

**Ministry of Municipal Affairs  
2024/25 Estimates Debate  
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## MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

### 1. Significant changes in 2024/25

**Question: What were the significant budget changes in 2024/25 compared to 2023/24?**

**Response:**

Municipal Affairs saw an increase of \$18.84M to base budget in 2024/25 compared to 2023/24 (See Tab 01 – 2023-24 Estimates Summary). The changes are as follows:

- \$12.91M increase for Settlement Support for Newcomers
- \$4.61M increase to Shared Recovery Mandate
- \$1.84M increase due to transfer of Housing Resources
- \$1.32M increase to the University Endowment Lands Special Account for administration expenses and offsetting recovery due to an increase in revenues in the UEL
- \$1.08M increase for Peace River Agreement
- \$2.92M decrease due to the 2023/24 completion of the Bulkley Nechako / Kitimat Stikine Regional District grants

# Ministry of Municipal Affairs

## 2024/25 Estimates Summary

### MINISTRY ESTIMATES BUDGET OVERVIEW

**Ministry Operations Vote 40**  
**2024/25 Estimate Budget: \$288.305M (a net increase of \$18.843M from Estimates 2023/24 of \$269.462M)**

The net increase is due to:

- \$12.913M increase to Settlement Support for Newcomers
- \$4.611M increase to Shared Recovery Mandate
- \$1.838M increase due to transfer of Housing Resources
- \$1.317M increase to University Endowment Lands Special Account
- \$1.083 increase for Peace River Agreement
- \$1k increase to Provincial Nominee Program due to creation of new sub sub-vote in Estimates

This is offset due to a decrease in the following:

- \$2.92M decrease due to the 2023/24 completion of the Bulkley Nechako / Kitimat Stikine Regional District grants

### CORE BUSINESS SUMMARY

#### **Local Government Division \$222.432M**

- \$222.432M (\$0.587M increase from Estimates 2023/24 of \$221.845M)
  - \$1.782M increase due to transfer of Housing Resources
  - \$1.083M increase for Peace River Agreement
  - \$0.642M increase due to budget lift for Shared Wage Mandate
  - \$2.92M decrease due to the 2023/24 completion of the Bulkley Nechako / Kitimat Stikine Regional District grants

#### **Immigration Services and Strategic Planning \$40.956M**

- \$40.956M (\$16.044M increase from Estimates 2023/24 of \$24.912M)
  - \$3.177M increase due to budget lift for Shared Wage Mandate

- \$12.866M increase for Settlement Support for Newcomers
- \$1k increase to Provincial Nominee Program due to creation of new sub sub-vote in Estimates

### **Executive and Support Services \$10.035M**

- Minister's Office  
\$693k (No change from Estimates 2023/24 of \$693k)
- Corporate Services  
\$9.342M (\$895k increase from Estimates 2023/24 of \$8.447M)
  - \$792k increase due to budget lift for Shared Wage Mandate
  - \$56k increase due to transfer of Housing Resources
  - \$47k increase for Settlement Support for Newcomers

### **Special Accounts \$14.882M**

- University Endowment Lands Administration Account  
\$14.882M (\$1.317M increase from Estimates 2023/24 of \$13.565M)
  - \$1.317M increase to the University Endowment Special Account for administration expenses and offsetting recovery due to an increase to revenues in the UEL

### **Ministry Capital Budget**

- \$4.835M (\$4M increase from Estimates 2023/24 of \$835k)
  - \$4M increase to the University Endowment Lands Administration Account



January 15, 2024

Honourable Anne Kang  
Minister of Municipal Affairs  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Kang:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as Minister of Municipal Affairs. I trust in your leadership at this critical time to deliver results for the people of British Columbia.

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

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

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

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

.../2

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

Municipalities and Regional Districts are vital partners for our government. As the front lines of service delivery, municipal and regional leaders see opportunities and challenges firsthand in their communities and can help our government ensure programs succeed on the ground. From housing, to healthcare, to public safety, to economic development, municipal and regional partners will help us deliver on the priorities of British Columbians.

