

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Estimates 2024/25 Briefing Book**

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Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General

Budget 2024

Key Messages

ISSUE SUMMARY:

- The overall budget for the ministry is \$1,083.653 million, which represents a \$55.765 million increase, or 5.4 percent, from 2023/24 (restated).
- The overall increase against 2023/24 (restated) includes the following:
 - \$9.449 million for Community Social Services Wage Mandate and COLA
 - \$7.640 million for Nanaimo Correctional Centre Public Safety Programs
 - \$7.323 million for Wage Mandate (\$4.323 million Excluded, \$3.000 million included)
 - \$6.033 million for BC Coroners Service
 - \$5.740 million for RoadSafetyBC programs (RoadSafety Initiative, Intersection Safety Cameras, Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing)
 - \$4.821 million for RCMP Wage Increase
 - \$4.670 million for Corrections Food Services Contract
 - \$1.820 million EComm
 - \$1.289 million Independent Gambling Control Office transition
 - \$0.800 million Driver Medical Fitness Transformation
 - \$0.395 million for Cannabis Licensing
 - \$0.201 million for additional finance resources
 - (\$0.040) million transfer to CITZ for *Intimate Images Protection Act* for corporate support of FTEs

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- \$5.624 million primarily for the Wage Mandate from Budget 2023 and minor incremental Budget 2022 decisions

Cabinet Confidences

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Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2024/25 Summary of Ministry Changes

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
2024/25 Summary of Ministry Changes**

1. Three Year Service Plan Comparison

(\$ millions)	2023/24*	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
2023/24 Plan*	1,027.888	1,033.837	1,033.392	1,033.392
2024/25 Plan	1,027.888	1,083.653	1,086.352	1,087.947
Plan over Plan Change		\$49.816	\$52.960	\$54.555
Plan over Plan % Change		4.82%	5.12%	5.28%
Year over Year Change		\$55.765	\$2.699	\$1.595
Year over Year % Change		5.43%	0.25%	0.15%

*2023/24 restated

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Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2024/25 Summary of Ministry Changes

2. Plan-over-Plan Changes

Plan over Plan Changes	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Budget 2024 Decisions	(\$ millions)		
Community Social Services - Wage Mandate and COLA	9.449	9.449	9.449
Nanaimo Correctional Centre - Public Safety Programs	7.640	8.825	9.069
Wage Mandate	7.323	7.323	7.323
BC Coroners Service Caseload	6.033	6.399	6.769
RoadSafetyBC - RSI ISC TFRS	5.740	5.790	5.840
RCMP Wage Increase	4.821	5.072	5.072
Corrections - Food Services Contract	4.670	5.680	6.193
EComm	1.820	1.930	2.050
Independent Gambling Control Office (IGCO)	1.289	1.761	2.059
Driver Medical Fitness Transformation (DMFT)	0.800	0.500	0.500
Cannabis Licensing	0.395	0.395	0.395
Additional Finance Resources	0.201	0.201	0.201
Transfer to CITZ for <i>Intimate Images Protection Act</i>	(0.040)	(0.040)	(0.040)
GPEB transfer to CAS and MUNI	(0.455)	(0.455)	(0.455)
GPEB transfer to AG/JSB	(0.590)	(0.590)	(0.590)
Transfer FTEs from AG to PSSG/CMSB	0.720	0.720	0.720
Net Change	49.816	52.960	54.555

Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information

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Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2024/25 Summary of Ministry Changes

3. Year-over-Year Changes

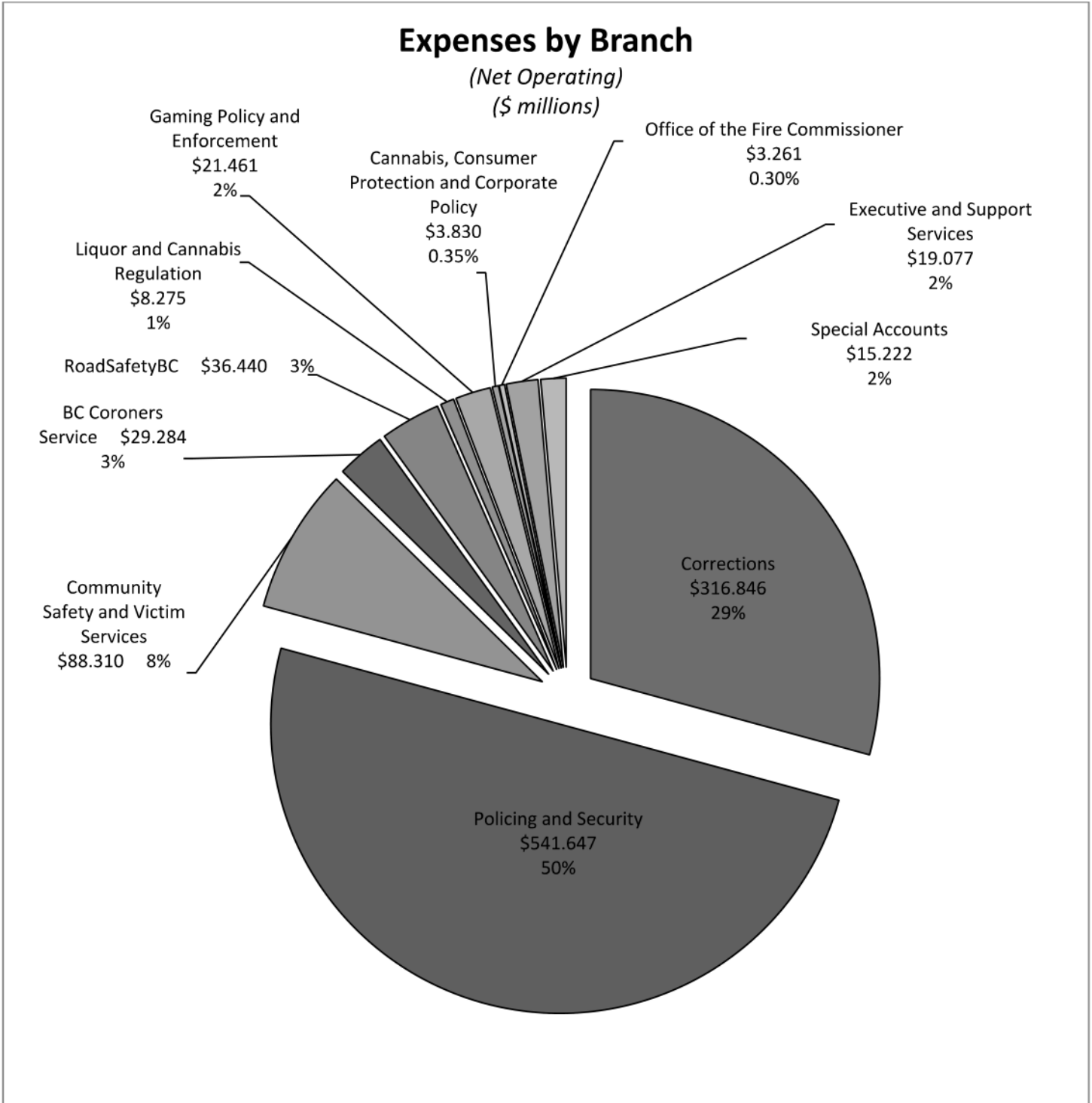
Year over Year Changes	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Budget 2024 Decisions	(\$ millions)		
Community Social Services - Wage Mandate and COLA	9.449	-	-
Nanaimo Correctional Centre - Public Safety Programs	7.640	1.185	0.244
Wage Mandate	7.323	-	-
BC Coroners Service Caseload	6.033	0.366	0.370
RoadSafetyBC - RSI ISC TFRS	5.740	0.050	0.050
RCMP Wage Increase	4.821	0.251	-
Corrections - Food Services Contract	4.670	1.010	0.513
EComm	1.820	0.110	0.120
Independent Gambling Control Office (IGCO)	1.289	0.472	0.298
Driver Medical Fitness Transformation (DMFT)	0.800	(0.300)	-
Cannabis Licensing	0.395	-	-
Additional Finance Resources	0.201	-	-
Transfer to CITZ for <i>Intimate Images Protection Act</i>	(0.040)	-	-
Sub-Total	50.141	3.144	1.595
Prior Years Funding Decisions			
Budget 2023			
Wage Mandate	5.587	-	-
Police Modernization	0.132	-	-
Community Social Services Agencies Wage Mandate	0.013	0.030	-
Decriminalization	(0.038)	(0.475)	-
Sub-Total	5.694	(0.445)	-
Budget 2022			
Victim Services Medical Forensic Examination	0.018	-	-
BC Coroners Service Caseload	(0.028)	-	-
Driver Medical Fitness Transformation (DMFT)	(0.060)	-	-
Sub-Total	(0.070)	-	-
Net Change	55.765	2.699	1.595

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Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2024/25 Summary of Ministry Changes

4. Ministry Budget by Branch

Expenses by branch, as a share of total expenses (\$ millions)



Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2024/25 Summary of Ministry Changes

Expense by Branch	2023/24	2024/25	Change	Change
	Restated Estimates	Estimates	(\$)	(%)
Voted Appropriations	(\$ Millions)			
Corrections	296.131	316.846	20.715	7.00%
Policing and Security	534.024	541.647	7.623	1.43%
Community Safety and Victim Services	78.374	88.310	9.936	12.68%
BC Coroners Service	22.696	29.284	6.588	29.03%
RoadSafetyBC	29.244	36.440	7.196	24.61%
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation	7.616	8.275	0.659	8.65%
Gaming Policy and Enforcement	19.400	21.461	2.061	10.62%
Cannabis, Consumer Protection & Corp Policy	3.712	3.830	0.118	3.18%
Office of the Fire Commissioner	3.173	3.261	0.088	2.77%
Executive and Support Services	18.324	19.077	0.753	4.11%
Total Voted Appropriations	1,012.694	1,068.431	55.737	1.041
Statutory Appropriations				
Civil Forfeiture Account	0.409	0.437	0.028	6.85%
Correction Work Program Account	1.281	1.281	-	0.00%
Victim Surcharge Special Account	13.504	13.504	-	0.00%
Total Statutory Appropriations	15.194	15.222	0.028	0.18%
Total Appropriations	1,027.888	1,083.653	55.765	5.43%

5. Summary of Changes by Branch

Corrections

- \$20.715 million increase:
 - \$8.405 million Wage Mandate
 - \$7.640 million Nanaimo Correctional Centre
 - \$4.670 million Food Services Contract

Policing and Security

- \$7.623 million increase:
 - \$4.821 million RCMP Wage Increase
 - \$1.820 million EComm
 - \$0.888 million Wage Mandate
 - \$0.132 million Police Modernization
 - (\$0.038) million from Budget 2023 for Decriminalization

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Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2024/25 Summary of Ministry Changes

Community Safety and Victim Services

- \$9.936 million increase:
 - \$9.462 million Community Social Services Sector Wage Mandate
 - \$0.496 million Wage Mandate
 - \$0.018 million from Budget 2023 for Victim Services Medical Forensic Examinations
 - (\$0.040) million transfer to CITZ for *Intimate Images Protection Act* for FTE cost

BC Coroners Service

- \$6.588 million increase:
 - \$6.005 million Caseload Pressures
 - \$0.583 million Wage Mandate

RoadSafetyBC

- \$7.196 million increase:
 - \$5.740 million Intersection Safety Camera, Road Safety Initiative and Traffic Revenue Sharing Programs
 - \$0.800 million Driver Medical Fitness Transformation
 - \$0.716 million Wage Mandate
 - (\$0.060) million from Budget 2023 for Driver Medical Fitness Transformation

Liquor and Cannabis Regulation

- \$0.659 million increase:
 - \$0.395 million Cannabis Licensing
 - \$0.264 million Wage Mandate

Gaming Policy and Enforcement

- \$2.061 million increase:
 - \$1.289 million Independent Gambling Control Office (IGCO) Transition
 - \$0.772 million Wage Mandate

Cannabis, Consumer Protection and Corporate Policy

- \$0.118 million increase:
 - \$0.118 million Wage Mandate

Office of the Fire Commissioner

- \$0.088 million increase:
 - \$0.088 million Wage Mandate

Executive and Support Services

- \$0.753 million increase:
 - \$0.552 million Wage Mandate
 - \$0.201 million Additional finance resources to support growth

Civil Forfeiture Office

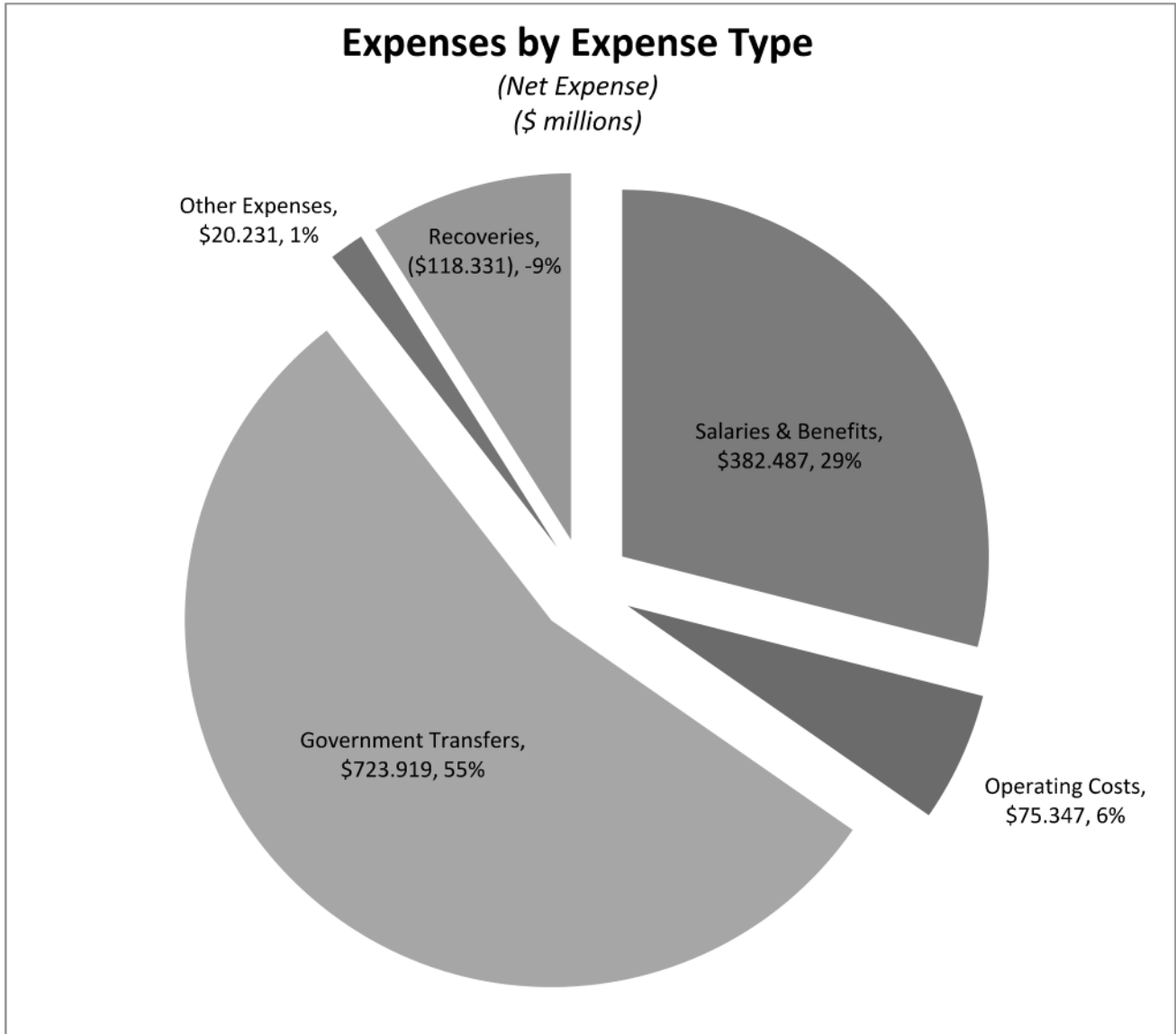
- \$0.028 million increase:
 - \$0.028 million Wage Mandate

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Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2024/25 Summary of Ministry Changes

6. Ministry Budget by Expense Type

Expenses by expense type, as a share of total expenses (\$ millions)



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Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2024/25 Summary of Ministry Changes

Expenses by expense type ¹	2023/24	2024/25	Change	Change
	Restated Estimates	Estimates	(\$)	(%)
	(\$ millions)			
Salaries & Benefits	357.309	382.487	25.178	7.05%
Operating Costs	70.205	75.347	5.142	7.32%
Government Transfers	692.018	723.919	31.901	4.61%
Other Expenses	20.231	20.231	-	0.00%
Recoveries	(17.176)	(17.176)	-	0.00%
Recoveries External	(94.699)	(101.155)	(6.456)	6.82%
Total	1,027.888	1,083.653	55.765	5.43%

¹Does not include Allowances for Doubtful Accounts and Commissions on Collection of Public Funds, or the offsetting recoveries.

Summary of Changes:

Salaries & Benefits

- \$25.178 million increase:
 - \$13.366 million Wage Mandate
 - \$4.714 million Nanaimo Correctional Centre
 - \$2.492 million BC Coroners
 - \$1.289 million Independent Gambling Control Office (IGCO) Transition
 - \$0.974 million Road Safety Programs
 - \$0.800 million Driver Medical Fitness Transformation
 - \$0.756 million *Intimate Images Protection Act*
 - \$0.395 million Cannabis Licensing
 - \$0.201 million Additional finance resources
 - \$0.132 million from Budget 2023 for Police Modernization
 - \$0.054 million from Budget 2022 for BC Coroners Service Caseload Pressures
 - \$0.005 million from Budget 2023 for Sexual Assault Centres

Operating Costs

- \$5.142 million increase:
 - \$3.541 million BC Coroners Services
 - \$1.632 million Nanaimo Correctional Centre
 - \$0.126 million *Intimate Images Protection Act*
 - (\$0.015) million from Budget 2023 for Decriminalization
 - (\$0.060) million from Budget 2023 for Driver Medical Fitness Transformation
 - (\$0.082) million from Budget 2023 for BC Coroners Service Caseload Pressures

Government Transfers

- \$31.901 million increase:
 - \$9.462 million Community Social Services Sector
 - \$7.000 million Special Account Adjustment

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Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2024/25 Summary of Ministry Changes

- \$4.821 million RCMP Wage Increase
- \$4.766 million Intersection Safety Camera, Road Safety Initiative and Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing Programs
- \$4.670 million Food Services Contract
- \$1.820 million EComm
- \$1.294 million Nanaimo Correctional Centre
- \$0.018 million from Budget 2022 for Victim Services Medical Forensic Examination
- (\$0.005) million Sexual Assault Centres
- (\$0.023) million from Budget 2023 for Decriminalization
- (\$0.922) million Reallocation from Sexual Assault Services to *Intimate Images Protection Act*
- (\$1.000) million Distribution of Gaming Proceeds adjustments

Other Expenses

No Change.

Internal Recoveries

No Change.

External Recoveries

- (\$6.456) million increase:
 - \$1.000 million Distribution of Gaming Proceeds adjustments
 - (\$0.456) million Wage Mandate
 - (\$7.000) million Special Account Adjustment

External Recoveries	2024/25
	(\$ millions)
Corrections	2.281
Policing and Security	52.251
Community Safety and Victim Services	0.300
BC Coroners Service	0.002
RoadSafetyBC	4.139
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation	14.862
Gaming Policy and Enforcement	12.772
Cannabis, Consumer Protection and Corporate Policy	0.002
Executive and Support Services	0.002
Civil Forfeiture Account	14.544
Total	101.155

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
2024/25 Summary of Ministry Changes**

7. Capital Budget

Asset Type	2023/24	2024/25	Budget Change
	(\$ millions)		
Information Systems	0.000	0.014	0.014
Office Furniture and Equipment	0.017	0.039	0.022
Specialized Equipment	1.074	1.074	0.000
Vehicles	1.497	1.870	0.373
Total	2.588	2.997	0.409

- \$0.409 million increase is primarily due to reprofiling prior year budget for vehicle supply delays.

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
3 Year Resource Summary**

ANNUAL SERVICE PLAN						
Core Business Area	2023/24 Restated Budget	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Plan	2026/27 Plan	2024/25 Changes	2024/25 Changes
	In \$ Millions					%
Corrections	296.131	316.846	319.041	319.798	20.715	7.0%
Policing and Security	534.024	541.647	541.533	541.653	7.623	1.4%
Community Safety and Victim Services	78.374	88.310	88.340	88.340	9.936	12.7%
BC Coroners Service	22.696	29.284	29.650	30.020	6.588	29.0%
RoadSafetyBC	29.244	36.440	36.190	36.240	7.196	24.6%
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation	7.616	8.275	8.275	8.275	0.659	8.7%
Gaming Policy and Enforcement	19.400	21.461	21.933	22.231	2.061	10.6%
Cannabis, Consumer Protection and Corporate Policy	3.712	3.830	3.830	3.830	0.118	3.2%
Office of the Fire Commissioner	3.173	3.261	3.261	3.261	0.088	2.8%
Executive and Support Services	18.324	19.077	19.077	19.077	0.753	4.1%
Special Accounts	15.194	15.222	15.222	15.222	0.028	0.2%
TOTAL	1,027.888	1,083.653	1,086.352	1,087.947	55.765	5.4%

Budget 2024 Decisions \$50.141M Increase:

- \$9.449 million Community Social Services Wage Mandate and Community Social Services COLA.
- \$7.640 million Nanaimo Correctional Centre - Public Safety Programs.
- \$7.323 million Wage Mandate.
- \$6.033 million BC Coroners Service.
- \$5.740 million RoadSafetyBC - RSI ISC TRFS.
- \$4.821 million RCMP Wage Increase.
- \$4.670 million Corrections - Food Services Contract.
- \$1.820 million EComm.
- \$1.289 million Independent Gambling Control Office (IGCO).
- \$0.800 million RoadSafetyBC - DMFT.
- \$0.395 million Cannabis Licensing.
- \$0.201 million for additional finance resources.
- (\$0.040) million transfer to CITZ for *Intimate Images Protection Act*.

Prior Years' Decisions:

Budget 2023 \$5.694M Increase:

- \$5.587 million Wage Mandate.
- \$0.132 million Police Modernization.
- \$0.013 million Community Social Services Agencies increase.
- (\$0.038) million Decriminalization.

Budget 2022 \$0.060M Decrease:

- \$0.018 million Victim Services Medical Forensic Examinations.
- (\$0.028) million BC Coroners Service Caseload Pressures.
- (\$0.060) million Driver Medical Fitness Transformation.

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Cabinet Confidences ; Government Financial Information

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Budget 2024 Decisions by Year
(in \$ millions)

Base Budget

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
Nanaimo Correctional Centre - Public Safety Programs	7.640	8.825	9.069	25.534
BC Coroners Service	6.033	6.399	6.769	19.201
RoadSafetyBC - RSI ISC TFRS	5.740	5.790	5.840	17.370
RCMP Wage Increase	4.821	5.072	5.072	14.965
Corrections - Food Services Contract	4.670	5.680	6.193	16.543
EComm	1.820	1.930	2.050	5.800
Transition to Independent Gambling Control Office	1.289	1.761	2.059	5.109
RoadSafetyBC - DMFT	0.800	0.500	0.500	1.800
Cannabis Licensing	0.395	0.395	0.395	1.185
Additional finance services	0.201	0.201	0.201	0.603
Transfer to CITZ for <i>Intimate Images Protection Act</i>	(0.040)	(0.040)	(0.040)	(0.120)
Program budget increases	33.369	36.513	38.108	107.990
SRM and COLA	16.772	16.772	16.772	50.316
Total	50.141	53.285	54.880	158.306

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

The mission of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General is to deliver public safety services and programs, to administer regulations for the liquor and cannabis industries, and to ensure that the public has confidence in British Columbia's gaming sector.

MINISTRY SUMMARY

(\$000)

	Estimates 2023/24 ¹	Estimates 2024/25
VOTED APPROPRIATION		
Vote 42 — Ministry Operations.....	1,012,694	1,068,431
STATUTORY APPROPRIATIONS		
Civil Forfeiture Account Special Account.....	409	437
Corrections Work Program Account Special Account.....	1,281	1,281
Criminal Asset Management Fund Special Account.....	—	—
Victim Surcharge Special Account.....	13,504	13,504
OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>1,027,888</u>	<u>1,083,653</u>
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES ²	2,588	2,997
LOANS, INVESTMENTS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS ³	—	—
REVENUE COLLECTED FOR, AND TRANSFERRED TO, OTHER ENTITIES ⁴	—	—

NOTES

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

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

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

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

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MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

SUMMARY BY CORE BUSINESS

(\$000)

OPERATING EXPENSES	2023/24	2024/25 ESTIMATES		
	Net	Gross	External Recoveries	Net
Core Business				
Corrections.....	296,131	319,127	(2,281)	316,846
Policing and Security.....	534,024	593,898	(52,251)	541,647
Community Safety and Victim Services.....	78,374	88,610	(300)	88,310
BC Coroners Service.....	22,696	29,286	(2)	29,284
RoadSafetyBC.....	29,244	40,579	(4,139)	36,440
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation.....	7,616	23,137	(14,862)	8,275
Gaming Policy and Enforcement.....	19,400	34,233	(12,772)	21,461
Cannabis, Consumer Protection and Corporate Policy.....	3,712	3,832	(2)	3,830
Office of the Fire Commissioner.....	3,173	3,261	—	3,261
Executive and Support Services.....	18,324	19,079	(2)	19,077
Civil Forfeiture Account Special Account.....	409	14,981	(14,544)	437
Corrections Work Program Account Special Account.....	1,281	1,281	—	1,281
Criminal Asset Management Fund Special Account.....	—	—	—	—
Victim Surcharge Special Account.....	13,504	13,504	—	13,504
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>1,027,888</u>	<u>1,184,808</u>	<u>(101,155)</u>	<u>1,083,653</u>
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	Capital Expenditures	Capital Expenditures	Receipts and P3 Liabilities	Net
Core Business				
Corrections.....	1,062	1,062	—	1,062
BC Coroners Service.....	12	12	—	12
Office of the Fire Commissioner.....	—	36	—	36
Executive and Support Services.....	1,514	1,887	—	1,887
TOTAL	<u>2,588</u>	<u>2,997</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>2,997</u>

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS
(\$000)

Estimates
2023/24 Estimates
2024/25

VOTE 42 — MINISTRY OPERATIONS

This vote provides for the programs, operations, and other activities described in the voted appropriations under the following core businesses: Corrections; Policing and Security; Community Safety and Victim Services; BC Coroners Service; RoadSafetyBC; Liquor and Cannabis Regulation; Gaming Policy and Enforcement; Cannabis, Consumer Protection and Corporate Policy; Office of the Fire Commissioner; and Executive and Support Services.

CORRECTIONS

Voted Appropriation

Corrections.....	<u>296,131</u>	<u>316,846</u>
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Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for the management of remanded and sentenced adult offenders in custody and in the community and for the planning and management of correctional programs. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, boards and commissions, other levels of governments, and other parties both internal and external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.

POLICING AND SECURITY

Voted Appropriation

Policing and Security.....	<u>534,024</u>	<u>541,647</u>
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Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for superintending policing and law enforcement in the province; management of contract policing; development and administration of policy and legislation regarding cannabis enforcement, including stakeholder consultation and public engagement; and developing and delivering initiatives to maintain safe and secure communities. This sub-vote also provides for security industry regulations and other protective programs and for the activities of the cross-government Compliance and Enforcement Secretariat. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, boards and commissions, other levels of government, and other parties both internal and external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VICTIM SERVICES

Voted Appropriation

Community Safety and Victim Services.....	<u>78,374</u>	<u>88,310</u>
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Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for direct services to support victims of crime, counselling and outreach services for people impacted by violence, and financial assistance and benefits to assist victims in their recovery from the impacts of violent crime. This sub-vote also provides for facilitating restitution to victims and support to communities to prevent crime, violence, and victimization. Costs may be recovered from the Victim Surcharge Special Account for victim service programs, from ministries for special public safety initiatives, and from other levels of government for activities described within this sub-vote.

BC CORONERS SERVICE

Voted Appropriation

BC Coroners Service.....	<u>22,696</u>	<u>29,284</u>
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Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for the operation of the BC Coroners Service and the administration of the *Coroners Act*, including investigating unnatural, sudden, and unexpected deaths; investigating and reviewing children's deaths; identifying, and publicly reporting on relevant facts about, deceased persons; advancing recommendations aimed at the prevention of death; holding inquests and Death Review Panels; and reporting on issues affecting public health and safety. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, and other levels of government for activities described within this sub-vote.

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MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

	Estimates 2023/24	Estimates 2024/25
ROADSAFETYBC		
Voted Appropriation		
RoadSafetyBC.....	29,244	36,440

Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for programs and activities of RoadSafetyBC, including leading and supporting government traffic safety initiatives, administration of driver regulatory and traffic safety programs, setting driver licensing policies, monitoring and regulating unfit drivers, conducting appeals of driving prohibitions and conducting hearings and reviews of the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia's decisions respecting driver licence sanctions, driver training schools, driver trainer licences, and other driver-related programs. This sub-vote also provides for expenses related to participation in national organizations and reimbursements for programs administered by RoadSafetyBC. Costs may be recovered from appeal fees and program fees. Costs may also be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, boards and commissions, other levels of government, organizations for activities described within this sub-vote.

LIQUOR AND CANNABIS REGULATION**Voted Appropriations**

Liquor Regulation.....	1	1
Cannabis Regulation.....	7,615	8,274
	<u>7,616</u>	<u>8,275</u>

Voted Appropriations Description: This sub-vote provides for the overall policy development, administration, licensing, and enforcement of cannabis and liquor in support of the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act* and regulations, and the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act* and regulations to establish and operate ongoing programs to reduce the incidence of underage consumption and increase public awareness about responsible consumption. Costs may be recovered from ministries, organizations within the government reporting entity, and parties both internal and external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.

GAMING POLICY AND ENFORCEMENT**Voted Appropriations**

Gaming Policy and Enforcement Operations.....	19,399	21,460
Distribution of Gaming Proceeds.....	1	1
	<u>19,400</u>	<u>21,461</u>

Voted Appropriations Description: This sub-vote provides for the administration of gaming in the province, including horse racing and lotteries, and includes development and administration of legislation, policy, standards, and regulations; licensing gaming events; oversight of horse racing events and teletheatres; registration; regulation of gaming supplies; auditing all forms of gambling activities for compliance, investigation, and enforcement activities concerning legal gaming venues and illegal gaming; the management of the Province's gaming initiatives; the Province's responsible gambling strategy and problem gambling program; and the distribution of gaming proceeds. Costs may be recovered from revenues paid into the General Fund of the Consolidated Revenue Fund by the British Columbia Lottery Corporation, from processing fees for gaming event licence applications, from the Canadian Pari-Mutuel Agency for horse race testing, from external entities for horse race betting, and from gaming registrants for direct costs incurred in the processing of registration applications for activities described within this sub-vote. Costs may also be recovered from ministries for activities described within this sub-vote.

CANNABIS, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND CORPORATE POLICY**Voted Appropriation**

Cannabis, Consumer Protection and Corporate Policy.....	3,712	3,830
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Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for service planning for the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General; development of policy and legislation regarding consumer protection and other corporate priorities; oversight of delegated consumer protection authorities; development of research, policy, and legislation regarding cannabis; negotiation of agreements with First Nations; and stakeholder consultation and public engagement. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, boards and commissions, other levels of government, and other parties both internal and external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

	Estimates 2023/24	Estimates 2024/25
OFFICE OF THE FIRE COMMISSIONER		
Voted Appropriation		
Office of the Fire Commissioner.....	3,173	3,261
	<u>3,173</u>	<u>3,261</u>
Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for the Office of the Fire Commissioner, which implements fire safety regulations and activities, promotes fire safety, and assists major fire investigations and the response to major wildland urban interface fire emergencies. Costs may be recovered from ministries for activities described within this sub-vote.		
EXECUTIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES		
Voted Appropriations		
Minister's Office.....	784	810
Corporate Services.....	17,540	18,267
	<u>18,324</u>	<u>19,077</u>
Voted Appropriations Description: This sub-vote provides for the office of the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General; executive direction of the ministry, including the Deputy Solicitor General's office; general services to support program delivery; policy development; and management services for the ministry, including oversight of Crown corporations, and for the Ministry of Attorney General and the Ministry of Housing, including financial administration, facilities management, and organizational development. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, boards and commissions, other levels of government, organizations, and individuals for activities described within this sub-vote.		
VOTE 42 — MINISTRY OPERATIONS	1,012,694	1,068,431

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MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

STATUTORY DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

Estimates
2023/24

Estimates
2024/25

STATUTORY APPROPRIATIONS

These statutory appropriations provide for the programs, operations, and other activities of the following special accounts: Civil Forfeiture Account, Corrections Work Program Account, Criminal Asset Management Fund, and Victim Surcharge Special Account.

