



**Ministry of Public Safety and
Solicitor General
Estimates 2025/26**

Briefing Book

Confidential

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Estimates 2025/26 Briefing Book**

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Estimates Notes Index by Alphabetical Topic

Topic	Section	Note #
Adult Custody Recruitment	BC Corrections	BCCORR 5
Border Security	Policing and Security Branch	PSB 4
Cannabis Economy – Indigenous Participation	Liquor and Cannabis Issues	LCRB 2
Cannabis Enforcement – First Nations	Policing and Security Branch	PSB 10
Civil Forfeiture Program and Priorities	Community Safety and Victim Services Branch	CSVS 2
Community Safety and Victim Services Programs	Community Safety and Victim Services Branch	CSVS 1
Coroner Attendance at Deaths in the Community	BC Coroners Service	BCCS 4
Correctional Centre Space Designated Under Mental Health Act	BC Corrections	BCCORR 2
Death Investigation System in BC - Coroners vs Medical Examiners	BC Coroners Service	BCCS 5
Driver Medical Fitness	RoadSafetyBC	RSBC 2
E-Comm Review and South Island Dispatch	Corporate Strategic Initiatives Branch	CSI 3
Enhanced Care Model	Insurance Corporation of BC	ICBC 3
Fire Safety Act Implementation	Office of the Fire Commissioner	OFC 2
Gambling Regulatory Framework Implementation	Gaming Issues	GPEB 2

Topic	Section	Note #
Gender-based Violence	Community Safety and Victim Services Branch	CSVS 4
Horse Racing Economic Review	Gaming Issues	GPEB 3
ICBC Affordability	Insurance Corporation of BC	ICBC 2
ICBC Efficiency	Insurance Corporation of BC	ICBC 5
ICBC Financial Update	Insurance Corporation of BC	ICBC 1
Indigenous Over-Representation - BC Corrections Response	BC Corrections	BCCORR 3
Indigenous Policing Programs	Policing and Security Branch	PSB 3
Inquests	BC Coroners Service	BCCS 3
Intersection Safety Cameras Expansion	RoadSafetyBC	RSBC 1
Justice Institute of BC	Policing and Security Branch	PSB 9
LDB Overview and Financial Update	Liquor Distribution Branch	LDB 1
Liquor Licensing Modernization	Liquor and Cannabis Issues	LCRB 3
Material Damage	Insurance Corporation of BC	ICBC 4
Next Generation 911	Corporate Strategic Initiatives Branch	CSI 2
Online Gambling	Gaming Issues	GPEB 1
Organized Crime	Policing and Security Branch	PSB 1
Path Forward: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQ+ People	Community Safety and Victim Services Branch	CSVS 3

Topic	Section	Note #
Policing and Public Safety Modernization – Police Act Reform	Corporate Strategic Initiatives Branch	CSI 1
Post-mortem Diagnostics (Autopsy & Toxicology)	BC Coroners Service	BCCS 1
Protest Monitoring	Policing and Security Branch	PSB 5
Provincial Police Services (RCMP) - Provincial \$230M Investment	Policing and Security Branch	PSB 2
Public Drug Use – Prescription Drug Diversion and Enforcement	Policing and Security Branch	PSB 11
Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative	BC Corrections	BCCORR 1
Safer Communities and Street Disorder	Corporate Strategic Initiatives Branch	CSI 4
Segregation	BC Corrections	BCCORR 4
Situation Tables/Intervention Circles	Policing and Security Branch	PSB 7
Special Investigation and Targeted Enforcement (SITE)	Policing and Security Branch	PSB 6
State of Cannabis Industry	Liquor and Cannabis Issues	LCRB 1
Surrey Police Transition	Policing and Security Branch	PSB 8
Tariff Impacts	Insurance Corporation of BC	ICBC 6
Tariff Impacts	Liquor Distribution Branch	LDB 2
Unregulated Drug Crisis	BC Coroners Service	BCCS 2
Violation Tickets – Fines and Points	RoadSafetyBC	RSBC 3
Volunteer and Rural Fire Services Funding	Office of the Fire Commissioner	OFC 1

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Estimates 2025/26 Briefing Book**

**Financial Overview
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Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General Budget 2025 Key Messages

ISSUE SUMMARY:

- The overall budget for the ministry is \$1,137.182 million, which represents a \$54.054 million increase, or 5.0 percent, from 2024/25 (restated). Reconciliation of budget changes is detailed in section 2.
- The overall increase against 2024/25 (restated) includes the following:
 - \$27.900 million for RCMP Wage Increase.
 - \$6.596 million for wage related increases.
 - \$5.010 million for Crime Victim Assistance Program Modernization to provide financial assistance and benefits to victims/witnesses in their recovery from the impacts of violent crime.
 - \$5.000 million for Body-worn cameras due to national program rollout and ongoing costs including purchase, maintenance, digital storage and training costs.
 - \$1.798 million for First Nations and Inuit Policing Program to allow increased funding to stabilize and improve services received by First Nations.
 - \$1.690 million for Electronic supervision to support the increased costs to monitor offenders and their compliance with court-ordered conditions.
 - \$1.484 million for Coroners' operational pressures including multi-year contracts required for body transport and storage, DNA testing and inquests, management of dedicated body storage and coordination of field operations and coroners' investigations.

- \$1.096 million to support incremental costs from the *Fire Safety Act* implementation.
- \$0.606 million for Police Modernization so the ministry can continue to co-develop new policing and oversight legislation with Indigenous leadership and local government leaders.
- \$0.175 million for Ministers Office Adjustment which includes the creation of the Minister of State for Community Safety and Integrated Services Office.
- \$2.699 million primarily for the Nanaimo Correctional Centre Public Safety Programs, Corrections Food Services Contract from Budget 2024 and minor incremental Budget 2023 decisions

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

2025/26 Summary of Ministry Changes

a. Three Year Service Plan Comparison

(\$ millions)	2024/25*	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
2024/25 Plan*	1,083.128	1,085.827	1,087.421	1,087.421
2025/26 Plan	1,083.128	1,137.182	1,139.306	1,138.680
Plan over Plan Change		\$51.355	\$51.885	\$51.259
Plan over Plan % Change		4.73%	4.77%	4.71%
Year over Year Change		\$54.054	\$2.124	(\$0.626)
Year over Year % Change		4.99%	0.19%	-0.05%

*2024/25 restated

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

2025/26 Summary of Ministry Changes

b. Plan-over-Plan Changes

Plan over Plan Changes	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
<u>Budget 2025 Decisions</u>	(\$ millions)		
RCMP Wage Increase	27.900	27.900	27.900
Wage Mandate	5.463	5.463	5.463
CVAP Modernization	5.010	5.010	5.010
Body Worn Cameras	5.000	5.000	5.000
First Nations and Inuit Policing Program	1.798	1.847	1.899
CORR Electronic Supervision	1.690	1.690	1.690
BCCS Structural Pressures	1.484	1.506	1.506
CORR Special Management Compensation Adj	1.134	1.134	1.134
Fire Safety Act	1.096	1.554	1.482
Police Modernization	0.606	0.606	-
Minister's Office Adj	0.175	0.175	0.175
Corporate Services Secretariat Adjustment	(0.001)	-	-
Net Change	51.355	51.885	51.259

