Facility (formerly known as Vopak Pacific Canada)	Typical Amendment	Ridley Island Energy Export Facility GP Inc.	Energy (Storage Facilities)	June 4, 2024
Trans Mountain Expansion	Simple Amendment	Trans Mountain Pipeline ULC	Energy (Pipelines)	May 21, 2024
Brucejack Mine	Typical Amendment	Pretium Resources Inc	Mines (Mineral)	May 14, 2024
Baldy Ridge Extension	Typical Amendment	Teck Coal Limited	Mines (Coal)	February 20, 2024
Mt. Milligan Copper-Gold	Section 32(5) Amendment <sup>12</sup>	Thompson Creek Metals Company	Mines (Mineral)	February 5, 2024
Line Creek Operations Phase II	Section 32(5) Amendment	Teck Coal Limited	Mines (Coal)	January 11, 2024
Line Creek Operations Phase II	Typical Amendment	Teck Coal Limited	Mines (Coal)	December 20, 2023
Eagle Mountain - Woodfibre Gas Pipeline	Typical Amendment	FortisBC	Energy (Transmission Pipelines)	December 4, 2023
Red Chris Porphyry Copper-Gold Mine	Typical Amendment	Newcrest Red Chris Mining Limited	Mines (Mineral)	November 7, 2023
Woodfibre LNG	Typical Amendment	Woodfibre LNG General Partner Inc.	Energy (Storage Facilities)	November 1, 2023
Cedar LNG	Order to Correct the Certificate / Simple Amendment	Cedar LNG Partners (GP) Ltd.	Energy (Natural Gas Processing Plants)	October 20, 2023

<sup>11</sup> The EAO categorizes amendments into three types (Simple, Typical and Complex) to provide Amendment Assessment participants with guidance on potential information requirements, procedures, engagement and timelines; the type of Amendment also relates to the fee the EAO issues to carry out the assessment.

<sup>12</sup> Section 32(5)(a) of the *Environmental Assessment Act* (2018) enables the Chief Executive Assessment Officer to amend an Environmental Assessment Certificate or Exemption Order on the recommendation of a permitting agency, without application from a Certificate Holder.

EA Project	Request Type <sup>11</sup>	Proponent	Sector	Date
Site C Clean Energy	Typical Amendment	BC Hydro and Power Authority	Energy (Power Plants)	July 28, 2023
Eagle Mountain – Woodfibre Gas Pipeline	Typical Amendment	FortisBC	Energy (Transmission Pipelines)	July 27, 2023
Westcoast Connector Gas Transmission	Typical Amendment	Westcoast Connector Gas Transmission Limited	Energy (Transmission Pipelines)	July 12, 2023

**List of Designation Requests (under Section 11) since December 2022**

EA Project	Proponent	Sector	Decision Date	Result
Record Ridge	West High Yield Resources Ltd.	Mines (Mineral)	August 13, 2024	Not designated because the project is already reviewable. <sup>13</sup>
Timicw Good Earth Recycling Landfill	Bonaparte First Nation and 357999 BC LTD	Waste Disposal	May 13, 2024	Chief Executive Assessment Officer (CEAO) declined to designate
Masset Fuel Storage Facility	North Arm Transportation Ltd.	Energy (Storage Facilities)	February 26, 2024	CEAO declined to designate
Copper Mountain New Ingerbelle Extension	Copper Mountain Mine (BC) Ltd.	Mines (Mineral)	December 7, 2023	CEAO declined to designate
Big White Ski Resort Expansion	Big White Ski Resort	Resorts	July 17, 2023	CEAO declined to designate

<sup>13</sup> The EAO determined that the mineral being proposed for extraction – serpentinite – is not an industrial mineral, as defined in the *Reviewable Projects Regulation* and therefore should be classified as a mineral mine. As a result, Record Ridge, as currently proposed, is not an eligible project under Section 11 and is required to undergo an EA.

EA Project	Proponent	Sector	Decision Date	Result
Bamberton Projects	Malahat Investment Corporation	Mines (Stone/Quarries)	June 27, 2023	Minister declined to designate

**List of Project Notifications since December 2022**

EA Project	Proponent	Sector	Decision Date	Result
Ch'kw'elhp Well Field	Sunshine Coast Regional District	Water Management	September 19, 2024	No further EAO review required
Greenhills Operations	Teck Coal Ltd.	Mines (Coal)	August 1, 2023	No further EAO review required
Kimberley Water Reclamation Centre	City of Kimberley	Waste Disposal	July 11, 2023	No further EAO review required
Record Ridge Industrial Mine	West High Yield Resources Ltd.	Mines (Mineral)	June 1, 2023	Notification process concluded; evaluation continued under a Designation Application request
Altares Gas Plant Expansion	Pacific Canbriam Energy Limited	Energy (Petroleum & Natural Gas)	April 11, 2023	No further EAO review required
Surrey Langley Skytrain Project	Transportation Investment Corporation	Transportation	August 8, 2022	No further EAO review required

## Appendix 2: Active Projects

### List of Active New Projects seeking Environmental Assessment Certificate

EA Project	Proponent	Sector
Angus	Vitreo Minerals Ltd.	Mines (Industrial Aggregates)
Aspen Solar and Energy Storage	Aspen BC Solar Project Limited Partnership	Energy (Solar)
Chasm Solar and Energy Storage	Chasm BC Solar Project Limited Partnership	Energy (Solar)
Coyote Hydrogen	Canada Fortescue Future Industries	Industrial (Organic and Inorganic Chemical Industry)
Crown Mountain Coking Coal	NWP Coal Canada Limited	Mines (Coal)
Delta Grinding Facility	Heidelberg Materials Canada Limited	Industrial (Non-metallic)
Eskay Creek Revitalization	Skeena Resources Limited	Mines (Metal)
Fording River Extension Project	Teck Coal Limited	Mines (Coal)
Fraser River Tunnel	Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure	Transportation
GCT Deltaport Expansion – Berth Four	GCT Canada Limited Partnership	Transportation (Marine)
Highland Solar and Energy Storage	Highland BC Solar Project Limited Partnership	Energy (Solar)
Highland Valley Copper – 2040	Teck Highland Valley Copper Partnership	Mines (Mineral)
Jordan Solar and Energy Storage	Jordan BC Solar Project Limited Partnership	Energy (Solar)
Ksi Lisms LNG	Nisga'a Nation, Rockies LNG Limited Partnership and Western LNG LLC	Energy (Natural Gas Processing)
Michel Coal	North Coal Limited	Mines (Coal)
New Polaris Gold Mine	Canagold Resources Ltd	Mines (Mineral)
Rocky Creek Metallurgical Coal	CTI Plus Resources Ltd.	Mines (Coal)
Summit Lake PG LNG	JX LNG Canada Ltd.	Energy (Natural Gas Processing)

EA Project	Proponent	Sector
Tenas	Telkwa Coal Limited	Mines (Coal)
Tilbury Phase 2 LNG Expansion	FortisBC	Energy (Storage Facilities)
Wonowon Landfill	SECURE Energy Services Incorporated	Waste Management

### **List of Active Amendments**

EA Project	Type	Proponent	Sector
Basal Aquifer Dewatering (Highland Valley Copper)	Complex Amendment	Highland Valley Copper Corporation	Mines (Mineral)
Brucejack Mine	Typical Amendment	Pretium Resources Inc.	Mines (Mineral)
Cariboo Gold	Typical Amendment	Barkerville Gold Mines Ltd.	Mines (Mineral)
Coastal Gas Link (2 submissions)	Typical Amendment (Electrification) Section 32(5) Amendment (Racoon lake)	Coastal GasLink Pipeline Limited	Energy (Pipeline)
Galore Creek Copper-Gold Silver	Typical Amendment	Galore Creek Mining Corporation	Mines (Mineral)
Kootenay West Mine	Typical Amendment	CertainTeed Canada Inc.	Mines (Gypsum)
Line Creek Operations Phase II	Simple Amendment	Teck Coal Limited	Mines (Coal)
McLymont Creek Hydroelectric (2 submissions)	Typical Amendment Typical Amendment	AltaGas Renewable Energy Incorporated	Energy (Hydro)
Mt Milligan	Typical Amendment	Thompson Creek Metals Company	Mines (Mineral)
Orca Sand and Gravel	Complex Amendment	Orca Sand and Gravel Limited	Mines (Sand and Gravel Pits)
Prince Rupert Gas Transmission (2 submissions)	Typical Amendment Typical Amendment	Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Limited	Energy (Pipeline)

EA Project	Type	Proponent	Sector
Red Chris Porphyry Copper-Gold Mine	Complex Amendment	Newcrest Red Chris Mining Limited	Mines (Mineral)
Woodfibre LNG	Typical Amendment	Woodfibre LNG General Partner Inc.	Energy (Energy Storage Facilities)

**List of Active Projects at other stages:**

EA Project	Request Type	Proponent	Sector
Tranquille on the Lake	Minister's Designation Request	Ignition Tranquille Developments Ltd.	Resorts
Gibraltar Mine Expansion	Minister's Designation Request	Taseko Mines Limited	Mines (Mineral)
Revelstoke Generating Station Unit 6	Extension Request	BC Hydro and Power Authority	Water Management
Cabin Gas Plant	Certificate Transfer	Enbridge G&P Canada Limited Partnership Inc.	Energy (Storage Facility)
Silverberry	Certificate Transfer	Tervita Corporation	Waste Management (Landfill)
Kitimat LNG	Certificate Cancellation	KM LNG Operating Partnership	Energy (LNG)
Inga Gas Plant Expansion	Project Notification	ConocoPhillips Canada Resource Corporation	Energy (Gas Plant)
Inga North Gas Plant Modification	Project Notification	ConocoPhillips Canada Resource Corporation	Energy (Gas Plant)
Kobes Gas Plant	Project Notification	Pacific Canbriam Energy Ltd.	Energy (Gas Plant)
Business Information; Intergovernmental Communications			
SkyTrain Operation and Maintenance Centre 5	Project Notification	Transportation Investment Corporation	Transportation

**Agreements Subject to Section 7 Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act - Consent-Based Decision Making**

Project	Nation Signatory	Agreement Signed	Status
Eskay Creek Revitalization	Tahltan Central Government	June 6, 2022	Agreement Implementation
Red Chris Porphyry Copper-Gold Mine	Tahltan Central Government	November 1, 2023	Agreement Implementation
Galore Creek Copper-Gold Silver	Tahltan Central Government	In progress, anticipated early 2025	Agreement Negotiation

<p>TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Assessment Office</p>	<p><b>Reviewable Projects regulation and mechanisms on entering into an Environmental Assessment</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

There are two routes through which a proposed project in British Columbia can be deemed reviewable under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (2018):

The proposed project is reviewable under the Reviewable Project Regulation (RPR), because the proposed project meets or exceeds the thresholds in the RPR.

The proposed project is designated as reviewable by the Minister or the Chief Executive Assessment Officer (CEAO), following notification of the project to the EAO, or a designation request.

If a proposed project is deemed reviewable it must undergo an environmental assessment (EA) and requires an environmental assessment certificate or exemption order before proceeding to permitting.

### Reviewable Project Regulation

The RPR defines prescribed project categories and provides design thresholds (based on production capacity) for each category, which apply to proposed new projects, proposed modifications to existing projects, and in some cases, dismantling and abandonment of existing projects.

The RPR also specifies effects thresholds<sup>14</sup>, which apply to any new or modified proposed project within a prescribed project category.

Projects within a project category will be deemed reviewable if:

The project meets or exceeds the design thresholds for the specified project category; or

The project meets or exceeds any of the effects thresholds in the RPR.

The prescribed project categories are:

Industrial Projects;

Mining Projects;

Energy Projects;

Water Management Projects;

Waste Disposal Projects;

Transportation Projects; and,

Tourist Destination Resort Projects.

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<sup>14</sup> Section 4 of the RPR.



The RPR also includes a notification provision<sup>15</sup>. Proponents of proposed projects that are within a project category but are not reviewable because they do not meet the design or effects thresholds must notify the EAO of their project if it triggers a notification threshold.

### Designations

A project that is not reviewable under the RPR can be designated as reviewable through one of two avenues:

Designation by the Minister; or

Designation by the CEAO.

#### *Designation by Minister<sup>16</sup>*

If a proponent is required to notify the EAO of its proposed project because it triggers a notification threshold in the RPR, the CEAO may decide to submit the project notification to the Minister for consideration<sup>17</sup>, and the Minister may decide to designate the project as reviewable.

Separately, any person, including a First Nation, may apply to the Minister to designate a proposed project as reviewable. For this provision to apply the project must not otherwise be reviewable and must not have been substantially started. After considering the application and the criteria in the Act, the Minister may designate the project as reviewable.

#### *Designation by CEAO<sup>18</sup>*

A proponent of a proposed project that is not otherwise reviewable may apply to the CEAO for the project to be designated. After considering the application the CEAO may designate the project as reviewable.

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<sup>15</sup> Section 5 of the RPR.

<sup>16</sup> Section 11 of the Act.

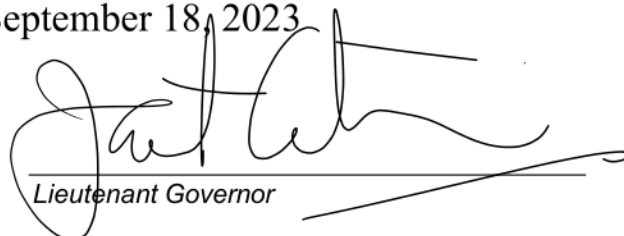
<sup>17</sup> Section 10 of the Act.