Many local leaders are seeing fast growth in their cities and towns thanks to record high numbers of people moving to B.C. from other provinces and around the world. Rural and urban communities are facing challenges with delivering the amenities and infrastructure that this growth requires to ensure livability and efficient service delivery.

Our government will work with these local representatives to ensure that we are strong partners in the growth and development of a resilient and prosperous province. By working together, we can achieve our shared aim of building vibrant and healthy communities and a secure province where everyone can find a good home.

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

- Working with UBCM and local government elected leaders to support communities through the COVID-19 pandemic and to launch the new Strengthening Community Fund.
- Working to bring down the cost of housing for people by streamlining and modernizing development permitting and approvals.

- Supporting economic recovery in B.C. communities through important infrastructure projects.

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

- Support municipalities to partner with the federal government to maximize benefits for our province's communities from federal government programming, including through coordination with provincial programs.
- Explore options to support fast growing municipalities with funding for infrastructure and community amenities.
- Continue providing strong supports for newcomers to British Columbia with WelcomeBC programs, including the Provincial Nominee Program and settlement services.
- With support from the Minister of Education and Child Care, work with local governments to identify opportunities to increase child care spaces on municipal property.
- With support from the Minister of Finance, continue to work with UBCM to strengthen local government finance systems to ensure local governments and regional districts have the tools they need to remain resilient in the face of economic change.
- Continue working with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to build important infrastructure projects, including through StrongerBC and the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.
- Support work led by the Minister of Housing to assist municipalities to accelerate development approvals and ensure sufficient housing for provincial growth through continued implementation of the Development Approvals Process Review and implementation of the Housing Supply Act.
- Support the work of the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness to co-develop and introduce modernized emergency management legislation.



- Support the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and work with the Minister of Housing to implement transit-oriented development to advance sustainable communities along transit corridors to help achieve our housing and affordability goals.
- Work with the Parliamentary Secretary for International Credentials to help ensure B.C. quickly removes barriers so new international arrivals can find employment sooner in their field of training.

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

David Eby, KC  
Premier



December 7, 2022

Honourable Anne Kang  
Minister of Municipal Affairs  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Kang:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as Minister of Municipal Affairs. I trust in your leadership at this critical time to deliver results for the people of British Columbia.

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

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

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

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

.../2

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

Municipalities and Regional Districts are vital partners for our government. As the front lines of service delivery, municipal and regional leaders see opportunities and challenges firsthand in their communities and can help our government ensure programs succeed on the ground. From housing, to healthcare, to public safety, to economic development, municipal and regional partners will help us deliver on the priorities of British Columbians.

Many local leaders are seeing fast growth in their cities and towns thanks to record high numbers of people moving to B.C. from other provinces and around the world. Rural and urban communities are facing challenges with delivering the amenities and infrastructure that this growth requires to ensure livability and efficient service delivery.

Our government will work with these local representatives to ensure that we are strong partners in the growth and development of a resilient and prosperous province. By working together, we can achieve our shared aim of building vibrant and healthy communities and a secure province where everyone can find a good home.

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

- Working with UBCM and local government elected leaders to support communities through the COVID-19 pandemic and to launch the new Strengthening Community Fund.
- Working to bring down the cost of housing for people by streamlining and modernizing development permitting and approvals.

- Supporting economic recovery in B.C. communities through important infrastructure projects.

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

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- Explore options to support fast growing municipalities with funding for infrastructure and community amenities.
- Continue providing strong supports for newcomers to British Columbia with WelcomeBC programs, including the Provincial Nominee Program and settlement services.
- With support from the Minister of Education and Child Care, work with local governments to identify opportunities to increase child care spaces on municipal property.
- With support from the Minister of Finance, continue to work with UBCM to strengthen local government finance systems to ensure local governments and regional districts have the tools they need to remain resilient in the face of economic change.
- Continue working with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to build important infrastructure projects, including through StrongerBC and the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.
- Work with the Parliamentary Secretary for the Sustainable Economy and with local governments on district energy proposals, including work to seek federal Net Zero Accelerator Initiative funding.
- Support work led by the Minister of Housing to assist municipalities to accelerate development approvals and ensure sufficient housing for provincial growth through continued implementation of the Development Approvals Process Review and implementation of the Housing Supply Act.
- Support the work of the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness to co-develop and introduce modernized emergency management legislation.

