



**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY**

MINISTRY TRANSITION BINDER

October 2024

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Transition Binder Table of Contents

Section A: Ministry Overview

1.	Ministry Profile	1
2.	Ministry Service Plan	2

Section B: Core Business and Program Overview

1.	Functional Org Chart	23
2.	Deputy Minister Office	24
3.	Climate Action Secretariat	27
4.	Conservation and Recreation	30
5.	Environmental Protection	33
6.	Recreation Strategy and Service Transformation	36
7.	Strategic Services	39
8.	Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Ministries	42

Section C: Major Corporate Issue Notes

1.	Oil and Gas Emissions Cap	45
2.	Progress Towards B.C.'s Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets	47
3.	Southeast Initiatives	50

Section D: 30-60-90 Day Issue Notes

	See Section Table of Contents	53
--	-------------------------------------	----

Section E: Transition Notes

	See Section Table of Contents	92
--	-------------------------------------	----

Section F: Financial Overview

	216
--	-------	-----

Section G: Legislation Overview

	220
--	-------	-----

Section H: Communications Overview

	227
--	-------	-----

Section I: Key Stakeholders

	230
--	-------	-----

Section J: Environmental Assessment Office

	See Section Table of Contents	246
--	-------------------------------------	-----

Section K: Government 101

	360
--	-------	-----

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.

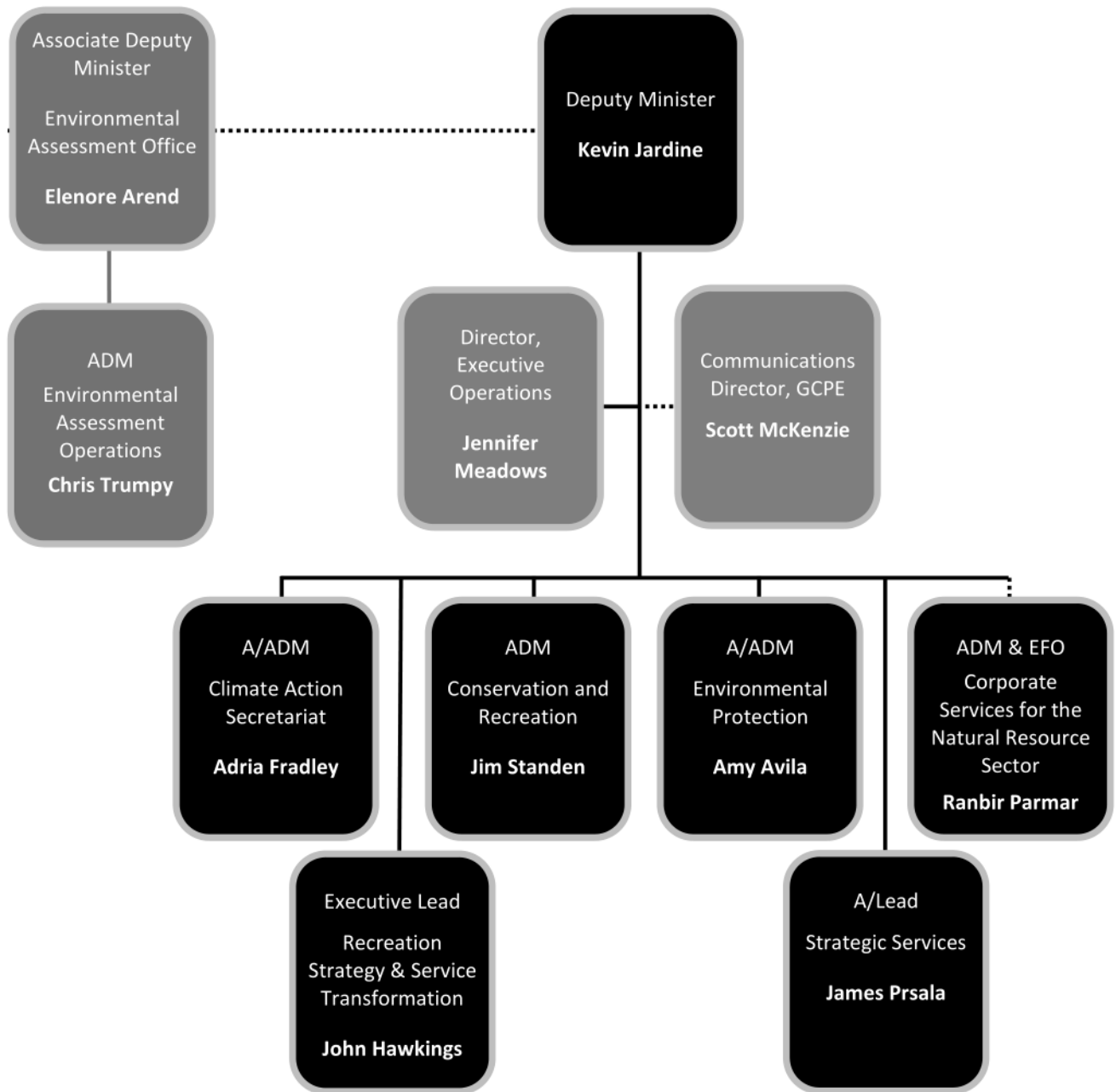
Services are delivered directly through staff across the province, as well as through partnerships and agreements with Indigenous peoples, local governments, the federal government, and stakeholder groups.