<sup>18</sup> Section 12 of the Act.

**PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
**ORDER OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL**

Order in Council No. 529

, Approved and Ordered September 18, 2023



Lieutenant Governor

**Executive Council Chambers, Victoria**

On the recommendation of the undersigned, the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, orders that the Table in the Responsible Minister (*Environmental Assessment Act*) Order, 2019, Order in Council 613/2019, is repealed and substituted as set out in the attached Schedule.



Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy



Presiding Member of the Executive Council

*(This part is for administrative purposes only and is not part of the Order.)*

**Authority under which Order is made:**

Act and section: Environmental Assessment Act, S.B.C. 2018, c. 51, s. 1

Other: OIC 613/2019; OIC 656/2020

O10717143

## SCHEDULE

### Table

Column 1 <b>Category of Reviewable Projects</b>	Column 2 <b>Responsible Minister</b>	Column 3 <b>Alternate Responsible Minister</b>
Energy projects	Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation	Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation
Mine projects	Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation	Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation
Industrial projects – forest products industries	Forests	Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation
Industrial projects – industries other than forest products industries	Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation	Forests
Tourist destination resort projects	Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport	Municipal Affairs
Waste disposal projects	Municipal Affairs	Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Water management projects	Water, Land and Resource Stewardship	Municipal Affairs
Transportation projects	Transportation and Infrastructure	Municipal Affairs

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Assessment Office</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Roles and Responsibilities in the Environmental Assessment Process</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

Reviewable projects (determined by the Reviewable Project Regulation) must obtain an environmental assessment certificate (EAC) (or exemption order when it is determined a review is not required) before undertaking construction, operation, modification, dismantling, or abandoning all or part of the facilities associated with a project.

Both EAC's and exemptions contain legally binding conditions that must be followed for the life of a project to mitigate potential adverse effects.

The statutory authority to decide whether to grant an EAC for a proposed project, rests with two Ministers:

The Minister of Environment & Climate Change Strategy; and,

The Minister, who through their Cabinet position, is responsible for the sector in which the proposed project originates.<sup>19</sup>

When the sector Minister is also the proponent (e.g. the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure proposing a provincial highway project), a designated Alternate Responsible Minister will act as the statutory decision maker under the EA Act (2018) (the Act).

The Responsible Minister Order establishes who the Responsible Minister (sector Minister) and Alternate Responsible Minister is for each project category that a reviewable project can fall into.

The EAO Chief Executive Assessment Officer (CEAO), or where delegated, the EAO Deputy CEO hold the primary roles for administering the environmental assessment (EA) process.

### The Statutory Decision-Making Role of Ministers

In addition to their shared role in making a decision on whether to grant an EAC on a proposed project, the Minister of Environment & Climate Change Strategy also has authority to make other statutory decisions under the Act.

The Minister's powers under the Act include the ability to:

Vary aspects of the EA process set out in the Act and regulations;

Designate a project as reviewable, even if it does not meet the thresholds prescribed in the Reviewable Projects Regulation (also delegated to the CEOA);

Suspend, cancel, or extend the deadline specified in an EAC, or reinstate an EAC;

Extend or suspend legislated time limits;

<sup>19</sup> Set out in the Responsible Minister Order.

Enter into agreements with other governments (e.g., Canada) to accept their assessment processes as equivalent (also delegated to the CEAO);

Enter into agreements with other governments to conduct cooperative EAs, including the establishment and appointment of a Joint Review Panel and its members;

Order that an activity cease for non-compliant projects where an EAC has been granted; and,

Charge fees for assessments.

Under the Act, the Minister may delegate powers to any employee of the EAO. Historically, the Minister has delegated only to the CEAO, who is also the EAO's Associate Deputy Minister. The Minister has also delegated certain powers directly to the Executive Director of Strategic Services and Compliance (e.g., appointing an individual to facilitate the resolution of disputes (Section 5(1)), and to Compliance and Enforcement Officers (e.g., the ability to issue an order to a Certificate Holder despite a written compliance agreement being in place (Section 55(2))).

### Roles and responsibilities of the CEAO

The Associate Deputy Minister of the EAO is appointed as the CEAO under Section 3 of the Act and through an Order in Council. The CEAO has a broad range of authorities under the Act:

Deciding on designation applications from proponents for projects that are not reviewable under the Reviewable Projects Regulation;

Accepting a proponent's Initial Project Description;

Deciding to proceed with an EA for a particular project or referring the project to the Minister with a recommendation to issue an Exemption or Termination order;

Issuing a Process order on a proposed project that determines the scope of the assessment, including the assessment plan and associated information requirements;

Seeking to achieve consensus with participating Indigenous nations at various points throughout the EA process;

Accepting a proponent's application for an EAC or exemption order;

Referring an application for an EAC or an exemption order to Ministers for a decision;

Amending or refusing to amend an EAC or an exemption order;

Ordering the cessation of work or remedy of work that is or is likely to cause a contravention of the Act;

Serving a person with an administrative penalty determination for contravening the Act or failing to comply with an order or EAC;

Suspending or extending legislated time limits; and,

Recovering costs or charging fees.

The CEAO may delegate any of their powers or duties to a person employed in the EAO. The powers delegated to the Deputy CEAO, Executive Director of Strategic Services and Compliance, Executive Project Directors, Project Assessment Directors and Compliance and Enforcement Officers are for routine operational matters and are not frequently of political or strategic significance (e.g., publishing documents to EAO's Project Information Centre for public viewing and comment).

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Assessment Office</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EAO Compliance and Enforcement</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

Compliance and Enforcement is a key part of the statutory mandate of the Environmental Assessment Office (the EAO) and is important for maintaining public and First Nations' confidence that significant adverse impacts to environmental, health, heritage, social, and economic values are avoided or mitigated as required by the Environmental Assessment Act, 2018 (The Act).

The EAO works closely with provincial and federal agencies to coordinate compliance and enforcement oversight.

The EAO's Compliance and Enforcement Officers have the authority to issue orders under the Act to prevent non-compliance, cease work or to remedy the adverse effects of instances of non-compliance.

The Act provides additional enforcement tools, including the capacity to recommend administrative monetary penalties to a statutory decision-maker and issue violation tickets.

All inspection records and enforcement actions completed by compliance and enforcement staff are publicly posted on the EAO's website.

The Compliance and Enforcement Branch (CEB) of EAO is responsible for compliance oversight on over 350 major resource development projects in British Columbia (B.C.), including major mine, oil and gas, transportation, water management, and energy production developments.

Currently priority compliance and enforcement activities include compliance and enforcement oversight of the Site C, Coastal GasLink Pipeline, and LNG Canada projects, which are all currently transitioning to the operations phases, and the Woodfibre LNG, Cedar LNG, Blackwater Gold, Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Pipeline, and Pattullo Bridge Replacement Projects, which are all currently under construction.

## BACKGROUNDS

In the spring of 2011, the EAO established a Compliance and Enforcement (C&E) program, which currently has 11 employees.

The EAO CEB is responsible for the regulatory oversight of the largest natural resource development projects in BC, including the compliance oversight of over 350 natural resource development projects authorized under the Act.

The EAO C&E Officers are delegated authority by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Minister responsible for TransLink to issue Orders to Prevent, Cease or Remedy under Section 53 of the Act. This improves the C&E Officers' ability to react in a timely manner when faced with escalating incidents of non-compliance.

In cases of non-compliance, the EAO CEB determines what form of enforcement may be appropriate. The EAO C&E Policy and Procedures provide guidance for officers when determining enforcement.

The CEB also conducts compliance and enforcement activity on projects that are or may be in violation of Section 6 of the Act, which requires projects that meet the Reviewable Projects Regulation to obtain an

Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) or Exemption Order before proceeding.

In 2023, the EAO CEB conducted 89 inspections, resulting in 113 enforcement actions including 23 orders and 11 administrative penalties to a decision maker. During the first eight months of 2024, the EAO CEB has conducted 49 inspections and issued 46 enforcement actions including seven orders and two administrative penalties recommended to a decision maker.

The EAO CEB continues to advance work with First Nations in the conduct of compliance and enforcement within their traditional territories. The EAO CEB has developed policy to guide officers and First Nations regarding the opportunities and expectations for Indigenous attended inspections.

The EAO CEB works with First Nations within their traditional territories through pre-inspection outreach, First Nations attendance on inspections and post inspection communication.

The EAO CEB retains First Nations Liaison Compliance and Enforcement Officer who is tasked with proactively engaging with First Nations to determine their concerns regarding projects within their traditional territories that are regulated by the Act, facilitate First Nations representatives' attendance on inspections, and communicate with Nations regarding the results of inspections.

The EAO operates the C&E program in accordance with leading practices from other jurisdictions, and in coordination with, the Ministries of: Forests, Environment & Climate Change Strategy, Energy, Mines & Low Carbon Innovation, and the BC Energy Regulator.

In addition to joint inspections with provincial agencies, the EAO conducts periodic joint inspections with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada.

The EAO has publicly posted all inspection records and enforcement actions since 2016.

The Act provides modernized compliance and enforcement tools including new investigation authorities, violation tickets, and administrative monetary penalties. This brings the EAO C&E program into alignment with other provincial natural resource agencies.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITION NOTE (2024)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Environmental Assessment Office</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>First Nations Engagement in EA</b></p>
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## KEY FACTS

An Environmental Assessment Certificate is the first provincial approval required for many major projects.

The *Environmental Assessment Act* (2018) (the Act) sets out the purposes of the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO), one of which is to support reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

The EAO has a legal duty to consult First Nations where asserted, proven Aboriginal rights, or treaty rights, may be impacted by a potential Crown action or authorization that is regulated by the Act (duty to consult).

Deep and meaningful engagement with First Nations is a core part of the EAO's mandate as it carries out its work to review major projects. This includes implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration). Fulfillment of this mandate helps to support reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and the fulfillment of the duty to consult.

The EAO engages with First Nations involved in the environmental assessment (EA) process and seeks free, prior and informed consent through consensus seeking processes that respect First Nations' rights to self-determination, support their participation in decisions that affect them, and consider Indigenous laws and traditions in decision-making.

The EAO continues to be responsive to the shifting legal landscape for working with First Nations in environmental assessments.

First Nations have expressed interest in pursuing collaborative approaches that support a respectful relationship between First Nation and Provincial decision-making. These approaches range from co-ordination with First Nations in relation to independently asserted First Nation led processes to negotiated agreements under the Act or the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA).

The EAO led negotiation and implementation of the first two DRIPA consent agreements in the province with the Tahltan Central Government for the Eskay Creek Revitalization Project and the Red Chris Porphyry Copper-Gold Project.

The EAO implements a distinctions-based approach in the delivery of EAs and recognizes that the scope of rights enjoyed by an Indigenous people is contextual and that the EAO's relations and dealings with First Nations, Métis and Inuit are delivered in a manner that is appropriate for the specific context and align with consultation obligations.

Overlapping and shared First Nation's territories within B.C. is complex and the EAO continues to experience challenges on projects where there are disagreements between nations regarding respective rights, interests and governance roles.



## BACKGROUND

The Act took effect in December 2019. One of the purposes of the EAO under the Act is to support reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in British Columbia by:

supporting the implementation of the UN Declaration;

recognizing the inherent jurisdiction of First Nations and their right to participate in decision-making in matters that would affect their rights;

collaborating with First Nations in relation to reviewable projects, consistent with the UN Declaration; and

acknowledging Indigenous peoples' rights recognized and affirmed by Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* during EAs and decision-making under the Act.

The EAO is a leader in the natural resource sector for implementing the province's priorities related to reconciliation, relationship building with Indigenous peoples and implementation of DRIPA.

The EAO works with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and the Ministry of Attorney General on its approach to consensus seeking and consent-based decision-making in the EA context ensuring it is responsive to developments in case law.

The EAO is working with First Nations across multiple EAs to develop First Nation-specific approaches to participation in the EA process and decision making. This includes negotiating agreements, collaboration with independent First Nation-led assessments, and seeking consensus in relation to conclusions and recommendations to Ministers.

The EAO is currently engaging First Nations in relation to the five-year review of the Act that is scheduled to begin at the end of 2024.

Advice/Recommendations; Interests of an Indigenous People; Intergovernmental Communications; Legal Information

**Ministries:**

Environmental Assessment Office (EAO), Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS), and Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR).