- Support the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and work with the Minister of Housing to implement transit-oriented development to advance sustainable communities along transit corridors to help achieve our housing and affordability goals.
- Support the Minister of State for Workforce Development to help ensure B.C. quickly removes barriers so new international arrivals can find employment sooner in their field of training.

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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David Eby, KC  
Premier

**Mandate Commitment Tracker**

Minister Anne Kang – Jan 2024 Mandate Letter	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status Description
<p>1. Support municipalities to partner with the federal government to maximize benefits for our province’s communities from federal government programming, including through coordination with provincial programs.</p>	<p>Local Government Division</p>	<p><b>Brian Bedford</b> 778-698-3232</p>	<p><b>Underway</b></p>	<p>Engage in effective negotiations with federal counterparts on two items: 1) to establish the next agreements to ensure continuity of the CCBF from 2024 onward, and 2) engage in discussion with federal government on next iteration of bilateral funding programs.</p> <p>In partnership with the federal government and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, continue to implement the Canada Community Building Fund that came into effect on April 1, 2014.</p>
<p>2. Explore options to support fast growing municipalities with funding for infrastructure and community amenities.</p>	<p>Local Government Division</p>	<p><b>Brian Bedford</b> 778-698-3232</p>	<p><b>Completed</b></p>	<p>The Growing Communities Fund (GCF) announced on February 10, 2023 provided \$1 billion in direct grants to municipalities and regional districts, which they can use to address their community’s unique infrastructure and amenities demands. Eligible infrastructure projects will be built over 5 years and include recreation facilities, parks and water-treatment plants, as well as other community infrastructure.</p>
<p>3. Continue providing strong supports for newcomers to British Columbia with</p>	<p>Immigration Services and Strategic</p>	<p><b>Ian Ross</b> 778-698-7733</p>	<p><b>Underway</b></p>	<p>BC received the requested increase in the Provincial Nominee Program allocation (8,000 nominations in 2023; notional agreement for</p>



Minister Anne Kang – Jan 2024 Mandate Letter	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status Description
WelcomeBC programs, including the Provincial Nominee Program and settlement services.	Planning Division	<b>Carling Helander</b> Government Financial Information		<p>9,250 in 2024 and 10,000 in 2025). Program policy changes in 2021 enhanced program alignment with key government priorities (caring economy and regional communities).</p> <p>MUNI worked with GCPE on developing multi-lingual content for those "new to B.C." and connecting with government services. The new web site went live January 31, 2023.</p> <p>Budget 2023 included substantial increases in provincial settlement programming (from \$6M/year to \$25.6M/year). The BC Settlement and Integration Services program will be replaced with two new and expanded settlement programs starting April 1, 2024, following a competitive procurement process.</p>
4. With support from the Minister of Education and Child Care, work with local governments to identify opportunities to increase child care spaces on municipal property.	Local Government Division	<b>Tara Faganello</b> 250-356-6575	<b>Underway/ Pending</b>	The Growing Communities Fund includes childcare as an eligible use of the funds as a needed amenity in growing communities. MUNI will work with MECC for further supports needed with local governments.
5. With support from the Minister of Finance, continue to work with UBCM to strengthen local government finance systems to	Local Government Division	<b>Brian Bedford</b> 778-698-3232	<b>Underway</b>	The Ministers of Finance and Municipal Affairs signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UBCM to review the Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency: Today's Recovery and