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

2025/26 Summary of Ministry Changes

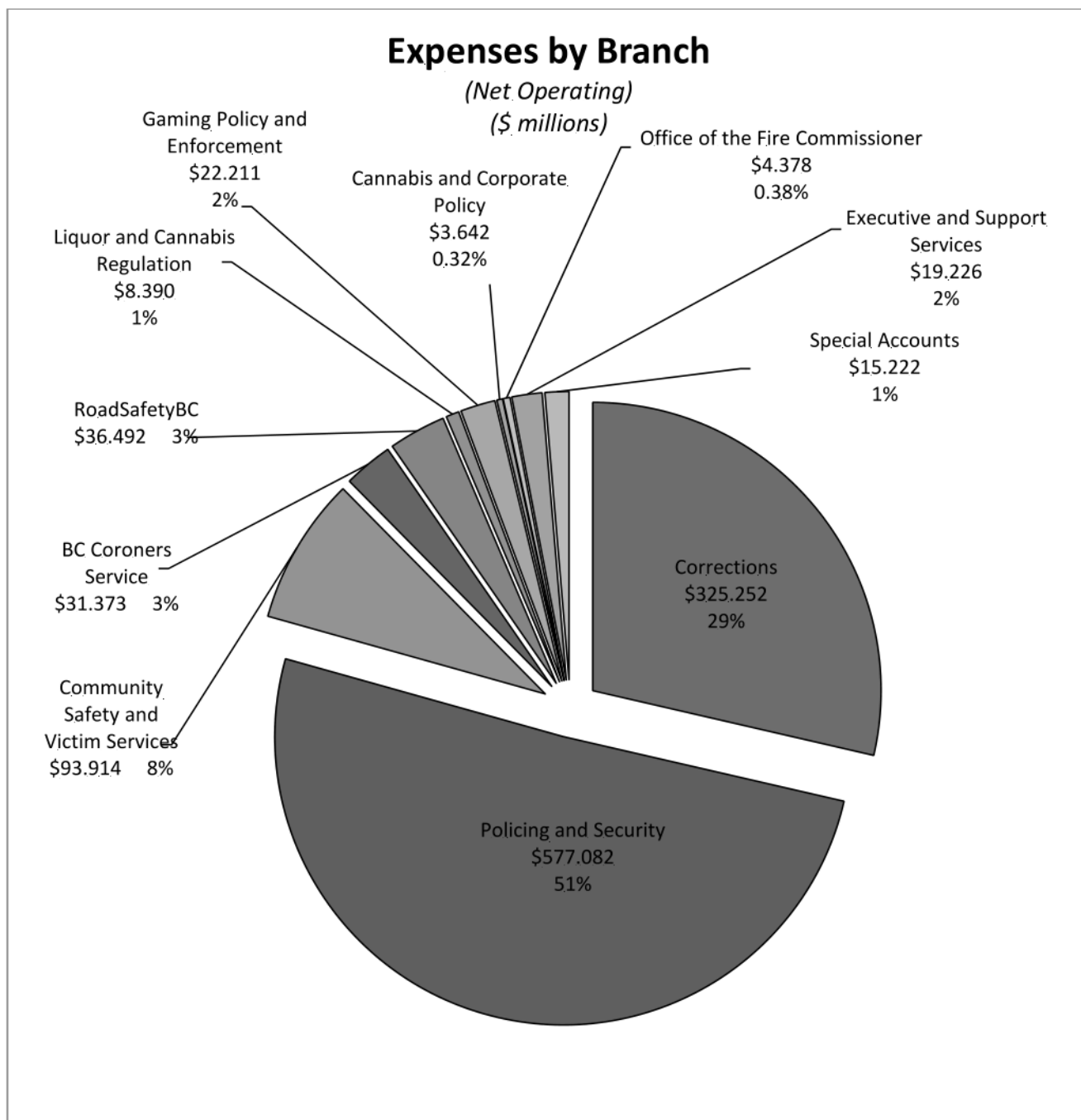
c. Year-over-Year Changes

Year over Year Changes	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
<u>Budget 2025 Decisions</u>	(\$ millions)		
RCMP Wage Increase	27.900	-	-
Wage Mandate	5.463	-	-
CVAP Modernization	5.010	-	-
Body Worn Cameras	5.000	-	-
First Nations and Inuit Policing Program	1.798	0.049	0.052
CORR Electronic Supervision	1.690	-	-
BCCS Structural Pressures	1.484	0.022	-
CORR Special Management Compensation Adj	1.134	-	-
Fire Safety Act	1.096	0.458	(0.072)
Police Modernization	0.606	-	(0.606)
Minister's Office Adj	0.175	-	-
Corporate Services Secretariat Adjustment	(0.001)	-	-
Sub-Total	51.355	0.529	(0.626)
<u>Prior Year Funding Decisions</u>			
<u>Budget 2024:</u>			
NCC - Public Safety Programs	1.185	0.244	-
BC Coroners Service	0.366	0.370	-
RoadSafetyBC - RSI ISC TFRS	0.050	0.050	-
RCMP PSAC Wage Increase	0.251	-	-
Corrections - Food Services Contract	1.010	0.513	-
E-Comm	0.110	0.120	-
Independent Gambling Control Office transition	0.472	0.298	-
RoadSafetyBC - DMFT	(0.300)	-	-
<u>Budget 2023:</u>			
Community Social Services Agencies Increase	0.030	-	-
Decriminalization	(0.475)	-	-
Sub-Total	2.699	1.595	-
Net Change	54.054	2.124	(0.626)

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2025/26 Summary of Ministry Changes

d. Ministry Budget by Branch

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



Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2025/26 Summary of Ministry Changes

Expense by Branch	2024/25	2025/26	Change	Change
	Restated Estimates	Estimates	(\$)	(%)
Voted Appropriations	(\$ Millions)			
Corrections	316.804	325.252	8.448	2.67%
Policing and Security	541.647	577.082	35.435	6.54%
Community Safety and Victim Services	88.310	93.914	5.604	6.35%
BC Coroners Service	29.284	31.373	2.089	7.13%
RoadSafetyBC	36.440	36.492	0.052	0.14%
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation	8.275	8.390	0.115	1.39%
Gaming Policy and Enforcement	21.461	22.211	0.750	3.49%
Cannabis and Corporate Policy	3.597	3.642	0.045	1.25%
Office of the Fire Commissioner	3.261	4.378	1.117	34.25%
Executive and Support Services	18.827	19.226	0.399	2.12%
Total Voted Appropriations	1,067.906	1,121.960	54.054	0.653
Statutory Appropriations				
Civil Forfeiture Account	0.437	0.437	-	0.00%
Correction Work Program Account	1.281	1.281	-	0.00%
Victim Surcharge Special Account	13.504	13.504	-	0.00%
Total Statutory Appropriations	15.222	15.222	-	0.00%
Total Appropriations	1,083.128	1,137.182	54.054	4.99%
Capital Expenditures	2.997	4.701	1.704	56.86%

e. Summary of Changes by Branch

Corrections

- \$8.448 million increase:
 - \$3.429 million Wage Mandate
 - \$1.690 million Electronic Supervision
 - \$1.134 million Special Management Compensation Adjustment
 - \$1.185 million from Budget 2024 for Nanaimo Corrections Centre
 - \$1.010 million from Budget 2024 for Food Services Contract

Policing and Security

- \$35.435 million increase:
 - \$27.900 million RCMP Wage Increase
 - \$5.000 million Body-worn cameras
 - \$1.798 million First Nations and Inuit Policing Program
 - \$0.606 million Police Modernization
 - \$0.245 million Wage Mandate

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2025/26 Summary of Ministry Changes

- \$0.110 million from Budget 2024 for E-Comm
- \$0.251 million from Budget 2024 for RCMP PSAC Wage Increase
- (\$0.475) million from Budget 2023 for Decriminalization

Community Safety and Victim Services

- \$5.604 million increase:
 - \$5.010 million CVAP Modernization
 - \$0.477 million Community Social Services Sector Wage Mandate
 - \$0.030 million from Budget 2023 for Community Social Services Sector Wage Mandate

BC Coroners Service

- \$2.089 million increase:
 - \$1.484 million Structural Pressures
 - \$0.239 million Wage Mandate
 - \$0.366 million from Budget 2024 for Caseload Pressures

RoadSafetyBC

- \$0.052 million increase:
 - \$0.187 million Wage Mandate – Nurses
 - \$0.115 million Wage Mandate
 - \$0.050 million from Budget 2024 for Intersection Safety Camera, Road Safety Initiative and Traffic Revenue Sharing Programs
 - (\$0.300) million from Budget 2024 for Driver Medical Fitness Transformation

Liquor and Cannabis Regulation

- \$0.115 million increase:
 - \$0.115 million Wage Mandate

Gaming Policy and Enforcement

- \$0.750 million increase:
 - \$0.278 million Wage Mandate
 - \$0.472 million from Budget 2024 for Independent Gambling Control Office (IGCO) Transition

Cannabis and Corporate Policy

- \$0.045 million increase:
 - \$0.045 million Wage Mandate

Office of the Fire Commissioner

- \$1.117 million increase:
 - \$1.096 million Fire Safety Act
 - \$0.021 million Wage Mandate

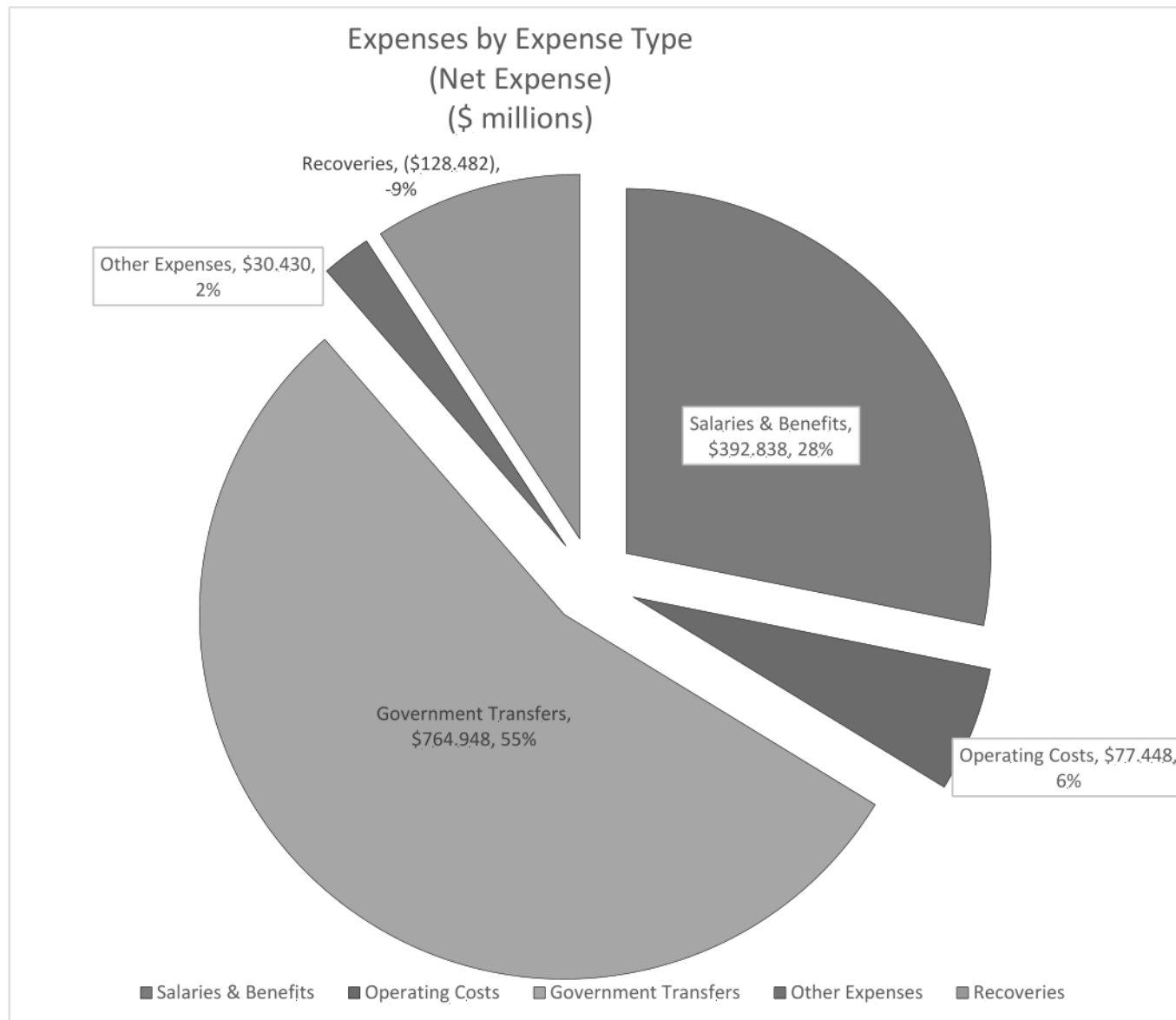
Executive and Support Services

- \$0.399 million increase:
 - \$0.224 million Wage Mandate
 - \$0.175 million Minister of State and Community Safety and Integrated Services

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2025/26 Summary of Ministry Changes

f. Ministry Budget by Expense Type

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



Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2025/26 Summary of Ministry Changes

Expenses by Expense Type	2024/25	2025/26	Change	Change
	Restated Estimates	Estimates	(\$)	(%)
	(\$ millions)			
Salaries & Benefits	381.972	392.838	10.866	2.84%
Operating Costs	75.338	77.448	2.110	2.80%
Government Transfers	723.919	764.948	41.029	5.67%
Other Expenses	30.181	30.430	0.249	0.83%
Recoveries	(17.177)	(17.177)	-	0.00%
Recoveries External	(111.105)	(111.305)	(0.200)	0.18%
Total	1,083.128	1,137.182	54.054	4.99%