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



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

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

1-800-663-7867

Or visit our website at:

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

Published by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Minister's Accountability Statement



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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. Heyman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

Table of Contents

Minister’s Accountability Statement	5
Strategic Direction.....	7
Purpose of the Ministry.....	7
Operating Environment.....	8
Performance Planning	9
Financial Summary	20
Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations.....	22

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/CO₂e 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 MtCO₂e 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 ¹	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 ²	2023 emissions are 5% below 2007 levels	2024 emissions are 9% below 2007 levels	2025 emissions are 15% below 2007 levels ³	2026 emissions are 19% below 2007 levels
2.1b Carbon intensity of B.C.'s economy (tonnes CO ₂ e per million dollars of gross domestic product)	220 tonnes CO ₂ e per \$M GDP	219 tonnes CO ₂ e per \$M GDP	205 tonnes CO ₂ e per \$M GDP	192 tonnes CO ₂ e per \$M GDP	178 tonnes CO ₂ e per \$M GDP	166 tonnes CO ₂ 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.

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ 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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Foundational risk assessment methodology completed 2. Initiate a joint provincial scale Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment (DCRRA) with the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness and in collaboration with First Nations partners 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete and publish the provincial scale DCRRA 2. Initiate a joint regional scale DCRRA with the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness and in collaboration with First Nations partners 3. Support the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness to develop a Provincial Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Plan 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete and publish the regional scale DCRRA 2. Complete and publish the Provincial Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Plan 	TBD ¹

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

¹ 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	<p>1. Finalize regulations and/or policies that enhance functionality of the Act</p> <p>2. Finalize framework to evaluate whether implementation of the Act is achieving the intended purposes</p>	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 ¹	2024/25 Estimates	2025/26 Plan	2026/27 Plan
Operating Expenses				
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
Sub-total	199,682	188,053	187,907	187,942
Park Enhancement Fund	12,920	12,989	12,989	12,989
Sustainable Environment Fund	26,135	26,135	26,135	26,135
Total	238,737	227,177	227,031	227,066
Capital Expenditures				
Executive and Support Services	46,975	44,686	32,616	32,616
Park Enhancement Fund	400	400	400	400
Total	47,375	45,086	33,016	33,016
Other Financing Transactions				
Climate Action Greenhouse Gas Emissions Offsets				
Disbursements	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Receipts	0	0	0	0
Net Cash Requirement (Source)	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000

¹ 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	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	Restated Estimates ¹	Estimates	Plan	Plan
Operating Expenses				
Environmental Assessment Office	16,392	17,074	17,074	17,074
Total	16,392	17,074	17,074	17,074

¹ 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.