**Municipal Affairs Mandate Letter Commitments - Tracker**

Minister Anne Kang – Jan 2024 Mandate Letter	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status Description
<p>ensure local governments and regional districts have the tools they need to remain resilient in the face of economic change.</p>				<p>Tomorrow’s New Economy report and recommendations in January 2022. The working group required under the MOU has been established comprised of provincial and UBCM staff, and a 3-year workplan approved by the UBCM Presidents Committee and the Ministers of Finance and Municipal Affairs.</p> <p>The Working Group meets monthly and provides progress updates biannually to the UBCM Presidents Committee and the Ministers of Finance and Municipal Affairs. The next progress update will occur in early 2024.</p>
<p>6. Continue working with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to build important infrastructure projects, including through StrongerBC and the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.</p>	<p>Local Government Division</p>	<p><b>Brian Bedford</b> 778-698-3232</p>	<p><b>Underway</b></p>	<p>Completed: Intakes and full allocation for Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) for the following streams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community, Culture &amp; Recreation</li> <li>• Rural and Northern Communities</li> <li>• COVID-19 Infrastructure Resilience</li> </ul> <p>Underway: Announcements expected for final (3<sup>rd</sup>) intakes for the following ICIP streams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Quality</li> <li>• CleanBC Communities Fund</li> </ul> <p>ICIP is fully allocated by March 31, 2023. Ministry will be monitoring approved projects.</p>

Minister Anne Kang – Jan 2024 Mandate Letter	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status Description
				Final approvals of all but one project completed by end of December 2023.
7. Support work led by the Minister of Housing to assist municipalities to accelerate development approvals and ensure sufficient housing for provincial growth through continued implementation of the Development Approvals Process Review and implementation of the Housing Supply Act.	Local Government Division	<b>Kara Woodward</b> 778-698-3465	<b>Complete/ Underway</b>	Leadership of Development Approvals Process Review transferred to Ministry of Housing in December 2022. MUNI staff continue to support work led by the Ministry of Housing. Specific support has been delivered on Bills 35, 44, 46 and 47.  MUNI continues to support HOUS staff on additional legislative proposals led by HOUS as well as related MUNI led changes for Vancouver Charter.
8. Support the work of the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness to co-develop and introduce modernized emergency management legislation.	Local Government Division	<b>Kara Woodward</b> 778-698-3465	<b>Complete</b>	MUNI is committed to working with the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness on this important legislation. Ministry staff have been working together throughout the project; the Emergency and Disaster Management Act was passed in Fall 2023.
9. Support the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and work with the Minister of Housing to implement transit-oriented development (TOD) to advance sustainable communities along	Immigration Services and Strategic Planning Division	<b>Chris Jensen</b> 778-698-3316	<b>Complete/ Underway</b>	Bill 47, 2023 (Amendments to LGA/VC): Housing Statutes Amendment for Transit Oriented Areas (TOA) supports increased housing supply through the creation of denser, more complete communities around transit hubs.

**Municipal Affairs Mandate Letter Commitments - Tracker**

Minister Anne Kang – Jan 2024 Mandate Letter	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status Description
<p>transit corridors to help achieve our housing and affordability goals.</p>				<p>The new regulations list 104 TOAs where local governments must designate TOAs by June 30, 2024, which also sets out details such as the minimum allowable density and applicable distance from the stations. In addition, local governments cannot require off-street parking spaces that are related to residential uses within TOAs.</p> <p>The TOD legislation is anticipated to catalyze as many as over 100,00 new additional homes around major public transit hubs across BC by 2034.</p>
<p>10. Work with the Parliamentary Secretary for International Credentials to help ensure B.C. quickly removes barriers so new international arrivals can find employment sooner in their field of training.</p>	<p>Immigration Services and Strategic Planning Division</p>	<p><b>Carling Helander</b> Government Financial Information</p>	<p><b>Underway</b></p>	<p>In 2023, MUNI expanded client eligibility for the Career Paths program and undertook marketing to raise awareness of the program. Client intake is robust and client outcomes remain strong. Ongoing collaboration is occurring with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to improve pre-arrival information and better align immigration selection criteria with professional regulation requirements.</p>

## MINISTRY RESPONSE TO RECONCILIATION

### ISSUE

- Ministry's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act) Commitments

### RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **We are working with Indigenous peoples to put into action the principles of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act).**
- **Continuing to encourage strong relationships between Indigenous Nations and local governments is a fundamental aspect of the *Declaration Act* and achieving lasting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.**
- **My Ministry is embracing the principles, building capacity, and competency, with staff seizing the opportunities for learning and development.**
- **Each year, my Ministry delivers capital infrastructure grants to local and First Nation governments (First Nation governments have been eligible since 2018) and gaming grants to community groups (including Indigenous organizations).**
- **Through the *Declaration Act* Action Plan, my Ministry has committed to supporting inclusive regional governance and reviewing local processes that guide the naming of local governments.**
- **We are supporting local governments to develop even stronger relationships with Indigenous Nations to create a B.C. where everyone feels comfortable in their communities.**

***If asked about what the province is doing to support the re-naming of local governments***

- **Local government names that are associated with Canada's colonial past can be a devastating reminder of the mistreatment of Indigenous peoples.**
- **In cases where local governments and Indigenous neighbours want to pursue change or restoration, Ministry staff will provide guidance and support to develop processes to emphasize collaboration between local governments and First Nations, as well as fulsome engagement with area residents.**

***If asked about the options, the ministry is exploring to include Indigenous representation on regional boards***

- **We know there is a strong and growing interest from regional districts and First Nations for representation of First Nations governments on regional district boards.**
- **We are working on this. While that work is underway, we encourage other regions to learn from successful collaborations between First Nations and regional districts in places like the Capital Regional District and Central Okanagan Regional District.**
- **Opportunities may also exist for First Nations' representatives to:**
  - **Participate on boards and committees in an advisory role.**
  - **Enter into agreements and protocols on matters such as land use, reconciliation, or economic development.**
  - **Hold regional forums and other events to encourage collaborative discussion, such as Community to Community Forums.**

***If asked why First Nations are not eligible for the Growing Communities Fund (to be updated)***

- I've reached out to all Mayors, Chairs and CAOs to encourage local governments to work closely with adjacent local First Nations, because we know that we all have roles in implementing the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, and we work better when we work together.
- We know some of the Modern Treaty First Nations sit at their respective Regional District board table and participate in decision-making, while other First Nations contribute through advisory committees, helping make decisions about how this money should be spent.
- We also made the conscious decision to make eligible local government projects that service, directly or indirectly, neighbouring First Nations communities.
- We know this for certain: Communities across B.C. are growing quickly (including First Nations communities), creating accelerated demands on infrastructure and amenities. We cannot do it alone, we must work together.

***If pressed about why funding wasn't provided to First Nations***

- The *Local Government Grants Act* provides authority to the Ministry to make direct grants transfer only to local governments (i.e. municipalities and regional districts).
- Indigenous peoples and communities access and benefit directly and indirectly from local government infrastructure and amenities especially where they are in close proximity.
- In many cases, service agreements are routinely established so Indigenous peoples can access local government services.
- The province has co-developed with Indigenous Peoples a new distinctions-based fiscal frameworks for resource revenue sharing. This work is being led by the Ministry of

## Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and Ministry of Finance.

### KEY FACTS

- In 2019, the province passed the *Declaration Act* to establish a clear framework for moving reconciliation forward. This includes exploring new ways to strengthen government-to-government relationships and work together on good governance at the community level.
- In that same year, Canada and British Columbia agreed to expand eligibility of specific infrastructure grant programs under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (see Estimates Note #20).
- The Ministry of Municipal Affairs has two commitments in the *Declaration Act* Action Plan:
  - 1) Review the principles and processes that guide the naming of municipalities and regional districts, and evolve practices to foster reconciliation in local processes; and
  - 2) Support inclusive regional governance by advancing First Nations participation in regional district boards.
- Ministry staff are working on actions to support both commitments, including researching existing governance systems of regional and First Nations governments, engaging with Indigenous peoples and other interested parties, initiating projects, and sharing lessons learned to decide if legislative changes are needed, as well as providing funding to some local governments.