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

Summary of Changes:

Salaries & Benefits

- \$10.866 million increase:
 - \$4.986 million Wage Mandate
 - \$1.134 million Corrections Special Management Compensation Adjustment
 - \$0.945 million Crime Victim Assistance Program Modernization
 - \$0.796 million *Fire Safety Act*
 - \$0.625 million BC Coroners Services
 - \$0.619 million Electronic Supervision
 - \$0.612 million from Budget 2024 for Nanaimo Correctional Centre
 - \$0.606 million Police Modernization
 - \$0.472 million from Budget 2024 for Independent Gambling Control Office (IGCO) Transition
 - \$0.260 million from Budget 2024 for BC Coroners Service Caseload Pressures
 - \$0.112 million Minister's Office Adjustment
 - (\$0.001) million Corporate Services Secretariat
 - (\$0.300) million from Budget 2024 Driver Medical Fitness Transformation

Operating Costs

- \$2.110 million increase:
 - \$1.071 million Electronic Supervision
 - \$0.832 million BC Coroners Services
 - \$0.300 million *Fire Safety Act*
 - \$0.255 million Crime Victim Assistance Program Modernization
 - \$0.106 million from Budget 2024 for BC Coroners Service Caseload Pressures
 - \$0.063 million Minister's Office Adjustment
 - (\$0.042) million from Budget 2024 for Nanaimo Correctional Centre
 - (\$0.475) million from Budget 2023 for Decriminalization

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2025/26 Summary of Ministry Changes

Government Transfers

- \$41.092 million increase:
 - \$27.900 million RCMP Wage Increase
 - \$5.000 million Body-worn cameras
 - \$3.810 million Crime Victim Assistance Program Modernization
 - \$1.798 million First Nations and Inuit Policing Program
 - \$1.010 million from Budget 2024 for Food Services Contract
 - \$0.615 million from Budget 2024 for Nanaimo Correctional Centre
 - \$0.477 million from Community Social Services Sector wages
 - \$0.251 million from Budget 2024 for RCMP PSAC wage increase
 - \$0.110 million from Budget 2024 for E-Comm
 - \$0.030 million from Budget 2023 for Community Social Services Sector wages
 - \$0.028 million from Budget 2024 for Intersection Safety Camera, Road Safety Initiative and Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing Programs

Other Expenses

- \$0.249 million increase:
 - \$0.200 million Commissions on Collection of Public Funds Adjustment
 - \$0.027 million BC Coroners Services
 - \$0.022 million from Budget 2024 for Intersection Safety Camera, Road Safety Initiative and Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing Programs

Internal Recoveries

No Change.

External Recoveries

- (\$0.200) million increase:
 - (\$0.200) million Commissions on Collection of Public Funds Adjustment

External Recoveries	
	2025/26
(\$ millions)	Estimates
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 and Corporate Policy	(0.002)
Executive and Support Services	(0.002)
Civil Forfeiture Account	(14.544)
Total	(101.155)

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2025/26 Summary of Ministry Changes

g. Capital Budget

Asset Type (\$ millions)	2024/25	Estimates 2025/26	Budget Change
Information Systems	0.014	-	(0.014)
Office Furniture and Equipment	0.039	0.017	(0.022)
Specialized Equipment	1.074	3.749	2.675
Vehicles	1.870	0.935	(0.935)
Total	2.997	4.701	1.704

- \$1.704 million increase is primarily due to additional funding provided to Corrections for Mandatory Operating Equipment and Office of the Fire Commissioner implementation of the Fire Safety Act.

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

ANNUAL SERVICE PLAN						
Core Business Area	2024/25 Restated Budget	2025/26 Estimate	2026/27 Plan	2027/28 Plan	2025/26 Changes	2025/26 Changes
	In \$ Millions					%
Corrections	316.804	325.252	326.009	326.009	8.448	2.7%
Policing and Security	541.647	577.082	577.251	576.697	35.435	6.5%
Community Safety and Victim Services	88.310	93.914	93.914	93.914	5.604	6.3%
BC Coroners Service	29.284	31.373	31.765	31.765	2.089	7.1%
RoadSafetyBC	36.440	36.492	36.542	36.542	0.052	0.1%
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation	8.275	8.390	8.390	8.390	0.115	1.4%
Gaming Policy and Enforcement	21.461	22.211	22.509	22.509	0.750	3.5%
Cannabis and Corporate Policy	3.597	3.642	3.642	3.642	0.045	1.3%
Office of the Fire Commissioner	3.261	4.378	4.836	4.764	1.117	34.3%
Executive and Support Services	18.827	19.226	19.226	19.226	0.399	2.1%
Special Accounts	15.222	15.222	15.222	15.222	-	0.0%
TOTAL	1,083.128	1,137.182	1,139.306	1,138.680	54.054	5.0%

Budget 2025 Decisions \$51.355M Increase:

- \$27.900 million RCMP Wage Increase.
- \$5.463 million Wage Mandate.
- \$5.010 million Crime Victim Assistance Program Modernization.
- \$5.000 million Body-worn cameras.
- \$1.798 million First Nations and Inuit Policing Program.
- \$1.690 million Electronic supervision.
- \$1.484 million Coroners' structural pressures.
- \$1.134 million Corrections Special Management Compensation Adjustment.
- \$1.096 million Fire Safety Act implementation.
- \$0.606 million Police Modernization.
- \$0.175 million Ministers Office Adjustment.
- (\$0.001) million Corporate Services Secretariat Adjustment.

Prior Years' Decisions:

Budget 2024 Decisions \$3.144M Increase:

- \$1.185 million Nanaimo Correctional Centre - Public Safety Programs.
- \$1.010 million Corrections - Food Services Contract.
- \$0.472 million Independent Gambling Control Office (IGCO).
- \$0.366 million BC Coroners Service.
- \$0.251 million RCMP PSAC Wage Increase.
- \$0.110 million Ecomm to support municipalities with population less than 5,000.
- \$0.050 million RoadSafetyBC - RSI ISC TRFS.
- (\$0.300) million RoadSafetyBC - Driver Medical Fitness Transformation.

Budget 2023 (\$0.445M) Decrease:

- (\$0.475) million Decriminalization.
- \$0.030 million Community Social Services Agencies increase.

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Budget 2025 Decisions by Year
(in \$ millions)

Base Budget

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
RCMP Wage Increase	27.900	27.900	27.900	83.700
CVAP Modernization	5.010	5.010	5.010	15.030
Body-Worn Cameras	5.000	5.000	5.000	15.000
First Nations and Inuit Policing Programs	1.798	1.847	1.899	5.544
Electronic Supervision	1.690	1.690	1.690	5.070
Coroners' Structural Pressures	1.484	1.506	1.506	4.496
Corrections Special Management Compensation Adj	1.134	1.134	1.134	3.402
Fire Safety Act Implementation	1.096	1.554	1.482	4.132
Police Modernization	0.606	0.606	-	1.212
Minister's Office Adjustment	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.525
Corporate Services Secretariat Adjustment	(0.001)	-	-	(0.001)
Program budget increases	45.892	46.422	45.796	138.110
Wage Mandate	5.463	5.463	5.463	16.389
Total	51.355	51.885	51.259	154.499

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 2024/25 ¹	Estimates 2025/26
VOTED APPROPRIATION		
Vote 42 — Ministry Operations.....	1,067,906	1,121,960
STATUTORY APPROPRIATIONS		
Civil Forfeiture Account Special Account.....	437	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>1,083,128</u>	<u>1,137,182</u>
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES ²	2,997	4,701
LOANS, INVESTMENTS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS ³	—	—
REVENUE COLLECTED FOR, AND TRANSFERRED TO, OTHER ENTITIES ⁴	—	—

NOTES

¹ For comparative purposes, figures shown for the 2024/25 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 2025/26 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.

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

SUMMARY BY CORE BUSINESS

(\$000)

	2024/25	2025/26 ESTIMATES		
OPERATING EXPENSES	Net	Gross	External Recoveries	Net
Core Business				
Corrections.....	316,804	327,533	(2,281)	325,252
Policing and Security.....	541,647	629,333	(52,251)	577,082
Community Safety and Victim Services.....	88,310	94,214	(300)	93,914
BC Coroners Service.....	29,284	31,375	(2)	31,373
RoadSafetyBC.....	36,440	40,631	(4,139)	36,492
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation.....	8,275	23,252	(14,862)	8,390
Gaming Policy and Enforcement.....	21,461	34,983	(12,772)	22,211
Cannabis and Corporate Policy.....	3,597	3,644	(2)	3,642
Office of the Fire Commissioner.....	3,261	4,378	—	4,378
Executive and Support Services.....	18,827	19,228	(2)	19,226
Civil Forfeiture Account Special Account.....	437	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	1,083,128	1,238,337	(101,155)	1,137,182
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	Capital Expenditures	Capital Expenditures	Receipts and P3 Liabilities	Net
Core Business				
Corrections.....	1,062	3,262	—	3,262
BC Coroners Service.....	12	12	—	12
Office of the Fire Commissioner.....	36	475	—	475
Executive and Support Services.....	1,887	952	—	952
TOTAL	2,997	4,701	—	4,701

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

Estimates
2024/25

Estimates
2025/26

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 and Corporate Policy, Office of the Fire Commissioner, and Executive and Support Services.

CORRECTIONS

Voted Appropriation

Corrections.....	316,804	325,252
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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.....	541,647	577,082
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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.....	88,310	93,914
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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.....	29,284	31,373
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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.