**Issue:**

Advice/Recommendations; Interests of an Indigenous People; Intergovernmental Communications; Legal Information

**Background:**

Advice/Recommendations; Interests of an Indigenous People; Intergovernmental Communications; Legal Information

Advice/Recommendations; Interests of an Indigenous People; Intergovernmental Communications; Legal Information

**Implications / Considerations / Opportunities:**

Advice/Recommendations; Interests of an Indigenous People; Intergovernmental Communications; Legal Information

Advice/Recommendations; Interests of an Indigenous People; Intergovernmental Communications; Legal Information

**Next Steps:**

Advice/Recommendations; Interests of an Indigenous People; Intergovernmental Communications; Legal Information

Advice/Recommendations

**Ministry:** Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy – Environmental Assessment Office (EAO)

**Issue:**

Advice/Recommendations

**Background:**

Advice/Recommendations

**Implications / Considerations / Opportunities:**

Advice/Recommendations

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

Advice/Recommendations

### 30-60-90 Day Issues Environmental Assessment Office

Issue	Status/Key Milestones/Next Steps
<b>30 Days</b>	
Tilbury Phase 2	Tilbury Phase 2, an LNG storage and processing facility in Delta, is now in the Application Development and Review phase of the EA. FortisBC plans to submit its application Advice/Recommend triggering a 180-day review, including a public comment period with open house and virtual information session, as well as reviews by First Nations and the Technical Advisory Committee. The project has been the target of ENGO campaigns opposing LNG projects, Advice/Recommendations
Tranquille on the Lake – Designation Application	On August 10, 2023, Stk'emlupsemc Te Secwepemc Nation (SSN) requested the proposed Tranquille on the Lake Project (the Project) be designated as a Reviewable Project under s.11 of the Act. The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) is currently reviewing the application. Ignition Tranquille Developments Ltd. (Ignition) plans to re-develop the property into residential housing with local and tourism amenities through agreement with the landowner. Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
Mount Polley – Designation Application for Mine Extension and Ministers' decision on material alterations	Mount Polley Mining Corporation has applied for authorization to expand an existing pit and raise the tailings storage facility dam (the Mine Extension). On August 16, Xat'sull First Nation submitted an application to designate the proposed Mine Extension at Mount Polley as requiring an environmental assessment. Although the Chief Executive Assessment Officer has declined the designation, the 1992 Mount Polley Mine Development Certificate (which is considered to be an Environmental Assessment Certificate) has a condition requiring that the Holder, "prior to any material alteration to the Development as described in the Application", obtain the written consent of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation and the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. This condition states that the EMLI Minister may determine what constitutes a material alteration. A material alteration would require an amendment to the environmental assessment certificate. <small>Business Information</small>

Issue	Status/Key Milestones/Next Steps
<b>60 Days</b>	
None	
<b>90 Days</b>	
Highland Valley Copper Mine Life Extension – Certificate Decision and First Nations Leadership Meetings	<p>The EAO anticipates referring the Application for an EA Certificate for the Highland Valley Copper Mine Life Extension to the Responsible Ministers on Advice/Recommendat The Act sets out that a decision must be made within 30 calendar days of referral.</p> <p>In April 2024, Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications</p>
Ksi Lisims LNG – Certificate Decision	<p>Following the public comment period held in November 2024 on the EAO's draft assessment report, the EAO anticipates referring the final report and Application for an EA Certificate for the Ksi Lisims LNG project to the Responsible Ministers Advice/Recommendati . The final referral package is not made public until the ministers make their decision on whether or not to grant an environmental assessment certificate. The Act sets out that a decision must be made within 30 calendar days of referral, though that timeline can be extended if required.</p> <p>The Act also sets out that the Responsible Ministers, must, before making a decision, offer to meet with the participating Indigenous nation, if the CEAO's recommendation is contrary to the notice of consent or lack of consent indicated by the participating Indigenous nation, received before the decision is referred to the ministers.</p>
Galore Creek – request to enter consent agreement with Tahltan Central Government	<p>Business Information</p> <p>The previous s. 7 agreements with Tahltan have been announced through a public signing event and news release.</p>
Prince Rupert Gas Transmission – Substantial Start Determination	<p>On May 24, 2024, Prince Rupert Gas Transmission notified the EAO of starting construction on Nisga'a lands beginning on August 24, 2024, for the pipeline project. If the project is not determined to have been substantially started by November 25, 2024, its environmental assessment certificate will expire. Gitanyow</p>



Issue	Status/Key Milestones/Next Steps
	<p>First Nation opposes the project and on August 22, 2024— blockaded near the access point into PRGT construction area, which received significant media attention. The EAO expects to receive the request from the company in November/December to determine whether the project is substantially started. The EAO will consult with First Nations on the determination and will also consider evidence provided by the public and other stakeholders. A determination on whether the EAO considers the project to be substantially started is expected in Spring 2025. Like other LNG activities in the province, the project has been the target of ongoing public opposition from several ENGOs.</p>
<p>New Polaris — Advice/Recommendations; Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications</p>	<p>Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications</p>
<p>Initiate Legislative Review</p>	<p>The Legislative Review of the <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> (2018) (Act Review) Advice/Recommendations Advice/Recommendations      The purpose of the Act Review is to “determine what changes, if any, should be made [to the Act]”. The Environmental Assessment Office is preparing materials to support this announcement.</p> <p>Advice/Recommendations</p>
<p>Advice/Recommendations</p>	

Issue	Status/Key Milestones/Next Steps
	Advice/Recommendations
Blackwater Gold – Personal Information Personal Information	Personal Information

## Anticipated EA Referral Schedule for the Next Year

## EA Certificate Referrals

No.	Project	Project Description	Anticipated Referral Date/Next PCP/Additional Information
1	<b>HVC MLE</b> <b>Proponent:</b> Teck Highland Valley Copper Partnership <b>Region:</b> Thompson Okanagan <b>Location:</b> 17km West of Logan Lake <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2018) <b>Responsible Ministers:</b> Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) and Energy Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI) <b>Decision to be made by:</b> Ministers of ENV and EMLI	Teck Resources is proposing to extend the life of the Highland Valley Copper (HVC) mine by 15 years to approximately 2043 by mining approximately 900 million tonnes of additional ore through an extension of the HVC mine site's existing pit infrastructure.	<b>Anticipated Referral Date:</b> Advice/Recommend <b>Next PCP Date:</b> The next PCP will be held before the end of Effects Assessment and will seek comments on the EAO's draft assessment report and proposed conditions (October 2024). <b>Additional Information:</b> The project is currently in the 150-day Effects Assessment, which is expected to conclude with the referral to the Ministers Advice/Recommendations
2	<b>Ksi Lisims LNG</b> <b>Proponent:</b> Nisga'a Nation, Rockies LNG Limited Partnership and Western LNG LLC <b>Region:</b> Skeena <b>Location:</b> Wil Milit on Pearse Island on the Northwest Coast of BC <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2018), Substituted under federal IAA. <b>Responsible Minister:</b> ENV and EMLI <b>Decision to be made by:</b> Ministers of ENV and EMLI	Nisga'a Nation and its project partners, Rockies LNG and Western LNG LLC, propose to jointly develop the Ksi Lisims LNG. Ksi Lisims LNG is proposed as a floating natural gas liquefaction facility and marine export terminal, including related infrastructure, located at Wil Milit on the northern end of Pearse Island on the northwest coast of British Columbia. Ksi Lisims LNG would produce up to 12 million tonnes per annum of LNG.	<b>Anticipated Referral Date:</b> Advice/Recom <b>Next PCP Date:</b> The next PCP will be held before the end of Effects Assessment and will seek comments on the EAO's draft assessment report and proposed conditions (timing early November 2024). <b>Additional Information:</b> On September 3, 2024, the EAO accepted the Revised Application for review. The project is now in the 150-day Effects Assessment phase, which is expected to conclude with the referral to the Ministers Advice/Recommendation

No.	Project	Project Description	Anticipated Referral Date/Next PCP/Additional Information
3	<b>Tilbury Phase 2</b> <b>Proponent:</b> Fortis <b>Region:</b> South Coast – Delta, BC <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2018), substituted under federal IAA. <b>Responsible Minister:</b> ENV and EMLI <b>Decision to be made by:</b> Ministers of ENV and EMLI	<p>The project is an expansion of Fortis' existing liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility on Tilbury Island to increase the LNG storage capacity of the facility up to 142,400 cubic metres (3.5 petajoules). Through the construction of a storage tank and supporting infrastructure and the addition of liquefaction trains, this expansion would increase the LNG production capacity of the facility by up to 7,700 tonnes per day.</p>	<p><b>Anticipated Referral Date:</b> Advice/Rec</p> <p><b>Next PCP Date:</b> Advice/Recommendations</p> <p><b>Additional Information:</b> The process is currently in the Application development and review phase. The EAO anticipates receiving the application and commencing formal review by the public, TAC, and First Nations, starting the legislated 180-day review period, in September 2024.</p>
4	<b>Eskay Creek Revitalization</b> <b>Proponent:</b> Eskay Creek Mining Ltd. (Skeena Resources) <b>Region:</b> Skeena <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2018), substituted under Federal IAA <b>Responsible Minister:</b> ENV and EMLI <b>Decision to be made by:</b> Ministers of ENV and EMLI	<p>Skeena Resources is proposing to develop the Eskay Creek Revitalization Project, an open pit gold-silver mine located approximately 135 kilometres south of Iskut, B.C. and 83 kilometres northwest of Stewart, at the site of the past-producing underground Eskay Creek Mine.</p> <p>The proposed project would have the capacity to produce approximately 3.7 million tonnes per year of gold and silver-bearing ore. It would include the development of mine site and associated infrastructure, transmission line upgrades, and the transportation of concentrate to the port facilities in Stewart.</p> <p>Eskay Creek is subject to a Section 7 Consent Agreement with Tahltan Central Government (TCG).</p>	<p><b>Anticipated Referral Date:</b> Advice/Recommendations</p> <p><b>Next PCP Date:</b> October 15 – November 14, 2024</p> <p><b>Additional Information:</b> The project is now in the 180-day Application Review phase, which is anticipated to conclude on February 17, 2025.</p> <p>Legal Information; Intergovernmental Communications</p> <p><b>Assertions from Southeast Alaska Tribes</b></p> <p>Southeast Alaska Tribes have asserted Section 35 rights in the project area. EAO communicated to SEITC/AK Tribes that consultation obligations will be consistent with the Haida framework and Desautel court decision. The Alaskan Tribes Technical Advisory Technical Committee (ATTAC) TOR was amended to clarify that the EAO is consulting with SEITC and its member Tribes on potential impacts to asserted Section 35 Rights via the ATTAC.</p>

## Readiness Decision

No.	Project	Project Description	Anticipated Readiness Decision Date
1	<b>Aspen Solar</b> <b>Proponent:</b> Aspen BC Solar Project Limited Partnership <b>Region:</b> Thompson-Nicola <b>Location:</b> 50 km Southeast of Merritt, BC, off highway 97C. <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2018) <b>Readiness Decision to be made by:</b> CEO Elenore Arend	Proposed solar and energy storage project with an anticipated 100 megawatts of AC power generation capacity. The project would be approximately 335 hectares in size and include solar panel arrays, battery storage system, overhead transmission lines to connect Aspen Solar to existing provincial transmission infrastructure, and access roads.	<b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> Advice/Recommend (Readiness Decision) <b>Next PCP Date:</b> Advice/Recommendations (Process Planning) <b>Additional Information:</b> The Proponent submitted its DPD on July 31, 2024, and after the EAO completed its concordance review, the Readiness Decision phase commenced on August 13, 2024. The EAO is currently working on addressing comments and consensus seeking with participating Indigenous nations on the readiness decision recommendation. The proponent has not yet submitted its draft AIR, which was a required element of the DPD submission package per the Summary of Engagement issued after Early Engagement. The EAO continues to work with the proponent to understand when the draft AIR will be provided. Business Information Business Information
2	<b>Highland Solar</b> <b>Proponent:</b> Highland BC Solar Project Limited Partnership <b>Region:</b> Thompson-Nicola <b>Location:</b> 15 km south of Ashcroft, BC <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2018) <b>Readiness Decision to be made by:</b> CEO Elenore Arend	Proposed solar and energy storage project with an anticipated 150 megawatts of AC power generation capacity. The project would be approximately 395 hectares in size and include solar panel arrays, battery storage system, overhead transmission lines to connect Highland Solar to the existing provincial transmission infrastructure, and access roads.	<b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> TBD (Readiness Decision) <b>Next PCP Date:</b> TBD (Process Planning) <b>Additional Information:</b> The EAO issued the Summary of Engagement on August 23, 2023. The Proponent wrote to the EAO on August 23, 2024, requesting an extension to the one-year DPD submission timeline to February 28, 2025. The Proponent is seeking to address key risks to the project, including the BC Hydro interconnection process, BC Hydro Request for Proposal review, project engineering and financial analyses. The A/CEO confirmed the extension request was acceptable, and that the Proponent would be provided with the opportunity to submit information if the CEO considers a decision to terminate the EA. Business Information Business Information

No.	Project	Project Description	Anticipated Readiness Decision Date
3	<b>Rocky Creek Coal Mine</b> <b>Proponent:</b> CTI Plus <b>Region:</b> South East – Chetwynd <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2018) Substituted under federal IAA (pending) <b>Responsible Minister:</b> ENV and EMLI <b>Readiness Decision to be made by:</b> CEAO Elenore Arend	CTI Plus has proposed to construct and operate a new open pit metallurgical mine called Rocky Creek Coal. The proposed mine will be located approximately 65 kilometres south of the district of Chetwynd, British Columbia. The mine's production capacity is expected to be 10, 320 tonnes of coal per day or 3.77 Mt per year, with a mine life of approximately 14 years plus two years of initial construction.	<b>Anticipated Referral Date:</b> Advice/Recomm (Readiness Decision) <b>Next PCP Date:</b> October 7-November 7, 2024 <b>Additional Information:</b> This is a coordinated project with IAAC. The Initial Project Description and Engagement Plan was accepted by both the IAAC and EAO on September 5 <sup>th</sup> . The Joint Summary of Issues and Engagement will be issued on Advice/Recommendat The Proponent has advised they anticipate submitting the Detailed Project Description in Advice/Rec
4	<b>Chasm Solar</b> <b>Proponent:</b> Chasm BC Solar Project Limited Partnership <b>Region:</b> Thompson-Nicola <b>Location:</b> 10 km north of Clinton. <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2018) <b>Readiness Decision to be made by:</b> CEAO Elenore Arend	Proposed solar and energy storage project with an anticipated 100 megawatts of AC power generation capacity. The project would be approximately 205 hectares in size and include solar panel arrays, battery storage system, overhead transmission lines to connect Chasm Solar to the existing provincial transmission infrastructure, and access roads.	<b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> Advice/Recom (Readiness Decision) <b>Next PCP Date:</b> Advice/Reco (Process Planning) <b>Additional Information:</b> The EAO issued the Summary of Engagement on January 11, 2024. The proponent is reviewing the Summary of Engagement and drafting its Detailed Project Description. The proponent has indicated that the anticipated timing of Detailed Project Description is Advice/Recomm to EAO, Business Information Business Information
5	<b>Summit Lake LNG</b> <b>Proponent:</b> JX LNG <b>Region:</b> Regional District of Fraser Fort George <b>Location:</b> Located 30 kilometres north of Prince George, BC <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2018) <b>Readiness Decision to be made by:</b> CEAO Elenore Arend	Summit Lake LNG at full build out would process approximately 10,060 e3m3/d (355 million standard cubic feet per day (mmscfd) of pipeline grade natural gas to produce 2.70 MTPA of LNG. Summit Lake LNG would consist of inlet gas facilities, gas treatment facilities, liquefaction facilities, LNG storage facilities, product loading facilities, cooling systems, flare systems, fire and gas systems, and firefighting facilities.	<b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> Advice/Recom (Readiness Decision) <b>Next PCP date:</b> Advice/Reco (Process Planning) <b>Additional information:</b> The Joint Summary of Issues and Engagement was issued on June 12, 2024. The Proponent is currently working on developing the DPD and draft Application Information Requirements. Per Section 39(a) of the Act, the proponent has one year to submit the DPD. Exact timing of DPD submission is not determined yet.