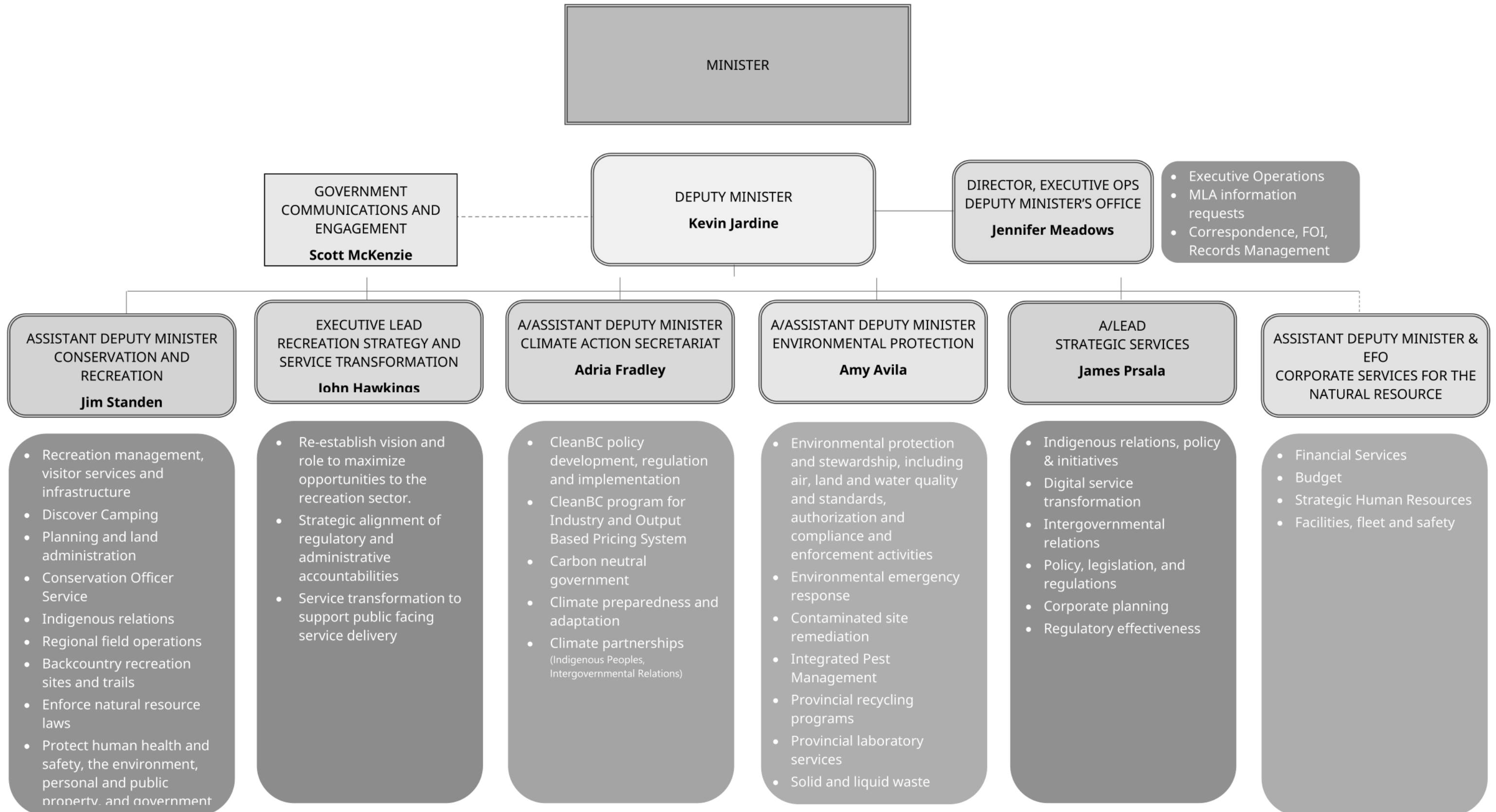
Climate Solutions Council

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

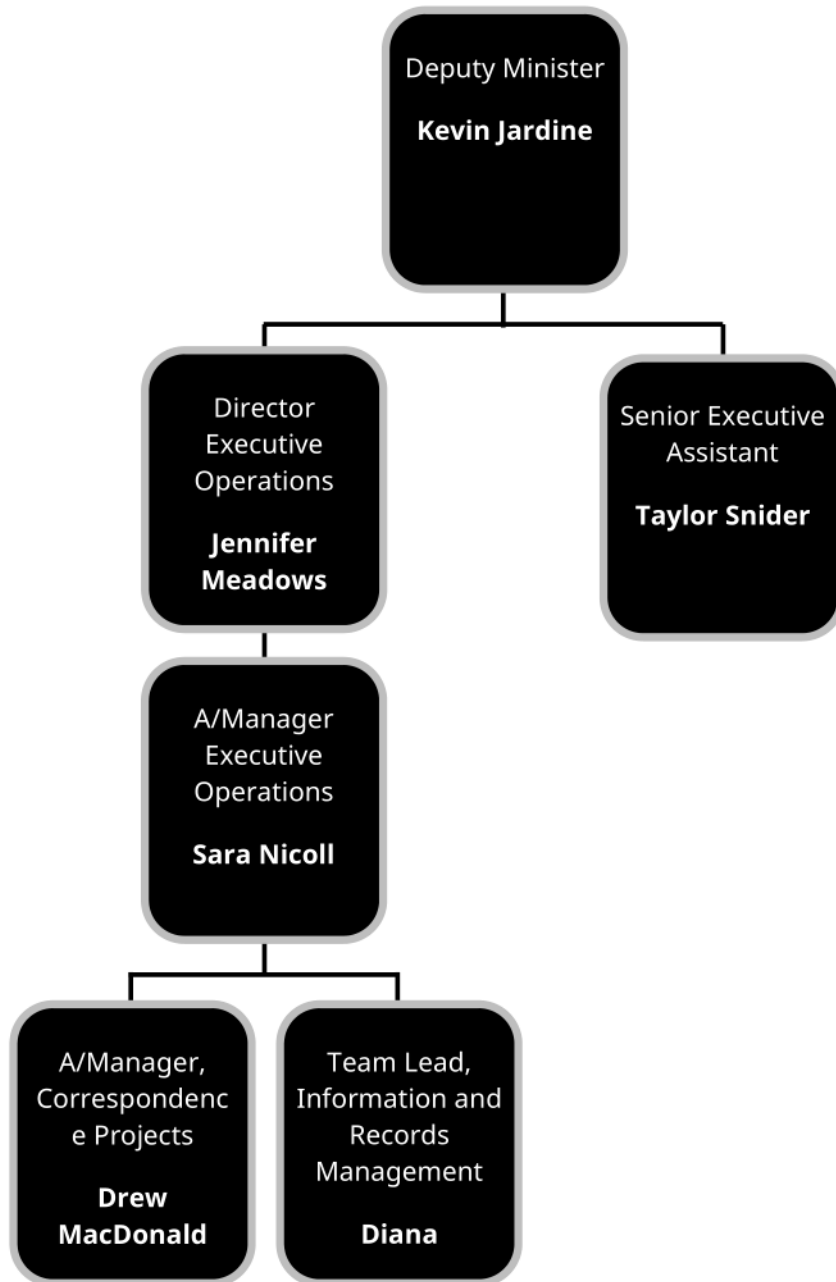
3. Correspondence

- 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