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

	Estimates 2024/25	Estimates 2025/26
ROADSAFETYBC		
Voted Appropriation		
RoadSafetyBC.....	36,440	36,492
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, and organizations for activities described within this sub-vote.		
LIQUOR AND CANNABIS REGULATION		
Voted Appropriations		
Liquor Regulation.....	1	1
Cannabis Regulation.....	8,274	8,389
	8,275	8,390
Voted Appropriations Description: This sub-vote provides for the overall policy development, administration, licensing, and enforcement of cannabis and liquor in support of the <i>Liquor Control and Licensing Act</i> and regulations, and the <i>Cannabis Control and Licensing Act</i> 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.....	21,460	22,210
Distribution of Gaming Proceeds.....	1	1
	21,461	22,211
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 AND CORPORATE POLICY		
Voted Appropriation		
Cannabis and Corporate Policy.....	3,597	3,642
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 corporate priorities; 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 2024/25	Estimates 2025/26
OFFICE OF THE FIRE COMMISSIONER		
Voted Appropriation		
Office of the Fire Commissioner.....	<u>3,261</u>	<u>4,378</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		
Ministers' Offices.....	810	985
Corporate Services.....	<u>18,017</u>	<u>18,241</u>
	<u>18,827</u>	<u>19,226</u>
Voted Appropriations Description:	This sub-vote provides for the office of the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General; the Minister of State for Community Safety and Integrated Services; 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, including financial administration, facilities management, business planning, and human resource management. 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	1,067,906	1,121,960

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

STATUTORY DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

Estimates
2024/25Estimates
2025/26

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.....	437	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	381,972	392,838
Operating Costs	75,338	77,448
Government Transfers	723,919	764,948
Other Expenses	20,231	20,280
Internal Recoveries	(17,177)	(17,177)
External Recoveries	(101,155)	(101,155)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES.....	1,083,128	1,137,182

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS¹
(\$000)

	Estimates 2024/25	Estimates 2025/26
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	18,105	17,668
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Revenue	—	—
Expense	(14,981)	(14,981)
Internal and External Recoveries	14,544	14,544
Net Revenue (Expense)	(437)	(437)
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS		
Receipts	—	—
Disbursements	—	—
Capital Expenditures	—	—
Net Cash Source (Requirement)	—	—
PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR ²	17,668	17,231

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 2024/25 is based on the 2023/24 *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 2024/25	Estimates 2025/26
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	1,592	1,721
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Revenue.....	650	650
Expense.....	(1,281)	(1,281)
Transfer from Ministry Operations Vote.....	700	700
Net Revenue (Expense).....	69	69
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS		
Receipts.....	—	—
Disbursements.....	—	—
Capital Expenditures.....	—	—
Net Cash Source (Requirement).....	—	—
Working Capital Adjustments and Other Spending Authority Committed ³	60	60
PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR ²	1,721	1,850

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 2024/25 is based on the 2023/24 *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 2024/25	Estimates 2025/26
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	2,517	2,517
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	2,517	2,517

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 2024/25 is based on the 2023/24 *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 2024/25	Estimates 2025/26
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	27,113	25,609
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	25,609	24,105

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 2024/25 is based on the 2023/24 *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 2024/25 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Corrections	316,804	207,643	4,957	52,862	—	265,462	—	864	2,504	4,479	901	2,336	—	—	8,413
Policing and Security	541,647	17,975	25	4,566	—	22,566	—	212	642	1,647	446	809	—	—	449
Community Safety and Victim Services	88,310	9,666	83	2,455	—	12,204	—	69	91	429	820	232	—	—	—
BC Coroners Service	29,284	13,084	76	3,323	—	16,483	90	555	201	12,443	498	356	—	—	245
RoadSafetyBC	36,440	17,746	51	4,508	—	22,305	—	86	2,599	1,482	480	271	—	—	—
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation	8,275	14,061	40	3,572	—	17,673	—	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	8,274	5,250	20	1,334	—	6,604	—	100	325	117	990	218	—	—	14
Gaming Policy and Enforcement	21,461	13,648	72	3,466	—	17,186	—	466	358	512	500	580	—	40	2
Gaming Policy and Enforcement Operations	21,460	13,648	72	3,466	—	17,186	—	466	358	512	500	580	—	40	2
Distribution of Gaming Proceeds	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cannabis and Corporate Policy	3,597	2,593	—	659	—	3,252	—	44	109	100	3	35	—	—	—
Office of the Fire Commissioner	3,261	2,896	—	736	—	3,632	—	50	62	70	180	100	—	—	24
Executive and Support Services	18,827	8,648	27	2,247	102	11,024	—	221	166	130	4,475	262	—	—	5
Ministers' Offices	810	537	—	178	102	817	—	128	—	—	10	22	—	—	3
Corporate Services	18,017	8,111	27	2,069	—	10,207	—	93	166	130	4,465	240	—	—	2
Total	1,067,906	307,960	5,331	78,394	102	391,787	90	2,888	7,204	21,709	9,818	5,499	—	40	9,157

Statutory Appropriations

Description	Total 2024/25 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Civil Forfeiture Account	437	838	—	213	—	1,051	—	30	3,229	—	25	55	—	90	—
Corrections Work Program Account	1,281	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	41	—	—	475
Real Asset Management Fund	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Surcharge Special Account	13,504	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	15,222	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 2025/26 Operating Expenses
974	—	3,777	3,410	27,658	—	4,300	29,286	33,586	—	—	1,212	1,212	—	(385)	(385)	(1)	(2,280)	(2,281)	325,252
208	—	121	329	4,863	2,061	—	601,279	603,340	—	—	149	149	—	(1,585)	(1,585)	(1)	(52,250)	(52,251)	577,082
—	—	94	3	1,738	175	21,998	67,873	90,046	—	—	44	44	(9,816)	(2)	(9,818)	—	(300)	(300)	93,914
77	—	98	375	14,938	—	—	—	—	—	—	55	55	—	(101)	(101)	(1)	(1)	(2)	31,373
15	—	13	8	4,954	—	—	10,564	10,564	—	—	2,809	2,809	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(4,138)	(4,139)	36,492
248	—	49	1,467	5,026	—	—	—	—	—	—	554	554	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(14,861)	(14,862)	8,390
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)	8,389
8	—	444	3	2,913	9,000	—	5,836	14,836	—	—	49	49	—	(1)	(1)	—	(12,772)	(12,772)	22,211
8	—	444	3	2,913	—	—	5,836	5,836	—	—	49	49	—	(1)	(1)	—	(3,773)	(3,773)	22,210
—	—	—	—	—	9,000	—	—	9,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(8,999)	(8,999)	1
—	—	—	—	291	100	—	—	100	—	—	2	2	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	3,642
62	—	53	146	747	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(1)	(1)	—	—	—	4,378
153	—	2,452	2,321	10,185	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,302	3,302	—	(5,283)	(5,283)	(1)	(1)	(2)	19,226
—	—	5	—	168	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	985
153	—	2,447	2,321	10,017	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,302	3,302	—	(5,283)	(5,283)	(1)	(1)	(2)	18,241
1,745	—	7,101	8,062	73,313	11,336	26,298	714,838	752,472	—	—	8,176	8,176	(9,816)	(7,361)	(17,177)	(7)	(86,604)	(86,611)	1,121,960

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 2025/26 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 2025/26 Briefing Book**

**Policing and Security Branch
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2025/26 ESTIMATES**Organized Crime****Key Messages**

- The Province recognizes that gangs and organized crime have an impact on all British Columbians. These organizations are involved in significant criminal activity within our communities, including drug trafficking, money laundering, cross-border smuggling, intimidation, and serious violence.
- The Province is dedicated to working with local, provincial, and federal partners, including police, to take action that keeps people and communities safe.
- The Province continues to advance a multi-pronged provincial approach which leverages every means possible to address organized crime, including intelligence, enforcement, prevention/intervention, and legislation.
- Using civil and administrative law tools in conjunction with law enforcement has proven to be an effective method of disrupting organized crime and we are committed to this all-of-government approach to target organized crime and make their activities less profitable.
- As the Province's anti-gang unit, the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of BC (CFSEU-BC) is mandated to disrupt and suppress organized crime in B.C.
 - CFSEU-BC leverages proactive enforcement, gang suppression, targeted disruption, as well as prevention and intervention programming for gang members to meet its mandate.
 - The unit has both general investigative teams and specialty teams to lead and champion these strategies.
- The Organized Crime Agency of BC (OCABC) serves as the foundational police agency of CFSEU-BC.
 - OCABC is a provincially designated policing unit comprised of highly trained and specialized teams of sworn members and civilian professionals.
 - OCABC houses a number of provincial priority programs such as the BC Witness Security Unit, Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority Program, and the Provincial Forensic Firearms Lab.
- CFSEU-BC has developed a 2024-2027 Strategic Plan which emphasizes collaborative intelligence, operational agility, and community partnerships.

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- CFSEU-BC and the CFSEU-BC Board of Governance are engaged in ongoing work to advance the three pillars of the Strategic Plan. This work is outcome-driven and aligned with a suite of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) which support Provincial oversight.
- In addition, the Province has completed reviews of CFSEU-BC and the Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority Program and continues to implement their recommendations, ensuring the Province maintains a robust response to organized crime which supports CFSEU-BC prioritizing and taking action against the highest threats to public safety.

Intelligence/Enforcement

- The Province continues to make significant investments into enhanced and specialized enforcement initiatives related to guns, gangs and illicit drug trafficking across British Columbia. More than \$100 million from both provincial and federal funding sources is invested annually.
- CFSEU-BC leads the Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority Program, a provincial intelligence program, to gather information from municipal, provincial and federal law enforcement agencies about organized crime, including both gang violence and illicit drug trafficking, occurring in their jurisdiction.
 - The Province provides nearly \$4.5M to assist law enforcement across BC in the prioritization of investigative files to target those individuals posing the highest risk to public safety in BC, including over \$2.8M dedicated to opioid trafficking investigations.
- CFSEU-BC's Strategic Plan prioritizes intelligence-led policing, ensuring that the full range of police intelligence is used to identify emerging trends and gather data on organized crime. This intelligence is leveraged to target and disrupt the highest-level threats, aiming to reduce violence and threaten community safety.
- CFSEU-BC's Uniform Gang Enforcement Team (UGET) conducts intelligence-led deployments to provide both a deterrent and enforcement presence in communities across BC in support of local law enforcement efforts.
 - CFSEU-BC intelligence analysts actively monitor for activities of concern to target future deployments. As of the third quarter in fiscal 2024/25, UGET is on track to double the number of deployments to suppress and respond to gang violence year over year.

Intervention/Prevention

- In addition to targeted enforcement, CFSEU-BC's Gang Intervention and Exiting Program (GIEP) 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 GIEP to identify and recruit the highest-risk targets and support gang-entrenched youth and adults in exiting the gang lifestyle. To support this mission, the GIEP works closely with CFSEU-BC's End Gang Life program, which provides ongoing gang and gun violence education to students, teachers, parents and service workers across the province.
- As part of BC's Expect Respect and a Safe Education (*erase*) strategy, the Province has partnered with priority school districts in the Organized Crime & Exploitation pilot project to fund positions dedicated to the enhancement of local knowledge and capacity to respond to student involvement and victimization in relation to gangs and organized crime. Enhanced capacity as a result of this investment is expected to support the coordination of community responses to potential, suspected or confirmed threats of student gang-related violence and/or exploitation in partnering school district staff, community and local law enforcement.