No.	Project	Project Description	Anticipated Readiness Decision Date
6	<b>Fording River Extension (FRX)</b> <b>Proponent:</b> Elk Valley Resources <b>Region:</b> Kootenay-boundary <b>Location:</b> 15 km northeast from Elkford <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2018) <b>Readiness Decision to be made by:</b> CEAO Elenore Arend	Elk Valley Resources proposes to extend the lifespan of Fording River Operations, by several decades. The proposed project is anticipated to maintain a production rate of approximately 10 million metric tonnes of clean coal per year. It would include the use of existing infrastructure while mining directly south of existing operations in a proposed new greenfield mining area important to Ktunaxa people.	<b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> Advice/Reco <b>Next PCP Date:</b> Advice/Recommendations <b>Additional Information:</b> on February 21, 2023, the CEAO issued a readiness decision under Section 16(2)(a) of the Act requiring Teck Coal (proponent at the time) to submit a revised Detailed Project Description citing a number of deficiencies including a clearer identification of alternatives to the project, alternative means of carrying out the project, a listing of all plausible measures to mitigate impacts and cumulative effects and confirmation that the KNC and Yaqit ʔa·knuqʔi't agree that proposed mitigations are plausible to prevent extraordinarily adverse effects to Ktunaxa rights. EVR has been engaged with KNC and Yaqit ʔa·knuqʔi't since that decision to revise the Detailed Project Description and the company plans to submit the document by Advice/Recommen

### Transfers

No.	Project	Transfer Description	Anticipated Decision Date/Next PCP/Additional Information
1	<b>Cabin Gas Plant</b> <b>Proponent:</b> Enbridge G&P Canada Limited Partnership <b>Region:</b> Northeast <b>Location:</b> 60 km northeast of Fort Nelson <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2018); BC Only <b>Decision to be made by:</b> Elenore Arend or Chris Trumpy	The current certificate holder, Enbridge G&P Canada Limited Partnership is seeking to transfer the certificate to NorthRiver Midstream Cabin GP Inc.	<b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> November 2024 <b>Next PCP Date:</b> n/a <b>Additional Information:</b> Enbridge transferred ownership to NorthRiver without requesting permission from the CEAO to transfer the EAC. Although there is no formal obligation to seek consensus on the transfer, the EAO has paused the decision referral to Advice/Recommendations; Business Information; Intergovernmental Communications

## Amendments

No.	Project	Amendment Description	Anticipated Decision Date/Next PCP/Additional Information
1	<b>Coastal Gaslink – Relocate Compressor Station</b>  <b>Proponent:</b> Coastal GasLink Pipeline Limited  <b>Region:</b> Omineca  <b>Location:</b> 90 km northwest of Prince George  <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2002)  <b>Decision to be made by:</b> Elenore Arend or Chris Trumpy	<p>Coastal GasLink Pipeline Limited (CGL) has applied to the BC Energy Regulator (BCER) to relocate the Racoon Lake compressor station a short distance from its original proposed location to avoid a wetland.</p> <p>BCER will make a recommendation to CEAO to consider an amendment to CGL's EAC, allowing for the relocation of the compressor station.</p>	<p><b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> October 2024</p> <p><b>Next PCP Date:</b> NA</p> <p><b>Additional Information:</b> EAO will principally rely on BCER's amendment process under section 32(5) of the EAA.</p>
2	<b>Galore Creek Copper-Silver- Gold</b>  <b>Proponent:</b> Galore Creek Mining Corporation (50/50 Newmont/Teck partnership)  <b>Region:</b> Northwest  <b>Location:</b> 160 kms north of Stewart	<p>Galore Creek Mining Corporation submitted an application July 21, 2023, for an amendment to the Galore Creek EAC. The amendment requests moving a portion of the access road, relocating a construction camp, varying construction camp capacities while not exceeding the approved maximum capacity for all sites combined (1640 beds). A typical amendment, unrelated to the major</p>	<p><b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> Advice/Recom</p> <p><b>Next PCP Date:</b> None planned.</p> <p><b>Additional Information:</b> The amendment is focused on activities to support the construction of the access road. It also proposes to modernize portions of the environmental assessment certificate related to the access development components making it consistent with current EAO policy (i.e., developing a CPD for the access road and associated management plans).</p>
3	<b>McLymont Creek Hydroelectric Project</b>  <b>Proponent:</b> Coast Mountain En  <b>Region:</b> North (Skeena Stikine) and Kitimat Stikine  <b>Location:</b> Skeena  <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2018)  <b>Decision to be made by:</b> Elenore Arend or Chris Trumpy	<p>In March 2024, Coast Mountain proposed an amendment to condition #8 altering the IFR (Instream Flow Reduction) from 0.5 m3/s to 0.25 m3/s for the purposes of allowing up to a five- year study of the effects of a reduction.</p> <p>In May 2024, a second application to proposing amendments to conditions #20 and #21 to conclude implementation of the Fisheries and Aquatic Life Monitoring Plans following the results of the IFR study.</p>	<p><b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> Advice/Recom</p> <p><b>Next PCP Date:</b> n/a</p> <p><b>Additional Information:</b> The EAO is now conducting a single typical amendment process for both applications due to Intergovernmental Communications</p> <p>The proponent anticipates submitted a revised application for all three conditions in Advice/Recommen</p>



No.	Project	Amendment Description	Anticipated Decision Date/Next PCP/Additional Information
4	<b>Coastal Gaslink – Option to Electrify Compressor Stations</b>  <b>Proponent:</b> Coastal GasLink Pipeline Limited  <b>Region:</b> Peace, Omineca, and Skeena  <b>Location:</b> Ground Birch to Kitimat  <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2002)  <b>Decision to be made by:</b> Elenore Arend or Chris Trumpy	Coastal GasLink Pipeline Limited (CGL) submitted an application on March 26, 2024, for an amendment to the Coastal GasLink Pipeline Project (CGL Project) to enable the option to electrify any of the eight gas-fired compressor stations.	<b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> Winter 2024  <b>Next PCP Date:</b> n/a  <b>Additional Information:</b> The EAO is engaging with the Technical Advisory Committee and 12 participating Indigenous nations on the Amendment Application. Various First Nations have raised concerns regarding the transmission lines not being incorporated into the amendment application.
5	<b>Prince Rupert Gas Transmission – Marine Route Amendment</b>  <b>Proponent:</b> PRGT  <b>Region:</b> Skeena  <b>Location:</b> Nass Valley to Nass Bay  <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2002)  <b>Decision to be made by:</b> Elenore Arend or Chris Trumpy	Request to amend the EAC to include two modifications to the pipeline route. The first reroute, being an option to deviate approximately 1.5 kilometre (km) prior to entering Nass Bay, and the second reroute, the Ksi Lisims LNG Pipeline Connection, being the option to terminate at the proposed Ksi Lisims LNG Facility.	<b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> Advice/Reco  <b>Next PCP Date:</b> NA  <b>Additional Information:</b> The EAO is engaging with seven participating Indigenous nations. The first round of comments has been received from First Nations and the TAC.
6	<b>Prince Rupert Gas Transmission – Eastern Route Amendment</b>  <b>Proponent:</b> PRGT  <b>Region:</b> Northeast/Omineca <b>Location:</b> SW of Chetwynd to west of Mackenzie  <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2002)  <b>Decision to be made by:</b> Elenore Arend or Chris Trumpy	Request to amend the start of the pipeline route, replacing 223km of pipeline with 172km pipeline. This new route starts approximately 37km west of Chetwynd and connects to the original pipeline route approximately 50km southwest of Mackenzie. The second modification is a gas or electric-powered compressor station (and meter station) near the start of the pipeline route.	<b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> Advice/Reco  <b>Next PCP Date:</b> October 14 to November 13  <b>Additional Information:</b> The EAO is engaging with 10 First Nations and currently forming the TAC.

No.	Project	Amendment Description	Anticipated Decision Date/Next PCP/Additional Information
7	<b>Kootenay West Coal Mine - Rail Loadout Amendment</b> <b>Proponent:</b> CertainTeed <b>Region:</b> Kootenay <b>Location:</b> Canal Flats <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2002) <b>Decision to be made by:</b> Elenore Arend or Chris Trumpy	The proponent submitted an Amendment Project Description (APD) on July 31, 2024, to amend the location of the mine's rail loadout facility. On September 20, 2024, the EAO issued preliminary feedback on the Amendment Project Description to the proponent and is currently awaiting a revised draft which is expected at the beginning of October 2024.	<b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> Advice/Recomm <b>Next PCP Date:</b> TBD (Have requested more info from the certificate holder on engagement on amendment, which will help scope the PCP) <b>Additional Information:</b> The APD will be provided to First Nations, permitting agencies and local governments for review and comment, as well as posted to EPIC for public engagement.
8	<b>Brucejack Mine – Road Upgrades Amendment</b> <b>Proponent:</b> Pretium Resources <b>Region:</b> Skeena <b>Location:</b> 65 kms NW of Stewart, BC <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2018) <b>Decision to be made by:</b> Elenore Arend or Chris Trumpy	Pretium submitted an amendment project description for its tenth amendment application to allow for road upgrades and new communications towers on July 19, 2024.	<b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> Advice/Recomm <b>Next PCP Date:</b> None <b>Additional Information:</b> The EAO has begun the review of the amendment application with the Technical Advisory Committee and First Nations.
9	<b>Mt Milligan Mine – Life of Mine Extension Amendment</b> <b>Proponent:</b> Thompson Creek Metals Company <b>Region:</b> Omineca <b>Location:</b> 90 km west of Mackenzie, BC <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2018) <b>Decision to be made by:</b> Elenore Arend or Chris Trumpy	On March 11, 2024, TCMC submitted an Amendment Project Description for the proposed amendment supporting a life of mine extension at Mt Milligan Mine.	<b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> Advice/Recomm <b>Next PCP Date:</b> July 2025 <b>Additional Information:</b> This will be a Joint Application process including the requirements for the EAC Amendment and associated permit amendments. The Amendment Application is expected in early January 2025.

No.	Project	Amendment Description	Anticipated Decision Date/Next PCP/Additional Information
10	<b>Orca Sand and Gravel – Black Bear Amendment</b>  <b>Proponent:</b> Orca Sand and Gravel Ltd.  <b>Region:</b> Vancouver Island  <b>Location:</b> 4 km West of Port McNeill, BC  <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2018)  <b>Decision to be made by:</b> Elenore Arend or Chris Trumpy	Orca Sand and Gravel Limited proposes to change the Orca Sand and Gravel sand and gravel quarry. The proposed project is anticipated to produce approximately 8 million tonnes per year of sand and gravel. It would include an additional quarry, featuring an aggregate pit, associated conveyor transport system, The addition would use the dedicated marine loading facility for bulk carrier shipping and related infrastructure.	<b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> Advice/Reco  <b>Next PCP Date:</b> None  <b>Additional Information:</b> The TAC is currently reviewing the Amendment Application Information Requirements and Regulatory Coordination Plan.
11	<b>Cougar 8 &amp; 9</b>  <b>Proponent:</b> Elk Valley Resources  <b>Region:</b> Kootenay-boundary  <b>Location:</b> 15 km northeast from Elkford  <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2018)  <b>Decision to be made by:</b> CEO Elenore Arend	Elk Valley Resources proposes to mine two new pits (Cougar Phase 8 Pit and Cougar Phase 9 Pit), at Green Hills Operations (GHO) and Fording River Operation (FRO) Swift. Proposed new disturbance is 302 hectares. It would include the use of existing infrastructure at both GHO and FRO Swift while mining directly south of existing operations in a proposed new greenfield mining area important to Ktunaxa people.	<b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> Advice/Reco  <b>Next PCP Date:</b> TBD  <b>Additional Information:</b> EVR advised EAO that they intend on submitting a draft Amendment Project Description Advice/Recommendation. The EAO is in the process of considering options for the most efficient regulatory approach that also considers the needs of other regulators.
12	<b>LCO2 – Boundary Extension for Powerline Corridor</b>  <b>Proponent:</b> Elk Valley Resources  <b>Region:</b> Kootenay-boundary  <b>Location:</b> 22 km northeast from Elkford  <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2018)  <b>Decision to be made by:</b> TBD	Elk Valley Resources proposes changes to the Line Creek Operations Phase 2 EAC to extend the project boundary to include a powerline corridor needed for construction of a Water Treatment Plant to manage contaminants (e.g. selenium) in Dry Creek and Fording River.  EAO is working with EMLI Major Mines Office (MMO) to administer the application for amendment under s.32(5).	<b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> Advice/Recommendation  <b>Next PCP Date:</b> None  <b>Additional Information:</b> MMO is leading a Mine Review Committee to conduct the application review expected to meet the requirements of section 32(5) amendments.