CIVIL FORFEITURE ACCOUNT

Statutory Appropriation

Civil Forfeiture Account.....	409	437
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Statutory Appropriation Description: This statutory appropriation provides for the Civil Forfeiture Account which is governed under the *Civil Forfeiture Act*.

CORRECTIONS WORK PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Statutory Appropriation

Corrections Work Program Account.....	1,281	1,281
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Statutory Appropriation Description: This statutory appropriation provides for the Corrections Work Program Account which is governed under the *Correction Act*.

CRIMINAL ASSET MANAGEMENT FUND

Statutory Appropriation

Criminal Asset Management Fund.....	—	—
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Statutory Appropriation Description: This statutory appropriation provides for the Criminal Asset Management Fund which is governed under the *Criminal Asset Management Act*.

VICTIM SURCHARGE SPECIAL ACCOUNT

Statutory Appropriation

Victim Surcharge Special Account.....	13,504	13,504
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Statutory Appropriation Description: This statutory appropriation provides for the Victim Surcharge Special Account which is governed under the *Victims of Crime Act*.

MINISTRY GROUP ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY

GROUP ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION

Salaries and Benefits	357,309	382,487
Operating Costs	70,205	75,347
Government Transfers	692,018	723,919
Other Expenses	20,231	20,231
Internal Recoveries	(17,176)	(17,176)
External Recoveries	(94,699)	(101,155)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES.....	1,027,888	1,083,653

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MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS¹
(\$000)

	Estimates 2023/24	Estimates 2024/25
CIVIL FORFEITURE ACCOUNT		
This account was established by the <i>Civil Forfeiture Act</i> in 2005. The purpose of the Act is to suppress unlawful activities by removing the associated economic incentive and to fund crime prevention, crime remediation, and victim compensation initiatives. The account is established to receive the liquidated value of forfeited assets and to distribute the net revenue in the form of grants. The net revenue represents the excess of recoveries over expenses in a given fiscal year. Expenses are limited to those permitted within the scope of the Act and include administration of the Act. Costs may be recovered from proceeds from judgments or settlements of concluded legal proceedings.		
SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR ².....	7,580	7,171
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Revenue.....	—	—
Expense.....	(7,910)	(14,981)
Internal and External Recoveries.....	7,501	14,544
Net Revenue (Expense).....	(409)	(437)
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS		
Receipts.....	—	—
Disbursements.....	—	—
Capital Expenditures.....	—	—
Net Cash Source (Requirement).....	—	—
PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR ².....	7,171	6,734

NOTES

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

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

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS¹
(\$000)

	Estimates 2023/24	Estimates 2024/25
CORRECTIONS WORK PROGRAM ACCOUNT		
This account was established by the <i>Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No.2)</i> in 1987 and is governed under the <i>Correction Act</i> . The purpose of the account is to assist inmates in acquiring skills and to encourage them to develop good work habits. Revenue represents proceeds from the sale of goods and services produced by inmates. Expenses are for supplies and costs related to the Corrections Work Program. Administration costs are funded through the ministry's voted appropriations.		
SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR ².....	1,658	1,787
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Revenue.....	650	650
Expense.....	(1,281)	(1,281)
Transfer from Ministry Operations Vote.....	700	700
Net Revenue (Expense).....	<u>69</u>	<u>69</u>
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS		
Receipts.....	—	—
Disbursements.....	—	—
Capital Expenditures.....	—	—
Net Cash Source (Requirement).....	—	—
Working Capital Adjustments and Other Spending Authority Committed ³	<u>60</u>	<u>60</u>
PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR ².....	<u>1,787</u>	<u>1,916</u>

NOTES

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

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

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

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS¹
(\$000)

	Estimates 2023/24	Estimates 2024/25
CRIMINAL ASSET MANAGEMENT FUND		
The Forfeited Crime Proceeds Fund account was established by the <i>Special Accounts Appropriation and Control Act</i> in 1988, as amended by the <i>Attorney General Amendment Act</i> in 1989. This account was continued in 2012, under the name Criminal Asset Management Fund, by the <i>Criminal Asset Management Act</i> . The purpose of this account is to use the proceeds that government obtains from criminal forfeitures and certain fines for certain criminal justice purposes. Revenue represents money received by government from proceeds of crime provided by certain other governments, money paid as a fine under a provision of the <i>Criminal Code</i> of Canada or under similar legislation, and money forfeited under certain sections of the <i>Criminal Code</i> of Canada. Revenue also represents money realized from the disposition of forfeited property governed by the Act and other money, interest, and income provided for in the Act. Expenses are for compensation of eligible victims, crime prevention and remediation, administration of the Act, and other prescribed purposes. Administrative costs may be funded through the ministry's voted appropriations.		
SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR ².....	2,510	2,510
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Revenue.....	—	—
Expense.....	—	—
Net Revenue (Expense).....	—	—
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS		
Receipts.....	—	—
Disbursements.....	—	—
Capital Expenditures.....	—	—
Net Cash Source (Requirement).....	—	—
PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR ².....	2,510	2,510

NOTES

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

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

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS¹

(\$000)

	Estimates 2023/24	Estimates 2024/25
VICTIM SURCHARGE SPECIAL ACCOUNT		
This account was established by the <i>Victims of Crime Act</i> in 1996. The purpose of the account is to fund services to victims of crime as provided for in the Act. Revenue represents proceeds from a victim surcharge levy on fines from all provincial offences, both court-imposed fines and those which result in a violation ticket. Revenue also includes proceeds from the federal victim surcharge levy on offences imposed by the court under the <i>Criminal Code</i> of Canada, fines issued under the <i>Controlled Drugs and Substances Act</i> , the <i>Cannabis Act</i> , and interest earned on the balance of the fund. Expenses are for justice system obligations to victims of crime under the Act, including administration costs for both the Ministry of Attorney General and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. Any remaining funds may be expended on initiatives which may benefit victims of crime. Administration costs are funded through the ministry's voted appropriations.		
SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR ².....	27,970	26,466
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Revenue.....	12,000	12,000
Expense.....	(13,504)	(13,504)
Net Revenue (Expense).....	(1,504)	(1,504)
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS		
Receipts.....	—	—
Disbursements.....	—	—
Capital Expenditures.....	—	—
Net Cash Source (Requirement).....	—	—
PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR ².....	26,466	24,962

NOTES

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

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

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
(\$000)

VOTE 42 Ministry Operations

Description	Total 2023/24 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Corrections	296,131	203,050	4,924	51,694	—	259,668	—	857	2,504	3,388	940	2,271	—	—	8,630
Policing and Security	534,024	17,297	25	4,393	—	21,715	—	212	642	2,122	446	809	—	—	449
Community Safety and Victim Services	78,374	8,848	76	2,248	—	11,172	—	69	91	429	595	202	—	—	—
BC Coroners Service	22,696	12,187	76	3,096	—	15,359	55	317	201	12,081	498	241	—	—	108
RoadSafetyBC	29,244	17,745	51	4,507	—	22,303	—	86	2,599	1,482	480	271	—	—	—
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation	7,616	13,970	40	3,548	—	17,558	—	321	472	417	1,515	518	—	—	19
Liquor Regulation	1	8,811	20	2,238	—	11,069	—	221	147	300	525	300	—	—	5
Cannabis Regulation	7,615	5,159	20	1,310	—	6,489	—	100	325	117	990	218	—	—	14
Gaming Policy and Enforcement	19,400	13,049	72	3,315	—	16,436	—	466	358	512	500	580	—	40	2
Gaming Policy and Enforcement Operations	19,399	13,049	72	3,315	—	16,436	—	466	358	512	500	580	—	40	2
Distribution of Gaming Proceeds	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cannabis, Consumer Protection and Corporate Policy	3,712	2,743	—	697	—	3,440	—	44	109	100	3	35	—	—	—
Office of the Fire Commissioner	3,173	2,245	—	570	—	2,815	—	40	—	70	110	100	—	—	14
Executive and Support Services	18,324	8,654	27	2,231	58	10,970	—	156	166	111	4,473	252	—	—	5
Minister's Office	784	497	—	150	58	705	—	65	—	—	10	22	—	—	3
Corporate Services	17,540	8,157	27	2,081	—	10,265	—	91	166	111	4,463	230	—	—	2
Total	1,012,694	299,788	5,291	76,299	58	381,436	55	2,568	7,142	20,712	9,560	5,279	—	40	9,227

Statutory Appropriations

Description	Total 2023/24 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Civil Forfeiture Account	409	838	—	213	—	1,051	—	30	3,229	—	25	55	—	90	—
Corrections Work Program Account	1,281	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	41	—	—	475
Criminal Asset Management Fund	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Victim Surcharge Special Account	13,504	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	15,194	838	—	213	—	1,051	—	30	3,229	—	39	96	—	90	475

70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2024/25 Operating Expenses
973	—	3,777	3,331	26,671	—	4,300	27,661	31,961	—	—	1,212	1,212	—	(385)	(385)	(1)	(2,280)	(2,281)	316,846
208	—	121	329	5,338	2,061	—	566,220	568,281	—	—	149	149	—	(1,585)	(1,585)	(1)	(52,250)	(52,251)	541,647
—	—	94	3	1,483	175	18,188	67,366	85,729	—	—	44	44	(9,816)	(2)	(9,818)	—	(300)	(300)	88,310
77	—	98	324	14,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	28	—	(101)	(101)	(1)	(1)	(2)	29,284
15	—	13	8	4,954	—	—	10,536	10,536	—	—	2,787	2,787	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(4,138)	(4,139)	36,440
248	—	49	1,467	5,026	—	—	—	—	—	—	554	554	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(14,861)	(14,862)	8,275
170	—	49	749	2,466	—	—	—	—	—	—	229	229	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(13,761)	(13,762)	1
78	—	—	718	2,560	—	—	—	—	—	—	325	325	—	—	—	—	(1,100)	(1,100)	8,274
8	—	444	3	2,913	9,000	—	5,836	14,836	—	—	49	49	—	(1)	(1)	—	(12,772)	(12,772)	21,461
8	—	444	3	2,913	—	—	5,836	5,836	—	—	49	49	—	(1)	(1)	—	(3,773)	(3,773)	21,460
—	—	—	—	—	9,000	—	—	9,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(8,999)	(8,999)	1
—	—	—	—	291	100	—	—	100	—	—	2	2	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	3,830
50	—	53	10	447	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(1)	(1)	—	—	—	3,261
153	—	2,452	2,321	10,089	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,302	3,302	—	(5,282)	(5,282)	(1)	(1)	(2)	19,077
—	—	5	—	105	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	810
153	—	2,447	2,321	9,984	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,302	3,302	—	(5,282)	(5,282)	(1)	(1)	(2)	18,267
1,732	—	7,101	7,796	71,212	11,336	22,488	677,619	711,443	—	—	8,127	8,127	(9,816)	(7,360)	(17,176)	(7)	(86,604)	(86,611)	1,068,431

70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2024/25 Operating Expenses
—	—	—	1	3,430	10,000	—	—	10,000	—	—	500	500	—	—	—	—	(14,544)	(14,544)	437
115	—	60	—	705	—	—	476	476	—	—	100	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,281
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	2,000	—	—	2,000	11,504	—	—	11,504	—	—	—	—	—	—	13,504
115	—	60	1	4,135	12,000	—	476	12,476	11,504	—	600	12,104	—	—	—	—	(14,544)	(14,544)	15,222

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Estimates 2024/25 Briefing Book**

**Policing and Security Branch
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Estimate Notes

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2. Provincial Police Services (RCMP) - Provincial \$230M Investment
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2024/25 ESTIMATES

Gun and Gang Violence

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Gun and Gang Violence

DESCRIPTION: The unit's mandate is to target, investigate, prosecute, disrupt, and dismantle the organized crime groups and individuals that pose the highest risk to public safety due to their involvement in gang violence. The Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU) operates as an integrated team comprised of RCMP and municipal members that are seconded from 14 different municipal agencies in the province.

Question	Response
Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of BC (CFSEU-BC)	
Positions authorized within the CFSEU-BC	450 (incl. support staff)
Positions filled (operational capacity)	Security Concern
Position Breakdowns:	
Organized Crime Agency of BC - RM positions	52
Vacancies	Security Concern
Organized Crime Agency of BC - Civilian positions	116
Vacancies	Security Concern
RCMP established RM positions	168
Vacancies	Security Concern
RCMP established Civilian positions	39
Vacancies	Security Concern
Investigative and Enforcement Teams within the Unit This includes general and specialized Investigative Teams and Uniform Enforcement Teams across all districts. This does not include operational support or intelligence teams/units.	20 teams

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<p>Provincial funding for the Unit The unit is paid under the 70/30 cost share under the Provincial Police Service Agreement.</p>	<p>\$91.4M (at 100%) Provincial share: \$64M</p>
<p>Seizures</p>	<p>Response</p>
<p>CFSEU-BC (2020 – Sept 2023*) *Last reporting period</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 500 firearms • \$5.3M in illegal cash and assets • Over 1,700Kg of illicit drugs and precursor chemicals
<p>Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority Seizures (2020 – Sept 2023*) *Last reporting period</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 800 firearms • >\$10M in illegal cash and assets • 1,800 of illicit drugs and precursor chemicals • 750 charges against PTEP targets
<p>Other Programs/Initiatives</p>	
<p>Witness Security Program</p>	<p>Security Concern</p>
<p>Gang Intervention and Exiting Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • >120 clients supported since inception • 51 designated as 'successfully' exited
<p>Guns and Gangs Violence Action Fund The fund is a five-year federal-provincial contribution agreement. Renewed for another 5 years (2023/24- 2027-28)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10,945,434.60 of funding for 2023/24 (\$54 million to BC over five years)

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2. Qs and As

1. Last year the province commissioned a report that resulted in some critical observations about the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of BC's response to the ongoing gang conflict. Why did you commission this report and what steps have you taken to implement recommendations?

- As the Province's anti-gang agency, the RCMP-administered Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit BC (CFSEU-BC) has the responsibility to lead the response to this threat and to take pro-active measures to reduce the violence and protect the public.
- The role of the Director of Police Services is to oversee policing in British Columbia, and as part of that mandate, the Director conducts reviews to ensure adequate and effective policing and that our investments are producing the desired public safety results.
- Reviews including their findings and recommendations provide opportunities for us to examine our collective efforts and consider opportunities that exist to improve our responses or capitalize on successes.
- This review and its recommendations were not about the dedicated service provided every day by the men and women who make up CFSEU-BC. They go above and beyond to suppress, investigate and dismantle the most significant threats in the BC gang landscape.
- The recommendations for this particular review support work already underway to improve strategic oversight at CFSEU-BC including governance reform and the development of a CFSEU-BC strategic plan.
- The recently published 2024-2027 Strategic Plan for CFSEU-BC marks a pivotal moment in our relentless work combatting organized crime in British Columbia. This plan articulates our forward-looking strategy, emphasizing collaborative intelligence, operational agility, and community partnerships.

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2. It seems like every week we hear about another gang related homicide. What is the government doing to address the increase in gun and gang violence?

- The loss of life through homicides is tragic and my thoughts are with those individuals and communities that are impacted by these violent crimes.
- Eliminating gun and gang violence is a shared responsibility between all levels of government. We continue to work with the federal government to ensure federal policing resources to deal with significant threats are sufficiently deployed in BC. We also work with municipalities to ensure their police forces are appropriately supported to confront gang crime in their local communities through integrated provincial teams and provincewide programs.
- The government invested more than \$100 million into specialized enforcement and intelligence initiatives related to guns, gangs, and illicit drug trafficking. This includes provincial and federal funding sources and covers prevention, intervention, intelligence, and enforcement initiatives. This funding ensures a multifaceted approach that leverages proactive enforcement, gang suppression, targeted disruption, and prevention and intervention programming for gang members.
- As part our \$230 investment under the Safer Communities Action Plan, we specifically identify that funding was going to the RCMP and that this funding would be used to address resource gaps in specialized units – this includes Major Crime Units in the province who have jurisdiction for investigating gang homicides in their areas.
- The *Firearm Violence Prevention Act* received Royal Assent in March 2021. Since then, the Ministry has been developing the Firearm Violence Prevention Regulation, which will supplement and bring into force the majority of the *Firearm Violence Prevention Act*. The Firearm Violence Prevention Regulation is currently being finalized

Cabinet Confidences

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3. What is the province doing to help communities across the province deal with gun and gang violence?

- Under the BC Organized Crime Strategy, we are employing a comprehensive approach to tackling organized crime. We are working to ensure our laws, polices, funding and other initiatives are prioritized and aligned to our overall goal of eliminating gang violence.
- **Support for law enforcement teams and dedicated prosecutors:**
 - Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority – (\$5M PSB, \$1.3M the Gun and Gang Violence Action Fund) - identifies and targets priority gang-affiliated individuals in each district of the province.
 - Gang prosecutors – (\$1.4M Gun and Gang Violence Action Fund) - to ensure expertise and reduce delays associated with organized crime/gang-related trials.
- **Youth gang prevention:**
 - True long-term success requires us to look beyond traditional justice system responses. For true lasting change, we need to keep children from being drawn into the gang lifestyle.
 - Expect Respect & A Safe Education (ERASE) – (\$1.13M) - provides dedicated funding through school district grants to build in-house capacity to adopt best practice methods of gang prevention and intervention, reducing the threat of exploitation and organized crime recruitment among youth.
 - Gang Intervention & Exiting Team (GIET) – (\$1.6M) - provides the only gang intervention and exiting program across the country that is embedded within a police agency and managed by police members and civilians. This unique structure allows the team to identify and recruit into the program, the highest-risk targets and support gang-entrenched youth and adults in exiting the gang lifestyle.

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- **Innovative Provincial Programs and Supports:**
 - In addition to standard and ongoing base budget funding for dedicated investigative and enforcement teams, the Province has provided dedicated funding for a suite of innovative gun and gang initiatives, including but not limited to:
 - Creating and expanding the BC Witness Security Program;
 - Increasing forensic firearms laboratory analysis and certification capabilities;
 - Enhancing cooperation between government regulatory agencies and the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit leading to significant seizures of illegal tobacco – for example, seizure of 35 pallets of contraband cigarettes - approximate retail value of \$11M).

3. Background

- Gun and gang violence in B.C. has reached its highest level since the early 2000s. Most of the violence has taken place in the Lower Mainland, but recently other communities across the province have experienced it too.
- The Organized Crime Agency of BC (OCABC) serves as the foundational police agency of the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit-BC. OCABC is a provincially designated policing unit comprised of highly trained and specialized professionals, including both sworn members and civilian supports.
- OCABC houses a number of provincial priority programs such as the BC Witness Security Unit, Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority, and the Provincial Forensic Firearms Lab. The Ministry also continues to work with OCABC to strengthen its operational and strategic efficiencies through ongoing Board of Governance reform and the development of a BC Organized Crime Strategy.

Contact: Jacqueline Davies (PSB)	Phone: 778-698-7786	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2024/25 ESTIMATES

**Provincial Police Service (RCMP)
- Provincial Investment \$230M**

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Provincial Police Service (RCMP) – Resource Levels and Vacancies

DESCRIPTION: The figures below represent the Provincial Police Service (RCMP) positions included in the provincial Annex A, under the *Provincial Police Service Agreement* between B.C. and the Government of Canada.

They are a point in time calculation, based on BC RCMP “E” Division Executive Report (January 1, 2024). The provincial Annex includes the addition of approximately 200 sworn members from other police agencies.

Question	Response
Provincial Police Service (RCMP) - Strength	
<p><u>Authorized</u> Strength of the Provincial Police Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorized Strength is inclusive of Regular, Civilian, and Special Constable Member positions and Sworn Officer positions from other police agencies. 	2,602 Member positions
<p><u>Established</u> Strength of the Provincial Police Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established Strength is the number of Member positions created in RCMP human resources system plus Sworn Officer positions from other police agencies. 	2,551 Member positions
<p><u>Actual</u> Strength of the Provincial Police Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusive of Surplus to Establishment positions and the 200 Sworn Officer position. 	<p>Security Concern</p> <p>Member positions</p>
Provincial Annex A	
<p>The Authorized Strength (Provincial Annex A) of 2,602 members was agreed to at the time of signing the 2012 to 2032 Provincial Police Service Agreement.</p>	

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Question	Response
Provincial Police Service - Vacancies	
Total vacancies in the Provincial Police Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined total number of vacant positions (net/hard vacancies) plus members who are on leave (soft vacancies). • Sworn Officer positions from other police agencies are not included in this calculation as RCMP does not track other agencies' vacancies. 	The total vacancies, as of January 1, 2024, are: Security Concern
Number of vacancies on leave (soft vacancies) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • e.g. off-duty sick, on parental leave, suspended, leave with out pay or other administrative leave related reasons. 	
Number of vacant positions (net/hard vacancies) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With no incumbent assigned to the position. 	

TOPIC: Provincial Investment \$230M

Question	Response
Provincial Investment Positions 'Operational' (as of March 28, 2024)	
Regular Members	Security Concern
Public Service Employees	4 Critical Response Unit 1 Major Crime Section 2 BC Highway Patro 9 Rural/Remote 15 Other 31 Total 26 Target for 2023/24 119% Rate for 2023/24

Year 1 Summary: The first year of the three-year Provincial Investment, resulted in the following vacancy and resourcing pressures being addressed:

Major Crime Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight members and four public Service positions allocated to the North District Major Crime Unit enabling North District Major Crime to better serve Indigenous and remote communities across BC RCMP’s largest district spanning 37 detachments from Anahim Lake to Fort St. John • Thirteen Member and four Public Service positions were added to the Southeast District Major Crime Service. • Nine Regular Member and one Public Service additional positions in specialized units within the Provincial Major Crime Section, serving all communities across the province
BC Highway Patrol (BCHP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Provincial Police Service’s highway patrol received 30 Regular Member and two Public Service resources in FY 2023/24, representing the largest single-year arrival of Investment resources compared to all other priority programs. • These positions were primarily added to BCHP units the Southeast, Lower Mainland and North Districts • As a result, BC Highway Patrol is better able to deliver its mandate to address causal factors to road safety.
Rural and Remote Provincial Detachments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Year 1, five new Regular Member and nine Public Service resources in Provincial Detachment Units arrived in more than 13 communities across British Columbia to better serve Indigenous and remote communities, including but not limited to; Anahim Lake, Golden and Vanderhoof, Port Alice, Quesnel, Elk Valley and Nootka Sound. • The Provincial Investment is enabling the RCMP to support Member wellness in rural and remote communities by permitting for more reasonable scheduling of police officers, resulting in service improvements to the local and Indigenous communities they serve.

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Critical Response Unit (CRU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation and staffing of a new Provincial Police Unit, CRU-BC, responds to a growing need to maintain order in BC communities amid rising protest activity stemming from domestic and international events while protecting the rights of BC residents to engage in lawful protest. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CRU-BC consists of 10 Member and 4 Public Service positions mandated to govern both the operations and administration of critical response activities. ○ To ensure transparency, the unit maintains a formal investigative function to ensure Member compliance with policing standards, and a policy and disclosure function to manage the release of CRU-BC information into the public record.
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Years 2 and 3: Work is well underway to continue to address vacancies and resourcing pressures prioritized for Years 2 and 3.

2. Qs and As

1. Where are the majority of vacancies within the Provincial Police Service?

- As of the January 1, 2024 BC RCMP Executive Report, the majority of vacancies within the Provincial Police Service were in positions at the BC RCMP Headquarters.
- Between the 4 RCMP Districts (Lower Mainland District, North District, Southeast District and Island District) the highest vacancy rates in the Provincial Police Service are seen in the ^{Security Concern} Districts.
 - High vacancy rates in the Lower Mainland District are in part attributable to the inclusion of RCMP “E” Division Headquarters. _{Intergovernmental Communications}

- The January 1, 2024, total vacancy rate for the Provincial Police Service was ^{Security Concern}
 - The five-year (2019-2023) average was ^{Security Concern}

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- Separate from the Provincial Police Service business line, are the Federal and Municipal business lines. As of January 1, 2024,:
 - B.C’s Federal RCMP business line had a total vacancy rate of ^{Security Concern}
 - The five-year (2019-2023) average was ^{Security Concern}
 - B.C’s Municipal RCMP business line had a total vacancy rate of ^{Security Concern}
 - The five-year (2019-2023) average was ^{Security Concern}

2. How will the Provincial Investment of \$230M address vacancies within the Provincial Police Service?

- In support of the Provincial Government’s Safer Communities Action Plan, announced November 20, 2022, the Province approved an unprecedented, multi-year investment of approximately \$230 million to address existing gaps in staffing, and resource pressures within the Provincial Police Service, in specialized functions, such as Major Crime Section and B.C. Highway Patrol, as well as at front-line provincial detachment units, allowing the Provincial Police Service to reach its full authorized strength of 2,602 Members.
- The Provincial Investment period is three years, from FY 2023/24 to FY 2025/26, and it is expected that the full target number of resources will be fully staffed and operational by the end of this 3-year period. Annual targets are:
Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications
- As of March 28, 2024, the number of positions under the Provincial Investment that are now fully staffed and operational exceeds the Year 1 (FY 2023/24) Provincial targets.

3. Background

Provincial Police Service Resource Levels and Vacancies

- The Provincial Police Service Annex A authorized strength has remained at 2,602 since the signing of the 2012 Provincial Police Service Agreement.
 - As of January 1, 2024, the Established Strength is ^{Security Concern}

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April 26, 2024

- Under the current Provincial Police Service Agreement, policing costs are subject to the 70:30 cost-share agreement between the Province and the federal government.
- The number of Provincial Police Service vacancies continues to be a concern for the provincial government. The Policing Services Branch continues to work with “E” Division RCMP and our national partners at the Contract Management Committee table to address issues pertaining to vacancies, including mitigation and supply strategies.

Oversight – Vacancies

- Since December 2021, PSB carries out additional reviews of service delivery levels at the District Officer level. The intent of these reviews is to provide greater contextual clarity on issues at both the district and community level, not captured by existing reporting, that may be adversely impacting service delivery levels, recruitment, and officer wellness.
- These reviews examine service delivery levels across all RCMP business lines – Federal, Provincial, Municipal and the First Nations Inuit Policing Program.

\$230M Provincial Investment

- Ministry staff are actively engaged with RCMP ‘E’ Division in identifying and prioritizing the vacancies and resource pressures, within the Provincial Police Service under the \$230M Provincial Investment.
- The priority areas include specialized functions, such as Major Crime Section and BC Highway Patrol, as well as remote/rural provincial detachment units.
- Provincial staffing targets for the three-year investment include a total of 256 Regular Members and 80 Public Service Employees.
- As of March 28, 2024, the number of positions under the Provincial Investment that are now fully staffed and operational exceeds the Year 1 (FY 2023/24) Provincial targets.
- This funding will address existing gaps in staffing, allowing the Provincial Police Service to reach its full authorized strength of 2,602 Members.
- Funding came into effect April 1, 2023 and is not an increase in Member positions beyond the authorized strength of 2,602 Members.
- RCMP Municipal and Federal Policing Units and First Nations Inuit Policing Program positions, are not eligible for staffing support under the Provincial Investment.
- The Provincial Investment is enabling the RCMP to support Member wellness in rural and remote communities by permitting for more reasonable scheduling of police officers, thereby reducing overtime and decreasing BC RCMP’s reliance on Reserve Constables to deliver day-to-day policing services.
- While the Provincial Investment applies to the Provincial Police Service, it is anticipated that its positive impacts will benefit public safety for all communities in B.C.

Contact: Katherine St Denis (PSB)	Phone: 778-572-3401	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2024/25 ESTIMATES

First Nations and Inuit Policing Program

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: First Nations and Inuit Policing Program

DESCRIPTION: Enhanced, culturally responsive policing services are provided to First Nation communities in B.C. via the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program (FNIPP), in addition to the day-to-day policing services provided to the Nations.

FNIPP has a cost-sharing arrangement between Canada (52%) and B.C. (48%) set out in the 'Framework Agreement'.

The figures below are a point in time calculation, based on BC RCMP "E" Division Executive Report (January 1, 2024).

Table with 2 columns: Question and Response. Rows include Authorized Strength for FNIPP (Total 132.5 Members), Established Strength for FNIPP (Total 132.5 Members), and Actual Strength for FNIPP (Total 120 Members).

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Question	Response
Total vacancies for FNIPP	Security Concern
Members on Leave (soft vacancies) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positions where incumbents are not fully operational in the duties of their substantive positions (e.g., graduated return to work, restricted non-operational duties, off-duty sick, parental leave, suspended, leave without pay) 	Security Concern
Vacant positions (hard vacancies) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positions currently vacant with no incumbent assigned to the position. 	Security Concern
FNIPP Funding 2024/25 Budget - Proportion of provincial (48%) vs. federal funding (52%) for FNIPP positions. Total Funding includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Tripartite Agreements (CTA) - <small>Government Financial</small> • Quadripartite Agreements (CQA) - <small>Government Financial Information</small> • Self-Administered Agreements (SA) - <small>Government Financial Information</small> 	Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

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2. Q's & A's

1. What services are provided under the First Nations and Inuit Policing Programs (FNIPP)?

- There are 3 main programs under FNIPP:
 - Community Tripartite Agreements (CTAs) – RCMP
 - Community Quadripartite Agreement (CQA) - Tsawwassen First Nation and Delta Police Department
 - Self Administered Agreement (SA) - Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police Service (STPS)

2. How Many First Nations are Included in the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program (FNIPP)?

- 146 First Nations receive enhanced policing services from the Program in B.C., representing approximately 71% of all First Nations in B.C.
 - Of the 146 Nations, 133 receive services from B.C. RCMP Indigenous Policing Services via 59 Community Tripartite Agreements, 1 from a Community Quadripartite Agreement, 10 from the Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police Service via a Self-administered Agreement, and 2 from the Integrated First Nations Unit.
- While the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program provides enhanced policing services to these First Nations, all First Nations in B.C. still receive core policing services from the RCMP, pursuant to the Provincial Police Service Agreement.

3. Does B.C. Support First Nations Policing in Other Ways?

- First Nations can also receive financial support from B.C. and Canada through the First Nations and Inuit Policing Facilities Program, along the same 52%/48% cost sharing arrangement as the FNIPP.
- Nations work with B.C. and Canada to identify community policing facility needs, such as satellite offices, to improve service delivery. In partnership with Canada, B.C. monitors and funds projects in communities on a case-by-case basis.
 - Ditidaht First Nation's project was recently extended and is expected to complete in Summer 2024, and Haisla First Nation is in the process of finalizing their project.

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3. Background

- The First Nations and Inuit Policing Program (FNIPP) is a federal program that was first created in 1991 with the intention of providing participating First Nations a role in shaping the policing services received by their community and to address the long-standing lack of trust between Indigenous communities and the police.
 - FNIPP provides First Nations agency regarding justice and safety issues in their community and creates an avenue for enforcing Indigenous laws, consistent with UNDRIP and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s calls to action.
- FNIPP provides enhanced policing services, which are in addition to frontline/regular policing services provided to these Nations, by their local detachment.
- Under the FNIPP, there are two primary models for First Nations to receive enhanced policing in B.C.:
 - Community Tripartite Agreements (CTAs) are signed between the Nation(s), B.C., and Canada, for the signatory Nation(s) to receive enhanced policing services, above and beyond core policing they already receive from the RCMP.
 - Self-Administered Agreements (SAs) are signed between the Nation(s), B.C., and Canada to allow the Nation to establish and lead their own designated policing service, which provides day-to-day and community policing. Specialized police services (e.g.: for homicides) is provided by the provincial police still (RCMP).
 - There is also a Quadripartite Agreement between Tsawwassen First Nation, the City of Delta, B.C., and Canada, but functions similarly to a CTA.
- FNIPP Program Details
 - Authorized Strength of ^{Security} or CTAs was agreed to at the time of signing Amendment #3 to the ‘Framework Agreement’ (February 25, 2020). The initial ‘Framework Agreement’ was in effect from April 1, 2014, to March 31, 2024.
 - Authorized Strength of ^{Security} member for CQA was agreed to at the time of signing the April 1, 2020, to March 31, 2025 ‘Quadripartite Agreement on the Funding of Dedicated Policing Services to Tsawwassen First Nation’.
 - The Authorized Strength of ^{Security} or SA was agreed to at the time of signing the April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2030 ‘Agreement on Funding for the Stl’atl’imx Tribal Police Service (STPS)’
- New Framework Agreement - April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2029
 - The most recent Framework Agreement was signed by B.C. on December 11, 2023, and Canada on February 27, 2024, and will be in effect from April 1, 2024, until March 31, 2029. With this new Agreement, the authorized strength for RCMP IPS will increase from ^{Security} _{Concern}
 - The increased numbers are yet to be factored into reporting systems.