Legislation

- The Province continues to use all legislative tools available to them to combat organized crime, including using Unexplained Wealth Orders, to go after the assets of criminals whose unlawful activities fuel chaos and violence in our communities. Forfeited illegally obtained assets are redirected to community safety and crime-prevention initiatives, which help repair the damage done by those engaged in criminal activity and illegal enterprises in British Columbia.
- The *Witness Security Act* was enacted in 2020 to establish the Witness Security Program, a provincial initiative which serves to support and protect witnesses who testify in court to secure convictions against dangerous offenders who pose a public safety concern in some of the most serious cases. The Program has been instrumental in supporting witnesses to testify safely and help bring offenders to justice.
- The Province is working toward improved coordination between regulatory and police agencies to strengthen the Province's response to organized crime, including the use of civil and administrative processes, to make it harder for organized crime groups to conduct their illegal activities.

Background

- Other specialized provincial units under the Investigative Serious and Organized Crime (ISOC) Division of the RCMP also play a critical role in B.C.'s broader efforts to combat guns and gangs.

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- This includes the Integrated Homicide Investigations Team (IHIT) and the Major Crime Section. These teams, among others, remain committed to aggressively pursuing the most dangerous gangs and organized crime groups in BC.

Key Facts and Figures

DESCRIPTION: The Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of British Columbia (CFSEU-BC) is British Columbia's integrated anti-gang agency, comprised of RCMP and municipal members that are seconded from 14 different municipal agencies in the province. The unit's mandate is to target, investigate, disrupt, dismantle and support the prosecution of the groups and individuals that pose the highest risk to public safety due to their involvement in organized crime or gang activity.

Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of BC (CFSEU-BC) (as of December 31, 2024)	
Positions authorized within the CFSEU-BC	479 (incl. support staff)
Positions filled (operational capacity)	Security Concern
Position Breakdowns:	
Organized Crime Agency of BC - RM positions	54
Vacancies	Security Concern
Organized Crime Agency of BC - Civilian positions	128
Vacancies	Security Concern
RCMP established RM positions	167
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.	16 teams
Provincial funding for the Unit The unit is paid under the 70/30 cost share under the Provincial Police Service Agreement.	\$95.27M (at 100%) Provincial share: \$66.69M

Seizures	Response
CFSEU-BC (2020 – September 2024*) *Last reporting period	• Over 580 firearms • \$8.2M in illegal cash and assets. • Over 6,900Kg of illicit drugs and precursor chemicals
Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority Seizures (2020 – May 2024*) *Last reporting period	• Over 1240 firearms • >\$14.5M in illegal cash • 10,000 of illicit drugs and precursor chemicals • 989 charges against PTEP targets
Other Programs/Initiatives	
Witness Security Program	Security Concern
Gang Intervention and Exiting Program	• >169 clients supported since program's inception. • 75 designated as 'successfully' exited
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)	• \$10,610,715 of funding for 2024/25 (\$54 million to BC over five years)
erase Organized Crime & Exploitation Pilot Program Pilot districts include: Southeast Kootenay, Cariboo-Chlicotin, Chilliwack, Delta, Saanich, Prince Rupert, Port Alberni, Fraser-Cascade, Vancouver Island North	• ~\$0.9M per year to implement pilot in 9 priority school districts

Contact: Jacqueline Davies (PSB)

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2025/26 ESTIMATES**Provincial Police Service
(RCMP) - Provincial \$230M
Investment****Key Messages**

- In November 2022, the Province announced an unprecedented, multi-year investment of approximately \$230 million over three years to the BC RCMP, as the Provincial Police Service. This investment was made in support of the Provincial Government's Safer Communities Action Plan.
- This funding addresses gaps in existing staffing as well as resource pressures in the Provincial Police Service. Priorities for funding include specialized functions such as Major Crime Section and B.C. Highway Patrol, as well as front-line provincial detachment units and rural and remote communities.
- This investment is supporting the Provincial Police Service to reach its full authorized strength of 2,602 Members. It is not an increase in new Member positions, beyond the authorized strength of 2,602 Members.
- Staffing actions will occur over three fiscal years (2023/24, 2024/25, 2025/26). The Provincial Investment is currently in Fiscal Year 2 (2024/2025), ending March 31, 2025.
- Staffing targets for the three-year investment are 256 Regular Members (RMs) and 80 Public Service Employees (PSEs).
 - As of December 31, 2024 (most recent quarterly report) 171 RM positions (67%), and 49 PSE positions (61%) have been fully staffed.
- The RCMP is on-track to meet Fiscal Year 2 targets. As of the end of Q3 FY2 (Dec. 31, 2024) progress is as follows:
 - RMs: 115 of the 132 RM Y2 target (87%)
 - PSEs: 23 of the 33 PSE Y2 target (70%)
- Fiscal Year 3 (FY2025/26) targets are 68 RMs and 21 PSEs.
- The Provincial benchmark of success for this work is based on Provincial Investment positions being fully 'staffed and operational' (operational) in the role.
 - The BC RCMP are on track to meet the full Provincial Investment staffing targets. Ministry staff continue to work with the BC RCMP to align shared priorities and monitor progress against targets.

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Background

- The Provincial Annex of 2,602 members was established with the signing of the 2012 Provincial Police Service Agreement.
 - It includes Regular Members, Civilian Members, Special Constable positions and approximately 200 Sworn Officer positions from other police agencies.
- As a Federal organization, staffing actions are within the internal management and control of the RCMP.
 - Resourcing pressures are prioritized and considered in the context of the entirety of the Provincial Police Service (PPS), including whether decisions are consistent with the key Provincial Investment priorities.
- While the Provincial Investment applies to positions, units and resources within the PPS, there are broader positive impacts and benefits to public safety for all communities in B.C.

Rationale for the Provincial Investment

- The Province regularly monitors policing in B.C., through discussions with police, municipalities, First Nations and other stakeholders and partners, as well as through analysis of data, reports and policies.
- Historically, provincial investments into the PPS have not been sufficiently responsive to the continuing demands for resources and increasing operational requirements and costs of policing.
- As a result, it was determined that a significant increase in funding was needed to support the PPS to its full authorized strength of 2,602 and to ensure adequate and effective levels of policing in B.C. This resulted in the \$230 million Provincial Investment into the PPS.

Provincial Investment Processes

- Policing and Security Branch (PSB) staff work with the BC RCMP on identifying and prioritizing staffing actions under this investment.
- PSB and the BC RCMP work together to provide monthly updates on progress, identify key priorities, establish expedited business processes, develop staffing strategies and address other aspects of the Provincial Investment.
- Quarterly Reports are provided to PSB by the BC RCMP. The most recent Quarterly Report, with updates to December 31, 2024, was provided in mid-February 2025.
- The RCMP exceeded their Fiscal Year targets, and the most recent Quarterly Report and further updates suggest that the BC RCMP are well on their way to meeting or exceeding Fiscal Year 2 targets.
- The Province and the BC RCMP continue to work to identify and address any potential challenges early to ensure that Fiscal Year 3 targets will be met.

Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Provincial Investment \$230M Operational Positions (as of December 31, 2024)

Question	Response
Regular Members (RMs) How many positions under this investment are now staffed and operational?	Total RM Positions Staffed 171 Critical Response Unit 10 Investigative Services / Major Crime 41 BC Highway Patrol 50 Frontline Provincial Detachment 62 Other 8 The BC RCMP have met 67% of the 3-year target of 256 RMs.
Public Service Employees (PSEs) How many supporting positions under this investment are now staffed and operational?	Total PSE Positions Staffed 49 Critical Response Unit 4 Investigative Services / Major Crime 6 BC Highway Patrol 2 Rural/Remote 14 Other 23 The BC RCMP have met 61% of the 3 year target of 80 PSEs.

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TOPIC: Summary of Provincial Investment Staffing Actions (as of December 31, 2024):

Summary of the three-year Provincial Investment progress to December 31, 2024, which resulted in the following vacancy and resourcing pressures being addressed:

Question	Response
Investigative Services / Major Crime Which Investigative Services/ Major Crime units have the 42 RM and 6 PSE Investigative Services/ Major Crime positions been staffed?	The Provincial Investment has enabled the BC RCMP to staff: • 8 RM positions in the North District Major Crime Unit (NDMC) ○ North District Major Crime can better serve Indigenous and remote communities across BC RCMP's largest district spanning 37 detachments from Anahim Lake to Fort St. John. • 11 RM and 2 PSE positions in the Southeast District Major Crime Unit. • 22 RM and 4 PSE positions in specialized units within the Provincial Investigative Services / Major Crime Sections, serving all communities across the province.
BC Highway Patrol (BCHP) In which Districts have the 50 RM and 2 PSE BCHP positions been staffed?	• The Provincial Investment has enabled the Provincial Police Service's highway patrol to staff 50 RM and 2 PSE resources. ○ These positions were primarily located in BCHP units in the Lower Mainland, Southeast and North Districts ○ As a result, BCHP is better able to deliver its mandate to address causal factors to road safety.

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Question	Response
Rural and Remote Provincial Detachments In which units have the 62RM and 14 PSE frontline provincial detachment positions been staffed?	- The Provincial Investment has enabled the BC RCMP to staff 62 RM and 14 PSE resources in Provincial Detachment Units in more than 40 communities across B.C. to better serve Indigenous and remote communities - Communities include but not limited to: 100 Mile House, Alexis Creek, Anahim Lake, Bella Bella, Burns Lake, Chetwynd, Clinton, Daajing Giids, Dawson Creek, Dease Lake, Elkford, Fernie, Fort St. James, Golden, Houston/Granisle, Lillooet, Lisims/Nass Valley, Mackenzie, New Hazelton, Nootka Sound, Northern Rockies, Port Alice, Port Hardy, Port McNeill, Quesnel, Sunshine Coast, Takla Landing, Tsay Keh Dene and Vanderhoof. - The Provincial Investment is enabling the BC RCMP to support Member wellness in rural and remote communities by permitting for more reasonable scheduling of members, resulting in service improvements to the local and Indigenous communities they serve.
Critical Response Unit (CRU) How many positions in CRU were staffed under this investment?	- The Provincial Investment has enabled the creation and staffing of a new Provincial Police Unit, the Critical Response Unit, that responds to a growing need to maintain order in B.C. communities amid rising protest activity stemming from domestic and international events, while protecting the rights of B.C. residents to engage in lawful protest. - CRU consists of 10 RM and 4 PSE 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 information into the public record.