No.	Project	Amendment Description	Anticipated Decision Date/Next PCP/Additional Information
13	<b>Red Chris Porphyry Copper- Gold Mine</b> <b>Proponent:</b> Newmont Corp. <b>Region:</b> Skeena <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2018) <b>Decision to be made by:</b> CEO, Elenore Arend	Newmont has sent a project description to the EAO to amend the EAC at Red Chris to enable underground block cave mining. The Block Cave Amendment is subject to a Section 7 Consent Agreement with Tahltan Central Government (TCG).	<b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> Advice/Recom <b>Next PCP Date:</b> TBD – Advice/Recommendations <b>Additional Information:</b> Newmont has indicated that it requires decisions to EAC and permit amendments Advice/Recommen. The EAO, TCG and Newmont Advice/Recommendations; Business Information; Advice/Recommendations; Business Information; Intergovernmental Communications

### Designation Applications

No.	Project	Description	Anticipated Decision Date/Next PCP/Additional Information
1	<b>Tranquille on the Lake Development Project</b> <b>Proponent:</b> Ignition Tranquille Developments Ltd. <b>Region:</b> Thompson-Nicola <b>Location:</b> Kamloops <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2018), designation request <b>Decision to be made by:</b> TBD	On August 10, 2023, Stk'emlupsemc te Secwépemc ("SSN") requested confirmation that the proposed Tranquille on the Lake Resort Project is a "resort development" and/or a "marina resort development" and therefore is a reviewable project and requires a project notification under the Environmental Assessment Act (2018) (the Act). In the alternative, if the Project is not considered a reviewable project under the Act, SSN seeks a decision to designate the Project as reviewable under section 11 of the Act.	<b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> Advice/Recommen <b>Next PCP Date:</b> n/a <b>Additional Information:</b> The EAO has completed review of the Application and input from participants. The SSN and proponent are reviewing the draft recommendation report and Advice/Recommendati Advice/Recommendations

No.	Project	Description	Anticipated Decision Date/Next PCP/Additional Information
2	<b>Gibraltar Mine Expansion</b> <b>Proponent:</b> Taseko <b>Region:</b> Cariboo <b>Location:</b> Likely <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2018), designation request <b>Decision to be made by:</b> CEAO Elenore Arend	On August 16, 2024, Xat'sull First Nation requested that the proposed changes to the Gibraltar Mine (expanding an existing pit) be designated as reviewable under the Environmental Assessment Act.	<b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> Advice/Recommend <b>Next PCP Date:</b> n/a <b>Additional Information:</b> EAO is drafting the report and will share a draft with the applicant in October.

### Project Notifications

No.	Project	Description	Anticipated Decision Date/Next PCP/Additional Information
1	<b>Nass Valley Regional Transmission Line</b> <b>Proponent:</b> Nisga'a Nation as represented by the Nisga'a Lisims Government <b>Region:</b> Skeena Region <b>Location:</b> New Aiyansh <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2018), Project Notification <b>Decision to be made by:</b> CEAO Elenore Arend	The proposed project notification is for a 287kV electric transmission line to interconnect the Ksi Lisims Project, provided power to Nisga'a Villages and service potential new green power projects on Nisga'a lands with BC Hydro's proposed Big Cedar substation. The Project is approximately 115 km in total length, consisting of an approximate 100 km long overhead terrestrial portion and an approximate 15 km long submarine portion, with 93% of the transmission line located within the Nass Wildlife Area (as that term is defined in the Nisga'a Final Agreement).	<b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> Advice/Recommend <b>Next PCP date:</b> Advice/Recommendations <b>Additional information:</b> The project notification was submitted on March 6, 2024. After reviewing the initial PN, a letter was sent to the proponent on April 5, 2024, requesting clarification and further information. The proponent submitted a draft Notification package May 24, 2024, with updated information. The EAO provided feedback to the proponent on July 2, 2024. Proponent is now updating the draft Notification package. A formal submission of the PN is expected, the proponent has not indicated timing for the submission.

No.	Project	Description	Anticipated Decision Date/Next PCP/Additional Information
2	<b>Inga Gas Plant Expansion</b> <b>Proponent:</b> ConocoPhillips Canada Resources Corporation <b>Region:</b> Peace <b>Location:</b> 100 km NW of Fort St. John <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2018), Project Notification <b>Decision to be made by:</b> Deputy CEAO Chris Trumpy	The proposed expansion to the Inga Gas Plant, a natural gas process plant is to increase gas processing capacity approximately 25%. This will result in an increase of GHG emissions by approximately 63%. The expansion will use the existing project footprint, as well as replace and upgrade existing equipment.	<b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> Advice/Recomm <b>Next PCP Date:</b> n/a <b>Additional information:</b> The project notification has been submitted and provided to First Nations, permitting agencies and local governments for review and comment. The 21-day PCP closed on July 31, 2024. Intergovernmental Communications Intergovernmental Communications
3	<b>Skytrain Operational and Maintenance Center 5 (OMC 5)</b> <b>Proponent:</b> TI Corp on behalf of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure <b>Region:</b> Lower Mainland <b>Location:</b> Surrey <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2018), Project Notification <b>Decision to be made by:</b> CEAO Elenore Arend	The proposed SkyTrain Operations and Maintenance Centre 5 is a public transportation project in Surrey that would employ more than 250 full-time workers for more than 30 hours per week on an annual basis at the project facilities, which requires notification to the EAO.	<b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> Advice/Recommendation <b>Next PCP date:</b> N/A <b>Additional information:</b> TI Corp submitted the PN on September 18, 2024.

## Transition Orders

No.	Project	Description	Anticipated Decision Date/Next PCP/Additional Information
1	<b>Delta Grinding Facility</b> <b>Proponent:</b> Heidelberg Materials Canada Limited <b>Region:</b> Lower Mainland <b>Location:</b> Tilbury Island, Delta <b>EA Type:</b> Application Information Requirements finalized under EA Act (2002) and transitioned to EA Act (2018); Substituted (CEAA 2012) <b>Decision to be made by:</b> CEAO Elenore Arend	Grinding facility and marine terminal to manufacture cement with a production capacity of 650,000 tonnes of material per year over a minimum anticipated lifespan of 40 years. Located on Tilbury Island in Delta on the Lower Fraser River.	<b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> Fall 2024 (Transition Order issuance) <b>Next PCP Date:</b> unknown Advice/Recommendations
2	<b>Taylor Wind</b> <b>Proponent:</b> Taylor Wind Project Limited Partnership <b>Region:</b> Peace River Regional District <b>Location:</b> approximately 10 km south of the District of Taylor and 28 km southeast of the City of Fort St. John. <b>EA Type:</b> EA Act (2018) <b>Readiness Decision to be made by:</b> CEAO Elenore Arend	The proposed project consists of approximately 130-235 wind turbine generators (including foundations, crane pads, towers, transformers, rotor blades, and generators) with a rated capacity of up to 400 MW; turbines, access roads, electrical collector system, permanent meteorological towers, and other infrastructure will be located on private land in a "Large Agricultural Holdings" zone (A-2) of the Peace River Regional District.	<b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> Advice/Recom (Transition Order issuance) <b>Next PCP Date:</b> TBD <b>Additional Information:</b> The Proponent received a letter on May 27, 2020, notifying them of the requirement to transition the project to the new Act, Advice/Recommendations; Business Information Advice/Recommendations; Business Information The EAO are in conversation with the proponent on the transition A Advice/Recommendations; Business Information

No.	Project	Description	Anticipated Decision Date/Next PCP/Additional Information
3	<b>Wonowon Landfill</b> <b>Proponent:</b> SECURE Energy Services Inc. <b>Region:</b> Peace <b>Location:</b> Wonowon, BC <b>EA Type:</b> Application submitted under EA Act (2002) and transitioned to the 2018 Act on December 17, 2022. <b>Decision to be made by:</b> CEAO Elenore Arend	Proposed hazardous waste landfill able to handle approximately 200,000 tonnes of waste annually. The proposed project is located approximately 9km southeast of Wonowon, B.C.	<b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> Advice/Recom <b>Next PCP Date:</b> n/a <b>Additional Information:</b> The project is currently on hold at the request of the proponent. If the environmental assessment proceeds, the EAO will initiate engagement on the transition decision with First Nations before issuing a recommendation to CEAO.

### Extension Requests

No.	Project	Description	Anticipated Decision Date/Next PCP/Additional Information
1	<b>Revelstoke Generating Station Unit 6</b> <b>Proponent:</b> BC Hydro <b>Region:</b> Kootenay <b>Location:</b> Revelstoke, BC and Summerland, BC <b>EA Type:</b> Post-Certification Extension <b>Decision to be made by:</b> CEAO Elenore Arend	The proposed project would involve installing a sixth 500MW turbine into an existing turbine bay at the Revelstoke Generating Station. The project also requires a new capacitor station along the existing corridor between Vaseaux Lake Terminal Station and Nicole Substation.	<b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> Advice/Recom <b>Next PCP Date:</b> n/a <b>Additional Information:</b> The project was certified on November 27, 2018, and was required to be substantially start by November 27, 2023. BC Hydro sought a regulation under section 77 of the Act to waive the substantial start deadline to allow time for consultation on an extension process. The regulation was approved on November 24, 2023, and waives the substantial start deadline so long as BC Hydro and the EAO are undertaking the certificate extension process.  The EAO is engaging First Nations and technical advisors on the extension process and BC Hydro's revised extension application submitted on July 4, 2024.



## Substantial Start Determinations

No.	Project	Description	Anticipated Decision Date/Next PCP/Additional Information
1	<b>Prince Rupert Gas Transmission</b> <b>Proponent:</b> Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Limited <b>Region:</b> Skeena, Omineca, Northeast <b>Location:</b> Across northern BC <b>EA Type:</b> Post-Certificate substantial start <b>Decision to be made by:</b> Minister of ENV	PRGT's EAC is valid until November 25, 2024. The EAO understands the proponent will be making an application for a substantial start determination at the end of October.	<b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> Spring 2025 <b>Next PCP Date:</b> N/A <b>Additional Information:</b> If the PRGT Project is not substantially started by November 25, 2024, the Certificate expires, and the project cannot proceed. If the project is substantially started by the Certificate deadline, the Certificate remains in effect for the project's life, subject only to cancellation or suspension based on legislated criteria. EAO also will consult with Indigenous nations and will include seeking views with regards to whether the project is substantially started and request any information relevant to this consideration.
2	<b>Murray River Coal</b> <b>Proponent:</b> HD Mining <b>Region:</b> Southeast – Chetwynd <b>Location:</b> Across northern BC <b>EA Type:</b> Post-Certificate substantial start <b>Decision to be made by:</b> Minister of ENV	Murray River's #M15-03 EAC was issued on October 1, 2015. An order was granted in 2020 extending the date by which the proponent must have substantially started the Project to October 1, 2025. The EAO understands the proponent will be making an application for a substantial start determination in October 2024. The IAAC also issued an Environmental Assessment Decision Statement for the project in 2015.	<b>Anticipated Decision Date:</b> Advice/Recom <b>Next PCP Date:</b> N/A <b>Additional Information:</b> HD Mining advised they began construction in June 2024. The Caribou Management Plan and Follow-Up Program is a requirement under Condition 7 of the IAAC's certificate and includes requirements that must be met prior to construction. The EAO is working with IAAC to understand if requirements have been met. Over the Spring and Summer of 2024, HD Mining submitted 10 management plans to the EAO for review, as per the EAC conditions. Advice/Recommendations; Business Information

## Legend

Decision Type	Definition
EA Certificate Referrals	The Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and another responsible minister (of an applicable ministry to the project), determine whether a project should receive an Environmental Assessment Certificate, and if so, under what conditions. Participating Indigenous nations can provide a notice of consent or lack of consent towards the issuance of a Certificate prior to the decision, and the Ministers must provide reasons for their decision. This process is the result of a multi-year environmental assessment process conducted by the EAO.
Readiness Decision	The Chief Executive Assessment Officer of the EAO decides whether a project should proceed to an environmental assessment, requires further information, should be terminated, or should be exempted from the environmental assessment process. The EAO seeks consensus with participating Indigenous nations before making a recommendation regarding the readiness decision and provides an opportunity for expression of consent for termination or exemption decisions.
Transfers	A holder of a Certificate may request for a transfer of a Certificate to a different holder, under Section 33 of the Act or under previous Certificate conditions regarding transfers, and the EAO assesses any effects of the transfer.
Amendments	A Holder may apply to the Chief Executive Assessment Officer of the EAO for an amendment, and the EAO assesses the effects of the proposed amendment. There are also a few circumstances in which the CEAO may amend an EAC without application from the Holder, such as under recommendation from another statutory decision maker. The EAO must seek consensus with participating Indigenous nations for amendment decisions.
Designation Applications	Any person can apply to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to designate a project that does not meet the thresholds to be reviewable under the Environmental Assessment Act, requesting that it require an environmental assessment. The EAO consults with nearby First Nations and assesses the need to require an environmental assessment for the project.
Project Notifications	Under Section 10(1) of the Act, a notification is required for projects that fall within 15% of the thresholds established through the Reviewable Projects Regulation (or meets another notification threshold). The EAO assesses the notification and can recommend to the Minister that an environmental assessment is required.
Transition Orders	For projects that began under the 2002 Act and are now required to transition into the 2018 Act, a transition order is created to clarify the steps required to meet the requirements of the 2018 Act and what stage of the process the project will be transitioned into.
Certificate Extensions	Environmental Assessment Certificates contain a date by which a project must be substantially started, or else the Certificate expires. The holder can apply for a one-time Certificate extension of up to 5 years, which the EAO assesses the effects of the extension and recommends a decision to the Chief Executive Assessment Officer.
Substantial Start Determinations	Environmental Assessment Certificates specify a deadline by which the holder of the Certificate, in the reasonable opinion of the Minister or Chief Executive Assessment Officer, must have substantially started the project. The EAO recommends to the Minister or Chief Executive Assessment Officer whether a project has been substantially started.