Contact: Katherine St Denis (PSB)	Phone: 778-572-3401	Mobile: Government Financial
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2024/25 ESTIMATES

Protest Monitoring

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Protest Monitoring

DESCRIPTION: In Fiscal Year 2023/24, the RCMP Critical Response Unit (CRU-BC), formerly the Community-Industry Response Group (C-IRG), was provided an annual base budget of \$11.772M (at 70%) from the Province in order to normalize this unit within the BC RCMP. CRU-BC has a responsibility to report back to government on its spending. CRU-BC has provided the following facts and figures to showcase annual policing costs and the frequency and severity of illegal protests in BC.

Security Concern

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Protest Frequency (Protest Occurrence Files)		
2018	506	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 2018 and 2023, unlawful protests in BC increased in frequency by 47%. • Despite this multi-year increase, 2023 saw a 31.5% decrease in unlawful protests province-wide, as compared to 2022. • This declining number does not reflect all protest activity, nor does it reflect the reality on the ground for high-protest jurisdictions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Vancouver Police Department (VPD) responded to almost 26% more protests in 2023 compared to 2022 while the Intergovernmental Communications • Further, natural resources projects, such as Coastal Gas Link and Fairy Creek, have been completed or are nearing completion, which could better explain the decrease noted in 2023. However, there are various new projects on the horizon, coupled with the increasing number of geopolitical protests encompassing a variety of issues, including Israel/Palestine, India/Khalistan, and Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.
2019	359 (-29%)	
2020	742 (+107%)	
2021	1741 (+135%)	
2022	1089 (-37%)	
2023	746 (-31.5%)	

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Protest Severity (Charges Laid)		
2018	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RCMP observed increasing protest severity from 2020-2021, as demonstrated by charges laid. • However, over the past six years, we have seen protest severity decrease by 33% overall throughout the Province, having course-corrected well below pre-pandemic levels. • This is due largely to increased information sharing between police agencies and a demonstrative commitment to pre-event liaison practices by police. • The Province is currently working to develop a more accurate measurement of the impact of public order and critical incident events on society as a whole.
2019	106 (+253%)	
2020	22 (-79%)	
2021	282 (+1182%)	
2022	198 (-29%)	
2023	20 (-90%)	

*Source: Data courtesy of CRU-BC, collected on behalf of all BC Provincial, Municipal, and Independent police departments.

**These figures do not represent total protest sites, rather the number of files generated to respond; as one protest site may generate several files.

2. Qs and As

1. Why is the Province continuing to fund a militarized policing unit under systematic investigation?

Critical Response Unit

- Initially created as a temporary unit in 2017, the Community-Industry Response Group was intended to provide strategic oversight in addressing energy industry (gas and oil pipeline) incidents and related public order, national security, and crime issues.
- The Province invested almost \$36M over three years to formalize the Community-Industry Response Group and ensure that there was a dedicated provincial police unit to address various public order events without diverting precious resources from other priority areas.
- On January 1, 2024, the Community-Industry Response Group was renamed as the Critical Response Unit – British Columbia (CRU-BC) to better reflect the scope of work and service that its members

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provide. CRU-BC will assist in civil and public order events for natural or human caused disasters, conduct proactive engagement and, if required, enforcement duties specific to the critical incident.

- The unit has also absorbed the Police Liaison Team, whose role supports the measured approach to public order enforcement through relationship building, impartiality, interoperability, and education throughout all the stages of conflict.

Indigenous Peoples

- The BC-RCMP have made it a priority to advance reconciliation and strengthen trust with Indigenous Peoples in accordance with the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA).
- Many small towns, Indigenous communities, and remote populations are historically under served by government initiatives and policing. Through standardizing the Critical Response Unit, it is my expectation that the unit has the capacity to conduct outreach, implement consistency of operations and best practices, and ensure that enforcement actions are as culturally sensitive as possible.
- A full-time Critical Response Unit will prioritize creating and sustaining relationships with elected and Hereditary governments due to permanency of the position and the legacy of the relationships that are established.

Oversight and Accountability

- As with all police activities, oversight and accountability are important to ensure a proper balance between respect for Canadian Charter rights and the law.
- The Civilian Review and Complaints Commission is an independent agency created by the Parliament of Canada to ensure that public complaints made about the conduct of RCMP members are examined fairly and impartially.
- The Civilian Review and Complaints Commission is currently conducting a systemic investigation of Critical Response Unit and the RCMP have pledged their full cooperation. I look forward to

reviewing their findings and recommendations and cannot comment further.

2. How do police uphold the right to peaceful, lawful, and safe protest, while maintaining public safety and preserving the law?

- British Columbians have the right to peaceful protest, and the provincial government supports citizens' ability to exercise these democratic rights – within the law.
 - However, when a protest goes beyond the right to peacefully gather and infringes on the well-being and safety of others, Government and law enforcement will consider all tools and options available to them to protect people, preserve public safety, and investigate unlawful conduct.
 - Over the past few years, some protest groups have adopted more aggressive tactics that have put the public and police responders at risk and in some cases results in assaults and injuries. This type of behaviour is unacceptable, protestors are expected to behave within the law, and law enforcement will investigate as required when criminal behaviour is alleged.
 - Police respond to protests, rallies, and demonstrations based on their assessment of safety, not on the ideology or cause of the crowd. All B.C. police forces utilize a measured approach to unlawful protest, emphasizing proactive engagement, communication, mitigation, and facilitation measures to maintain or restore the peace during multiple phases of an event.
- ## **3. What is the Province doing to support B.C. Police agencies and impacted municipalities in their response to protests?**
- The Director of Police Services, authorized under the *Police Act*, has taken steps to ensure coordination of police forces regarding public order, critical incidents, and unlawful protest activities to ensure a unified response throughout jurisdictions across B.C.
 - The Policing and Security Branch within the Ministry has developed a Public Order and Critical Incidents Workplan aimed to address some of the current gaps regarding protest response throughout our

province and develop comprehensive and measured approaches to better address unlawful protest activities.

- We also continue to rigorously monitor protest activity and regularly engage with police to maintain situational awareness and ensure they have the tools they require to provide an adequate response in the event of public order and critical incidents.
- The investment into standardizing the Critical Response Unit can also help alleviate some of the resourcing and budgetary pressures that independent police agencies face regarding public order and critical incidents. Although the unit is within the RCMP, it often works jointly with other various police departments to provide operational responses to protests in both urban and rural locations across B.C.

Contact: Brian Sims (Serious and Organized Crime Division - PSB)	Phone: 250-387-3920	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2024/25 ESTIMATES

Special Investigation and Targeted Enforcement (SITE)

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Special Investigation and Targeted Enforcement (SITE)

DESCRIPTION: The Province provided a \$5M funding pool in Fiscal Year 2023/24 for the Special Investigation and Targeted Enforcement (SITE) Program, which is administered by the RCMP SITE Team on the BC Government’s behalf as the Provincial Police Service at a cost of \$0.306M.

The SITE Program was formally launched in April 2023 and by the end of the first Fiscal Year (March 31st, 2024), funding requests exceeded the available budget by almost \$0.800M.

By Jurisdictions	Funding Requested	Funding Approved
RCMP	\$1,910,973	\$1,588,960
Independent Police Agencies	\$3,611,676	\$3,158,582
By Application Stream	Funding Requested	Funding Approved
Stream 1	\$1,457,001	\$1,116,263
Stream 2	\$4,065,647	\$3,631,279
Total	\$5,522,648	\$4,747,572

Communities Supported by Policing Jurisdictions	Number of Communities
Intergovernmental Communications; Security Concern	

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SITE Funded Projects/Investigations	Response
Active Projects	25
Concluded Projects	34
Total Projects Funded by SITE	59
Metrics on Outcomes	
Police Officer Involved	923
Individual Arrested/Investigated	1326
Of which, ReVOII Prioritized Individuals	48
Individuals Charged	589
Resulting Charges	904
Pieces of Weapons (including firearms, ammunitions, knives)	160
Cash Recovered	\$69,000
Loss Merchandise Recovered	\$270,000
Types of Illicit Drugs Seized (kgs of cocaine, meth, fentanyl)	12

2. Qs and As

1. How does the implementation of the Special Investigation and Targeted Enforcement (SITE) program impact the crime rate and assist in addressing repeat violent offending in B.C.?

- SITE is one of multiple programs under the Safer Communities Action Plan which work together to provide a comprehensive, sustained, and coordinated approach in improving public safety.

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- SITE funding enhances police capacity to address community-specific public safety issues caused by repeat violent offending, thus mitigating risks and harms to the public. SITE offers two funding streams for police agencies: the first targets repeat violent offenders, while the second focuses on proactive operations and joint initiatives investigating incidents with significant public safety impacts.
- SITE aligns with the Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII) to support comprehensive case management and tailored rehabilitative referrals, working together to address the underlying factors that lead to recidivism.
- While it is premature to assess long term impacts on overall recidivism, early outcomes are showing the program is working to make communities safer. The number of individuals arrested, and resulting charges indicate significant public safety risks that have been averted. A formal evaluation in Spring 2024 will further assess the program's impact on police operations and public safety.
- Participating agencies have recognized the opportunities SITE funding has provided, and many have confirmed that their projects could not have advanced without the funding. For example, SITE has:
 - Supported Vancouver Police Department in addressing stranger attacks;
 - aided the Victoria Police Department with investigating an arson series; and
 - assisted Transit Police and the Surrey RCMP in a joint project targeting violent crime on transit lines.

2. Canadian police agencies have conveyed human resource shortages. How has the Special Investigation and Targeted Enforcement funding been applied amidst these challenges?

- SITE has supplied existing resources with additional tools, including special equipment, to enhance effective response to repeat violence.
- SITE has supplied necessary funding for travel and overtime.
- SITE has funded joint-agency and cross jurisdictional projects to leverage

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shared resources.

- The funding for SITE is fenced, which ensures that dedicated resources are not diverted from other policing priorities.

3. How do you justify the continued investment of \$5M annually for the Special Investigation and Targeted Enforcement program considering the existing level of investment to policing?

- Investing in SITE helps police prioritize repeat violent offending, which remains a priority for provincial and federal government. SITE provides operational funding while other investments target human resource increases.
- The high volume of funding requests and the majority of SITE funding utilized within the launch year demonstrate significant policing demand for enhanced support.
- Investigations funded by SITE have effectively prevented public safety risks, showing tangible results through project outcomes.
- Many agencies affirm that SITE funding was crucial for advancing projects addressing pressing public safety concerns, especially in communities facing high risk of violent crimes.

3. Background

- As part of the BC Safer Communities Action Plan, SITE is a three-year pilot initiative that provides operational funding to enhance police capacity in targeting violent offending and supports a more effective and coordinated prioritizing process across jurisdictions.
- SITE objectives are responsive to the recommendations of the Fall 2022 independent investigation report on repeat violent offending and directly address provincial priorities in reducing crime rates and harms associated with repeat violent offending and improving public confidence in the criminal justice system.
- SITE's approach is modelled after BC's successful Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority program used to prioritize gang and organized crime initiatives.
- The Province allocated \$0.306M to the RCMP for the establishment of the RCMP SITE Team, which consists of 3 FTEs. The team is responsible for administrating the program, including oversight and governance.

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- A Law Enforcement Governance Committee was established which consists of representatives from the RCMP and municipal police departments who have been reviewing and approving SITE applications.
- SITE is developed in accordance with and to complement broader multi-agency responses coordinated through ReVOII by enhancing police capacity for collaboration within this integrated framework. However, the implementation of SITE will remain flexible and adaptable to meet the operational needs of police in addressing emerging risks to public safety.

Contact: Brian Sims (SOC Division - PSB)	Phone: 250-387-3920	Mobile: 250-387-3920
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2024/25 ESTIMATES

Surrey Police Transition

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Surrey Police Transition

- On July 19, 2023, the Minister made a decision under section 2 of the *Police Act* and directed the City of Surrey to continue its transition to the Surrey Police Service.
- On October 26, 2023, the Province passed legislative amendments to the *Police Act* which, among other things, requires the City of Surrey to provide its policing by means of a municipal police department, the Surrey Police Service.
- To date, the Surrey Police Service has hired about 420 sworn officers and civilian support staff. Of these:
 - Approximately 360 are sworn officers, including around 20 recruit officers currently in training.
 - About 200 Surrey Police Service sworn officers are actively operationally deployed within the Surrey RCMP, making up approximately 30% of the detachment's deployable resources and 50% of its front-line.
 - A commensurate number of RCMP officers have been demobilized from the Surrey RCMP (at least 170).
- The Surrey Police Board approved and submitted a 2024 provisional budget of \$141.5M million to the City of Surrey. This budget was based on the planning assumption of 35 Surrey Police Service officer deployments into the Surrey RCMP every two months starting January 2024, and a total of 180 Surrey Police Service officer hires.

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2. Qs and As

1. How much will/has the Province provide(d) in financial support to the City of Surrey to support continuing with the transition to the Surrey Police Service? What can Surrey taxpayers expect?

- The Province's priority is to ensure that adequate and effective policing is maintained in Surrey and communities across B.C.
- The Province offered to support transition costs so that Surrey residents and businesses are not negatively impacted by the unprecedented situation in this policing transition.
- Ministry Officials have met with the City of Surrey to reach an agreement on financial supports that would work.
- This agreement supports adequate and effective policing in Surrey as well as in communities across B.C. by ensuring completion of the transition.
- Additionally, the Surrey Police Board has released its 2024 Provisional Budget which shows that it fits within the City's existing financial framework. This along with the provincial financial commitment will ensure additional costs are not passed to Surrey residents and businesses through high tax increases.

2. Now that the Province has stepped in to support Surrey, will it help other communities offset policing costs?

- A police model transition of this size and scope is exceptionally complex, and this matter is unprecedented in B.C. and Canada.
- The Province committed to providing financial assistance to Surrey to ensure adequate and effective policing is maintained in all communities across B.C.
- When it comes to policing, we are supporting B.C. municipalities and communities in many ways, and we will keep doing more to keep people safe in all parts of the province.

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- For example, as part of the Province’s Safer Communities Action Plan, the Province is directly supporting municipalities through funding for initiatives such as the Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII) and the Special Investigation and Targeted Enforcement (SITE) program, Situation Tables, Mobile Integrated Crisis Response Teams (also known as Car teams), as well as supporting the piloting of the HealthIM platform.
- In addition, in 2022, the Province approved an unprecedented, multi-year investment of approximately \$230 million to the BC RCMP Provincial Police Service to address existing staffing gaps and resource pressures in front-line as well as specialized functions, such as Major Crime Section and BC Highway Patrol. It is anticipated this investment will have broader positive impacts that benefit public safety for all communities in B.C.

3. What is the future of policing looking like for Surrey in the upcoming new year and how can Surrey residents feel reassured that they will be served by the police in a timely fashion?

- The City must complete the transition to the Surrey Police Service to meet its legal obligation. Moving forward, I expect the city to be fully engaged with its transition partners and participate to advance its transition.
- The transition will move forward with hiring of more Surrey Police Service officers, and more deployments into the Surrey Municipal Police Unit.
- This will also include formalizing legal agreements and mechanisms that will enable Surrey Police Service to assume police of jurisdiction for the City, with supports provided by the RCMP until the transition period completes.

3. Background

- The City of Surrey is currently undergoing a police model transition from the RCMP to its own municipal police department, the Surrey Police Service. The RCMP is currently the City’s police of jurisdiction with Surrey Police Service officers deployed into the Surrey RCMP detachment. Work is currently underway to support the Surrey Police Service to assume police of jurisdiction with transitional supports provided through the RCMP until the transition is completed and the service is fully resourced on its own.
- The City began its transition with a council decision in November 2018 seeking to change its police model away from RCMP municipal policing to its own police department. The transition was well underway when, in November 2022, a newly

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elected Surrey Mayor and Council proposed to abandon the transition and revert to the RCMP. The Minister determined that the City’s transition reversal plan was unsafe. The City is now legally obligated to complete the transition to the Surrey Police Service.

- B.C.’s Police Act requires municipalities with a population over 5,000 to provide policing by one of three model options: their own municipal police department, contracting RCMP municipal services, or contracting with a municipal with a municipal police department.
- In 2019, the Policing and Security Branch established the Policing Model Transition Secretariat, now known as the Police Model Transition Team, to provide leadership and ensure provincial accountabilities were met with respect to police model transitions.
- The Team is responsible for developing and formalizing the provincial processes and frameworks to support any (potential) municipal police model transition.
- While the Surrey police model transition comprises a significant portion of the Team’s current work, their work extends to all (potential) municipal police model transitions. For example, the Team remains engaged with the Township of Esquimalt to provide guidance on the police model transition process as Esquimalt continues to explore the establishment of their own municipal police department.

Contact: Christal Engleder (PSB)	Phone: 778 572-3391	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2024/25 ESTIMATES

TOPIC:Surrey Police Research

Recommended Response:

- Research is important for understanding what people want from their government, but it isn't the only consideration.
- We have conducted research in Surrey to understand public attitudes towards the Surrey policing transition which was initiated, and then attempted to be reversed, by different Surrey councils.

Advice/Recommendations

If pressed on why polling is being done after the decision was made to poll post-decision:

- The objective of the current Surrey policing survey is to help policymakers better understand, now that the decision is finalized and the transition date is set, what concerns may remain for people in Surrey so that the government can work to mitigate those concerns.

****Refer any questions on costs to GCPE****

Background:

- Surrey policing questions from April 2023 research were released to a "political party" FOI applicant on November 22nd, 2023.
- A subsequent FOI request by a "media" applicant requested received reports on Surrey policing research conducted in Jan. 2023 and May 2023. It was released to the applicant April 18th, 2024.

2024/25 ESTIMATES

Surrey Judicial Review and Report

1. Key Facts

- On October 13, 2023, the City of Surrey commenced litigation by submitting an application for a judicial review of the Minister’s July 19, 2023 decision directing the city to continue its transition to the Surrey Police Service (SPS).
- On October 26, 2023, the legislative amendments to the *Police Act* came into effect which, among other things, require the city to provide its policing by means of a municipal police department, the Surrey Police Service (s.7 of the *Police Amendment Act, 2023*).
- The city subsequently amended its petition on November 20, 2023 to add a constitutional challenge to the Surrey specific provisions of these amendments – specifically s. 7 of the *Police Amendment Act* as well as s.8, which allows the Minister to appoint an administrator(s) in place of the Surrey Police Board.
- The initial provincial response to the city’s petition was filed on December 15, 2023.
- The Supreme Court hearing on the matter is taking place from April 29th to Friday May 3, 2024. Justice Loo is expected to release his decision in three to six months, although it could be faster or slower.
- Documents have been provided to the Courts in support of provincial submissions, such as the minimally redacted version of the April 2023 Director’s Report as well as the RCMP’s contingency plan(s) provided to the province in response to the risk of a Surrey Police Service collapse.
- The April 2023 Deloitte Report was also provided to the City through judicial review processes. The report was released publicly along with statements made by the Mayor about the costs of the transition to the Surrey Police Service. Statements presented information that focused on

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one of several scenarios in Deloitte's report. The statements focused on the costliest scenario presenting a misleading outlook on costs of the policing transition. The statement further suggested that the information was deliberately withheld from the city.

2. Qs and As

1. **Now with the announcement of the Surrey Police Service becoming the City's police of jurisdiction on November 29, 2024, what can we expect with the judicial review as far as outcome and timeline?**

- The petition itself does not stop the transition. The city remains legally required to complete the transition to the Surrey Police Service.
- This judicial review is a matter between the city, the Attorney General, and my office and has no effect on the work underway to progress the transition or the Surrey Police Service's work to become the City's police of jurisdiction on November 29th.
- We are confident in our position and expect to be successful in the litigation.

2. **The Mayor claims that the Province has known for over a year that the costs of the transition would be an unmanageable burden at \$750M over ten years. What is this secret report and why was it commissioned in the first place?**

- There is no secret report. I have been talking about this report for over a year.
- The City's December 2022 transition reversal plan suggested that continuing the transition could cost \$256M transition. They were concerned that Surrey Police Service would cost \$30M more than the RCMP on a like for like basis.
- In April 2023, we commissioned an independent analysis by Deloitte to verify this \$30M cost-differential. The Deloitte report confirmed that this cost-differential estimate by the city was reasonable.

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- As a result, the provincial government offered \$150M in financial support to ensure these costs were not passed on to Surrey taxpayers, which the city has rejected as well as other financial assistance.
- The city then claimed the total transition costs would be \$460M.
- The Mayor's recent statements cite costs of \$750M. This is misleading as it is based on only one of several scenarios presented in the Deloitte report.

3. How much has this judicial review cost so far and is this being taken out of the financial support promised by the Province?

- Mayor Brenda Locke and Surrey city council have spent taxpayer dollars on a judicial review rather than funding services in the City.
- The city rejected an agreement that included a 10-year financial commitment which would see:
 - \$150 million over five years, plus added assurance that if Surrey Police Service officers were more expensive than RCMP officers in 2029,
 - the Province would cover the difference every year for another five years to 2034 - up to \$20 million per year.
- Since the city has rejected financial support for the people of Surrey, the Province will use the \$150 million commitment to directly support the transition, including allocating funds to support the Surrey Police Service above and beyond their 2024 provisional budget. This also includes funding to support the service in continuing to hire officers for their police force.
- Any additional costs that end up getting passed on to the people of Surrey are the responsibility of the mayor and council.

3. Background

- B.C.'s Police Act requires municipalities with a population over 5,000 to provide policing by one of three model options: their own municipal police department, contracting RCMP municipal services, or contracting with a municipality with a municipal police

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department.

- In order to ensure that adequate and effective policing would be maintained in the City of Surrey, on July 19, 2023, the Minister directed that the city must continue its police model transition to its own police department, the SPS.
- The Minister took this action due to the failure of the city to meet the mandatory and binding conditions set out for the city to return to the RCMP.
- The provincial government also passed legislative amendments to the *Police Act* which, among other things, requires the city to provide its policing by means of a municipal police department, the SPS.
- Despite the litigation underway, the city remains legally obligated to provide its policing by means of a municipal police department, which means they must complete the transition to the SPS.

Contact: Christal Engleder (PSB)	Phone: 778 572-3391	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2024/25 ESTIMATES

**Policing and Public Safety
Modernization
– Police Act Reform**

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Engagement Partners

Question	Response
<p>Local governments represented on the Local Government Policing Modernization Roundtable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Burnaby • City of Colwood • City of Coquitlam • Town of Creston • Village of Cumberland • Township of Esquimalt • City of Fort St. John • City of Kamloops • City of Langley • District Municipality of Sparwood • City of New Westminister • City of Richmond • City of Vancouver
<p>Police agencies represented on the BCACP Committee for Policing and Public Safety Modernization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abbotsford Police Department • New Westminister Police Departments • Oak Bay Police Department • Surrey Police Service • Vancouver Police Department • Victoria Police Department • West Vancouver Police Department • St’atl’imx Tribal Police Service • Metro Vancouver Transit Police • RCMP E Division: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operational Strategy Branch ○ Island District ○ Southeast District RCMP ○ North District RCMP

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TOPIC: Consultation - Phase 1, interim amendments to the current *Police Act*

Consultations		
Indigenous Partners/ Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 200+ BC First Nations 8 Modern Treaty Nations 25 Indigenous Friendship Centres 	<p><u>Phase 1 amendments consultation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 First Nations 2 Modern Treaty Nations (Nisga’a Lisims Government was only consulted only at the policy development stage)
		<p><u>Phase 1 targeted consultation on Community Safety Officer</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 First Nations 3 Modern Treaty Nations
		<p><u>Meeting on PPSM Overview</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 First Nations 2 Modern Treaty Nations 6 Indigenous Friendship Centres
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Indigenous Leadership Organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BC First Nations Leadership Council First Nations Justice Council Métis Nation British Columbia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Indigenous Leadership Organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BC First Nations Leadership Council First Nations Justice Council Métis Nation British Columbia (consulted only at the policy development stage)
	Invited to consult	Consulted
Police organizations/ agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 Police Sector Organizations 2 Police Boards 10 Police Board Chairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Police Sector Organizations 2 Police Boards 8 Police Board Chairs

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	Invited to consult	Consulted
Local governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Local Government Policing Modernization Roundtable (co-chaired with UBCM) – (see list above)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Local Government Policing Modernization Roundtable (co-chaired with UBCM) – (see list above)
	Invited to consult	Consulted
Other organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">BC Office of the Human Rights CommissionerBC Civil Liberties Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none">BC Office of the Human Rights CommissionerBC Civil Liberties Association

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TOPIC: Policy and Legislation - Phase 1, interim amendments to the current *Police Act*

Question	Response
<p>What is the scope of impact of Phase 1 amendments?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Phase 1 amendments cover 21 topics over 170 clauses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amendments to 84 sections of the <i>Police Act</i> ○ 41 sections added to the <i>Police Act</i> ○ Consequential amendments to 74 sections of 22 other Acts. ○ Focus on municipal police governance and oversight; law enforcement continuum; miscellaneous topics.
<p>When will Phase 1 amendments come into force?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Most sections come into force upon Royal Assent ● Fall 2025 for other changes that will require supporting regulations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Police board training ○ Systemic reviews for police complaint commissioner ○ New Safety Officer model ○ Regulatory authority for police uniforms ○ Gap in oversight re: detention facilities ○ “Police force” to “police service”
<p>Phase 1 Alignment with the 2022 Special Committee on Reforming the <i>Police Act</i> Recommendations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Responds to 6 recommendations: ● Recommendation #2b (...not allowing the mayor to serve as board chair) ● Recommendation #5c (... dynamic and flexible approach to policing that provides for different categories of policing and public safety personnel...) ● Recommendation #7(a) (Ensuring police and public safety services are representative of the diversity of the communities served...) ● Recommendation #9e (Revising the definition of misconduct to include demeaning and discriminatory conduct, language, jokes...)
<p>Phase 1 Alignment with the 2019 Special Committee to Review the Police Complaints Process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Responds to 7 recommendations: ● Recommendation #9 (... broader range of designated observers to monitor the police complaint process ...)

Question	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation #12 (... enable the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner to conduct self-initiated systemic reviews...) • Recommendation #13 (...expand the Police Complaint Commissioner’s authority to make binding guidelines in any area not currently covered by the Act) • Recommendation #16 (... provide the Police Complaint Commissioner with the power to arrange a public hearing at any stage of the process) • Recommendation #21 (... replace “dismiss” a police complaint [policy and service complaints] with “investigate and resolve” or “investigate and conclude”...) • Recommendation #23 (amend ... “discipline authority” to include persons appointed pursuant to regulations and approved by the Police Complaint Commissioner or Chief Constable) • Recommendation #25 (... determine if lock-up staff or municipal guards in RCMP-policed municipalities should come under the jurisdiction of an appropriate independent oversight body)
Phase 1 Policy Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 Discussion Papers produced, on topics such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Board Code of Conduct ○ Definition of Misconduct ○ Expanding Discipline Authorities ○ Lock-Up Guards ○ Mandatory Police Board Training ○ Mayor as Chair of Police Board ○ Misconduct Observers ○ Public Hearings

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TOPIC: Phase 2 – Policy development and cooperation and consultation for new policing legislation

Question	Response
Phase 2 Policy Work – Background Discussion Papers	<p>37 Discussion Papers on the themes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance • Oversight • Police funding models • Law enforcement continuum • Training • Indigenous policing • Police Model Transitions • Organizational culture • Superintendence <p>27 Policy Options Papers developed or in-progress</p>
Who is being consulted in Phase 2?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC First Nations Justice Council • First Nations Leadership Council • BC First Nations and Morden Treaty Nations (all invited; some participating) • Local Government Police Modernization Roundtable & UBCM • BC Association Chiefs of Police Policing Modernization Committee • BC Office of Human Rights Commissioner • Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner • Independent Investigations Office • Office of the Ombudsperson • BC Civil Liberties Association • Provincial Committee on Diversity and Policing Engagement Sub-committee
Number of Phase 2 engagement meetings that have occurred since last Estimates (as of April 5, 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government Police Modernization Roundtable & UBCM: 9 monthly meetings* • Indigenous Leadership Organizations: 4 monthly meetings* • First Nations & Modern Treaty Nations: 6 regional sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total of 34 Nations attending the 6 sessions. • Police agencies: 9 monthly meetings

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police oversight bodies: 3 monthly meetings • Community-based/advocacy organizations: 13 monthly meetings <p>* Staff-level meetings occur on a monthly basis (or more as needed)</p>
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TOPIC: Engagement Funding

Funding	Response
Community-led engagement grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 91 eligible applications • 37 organizations received grants • Total grant funding provided = \$350,000 • Most grants were \$10,000 per organization
Geographical distribution for community-led engagement grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 Lower Mainland/Southwest • 7 Vancouver Island/ Coast • 2 Cariboo Region • 2 Nechako • 2 Thompson-Okanagan • 1 Northeast
Number of Nations that received Capacity Funding (as of April 9, 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 52 Nations
Additional Capacity Funding recipients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Indigenous Leadership Organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BC First Nations Justice Council (\$150,000) ○ First Nations Leadership Council (\$200,000) • 1 Treaty Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The First Nations of the Maa-nulth Treaty Society (\$10,000)
Amount of Capacity Funding issued (as of April 9, 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,186,000 (Fiscal 2023/2024) • \$362,640 (Fiscal 2024/2025)
Oversight and Conservation Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Officers have the knowledge, training and compassion to make decisions in the field, however difficult, when it comes to animal welfare and public safety.

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Funding	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Special Committee recommended that there be independent oversight of all police and public safety personnel with powers under the <i>Police Act</i>. • The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General is working on ensuring independent oversight of the Conservation Officers through the analysis on the creation of a new oversight agency. • The scope and mandate of the oversight agencies is being analyzed.
<p>Special Committee recommendation 11 – Select Standing Committee on <i>Police Act</i> reform</p>	<p>Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences</p>

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TOPIC: Policing and Public Safety Modernization Contracts

Contract	Contract Amount
Tonia Enger – Research and Advice to Policing and Security Branch (PSB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$179,625.52 for Fiscal 2023/24. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Of this, \$50,460 was specifically for a Policing and Public Safety Modernization project.
BC Association of Municipal Chiefs of Police (BCAMCP) - Regionalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$290,000 for Fiscal 2023/24. • Funding provided to BCAMCP to contract with a research team to do a non-positional discussion paper on the regionalization of police services in BC (analysis into recommendation #2).
MNP – Police Oversight Models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$128,000 for Fiscal 2023/24. • Contract with MNP to conduct an impartial business analysis on potential new police oversight models (analysis of recommendation #9)
Deloitte – First Nations consultation and cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total contract value: \$534,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amount of contract for Fiscal 2023/24 – \$259,000 ○ Renewal amount into next fiscal year 2024/2025 - \$275,000 • Contract with Deloitte to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Design and execute outreach strategies to all BC First Nations and Modern Treaty Nations to optimize participation in virtual and in-person consultation sessions; conduct the sessions; establish consultation and cooperation plans for the police co-development process.
DPM Consulting–Community-led engagements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$75,000 for Fiscal 2023/24. • Contract with DPM to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support the launch of grants for community-led engagement; design an engagement toolkit for grant recipients and community partners; ensure engagements with racialized and intersectional populations follow cultural protocols, are culturally safe and trauma-informed.