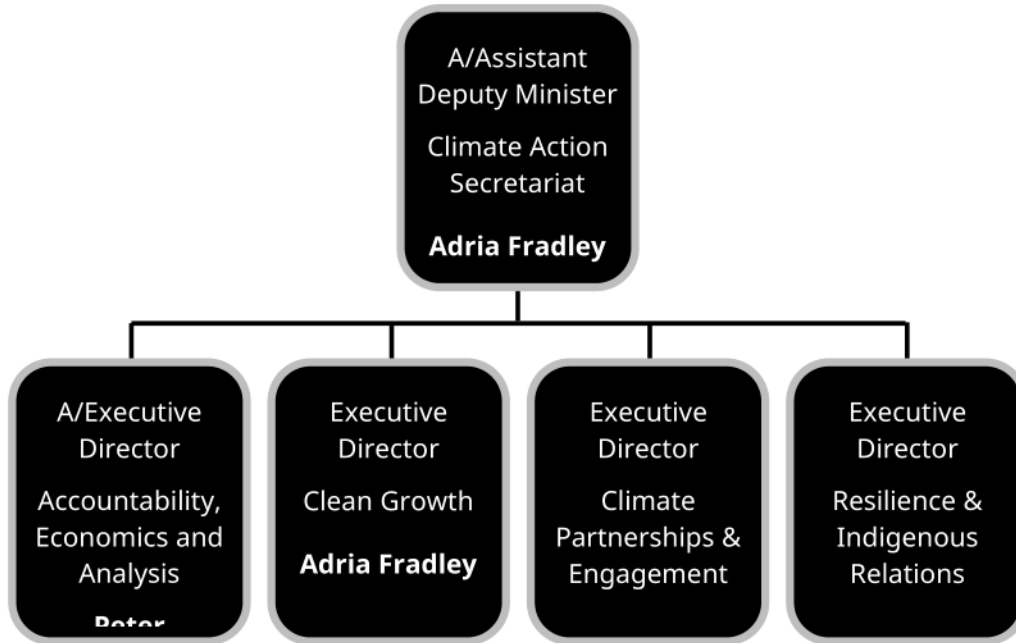
\$5.661 – CleanBC Program for Industry and BC Output Based Pricing System

Full Time Equivalent (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)