Environmental Assessment Office

October 8, 2024

## **Ksi Lisims LNG project**

### **Key Messages:**

- The Environmental Assessment Office is currently assessing the Ksi Lisims LNG project proposed by Nisga’a Nation, Rockies LNG and Western LNG.
- The EAO has begun the last phase of the assessment, where it evaluates potential effects and recommends measures to prevent or mitigate any negative impacts in the event the project is approved to proceed.
- Once it completes an assessment report, the EAO sends it to the ministers of Environment and Energy & Mines to support their decision on whether or not to approve the project to proceed.
- The EAO is carrying out the environmental assessment on behalf of both the provincial and federal governments to inform their separate decisions. Approval from both levels of government is required.

### *If asked about the pipeline supplying natural gas to the project:*

- Nisga’a Nation and their partner, Western LNG, acquired the Prince Rupert Gas Transmission (PRGT) pipeline project from TC Energy Corp. in March 2024 to supply natural gas to the facility.
- The EAO is reviewing two requests to amend the environmental assessment certificate of the PRGT pipeline – one to terminate at the Ksi Lisims facility, and another to reroute its eastern portion.

*If asked about consensus with First Nations:*

- The EAO is consulting with six participating Indigenous nations during the assessment, as well as Haida Nation.
- The EAO will seek consensus with Kitselas, Lax Kw'alaams [*Lakwa-LAM*]), Kitsumkalum, [*KIT-sum-KAY-lum*], Gitga'at, Gitxaala [*git-GATH-la*] and Metlakatla to address any concerns as the assessment process continues.
- Determining the project's potential impacts on each First Nation and their rights, and assessing whether there are ways to mitigate them, in collaboration with the First Nations is a critical part of the assessment process.

*If asked about the new Energy Action Framework and what it means for LNG projects that haven't received environmental approval:*

- To enter into the environmental assessment process, all new LNG project proposals need to develop credible plans to reach net zero emissions by 2030.
- Ksi Lisims LNG included a net zero plan as part of the application.

**Background:**

- The EAO is currently developing its assessment report for the Ksi Lisims project, in the fifth phase of the assessment process. Based on the proponent's application for an environmental assessment certificate (a certificate is required for the project to proceed), the EAO's report evaluates potential effects (positive and negative) from the project. The report supports the responsible ministers' decision on whether or not to approve the project to proceed, and if so, what conditions will be required.
- A final public comment period will be held in November 2024 to provide the public and First Nations an opportunity to review and comment on the EAO's draft assessment report prior to it being submitted to ministers.
- The EAO anticipates finalizing the report and submitting it to ministers at the end of January 2025. The legislated timeline for making a decision is 30 days after receiving a referral.
- Nisga'a Nation, with partners Rockies LNG Limited Partnership and Western LNG LLC, proposed the floating natural gas liquefaction facility and marine export terminal for the north end of Pearse Island on B.C.'s northwest coast, about 15km west of the Nisga'a community of Gingolx (northeast of Prince Rupert) in Nisga'a Treaty Territory. If approved, Ksi Lisims would produce up to 12 million tonnes of liquified natural gas per year.
- The assessment is being conducted by the EAO on behalf of both provincial and federal decision-makers.

*Assessment timeline*

- The EAO is currently drafting its assessment report for the project. In this phase of the process – which is called effects assessment and starts when the EAO accepts the proponent's application – has a 150-day legislated timeline to be completed. This means the assessment report and other materials must be sent to ministers by Feb. 1, 2025 for their decision on whether or not to approve the project to proceed.
- The EAO received the revised application for the proposed Ksi Lisims project in July 2024, and accepted it in September. The application includes all the technical studies and information required as outlined in the process plan for the assessment, including greenhouse gas emissions related to the Province's new Energy Action Framework requirements.
- The EAO had received the initial application for the project in October 2023 and following a public comment period and consultation with First Nations, directed the proponent to make revisions to their application. This is a typical step in the process.
- The EAO approved the project to proceed to the assessment in March 2023 (called the readiness decision, the second phase of the assessment process). This decision followed dispute resolution, initiated by Lax Kw'alaams Band in July 2022 related to lack of consensus with the EAO about the readiness decision. Although consensus was not achieved through dispute resolution, the issues raised have been being addressed in subsequent phases of the assessment process.

*Intergovernmental Communications*

- The project entered the environmental assessment process with early engagement in 2021.

*Natural gas pipeline supplying the facility*

- On March 14, 2024, Nisga'a Nation and their partner, Western LNG, announced the acquisition of the Prince Rupert Gas Transmission (PRGT) pipeline project from Calgary-based TC Energy Corp.

- The EAO is currently reviewing two proposed amendments to reroute the previously approved project, including connecting it to the proposed Ksi Lisims facility.
- The pipeline received an environmental assessment certificate in 2014, which was granted a one-time five-year extension in 2019. Pipeline construction must now be deemed to have been substantially started by November 25, 2019 or the certificate will expire.
- The PRGT pipeline is the subject of opposition by two First Nations and environmental groups, with recent direction action.  
(see also *PRGT issues note*)

#### *Emissions criticism*

- The Ksi Lisims project has been criticized by environmental NGOs opposed to oil and gas activities and concerned about climate change.
- The Province has established requirements for assessment of greenhouse gas emissions, as required by federal and provincial legislation and policies – including B.C.’s new Energy Action Framework.
- A May 2024 letter from the minister to the EAO’s chief executive assessment officer sets out the Province’s approach to delivering the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 commitment and the New Energy Action Framework commitments for net-zero new industry.

#### *First Nations*

- Participating Indigenous nations in the assessment are Gitxaala Nation, Gitga’at First Nation, Kitselas First Nation, Kitsumkalum Band Council, Lax Kw’alaams Band and Metlakatla First Nation.
- Lax Kw’alaams opposes the project. Intergovernmental Communications  
Intergovernmental Communications      The EAO is working with Lax Kw’alaams to support its separate assessment of project effects on the Nation and its rights.
- Several other participating Indigenous nations are also conducting their own assessments of project effects, which will be included in the EAO’s assessment report to ministers.
- Additional First Nations, including Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs and Gitxsan Laxyip Management Office, have notified the EAO of concerns with the project. The EAO is currently working with them on a path forward. (see *Ksi Lisims Project Summary Note for more information*)
- The EAO is seeking consensus with participating Indigenous nations on the sustainability recommendation to ministers, the conclusions in the EAO’s assessment report and the draft conditions the EAO will recommend to the ministers in the event they decide to issue an environmental assessment certificate. Any participating Indigenous nation has the procedural right to trigger dispute resolution if consensus is not reached.
- The EAO will also seek notices of consent (or non-consent) from each participating Indigenous nation for issuing an environmental assessment certificate, which are provided to ministers along with the assessment report.

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Environmental Assessment Office

October 8, 2024

## **PRINCE RUPERT GAS TRANSMISSION**

### **Key Messages:**

- The Prince Rupert Gas Transmission pipeline project has recently applied for two amendments to its environmental assessment certificate.
- The first amendment proposes to change where the pipeline ends, from the currently approved location near Prince Rupert to the proposed Ksi Lisims floating LNG facility at Pearse Island.
- The second proposes to move the beginning of the route approximately 37 kilometers west of Chetwynd and rejoin the current pipeline route approximately 50 kilometers southwest of Mackenzie.
- The second amendment also includes adding a new compressor station near the start of the proposed new pipeline route.
- The EAO is currently reviewing the two amendment requests.
- The Environmental Assessment Office issued the Environmental Assessment Certificate to the previous owner, Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Ltd., for the PRGT project on November 25, 2014.
- The project was granted a one-time five-year extension to its Environmental Assessment Certificate in April 2019.
- Unless the project has been determined to be substantially started, the Environmental Assessment Certificate will expire on November 25, 2024.

*If asked about the pipeline blockade by Gitanyow hereditary chiefs*

- The EAO will continue to work with the Gitanyow and other First Nations on matters led by the EAO concerning the PRGT project.

*If asked about the feasibility of substantial start by Nov 2024:*

- Unless the project has been determined to be substantially started, the environmental assessment certificate will expire on November 25, 2024.
- Determining whether a project is substantially started is made on a case-by-case basis and considers all relevant facts related to the project.
- As part of this determination, the EAO consults with First Nations and considers information from the public and other stakeholders.
- The EAO granted a one-time five-year extension for the project, which otherwise would have had to be substantially started in 2019.
- The EAO is not able to comment on the progress of project construction and whether it could be completed by the deadline.
- Nisga'a Nation and their partner, Western LNG, would be most appropriate to speak to that question.
  - *If pressed...*
    - The EAO is beginning to gather the information required to make a determination on substantial start – including on-site inspections in October and November 2024.
    - The EAO is targeting the decision on whether or not the project is deemed to have been substantially started for the spring of 2025.



**Background:**

- Based on the requirements of its environmental assessment certificate, construction of the Prince Rupert Gas Transmission (PRGT) pipeline must be substantially started by November 25, 2024, or the certificate will expire. The project cannot proceed without a valid certificate.
- EAO compliance and enforcement officers are conducting on-site inspections of the pipeline project in October and November 2024 to support the EAO's determination of whether or not the project has been substantially started.
- The Act does not state a proponent must stop construction at the time the certificate expires, and construction can continue until a decision is made regarding substantial start (however only work completed prior to November 25 can be considered in the decision).
- The EAO is targeting the decision on substantial start for Spring 2025, allowing time for First Nations consultation. Under the Act, the minister makes the decision on substantial start; however such decisions can be delegated to the Chief Executive Assessment Officer.
- The project was assessed by the EAO and granted an environmental assessment certificate in 2014. The certificate would have expired in 2019, but the proponent obtained a five-year extension, pursuant to the *Environmental Assessment Act*. It is not uncommon for projects requiring more time to start, to receive a certificate extension.
- The Act only allows for one five-year extension. The minister may grant a second one through a legislative amendment, but this is rare. PRGT Ltd. has not sought a second extension.
- In March 2024, Nisga'a Nation and their partner, Western LNG (two of the three Ksi Lisims LNG proponents) acquired the PRGT project from TC Energy Corp. to deliver liquefied natural gas to their proposed floating Ksi Lisims LNG project, which the EAO is currently assessing.
- The pipeline was approved to run between Hudson's Hope and the proposed Pacific NorthWest LNG facility on Lelu Island near Prince Rupert (which was subsequently cancelled in 2017). The certificate-holder recently applied to the EAO to change the route to Ksi Lisims on Pearse Island.
- The pipeline project consists of both land-based and marine sections of pipeline, as well as up to eight compressor stations and a metering station. Depending on the final route, the pipeline could include up to 780 kilometres of land-based pipeline with a diameter of over 1.2 metres and up to 120 kilometres of twin marine pipelines approximately a meter in diameter. The proposed project is anticipated to produce approximately 2 billion cubic feet per day with the potential of expansion up to approximately 3.6 billion cubic feet per day.

***PRGT amendments***

- In the summer of 2024, the EAO received requests for two additional amendments to the PRGT project environmental assessment certificate:
  - Marine: reroute the pipeline to Pearse Island, to connect to the Ksi Lisims LNG floating liquefaction facility, from the existing approved terminus on Lelu Island.
  - Eastern: reroute the pipeline by 172-km, with a new start to the pipeline located 37 km west of Chetwynd and joining the original pipeline 50 km southwest of Mackenzie. It would include a new compressor station near the start of the alternate pipeline route with an option for electrification.

Intergovernmental Communications

## Intergovernmental Communications

## Intergovernmental Communications

Some additional permits are still required.

Between 2015 and 2017, the EAO granted five amendments to the environmental assessment certificate, related to minor rerouting, compressor stations and work camps.