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TOPIC: Public Safety Transformation Team

Public Safety Transformation Team (PSTT)	
PSTT Portfolio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policing and Public Safety Modernization Initiative • Safer Communities Action Plan • NG 911 • Compliance and Enforcement Secretariat
Public Servant Travel	
Regional First Nations Meetings & Staff Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 regional townhall meetings held by mid-April 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Victoria ○ Nanaimo ○ Vancouver ○ Terrace ○ Fort St John ○ Prince George ○ Kamloops ○ Williams Lake • Public Safety Transformation Team staff attend each regional meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supports ongoing relationships with First Nations interested in co-developing the new legislation.
Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADM Megan Harris meets regularly with the BC Association of Chiefs of Police and senior police leaders, and other service providers, and attends and presents at conferences related to policing.
Public Service Staffing	
New staff in fiscal 2023/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget uplift included 6 new FTEs in 2023 – some of these staff were already working on the Policing and Public Safety Modernization Initiative, but the funding allowed the Ministry to make them permanent.
New staff anticipated in fiscal 2024/25	<p>5 FTEs approved for 2024/25, from the 2023 Budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 new Senior Policy and Legislation Analysts • 2 new Managers • 1 new Director, Legislation

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2. Qs and As

1. Is the government making progress on *Police Act* reform?

- Phase 1 amendments respond to 21 different topics of reform, including:
 - Governance (handling of complaints, the Chair/Vice Chair of Board, Mandatory board training, code of conduct)
 - Oversight (definition of misconduct, arranging public hearings)
 - Superintendence (broaden Director standards, reassignment of officers in emergencies)
 - The Law Enforcement Continuum/tiered policing (detention guard oversight, safety officer framework)

- Phase 2 will include consideration of:
 - Governance
 - Oversight of police conduct
 - Funding models
 - Law enforcement continuum
 - Training and assessment
 - Indigenous policing
 - Provincial and regional policing models
 - Powers, authorities & superintendence
 - Race-based data collection

- Phase 2 includes the co-development with Indigenous Peoples and local governments of two new pieces of legislation (a new policing statute and a police oversight statute) in 2026 or 2027. Time is required for meaningful, in-depth engagement and discussion on the proposed policies that will form the foundation for the new legislation.

- Phase 3 includes the introduction and implementation of the new legislation.

- The timeline of the Policing and Public Safety Modernization initiative is:
 - Phase 1 amendments to current *Police Act* introduced Spring 2024.
 - In 2024, broadscale engagement on Phase 2 continues.
 - 2024-2025 Phase 1 regulations development.

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2. How does the Ministry intend to balance the competing viewpoints of different partners and ensure the new legislation reflects their views?

- New legislation will be co-developed with First Nations Rightsholders and Indigenous leadership groups, as well as local government partners.
- “Co-development” does not mean that partners will see everything they want reflected in the new legislation.
- Co-development process needs to be done in a good way so that all partners know their concerns have been heard and given serious consideration and analysis.
- When consensus cannot be reached on an issue, Ministry staff will summarize the research, analysis, and feedback and escalate to the Minister or Cabinet to make evidence-based decisions.
- The needs of Indigenous Peoples have been considered:
 - Indigenous leadership organizations have prioritized the alignment of new policing and police oversight legislation with UNDRIP.
 - Jurisdiction and self-determination on policing are issues they would like to see addressed in the new legislation.
 - Policy development work will consider options related to Indigenous jurisdiction over different aspects of policing.

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3. Does the Minister support the creation of a provincial police service that moves away from the RCMP (Special Committee recommendation 2)?

- The Provincial Police Service Agreement between Canada and BC for the RCMP to serve as BC’s Provincial Police Service does not end until March 31, 2032.
- Exploring this option would require extensive research including legal, operational, financial, communications, and consultation.
- Government is looking into all of the Special Committee’s recommendations to determine the best path forward for policing in BC.

3. Background

- Government received the report of the Special Committee on Reforming the *Police Act* on April 28, 2022. The recommendations in the report include:
 - Co-developing new policing and oversight legislation with Indigenous and municipal leaders, and establishing a single complaints oversight body;
 - Reforming policing and public safety funding models; and,
 - Reforming mental health and addictions first response services.
- PSSG’s Public Safety Transformation Team is advancing the policing and public safety modernization initiative, including work to respond to the Special Committee’s recommendations, using a phased approach. A phased approach will provide time to meaningfully engage and consult on development of new policing and oversight legislation and do the analysis required so Government can make informed decisions on a new police oversight agency.

Contact: Ardys Baker (PSB)	Phone: 778-974-4044	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2024/25 ESTIMATES

**Safer Communities
Action Plan**

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Safer Communities Action Plan

DESCRIPTION: The Safer Communities Action Plan (the Plan) lays out concrete steps at the provincial level to make communities safer under two tracks: enforcement and intervention services. Each initiative within the Plan is structured to improve coordination between law enforcement, community service organizations, justice system agencies, health providers, and people who are recovering from addiction and mental-health challenges, and they apply a collaborative, co-ordinated approach to address the issues people are seeing in their communities.

SCAP Initiative	Summary
The Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twelve (12) hubs since May 1, 2023, in Nanaimo, Victoria, Vancouver, Surrey, New Westminister, Abbotsford, Kamloops, Kelowna, Cranbrook, Prince George, Williams Lake and Terrace, and each hub supports surrounding region. • As of April 4, 2024, 384 people prioritized as part of ReVOII, and while it will take time to evaluate the effectiveness of the program, early findings are promising. • Numbers fluctuate due to a number of reasons including: death; inactivity; shift to federal custody; transition out of BC; or successful completion of the program. • \$25M over FY 2023/24 – 2024/25 (to BC Corrections and BC Prosecution Service)
Specialized Investigation and Targeted Enforcement Program (SITE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 71 applications received to date (as of March 2024). Of the 71 received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 35 applications submitted by the RCMP ○ 36 submitted by Independent Police Departments. ○ 58 approved ○ 1 under review

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SCAP Initiative	Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The investment will allow the Provincial Police Service to reach (but not exceed) its full authorized strength of 2,602 members. • Number of positions staffed and operational (as of March 12, 2024): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 59 Regular Members (exceeding the 2023/24 target of 56) ○ 30 Public Service Employees (exceeding the 2023/24 target of 26).
Unexplained Wealth Orders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation received Royal Assent in May 2023. • Three candidate cases were identified and two were filed at the end of 2023, and one in March 2024. A constitutional challenge to the legislation has been filed on one of these cases (expected). Further applications will be brought while the Charter issues are litigated.
Situation Tables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently 36 active tables and a total of 43 funded tables, including an (active) Intervention Circle in Esk’etemc (Es-KET-em) First Nation, located south of Williams Lake. • \$2.9 million has been provided to communities to implement Situation Tables since 2018. \$608,000 was invested in fiscal 2023/24 via grants to communities
HealthIM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delta Police was the first department in B.C. to start using HealthIM in 2019 (this was not funded by the Province). • A funding agreement between HealthIM and the BC Association of Chiefs of Police (BCACP) to implement a provincial pilot program has been finalized and signed by all parties. Privacy impact assessments in progress for: Vancouver Coastal Health; Island health authority; Fraser health; Northern Health; and Interior health.

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SCAP Initiative	Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Province expects to announce roll-out locations and timings of a provincial HealthIM pilot program in Spring of this year. BCACP received \$2.066M in 2023/24 to fund HealthIM. \$3.474M has been allocated for 2024/25.
Public Drug Use Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act</i> received Royal Assent on November 8, 2023. Under the Act, a person must not consume any decriminalized substances at parks, beaches, and sports fields, as well as within 6 metres of bus stops or entrances to businesses and residences that are adjacent to public spaces, such as a sidewalk. The Act also states that illegal drug use is not allowed within 15 metres of playgrounds, spray and wading pools, and skate parks. On December 29, 2023, the Supreme Court of B.C. issued a temporary injunction that prevents the Act from coming into force. Prior to the initial interim injunction period expiring, the Province and the Plaintiff (Harm Reduction Nurses Association) agreed to an extension until June 30, 2024, in exchange for enabling the Province to pass regulations under the Act. UBCM has applied to the Supreme Court to act as an intervener in the forthcoming interlocutory injunction hearing and civil trial, both of which have yet to be scheduled.
Indigenous Justice Centres (IJC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nine centres are serving clients based in Merritt, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Chilliwack, Victoria, Nanaimo, Vancouver, Kelowna, and Surrey, alongside one virtual centre. <p>New Indigenous Justice Centres physical location opening dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nanaimo: Projected to open February 29

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SCAP Initiative	Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelowna: Projected to open March 25 • Surrey: Projected to open March 29. • \$44M invested over 3 years (2023/24 – 2025/26) for the addition of 10 new centres (AG funding).
Virtual Bail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installed videoconferencing devices in Sheriff cells at all 29 courthouses. • Installed videoconferencing devices in 45 of 119 detachments across the province: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ North: 20 ○ Interior: 3 ○ Vancouver Island: 6 ○ Vancouver Coastal: 9 ○ Fraser: 7 • FY2023/24 Funding: 5.229M (AG funding). • FY2024/25 funding: 6.228M (AG funding). • FY 2025/26 funding: 2.806M (AG funding).
Peer Assisted Care Teams (PACT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently three (3) PACT teams in Victoria, North/ West Vancouver and New Westminster, and three (3) additional teams are set to launch in Kamloops, Prince George and the Comox Valley in Spring 2024. • From January 2023 to December 2023, 3,830 calls were made to PACTs across Victoria, New Westminister and North/West Vancouver. • Budget 2024 investment: \$30.324M over 3 years (MMHA funding).
Mobile Integrated Crisis Response Teams (MICR)/ Car Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sixteen (16) MICR Teams are now operating in communities across B.C., in Abbotsford, Burnaby, Chilliwack, Coquitlam/Port Coquitlam, Kamloops, Kelowna, Penticton, Prince George, Fort St. John, Richmond, Surrey, North Shore, Nanaimo, Vancouver, Vernon and Victoria. • Three more teams are set to fully launch in Spring 2024, <small>Advice/Recommendations</small> (subject to funding). West Shore already operating with limited capacity.

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SCAP Initiative	Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget 2023 funding: \$3M (MMHA funding) • Budget 2024 funding: \$9M over 3 years (\$3M annually) (MMHA funding)
Road to Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of January 2024, 34 beds have been implemented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 14 detox beds at St. Paul’s Hospital ○ 20 transition care beds in the community • Once fully implemented, there will be 95 Road to Recovery beds, with 45 at St. Paul’s Hospital and 50 by Providence Health Care in Vancouver. • Budget 2023: \$157.52 M operating investment (over 3 years) (MMHA funding).
Community Transition Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Transition Teams expanded to support service at all 10 provincial correctional centres (from 5). • Expansion tripled support, from 30 days to 90 days. • 2,666 people served between Sept. 2019, and Sept. 2023. • 25 staff hired. • In 2021 the Province expanded CTTs to 10 teams across the province. Government continues this investment by providing \$10.355 million over the next three years to support the ongoing operations of these teams (MMHA funding).
Brain Injury Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment to help British Columbians live with the changes and challenges they face after injury, including those resulting from toxic drug poisoning. • between October 1st- December 31st, 2023, 474 new individuals were screened for brain injury services, and 310 (65%) of these were accepted for services. • 144 (30%) of these new clients live with concurrent mental health, substance use and/or justice system involvement. • \$4.5 million over three years (ending FY2025/26) (MMHA funding).

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2. Qs and As

1. Why isn't there additional funding to expand the Safer Communities Action Plan in this year's budget?

- 16 initiatives announced in November 2022 as part of the Action Plan.
- While they are all up and running, several initiatives are still in the process of being fully implemented.
- We are monitoring effectiveness and will examine areas where further investment may be needed in the future.

2. Will there be more Mobile Integrated Crisis Response Teams announced?

- Funding in 2024/25 is intended to sustain the existing teams funded through the one-time funding provided in Budget 2023.

- Advice/Recommendations

- Communities are encouraged to discuss future the need for health/ police partnerships with their health authorities and local police and proceed independently if able.
- An example of this is the integration of mental health professionals in the Vancouver Police Department OCC. It is one step they are taking on their own to support those in a mental health crisis.

3. Is the Safer Communities Action Plan effective?

- All the operational programs are monitoring success metrics, and many have evaluations planned or in progress.
- While we have seen short term impacts, many of the initiatives will require time to demonstrate longer term outcomes (e.g., recidivism rates).
- Initial findings suggest the programs are showing success, working to interrupt the cycle of reoffending, and supporting individuals to access support.

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3. Background

- Premier David Eby announced the Safer Communities Action Plan (the Plan) on November 20, 2022.
- The Plan includes immediate steps that will strengthen enforcement to keep those who commit repeat violent offences off our streets, and strengthen services to build safe, healthy communities for everyone.
- The Plan also builds on work already underway by the provincial government to help break the cycle of repeat offending and build safe and healthy communities.
- Each initiative is structured to improve coordination between law enforcement, community service organizations, justice system actors, health providers and people who are recovering from addiction and mental-health challenges in a collaborative, coordinated approach.
- The Plan aligns with recommendations from several reports on community safety, including the Special Committee on Reforming the *Police Act*, the First Nations Justice Strategy and the Investigation into Repeat Offending and Random Stranger Violence.

Contact: Darrion Campbell (PSB)	Phone: 778 698 5974	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2024/25 ESTIMATES

Situation Tables

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Situation Tables

DESCRIPTION: The implementation of the Situation Table Model is a mandate letter priority for PSSG with several direct linkages to high-profile government priorities, which has been proven to effectively respond to public safety and wellbeing crises in communities.

Over \$2.9 million has been provided to communities to implement Situation Tables since 2018. \$608,000 was invested in fiscal 2023/24 via grants to communities.

Question	Response
Total Situation Tables across B.C.	36 Operational 8 Funded and Onboarding 44 Total
Distribution of Situation Tables Across B.C.	7 Island Health 11 Interior Health 12 Fraser Health 9 Northern Health 5 Vancouver Coastal Health
Situation Table and Intervention Circle Community List	
Lower Mainland	Abbotsford Agassiz (Kent/Harrison) Burnaby Chilliwack Coquitlam Hope Langley Maple Ridge Mission New Westminster Squamish Surrey (CHART) Surrey (SMART) Whistler

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Okanagan	Greater Westside Hub (Westbank First Nation, West Kelowna, and Peachland) Kelowna Penticton Merritt South Okanagan (Oliver/ Osoyoos)
North	Houston Kitimat Prince George Prince Rupert Quesnel Smithers Terrace Williams Lake
Vancouver Island	Campbell River Comox Valley (Courtenay, Comox, and Cumberland) Duncan/North Cowichan Nanaimo Port Hardy Victoria
Kootenays	Columbia Valley Cranbrook
Intervention Circle	Esk'etemc First Nation
Tables Under Implementation	Fort St John Gibsons Lillooet / Lytton New Hazelton Port Alberni Powell River Princeton Vancouver
Highlights from 2023 Universal Discussions Discussions resulting in lowered risk Police referrals transferred to more appropriate agencies Agencies involved per intervention (average)	2950 69% 90% 5.6

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2. Qs and As

1. Why are police involved in this community safety and wellbeing initiative?

- This program area is dedicated to furthering the Ministry's commitment to ensure policing resources are freed to focus on core policing matters, and to ensure police are not at the forefront of responding to public health and community wellbeing crises. Police do not utilize the Tables for any surveillance or investigative purposes.

- Police of Jurisdiction are key partner for several reasons:
 - They act as a major referring member (26% of all referrals in 2023) as they are aware of vulnerable individuals in the community who could benefit from Situation Table intervention services before they experience negative outcomes. Over 90% of cases brought to tables by the police are referred to suitable social service agencies to lead.

 - Police of Jurisdiction act as lead or assisting agency in rare instances where there is a potential safety risk to other service providers, where there is an outstanding warrant which could be actioned or waived, or where domestic violence or other victimization is a factor.

 - Through the Table operations, positive community relationships are built on a foundation of trust and commitment to public safety and wellbeing; in this way, Police of Jurisdiction can develop positive collaboration outlets with community members and nonprofits to mutual understanding and benefit. This in turn leads to ensuring British Columbians are not criminalized for their mental health challenges or socioeconomic circumstances.

2. What is the balance between Provincial governance and community ownership?

- Situation Table grants are given to the fiscal host and Chair of a regional table, which is almost always the municipality, but the Tables are owned by the host.

- The fiscal host/Table champion is responsible for convening the member

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organizations (made up of government services, frontline agencies, related NGOs, Police of Jurisdiction, municipal services, and Health Authorities) and ensuring all required services and partners are represented. The Ministry can support with any challenges in this regard.

- The Ministry continues to further strengthen the Situation Table model through the following activities:
 - Engaging with provincial service providers, police, and community organizations to strengthen participation on Situation Tables, thus promoting multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional approaches to community safety in line with the Safer Communities Action Plan.
 - Working with the Ministry of Housing and the Office of Housing and Construction Standards in support of the Homelessness Strategy.
 - Engaging with the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions to support the implementation of Complex Care Housing Supports, Peer Assisted Care Teams, and related initiatives.
 - Working with BC Corrections to support Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII) Hubs.
 - Working with BC's Health Authorities to reduce barriers to coordinated services and promote innovation.
 - Liaising with Police of Jurisdiction to promote the Model, which frees resources so police can focus on core policing matters, thereby ensuring vulnerable British Columbians are not criminalized for their socioeconomic or public health related circumstances.
 - Working with the Ministry of Citizens' Services and the Office of the Information & Privacy Commissioner to innovate collaborative service delivery in B.C. while still ensuring the privacy and rights of those served remains at the forefront of the model.
- The Ministry also analyzes unidentified, aggregate data to measure progress against the goals of Situation Tables and to:
 - Develop a baseline data toolkit which can be used by the Province and

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communities to highlight regional issues and trends of concern.

- Inform policy development related to community safety and well-being.
- Conserve Provincial and Municipal fiscal and human resources by amplifying and streamlining existing services.

3. How is data managed and privacy ensured?

- Ensuring the highest standards of FOIPPA compliance are followed is the responsibility of the Table members, and the bulk of the ministry grant is used to provide nationally recognized training on related privacy and compliance best practice for the model. The ministry provides supplemental 're-training' grants where significant representative staffing turn-over has been shown to have occurred at a Table.
- Data recording and management is the responsibility of the Table itself and the fiscal host (generally the municipality).
- The Ministry has worked with the Office of the Information & Privacy Commissioner and Legal Services Branch to develop Common and Integrated Program Agreement Templates for use by each Table to ensure full legislative and best-practice compliance.
- Additionally, the Model follows the 'four filter process' in which only the Table member organization representatives who will be directly involved in the wraparound intervention ever hear personal or identifying information, and it is not written down or tracked by the Table (but may be by individual organizations with a service relationship to the client, as per their individual mandates).
- Each member organization required to do so completes a Privacy Impact Assessment reviewed by the Office of the Information & Privacy Commissioner.
- Individuals can refuse the offered tailored services (the 'intervention'), but the overwhelming majority accept.

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- Risk factors are aggregately tracked by the Table data recorder and cannot be connected to individuals. They represent neither judgement nor assumption of criminality. Rather, they highlight barriers to address during interventions and can inform meaningful policy development.

3. Background

Situation Tables

- The implementation of Situation Tables and Intervention Circles is a mandate letter priority for PSSG with several direct linages to high-profile government priorities.
- The Situation Table Model is an evidence-based initiative bringing together front-line staff from the public safety, health, and social service sectors to identify at-risk individuals and collaboratively and rapidly connect them to services, before they experience a negative or traumatic event (e.g., victimization, criminal offending, overdose, incarceration, eviction, etc.)
- Situation Tables collaboratively triage and reduce the risks present in the lives of vulnerable people. The Table enables partners to:
 - Proactively identify risks through real-time information sharing;
 - Leverage and coordinate existing community assets and relationships;
 - Plan and deliver collaborative interventions before an incident response is required; and
 - Reduce the level of acutely elevated risk with which vulnerable people are living.

Intervention Circles

- Intervention Circles are a culturally safe model of Situation Tables designed with First Nations partners. They differ mainly because of differences in the related data management and governance legislation, with communities be empowered to share or not share data with the Province at their discretion, and to conduct more case-management style interventions in their communities.
- The ministry implemented the first Intervention Circle pilot in the province in partnership with Esk’etemc First Nation (Alkali Lake) in 2023.
- Funding for Intervention Circles provides for start-up, training, and administrative related support.
- The ministry continues to engage with partners and is in preliminary discussions with two additional Nations.

Contact: Madison Reid (PSB; Director, CPSP) Ali Bajwa (PSB; Program Manager)	Phone: ^{Government Financial Information} 236-818-9127	Mobile: ^{Government Financial Information}
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Question	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the end of 2024, communities may receive the remaining 50% of their approved grant, dependent of their activities undertaken so far to prepare for NG 911. • The remaining funding from the \$60M grant will also be made available at the end of 2024 to communities on an application basis for them to undertake further preparatory activities.
<p>Funding provided for NG 911 operational support beyond March 2025 deadline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 911 services are the responsibility of regional districts and are funded through property taxes (and in some communities) a land line levy. • There is no additional provincial funding beyond 2026.
<p>NG 911 implementation progress</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telus (as B.C.'s 911 telecommunications provider), local governments, some First Nations and 911 and dispatch call centres have a role in implementing NG911. • All 911 and dispatch call centres have begun the activities necessary to migrate to NG 911. • There are 4 primary Public Safety Answering Points (two E-Comm locations, Nelson Police and the Department of National Defence Fire). Prince Rupert Fire is also a primary Public Safety Answering Point in B.C. but is not required to transition to NG 911 until 2027. • There are 21 secondary Public Safety Answering Points in B.C. that are required to transition to NG 911 by March 4, 2025.

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Question	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-Comm is responsible for transitioning the RCMP Operational Communications Centres , Saanich Fire and BC Emergency Health Services to NG 911. • E-Comm, and its contracted partners, expect to begin onboarding to Telus’s NG911 system in Fall 2024. • The Province is actively monitoring NG911 implementation progress and readiness across B.C.
<p>Challenges associated with NG 911 implementation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to the NG 911 system is dependent on regional districts signing a Local Government Authority Agreement with Telus. <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Intergovernmental Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government Authority Agreements require regional districts to assume responsibility for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ providing Telus with geographic information system mapping data (some of which was not previously required for 911); and ○ the accuracy of the data that is the responsibility of municipalities, First Nations, and other entities. • While regional districts are required to sign Local Government Authority Agreements to onboard to NG 911 by March 4, 2025, the geographic information system data is not required until 2027. • Some regional districts (Metro Vancouver specifically) will require their municipalities to sign flow-through agreements for matters within their responsibility.

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Question	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government Authority Agreements must be signed before the 911 centres can cut over to the TELUS NG 911 system. • 12 of the 25 regional districts required have currently signed an agreement.

2. Qs and As

1. What is the Province doing to support funding for 911 delivery after the transition to NG 911 in 2025?

- 911 services are the responsibility of regional districts and are funded by property taxes and, in some cases, landline levies.
- No supplemental government funding has been allocated to support the ongoing delivery of NG 911 services.

Advice/Recommendations

2. What is the Province doing to support access to 911 and NG911 for rural, remote and/or First Nations/Indigenous communities?

- In March 2022, an agreement was announced between the provincial (through the Ministry of Citizens' Services) and federal governments to provide up to \$830 million to support the expansion of high-speed internet services to underserved rural and Indigenous communities.
- This funding supports a target to provide access to internet services for all households in B.C. by 2027, as well as a key item in the Declaration Act Action Plan to connect all First Nations communities to high-speed internet services by 2027.

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- In March 2023, the Province announced an additional \$75 million to fund expanding cellular service to an estimated 550 kilometers of highway by 2027. This will improve access to 911 to designated areas in rural areas.
- These connectivity programs are the first step towards transition to NG 911 in these communities in the future.

3. Will a fourth call option for mental health be available in the future?

- This is noted as recommendation 4b of the Special Committee on Reforming the *Police Act* report Advice/Recommendations
Advice/Recommendations
- In February 2023 the City of Vancouver provided Vancouver Coastal Health with a grant of \$2.8M for an Urgent Mental Health and Substance Use Service Enhancements Framework to enhance delivery of mental health and substance use services.
- Vancouver Coastal Health has started work on a number of initiatives, including embedding nurses within Vancouver Police Department’s Operations Command Centre to triage and divert mental health calls.
- Vancouver Coastal Health reports that between June 2023 and January 2024, the embedded nurses triaged 1,372 mental health calls. 54% (743 calls) were either diverted to a more appropriate non-police response or directly resolved by the nurse in the command centre.
- Ministry staff will work with Vancouver Coastal Health to understand lessons learned.

4. What are the benefits of NG 911?

- The technology design of the current 9-1-1 system dates to the 1980s. It is difficult and increasingly expensive to maintain this technology which threatens the reliability of the 911 system.
- NG 911 is an internet-based system that will deliver faster, more reliable and interoperable technology compared to the current, aging analogue system.

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- NG 911 technology provides new opportunities to keep emergency responders and the public safer while giving Public Safety Answering Points tools to make them more efficient and effective. This includes allowing emergency responders to locate callers more quickly and for callers to provide information via photos, videos and Real-Time Text.

5. Why does the Province not oversee 911 operations in B.C.?

- 911 services are the responsibility of regional districts.
- Many 911 & dispatch operators follow nationally set standards.
- The Province is exploring opportunities to have a greater role in 911 and dispatch operations in B.C.

3. Background

NG 911 Transition

- Currently, primary 911 call centres or Public Safety Answering Points, and secondary dispatch call centres (police, fire, and ambulance) are funded by several different models, largely through property taxes and landline levies. There are currently four different cost sharing formulas² for those communities serviced by RCMP Operational Communications Centres while those municipalities over 15,000 people that contract with E-Comm are responsible for 100% of their costs.
- E-Comm has contracted with the RCMP, Saanich Fire and the BC Emergency Health Services to build the required NG 911 platform on their behalf and is project managing their NG 911 transition.

911 Access & Connectivity

- A number of rural, remote and Indigenous communities, particularly in northern British Columbia do not have access to 911³. In areas where 911 service is not provided, contacting emergency services requires knowing and dialing a 10-digit number for a specific responder agency.

Contact: Darrion Campbell (PSB)	Phone: 778 698 5974	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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² Most municipalities serviced by RCMP Operational Communications Centres’s pay a contract rate/cost share with the Federal Government depending on population (either 70/30 or 90/10), however the communities of Prince George and Kelowna (both over 15,000 people) do not currently pay any dispatch costs as these OCC’s are provincially funded. Those communities serviced by RCMP’s South Island dispatch will be responsible for 100% of their costs in 2025 as their service provider changed from RCMP to E-Comm

³ The Stikine Region, and portions of the North and Central Coast Regional Districts, including Haida Gwaii, do not use 911 service.

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2024/25 ESTIMATES

E-Comm and South Island Funding

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: E-Comm

DESCRIPTION: E-Comm provides 911 call-answer services for 25 out of the 27 regional districts, answering 99% of BC’s 911 call volume. E-Comm also provides emergency dispatch services for several police agencies and fire departments throughout southwest British Columbia. Ambulance dispatch is provided by BC Emergency Health Services. The province of B.C. has no authority over E-Comm operations and services.

Question	Response
E-Comm Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-Comm has two main operational call centres: Southern Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. • E-Comm also operates a backup site which is only used in case an evacuation is required to mitigate the impact of any major incident (e.g., power outages, equipment failure). • E-Comm has two more facilities in Burnaby: a Business Training Centre and Business Technology Centre, used mainly for training call takers and hosts technology service employees.
RCMP Operational Communications Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 4 Municipal and 5 Provincial RCMP Operational Communications Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Municipal</u> Operational Communications Centres: Coquitlam, Langley, North Vancouver*, and Surrey ○ <u>Provincial</u> Operational Communications Centres: E-Division Headquarters, Pacific Regional Training Centre, North Island Dispatch, Southeast District and Northeast District.

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<p>Call Volume</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2023 Call Volume: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emergency calls: 2,342,892 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 63% police, 30% ambulance, 7% fire. ○ Non-emergency calls (police & fire): 594,016 ● 2022 Call Volume: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emergency calls: 2,109,440 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 66% police, 28% ambulance, 6% fire. ○ Non-Emergency calls (police & fire): 626,471
<p>*E-Comm North Vancouver Operational Communications Centres Transition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In February 2024, emergency dispatch and 911 call taking was transitioned from the North Vancouver RCMP Operational Communications Centre to E-Comm due to critical staffing shortages. ● E-Comm expects to transfer non-emergency call taking before Summer 2024.
<p>E-Comm 2024 user levy increases</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● E-Comm is funded by the local governments and emergency response agencies that use its services on a cost-recovery basis. ● In November 2023, E-Comm’s Board approved increases to its user levies as part of the 2024 Budget. The approved levies are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Police (Lower Mainland): 22% ○ Police (Vancouver Island): 24% ○ Fire: 17% (10% base plus 7% for additional requested dispatchers) ● The discrepancy in levy increases for Lower Mainland vs. Vancouver Island police is due to different regional operational challenges and budget drivers. ● Reasons cited for levy increase include: increased call volumes (and associated staffing costs), recently ratified collective agreements, and increased training costs.

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TOPIC: South Island Funding

DESCRIPTION: In 2018, a change in service provider from the RCMP Operational Communications Centres to E-Comm's Vancouver Island Police Dispatch Centre made 10 South Island municipalities ineligible for a federal-municipal cost share agreement.

Question	Response
Emergency and Non-Emergency Funding Models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary 911 call centres or Public Safety Answering Points, and secondary dispatch call centres (police, fire, and ambulance) are funded by several different models, largely through property taxes and landline levies. • There are currently four different cost sharing formulas for those communities serviced by RCMP Operational Communications Centres (see below).
<p>Non RCMP Municipalities over 15,000 with E-Comm</p> <p>Cost Share agreement for RCMP Policed Municipalities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipalities over 15,000 people that contract with E-Comm are responsible for 100% of their costs. • Population under 5,000: Province pays 70%, Public Safety Canada pays 30%. • Population between 5,000 and 14,999: Municipality pays 70%, Public Safety Canada pays 30%. • Population of 15,000 or more: Municipality pays 90%, Public Safety Canada pays 10%.¹ • Historically, the Province has funded RCMP call-taking and dispatch as part of the services provided by the RCMP at a 70/30 cost share with Public Safety Canada for municipalities over 5,000 even though municipalities are responsible for the costs under the <i>Police Act</i>.

¹ The communities of Prince George and Kelowna (both over 15,000 people) do not currently pay any dispatch costs as their Operational Communications Centres are provincially funded.

South Island Funding Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 South Island municipalities that fall under municipal RCMP jurisdiction became ineligible for cost sharing due to a change in service provider in 2018 from the RCMP to E-Comm’s South Island Police Dispatch Centre. • Prior to this, the provincially funded police call-taking and dispatch under the 70/30 cost share with Public Safety Canada. • The 10 South Island municipalities are Colwood, Ladysmith, Langford, North Cowichan, North Saanich, Sidney, Sooke, View Royal, Duncan and Metchosin.
Transitional Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In April 2022, the 10 South Island municipalities were informed by the Ministry that the Province would continue to fund 100% of their dispatch costs until March 31, 2025, on condition that those municipalities make best efforts to sign agreements with E-Comm by April 1, 2025, to formalize dispatch services.
Post-transitional Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning April 1, 2025, the 10 municipalities will be responsible for 100% of all dispatch costs.

2. Qs and As

1. South Island communities have concerns about funding inequity for 911 service delivery. What is the Province doing to rectify this?

- The Special Committee on Reforming the *Police Act* recommended (Recommendation #6) a fair and equitable shared funding model for municipalities.
- The Ministry’s Public Safety Transformation Team manages both the Policing and Public Safety Modernization Initiative and the work on equity in 911 dispatch funding. The ministry will ensure this work is aligned.

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2. Does E-Comm hold a monopoly on 911 service delivery?

- E-Comm is currently the only third-party provider for 911 service delivery in B.C.
- If local governments were no longer to be serviced by a provincial Operational Communications Centres, they would have the option to open their own centres (like Nelson), or contract to a third party. There are also service providers in Alberta if local governments were interested in exploring their services.
- E-Comm provides 911 call-answer services for 25 out of the 27 regional districts.
- E-Comm answers 99% of BC's 911 call volume.
- Other 911 service providers include Nelson police and fire and Prince Rupert fire.
- E-Comm also provides emergency dispatch services for several police agencies and fire departments throughout British Columbia.