### Re-Naming Local Governments

- Ministry staff are working to support local governments and First Nations to find new practices for community collaboration and engagement to create greater social cohesion for all residents.
- Collaboration between local governments and First Nations, and engagement with area residents to build support for a name change, is critical to the process prior to the local governments seeking a decision from the province.
- In 2022, Ministry staff worked with the former Village of Queen Charlotte, and the Haida Nation, to restore an ancestral name by changing the municipality's name to the Village of Daajing Giids (Cabinet decision July 2022).
- Staff were also working with the City of Powell River and the Tla'amin Nation who formed a joint working group that produced an interim report after engaging with the community. That work is on hold as the new City Council (coming out of the 2022 local elections) determines its priorities and workplan moving forward.
- The province provided both communities funding (\$25,000 to Powell River and \$15,000 to Queen Charlotte) to support engagement with residents regarding possible name changes. Powell River and Tla'amin Nation had offered to be a



pilot to demonstrate a collaborative and inclusive local approach the Ministry can then encourage in other communities to support the Declaration Act commitment. Engagement with Powell River staff is underway to determine if the new Council wants to continue.

### **Indigenous Representation on Regional Boards**

- The ministry is working to develop a path forward on including First Nations on regional district boards, including working with other provincial and federal staff, and engaging a First Nations consultants group, to understand how the governance of non-treaty First Nations aligns with the regional district system and what gaps or challenges may exist.
- The Ministry is also providing study grants to some regional districts that have expressed an interest understanding how First Nations can become members of the regional district. For additional information about Indigenous Nations that have access to representation on regional district boards, see **Appendix 1**.
- There are examples of local governments and Indigenous Nations building relationships that support Indigenous Nations' participation in local government. For example, the Capital Regional District's standing committee includes representation from Indigenous Nations on a rotating basis in an advisory capacity. Also, Westbank First Nation participates on the Central Okanagan Regional District Board's committee of the whole and sits ex-officio at the Board table
- The Union of BC Municipalities policy on Indigenous Nations relations focuses on building stronger relationships between Indigenous Nations and local governments. A Memorandum of Understanding between UBCM and the province on engagement was renewed at the 2021 UBCM Convention. One component of the Memorandum of Understanding includes engaging on matters of mutual interest including those that will impact local government jurisdictions.
- There are many examples of collaborative relationships between Indigenous and local governments. A collection of resources related to initiatives, agreements, arrangements, partnerships, and the provision of services (such as sewer, water, and fire services) between Indigenous governments and organizations, and local governments in British Columbia is available at: <https://civicinfo.bc.ca/first-nation-relationship-resources>
- A Community-to-Community Forum program is in place and funds relationship building discussions between First Nations and local governments. The Ministry has significantly increased its annual contribution to the program so that individual grants can be raised from \$5,000 to \$10,000 maximum and are no longer cost shared. The program is administered by UBCM in partnership with the BC First Nations Summit. Further information is available on the Union of British Columbia Municipalities website:

<https://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/lgps/community-to-community-forum.html>

**CONTACT:**

Brent Mueller

Director

GSB

Government Financial  
Information

## Appendix 1

First Nations that have access to representation on regional district boards:

- shíshálh Nation – The Sechelt Indian Government District operates as a municipality and is a full member of the Sunshine Coast Regional District based on federal and provincial legislation passed in 1986 and 1987 respectively.
- Nisga’a Lisims Government and Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine – Nisga’a lands and communities are located in Electoral Area A of the Regional District. As a modern treaty First Nation, Nisga’a have an elected representative sitting on the Board.
- Tsawwassen First Nation and Metro Vancouver – as a modern treaty First Nation, Tsawwassen is a member of the Metro Vancouver Regional District Board.
- The Huu-ay-aht, Toquaht, Uchucklesaht, and Yuułu ı̨ł ath First Nations, as modern treaty First Nations joined the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, all four First Nations are individually represented on the Board.
- Ka:’yu:’k’t’h’/Che:k’tles7et’h’ (KY-OO-KIT / CHECK-LE-SET) First Nations (KCFN), as modern treaty First Nations joined the Strathcona Regional District.
- Under the provisions in the Tla’amin Final Agreement, Tla’amin Nation, may become a member of the qathet Regional District without time restriction or obligation, by giving notice to the province.