*First Nations*

- During the environmental assessment, the EAO identified 25 Indigenous groups with asserted Aboriginal or treaty rights along the pipeline route, including two Aboriginal associations and the Nisga'a Lisims Government. Additionally, there were numerous individual Gitksan Wilps (hereditary chiefs) identified.
- On Aug. 26, 2024, the Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs and their supporters established a protest camp at the Cranberry Connector, a forest service road used to access the PRGT project's work camp. They also publicly burned the impact benefits agreement signed in 2014, stating in a news release that they no longer support the project as "the project route and scope have undergone significant changes since the existing environmental assessment was conducted in 2014."
- Gitksan Hereditary Chiefs have also publicly voiced concerns about the project in recent months.

## Intergovernmental Communications

- Gitga'at, Kitselas, Kitsumkalum, Metlakatla and Lax Kw'alaams have also expressed concerns with the proposed project amendments.

*Public opinion*

## Advice/Recommendations

- Overall, there has been increasing public interest in the project in 2024; the public is focused on matters concerning cumulative effects, time since the issuance of the EAC, the substantial start determination, and meeting EAC conditions, as well as greenhouse gas emissions and impacts on climate change.
- During the environmental assessment process which took place from 2013 to 2014, two public comment periods were held (one on the draft application information requirements, and another on the proponent's application for an environmental assessment certificate) to gather information and insight from those that would be affected by the pipeline construction and route.
- A public comment period occurred between August and September 2024 regarding the PRGT marine amendment. Concerns raised centred on greenhouse gas emissions, climate change and the validity of the certificate.
- A public comment period on the PRGT Eastern amendment is taking place from October to November 2024, closing November 14, 2024.

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*Recent media report:*

**Nisga'a-led pipeline hit by opposition from nearby First Nations**

Globe and Mail, October 1, 2024, Page B1, By Brent Jang

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Environmental Assessment Office

October 7, 2024

## **FRASER RIVER TUNNEL PROJECT**

### **Key Messages:**

- The Environmental Assessment Office is currently assessing the Fraser River Tunnel project proposed by Transportation Investment Corp (TIC) on behalf of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.
- The Lower Mainland is one of the most complex regions in the province for project assessments, requiring consultation with multiple First Nations and municipalities.
- TIC is currently developing a detailed application for the project – which is the fourth phase of the seven-phase environmental assessment process.
- The application is guided by the EAO's plan for the assessment, which outlines the scope of what is being reviewed, what information is required and timelines for the assessment.
- This plan was developed in consultation with First Nations, stakeholders, and technical experts.

*If asked about the length of time to complete the assessment...*

- The EAO is committed to conducting timely environmental assessments for all projects and works closely with proponents to meet important milestones and a decision for this project is targeted for 2026.
- The environmental assessment process typically takes three to five years to complete, depending on the complexity of a project, how well the proponent has prepared for the assessment and how quickly issues raised by participants in the assessment process are resolved.

*If asked about public feedback on the project...*

- The EAO has held two public comment periods, with two more to

come.

- These will provide opportunities to share input about the project, including potential impacts to the community and how members of the public use the area where a project is proposed.

**Background:**

- The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) is assessing a proposed eight-lane tunnel under the Fraser River to replace the George Massey Tunnel on Highway 99 between Richmond and Delta. The EAO is working with First Nations, stakeholders and technical experts throughout the entire environmental assessment process, which began in 2022.
- The proponent, Transportation Investment Corp (TIC) on behalf of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI), is now in the application development stage of the process.
  - Once the proponent submits its application, the EAO seek feedback on it from participating First Nations, stakeholders, technical experts and the public.
  - The proponent will then finalize the application by addressing comments from participants and when it meets requirements set by the EAO, the EAO will begin its assessment of the potential effects from project and consider whether these effects are significant after applying mitigation measures.
- The EAO published its process order for the proposed Fraser River Tunnel (FRT) project On March 22, 2024. The process order sets the plan for how the EAO will conduct its assessment, including defining its scope, the information required, methods of data collection, and timelines. This informs the development of the application.

Advice/Recommendations

*Previous Fraser River crossing project*

- On August 18, 2021, the Province announced it will replace the aging George Massey Tunnel on Highway 99 with an immersed tube tunnel. The new proposed tunnel would be located upriver of the existing tunnel and include two lanes dedicated to bus rapid transit and a multi-use path for cyclists and pedestrians.
- The announcement reversed a decision by the former government to build an eight-lane bridge, which underwent an environmental assessment and received an environmental assessment certificate in 2017. That certificate expired in 2022.
- Opposition parties criticized the change in plan, saying it delays the tunnel's replacement because the new tunnel must also undergo an assessment before it can be built.
- Because the certificate for the bridge project expired, a new environmental assessment would be required if a new government pursues a bridge instead of the proposed tunnel.

Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications



Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information

### *First Nations engagement*

- The timeline for the readiness decision for the project to proceed to an environmental assessment, which was issued in September 2023, Intergovernmental Communications  
Intergovernmental Communications
- The EAO reached consensus with five of the 13 participating Indigenous nations on the readiness decision with six others stating they did not object to the recommendation to proceed to an environmental assessment. No First Nation raised concerns of the project resulting in extraordinarily adverse effects nor initiated dispute resolution.

Interests of an Indigenous People; Intergovernmental Communications

### *Public feedback*

- The EAO held a public comment period November-December 2023, on its draft plan for project assessment (called the process order), with 70 comments received. Open houses were held in Richmond (43 attendees) and Delta (81 attendees).
- A November 29, 2023, article in *Burnaby Now* highlighted concerns raised by members of the opposition, including loss of parkland, popular walking trails and arable land, and Fraser River closures to boat traffic for six 48-hour periods during project construction.
- The issue of the timeline for the Massey Tunnel replacement has been raised in media during the 2024 provincial election campaign.

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## **HIGHLAND VALLEY COPPER** **MINE LIFE EXTENSION (HVC MLE)**

### **Key Messages:**

- An environmental assessment is currently nearing completion for an expansion of the existing Highland Valley Copper mine near Logan Lake.
- The proponent, Teck Resources, wants to increase production and extend the life of the existing mine through to 2043, an additional 18 years.
- The Environmental Assessment Office is currently completing its assessment of the potential effects from the project, in consultation with First Nations and technical experts.
- The EAO expects to provide its assessment report to the Ministers of Environment and Energy and Mines <sup>Advice/Recommendations</sup> to support their decision on whether or not to approve the project to proceed.
- The EAO is working closely with the Ministries of Energy and Mines and Environment to streamline the permitting process for the project, in the event the ministers determine it should be granted an environmental assessment certificate.
- This collaboration allows a more timely regulatory process, while also ensuring all regulators apply proper due diligence to protect the health and wellbeing of the environment and communities.

**Background:**

- Teck Highland Valley Copper Partnership proposes to modify its Highland Valley Copper (HVC) mine to operate for an additional 18 years.
- The existing copper and molybdenum mine site is located 17 km west of Logan Lake and 75 km southwest of Kamloops.
- The proposed extension project would include expanding the existing open pits, mine site infrastructure, tailings pond and processing facilities. The proposed plans also include rerouting local power and gas lines, and potentially relocating Highway 97C.
- If approved, the extension project would produce an average of approximately 178,000 tonnes of ore per day and, in all, 900 million tonnes of ore and one billion tonnes of tailings over the additional 18 years of operations
- HVC is the primary employer in the *Advice/Recommendations; Business Information*
- The mine currently employs 1,320, and the extension would add another 200 permanent jobs, along with 500-1250 jobs during construction.
- Construction costs are estimated at \$1.5 billion, with an additional \$690 million in operations over the additional 18 years.

*Project assessment status and timelines*

- The current phase – called effects assessment, which starts when the EAO accepts the proponent's application and ends when the EAO submits its assessment report and other materials to ministers for decision – has a 150-day legislated timeline (to December 6, 2024).
- The EAO is working to finalize its draft assessment report on this proposed HVC Mine Life Extension (MLE) project, which is prepared in the fifth phase of the assessment process.
- Based on a proponent's application for an environmental assessment certificate – which is required for a reviewable project to proceed – the EAO's assessment report evaluates potential effects (positive and negative) from the project.
- The public and First Nations have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft assessment report prior to it being submitted to ministers during a final public comment period. This was scheduled for October 23 to November 22, 2024.
- The EAO anticipates submitting the final report to ministers *Advice/Recommendation*, who must make a decision within 30 days of receiving the referral.
- The report and other documents (the referral package) support the two responsible ministers' decision on whether or not to approve the project to proceed, and if so, what conditions should be required to mitigate potential negative impacts. The decision-makers for this project are the ministers of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV), and Energy, Mines and Low-Carbon Innovation (EMLI).
- The environmental assessment initially started in September 2019, under the previous Act, and was transitioned to the 2018 Environmental Assessment Act in August 2022.
- The EAO is cooperating with EMLI and ENV on a concurrent permitting strategy for the project. The two ministries are reviewing permit amendments under the Mines Act and Environmental Management Act at the same time as the environmental assessment is taking place.

- The proposed project does not trigger a federal environmental assessment, as it is below both tonnage and land-use thresholds, so federal approval is not required.

#### *First Nations*

- First Nations whose interests may be affected by HVC MLE are primarily Nlaka'pamux groups and, to a lesser degree, Secwépemc groups.
- The five participating Indigenous nations for the HVC MLE environmental assessment are:
  - Bonaparte First Nation
  - Citxw Nlaka'pamux Assembly
  - Kanaka Bar Indian Band
  - Lower Nicola Indian Band
  - Stk'emlupsemc te Secwépemc Nation.
- Multiple First Nations organizations advised EAO that they will conduct their own Indigenous-led processes to assess potential effects to Indigenous interests. First Nations assessment reports are provided to the ministers along with the EAO's assessment.
- The EAO is working consistently with the following groups:
  - **Citxw Nlaka'pamux Assembly (CNA)**, which represents Ashcroft, Boston Bar, Coldwater, Cook's Ferry, Nicomen, Nooaitch, Shackan, and Siska. Citxw Nlaka'pamux Assembly has collaboration plans with the EAO and EMLI, and is conducting an Indigenous-led assessment in cooperation with the proponent.
  - **Lower Nicola Indian Band** has collaboration plans with the EAO and EMLI, and is conducting an Indigenous-led assessment in cooperation with the proponent.
  - **Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC)** is conducting an independent assessment separate from the provincial environmental assessment. The EAO and NNTC signed a process cooperation agreement in 2024, formalizing how the two assessments would work together leading up to the ministers' referral.
  - **Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation** is a participating Indigenous nation and is conducting a separate assessment that is not coordinated with the EAO.
- Any participating Indigenous nation has the procedural right to trigger dispute resolution if consensus with the EAO is not reached at the end of the current phase of the assessment – regarding the sustainability recommendation; the conclusions in the EAO's assessment report; or the draft conditions the EAO recommends in the event the ministers decide to issue an environmental assessment certificate. They also have the right to provide a notice of consent or non-consent at the end of the assessment for the issuance of an environmental assessment certificate.
- Business Information; Advice/Recommendations during the 30-day decision phase, which begins when the EAO submits its assessment report and other documents in the referral package.

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# SECTION K

## GOVERNMENT 101

# Government 101

Overview of Key Roles, Structures & Processes

October 2024

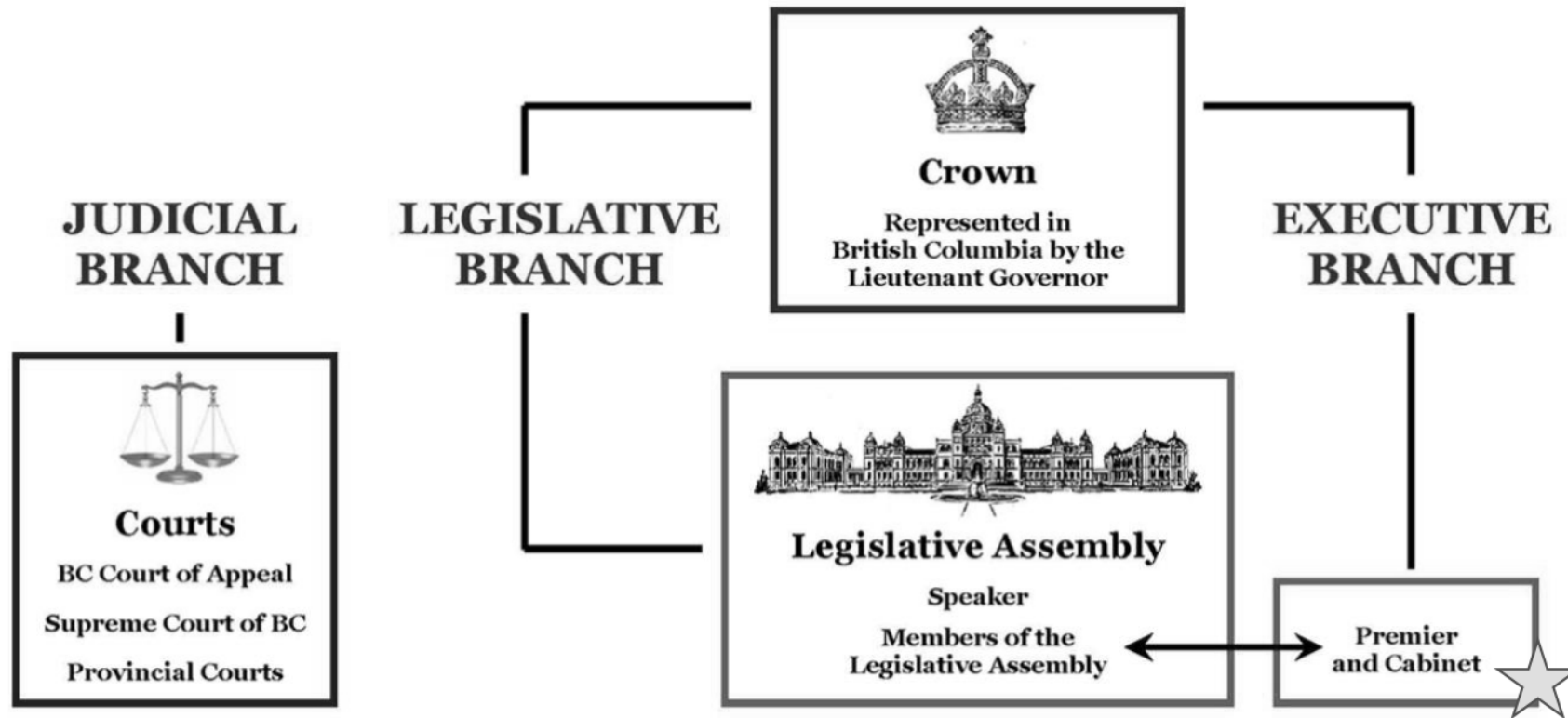
# Overview

- Introduction
- Office of the Premier
- Roles & Responsibilities
- Government Decision Making
- Cabinet Confidentiality
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# Introduction