3. Background**E-Comm**

- E-Comm management is accountable to a Board of Directors, comprised of 23-members. Members of the Board of Directors are nominated by E-Comm shareholders, and includes Municipalities, Regional Districts, RCMP, BCEHS, Police Boards and TransLink among others. The Board comprises two senior provincial non-voting members (currently Deputy Solicitor General Doug Scott and ADM Citizen Services Susan Stanford).
- E-Comm is implementing a Transformation Plan to improve service delivery including streamlining operations, enhancing recruitment and retention and conducting a review of its corporate governance structure.

South Island

- The originally proposed funding transition plan for South Island Municipalities included a phased in approach, with the original eight South Island RCMP policed municipalities (Colwood, Ladysmith, Langford, North Cowichan, North Saanich, Sidney, Sooke, View Royal) funding 30% in 2022/23, 65% in 2023/24 and 100% of police call-taking and

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dispatch costs effective April 2024.

- When this plan was communicated to the eight South Island municipalities in December 2020 they raised significant concerns.
- In April 2022 the Minister advised the eight municipalities and the emerging municipalities of Duncan and Metchosin, that the Province will continue to fund 100% of the dispatch costs until 2025 to alleviate impacts to municipal budgets.
- On February 29, 2024, the Minister wrote to the South Island Municipalities outlining the transition funding situation and reminding the municipalities that they will be required to pay for dispatch services as of April 2025.
- Public Safety Transformation Team staff have had several conversations with the South Island Municipalities since the fall of 2023 to assist them in understanding the situation and to hear concerns.
- The South Island Municipalities have raised significant concerns with the decision-making process where the RCMP closed the South Island Operational Communications Centre in 2018, the current and future inequity in funding across the province, their inability to fully fund dispatch services as of 2025, and their reluctance to use E-Comm as a service provider.

Cabinet Confidences

Contact: Darrion Campbell (PSB)	Phone: 778 698 5974	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2024/25 ESTIMATES

Justice Institute of BC

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Justice Institute of BC

Question	Response
How many police recruit classes occur at the Justice Institute of BC annually?	3 – January, May and September
How many recruits are in each class?	64
Total number of police recruits per year	192
Cost of tuition for agencies per recruit	\$24,375
Cost of tuition for recruit	\$15,315
Total agency and recruit tuition	\$39,690
Annual grant from The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG) to the Police Academy	\$1.995 million
Funding from PSFS to the Justice Institute of BC.	\$17.9 million in 2023/24. This is an operating grant to the Justice Institute of BC and is not specific to the Police Academy.
Total annual Police Academy revenue from agency, recruit and PSSG grant	\$6.675 million

2. Qs and As

1. Will Provincial funding to the Police Academy increase?

- Policing is a shared responsibility in B.C. Government intends to continue to provide the annual delegation grant of \$1.995 million to support the delivery of police training and will work with the Justice Institute of BC and policing partners to ensure the Police Academy is able to meet recruit training demands and provide high quality recruit and advanced training for police in B.C.

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2. What is the Province doing to respond to increased demand for recruit seats at the Police Academy?

- Staff from both the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, and from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, continue to work with the Justice Institute of BC and the municipal police departments regarding immediate actions to address potential shortfalls with training capacity, and on developing a long-term sustainable plan to address broader challenges with the current model.

3. Can the Province commit to eliminating tuition fees for recruits like in Ontario?

- Government intends to continue to provide the annual delegation grant of \$1.995 million to support the delivery of police training and developments in other jurisdictions and we will continue monitoring the developments in other jurisdictions.

3. Background

- Municipalities and Transit Police were required to start contributing to the costs of delivering recruit training at the Justice Institute of BC Police Academy effective September 2022, to address recurrent budget deficits.
- Over the past year, both the Justice Institute and the municipal police departments have expressed concern that the police recruit training program may not have the capacity to meet projected demand due to a large retirement cycle, exacerbated by pension improvements and hiring pressures from the City of Vancouver, Metro Vancouver Transit Police and the new Surrey Police Service.
- In recent months, the Justice Institute of BC and municipal police departments have explored various options for expanding police recruit training. There are challenges in projecting future demand, which can fluctuate throughout the year, making it difficult to determine the most appropriate model and how much to scale up training.
- At the same time, staff from both the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, and from the Ministry of Public Safety and the Solicitor General, have had several discussions with the Justice Institute and the municipal police departments regarding immediate actions to address potential shortfalls with training capacity, and on developing a long-term sustainable plan to address broader challenges with the current model.

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- The Ministry is examining police training pursuant to the Special Committee’s report, and engaging on policy development with key stakeholders, including police leaders and the Justice Institute.
- There is currently no provincial funding available for the Justice Institute to expand police recruit training in the short-term. However, the government continues to work with the Justice Institute to ensure the Police Academy can meet the immediate and long-term recruiting needs from municipal police departments.

Contact: Matt Brown (PSB)	Phone: 778 698-8432	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2024/25 ESTIMATES

Decriminalization and
Public Drug Use

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Decriminalization

Question	Response
First 9-months of decriminalization, compared with the previous 4-year average of the same February to October period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 77% decrease in possession related offences • 96% decrease in possession related drug seizures under the 2.5g threshold • 83% decrease in possession related drug seizures overall
Overdose deaths in B.C. per 100,000 population	2021: 44.3 (2,303 deaths overall) 2022: 44.9 (2,387 deaths overall) 2023: 46.2 (2,539 deaths overall)
Change in the rate of overdose deaths per 100,000 persons in B.C. from 2021 to 2023	+4.29%
Overdose deaths in Alberta per 100,000 population	2021: 36.8 (1,634 deaths overall) 2022: 33.4 (1,517 deaths overall) 2023: 40.4 (1,706 deaths overall) – up until November 2023
Change in the rate of overdose deaths per 100,000 persons in Alberta from 2021 to 2023	+9.78% (+5.49% higher than B.C.)

TOPIC: Public Drug Use

Bill 34 – Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill 34 - <i>Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act</i> (RPCISA) received Royal Assent on November 8, 2023. • On November 9, 2023, the Harm Reduction Nurses Association (HRNA) filed a claim alleging the Act infringes ss. 7, 8, 12, and 15 of the <i>Charter</i> and that it is outside of provincial jurisdiction.

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- The Supreme Court of BC issued a broad injunction on December 29, 2023, preventing the Act from coming into force. This injunction was scheduled to expire on March 31, 2024, and has since been extended until June 30, 2024.
- On March 1, 2024, the Court of Appeal declined to hear the Province’s application for leave to appeal and a stay of the initial injunction.
- On May 7, 2024, Health Canada approved the Province’s request to amend the decriminalization exemption so that adults in B.C. are now only permitted to possess a personal amount of decriminalized substances, up to a maximum of 2.5 grams, when they are in a private residence or a designated health care clinic. Unhoused adults will also be allowed to possess when they are sheltering in accordance with all applicable laws.

2. Qs and As

1. **Given that drug use is now effectively banned in all public places, why not just cancel decriminalization all together?**

- Our government stands behind decriminalization as being one of many important tools to address the toxic drug crisis and we want decriminalization to continue so that people who are struggling with addiction feel they can talk to others and ask for help without fear of reprisal.
- The places that continue to be covered by the decriminalization exemption, such as overdose prevention and drug checking sites, and substance use clinics, must continue to be seen as safe places for people to get these lifesaving supports.
- As the Premier noted when announcing these changes, our preferred approach was to implement sensible provincial regulations for public drug use, much like we have for alcohol, tobacco and cannabis.

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- However, when it became clear that the legal processes involving the provincial public drug use legislation may not be resolved for some time, we recognized another approach was needed to deal with the concerns communities have right now.
 - The changes to the federal exemption are broader than the provincial legislation because we wanted to make sure it was clear that public drug use in inappropriate places, like the recent troubling instances of drug use in hospitals and restaurants, is simply not acceptable.
 - It is important to reinforce that everyone in B.C. has the right to quality healthcare, including those who are struggling with addiction; however, this cannot come at the expense of other patients and hospital staff.
- 2. By limiting people to only using drugs in their private homes, isn't this counter to the principles of decriminalization?**
- Our government has and continues to view drug addiction as a health issue, not a criminal justice one.
 - Decriminalization has always been about removing the stigma for people struggling with addiction that might prevent them from talking about it, reaching out for help, and seeking treatment when they are ready without fear of consequences. We want to keep people alive.
 - Of course, maintaining this compassion does not mean that anything goes. We believe that public safety must be maintained and that public spaces should be free from open drug use so British Columbians can feel safe and comfortable being out in their communities.
 - I want to be very clear in saying that even with these changes to the federal exemption it is extremely important for people who use drugs to do so with another person.
 - We always encourage people to access overdose prevention services where they are available and for those who are struggling with addiction, there are many treatment options throughout the province.

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- As the Premier mentioned when announcing these changes, we are working hard to establish a virtual clinic option for opioid agonist therapies, which will ensure these treatments are available everywhere in the province.
- And for those who choose to use drugs in their house, or outdoors while lawfully sheltering, again I encourage using with a peer, getting drugs checked, having Naloxone on hand, and using the Lifeguard app. Every one of these steps can help prevent an overdose and save lives.

3. Can the federal exemption prohibit drug use, or does it only apply to drug possession?

- The federal *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* only deals with drug possession, it does not speak to drug use.
- However, by extension, a person who is using drugs is also possessing them.

4. Practically speaking, if drug possession is now prohibited in all public places, how will people be able to bring substances to their house or to an overdose prevention site to consume them?

- The original decriminalization exemption also had similar nuances that required sensible application by police. For instance, under the original decriminalization exemption people weren't allowed to buy drugs, but it was understood that if people had already bought them, we would not charge them for possessing a personal supply.
- Using a similar interpretation, the intent of these recent changes isn't to crack down on people who are quietly possessing small amounts of drugs with the intent that they will be consumed in a private residence or an overdose prevention site, where the use will not adversely impact others.
- Many police chiefs have openly stated that criminalizing people who are struggling with addiction is not the answer. We are confident that in most cases strict enforcement will not be needed. However, when needed, police will now be able to take these extra steps for extraordinary circumstances when people are compromising public safety through their drug use.

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5. When the changes to the federal exemption were announced it was noted that arrests would only be made in exceptional circumstances. Does this mean the Province will be directing police departments on how they should enforce the law?

- Ultimately, the changes to the federal exemption mean that police will have the authority to arrest a person who possesses drugs in a public place, seize the drugs, and potentially advance charges. However, we also know that police leadership see substance use the same way that we do – as a health matter, not a criminal one.
- I have issued guidance to police chiefs highlighting the principle that drug use is a health issue. This perspective is supported by Health Canada, is captured in Public Prosecution Service of Canada guidelines, and is also codified directly into the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*.
- In most cases we anticipate police will treat instances of public drug use as an opportunity educate the person and ideally redirect them to where drugs can be used more safely and where treatment services are available.
- However, if a person is resistant or is using in a problematic place near children, vulnerable people, or in a place where they ought to know drug use would plainly be unacceptable, they could face more severe consequences.
- As I mentioned, police are already aware of how this principle has been adopted throughout the public safety sector and use their discretion on a case-by-case basis. The Public Prosecution Service of Canada has been operating under a 2020 guideline and s.10.1 of the CDSA, which advises that simple possession prosecutions should only be pursued in the most serious cases raising public safety concerns.
- Section 10.2 of the CDSA also instructs police officers to consider using the least intrusive enforcement mechanisms when addressing simple possession cases, including using warnings.

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6. The Premier has now admitted that public drug use restrictions should have been in place since the beginning of decriminalization. Why wasn't this done?

- As the Premier noted a couple of weeks ago, when we implemented decriminalization, we perhaps leaned to heavily on the understanding that pre-existing offences like public intoxication and trespassing would be the most appropriate interventions when people were found using drugs in certain public spaces.
- Businesses and other facilities normally accessible to the public have always had the ability to ban smoking and drug use on their properties and eject people who don't comply. If a person is asked to leave and refuses, they may be charged with trespassing.
- Some local governments, such as Richmond, also have bylaws in place that restrict smoking of all substances in public places, including drugs. These bylaws are enforceable by both police and bylaw officers.
- With that said, some recent events have made it clear that we need to be more explicit that public drug use is simply not acceptable, and when people push those limits, they can expect consequences.
- While public intoxication, trespassing and smoking bylaws continue to be available when they are needed, the changes we have made to the federal exemption will remove any remaining ambiguity and clearly convey that drugs can no longer be used in inappropriate public places.

7. Now that Health Canada has updated the exemption, will government repeal the *Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act*?

- As the Premier noted when these changes were announced, our preferred approach has been to implement sensible provincial regulations for public drug use, like we have for alcohol, tobacco and cannabis.
- However, since passing the *Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act* in November, we have seen troubling instances of public drug use crop up in other public places like hospitals and restaurants.

- While we had initially believed public intoxication and trespassing offences could appropriately deal with issues like these, it has become clear that we need to be more explicit in signaling to all British Columbians that consuming drugs in inappropriate public places will no longer be tolerated.
- Despite the injunction placed on Bill 34, we remain confident that it will survive a constitutional analysis once the full case can be deliberated. We just couldn't wait any longer for this lengthy legal process to be completed before we took action.
- With the updates to the federal exemption now in place, government will continue to defend the provincial regulations for as long as it takes. Once this process is resolved, we will determine the best approach for moving forward at that time.

8. Can the plaintiff or another party challenge the changes that were just made to the federal exemption?

- We recognize it is possible will see another legal challenge arise related to the federal exemption; however, the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* has previously survived multiple constitutional challenges and we are confident the recent changes will hold up in federal court, if questioned.
- After all, drug possession is completely illegal under the CDSA in every other province and territory in Canada, and this has been deemed constitutional. For the courts to decide otherwise would have broad scale implications for the entire country.

9. What is the Province going to do about continued problems with diverted prescribed alternatives (i.e., “safer supply”)?

- We take concerns around diversion very seriously and we are following this issue closely along with our policing partners.
- It is important to clarify that medications in the prescribed alternatives program, like hydromorphone, are the same medications commonly given after surgery and for chronic pain, cancer, and other ailments.

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- We also know that many organized crime groups are able to produce counterfeit drugs that look just like those that are lawfully prescribed.
- When these drugs are seized by police, the original source is often difficult to determine, especially when the drugs have been removed from their original packaging.
- The only reliable way to determine the source of a drug is to match the medication with the person who received the prescription.
- Only 14% of the drugs distributed by pharmacies in B.C. are part of the prescribed alternatives program.
- Doctors and pharmacists play an important role in monitoring patients for responsible medication use.
- It is also important to clarify that some drugs, like cocaine and meth, have never been part of the prescribed alternatives program.
- We continue to support police in their efforts to identify and arrest organized criminals and seize their equipment and proceeds of crime.

Contact #1: Mark Fassina (CCPCP)	Phone: 778-698-8833	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
Contact #2: Wendy Sutherland (PSB)	Phone: 778-572-3413	Mobile: :

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2024/25 ESTIMATES

**Cannabis Enforcement –
First Nations**

TOPIC: Cannabis Enforcement - First Nations

1. Key Facts and Figures

DESCRIPTION: The illicit cannabis industry has evolved since legalization. Illicit production continues and retailers have adapted, operating online and on First Nations land. Enforcement against these operators is challenging. The Community Safety Unit (CSU) is adapting to meet the complexities and timeframes in enforcement and the administrative hearings that follow.

CSU Activities	Response
Education inspections on unlicensed cannabis operations	340 total Intergovernmental Communications
Unlicensed cannabis operations that have voluntarily closed or shut down since enforcement started	232 total Intergovernmental Communications
Enforcement actions involving seizures of cannabis at unlicensed cannabis operations	107 total Intergovernmental Communications
Estimated value of cannabis seized from unlicensed cannabis operations	\$38.7M
Administrative Monetary Penalties issued	15
Intergovernmental Communications; Security Concern	
Indigenous communities CSU has engaged with	36
Intergovernmental Communications	
CSU positions authorized within the province	30

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CSU positions currently filled	Security Concern
Location of CSU resources within the province	4 Regional Offices (Surrey, Victoria, Kelowna, Prince George)

2. Qs and As

1. How does the Community Safety Unit determine its enforcement priorities on First Nations Land?

- The Director of the Community Safety Unit (CSU) is an independent statutory decision maker, who holds discretion in exercising the CSU's mandate under the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act*.
- The CSU's approach to compliance and enforcement aims for voluntary compliance.
- To promote education and awareness regarding cannabis laws and the risks of operating unlawfully, CSU will generally conduct education inspections to provide unlicensed operators with information about licensing and potential penalties for non-compliance.
- CSU employs a progressive enforcement approach and prioritizes enforcement on factors including public safety, links to organized crime, proximity to licensed stores, and consideration of the Province's commitment to reconciliation.

2. How does the Community Safety Unit approach unlicensed cannabis stores located on First Nations land where the Nation has asserted jurisdiction over cannabis?

- The Province considers its cannabis laws to be laws of general application that apply across B.C., including on lands governed by First Nations.
- Some First Nations have implemented their own cannabis laws, which may or may not be aligned with the Province's cannabis laws.

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- The CSU works to build positive relationships with First Nations with the goal of collaborating to find a resolution and in alignment with B.C.'s reconciliation commitments.
- The CSU's approach aims for voluntary compliance; however, the CSU will employ a progressive enforcement approach based on factors including public safety, links to organized crime and proximity to licensed stores.

3. Has the Community Safety Unit's policy regarding the enforcement of unlicensed cannabis operations on First Nations land changed?

- No. Since legalization, the CSU has operated investigations through a variety of reactive and proactive strategies, including complaints received from the public, government agencies, police, legal market operators, and Indigenous partners.
- When CSU began enforcement in 2019, the vast majority of unlicensed operators were located off-reserves in BC. Since 2019, CSU has conducted 340 education inspections and 107 enforcement inspections. This includes Intergovernmental Communications
- The illicit cannabis industry has evolved since legalization, with some illicit retailers adapting, operating both online and on First Nations land.
- Enforcement against these operators is challenging. The CSU is adapting to meet the associated complexities and timeframes in the enforcements and the administrative hearings that follow.

Contact: Matthew Brown (PSSG)	Phone: 778 698-8432	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Estimates 2024/25 Briefing Book**

**BC Corrections
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Estimate Notes

1. Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative
2. Indigenous Over-Representation – BC Corrections' Response
3. Segregation and Separate Confinement

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2024/25 ESTIMATES

Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative

DESCRIPTION: Hub locations and number of individuals identified as of April 25, 2024.

Hub Location	Number of Individuals
Abbotsford	20
Cranbrook	22
Kamloops	22
Kelowna	39
Nanaimo	42
New Westminster	20
Prince George	40
Surrey	40
Terrace	22
Vancouver	68
Victoria	43
Williams Lake	18
Total	396

2. Qs and As

1. How effective has the program been so far? What are recidivism rates for people in the program?

- While it will take time before the effectiveness of the program can be measured qualitatively, early findings are promising and suggest the Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative hubs are:
 - Working to interrupt the cycle of reoffending, and
 - Improving justice response times through enhanced and streamlined information sharing to address immediate public concerns and hold individuals accountable.

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Examples - Early Program Results

- In a number of cases, bail has not been granted a subsequent time to individuals for either breaching court-ordered conditions or committing a subsequent offence. For example:
 - In Kelowna, an individual that walked away from their court-ordered treatment facility resulted in quick apprehension by police and sentencing two days later.
 - In Kamloops, another individual that walked away from their court-ordered recovery residence was quickly apprehended by police and remanded into custody until trial.
 - In Nanaimo, an individual that threatened a woman in a park late on a Friday afternoon was remanded back into custody on an expedited basis that evening.
 - In another case, bail was not granted a subsequent time to an individual that failed to report to their probation officer the day after their release.
 - And, an individual was remanded back into custody for theft and assault of a store security officer versus being released on an undertaking.

Examples - Hub Members

- In addition, hub members have better knowledge of an individual's needs that could be addressed through leveraging community resources and are connecting them with supports to help them succeed and break the cycle of crime. For example:
 - Real team efforts by the Prince George hub and community partners have resulted in arranging treatment for several individuals that have long histories of being in and out of custody, including arranging the travel to get them there.
 - One of those individuals expressed her interest in attending treatment for the very first time, and another has not incurred any new charges since he was designated as a ReVOII participant.

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- In Surrey, an individual with a long history of struggling to engage with health care providers was connected to the Assertive Community Outreach Team and was provided with social supports through Community Integration Specialists to promote stability and ensure their needs were being met in the community.
- In another case, probation, police and health care staff quickly intervened in response to an individual who was refusing to take their medication within days of their release and resulted in their apprehension under the Mental Health Act.
- Anecdotally, feedback from ReVOII participants has been positive with participants appreciative of the enhanced case management and supports provided.

Examples - Police results

- Police across the province are stating that ReVOII is showing results. For example:
 - In Kamloops, the Superintendent of Kamloops RCMP attributed a 3% crime reduction during the third quarter of 2023 compared to last, in part to the ReVOII initiative. (Dec 2023)
 - In Nanaimo, the Corporal that leads the SITE unit reported to city council they are seeing success related to their mandate and elsewhere in the area, stating they've been able to bring better information to Crown counsel which has seen an increase in repeat offenders being remanded instead of being released on bail. (Jan 2024)
 - In Prince George, the Superintendent of Prince George RCMP stated they have had very good success with getting charges approved and having individuals remanded based on their history, and early results show the program is working. (Feb 2024)

Advice/Recommendations

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2. How many individuals have been connected to supportive services to help break the cycle of offending?

- Hub members have been working with various service providers in the community to connect individuals with services required to meet their complex needs by:
 - Working with health partners to facilitate access to mental health; and substance use supports and referrals to other support services;
 - Contacting emergency shelters to secure a bed upon release from custody;
 - Upon release, driving participants to services and appointments;
 - Working with partners at the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction to coordinate access to funds/housing.

Advice/Recommendations

3. Will you be expanding this program to include repeat property offenders?

- ReVOII specifically focusses on individuals that repeatedly commit violent offences due to the degree of fear that these offences instill in our communities and the harm that these crimes inflict upon our citizens.
- Individuals that commit property offences that contain a component of violence, intimidation, or the threat of violence would meet the criteria for ReVOII. Other initiatives under the Safer Communities Action Plan provide more resources to address the underlying causes of non-violent offending.
- These supports include:
 - Expanded Peer Assisted Care Teams;
 - Establishing new Mobile Integrated Crisis Response Teams;
 - Additional funding for the B.C. Brain Injury Alliance;
 - Developing a scalable model of addiction care; and
 - Expanding Community Transition Teams.

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3. Background

- ReVOII brings together police, dedicated prosecutors and probation officers to address repeat violent offending through enhanced investigation, enforcement and monitoring of individuals in communities throughout B.C., with the aim to identify and intervene at the earliest opportunity possible, and where appropriate, connect individuals with services they need to help break the cycle of reoffending.
- As a result of their inclusion in ReVOII, participants experience a higher intensity of community supervision, an increase in monitoring by police, and the involvement of dedicated Crown prosecutors who are equipped with an increased level of information and familiarity with individuals in the program.
- ReVOII is supported by the Special Investigation and Targeted Enforcement Program that provides expanded resources through \$16M in funding over three years to strengthen targeted police investigations of repeat violent offending cases and enhance coordination between police agencies.
- Effective November 2023, ReVOII hubs have been supported by dedicated Community Integration Specialists from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. Community Integration Specialists help eligible individuals in need apply for and access available ministry funding, community-based supports and services, and assisting individuals with complex needs and who may be at risk of homelessness to access interim and ongoing supports and services.
- In cases where an individual is returning to the community after serving a provincial custodial sentence, enhanced release planning tailored to their specific needs takes place prior to their release by dedicated correctional supervisor and probation officer teams that are located in each correctional center.

Resources

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- Funding will support the following dedicated staff resources:
 - BC Corrections
 - Four FTEs (director, program manager, policy and program analyst, and senior researcher) to centrally develop, coordinate, and evaluate ReVOII;
 - Nine correctional supervisors and nine probation officers based in correctional centres for release planning; and
 - Twelve probation officers to support each community hub.
 - BC Prosecution Service
 - 21 Crown Counsel and 21 BC Prosecution Service professional staff to establish and support the dedicated prosecution teams.

Contact: Blair Spencer (BCCORR)	Phone: 778-974-3968	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2024/25 ESTIMATES

Indigenous Over-Representation – BCCORR Response

1. Key Facts and Figures

Question	Response
Has the proportion of Indigenous people in the correctional system decreased or increased?	The proportion of community corrections clients increased from 27% in 2019 to 28% in 2023. In custody, the proportion increased from 33% in 2019 to 36% in 2023.
What percentage of the custody population identifies as Indigenous compared to B.C.'s population?	Indigenous peoples make up 36% of the custody population vs 5.9% of B.C.'s population. (2021 census)
What percentage of the female and male custody populations identify as Indigenous?	49% of females and 35% of males in custody identify as Indigenous.
What percentage of community corrections clients identify as Indigenous?	Indigenous peoples make up 28% of the community corrections client population.
What percentage of female and male community corrections clients identify as Indigenous?	37% of female clients and 27% of male clients in the community identify as Indigenous.
How many Indigenous justice programs (IJPs) deliver community-based cultural programming throughout B.C.?	33 IJPs deliver programming and supports in First Nations communities.
How much does B.C. contribute to IJPs?	\$1.75 million annually in 2023/24. (Province: \$1.45 million to fund 27 programs; BC Corrections: \$300K to solely fund six programs)
What is the total federal and provincial contribution for IJPs?	Total of \$4.59 million annually in 2023/24. (federal \$2.84 million; provincial \$1.75 million).

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2. Qs and As

1. What is BC Corrections doing to address Indigenous over-representation?

- BC Corrections' Indigenous Programs and Relationships Unit works to guide culturally safe programming, practice and policies, and educate staff about the lasting impacts of colonization.
- Developing Memorandums of Understanding with Indigenous communities to support reintegration.
- Operates Indigenous Cultural Liaison programs in all 10 correctional centres to provide guidance, counselling, programming, and assist in case management and release planning.
- Funds 33 Indigenous Justice Programs to deliver culture-based justice services in communities.
- Enhanced staff training and resources to support building relationships.
- Branch-wide staff participation in Indigenous-specific public awareness campaigns.
- Working with justice sector and cross-government partners, and in partnership with the BC First Nations Justice Council and Métis Nation BC, to support the implementation of the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) Action Plan to ensure legislation, policies and practices align with DRIPA.
- Supporting the creation of the Métis Nation Justice Strategy and the implementation of the BC First Nations Justice Strategy.

2. Why are the numbers of Indigenous peoples in the community and custody increasing?

- A combination of a declining non-Indigenous population and an increase in the number of individuals self-identifying as Indigenous (due to improved collecting/tracking of Indigenous identity data).

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3. Almost half of the women in custody are Indigenous. What are you doing to support them?

- BC Corrections will be working to address the issues and actions identified by the BC First Nations Justice Council in its Indigenous Women’s Justice Plan.
- We look to guidance from Elders, Indigenous cultural liaisons, and communities for the best ways we can be responsive to the unique needs of Indigenous women.
- We are working with Indigenous partners to ensure programs/services are culturally safe, responsive, and trauma-informed.
- We deliver core programming specifically designed for women, work programs, education and skills training, and the Mother-Child program.
- Upon release, Community Transition Teams support those with acute mental health or substance use needs, and the Integrated Transitional Release Planning and Homeless Intervention Program supports those at risk of homelessness.

Contact: Lissa Laing (BCCORR)	Phone: 778-974-3004	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2024/25 ESTIMATES

Segregation and Separate Confinement

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Segregation and Separate Confinement

DESCRIPTION:

- Segregation/separate confinement is used as a last resort for the shortest time possible, with individualized case management plans to address complex needs through extra supports.
- Use of segregation/separate confinement is down 7.3% since January 2020.
- Over 90% of placements are non-punitive separate confinement placements for health/safety reasons with over half of those placements for 72 hours or less (Jan. 4, 2024).

Statistical Changes Between January 2020-24	2Jan20	4Jan24	Change
# of individuals in custody	2,083	1,787	- 14.2%
# in segregation/separate confinement	192	178	- 7.3%
% of count in segregation/separate confinement	9.2%	10%	+ 0.8%
Indigenous individuals in segregation/separate confinement	47	44	- 6.4%
Individuals with mental health needs in segregation/separate confinement	63	49	- 22.2%
Avg. length of stay (days) in segregation/separate confinement	53.1	19.8	- 62.7%
# Individuals - 15 days or less	86	139	+ 61.6%
# Individuals - Over 15 days	97	39	- 59.8%

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Segregation/Separate Confinement Placements on January 4, 2024												
Correctional Centre			ACCW	FMCC	FRCC	KRCC	NCC	NFPC	OCC	PGRCC	SPSC	VIRCC
TOTAL	178	%	10	0	5	4	0	23	23	17	68	28
CAR 17 Short term 0-72Hrs	92	52%	6	0	1	2	0	8	6	3	54	12
CAR 18 Longer term	68	38%	3	0	2	0	0	10	16	12	14	11
CAR 19 Voluntary	1	1%	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
CAR 24 Disciplinary hearing pending	9	5%	0	0	1	1	0	3	0	1	0	3
CAR 27 Penalty for breach of a rule	8	4%	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	2

2. Qs and As

1. Will you abolish segregation/separate confinement and if so, when?

- At least 69% of BC Corrections' custody population has been diagnosed with either a mental health or substance use disorder, and approximately 42% have been diagnosed with both.
- Many of the individuals placed in segregation/separate confinement are dealing with complex issues that require extra supports.
- Following an extensive review of policy and practices, the changes made safeguard the well-being of people in custody, while supporting the safety of correctional centre staff.
- Segregation/separate confinement is used as a last resort for the shortest time possible in accordance with Canadian court rulings and the United Nations' Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules).

2. Has BC Corrections reduced the use of segregation/separate confinement for Indigenous peoples and people with mental health needs?

- Indigenous peoples is down 6.4% since January 2020.
- People with mental health needs is down 22.2% since January 2020.

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3. What changes have been made to segregation/separate confinement?

- 2019 - \$30M (over four years) to add program, socialization, and recreation space to enhance meaningful human contact in segregation/separate confinement spaces as well as create alternative placement options:
 - Complex Needs Units - intensive supervision/healthcare supports.
 - Supported Integration Placement with modified living unit routine and enhanced case planning.
- New behaviour management strategies (supports/services); enhanced case management for high risk/needs; new Custody Assessment Tool pilot to better inform classification decisions/alternative placements.
- Increase from one hour to minimum of 2.5 hours out of cell per day.
- Daily monitoring by health/mental health staff and a mental health review/rating every five days.
- Enhanced administrative fairness and disciplinary process, including switch to independent adjudicators in 2021 and 15-day limit for disciplinary penalties.

3. Background

- Separate confinement is not punitive; used for safety/security reasons. Privileges/personal items only limited if required for health/safety. Short-term placements up to 72-hours are reviewed daily; longer term placements are reviewed by a mental health professional every 15-days before renewal.
- Segregation: If found guilty of breaching a rule, an independent adjudicator may impose segregation penalty not to exceed 15-days.
- Segregation placement pending a disciplinary hearing is reviewed by warden/designate within 24-hours and each day until hearing conclusion.

Contact: Gary McCrea (BCCORR)	Phone: <small>Government Financial Information</small>	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Estimates 2024/25 Briefing Book**

**Community Safety and Victim Services Branch
Table of Contents**

Estimate Notes

1. Victim Services and Crime Prevention Programs
2. Unexplained Wealth Orders
3. Path Forward: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQ+ People

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2024/25 ESTIMATES

Victim Services and Crime
Prevention Programs

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Victim Services and Crime Prevention Programs

DESCRIPTION: Community Safety and Victim Services Branch leads the development of programs and policies that help build and maintain safe communities. The Branch works in partnership with community groups, schools, youth, businesses, service organizations, police, other governments, and others to address community safety and provide a comprehensive continuum of services for victims and survivors of crime, both directly through frontline services and indirectly through contracted services.