Without a treaty providing for direct representation, unless First Nations’ members are elected as an electoral area director or elected to a municipal council and then appointed as a regional district board (municipal director) member, the First Nations may not have a direct voice in decision-making in their communities. And even in those instances, they are not directly representing a First Nation but all the residents within a defined geographical boundary.

## COMMUNITY GAMING GRANTS - REGULAR

### ISSUE

- More than 5,000 not-for-profit organizations throughout B.C. benefit from \$135 million in Community Gaming Grant (CGG) funding every year to directly deliver approved programs that their communities depend on.

### RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **In 2024/25, the Province will continue to support a diverse range of not-for-profit organizations representing six sectors: arts and culture, sport, environment, public safety, human and social services and parent and district parent advisory councils.**
- **In 2017/18, the Province increased the budget from \$135 million to \$140 million to accommodate the inclusion of a new Capital Projects Sector grant (\$5 million). The Capital Projects Sector will return for its eighth year in 2024/25.**
- **Since 2011, the budget to support not-for-profit programs and services continues to be \$135 million.**
- **Budget 2019 announced gaming revenue-sharing agreement between B.C. and First Nations communities. This revenue-sharing arrangement does not change the amount of funding that currently goes to B.C.'s not-for-profit sector through the CGG program.**
- **In response to the pandemic and resulting pressures on not-for-profit organizations, temporary changes were made to the program in 2020/21. These changes allowed for greater flexibility for organizations to spend funds and the relaxation of some program eligibility requirements to ensure organizations that deliver important programs in their communities could continue to do so. Temporary changes due to COVID-19 continued through the 2021/22 grant year and were gradually reduced throughout the 2022/23 and 2023/24 years as provincial health restrictions were relaxed.**

- **In 2023/24, due to inflation, a decrease in donations and volunteering, and the increase in demand for some programs and services, many organizations requested a funding increase. In response to this, CGG increased the amount of funding that organizations could request from \$100,000 to \$125,000 for “local-level” organizations and an increase from \$225,000 to \$250,000 for “regional-level” organizations. Organizations had to demonstrate a need for the funding increase through their financial documents and increased service delivery. This increase is subject to the overall availability of CGG funding.**
- **CGG is committed to considering input from all stakeholders regarding the program, including ongoing consultation with the British Columbia Association for Charitable Gaming (BCACG).**

## KEY FACTS

- CGG funding level history:
  - 2008/09 pre-economic recession funding was \$156 million.
  - 2009/10, CGG funding was reduced to \$112.5 million.
  - In March 2011, the funding level was increased to \$135 million.
  - In 2017/18 – CGG program funding increased to \$140 million. The \$5 million increase remains dedicated to funding Capital Projects.
  - The budget of \$135 million to support community-based programs and services has been at the same level since 2011.
- CGG has seen an increase in applications for the 2023/24 grant year, along with many organizations requesting an increase to their grant funding request. Not-for-profit organizations play a vital role in providing essential services to communities across the province. Due to inflation, staffing challenges and growing demand for services, the Branch expects to see continued growth in requests for grant funds.
- See **Appendix 1** for Community Gaming Grant funding distribution for 2022/23.

## CONTACT:

Rachel Holmes

Assistant Deputy  
Minister

Immigration Services  
and Strategic  
Planning

Government  
Financial  
Information

## Appendix 1

### Sector Funding FY22/23:

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Arts and Culture	\$20,421,410
Sport	\$28,661,673
Environment	\$6,140,250
Public Safety	\$6,866,215
Parent Advisory Councils and District Parent Advisory Councils	\$11,349,330
Human and Social Services	\$61,031,068

### Regional Funding FY22/23:

<b>Economic Region</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Cariboo	\$6,329,925
Kootenay	\$5,232,331
Lower Mainland-Southwest	\$77,852,239
Nechako	\$1,263,095
North Coast	\$1,410,100
Northeast	\$1,165,160
Thompson-Okanagan	\$17,104,209
Vancouver Island-Coast	\$29,427,232