# The Three Branches of Government



# The Executive Council or Cabinet

- Established under section 9 of *Constitution Act*
- Ultimate decision-making body of government
- Members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor on advice from Premier
- Chaired by the Premier

# Office of the Premier



# Office of the Premier

- The Office of the Premier has two principal roles:
  - 1) **Political:** overseen by the Premier's Chief of Staff, who acts as the senior political advisor to government
  - 2) **Non-partisan Public Service:** overseen by the Deputy Minister to the Premier
- Premier's **Chief of Staff** and **Deputy Minister to the Premier** work collaboratively to:
  - Support the Premier to advance government's policy and legislative agendas
  - Represent the Premier in providing direction to their respective staffs:
    - Chief of Staff provides direction to political staff, including Ministers' chiefs of staff
    - Deputy Minister to the Premier provides direction to public servants

# Key Roles

## Premier's Chief of Staff

- Most senior political advisor
- Provides strategic advice to the Premier and Executive Council (Cabinet) to advance government's policy and legislative agenda
- Coordinates and develops governments strategic and policy objectives
- Coordinates cross-government communications and issues management
- Develops and maintains relationships with major stakeholders
- All Ministers' chiefs of staff report to the Premier's Chief of Staff

## Deputy Minister to the Premier

- Most senior public servant (non-political official)
- Serves as Cabinet Secretary and head of the BC Public Service
- Provides non-partisan advice to the Premier on public policy, development of legislation, and operational issues
- Ensures effective administration of programs and services, the development and implementation of key policy initiatives
- Manages a professional and non-partisan public service
- All Deputy Ministers report to the Deputy Minister to the Premier

# Roles & Responsibilities

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Advice/Recommendations

# Government Decision-Making



# Cabinet-Level Decisions



## Policy

Cabinet considers and provides direction on significant new policies or shifts in policy. It may also provide direction on contentious issues and issues with significant cross-government and inter-governmental implications.



## Fiscal

Treasury Board considers and provides direction on the overall financial decision making of the province and the execution of the fiscal plan, including making regulations or issuing directives to control or limit expenditures.



## Legislative

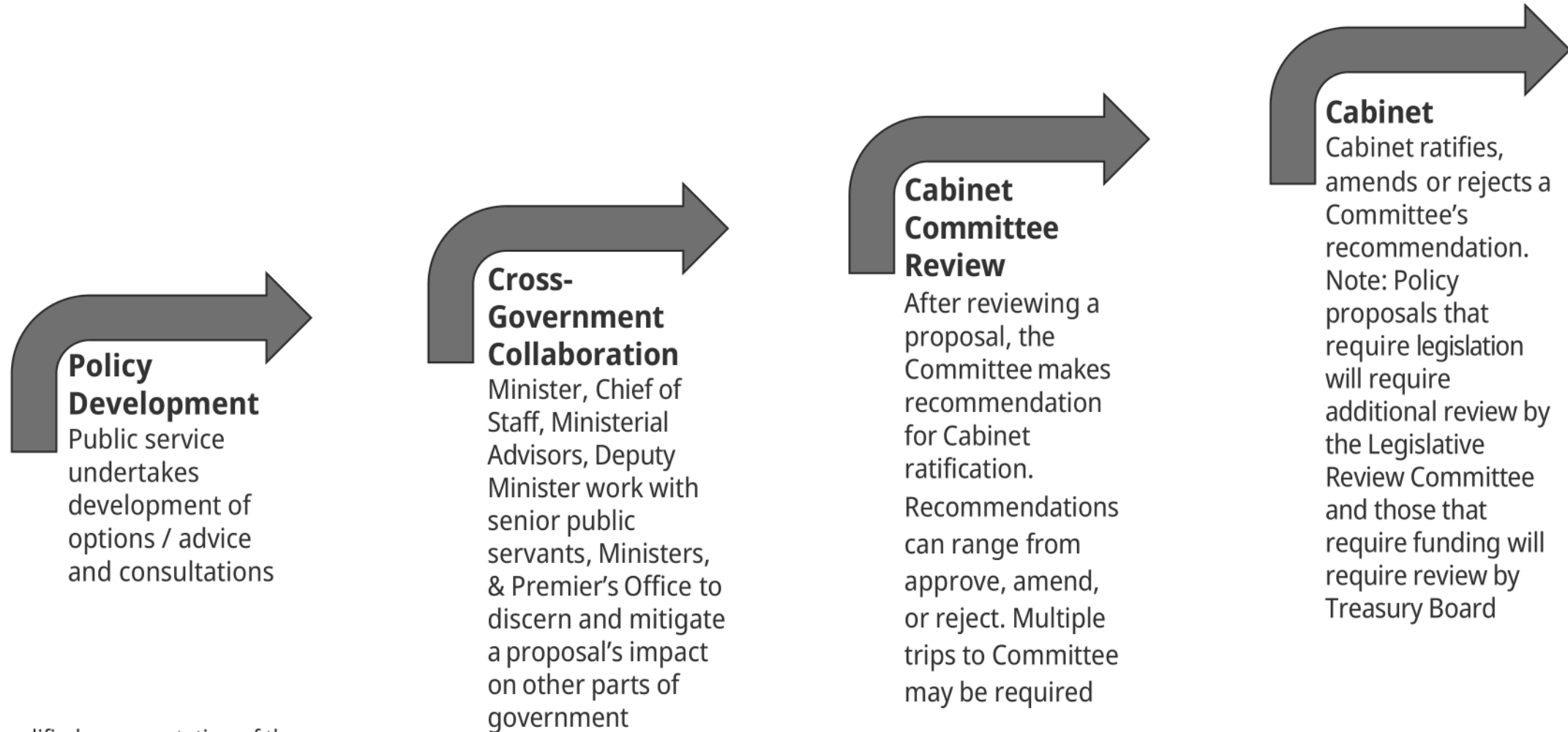
Cabinet considers and provides direction on legislative priorities and legislation.



## Regulations / OICs

Cabinet considers and provides direction on regulatory changes, appointments and more through Orders in Councils (OICs).

# Government Decision-Making: Key Steps\*



\*This is a simplified representation of the process

# Mandate Letters

- Usually, Mandate Letters are issued to each Minister by the Premier and set out the expectations and deliverables regarding their portfolio and priorities for government as a whole
- Mandate Letters act as a guide for the Minister and Deputy Minister to follow in their day-to-day work, as well as the means for evaluating it
- How and when Mandate Letter deliverables are achieved is determined through collective decision making at Cabinet
- Any policy proposal that falls outside of the objectives set out in Mandate Letters requires approval from the Premier's Office to enter into the Cabinet review and decision-making process

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Advice/Recommendations

# Cabinet and Cabinet Committees

- Policy or program proposals require formal Cabinet approval to proceed:
  - This process involves a Cabinet Submission, sometimes more than one, for review and decision
  - Policy and funding decisions are determined separately, through Cabinet and Treasury Board respectively
  - This process applies even if the item is listed in a Minister's Mandate Letter
  - The Deputy Minister to the Premier, in their role of Cabinet Secretary, is responsible for what advances into the Cabinet review process
  - The process and administration of Cabinet and Cabinet Committees is managed through the office of Cabinet Operations
- Cabinet and Cabinet Committees reach decisions through discussion and consensus
- Decisions are set out in minutes and are formally communicated to ministries through Records of Decision

# Role of Cabinet Committees in the Review Process

- Prior to proceeding to Cabinet for decision, a submission may be vetted by a Cabinet Committee
- Practically speaking, Cabinet Committees help manage the high volume of items requiring decision so that Cabinet meetings can focus on the most significant, high-profile public policy issues
- Cabinet Committees are established by the Premier, by convention or by legislation
- Membership is composed of Cabinet Ministers and some government caucus MLAs. Each Committee is chaired by a member of the Executive Council (Cabinet)
- Cabinet Committees assess submissions and make recommendations to Cabinet, which the Chair reports out on at a full Cabinet meeting
- Cabinet can ratify, amend or reject the Committee's recommendation and Ministers are expected to leave Cabinet with a united voice

# Cabinet Confidentiality

# Cabinet Confidentiality

- The work undertaken by Cabinet and its Committees is and must remain confidential. This includes anything that would reveal the substance of Cabinet deliberations:
  - Cabinet and Treasury Board Submissions and supporting documents
  - Discussion around the Cabinet table
  - Attendees, agendas and dates that items are scheduled to come forward
- Cabinet is a safe place to talk frankly and emerge with one voice
- All Ministers, MLA Cabinet Committee members and their supporting political staff are required to uphold the confidentiality provisions under the oaths or confidentiality agreements they have taken:

Cabinet Minister	Oath for Member of Executive Council
MLA Cabinet Committee Member	Oath of Confidentiality for Committees of Executive Council
Ministers' Chiefs of Staff	Political Staff Oath Confidentiality Agreement for attending Cabinet & Committee meetings



# Cabinet Confidentiality

- The requirement for Cabinet confidentiality prohibits direct and indirect disclosures outside of government – to stakeholders, lobbyists or the media
- Breaches in Cabinet confidentiality violate the collective responsibility shared by all Cabinet Ministers and can have serious implications for Government as a whole
- Confidentiality applies to Cabinet as an entity – individual ministers do not have the authority to waive it

Advice/Recommendations

# Conflict of Interest

# Conflict of Interest

- Ministers and political staff are required to avoid conflicts of interest
- Ministers must abide by the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act*, which prohibits acting in an official capacity if a conflict of interest or a perceived conflict of interest exists
- Similarly, political staff must abide by the conflict of interest requirements outlined in the Standards of Conduct for Political Staff
- There are three types of conflict of interest: real, potential and perceived
- A conflict of interest exists if an official power or an official duty or function is performed when the person knows that there is the opportunity to further a private interest
- A private interest does not include an interest that applies to the general public or affects a minister as a broad class of people
- **Effectively managing conflicts of interest is one of the primary ways that public confidence in the integrity of government is fostered and maintained**

# Conflict of Interest Commissioner

- The Conflict of Interest Commissioner is an independent, non-partisan Officer of the Legislative Assembly who is responsible for independently and impartially interpreting and administering the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act*
- All Members of the Legislative Assembly are required to file a confidential disclosure statement with the Commissioner within 60 days of being elected, and after that, annually
- Once the contents of the confidential disclosure statement have been finalized, a Public Disclosure Statement is prepared, which contains most, but not all, of the information provided to the Commissioner
- The Public Disclosure Statement is filed with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and is available for public inspection

# Records Management

# Records Management

- All records created are subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA)*, whether they are considered transitory in nature or are related to government decisions
- These include both hard copy and electronic records (E.g., emails, texts, Post-It notes, notebooks)
- Records relating to government decisions need to be maintained by Ministers and Ministers' office staff
- Maintaining records does not equate to disclosure of records
- Records belong to government, not to individual members of Executive Council or political staff

# Records Management

- Content related to Cabinet and Cabinet Committee deliberations cannot be disclosed under section 12 of FOIPPA
- Section 13 of FOIPPA provides a similar rule for policy advice or recommendations developed for a Minister
- Information and Privacy Analysts in the public service help with redacting content from records from records in accordance with FOIPPA as part of preparing responses to freedom of information requests
- Some records are proactively disclosed, including Minister's calendars and travel expenses

# Records Management

- Deputy Minister Offices (DMOs) are responsible for the proper management of government records that reside in a Minister's Office and sign off on the final response packages for freedom of information requests
- DMO and Minister's Office staff should establish protocols regarding records management and responses to freedom of information requests
- Minister's Office staff should undertake training via the Corporate Information and Records Management Office related to records management, freedom of information requests, and protecting the personal privacy of individuals
- Specific executive training may be available via dedicated sessions in addition to online learning courses through the Public Service Agency
- **Staying on top of records management is key – any record you didn't need to keep but is still in existence is subject to FOIPPA**