Program Area	Funding
Contracted victim services programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 92 Police-Based • 66 Community-Based • 9 Domestic Violence Units • 1 Provincial Helpline 	\$21.5M
Contracted violence against women programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 91 Stopping the Violence Counselling Programs • 84 PEACE Programs • 53 Outreach Programs • 11 Multicultural Outreach Programs • 70 Sexual Assault Service programs • 5 Sexual Assault Centres 	\$37.9M ¹
Total funding provided to contracted services	\$59.4M
Community Accountability Programs (CAPs) - 52	Up to \$4,000 per CAP \$200,500 total in 23/24
Crime Victim Assistance Program budget	\$23.2M
CSVSB's total projected expenditures	\$98.4M
CSVSB's net operating budget	\$88.3M

¹ For Sexual Assault Services Programs and Sexual Assault Centres only, the amount reflects existing contractual agreements for Fiscal Year 2024-25 and does not include Shared Recovery Mandate (SRM) increases. SRM is a three-year agreement, from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2025, between the Community Social Services Employers' Association and the Community Social Services' Bargaining Association). CSVSB is calculating the appropriate increases to disburse to service providers.

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2. Qs and As

1. Crime Victims Assistance Program – Eligibility for the Crime Victims Assistance Program has recently expanded significantly. What are the costs associated with this expansion, such as paying service providers (counsellors) higher rates? How many victims of crime are benefiting from this increase?

- Amendments to the *Crime Victim Assistance Act* and its corresponding regulation took effect on January 1, 2024, and are not retroactive.
- These amendments address gaps and barriers by expanding eligibility and access to benefits.
- Applications relating to crimes that occurred on or after January 1, 2024, are just beginning to be received by the program.
- It will take some time before data is available to understand the full impact of the amendments, including the actual costs associated with the changes.

2. Recently B.C. launched a Gender Based Violence Action Plan, including new investments from the federal government. How will your ministry be using these funds?

- Funding new and existing programming, such as:
 - Domestic Violence Units and Counter Exploitation Units.
 - Additional investments in prevention programming in schools and counselling for children who witness violence at home.
- The Plan was developed in collaboration with Indigenous partners and expert advice from community service providers.
- Total investment: Canada will contribute \$61.9 million over four years. The details of these initiatives will be announced in the coming months.

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3. How much did it cost to establish the Intimate Images Protection Service, and how many people have accessed this service thus far?

- The annual budget for the Intimate Images Protection Service is \$882,000 beginning in 2024/25.
- As of March 29th, 2024 (first 2 months of operation), the Service had opened 62 case files and received 37 general inquiries.
- The Intimate Images Protection Service has assisted 24 clients with the Civil Resolution Tribunal process and has helped communicate Civil Resolution Tribunal orders to respondents/internet platforms on 3 case files.

3. Background

- The Crime Victims Assistance Program:
 - Amendments to the *Crime Victims Assistance Act* and associated regulations will support the modernization of the Crime Victims Assistance Program and improve access to benefits by:
 - Expanding eligibility for grandparents and grandchildren (removing the requirement that they were financially dependent on the victim to be eligible for benefits);
 - Broadening the definition of witness (removing the requirement that a witness had a strong emotional attachment to a victim); and
 - Extending the general time limit to make an application for benefits from one year to two years after an offence.
- The Gender-Based Violence Action Plan:
 - Our Ministry will continue to work closely with the Gender Equity office on the implementation of the new funding.
 - This Plan moves critical work forward in response to the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and the 231 Calls for Justice.
 - PSSG will support Actions across all four of the Plan's priorities:
 - Increasing safety and supports for survivors;
 - Lifting up Indigenous-led approaches;
 - Breaking cycles of violence through prevention, healing and accountability; and
 - Learning from and monitoring our progress.

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- The Intimate Images Protection Service:
 - Provides dedicated services supporting people who have had their intimate images shared without consent.
 - The service consists of 3 frontline caseworkers, an administrative support role, a policy analyst, a manager, and a director (7 positions in total).

Contact: Taryn Walsh (CSVS)	Phone: 778-572-5231	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2024/25 ESTIMATES

Unexplained Wealth Orders

TOPIC: Unexplained Wealth Orders

DESCRIPTION: An Unexplained Wealth Order is a court order that requires a person to explain how they acquired their assets if there is evidence of illegality. The fundamental principle of Unexplained Wealth Orders is that the person who acquired the wealth is in the best position to explain how they obtained it.

Unexplained Wealth Orders are a powerful tool that will help the government combat high-level organized crime and pierce common money-laundering techniques, such as hiding assets with family members or associates.

Since the enactment of the Unexplained Wealth Order regime in May 2023, three Unexplained Wealth Order applications have been filed by the Civil Forfeiture Office. All applications are pending a court hearing.

1. Qs and As

1. How does the Civil Forfeiture Office balance fairness to citizens with its mandate?

- All files are assessed by the Civil Forfeiture Office case managers and Attorney General lawyers on the strength of the evidence, the public interest in proceeding and the interests of justice before any proceeding is commenced in civil court.

2. Do you need an Unexplained Wealth Order to seize property in B.C.?

- The Unexplained Wealth Order is an investigation tool, not a seizure tool. The Civil Forfeiture Office can start forfeiture proceedings against a property without an Unexplained Wealth Order.

Advice/Recommendations

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2. Background

- Unexplained Wealth Orders help the Civil Forfeiture Office build a stronger asset forfeiture case against those involved in organized crime, drug trafficking and money laundering. Unexplained Wealth Orders are currently employed in more than 100 jurisdictions around the world, including Ireland, the UK, Australia, and New Zealand.
- The 2023 amendments to the *Civil Forfeiture Act*, including the creation of an Unexplained Wealth Order regime, are based on recommendations from the Cullen Commission of Inquiry into Money Laundering in British Columbia, which was released in June 2022.
- A constitutional challenge has been made in relation to Unexplained Wealth Orders and, as this matter is currently before the courts, we cannot comment further at this time.
- The Civil Forfeiture program is continuously reviewed, and every contested case goes before the court, which must be satisfied that forfeiture is in the interest of justice.
- Several checks and balances are in place to ensure fairness. For instance, the director balances the evidence, the public interest, and the interest of justice before commencing any proceeding.
- Individuals involved in a civil forfeiture claim always have the right to dispute forfeiture and provide evidence to support their defense.
- The Supreme Court of Canada, the BC Court of Appeal and the BC Supreme Court have all consistently upheld the validity of civil forfeiture to address the proceeds and tools of unlawful activity.

Contact: Taryn Walsh (CSVS)	Phone: 778-572-5231	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2024/25 ESTIMATES

Path Forward: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQ+ People

TOPIC: Path Forward: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQ+ People

DESCRIPTION: As part of BC's Path Forward, the \$5.34 million Path Forward Community Fund, developed and administered by the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (Association), was established in 2022 to meet the need for Indigenous-led capacity building and safety planning, to assist communities in visioning what they need to create and implement their own culturally safe solutions. In June 2023, our government announced an additional \$5.5 million for that fund.

To date – \$10.845 million has been distributed by the Association which has supported 51 projects located across the province.

1. Qs and As

1. It has been five years since the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and three years since the release of B.C.'s response: A Path Forward: Priorities and Early Strategies. What is B.C. doing about the 231 Calls for Justice contained in the Final Report?

- We are committed to a path forward to end violence against Indigenous women, girls, two-spirited and gender diverse people that is directly informed by survivors, family members and communities.
- The Path Forward document reflects community-based priorities that align with 28 mandate commitments that are relevant to the provincially relevant Calls for Justice. The 28 commitments recognize the interconnected, multi-dimensional nature of the inequities facing Indigenous people and the multi-layered response that is needed to address the issues identified through the National Inquiry and the Calls for Justice.
- Each year, we release a status update report that provides highlights of progress on the 28 cross-ministry actions to end violence including community-based supports, justice and public safety initiatives as well as reconciliation and support for Indigenous rights and cultural preservation.

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The next update report is expected in June 2024. All 28 mandate commitments are well underway and six are complete.

2. How much money is being spent to find solutions to this important issue?

- The Path Forward Community Fund has supported 51 Indigenous-led anti-violence projects for a total of \$10.345 million.

- There are many other branches and ministries working on Calls for Justice responses and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls initiatives.

- PSSG supports a number of initiatives including:
 - \$10 million in new Sexual Assault Services; in July 2023, awarded 70 new program contracts, 22 of which are Indigenous-focused programs;

 - Through the Civil Forfeiture Office grant program, over 750 projects funded since 2014/15 that focus on Indigenous women and girls;

 - \$3 million over 4 years (2022/23 to 2025/26) in Federal Women and Gender Equity funding to enhance two Gender-Based Violence crisis lines (one operated by the Indian Residential Schools Survivors Society) and improvements to VictimLinkBC;

 - Operation of the Family Information Liaison Unit which provides supports and resources to families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls;

 - \$2 million to the Moosehide campaign in 2023 to expend over four years.

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3. The Path Forward Community fund has been funded in excess of \$10 million since 2021. What's happening with that funding?

- We have heard from Indigenous communities that it is important for government to make sure they have the resources they need to lead the work to end the violence.
- In response to the desire for self-determination, government established the Indigenous-led Community Fund to get resources directly to communities. The fund is managed by the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres which is connecting communities with support to do work like safety planning; capacity building; culturally appropriate safety training for communities; and healing and cultural supports.
- To date, the fund has supported 51 projects in communities across the province to combat violence against Indigenous women, girls and two spirited people.
- An evaluation of the fund is being planned to assess the implementation and outcomes.

Background

- In September 2016 the federal government established the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, which was to be completed by September 2018. The inquiry's purpose was to examine and report on systemic causes of violence experienced by Indigenous women and girls and their greater vulnerability to violence.
- The final report was released on June 3, 2019. The federal government accepted all 231 recommendations, and confirmed it accepts the finding of the report that the deaths of Indigenous women and girls amounts to genocide. The federal government committed to implementing the report and outlining an action plan.
- On June 3, 2021, the second-year anniversary of the release of the report, the National Action Plan, a path towards ending violence against Indigenous Women, girls and 2SLGBTQ+ peoples was released. On that day, B.C. also released its own plan, A Path Forward: Priorities and Early Strategies for B.C., as well as What We Heard, a report of the 2019 and 2021 community dialogues.
- The 28 commitments in the Path Forward are directly informed through engagement with survivors, advocates and family members and contain community-based priorities that set a solid foundation for the province with early strategies for a path to end violence.

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- Since the release of the Path Forward, B.C. has undertaken steps to implement the early strategies, including engagement with stakeholders, partners, and community members to inform the design of the selection process to identify an Indigenous organization to develop and administer the new community fund for capacity building.
- In February 2022 the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres was selected to develop and administer the Path Forward Community Fund. A cornerstone of their work is a distinctions-based approach that honours and respects the expertise, agency and leadership of Indigenous peoples throughout all stages of implementation.
- The Association was chosen for its accessibility to diverse populations, community connections, geographical reach and understanding of the causes of violence against women, girls and 2SLGBTQ+ people.
- The June 2022 and June 2023 status updates, released on the anniversary of B.C.'s A Path Forward, outline cross-government action to end violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQ+ people. They describe initiatives in various areas including community-based supports, health and wellness, housing, justice and public safety, child welfare and education as well as reconciliation, Indigenous rights and cultural preservation. The June 2024 status update is under development.
- The Path Forward is also reflected in Action 3.8 of B.C.'s Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan.

Contact: Taryn Walsh (CSVSB)	Phone: 778-572-5231	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
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**BC Coroners Service
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Estimate Notes

1. Residential School Sites – BC Coroners Service Involvement
2. Coroner Attendance at Deaths in the Community
3. Unregulated Drug Crisis

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2024/25 ESTIMATES

**Residential School Sites
BC Coroners Service
Involvement**

1. Qs and As

1. What is the status of current investigations of remains discovered at residential schools in B.C.?

- On May 27, 2021, the BC Coroners Service was advised by the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (ta-kum-loops te sheh-kwep-em) First Nation that preliminary review with ground positioning radar indicated that there were soil anomalies that may be consistent with buried remains on the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School.
- The Williams Lake First Nation has also announced the discovery of similar findings at the site of the former St. Joseph's Mission Residential School.
- The Coroners Service is working collaboratively with the Williams Lake First Nation, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, the RCMP, and the First Nations Health Authority to support this sensitive work, and has offered assistance to the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Nation.

Contact: John McNamee, BCCS

Phone: 778-974-5110

Mobile: Government Financial Information

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2024/25 ESTIMATES

Coroner Attendance at Deaths
in the Community

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Coroner Attendance at Deaths in the Community

Percentage of Scene Visited by Case Type and Region, 2019-2023					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cariboo¹ Total	54.5%	44.0%	42.6%	39.8%	42.9%
S.15	40.8%	15.9%	13.3%	12.6%	18.2%
S.16	70.9%	69.9%	63.3%	62.2%	61.6%
Interior Total	45.4%	36.7%	35.4%	31.5%	36.8%
S.15	27.8%	12.6%	9.5%	7.8%	13.8%
S.16	71.5%	65.5%	59.3%	56.7%	55.5%
BC Total	52.3%	42.1%	37.4%	38.8%	43.7%
S.15	38.0%	20.6%	15.0%	14.2%	20.8%
S.16	69.6%	66.8%	57.5%	62.3%	66.0%

¹Includes townships within the Thompson Cariboo Shuswap Health Service Delivery Area.

2. Qs and As

1. How has the Province responded to concerns over lack of attendance at scenes of death?

- Coroners are expected to make every effort to attend scenes of deaths that occur in the community. There may be exceptions such as when a death occurs in a medical facility, when a scene is unsafe to attend, and when there is a delay between the injury and report of death.
- In Spring 2021, there were some questions raised about coroner attendance at deaths in the Cariboo and Interior regions.

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- Statistics from those regions show a drop in scene attendance in 2020 for natural deaths, which was also reflected province wide.
- After some continued decline in 2021 and 2022, in part due a significant, unanticipated increase in deaths during the heat dome, attendance rates have begun to rebound province wide.
- With an increase in staffing made possible through a \$6M lift to the Coroners Service included in Budget 2024, we are confident that scene attendance will continue to increase throughout B.C.

2. How will the Province ensure that all communities in BC continue to be supported by the BC Coroners Service?

- Budget 2024 included a \$6M lift to the Coroners Service, part of which will be used to fund additional coroners and support staff and reduce existing caseload pressures.
- We recognize the important role coroners play in providing closure for families through timely and thorough investigations.

Contact: John McNamee, BCCS	Phone: 778-974-5110	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2024/25 ESTIMATES

Unregulated Drug Crisis

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Unregulated Drug Deaths Investigated by the BC Coroners Service

Question	Response
Total number of deaths reported to BC Coroners Service <i>*based on Coroner Notification Date</i>	2023: 13,949 2022: 13,655 2.2% increase year-over-year
Number of suspected drug-related deaths investigated	2023: 2,546 2022: 2,385 6.8% increase year-over-year
Expedited toxicological tests completed in suspected drug-related death investigations	2023: 2,057 2022: 1,801
Presence of hydromorphone in expedited toxicology	2023: 3% of tests 2022: 4% of tests
Presence of fentanyl in expedited toxicology	2023: 85% of tests 2022: 88% of tests
Total autopsies conducted by BCCS	2023: 2038 2022: 1990
Autopsies conducted in suspected drug-related death investigations	2023: 359 2022: 359
Number of forensic pathologists employed by BC Coroners Service	7

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2. Qs and As

1. Why are so few drug-related deaths in BC investigated by autopsy?

- The BC Coroners Service uses many investigative techniques, including autopsy, to thoroughly investigate deaths and increase public safety.
- These include review of the medical and social history of the decedent and findings at the scene of death; examination of the decedent; discussion with the family; and consultation with law enforcement and other first responders in attendance.
- Autopsies are done whenever deemed necessary, after careful consideration of all the information surrounding the death, including necessary cultural considerations.
- The Coroners Service's Medical Unit, which includes multiple forensic pathologists and emergency room physicians, is routinely consulted when decisions about autopsy are made.

2. How can you be confident that some of these deaths are not actually homicides?

- The Coroners Service works in parallel with law enforcement and other investigative agencies when a death is first reported.
- The Coroners Service will conduct an autopsy for any death that is considered suspicious.

3. How does expedited toxicological testing work?

- Expedited toxicological testing in B.C. is performed by the Provincial Toxicology Centre and includes a screening for multiple different substances, as well as an evaluation of the approximate concentration of each substance and the likelihood that the substance could have led to death, either on its own or in combination with other substances.
- Results are reviewed and confirmed by an independent, board-certified forensic toxicologist before use in a coroner investigation.

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- When results are less definitive, other investigative steps such as autopsy may be undertaken.
- The program has been recognized as an exemplar by other jurisdictions and has allowed the Coroners Service to present timely data that informs evidence-based health actions at the local, provincial, and federal levels.

4. How does the BC Coroners Service address concerns about diversion of prescribed safer supply?

- Substances such as hydromorphone that are part of the province’s safer supply program are included in the Coroners Service’s monthly reporting.
- The BC Coroners Service drugs toxicity reports have consistently said there is no evidence that safer supply medications are playing a role in drug toxicity deaths.
- Hydromorphone was detected in approximately 3% of expedited toxicological testing in 2023, while illicit fentanyl was detected in about 85% of results.
- Hydromorphone is prescribed primarily for pain management in B.C., and only a small percentage of hydromorphone prescriptions are written under our prescribed safer supply program.

Contact: John McNamee, BCCS	Phone: 778-974-5110	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
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**Cannabis Issues
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Estimate Notes

1. State of the Cannabis Industry
2. Cannabis Economy – Indigenous Participation

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2024/25 ESTIMATES

State of the Cannabis Industry

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: State of the Cannabis Industry

DESCRIPTION: Data is from PSSG and Health Canada publicly available sources.

Question	Response/Estimate
Federal Production Licence holders in B.C.	231 total (as of March 2024) 107 - Standard 102 - Micro-Class 9 - Sales Only 12 - Nursery 1 - Combined Sales Only and Nursery
Federal Processing licences located in B.C.	134 total (March 2024) 90 - Standard 44 - Micro
Indigenous-affiliated federal licence holders in B.C.	24 (March 2024)
Completed s.119 agreements	7
Cannabis stores authorized/licensed under s.119 agreements	12
Legal share of the cannabis market in B.C. and in Canada	<u>2023/24 (December)</u> B.C.: 61% Canada: 67% <u>2022/23 (March)</u> B.C.: 58% Canada: 63%
Retail sales increase since last year	Yes, by 14% \$766M in 2023 \$669M in 2022
Number of cannabis retail stores in B.C. (public, private, and s.119 authorized)	525 (March 2024) 505 (March 2023)
British Columbians using cannabis	Around 31%, or an estimated 1.3 to 1.4 million adults in 2023.

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2. Qs and As

1. What is the government doing about the struggling cannabis industry?

- B.C.'s cannabis market continues to see growth in sales, legal market capture, retail stores licences, and licensed producers.
- We recognize the sector is facing challenges with high regulatory costs and taxes, as well as a persistent illicit market.
- The ministry continues to work with cannabis businesses, Indigenous partners, and local governments to identify where adjustments to the provincial framework can be made to support the legal sector, including gradually enabling cannabis hospitality and tourism experiences.
- For example, B.C. recently made changes to remove provincial restrictions on promoting places to consume cannabis or spend time consuming cannabis and enabled industry sampling for cannabis licensees in September 2023.
- The Province is also working with the federal government to support changes to the national framework in support of the legal sector.

2. How many people continue to buy cannabis from illegal sources? Why?

- Approximately 60% of spending on cannabis in B.C. is on legal products.
- The illicit market offers lower prices and does not have restrictions on packaging and labelling, potency, and possession limits, unlike the regulated market.
- Evidence from the 2023 Canadian Cannabis Survey and recent research suggests that some consumers may be unaware what is legal and illegal.
- The ministry is conducting research on why some people continue to buy cannabis from illicit sources and how we can encourage them to transition to legal sources while minimizing impacts to public health and safety. This includes partnerships with academic institutions and organizations across Canada.

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3. Why is B.C.'s legal market share lower than Canada's?

- Pre-legalization B.C. was the centre of Canada's illicit cannabis market. We knew that the transition to a legal industry in B.C. would be challenging given that history.
- Overall B.C. is making progress on reducing the illicit market. More than 200 illicit stores have closed, over 900 illicit websites involved in the illegal sale of cannabis have been disrupted, licensed cannabis retail sales are still growing each year, and we learned from the 2021 B.C. Cannabis Use Survey that the majority of people in B.C. buy their cannabis products from legal sources.

3. Background

- The Province conducts the B.C. Cannabis Use Survey, which is the largest survey on cannabis use in Canada. It provides valuable insights into how cannabis behaviours and views have shifted since legalization.
- Results are representative of B.C.'s population and provide information specific to each health authority and health service delivery area. BC Stats developed an online application that enables further exploration of the findings.
- The 2021 B.C. Cannabis Use Survey followed up on an initial survey conducted in 2018. Both were planned as part of the Province's commitment to monitor implementation of the legal cannabis framework and designed to provide insights into the impact of the cannabis sector on both public health and economic activities.
- Planning is underway with BC Stats for the next iteration of the Survey.

Contact: Hovan Baghdassarian (CCPCP)

Mobile: 778-698-7553

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2024/25 ESTIMATES

Cannabis Economy – Indigenous Participation

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Cannabis Economy – Indigenous Participation

Question	Response
Completed Section 119 Agreements	7
Indigenous Cannabis Business Fund (ICBF)	To-date the Province has contributed \$4.75M.

2. Qs and As

1. What is B.C. doing to support Indigenous participation in the regulated cannabis industry?

- B.C. continues to support Indigenous interests and participation in the regulated cannabis sector by collaborating with First Nations and key Indigenous partners.
- This includes entering into government-to-government agreements; actioning our DRIPA commitment to advance a collaborative approach to cannabis-related governance and jurisdiction; and providing capacity funding and capital grants to support Indigenous entrepreneurs and First Nations looking to start or expand regulated cannabis businesses.

2. Has the Province progressed on DRIPA commitment #4.47?

- The ministry released a ‘What We Heard Report’ in Fall 2023 outlining the key priorities and issues discussed in the initial engagement sessions co-hosted with the First Nations Leadership Council last year. Work is underway with key partners to co-develop options to move forward.
- Government-to-government agreement negotiations and the implementation of the Indigenous Cannabis Business Fund are ongoing.

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- PSSG would defer to the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation to respond about DRIPA Action Plan public reporting timelines.

3. Background

- The Indigenous Cannabis Business Fund was developed in partnership with the BC Assembly of First Nations, the First Nations Summit, and the federal government. The New Relationship Trust and several B.C. Aboriginal Financial Institutions co-administer the fund.
 - In 2022, the Province initially committed up to \$3.75 million over three years. An additional \$2.25M was provided in April 2023.

Contact: Hovan Baghdassarian (CCPCP)

Mobile: 778-698-7553

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
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**Gaming Issues
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2. Gambling Regulatory Framework Implementation

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Online Gambling Advertising

TOPIC: Online Sports Betting Advertising

1. Qs and As

1. What is the government doing to prevent the proliferation of online gambling advertising?

- Most of the levers to limit online gambling advertising rest with the federal government, and we have raised this issue with our federal counterparts.
- The BC Lottery Corporation's Playnow website is the only legal and regulated online gambling site in B.C. All other gambling websites operate outside of B.C.'s jurisdiction.
- In 2022, Ontario implemented a new online gambling market in their province and now license online providers. Many of these providers appear to have purchased significant national advertising space.
- B.C. does not have authority to regulate national advertising.

2. What is the government doing about problem gambling risks associated with increased gambling advertising?

- Our government takes harms from gambling seriously and recognizes that significant exposure to gambling advertising may have negative health implications. This is why we've raised concerns with the federal government about online gambling advertising.
- Gambling Supports BC delivers prevention and free clinical treatment services to anyone experiencing harm from gambling.
- For B.C.'s regulated gambling industry, the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch sets marketing and advertising standards as well as responsible gambling standards. These are being updated as general manager regulations under the new *Gaming Control Act*, and we plan to prohibit the use of athletes and celebrities in gambling advertising.

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2. Background

- The Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch is responsible for regulating gambling in BC and regulates BCLC's PlayNow.com website.
- Many gambling websites hosted outside of Canada allow BC residents to gamble on their platforms, including international arms of Ontario-licensed sites. The branch has no role in regulating these sites.
- The branch is exploring options to address unregulated online gambling websites in our province.

Contact: Sam MacLeod (GPEB)	Phone: 778-698-3843	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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Gambling Regulatory Framework Implementation

TOPIC: Gambling Regulatory Framework Implementation

1. Qs and As

1. When will the government bring the new *Gaming Control Act (2022)* into force?

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences

2. Why is it taking so long to bring the new *Gaming Control Act (2022)* into force?

- The new Act creates authority for the general manager to make regulations on a range of regulatory issues like prevention of problem gambling, prevention of unlawful activity, advertising, and training.
- These are new regulations for the gambling sector and require time to thoroughly consult with the BC Lottery Corporation, gambling companies, charities, and Indigenous partners.

3. The Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch received \$1.3 million in new funding in 2024/25. How will this funding be used?

- When the new *Gaming Control Act* comes into force, the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch will transition to the Independent Gambling Control Office. This funding will support the transition by ensuring the new gambling regulator has resources to effectively regulate the gambling sector.
- The \$1.3 million will provide permanent funding to continue an investigator presence in Lower Mainland casinos in response to money laundering while also ensuring other regulatory functions are met.

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2. Background

- In fall 2022, government passed a new *Gaming Control Act*, delivering on its commitment to address systemic weaknesses in B.C.'s regulatory framework that hindered an effective response to money laundering through Lower Mainland casinos. The new Act is anticipated to come into force ^{Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet} _{Confidences}
- The new *Gaming Control Act* clarifies and modernizes the current Act to account for current and future developments such as online gambling and evolving gaming technologies, while also adopting recommendations from the German Report and the Cullen Commission Report.

Contact: Sam MacLeod (GPEB)	Phone: 778-698-3843	Mobile: ^{Government Financial} _{Information}
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**Office of the Fire Commissioner
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1. Volunteer and Rural Fire Services – Funding
2. *Fire Safety Act* Implementation

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Volunteer and Rural Fire Services Funding

1. Key Facts and Figures

Question	Response
How many volunteer fire fighters are there in the province?	There are approximately 400 independent community-based fire departments throughout B.C., collectively employing about 4,000 career firefighters and 10,000 volunteer firefighters.

2. Qs and As

1. What are some of the challenges faced by volunteer and rural fire services in the Province?

- The Province recognizes the funding challenges that small and rural communities face in delivering fire suppression and prevention services as well as maintaining and replacing fire service equipment and apparatus.
- It also recognizes the increasing challenges associated with recruitment, retention, and training for volunteer and rural fire services.

2. What funding has been provided to Volunteer fire departments and are there any grant opportunities available to support volunteer and rural fire services?

- The Premier announced an extension to the Community Emergency Preparedness Funding for 2023/24 and 2024/25 fiscal years.
- Community Emergency Preparedness Funding is administered by the UBCM and has a suite of funding streams including the Volunteer and Composite¹ Fire Departments Equipment & Training funding stream.

¹ Composite fire department have a mix of paid staff and unpaid volunteers

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- The Community Emergency Preparedness Funding is intended to enhance the resilience of local governments, First Nations and communities in responding to emergencies and to reduce risks from future disasters due to natural hazards and climate-related risks.
- In January 2024, the Province announced the results from the 2023 intake of the Community Emergency Preparedness Funding ² with more than \$6.2 million being provided for 122 local projects, benefiting more than 200 volunteer and composite fire departments.³
- In February 2023, the Province announced the results from the 2022 intake for the Community Emergency Preparedness Funding ⁴ with \$6.3 million in grants distributed to 114 local governments, First Nations and volunteer and composite fire departments.⁵
- In September 2023, the Province announced:⁶
 - \$1.4 million has been provided to UBCM for community firefighting training and the purchase of new or replacement fire equipment such as fire hoses and first-aid kits.
 - \$1.75 million has been provided to the Fire Chiefs' Association of British Columbia to support rural communities and First Nation fire departments by providing regional access to joint live fire training for fire services; and
 - Since 2017, more than \$17 million has been provided to volunteer and composite fire departments through the CEPF for additional equipment and training.

² Under the volunteer and composite fire department funding stream

³ [Funding will support local volunteer fire departments, keep people safe | BC Gov News](#)

⁴ Under the volunteer and composite fire department funding stream

⁵ [Communities benefit from funding for firefighting equipment, training | BC Gov News](#)

⁶ [Province provides support to strengthen local fire departments | BC Gov News](#)

3. Is there anything else the Province is doing to address the challenges the volunteer fire services are experiencing?

- To understand the extent of the current and potential future challenges facing volunteer and rural fire services, the Office of the Fire Commissioner has initiated a project to collect and assess information about volunteer recruitment, retention and training.
- The survey ran from June 30, 2023, to August 15, 2023. There was a total of 586 individual responses collected (composite and volunteer fire departments).
- The Office of the Fire Commissioner is currently assessing the results and will be determining how the results will be shared, along with any other actions that need to be taken as a result of what was heard.

3. Background

- According to the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs’ Great Canadian Fire Census 2022⁷, there are approximately 126,000 firefighters actively working in Canada. Of those, 36,000 are career firefighters, located mostly in larger centres, while the remaining 90,000 (71 percent) are volunteer firefighters.
- According to the 2021 Great Canadian Volunteer Firefighter Census⁸ there are 99,919 volunteer firefighters in Canada. From 2021 to 2022, there was an almost 10 percent decrease in the amount of volunteer firefighters in Canada.
- The recruitment and retention of fire services volunteers, particularly in rural and remote communities, has been an issue for several decades. The issue was identified in the 2009 report Public Safety in British Columbia: Transforming the Fire/Rescue Service.
- The report was published by the Fire Services Liaison Group comprising the Fire Chiefs’ Association of BC, the BC Professional Firefighters Association, the BC Fire Training Officers Association, the Fire Prevention Officers’ Association of BC, the Volunteer Firefighters Association of BC and the UBCM.

Contact: Brian Godlonton (OFC)	Phone: 250-516-0721	Mobile: 250-516-0721
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⁷ [Microsoft Word - EMBARGOED - 2022 Census report.docx \(ymaws.com\)](#)

⁸ [Transforming the Fire Service - FINAL SEP 8 09.indd \(nanoosevfd.com\)](#)

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Fire Safety Act Implementation

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Fire Safety Act Implementation

Question	Response
When was the <i>Fire Safety Act</i> passed?	The <i>Fire Safety Act</i> was passed in 2016.
When was the last update made to fire services legislation?	The last substantial update was made to the <i>Fire Services Act</i> in 1979.
What is the fiscal investment to implement the <i>Fire Safety Act</i> ?	Advice/Recommendations

2. Qs and As

1. Why hasn't the *Fire Safety Act* been brought into force?

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

- Work to implement the Act remains underway, but at this time, government is unable to confirm when it will be brought into force.

2. What has the government done to address ^{Intergovernmental Communications} concerns?

- The Office of the Fire Commissioner continues to collaborate with key stakeholders and partners to discuss any operational impacts of the *Fire Safety Act*.

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- The Office of the Fire Commissioner has established working groups with UBCM and municipal and regional district representatives, and the Fire Chiefs' Association of BC, to have fulsome discussions about the future implementation of the Act.
- Key to the discussions is the regional districts concern that they lack the capacity, resources, and funding to conduct fire inspections of public buildings and fire investigations in their regions.
- This work has taken time but it has been necessary and valuable, and has resulted in a path forward that addresses regional districts concerns – that being – upon the *Fire Safety Act* coming into force, the Office of the Fire Commissioner will provide support and/or perform fire inspections of public buildings and fire incident investigations.

3. What is the benefit of the *Fire Safety Act*?

- The *Fire Safety Act* at its core, focuses on people and their safety by providing fire services with more effective enforcement tools to improve compliance with fire safety codes and legislation.
- UBCM and the Fire Chiefs' Association of BC agree that modernized legislation is essential given the increase in population, multi-unit complex fires, number of fire-related deaths and injuries and wildland urban interface events.
- Reducing fire-risk in communities is crucial to reversing tragic outcomes, and the Act will be a key tool that can be used by the B.C. government and local governments to protect people in their communities.
- The implementation of the Act will reinforce for local governments, their citizens and fire fighters, the Province's continued commitment to prevent fires, preserve human life and avoid property loss due to fires.