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2025/26 ESTIMATES

First Nations and Inuit
Policing Program (FNIPP)

Key Messages

- The First Nations and Inuit Policing Program (FNIPP) provides culturally appropriate, and professional enhanced policing services to participating First Nations in British Columbia.
- FNIPP is a federal program that is cost-shared by B.C. (48%) and Canada (52%).
- Under FNIPP there are two different streams of services:
 - Community Tripartite Agreements established pursuant to the Framework Agreement, and;
 - Self-Administered Policing Agreement, enabling the funding of an Indigenous Police Service.
- The total budget for FNIPP for 2025/26 is ^{Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental} with B.C.'s 48% share equalling ^{Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental} (inclusive of the Framework Agreement, Tsawwassen's quadripartite agreement, and Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police Service's funding agreement).
- There are a total of 135 police officer positions across the three FNIPP programs;
 - 59 Community Tripartite Agreements with 118 RCMP Member positions serving 133 First Nation Communities
 - One Community Quadripartite Agreement serving Tsawwassen First Nation - 1 Delta police position
 - One Self-Administered Police Service, Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police Service with 16 police officer positions
- 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.
 - The total 2025/2026 FY budget is ^{Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications}
- Canada and B.C. have been working with signatories to **Tsawwassen First Nation's Community Quadripartite Agreement** to finalize an amendment that would extend their enhanced policing agreement for 2025/26 FY.
 - The Quadripartite Agreement amendment for 2025/26 FY will be ^{Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications}

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- The proposed budget increase does not involve new funds and only includes a standard 2.75% increase to their current funding envelope (total increase of Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications)
 - All signatories have concurred with the amendment as drafted but have not yet signed it formally.
- The **Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police Service (STPS)**'s budget for 2025/26 FY is Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental with a planned 2.75% increase as of 2025/2026 FY.
- The **First Nations and Inuit Police Facilities Program (FNIPFP)** exists in concert with the FNIPP but is funded separately and supports First Nations replacing or renovating their policing facilities – but does not include a provision for housing.
 - There is currently one project ongoing with Ditidaht First Nation to which B.C. has already paid their 48% contribution.

Background

- The First Nations and Inuit Policing Program (FNIPP) is a federal cost-sharing program, first introduced in 1991, to provide culturally enhanced policing services to First Nation communities. Under the FNIPP, Canada and the Province cost share Indigenous policing along a 52%/48% split, respectively.
 - FNIPP is the name of the federal program, but it is administered by Indigenous Policing Programs, a unit within the Policing and Security Branch.
 - Community Tripartite Agreements (CTA) provide an enhanced policing service above and beyond day-to-day policing received through their local RCMP detachment.
- Policing services under the FNIPP are meant to provide culturally appropriate, and professional services to participating First Nations in British Columbia.
 - CTAs represent over 90% of FNIPP's presence in the province.
 - B.C. is also a signatory to one community quadripartite agreement.
 - The Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police Service (STPS) provides policing services to 10 First Nation communities and is police of jurisdiction in these communities.

Community Tripartite Agreements (CTAs)

- The Province's 59 CTAs are staffed by the RCMP Indigenous Policing Services (RCMP IPS) Regular Members (RMs). IPS RMs work with communities to establish their policing priorities and must dedicate 100% of their working time to CTA activities (e.g.: community events, education, relationship building).
- The budget and authorized strength for CTA positions is agreed to between Canada and B.C. and set out in the Framework Agreement (FA).
 - The most recent FA 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

- The total 2025/2026 FY budget is Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications
 - The RCMP has not yet established the new positions outlined in the Framework Agreement. Any increases will be brought before the Treasury Board.
- As of the January 1, 2025, RCMP Executive Report, the established strength of RCMP IPS is 118 Regular Member (RM) positions.
 - Of the 118 RM positions, RCMP IPS is reporting 23 soft vacancies (incumbents who are not fully operational, i.e.: on leave).

Community Quadripartite Agreements (CQAs)

- B.C.'s only CQA is between Tsawwassen First Nation, the City of Delta, Canada, and the Province to provide enhanced policing services to Tsawwassen First Nation with Delta Police Department providing one dedicated police officer instead of RCMP IPS.
 - Tsawwassen's current Agreement expires March 31, 2025.
 - B.C. and Public Safety Canada have met with all signatories and are in the process of finalizing an amendment that will extend it for one year, allowing all signatories to work on a new agreement. This will be signed prior to March 31, 2025.
 - All signatories have concurred with the proposed amendment and agree to maintaining the status quo in preparation for more fulsome discussions for 2026/27 FY.
 - It is anticipated that both Tsawwassen First Nation and Delta will seek an expansion of their Agreement.
 - Any increase in a new agreement will be brought before the Treasury Board.
- The CQA's authorized and actual strength is one (1) officer.
- The total budget for 2025/2026 FY is Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications
 - This amount represents the existing funding envelope for Tsawwassen's Agreement from 2024/25 FY, with the addition of a 2.75% escalator (total increase Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications = Communications). No new funds have been committed yet.

Self-Administered Agreements (SAs)

- BC's only SA is the Stl'at'imx Tribal Police Service (STPS), which provides policing services to 10 First Nation communities.
- As a Designated Policing Unit (DPU) under the *Police Act*, STPS is responsible for hiring and training their own officers, similar to a municipal police department.
 - Specialized services (e.g.: homicide), are contracted to other police services or integrated teams.
- The Agreement that sets out STPS's budget and authorized strength was amended by Canada, B.C., and the St'at'imc Chiefs Council, on October 29, 2024.
 - This Agreement increased their authorized strength from 14 to 16 officers and increased their budget accordingly.
 - The Agreement will be in place until March 31, 2030 and will help improve their service delivery and supports increases to their operating expenses.

- The total budget for 2025/2026 FY is Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications
 - Total increase of Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications compared to original budget.
 - Canada is seeking to commit an additional Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications for the remainder of this Agreement but needs confirmation of B.C.'s ability to cost-share this amount.
 - Without this commitment soon, Canada will likely move to re-allocate this amount outside of the province.
- As of January 1, 2025, STPS's actual strength was 11 officers, with one soft vacancy and four hard vacancies, split over two office locations: Mount Currie and Lillooet.
 - STPS currently has two recruits commencing police training at the Justice Institute of B.C., with two other interested candidates preparing to apply.

First Nations and Inuit Police Facilities Program (FNIPFP)

- First Nations policing is also supported by Canada and B.C. through the FNIPFP.
 - This program follows the same 52%/48% Canada/BC cost share used in the FNIPP.
 - Through the FNIPP, B.C. and Canada support policing infrastructure in First Nations communities by aiding the Nation to renovate, repair, or replace policing facilities they already own.
- There is one FNIPFP project currently ongoing with Ditidaht First Nation to build a new satellite policing office for their IPS members.
 - Unfortunately, due to project delays, the project completion date has been repeatedly pushed back. B.C. and Canada have been actively working with Ditidaht to resolve the issues.
 - B.C. has not been financially impacted by the delay.
- Canada and B.C. are in talks with Haisla First Nation and Iskut First Nation, regarding potential FNIPFP projects in their communities in 2025/26 FY.
 - No funding commitments have been made yet.

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, 2025).

Question	Response						
<u>Total Authorized</u> Strength for FNIPP - Maximum number of positions that the service/detachment/department has been authorized to staff. - CTA member positions filled by RCMP Indigenous Policing Service (IPS) members. - CQA officer position is filled by Delta Police Department. - SA officer positions are filled by Stl'at'imx Tribal Police Service (STPS).	Total Combined Positions: 135 Breakdown: <table> <tr> <td>CTA Member positions</td><td>118</td></tr> <tr> <td>CQA Officer positions</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>SA Officer positions</td><td>16</td></tr> </table>	CTA Member positions	118	CQA Officer positions	1	SA Officer positions	16
CTA Member positions	118						
CQA Officer positions	1						
SA Officer positions	16						
<u>Established</u> Strength for FNIPP - The number of positions created in the police services human resource system. - Does NOT yet reflect the increase to the Authorized Strength for CTAs that came into effect April 1, 2024.	Total Combined Positions: 135 Breakdown: <table> <tr> <td>CTA Member positions</td><td>118</td></tr> <tr> <td>CQA Officer positions</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>SA Officer positions</td><td>16</td></tr> </table>	CTA Member positions	118	CQA Officer positions	1	SA Officer positions	16
CTA Member positions	118						
CQA Officer positions	1						
SA Officer positions	16						
<u>Actual</u> Strength for FNIPP Point in time calculation of the number of positions occupied by an employee.	Total Combined Positions: 130 Breakdown: <table> <tr> <td>CTA Member positions</td><td>118</td></tr> <tr> <td>CQA Officer positions</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>SA Officer positions</td><td>11</td></tr> </table>	CTA Member positions	118	CQA Officer positions	1	SA Officer positions	11
CTA Member positions	118						
CQA Officer positions	1						
SA Officer positions	11						
FNIPP Vacancies Total combined vacancies are for all programs under FNIPP and include both soft and hard vacancies	Total Combined Vacant Positions: 28 21% Vacancy Rate across 3 programs - Breakdown provided below.						

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Question	Response
Members on Leave (soft vacancies) 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)	Total Combined Soft Vacancies: 24 (18% Vacancy Rate) Breakdown: CTA Member positions 23 CQA Officer positions 0 SA Officer positions 1
Vacant positions (hard vacancies) Positions currently vacant with no incumbent assigned to the position.	Total Combined Hard Vacancies: 4 (3% Vacancy Rate) Breakdown: CTA Member positions 0 CQA Officer positions 0 SA Officer positions 4
Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications	

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2025/26 ESTIMATES**Border Security****Key Messages**

- We are committed to ensuring BC is a strong partner in supporting border security with our federal and provincial partners, and with our American counterparts.
- British Columbia is in the enviable position of being Canada's Pacific Gateway which opens us to the world and creates tremendous economic and social benefits. However, it also makes us uniquely vulnerable to infiltration by organized crime through our extensive land and marine borders and ports of entry.
- While border security is primarily a federal responsibility under the Canadian Border Security Agency and the federal RCMP, the Province has continued to work with the Federal Government to ensure sufficient resources are provided for effective enforcement and security measures along the borders and at all our ports of entry.
- The Province is encouraged by the Federal Government's December 2024 announcement of \$1.3 billion funding in border security to increase staffing and invest in technology to improve border security.
- We are working with them to ensure that BC's share of funding allows us to address the challenges we face as soon as possible. We are also leading the coordination of law enforcement at all levels regarding border and port security issues to ensure ongoing situational awareness and to collectively address issues as they arise.
- BC continues to support these efforts through ongoing funding and oversight over specialized organized crime teams and initiatives, including those within the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit-BC (CFSEU-BC)—BC's anti-gang agency.
- We will keep working with the federal government to ensure that our borders are secure, so that drugs and precursor chemicals stop moving through the borders or ports of entry and are kept off our streets.
- British Columbians expect us to work together to make their communities safer and more secure, and we stand ready to collaborate on measures that will effectively address these concerns.