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3. Background

- The *Fire Services Act* provides the current regulatory framework for fire safety in the province.
- The last substantial update to the *Fire Services Act* was in 1979.
- Since that time, there have been important developments in fire safety and prevention and new legislation, such as the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Community Charter, and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, that need to be considered.
- The *Fire Safety Act* was passed in 2016 but was not brought into force primarily due to local governments concerns about the requirement for risk-based compliance monitoring of public buildings, fire inspections of public buildings and fire investigations in regional districts.
- The *Fire Safety Act* is the modernized replacement for the *Fire Services Act*. Updated features include regulated risk-based compliance monitoring to identify higher-risk buildings, an administrative penalty system to incentivize owner compliance and more effective enforcement.
- The *Fire Safety Act* also responds to the BC Coroner’s reports on the 2012 Lakeland mill explosion which recommends that the Province create penalty provisions for non-compliance with the BC Fire Code and orders of the fire commissioner.
- The *Fire Safety Act* also responds to the BC Coroner’s reports on the Winters Hotel fire which recommends the Act be brought into force without delay to provide fire services with tools for additional enforcement.
- The Province has not formally committed to amending the *Fire Safety Act*, however, on March 17, 2022, Minister Farnworth, in a letter to UBCM, stated the requirement for a single standard of fire safety in the province through fire inspection of public buildings in unincorporated areas.

Contact: Brian Godlonton (OFC)	Phone: 250-516-0721	Mobile: 250-516-0721
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**RoadSafetyBC
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2. Driver Medical Fitness

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2024/25 ESTIMATES

Intersection Safety Cameras

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Intersection Safety Cameras

DESCRIPTION: B.C.'s Intersection Safety Cameras program is designed to reduce motor vehicle crashes at intersections. It is a partnership between the Province, ICBC, and the RCMP and has been in operation since 1999. The Intersection Safety Cameras program operates 140 digital cameras installed throughout B.C. to enforce red-light running offences; 35 of these cameras also enforce speeding violations.

- Approximately 75% of crashes in BC happen at intersections.
- BC's modern, digital red-light and speed cameras are in fixed locations at 140 intersections with an over-representation of crashes.
- A survey on public perception of intersection safety cameras is conducted annually, with 77% supporting use of red-light cameras and 72% voicing support for speed cameras at intersections.
- This public confidence is also evident through the low annual dispute rate for both Intersection Safety Camera red-light and speed violation tickets. The Intersection Safety Camera dispute rate is 4% compared to over 16% for other violation tickets.

Revenue Summary – Intersection Safety Cameras

Revenues (\$ millions)	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Forecast
Red-Light	10.869	11.375	8.620	9.598	9.874	9.874
Speed	0.000	1.877	10.835	8.557	6.524	6.524

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions, traffic volumes and driving behaviours continue to evolve. These trends resulted in lower-than-average violation ticket numbers and revenue for all types of ticket including eTickets, paper tickets and ISC tickets.

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2. Qs and As

1. How does the Intersection Safety Camera program make roads safer?

- The Intersection Safety Camera program provides traffic enforcement 24/7 and warning signs at each location to let drivers know the cameras are active.
- Automation enables front line police officers to be reassigned as required, while maintaining road safety at B.C.’s high-risk intersections.
- In 2003, an analysis of 18 months of data found a 14% reduction in personal injury collisions.
- In 2006, an analysis of 36 months of data found a 6.4% reduction in injuries over that period.
- In 2022, a study found a 13% reduction in red-light running and a 28% reduction in the number of re-offending drivers.
- Current analysis of speed enforcement sites shows 50% reduction in collisions resulting in serious injury and death.

2. Where does Intersection Road Safety revenue go?

- All traffic fine revenue in the province is distributed to local governments in the form of unconditional grants and is used to pay for a variety of community safety initiatives.
- The revenue is net of eligible costs (including traffic court costs, Road Safety BC Program costs, and certain ICBC fees and commissions paid to external agencies) which are deducted by the province.
- The table below shows the total grant amounts Local Governments received over the last six years.

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Grants	53.554	55.074	56.250	56.250	56.250	56.250

*As of 2020 local governments receive a baseline of \$56.250M.

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3. Can municipalities add their own Intersection Safety Cameras?

- The program is not operated by or delegated to municipalities.
- Current legislation identifies the types of cameras that are utilized by the provincial program. In addition, under the *Offence Act*, violation tickets can only be issued and prosecuted by provincial special constables or police.
- The *Motor Vehicle Act* prescribes appropriate devices, which are outlined in the Motor Vehicle Act Regulations. The Offence Act Forms Regulation and Violation Ticket Administration and Fines Regulation also provide directives regarding how tickets are issued through provincial special constables.
- The current camera locations were selected based upon several risk factors, including crash frequency, crash severity, crash type and the potential for improvement at the site.
- Any changes that are proposed for the Intersection Safety Camera program require consultation with the Union of BC Municipalities to ensure established agreements with the province regarding revenue sharing are honored.
- Since June 2019, we have received over 38 requests from local governments in B.C. for the installation of Intersection Safety Cameras.

3. Background

Intersection Safety Camera program

- The Intersection Safety Camera program has been operational in B.C. since 1999. The original 30-unit, red-light film camera program has undergone a series of transformations over the years.
- The program operates through a partnership with ICBC.
- Intersection Safety Camera Officers charge two *Motor Vehicle Act* Offences for speeding and red-light offences. The officers are appointed as Special Provincial Constables under the *Police Act*.
- Two Intersection Safety Camera Officers will examine the photos and if they each separately decide an offence took place, the registered owner will receive a violation ticket. for:
 - a red-light offence under the *Motor Vehicle Act* and/or;
 - a speeding offence under the *Motor Vehicle Act*.

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- Citizens continue to benefit from the convenience of online ticket payment. 64% of Intersection Safety Camera violation tickets were paid online via PayBC in 2023.

Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing program

- The Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing program provides local governments 100% of net traffic fine revenue in the form of unconditional grants used to pay for a variety of community safety initiatives. The revenue share is net of eligible costs (including traffic court costs, Road Safety BC Program costs, and certain ICBC fees and commissions paid to external agencies) which are deducted by the province.
- The TFRS program is established by the Community Charter; any changes to the program require the minister(s) responsible for the change (in this case, the Solicitor General and the Attorney General) to consult with the Union of BC Municipalities.
- The 2023/24 forecasted expenditures for the ISC program’s red-light and speed operations is \$7.4M which includes transfers to ICBC.

2023 Program Statistics

ISC 2023 Program Outputs	Total Violation Tickets Issued	Payments ²			Disputes ³	
		Total Paid	Payment Rate	Paid Online	Tickets Disputed	Dispute Rate
Red-Light	80,647	72,866	90%	49,936	2,529	3%
Speed	26,386	30,900	117%	16,342	1,163	4%
Total	107,033	103,766	104%	66,278	3,692	4%

1. All program statistics are for the 2023 calendar year.
2. Includes payments made in 2023, for violation tickets that may be issued during or prior to 2023.
3. Includes disputes filed in 2023, for violation tickets that may be issued during or prior to 2023.

Summary of ISC 2023 Prosecution Statistics

Outcome	Red-Light		Speed		Total	
Guilty Plea	1,167	41%	653	35%	1,820	39%
No Show	1,170	42%	886	47%	2,056	44%
Other	316	11%	215	11%	531	11%
Trial	162	6%	117	6%	279	6%
Trial - Guilty	136	84%	103	88%	239	86%
Trial - Not Guilty	26	16%	14	12%	40	14%
Total Disputes	2,815		1,871		4,686	

4,686 ISC violation ticket disputes were scheduled to be heard in traffic court in 2023. Of those total disputes, 44% (2,056) of disputants did not show up to their court date, and 39% (1,820) pleaded guilty. For defendants who chose to dispute their ticket in trial, 86% were found guilty.

Contact: Chad Stewart (RSBC)	Phone: 250-478-2160	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2024/25 ESTIMATES

Driver Medical Fitness

TOPIC: Driver Medical Fitness

1. Qs and As

1. Why is it taking so long to have driver medical information reviewed?

- The Ministry recognizes that current delays in processing times are frustrating for people and is currently engaged in several measures to increase the efficiency of the program.
- A significant backlog exists, primarily as a result of the resumption of aged-based Driver Medical Examination Reports after they were paused during the pandemic to protect the health of our senior population.
- Driver Medical Fitness files are triaged by the program based first on medical urgency and then reviewed in the order they are received.
- In general, as drivers have a wide range of medical conditions, it is difficult to estimate timeframes for reviews due to the unique nature of each file. Drivers can contact RoadSafetyBC to enquire as to where their individual file sits within the queue, based on when their document was submitted, and the nature of the medical information provided.
- If a driver notifies RoadSafetyBC that they are unlicensed or attempting to upgrade their licence class, and have provided the required medical information, they will be given priority.

2. What is RoadSafetyBC doing to improve the delays in processing medical information?

- To address these issues, RoadSafetyBC is engaged in a systems transformation project that will improve driver medical fitness processes.
- The project includes a new case management system which will increase the efficiency of the program and assist with managing increasing volumes.

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- The case management system will also improve the experience of medical practitioners, drivers, and ICBC staff, through online portals.
- Funding from Budget 2024 (\$0.800M) will be used for operational support for the system as well as users of the driver portal, partner portal and medical practitioner portal. This will ensure base budget funding for continued operational support of the system for RoadSafetyBC with a portion allocated to Information Systems Branch.
- RoadSafetyBC has also undertaken several measures to assist with the higher than usual volumes including policy changes, hiring additional staff, reallocation of staffing resources, and overtime:
 - RoadSafetyBC previously issued age based Driver Medical Examination Reports to drivers every two years from age 80. Data shows that most drivers between 80-85 are determined medically fit to drive. As a result, RoadSafetyBC is now issuing these reports to drivers who are 80, drivers who are 85, and every two years thereafter.
 - This new schedule will allow for an estimated annual reduction of 25,000 reports with no measurable impact to road safety.
 - RoadSafetyBC is also providing extended timeframes for all drivers to complete their medical assessments from 45 days to 120 days along with additional extensions when required and where possible.

3. Why are there fees for completing a required Driver's Medical Examination Report ?

- The fees that doctors and nurse practitioners charge patients for completing Driver Medical Examination Reports are not set by government, but by the individual medical practices, often following the recommendations of the Doctors of BC Fee Guide for Uninsured Services.
- Individuals who are required to have an age based or commercial Driver Medical Examination Report completed are responsible for the costs.

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Doctors are not able to bill MSP for age-based and commercial driver reports as these are considered administrative requirements of a third party and are not considered a benefit under the *Medicare Protection Act*.

- Only medically necessary services may be covered under MSP. Doctors can bill MSP \$75.00 for completing an assessment for known/suspected medical conditions and RoadSafetyBC reimburses MSP for the examination costs. Any additional cost is the responsibility of the driver.
- Government does not have the authority to direct private medical offices to lower or waive their fees for the services under these circumstances. While fees can vary, Doctors of BC recommends that doctors reduce or waive the fee for patients who are experiencing economic hardship.

2. Background

- Under the *Motor Vehicle Act*, RoadSafetyBC is responsible for determining if a driver is medically fit to drive, for both the safety of the driver and the public.
- The primary tool to assess driver medical fitness is the Driver's Medical Examination Report, which is required from commercial drivers including ride-hailing drivers, senior drivers aged 80 and over, and drivers with suspected or known medical conditions that may affect driving.
- Each year, the Driver Medical Fitness Program receives over 200,000 medical reports which are triaged by the program based on risk and reviewed in date order of receipt. There are over 240,000 documents in a backlog for initial triage; of these documents, approximately 86,000 will require driver medical fitness review.
- B.C.'s aging population is expected to contribute to an increase in volume of medical reports.

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Active B.C. Driver Licences – Drivers Aged 80+

Year	Number of Aged 80+ Drivers
2012	94,000
2013	101,000
2014	102,000
2015	108,000
2016	110,000
2017	116,000
2022*	138,000
2027*	175,200
2032*	226,200
2037*	282,300

**Source: 5-year projections of age 80+ drivers based in BC Stats population projections for this age group.*

Contact: Frances Sasvari (RSBC)	Phone: 778-698-8472	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2. ICBC Affordability
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4. Road Test Wait Times – Driver Licensing
5. Material Damage

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2024/25 ESTIMATES NOTE

ICBC Financial Update

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: ICBC Financial Update

Question	Response
Dec 31, 2023 - YTD (Q3) Actuals	
YTD Net income	\$617M
Minimum Capital Test (MCT) ratio	139%
2023/24 Year End Forecast (at Q3)	
Net Income Forecast	\$140M and \$140M favourable to Budget
Revenues (net of acquisition costs)	\$60M favourable to Budget - primarily due to higher average Optional premium
Investment Income	\$417M favourable to Budget - due to delay in expected market downturn
Operating Costs	\$14M (unfavourable) to Budget - successful FTE recruitment and lower attrition
Claims Costs	\$323M (unfavourable) to Budget - due to higher material damage costs
Minimum Capital Test (MCT) ratio	121% Year End forecast

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Preliminary 2023/24 Year End (at Q4)	
Preliminary Net Income (subject to final audit adjustments)	Approximately \$1.5B (before rebate)
Preliminary Investment Income	Stronger than expected results - market downturn did not materialize
Claims Costs	Lower than expected - lower Material Damage intake and favourable Enhanced Care count and severity
Policyholder Rebate	\$400M Greater-than-forecast results provides the opportunity for one-time rebate and build back of capital reserves

2. Qs and As

1. Why are there swings in ICBC net income results?

- ICBC uses British Columbia Investment (BCI) Management Corporation's market forecast trends when preparing the investment forecast. These trends indicate that there continues to be significant uncertainty in global investment markets, with a wide range of plausible investment outcomes, both favourable and unfavourable. Leading into the fourth quarter, BCI's view was unfavourable.
- Due to the investment income volatility at Q3, ICBC forecasted a year-end net income of \$140 million. Based on BCI's unfavorable view, ICBC anticipated a market downturn in the last quarter of the fiscal year and spilling into fiscal year 2024/25. Fortunately, this downturn didn't materialize and the year end investment results are better, therefore actual net income results are higher.
- ICBC is focused on building back its capital levels to ensure it has sufficient capital to absorb unexpected losses. Preliminary year end results indicate that ICBC has the capacity to provide a significant rebate to policyholders while also contributing to building back capital levels.

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2. Why has there been an increase in ICBC's operating expenses?

- Operating expenses are slightly higher than last fiscal year mainly from the addition of staff to areas of the company to improve service levels including in driver licensing and claims, as well as general salary increases per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- Premium taxes, commissions and other acquisition costs are also higher than last year in conjunction with our higher premium revenues.
- ICBC provides more than just auto insurance to British Columbians and its operating costs reflect the full scope of what it does. For example, ICBC delivers important services such as driver licensing as well as road safety improvements and campaigns.
- Last fiscal year, for every \$1.00 that ICBC collected, it paid out \$1.08:
 - \$0.86 claims costs
 - \$0.05 ICBC operations
 - \$0.17 other (driver licensing, premium tax, commission, Road Safety, non-insurance and other expenses).

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3. Background

Q3 Year-to-Date (YTD) Net Income

- ICBC closed 2023/24 Q3 with a corporate net income of \$617 million. ICBC benefited from strong financial markets in Q3, lifting its investment income to more than \$900 million, which was the main reason net income was better than Budget.

Q3 2023/24 Outlook as Compared to Full Year Budget

- At Q3, ICBC's forecasted year-end net income was \$140M. This is \$140M favourable as compared to the Budget 2023/24 net income of nil (\$0M).
- The favourable net income is primarily the result of better than budget investment earnings partially offset by higher claims costs.
- Higher investment earnings in 2023/24 are due to strong year-to-date investment markets. The majority of these earnings are from unrealized investment gains.
- Incurred claims are forecasted to be unfavourable to Budget for both current year and prior years' claims. This is due to higher claims frequencies, higher parts and labour costs as well as continued delays in repairs.
- Premium revenues are higher, while basic rate increases remain at 0%, optional insurance rates have increased to offset increases in material damage and repair costs due to inflation, supply chain challenges and longer repair times; issues being experienced by all insurers in North America.
- Operating costs are unfavourable to Budget due to higher than originally expected FTEs. In 2023/24, recruitment levels are ahead of expected attrition. As well, the planned transfer of staff from legal-based claims to Enhanced Care has had to be slowed down due to ongoing staffing capacity required for legal-based claims; consequently, an overall increase in FTEs has been needed in 2023/24 compared to budget to adequately support Enhanced Care.
- Acquisition costs, premium taxes and commissions, are higher due to the higher premium revenues.
- ICBC's expense ratio for FY 2022/23 was 21.2%. ICBC continues to keep its operating expenses low, but the FY 2023/24 expense ratio is expected to be higher at 22.1%. This is mainly due to adding staff to areas of the company to improve service levels, including in driver licensing and claims.
 - 2022/23 industry benchmark is 32.7% from MSA Research.
- ICBC's loss ratios and combined ratios are higher than budget and prior year, mainly due to higher claims costs.
- Substantial risks existed at Q3 that could have affected the forecasted fiscal 2023/24 year end net income. Uncertainty in the global investment markets could have resulted in a wide range of plausible outcomes for investment income by year end. Claims risks relate to further emergence of large legal-based bodily injury claims; inflation and other cost uncertainties related to the Enhanced Care product outcomes; and changes in the frequency and severity of material damage claims.

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Preliminary Q4 2023/24 Outlook as Compared to Q3 2023/24 Outlook

- Significantly higher investment income of approximately \$1.2B (primarily unrealized investment income) contributed to higher net income, as the anticipated market downturn did not materialize.
- Claims Costs were lower than Q3 as:
 - Material Damage (“MD”) intake was lower in the last 3 months,
 - Enhanced Care results were favourable in terms of frequency of injury claims as well lower severity than anticipated, and
 - There was a higher discount rate contributing to a more favourable claims result.
- \$400 million will be rebated to customers through a one-time rebate, and the remainder will go towards capital, ensuring ICBC continues solid financial ground.

New Accounting Standards

- At the start of this fiscal year, ICBC implemented new insurance and investment accounting standards set by the International Accounting Standards Board.
- Under the new standards, all unrealized investment gains and losses are included in ICBC’s overall net income figure.
- The term unrealized investment gain/loss refers to an increase/decrease in the value of an investment asset that hasn’t been sold and only exists on paper.

Minimum Capital Test (MCT) ratio

- Similar to other insurance organizations, the overall financial health and position of the Corporation are monitored through a number of standard industry metrics. ICBC’s capital levels are measured by the MCT ratio. MCT is an important industry measurement used to determine whether a company has sufficient capital to absorb unexpected losses.
- ICBC has been rebuilding its capital levels over the past two fiscal years, including via a 7% constant capital provision built into basic rates. Seven cents from every dollar of basic premiums collected goes towards maintaining or building capital levels.
- ICBC’s Corporate MCT was 139% December 31, 2023, as compared to the restated MCT of 110% at the end of 2022/23.
- 2023/24 year-end MCT forecast at Q3 was 121%.
- Optional capital levels are currently below targets and expected to recover at a moderate rate, as we exit 2023/24.

Appendix

Appendix - ICBC Statement of Operations

Contact: David Wong - CEO (ICBC)	Phone: <small>Personal Information</small>	<input type="text"/>
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Statement of Operations

For the Nine Months Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022¹

(\$ Millions)	Basic		Optional		Corporate	
	2023/24	2022/23 ²	2023/24	2022/23 ²	2023/24	2022/23 ²
Premiums written	\$ 2,539	\$ 2,498	\$ 2,017	\$ 1,706	\$ 4,556	\$ 4,204
Insurance revenues						
Premiums earned	2,468	2,431	1,807	1,594	4,275	4,025
Service fees	86	51	58	32	144	83
Total insurance revenues	2,554	2,482	1,865	1,626	4,419	4,108
Insurance service expenses						
Current year claims	1,936	1,871	1,462	1,212	3,398	3,083
Prior years' claims adjustments	(239)	(155)	(78)	60	(317)	(95)
Total claims incurred	1,697	1,716	1,384	1,272	3,081	2,988
Claims services, road safety and loss management services	242	237	127	112	369	349
Total claims and related costs	1,939	1,953	1,511	1,384	3,450	3,337
Operating expenses	39	36	41	36	80	72
Transformation Program	-	-	15	16	15	16
Premium taxes, commissions and other acquisition costs	190	185	407	344	597	529
Total insurance service expenses	2,168	2,174	1,974	1,780	4,142	3,954
Net expenses (recovery) from reinsurance contracts	2	2	3	11	5	13
Insurance service result	384	306	(112)	(165)	272	141
Realized investment income (loss)	338	307	170	141	508	448
Unrealized gains (losses) on financial investments	212	(415)	108	(191)	320	(606)
Unrealized gains (losses) on derivatives	52	(56)	26	(26)	78	(82)
Net investment income (loss)	602	(164)	304	(76)	906	(240)
Net insurance finance expenses	256	52	102	19	358	71
Other operating expenses (income), non-attributable ³	36	43	38	40	74	83
Net insurance and investment result	694	47	52	(300)	746	(253)
Non-insurance expenses						
Administrative and other	27	26	-	-	27	26
Driver licensing	81	69	-	-	81	69
Commissions	31	28	-	-	31	28
Non-insurance other income	(10)	(7)	-	-	(10)	(7)
Total non-insurance expenses	129	116	-	-	129	116
Loss - non-insurance operations	(129)	(116)	-	-	(129)	(116)
Net income (loss)	\$ 565	\$ (69)	\$ 52	\$ (300)	\$ 617	\$ (369)
Net income (loss) attributable to:						
Non-controlling interest ⁴	\$ -	\$ 2	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ 3
Owner of the corporation	565	(71)	52	(301)	617	(372)
	\$ 565	\$ (69)	\$ 52	\$ (300)	\$ 617	\$ (369)
Insurance Industry Ratios						
%	2023/24	2022/23 ²	2023/24	2022/23 ²	2023/24	2022/23 ²
Loss ratio	89.0	82.6	89.4	88.6	89.1	84.9
Expense ratio	16.9	16.2	28.4	28.0	21.8	20.9
Combined ratio	105.9	98.8	117.8	116.6	110.9	105.8

¹ The financial results are unaudited and contain a number of estimates and assumptions regarding claims costs and savings. Final year end results will be subject to audit.

² 2022/23 actuals are restated to reflect the new accounting standards; the new accounting adjustments are unaudited and final year end results will be subject to audit.

³ Expenses and income not directly related to ICBC providing insurance coverage.

⁴ Non-controlling interest net income is income that is attributable to the minority shareholder of a joint venture who has no control over decisions. Under IFRS, ICBC, as the parent, has to reflect 100% of the net income and disclose separately the portion related to non-controlling interest.

2024/25 ESTIMATES NOTE

ICBC Rebate and Basic Rate

Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: ICBC Rebate and Basic Rate

Question	Response
REBATE	
Preliminary 2023/24 Year End Net Income (at Q4)	Approximately \$1.5B (before rebate) – subject to final audit adjustments
Policyholder Rebate	\$400M Greater-than-forecast results provides the opportunity for one-time rebate and build back of capital reserves
Number of Eligible Policies	3.6 million policies
Estimated Number of Drivers Impacted	2.7 million drivers
Rebate Per Eligible Policy	\$110
RATE	
Current Policy Year	April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2025
Policy Year Extension	April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026
Next BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) Filing Date	December 15, 2025
No overall increase to Basic insurance rates	6 years (since April 2019)

1. Qs and As

1. How is ICBC able to provide a rebate to customers?

- At the end of the fiscal year, ICBC is in a strong financial position thanks not only to better-than-expected investment income but also due to the success of the Enhanced Care insurance model and the work ICBC has done to build back capital reserves.

- ICBC's preliminary net income for fiscal year 2023/24 is roughly \$1.5 billion before the rebate. ICBC's final net income will be released later this summer along with public accounts.
- \$400 million will be rebated to customers and the remainder will go towards capital, ensuring ICBC continues on solid financial ground.

2. What is ICBC's capital situation now?

- Enhanced Care has not only improved affordability and access to recovery benefits, but it's put ICBC back on the road to financial stability.
- It's allowed ICBC to rebuild the capital reserves to the point now where the corporation is in a healthy position.
- An insurer's capital is measured by a ratio called the Minimum Capital Test (MCT).
- ICBC's Basic insurance MCT ratio reached a low of minus 18% in 2019/20.
- With Government and ICBC actions like Enhanced Care, the MCT ratio has been steadily going up and will be higher than 145% after this rebate is taken into account.

3. Why not wait until the numbers are audited to provide a rebate?

- It's not necessary to wait as this rebate will be accounted for in the 2023/24 fiscal year.
- ICBC is in a very stable position with good leadership and believes that the right thing to do is to give policyholders a rebate as soon as possible.

4. ICBC's last financial update indicated a modest net income at the end of the last fiscal year – what happened?

- ICBC anticipated there would be a downturn in the financial markets in the fourth quarter of the last fiscal year, which would have reduced net earnings.
- ICBC bases its investment income forecast on the analysis and advice of BC Investment Management Corporation (BCI), which manages its investment portfolio.
- Fortunately, the downturn didn't materialize, and the investment portfolio did significantly better than expected.
- Another contributor to the net income result is favorable claims costs compared to third-quarter estimates.
- Of the preliminary net income of roughly \$1.5 billion, \$400 million will be rebated to customers and the remainder will go towards capital reserves, ensuring ICBC continues on solid financial ground.

5. What investments did well – are there specific stocks or anything like that you can point to?

- ICBC has about \$18 billion in investments.
- ICBC does not invest in individual stocks; holdings are mainly in pooled funds.
- Most of the higher-than-expected investment income came from public equity pooled funds.
- Preliminary return results from public equity pooled funds showed that they delivered positive returns of approximately 25% this past fiscal year.

2. Background

Rebate

- Due to positive performance and exceptional fiscal management ICBC’s preliminary net income for the fiscal year 2023/24 is an estimated \$1.5 billion, before the rebate. The total amount of the rebate is roughly \$398 million, equivalent to \$110 per eligible insurance policy. Following legislative reforms, the balance will stay with ICBC, helping to stabilize rates for drivers over the long term. The final, audited net income figure along with a full financial summary of the fiscal year will be released this summer.
- All personal and commercial ICBC customers with an average premium equal to or above \$250 in 2022/23 and 2023/24, and who had an active eligible Basic insurance policy in February 2024 will receive the rebate, totaling roughly 3.6 million policies.
- Keeping in mind that one driver can hold multiple policies, ICBC estimates nearly 2.7 million drivers will receive the rebate.
- Vehicles with less than \$250 annual average Basic premium over the two years are not eligible.
- Rebates will be issued by means of direct deposit, applied to credit card, applied to payment plan, and via cheque. How policyholders receive their rebate depends on how they paid for insurance.
- Rebates will be processed from late May to the end of July, with varying delivery times.

○

Policy Year 2023 Extension (April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026)

- The current actuarial indication for Basic rates supports 0% therefore, to ensure continued affordability for customers, ICBC requested a 0% rate change for Basic insurance premiums into fiscal year (FY) 2025/26 by extending the current PY 2023, by one year to March 31, 2026.
- The policy year extension will also defer the need for an ICBC rate application to the BC Utilities Commission until December 2025.

Contact: David Wong - CEO (ICBC)	Phone: ^{Personal Information}
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2024/25 ESTIMATES NOTE

ICBC Affordability

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: ICBC Affordability

Question	Response
Basic Rate Changes Over Time	6.3% - 2019/20 0.0% - 2020/21 -15.0% - 2021/22 0.0% - 2022/23 0.0% - 2023/24 0.0% - 2024/25
No overall increase to Basic insurance rates	5 years (since April 2019)
Current policy year	April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2025

2. Qs and As

1. This government says there is a rate freeze. Why are ratepayers' premiums changing?

- The British Columbia Utilities Commission approved ICBC's application for no overall change to Basic insurance rates for two years, meaning no change to Basic rates up to March 31, 2025.
- However, many factors go into the cost of an individual's Basic insurance. Changes in those factors will impact a customer's premium compared to the prior year, such as the listed drivers, driving history, years of experience, and eligibility for low mileage discounts.
- If a person has Optional coverage, the age, make, model and other features of the vehicle may also impact premiums.

2. Will ICBC be increasing rates in the future?

- Enhanced Care has significantly lowered the cost of auto insurance in B.C. and our goal is to keep rates as affordable as possible.
- The British Columbia Utilities Commission approved ICBC's application for no overall change to Basic insurance rates for two years, meaning no change to Basic rates up to March 31, 2025.

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- ICBC closely monitors insurance trends and any change to Basic rates will require British Columbia Utilities Commission review and approval.

3. Are Optional rates increasing?

- ICBC, like other insurance companies, faces a very challenging business environment with strong inflationary and supply chain pressures; costs are rising rapidly including those to repair and replace vehicles.
- ICBC is constantly monitoring market conditions, collision rates and industry trends to make sure that its Optional insurance pricing is as fair as possible for customers.
- All auto insurers, including ICBC, have had to adjust Optional pricing over the last year in response to inflation and the increasing cost of vehicle repairs.
- ICBC competes with private insurers on Optional insurance. Customers can purchase ICBC’s Optional insurance product through a private insurer.

3. Background

- ICBC is experiencing similar material damage trends as other provinces and the United States.
- Where other auto insurers have been forced to raise rates to address significant increases in inflation and vehicle repair costs, ICBC has been able to keep Basic rates steady with a 0% (or less) rate change for 5 years.

Policy Year 2023 (April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2025)

- On January 10, 2023, a Basic rate change of 0% was approved by the B.C. Utilities Commission for policy year 2023, effective April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2025.
- The British Columbia Utilities Commission also approved ICBC’s plan to continue to build capital levels (at a 7% constant rate) while also promoting rate stability in the long term.

Optional Rate Changes

- ICBC reviews Optional rates on a quarterly basis and adjusts when required in response to changing market conditions and current claims costs.

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2024/25 ESTIMATES NOTE

Enhanced Care Model

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Enhanced Care Model

Question	Response
Enhanced Accident Benefits (as of April 1/24):	
Income Replacement Benefit	\$113,000 per annum (up from \$109,000)
Permanent Impairment Compensation	Up to \$299,670 (up from \$288,144)
Personal Care assistance for catastrophically injured customers	\$11,333 monthly (up from \$10,897)

2. Qs and As

1. How can there be no fault in a crash?

- As in the prior system, ICBC continues to assign responsibility — or fault — for a crash, so people are still held accountable for their actions.
- What has changed is that, while the responsible driver may still see a penalty (like an increase to their insurance premiums, administrative penalties under the *Motor Vehicle Act*, or possible criminal charges based on the details of the incident), everyone involved will get the care they need for injuries without having to sue for compensation, whether responsible or not.

2. It has been alleged that ICBC has reduced claims payments to accident victims compared to under the previous insurance model. What is your response?

- Under Enhanced Care the totality of benefits generally exceeds what most seriously injured British Columbians would have received under the previous system.
- In the first full year of Enhanced Care, over 95% of claims costs went to customers while in the previous system, only roughly 80% went to customers due to high legal costs.

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- Enhanced Care can provide payments for benefits over the lifetime of the injured person as required. Advice/Recommendations

3. Are there concerns that ICBC is directing care under Enhanced Care?

- Ultimately, all decisions about what care a person will receive are made between the customer and their health care providers. ICBC can only make decisions relating to the availability of Enhanced Care coverage for the care sought and works to ensure decisions are aligned to support recovery.
- The goal is to support customers to recover to their pre-crash function.
- If recovery stalls or significantly slows, customers are at risk of unnecessarily prolonging their recovery.
- ICBC’s approach is to build consensus with the customer and health care partners to identify the most effective recovery path.

4. How do you respond to the concerns that under the new model “ICBC doesn’t pay for pain”?

- Enhanced Care covers care that addresses a customer’s pain and functional recovery.
- Immediate access to funding for seven different types of healthcare providers is a key component of ICBC’s commitment to early intervention.
- There are no waiting periods associated with this support, and medical practitioners and many other healthcare providers are paid directly by ICBC in most cases.
- After the early access period, any treatment that directly facilitates functional recovery, inclusive of managing pain and that is an impediment to the customer's ability to function or limits their ability to engage in activities designed to improve function, are covered under Enhanced Care.

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- Collaboration with healthcare providers remains fundamental to achieving successful customer outcomes. ICBC's role is to finance therapy that facilitates functional recovery, while healthcare providers focus on assessing, treating, and managing injuries.
- Enhanced Care provides lump-sum compensation for permanent impairment. Lump sum compensation is determined based on the type of impairment which is assigned a percentage to represent the level of impairment beyond certain thresholds.

5. What would the difference be in benefits for a customer that had catastrophic injuries in a single car crash with an animal, for example, from pre-enhanced care to now?