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Trump's 25% Tariffs

- In response to the tariff threat, Canada has acted on a series of new commitments, including a promise to appoint a new fentanyl czar who will lead Canada's efforts to combat fentanyl as well as a promise to list Mexican cartels, one of the top purveyors of fentanyl and other drugs in Canada and the U.S., as terrorists under Canadian law.

Auto Theft

- Auto theft issues at the border were first highlighted by investigative reports published in 2023 that revealed an increase in auto theft and found stolen Canadian vehicles overseas. These reports brought national attention to organized crime networks using the Port of Montreal to export stolen vehicles.
- British Columbia has not experienced the same increase in auto theft as the rest of Canada. In fact, the Integrated Municipal Provincial Auto Crime Team (IMPACT) has seen a decrease in the number of auto thefts in BC in both 2023 and 2024.
- In 2024, a partnership between the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and Integrated Municipal Provincial Auto Crime Team (IMPACT) recovered 29 stolen vehicles, 15 of which were found in shipping containers from the Port of Vancouver, this recovery included stolen cars from Ontario and Quebec.

British Columbia's Response

- BC is taking the lead to coordinate internally and bring together senior leaders from the Federal and Provincial RCMP, police departments along the borders, the CBSA and other stakeholders to ensure timely information sharing and effective responsiveness to areas of concern.
- The Policing and Security Branch has taken the lead in coordinating a Border Readiness Group with senior officials from the Federal and Provincial RCMP, those Independent Police Departments impacted by the border, and the Canada Border Services Agency. This Group is meeting weekly to ensure a seamless exchange of information and identifying potential problems and expedited solutions.
- The Policing and Security Branch has also established a Ports Working Group with representatives of the impacted federal, provincial and municipal agencies. This group will focus on expediting joint solutions to address port related operational issues and advocating for further policy changes that will improve service delivery.
- PSSG is committed to working with the Federal Government to bolster border and port security to create short- and long-term strategies, including advocating for:
 - Funding to establish integrated law enforcement teams dedicated to key ports of entry and border support teams that provide security at hotspots.

- Funding to develop an operational support model that enhances the integrated approach between all levels of the RCMP, CBSA, and our independent police departments to mitigate the issues currently facing our land and marine borders and ports of entry.
 - Support for rapidly procuring the required technology including drones, remote cameras and early warning systems and qualified personnel to operationalize them.
 - A comprehensive and responsive pre-cursor interdiction framework in support of law enforcement strategies to combat the ongoing toxic drug crisis; and,
 - Increased funding for the justice system corresponding to enhanced law enforcement efforts.
- Every year our government invests over \$100M in the fight against gangs and organized crime. This funding includes money for dedicated anti-trafficking teams in CFSEU-BC and a special \$5 million fund for all police across BC to investigate and arrest gangsters and drug traffickers.
 - We have made additional resource enhancements and invested \$230M to increase RCMP members in specialized teams and in communities all across the province.
 - Over the last two years we have seen fentanyl seizures of over 400kg by the RCMP and police across BC. This is a conservative estimate taking only fentanyl dedicated enforcement funding into account.
 - Funding in 2022/23 was dedicated exclusively to drug investigation and enforcement efforts to tackle illegal drug trafficking was \$8.23 million and includes:
 - \$4.37 million: Anti-Trafficking Task Force (Provincial share: \$3.06M)
 - \$2.86 million: PTEP Opioid Funding (Provincial share: \$2.00M)
 - \$1.5 million Guns and Gangs Violence Action Fund (GGVAF) for municipal PTEP targets

Background

Drug Trafficking

- As Canada's Pacific Gateway, British Columbia is unique from the rest of the provinces and territories. It shares borders with the United States to the north and south, with 27,000 kilometres of stunning coastline and is home to numerous land, air and marine ports of entry, including four major deep seaports located in Metro Vancouver, Prince Rupert, Kitimat and Steward.
- For several years, the Province and municipalities have been raising concerns about organized crime's use of the border. These concerns have been highlighted by the increase in illicit domestic production of fentanyl and other synthetic drugs, the increase in auto thefts in Eastern Canada, and the recent tariff threats.

- The policing of Canada's borders and ports of entry is primarily a federal responsibility.
- Currently, the Canadian Border Service Agency (CBSA) supported by the RCMP Federal, Serious and Organized Crime (FSOC); and local police departments to secure the border and ports of entry. The CBSA has been the main policing body of Canadian ports of entry since their inception in 2003.
- Since 2020, BC has witnessed an increase in the illicit domestic production of fentanyl, facilitated by the importation of chemical precursors from China through ports of entry.
- In December 2024, the Federal Government announced a \$1.3 billion border security plan that included the CBSA training and deploying new canine teams to intercept illegal drugs, new chemical detection tools at high-risk ports of entry. The Federal RCMP will deploy a new Ariel Intelligence Task Force which will include helicopters, drones and mobile surveillance. Two Black Hawk Helicopters have already been leased by the RCMP and have already begun monitoring the borders, including in BC.

Auto Theft

- The marine ports gained media attention after an investigation found that organized crime networks were using the Port of Montreal to export stolen cars. This has brought new calls for the creation of a dedicate port police.
 - The port police were disbanded by the federal government in 1997 after a report found that the majority of their time was spent on non-policing matters. The port police were replaced by private security officers that are supported by FSOC RCMP, local police of jurisdiction and, after 2003, the CBSA. Port security is handled by the individual Port Authorities and is regulated by Transport Canada.
 - To support the policing of ports, the Waterfront Joint Forces Operations was created and includes members from the Federal RCMP and independent police departments including Vancouver and Delta. Although it was previously suffering budget cuts that reduced the number of positions, the unit is still active today.
- In February 2024, the federal government, following the rapid increase in auto theft in eastern provinces created the National Action Plan for Combatting Auto Theft. The National Action Plan was created after discussion with RCMP, CBSA, provincial governments, insurance companies, and the representatives of the auto sector. While the National Action Plan had incidental impacts on BC, it did not provide dedicated resources to the province.
- Peter German in his report Policing our Ports estimates that less than 2% of containers entering B.C. ports are scanned, and less than 1% are physically searched.
- The 2024 Auto Theft Trend Report by Équité Association found a 17.4% decrease in auto theft in Ontario compared to 2023 and a 32.4% decrease in Quebec, showing the success of the initiation of the police in those provinces. However, recovery rates remain low with only 50.8% of stolen vehicles being recovered in Ontario and 43.6% in Quebec. Western Canada saw a 12.7% decrease in auto theft in 2024, then in 2023 with a 77% recovery rate.
- Initial reports from 2025 have indicated that fraudulently stolen vehicles from Ontario,

Quebec and Alberta are being found in BC ports. These vehicles are being transferred to BC through rail. CBSA is working with IMPACT when they recover stolen vehicles, but they must be selective with intelligence due to resource limitations.

Key Facts and Figures

Question	Response
What is the Province doing to increase border security?	The border is the jurisdiction of the federal government, and I am very encouraged by the efforts made by the Federal Government through the Canada Border Plan. We are leading the coordination of BC law enforcement agencies at all levels regarding the borders and port security to ensure situational awareness, identify issues as they arise and expedite solutions. The Province of BC continues to support the fight against organized crime and drug trafficking by providing over \$100M in funding a year to specialized organized crime teams and initiatives, including those within the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit-BC (CFSEU-BC)—BC's anti-gang agency.
Is the Province advocating for dedicated port police?	The CBSA has been the law enforcement body responsible for policing Canadian ports since their creation in 2003 supported by FSOC. The Province emphasizes the importance of the federal government meeting these federal agencies staffing commitments and providing adequate resources so they are better equipped to respond to organized crime and other illicit behaviours at the borders. We are working with the CBSA, the federal RCMP and independent police departments to look at how we can support ongoing initiatives including the Waterfront Joint Forces Operation.

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Government Financial Information

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2025/26 ESTIMATES**Protest Monitoring****Key Messages**

- Public order incidents in BC have become increasingly multi-dimensional, including, but not limited to, motivation, location, scope, impact, and financial backing.
- Police are increasingly called to respond to spontaneous, complex, and multi-jurisdictional demonstrations with a nexus to issues and causes generated outside their jurisdictions.
- My Ministry recognizes and understands the ongoing operations and resourcing challenges these events cause for BC police agencies and has taken steps to mitigate these challenges. This involves ensuring the coordination of resources between government agencies and police to provide a proactive response to these issues whenever and wherever they arise.
- However, enforcement decisions and individual investigations occur at arm's length from government, and we cannot interfere with, or direct police on such matters. Police exercise their discretion independently of governments.
- The Policing and Security Branch continues to work with regional public order leaders to understand and advance public order response mechanisms in the province, including liaising with police of jurisdiction for situational awareness and ensuring adequate resourcing in the event of direct action.
- This work includes exploring measures other than enforcement, such as legislative, policy, and regulatory tools, specialty public order policing units, and the provision of public order standards and training for B.C. police officers.

Qs and As

1. **What steps has the BC Government taken to help police address increasing hate motivated speech and/or violence at protests in BC, including places of worship?**
 - The Government has taken a number of actions to ensure police have the tools they need and that vital supports are in place for individuals and communities impacted by hate.
 - For example, we recently updated the Provincial Policing Standards to help support police investigations that are likely to involve hate crimes. The Standards now include requirements for all chiefs of police to ensure written procedures are in place governing investigations suspected to have been motivated by racism, prejudice, or hate.

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- In addition, BC has its own dedicated Integrated Hate Crimes Unit within the RCMP, which was recently expanded as a part of BC's \$230M multi-year investment to address police staffing vacancies and increase staffing at specialized units. The BC Hate Crimes Unit not only supports investigation efforts, but is actively engaged in outreach and educational activities geared towards law enforcement, including providing training.