- Customers in a single car crash (at fault) under the former model had limited support for their care needs when seriously or catastrophically injured.

Benefit	Part 7 (Pre 2019)	RAAP Changes (2019 –2021)	Enhanced Care (2021 – current)
Medical Rehab Benefits	\$150,000	\$300,000	No cap
Total Temporary Disability	\$300/ week	\$740/ week	90% of net income up to \$113,000 per annum
Homemaking /Activities of Daily Living	\$580/ month	\$1120/ month	Up to \$11,333 (based on assessment and injury category) Non-catastrophic up to \$5703

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3. Background

- In the first year of Enhanced Care, customers saved an average of approximately \$490 or 28% on their full coverage personal auto insurance (Basic + Optional). In addition to these savings, Enhanced Care has significantly improved the care, recovery and income replacement benefits for any British Columbian injured in a crash in Canada or the United States. There is no overall limit to the care and recovery benefits available to British Columbians injured in a crash, regardless of fault. Those injured in a crash can have peace of mind knowing they will be supported with benefits that promote recovery.

Enhanced Accident Benefits

- Anyone injured in a crash is pre-approved for a variety of rehabilitation treatments for the first 12 weeks following their collision. These treatments include acupuncture, chiropractic, kinesiology, massage therapy, physiotherapy, counselling, and psychological therapy. These treatments are available without referral.
- Following those first 3 months, ICBC will work with an injured customer's care team, which is led by the customer's health care practitioners, to help them access the services and care benefits that will help them recover as much as possible to their condition before the crash.
- Enhanced Care provides lump-sum compensation for permanent impairment of up to approximately \$299,670 regardless of fault.
- Anyone catastrophically injured in a crash is now entitled to up to \$11,333 per month for 24-hour personal care assistance.

Income Replacement Benefits

- For anyone hurt in a crash and unable to work, ICBC will pay up to 90% of their net income based on a maximum gross income of up to \$113,000 per annum— a significantly higher benefit than the maximum of \$740 per week available under the previous system.
- Those who earn more can choose to purchase optional top-up protection.
- Income replacement benefits are payable after the first seven days from the accident, this has not changed with Enhanced Care.

Enhanced Care vs. Former Litigation-Based System

- With Enhanced Care, a catastrophically injured person does not have to wait years for a costly court settlement that would likely fall short of their care needs and be subject to being reduced by up to 33% in lawyer fees, assuming they have someone to sue – about 40% of people involved in crashes do not sue because their mistake (including split second judgement errors) led to the crash.
- Under the former model, the maximum care and recovery benefit a seriously or catastrophically injured person could receive without going through a lengthy legal process (if they weren't at fault) was up to \$300,000. This would need to pay for all of their care for the rest of their life.
- Beyond receiving all the care benefits needed over one's lifetime, anyone who suffers a catastrophic injury will receive compensation for permanent impairment of up to

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approximately \$299,670. Those with serious, non-catastrophic, permanent injuries may also be eligible for some compensation.

- Unlike a court settlement, Enhanced Care’s medical and rehabilitation benefits are available to an injured person for their lifetime, if needed.
- While Enhanced Accident Benefits are available to all injured parties, drivers who cause crashes or drive dangerously are still held accountable. They will continue to pay more for their insurance and potentially face other, more serious consequences. In addition, surviving victims of a crash can still sue for pain and suffering and other non-compensatory damages if a driver is convicted criminally.

Trial Lawyers Association of BC Constitutional Challenge

- Enhanced Care benefits all British Columbians and similar systems have been successful in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Quebec for years. These systems faced similar challenges when they were introduced and are still operating today.
- Government filed its response to the challenge against Enhanced Care in August 2022. As the matter is before the courts, it would be inappropriate to comment further.

ICBC Claims Disputes

- ICBC is required, by law, to advise and assist every British Columbian with their claim and endeavours to ensure that every person is informed about, and receives, all benefits they are entitled to.
- While ICBC makes every effort to resolve issues that may arise during a claim, there are steps customers can take with ICBC if they disagree with a decision about their claim, including the corporation’s Claims Decision Review process.
- There are options outside of ICBC, including: the independent government-appointed Fairness Officer who may review complaints from individuals who believe the process leading to a decision by ICBC was unfair; the Civil Resolution Tribunal if a customer disagrees with their entitlement to accident benefits; and the B.C. Ombudsperson who continues to be an avenue for those unsatisfied with how their concerns have been dealt with.
- Customers can still retain a lawyer if they wish to seek legal advice for a claim.

Appendix

Appendix - Enhanced Accident Benefits Key Benefits Comparison

Contact: David Wong - CEO (ICBC)	Phone: <small>Personal Information</small>
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Appendix - Enhanced Accident Benefits Key Benefits Comparison

Accident Benefits	Former system	Enhanced Accident Benefits proposed in Feb 2020 Intentions Paper	New limits effective April 1, 2024
Overall care and recovery benefits	\$300,000	\$7.5M	No limit
Income replacement	75% of gross income, up to \$740 per week	Up to 90% of net income based on a maximum of \$93,400 in gross income, with option to purchase higher limits	Up to 90% of net income based on a maximum of \$113,000 in gross income, with option to purchase higher limits
Loss of studies Kindergarten to grade 8 Grade 9 – 12 Select post-secondary studies	N/A	\$5,000 \$10,000 \$20,000	\$6,451 \$11,956 \$23,912
Family enterprise	N/A	\$800/week	\$948
Permanent impairment compensation Catastrophic Non-catastrophic	N/A	\$250,000 \$800 to \$160,000	\$299,670 \$947 to \$189,782 (depending on severity of impairment)
Personal care assistance: Not-catastrophic Catastrophic Catastrophic - 24/hr care	Attendant care part of \$300,000 limit. Primary homemaker benefit up to \$280/week. Same as above. Same as above.	\$4,800/month \$5,700/month \$10,000/month	\$5,703/month \$6,820/month \$11,333/month
Reimbursement of care expense benefit 1 person 2 people 3 people 4 or more people	N/A	\$120/week \$160/week \$200/week \$240/week	\$165/week \$210/week \$256/week \$301/week
Caregiver benefit 1 person 2 people 3 people 4 or more people	N/A	\$465/week \$515/week \$565/week \$600/week	\$661/week \$719/week \$775/week \$814/week

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Accident Benefits	Former system	Enhanced Accident Benefits proposed in Feb 2020 Intentions Paper	New limits effective April 1, 2024
Recreation benefit	N/A	\$500 to \$4,000/2 years (depending on severity of impairment)	\$567 to \$4,533/2 years (depending on severity of impairment)
Extended benefit for catastrophically injured	N/A	\$1,200,000	\$1,393,816
Death Benefits			
Spouse	\$30,000	\$60,000 - \$500,000	\$75,915 minimum (max. is limited by the cap on gross yearly employment income up to \$544,840)
Dependant	6,000 each	\$30,000 to \$60,000 each	\$36,057 to \$67,996 each
Dependant with disabilities (additional amount)	N/A	\$28,000	\$33,212
Non-dependant child or parent	N/A	\$14,000 each	\$16,906 each
Funeral expenses	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$10,347
Grief counselling	N/A	\$3,500 total (per deceased)	\$4,327 per eligible person per deceased
Travel expenses to attend insured in critical care	N/A	\$4,600	\$5,637 if 1 individual \$2,818 per individual if 2

**Limits are inclusive of indexing for 2023 and rounded to the nearest dollar, where applicable*

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2024/25 ESTIMATES NOTE

Road Test Wait Times –
Driver Licensing

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Road Test Wait Times – Driver Licensing

Question	Response
Number of ICBC offices where driver licensing and/or road testing services are available	124
% Availability to book a Class 5 RT within 60 days	37% (as of Mar 11) - 12,454 available appointments
% Availability to book a Class 7 RT within 60 days	40% (as of Mar 11) - 12,119 available appointments
Percentage of class 5 or 7 road tests booked within 60 days (FY2024 YTD)	74% (FY2023 – 71%) - 665,333 Total RT bookings
Road test pass rate (FY2024 YTD)	52% (FY2023 – 52%)
Knowledge test pass rate (FY 2024 YTD)	57% (FY2023 – 58%)
Knowledge test wait time (FY 2024 Apr – Nov)	12 days
Knowledge test wait time (FY 2024 Dec – Feb)	2 days

2. Qs and As

1. What is ICBC doing to ensure that road testing appointments are available for all classes of licences across B.C.?

- Driver licensing regularly reviews demand for testing against its workforce and adjusts appointment types.
- This review includes immediate, short-term and longer-term assessments.

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2. What is ICBC doing to improve accessibility to knowledge and road testing?

- ICBC has significantly improved availability of testing over the last 12 months by adding resources in multiple locations.
- In addition, the Driver Licensing team is enhancing their outreach to provide mobile licensing services to remote Indigenous communities.

3. Are there any plans to provide more online Driver Licensing services in the near future?

- ICBC is working closely with government on plans to modernize many of the services, processes and legacy technology in driver licensing to provide customers with new and expanded online service options and improve accessibility for all British Columbians.

2. Background

- To date, ICBC has:
 - Provided road tests on Saturdays at certain locations, since February 2023.
 - Utilized ICBC Claim Centres for additional road-testing locations throughout the province to meet local needs.
 - In December 2023, moved counter and knowledge testing services from Guildford Driver Licensing office to Guildford Corporate Centre. This increased counter service appointments by 35,000, and 18,000 knowledge test appointments annually.
 - In January 2024, ICBC opened a dedicated road test centre at the former Guildford Driver Licensing Office, boosting the number of road tests done annually in Surrey by 20,000.
 - Re-introduced stand-by road tests in June 2022 at ICBC Driver Licensing Offices, allowing customers a same-day test option to fill no show appointments.
 - Re-designed the road test to reduce the number of duplicated maneuvers, while maintaining the integrity of the test. This aligns ICBC road test times with other Canadian jurisdictions and will allow two additional road tests per day, per driving examiner.
- In the near term, ICBC will:
 - Continue to monitor locations for spikes in wait times and move driver examiners to locations where demand dictates focused resourcing.

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Road Test Availability

- Despite increased demands, 74% of customers booking a class 5 or 7 road test in B.C. were able to take their road tests within 60 days of booking during FY2024 compared to 71% in FY2023.
- Unprepared drivers who repeatedly fail their road tests further drive appointment demand. In 2022, about 20% of road tests (class 5 and 7) were taken up by customers who were on at least their third road test attempt, and 8.5% of drivers needed four or more attempts to pass their Class 5 and 7 road tests.
 - ICBC has a policy requiring longer waiting periods between retests for people who fail their road tests. The change was intended to incentivize customers to be adequately prepared and safe on the road.

Translation

- ICBC’s “Learn to Drive Smart” guide is available in Chinese, Punjabi, Farsi, Korean and Vietnamese (July 2023).
- Knowledge tests can be taken in 12 languages (English, French, Punjabi, Mandarin, Cantonese, Farsi, Arabic, Russian, Spanish, Croatian, Vietnamese and Ukrainian).

Contact: David Wong - CEO (ICBC)	Phone: ^{Personal Information}
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2024/25 ESTIMATES NOTE

Material Damage

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Material Vehicle Damage

Question	Response
Glass Supplier Compensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-year rate framework resulted in a 3% annual increase for 2022 & 2023 and up to 3% for 2024
Collision Supplier Compensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In October 2022, ICBC announced an additional adjustment for collision suppliers, equivalent to a 10% increase (6.6% labour rate and 3.4% for three new billable fees). Coupled with the new rate framework, these suppliers are receiving the equivalent of a 19% increase in rates over three years.
Towing Supplier Compensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-year rate framework which resulted in a 6.7% increase combining 2022 and 2023 and up to 3% in 2024
Commercial Supplier Compensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10% labour rate increase in 2022 followed by a 3% increase in 2023 and up to 3% in 2024.
ICBC Industry Liaison Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 industry liaison committees with Collision, Glass, Towing, Recycling and Heavy Truck industries.
Industry Support and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICBC supports body shops with a tooling grant of \$1,500 for technicians completing level 1 of their red seal apprentice program. ICBC also supports mentoring and coaching of body shop apprenticeships with a grant of \$1,000 per apprentice per level of completion.

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2. Qs and As

1. What is ICBC doing to ensure collision repair service is available in rural and remote communities?

- Like other industries, there is a growing shortage of qualified technicians in the collision repair industry. This has contributed to delays in vehicle repair wait times, which are occurring across the province. ICBC is actively working with the collision repair industry to help address some of these concerns, including helping the collision repair and towing industries with funding for apprenticeships and training.
- Collision repair facilities need to make ongoing investments in their technicians and equipment. It is the vehicle manufacturers, not ICBC, who set the standards for what equipment is necessary to complete safe and proper vehicle repairs. ICBC relies on the collision industry and manufacturers to prescribe the necessary equipment and uses this information to set the requirements that repair facilities must follow to be a participant of the ICBC Collision Repair Program.
- ICBC will be providing a labour rate increase up to 3% on July 1, 2024.
- For the 3rd consecutive year, ICBC will be providing an increase in the paint and material rate. In 2024 this will equate to a 4.3% in paint and a 1.8% body material increase. This is in addition to the 9% in paint and 5% in body material increase ICBC provided in 2023, and the 12.5% in paint and 6.8% in body material increases in 2022.

2. What is ICBC doing to help the towing industry faced with increasing cost pressures?

- ICBC is listening to tow suppliers' concerns and is committed to its towing and storage compensation methodology and framework; any updates will be discussed through industry liaison.
- ICBC will be providing a labour rate increase up to 3% on July 1, 2024.

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3. What is ICBC doing to address collision repair wait times that are impacting a customer’s ability to get their vehicle fixed?

- Lengthier wait times are being seen across North America.
- In some areas outside of the Lower Mainland, repair shop wait times are well above the overall B.C. average. This is due, in part, to fewer technicians being available, limited access and longer waits for replacement parts, and having fewer repair shops.
- ICBC is looking at new work processes, new technologies and researching strategies in other jurisdictions to help address growing wait times and supporting customers while their vehicles are being repaired.

3. Background

- A multi-year rate schedule provides ICBC material damage partners with consistency and helps them better plan for future years, while delivering on our commitment in keeping rates affordable for British Columbians.

Collision

- 3-year rate framework resulted in a 3% annual increase for 2022 & 2023 and up to 3% for 2024.
- Additional operational fees and labour rate updates were made in Oct 2022, equivalent to a 10% increase.
- For the third consecutive year ICBC will be giving an increase in paint and material rate. In 2024 this will equate to a 4.3% in paint and a 1.8% body material. This is in addition to the 9% in paint and 5% in body material increase we gave in 2023, and the 12.5% in paint and 6.8% in body material increases we gave in 2022.

Glass

- In October 2023, glass program was redesigned rewarding top performers. \$3M in annual forecasted rebates. As of Mar 2024, there has been \$487K in accumulated rebates.

Skilled Labour

- Beyond rate increases, ICBC continues to address other challenges including helping the collision repair and towing industries with issues related to labour shortages and training. Initiatives include funding for collision repair apprentices and training that focuses on different themes that are critical for industry, such as safety and workplace behavioural changes.

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- Material Damage Strategy focuses on addressing industry sustainment, capacity and cost control. Short-term initiatives are focused on supply constraints, while long-term initiatives aim to solve key issues impacting industry sustainment, such as an aging workforce and challenges associated with attracting and retaining technicians.
- ICBC is contributing up to \$1.5 million over 6 years to help build further capacity for their industries for the long term.
- The initiatives are designed to develop skills and talents of British Columbians looking for a fulfilling career in the collision repair industry. ICBC is offering the incentives for a limited period to gauge their effectiveness.
- ICBC has seen a 7.3% increase in active apprentices since the apprenticeship incentives were announced and continue to evaluate the future incentives programs through industry consultation that looks to improve attraction into the collision repair trade.
- ICBC Funded roughly 200 tow operator employees in completing their EV friendly Tow Operator or Emergency Response Traffic Control for the Tow and Recovery Operators Course.

- Number of Collision Program Participants
 - 2021 – 514 suppliers
 - 2022 – 500 suppliers
 - 2023 – 483 suppliers
 - 2024 – 476 suppliers

Contact: David Wong - CEO (ICBC)	Phone: <small>Personal Information</small>
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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Estimates 2024/25 Briefing Book**

**Liquor Distribution Branch
Table of Contents**

Estimate Notes

1. Liquor Distribution Branch Organization Overview
2. Liquor Overview
3. Cannabis Overview
4. Alberta Wine Dispute

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2024/25 ESTIMATES

Liquor Distribution Branch
Organization Overview

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Liquor Distribution Branch - Operational Overview

Question	Response
Number of BC LIQUOR Stores (BCL)	198 (compared to over 900 private liquor retailers, including over 220 rural licensee stores)
Number of BC Cannabis Stores (BCCS)	39 (compared to over 480 private cannabis retailers)
Number of liquor wholesale distribution centres	2 (Delta and Kamloops)
Number of cannabis wholesale distribution centres	1 (Richmond)
Number of employees across the province	Approximately 5,600 (3,000 regular, full-time and over 2,500 auxiliary and regular, part-time)
Retail fundraising total in FY 2023/24	\$1.9M for local charities and humanitarian causes

TOPIC: Liquor Distribution Branch - Budget Overview

Budget (\$ in millions)	2022/23 Actuals	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Plan	2026/27 Plan
Revenue	\$3,874	\$3,958	\$3,970	\$4,039	\$4,082
Gross Margin	\$1,710	\$1,706	\$1,693	\$1,719	\$1,736
Operating Expenses	\$530	\$571	\$618	\$641	\$650
Other Income ¹	\$18	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15
Net Income	\$1,198	\$1,150	\$1,090²	\$1,093³	\$1,101
Capital	\$16	\$25	\$34	\$27	\$29

¹Includes revenue from audit assessments, cannabis delivery charges, border collections, airline billings, sales data reports, and miscellaneous other revenue.

²Net income target reduced by \$80M from previous Service Plan projection of \$1,170M.

³Net income target reduced by \$101M from previous Service Plan projection of \$1,194M.

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TOPIC: Liquor Distribution Branch - Capital Projects Overview

LDB Capital (\$ in millions)	2022/23 Actuals	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Plan	2026/27 Plan
Operating Capital ⁴	\$10	\$24	\$31	\$24	\$25
Capital Projects ⁵	\$6	\$1	\$3	\$3	\$4
Total Capital	\$16	\$25	\$34	\$27	\$29

⁴Includes operating and IT equipment, vehicles, and retail store upgrades.

⁵Includes IT capital projects.

2. Qs and As**1. Why are the BC Liquor Distribution Branch's net income projections lower than anticipated? What will the branch do to ensure net income targets are met moving forward?**

- The Liquor Distribution Branch is projecting being able to reduce its expenses to successfully meet its net income target for FY 2023/24 (\$1.15B).
- B.C. is currently experiencing slow economic growth, which is impacting discretionary consumer spending across all sectors, including on liquor and cannabis. These circumstances are due in part to:
 - Rising inflation and high interest rates;
 - World events that are increasing supply chain costs; and
 - Hospitality and small business insolvencies, which have increased by 40 per cent since 2022.
- Adverse economic factors, combined with changing consumer habits, (e.g., younger generations that are drinking less than previous generations) have resulted in lower actual and projected revenues for the branch.

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- With the current economic conditions expected to continue, the Liquor Distribution Branch has updated its net income targets for the coming fiscal years. These forecasts reflect lowered revenue expectations and the need to invest in capital projects that support long-term revenue growth, business modernization, and competitiveness.
- The branch continues to explore measures to increase net income and reduce operating expenses.

2. What steps is government taking to address the challenges with the Liquor Distribution Branch's distribution systems that could mitigate potential supply chain disruptions?

- The branch's distribution systems provide a safe and reliable wholesale distribution framework across multiple channels.
- The Liquor Distribution Branch worked closely with industry partners to successfully mitigate widespread, extended disruptions to the supply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as during recent wildfires and floods.
- Lessons learned from each crisis inform the branch's efforts to improve its operational processes and modernize its IT systems to mitigate potential supply chain disruptions in the future.

Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

- At the same time, the branch will continue work on modernizing current processes and systems within its warehouse operations to improve visibility, efficiency, and accuracy throughout the order management process.

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3. Background

- The Liquor Distribution Branch, under the direction of a General Manager and CEO, is the sole wholesaler of liquor and non-medical cannabis in B.C. and operates 198 public liquor stores and 39 public cannabis stores across the province.
- While it is not a Crown corporation, the Liquor Distribution Branch is required to comply with the requirements of a Crown agency in relation to its financial reporting.
- Revenue generated by the branch contributes over \$1B annually (\$1.15B in FY 2023/24) to the Province and supports vital public services like health care and education, benefitting all people in B.C.
- The branch invests in capital and operating projects to support the modernization of its business, sustainable economic growth, the creation of well-paying jobs, and improved services to the people of B.C.
- Over the next three fiscal years, investments in capital and operating projects will primarily go towards BC Liquor and BC Cannabis Store updates and upgrades to operating and IT equipment.

Contact: Blain Lawson, General Manager and CEO (LDB)	Phone: 604-252-7412	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2024/25 ESTIMATES

Liquor Overview

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Liquor Overview

Provincial Liquor Sales by Fiscal Year and Manufacturer Location (\$ in millions)					
Product	Fiscal Year	BC	Canada	International	Total
Beer	2020/21	\$820	\$135	\$158	\$1,116
	2021/22	\$827	\$188	\$115	\$1,135
	2022/23	\$844	\$195	\$119	\$1,158
	Government Financial Information				
Spirits	2020/21	\$30	\$375	\$594	\$999
	2021/22	\$35	\$384	\$625	\$1,044
	2022/23	\$39	\$401	\$649	\$1,089
	Government Financial Information				
Wine	2020/21	\$609	\$11	\$652	\$1,272
	2021/22	\$606	\$10	\$689	\$1,305
	2022/23	\$623	\$9	\$626	\$1,258
	Government Financial Information				

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Product	Fiscal Year	BC	Canada	International	Total
Refreshment Beverage	2020/21	\$186	\$195	\$40	\$421
	2021/22	\$184	\$223	\$43	\$450
	2022/23	\$191	\$227	\$41	\$459

Government Financial Information

2. Qs and As

1. What is the BC Liquor Distribution Branch doing to improve distribution of non-stocked wholesale product and refreshment beverage?

- When it comes to the distribution of non-stocked wholesale product and refreshment beverage, the branch continues to work towards addressing the concerns, Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information
Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

- Additional steps being taken include modernizing current processes and systems within the branch’s warehouse operations to improve visibility, efficiency, and accuracy throughout the order management process.

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2. What steps is government taking to support B.C. wineries that are faced with a significant crop shortage this year?

- Given the significance of the widespread challenges impacting both grape growers and wineries, the recovery support response requires coordination and collaboration across ministries.
- In recognition of the urgency to provide immediate support, government announced the enhanced replant program on March 13, 2024, that will provide as much as \$70 million to help producers replace damaged, diseased and low-producing vines, plants and trees with climate-resilient varieties that produce in-demand, premium fruit.

Land-based wineries

- To support land-based wineries currently being impacted by a grape shortage in B.C., the LDB has informed the wineries of the option to apply for a one-year exemption to the land-based winery criteria – that 25 per cent of their manufactured input must come from owned or leased land in B.C. – if they anticipate difficulty meeting this requirement. If granted, the winery would retain its land-based winery classification and associated benefits.
- If a land-based winery chooses, they can request conversion to a commercial winery classification which would allow them to use out-of-province inputs and grape juice or wine from other commercial wineries. The winery would be subject to the commercial winery sales agreement for the duration of the conversion. To convert back to the land-based winery classification, the winery will be required to meet all the criteria, including depleting all wine made with non-BC grapes.

Grape shortage

Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

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Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

- This work involves establishing a cross-government working group with representatives from the branch, the Crown Agencies Secretariat, the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation.

Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

- Following completion of the above, the branch will be reviewing the winery sales agreements to ensure they continue to align with government policy objectives, including promoting the use of B.C. agricultural inputs, supporting agri-tourism, encouraging the growth of small B.C. businesses, and fostering employment and economic activity.

Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

- The Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch implemented a suite of changes that will allow B.C.'s liquor manufacturers, including wineries, to offer enhanced visitor experiences at production sites that will support direct sales of packaged liquor providing manufacturers with the best retail margins for those products.
- Government is committed to the long-term success of the industry and we will continue to identify and assess immediate short-term and medium-term solutions to support B.C. grape growers and wineries.

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3. What steps is government taking to support the liquor industry while encouraging British Columbians to follow the Canadian Centre for Substance Use and Addictions guidelines for reduced liquor consumption?

- The Liquor Distribution Branch will continue to support government’s mandate of prioritizing public health and safety and promoting responsible consumption and awareness of the risks associated with consuming liquor.
- B.C.’s liquor industry is important to the economy and the branch remains committed to supporting growth of the industry as well as balancing the shared responsibility of all industry stakeholders to support the responsible use of liquor.

Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

- The branch continues to work in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, with input from the liquor industry, to update mandatory social responsibility materials for liquor licensees. The current theme is “Know the Risks”, which brings attention to the risks associated with alcohol consumption.

3. Background

Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

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Confidential

LDB 2

Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

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Review of LDB Manufacturer Sales Agreements

- To support its review of manufacturer sales agreements, the LDB has begun industry engagement with the winery sector through the distribution of an online survey (open January 15 to February 9, 2024) to all winery sales agreement holders and related industry associations to gather their perspectives on common ownership rules and key challenges facing the sector.
- Analysis of the results and planning for upcoming regional in-person/virtual roundtables with survey respondents to discuss the issues and themes identified in the survey responses, is currently on hold pending completion of the work to assess the recent grape shortage-related requests described above.
- The review of the brewery and distillery sales agreements is expected to begin later this year, starting with industry engagement, which will provide these manufacturing sectors with an opportunity to share input into the industry requests noted above.
- Feedback received during the consultation process will inform the LDB’s policy analysis, and the sales agreement review will conclude with the development of options for government decision.

Contact: Blain Lawson, General Manager and CEO (LDB)	Phone: 604-252-7412	Mobile: Government Financial Information
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2024/25 ESTIMATES

Cannabis Overview

1. Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Cannabis Overview

Question	Response
Provincial Cannabis Sales by Fiscal Year	
2020/21	\$327M
2021/22	\$421M
2022/23	\$491M

Government Financial Information

2. Qs and As

1. What is the BC Liquor Distribution Branch response to private retailers who feel like they can't compete with BC Cannabis Stores because the prices are too low and claim BC Cannabis Stores are operating at a loss?

- There are over 480 private cannabis retailers licensed to operate in BC, compared to 39 BC Cannabis Stores operating throughout the province.
- The Liquor Distribution Branch does not have plans to expand its cannabis retail network.
- The BC Cannabis Store network is required to balance its need to be profitable with staying competitive with the illicit market, which government has been mandated to eliminate.
- Private retailers are responsible for determining the retail mark-up of their product assortment, providing they do not price products below the wholesale price.

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- For transparency with private sector competitors, the branch has previously shared that BC Cannabis Stores aims to maintain a blended retail margin of 30 per cent across its various product categories.
- Like all cannabis retailers, BC Cannabis Stores are often required to lower prices on products that have experienced poor sales to avoid product expiry write-offs.

2. What is the Liquor Distribution Branch doing to support the cannabis sector?

- The branch is committed to supporting the cannabis sector and will continue to work closely with its industry partners and government counterparts to ensure the continued development of a successful and sustainable cannabis industry for all stakeholders and to support the government's mandate to eliminate the illicit market.
- In April 2023, the branch made the following changes for cannabis licensed producers in response to industry requests:
 - Eliminated the requirement for licensed producers to maintain insurance coverage for product recall expenses, which was being underutilized and assessed to be an excessive requirement, saving individual licensed producers up to \$100K annually;
 - Reduced the reporting requirement for licensed producers participating in the Direct Delivery program from weekly to bi-weekly to reduce administrative burden; and
 - Changed payments terms from 30 to 14 days to improve licensed producer cash flow.
- As part of its efforts to support Indigenous and small-scale producer participation and help grow a robust, diverse, and sustainable regulated cannabis industry in BC, the branch remains committed to a review of central distribution cannabis mark-up, as well as a review of the Direct Delivery program, including program eligibility and mark-up.

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3. What is the Liquor Distribution Branch doing to support Indigenous participation in the legal cannabis market?

- The branch continues to support government’s efforts toward lasting and meaningful reconciliation.
- In January 2022, the LDB introduced the BC Indigenous Cannabis Product program, which promotes greater visibility of Indigenous licensed producers and their products to both wholesale and retail customers.
- As part of the Liquor Distribution Branch’s Direct Delivery program, launched in August 2022, special consideration was given to Section 119 agreement holders including authorization to exceed the 3,000 kg annual production limit while continuing to direct deliver to their own stores.
- The branch plans to conduct a review of central distribution mark-up, and direct delivery mark-up and eligibility, including the development of Indigenous-specific options for each to ensure these policies are meeting their objectives, including support for Indigenous licensed producers in the legal market. Government will provide updates to Indigenous stakeholders on opportunities to provide input as this work progresses.

3. Background

Industry Requests and Issues

- Licensed producers have consistently and urgently requested the elimination or reduction of the wholesale mark-up for products sold through the Direct Delivery program.
- Industry stakeholders continue to request government’s support to advocate for federal excise tax relief and changes to the federal cannabis framework to improve competitiveness with the illicit market.
 - The federal excise tax is legislated on specific goods or services, including cannabis, charged at the time of packaging.
 - The current federal excise tax rate for cannabis is \$1/ gram or 10 per cent of the cost per gram, whatever is higher. It is estimated that up to 30 per cent of LP revenue goes to excise taxes.

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Cannabis Mark-up and Direct Delivery Program Review

- Government has committed to conducting a review of cannabis central distribution mark-up, direct delivery mark-up, and direct delivery eligibility, including Indigenous-specific options for each.

Advice/Recommendations

Cannabis Direct Delivery Program

- Launched in August 2022, the LDB’s Direct Delivery program permits eligible licensed cannabis cultivators working with licensed cannabis processors to direct deliver their product to BC retailers, bypassing the LDB’s central distribution system.
- The Direct Delivery program has since grown to include approximately 100 participating, BC-based small-scale and Indigenous licensed cultivators representing approximately \$13M in direct sales in 2023.

Contact: Blain Lawson, General Manager and CEO (LDB)	Phone: 604-252-7412	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2024/25 ESTIMATES

Alberta Wine Dispute

TOPIC: Alberta Wine Dispute

1. Qs and As

1. What progress has government made to try and resolve the wine dispute with Alberta?

- The notice in January of Alberta taking action to stop direct-to-consumer delivery of wine from B.C. producers. is concerning to government.
- During an already challenging time, B.C. wineries need a collaborative approach from our two provincial governments.

Intergovernmental Communications

- It is in the interests of both provinces to find a mutually beneficial solution that will maintain fairness in the marketplace.
- However, B.C. is not prepared to impact other B.C. liquor sectors to negotiate a solution on wine.
- The Wine Grower's of BC is concerned about the administrative fairness of Alberta's actions. The B.C. government supports industry in pursuing a resolution to these concerns.
- Ministry staff continue to monitor the situation and are working closely with the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation, and the Ministry of Finance to resolve this issue in a way that both protects and benefits our wineries.

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2. Background

- On January 22, 2024, the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission sent a cease-and-desist letter to approximately 100 BC wineries alleging they have been breaking Alberta laws by shipping their wine directly to Alberta residents, bypassing the AB wholesale importation and distribution system and evading the applicable mark-ups and taxes owed to the Government of Alberta.
- The letter stated that the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission’s central warehousing facilities will no longer accept shipments from these wineries for distribution through the Alberta liquor retail system until it receives a written notice from each winery agreeing to immediately cease direct-to-consumer shipping to Alberta.
- This move effectively denies these B.C. wineries access to Alberta’s private retailers and hospitality customers (e.g., bars, restaurants, and pubs).
- On January 24, 2024, the Wine Growers of BC sent a letter to the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission alleging that Alberta’s actions lack proper legal authority Legal Information
- The lawyer hired by the wine industry has also indicated in the media that the Alberta could be vulnerable to judicial review.
- The concerns raised by Alberta are long standing issues between B.C. and AB and, given the complexity and multiple stakeholder interests, will take time to resolve.

Contact: Tracee Schmidt, ADM & EFO, Crown Agencies Secretariat	Phone: <small>Government Financial Information</small>	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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