2. Municipalities are grappling with skyrocketing policing costs while police are increasingly responding to protests of a provincial, federal, and/or international nature. What steps is your Ministry taking to share this resource burden more appropriately with local governments?

- Municipalities with a population over 5,000 are responsible for the provision of policing and law enforcement of all activities that require police action in their jurisdictions.
- Should local governments identify a need for temporary or supplemental resources, the processes outlined under the *Police Act* and Municipal Police Unit Agreement are to be engaged.
- Should an increase in activities within an area of provincial responsibility result in the RCMP submitting a proposal to the Ministry to increase provincial resources, I can assure you that the Ministry will give it careful consideration.
- In the event of sustained, prolonged, and unlawful protest activity, the local police of jurisdiction can request temporary assistance from another policing unit, in accordance with S.68 of the *Police Act*.
- Alternatively, they could request assistance from the RCMP's Critical Response Unit (CRU-BC). CRU-BC is provincially funded, and its mandate includes providing assistance to municipalities throughout BC that do not have adequate resources to successfully de-escalate public order incidents while maintaining public safety, including at geo-political public order events concerning the conflict in the Middle East. CRU-BC does not currently operate under a charge-back model. Municipalities are receiving this assistance at no extra cost to their police force.

3. How can the BC Government justify a \$36 million investment in a public order policing unit that is deploying less and less every year?

- CRU-BC is not deploying less and less every year. Yes, CRU-BC is deploying less than they were during the Fairy Creek protests, but that was the largest and longest public order event this province has ever seen.
- CRU-BC responds to complex protests as the protest environment shifts, and now that we have ensured a dedicated unit of officers, commanders, and support staff with permanent funding, CRU-BC has been able to engage in greater pre-event liaison and negotiation to prevent escalation and provide valuable strategic advice and assistance to Police of Jurisdiction throughout the province.

- CRU-BC assists local RCMP detachments and independent agencies at no extra cost. My Ministry understands that modern day public order policing requires this kind of liaison, expertise, and assistance, and these activities cost money.

4. What is your Ministry doing to address crime and safety in encampments, including those stemming from protests?

- My Ministry recognizes and understands the social, health, community, organizational, and public safety challenges associated with encampments, as police are increasingly called to respond at the intersection of these issues.
- Police must increasingly balance the complexities of encampments with the safety of areas and people that are directly affected by the encampments through victimization, fear, and increasing crime rates without expeditious or straightforward solutions.
- Please be assured that the RCMP and independent police agencies are monitoring encampments throughout the province and are ready to assist municipalities as appropriate. Police remain a pivotal and committed stakeholder in addressing encampment-related issues.
- My Ministry liaises with police on a regular basis to ensure police have all the tools they need to maintain public safety and protect British Columbians' rights to peaceful, lawful, and safe protest, including during direct action events at BC Universities.

5. In light of the recent BC Supreme Court ruling that found RCMP officers violated the Charter rights of Indigenous pipeline protesters and ongoing controversies surrounding CRU-BC, how is the Ministry addressing these concerns to ensure the protection of Indigenous rights and the lawful conduct of enforcement during industrial project protests?

- I am aware of the recent BC Supreme Court ruling regarding the breach of a Coastal Gaslink court injunction, where the judge found that the defendants had their Charter rights violated during their arrests in 2021.
- My Ministry continues to actively coordinate resources between government agencies and police to ensure a proactive response to emerging issues, while respecting police independence and discretion during operations. We have communicated the importance of strengthening relationships between the RCMP and Indigenous communities to the RCMP "E" Division Commanding Officer as a priority of the RCMP Provincial Police Service.
- The Ministry is also actively engaged with experts on police training regarding public order incidents with a goal of making BC a leader in providing a measured response to these incidents that balances individual rights and public safety.
- The BC RCMP has prioritized advancing reconciliation and strengthening trust with Indigenous Peoples in alignment with DRIPA, and it is my expectation that CRU-BC will continue to focus on building and sustaining meaningful relationships with Indigenous communities.

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Background

- The Public Order and Critical Incidents (POCI) Unit within the Policing and Security Branch (PSB) was established in 2021 and plays a key role in the response and management of unlawful protests throughout BC. Personal Security
- The POCI Unit also maintains situational awareness on protest activities in the natural resources sector through the information sharing and collaboration of the Critical Incident Secretariat (CIS). This work was previously done by a contractor for the FY 24/25 (\$26,000).
- The POCI unit is involved in regular and ongoing engagement with Police of Jurisdiction (POJ), regular and ongoing briefings to senior officials, several working groups and committees related to the management of unlawful protest, advancing strategic options for improved response to public order events across the province and superintending the RCMP's Critical Response Unit (CRU-BC).
- For more information on the POCI Unit, please see Appendix A.
- For more information on CRU-BC, please see Appendix B.

Key Facts and Figures**TOPIC: Protest Monitoring**

DESCRIPTION: Last Fiscal Year, 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.

Although CRU-BC is the primary unit within the BC RCMP to address provincial scale protests, it works jointly with other police departments to provide operational responses to protests in both urban and rural locations across BC, conduct proactive engagement, and, if required, enforcement duties specific to the critical incident.

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

TOPIC: Protest Frequency

Question	Response
Protest Occurrence Files	2018 - 506 2019 - 359 (-29%) 2020 - 742 (+107%) 2021 - 1741 (+135%) 2022 - 1089 (-37%) 2023 - 746 (-31.5%) Security Concern
Approximate change in frequency of unlawful protests in BC between 2018 and 2024	

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Unlawful protests in 2024 compared to 2023.	
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Intergovernmental Communications

- While these numbers do not reflect all protest activity, nor do they reflect the reality on the ground for high-protest jurisdictions, they do speak to the pattern of rising demonstrations and events across BC.
- Natural resources projects being completed or nearing completion, such as Coastal Gas Link and Fairy Creek, may have explained the decrease in 2023, but the increase in 2024 could be attributed to the 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 (SOGI). These demonstrations and events often impact populated areas, such as places of worship and post-secondary institutions, or even become longstanding, multi-week encampments around areas such as City Halls and, in the scenario of Victoria, at the BC Legislature.

TOPIC: Protest Severity

Charges Laid	
2018	30
2019	106 (+253%)
2020	22 (-79%)
2021	282 (+1182%)
2022	198 (-29%)
2023	20 (-90%)

Intergovernmental Communications

*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 multiple responses.

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- 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 **approximately 100%** 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.
- The Province is also working on the development of a cohesive training framework that will ensure police officers have consistent training and tools to more effectively deal with public order and critical incidents across BC.

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Appendix A

Public Order and Critical Incidents Unit Provincial Snapshot

Public Order and Critical Incidents Unit – Key Responsibilities		
Mandate 1: Facilitate Situational Awareness and Information Sharing		
Critical Incident Secretariat (CIS)		Meet regularly with law enforcement and cross-government representatives with respect to resource and environmental projects.
Public Order and Critical Incidents (POCI) Working Group		- Meet regularly with regional public order police leaders to share information on upcoming events and lessons learned. - Provide opportunities for members to hear government policy proposals and provide feedback on government initiatives that have implications for police.
Mandate 2: Monitor Protests		
Resource Extraction/Climate Change Protests	Causes	Monitor protests related to the Coastal GasLink, Trans Mountain Expansion, Fairy Creek Watershed projects as well as Carbon Tax, and Climate Action protests.
	Tactics/Impacts	Intergovernmental Communications; Security Concern
	Significance/Pressures	- Many of these protests relate to existing and extended court injunctions, converge with issues of Indigenous land-rights, environmental protection, and the energy industry, and are often beyond the control of a municipality (requiring federal and provincial intervention to be addressed). - CRCC Complaints: The protests at Fairy Creek generated 118 CRCC Complaint files. Of these, only 68% were heard, of these, only 9% were supported by the CRCC. - Some major projects are nearing completion and protests have slowed down. We continue to monitor as the protest environment continues to shift more towards geopolitical causes.
Geopolitical Protests	Causes	Monitor protests related to Israel/Palestine, India/Khalistan, and Anti/Pro SOGI and Anti-Mandate causes.

Appendix A

Public Order and Critical Incidents Unit Provincial Snapshot

	Tactics	Intergovernmental Communications; Security Concern
	Significance/ Pressures	Intergovernmental Communications; Security Concern • Social media plays a huge part in mis/dis-information around these issues.
Mandate 3: Advance Strategic Work		
Public Order and Critical Incidents Work Plan	Work is underway to: Advice/Recommendations	
Public Order and Critical Incidents Training Framework	Advice/Recommendations • Support statutory obligations of the Director of Police Services under the <i>Police Act</i>, • Ensure police agencies have access to the same type of consistent training and create a cohesive response province-wide.	
Socioeconomic Research on Cost of Protests	• Intergovernmental Communications • Research to provide insight on overall costs of public order to society, and • Make recommendations for a potential harm reduction, cost-recovery, and/or socioeconomic index or model to inform future government and criminal justice policy.	

Appendix A

Public Order and Critical Incidents Unit Provincial Snapshot

Mandate 4: Superintend Policing	
Superintend the Critical Response Unit (CRU-BC)	Work continues to: • Liaise with senior police leadership. • Collect and examine protest data, including annual review of financials and human resources metrics, • Ensure Annex A compliance, and • Evaluate budget expenditures in accordance with Treasury Board expectations.

Appendix B

CRU-BC Estimates Factsheet

Overview

- The Critical Response Unit (CRU-BC) is a specialized public order policing unit established in 2017 by the BC-RCMP to facilitate peaceful, lawful, and safe protest activities related to major resource projects.

Intergovernmental Communications; Security Concern

Appendix B

CRU-BC Estimates Factsheet

Intergovernmental Communications; Security Concern

Appendix B

CRU-BC Estimates Factsheet

Intergovernmental Communications; Security Concern

2025/26 ESTIMATES**Special Investigation and Targeted Enforcement (SITE)****Key Messages**

- Special Investigation and Targeted Enforcement (SITE) remains a key strategic initiative, directly addressing the 2025 Mandate Letter's priority to enhance community safety by combating repeat violent offending and street disorder.
- Results from the SITE Program Evaluation demonstrate that police partners widely recognize SITE as essential in addressing repeat violence and facilitating effective interventions with repeat violent offenders in their communities.
- SITE-funded operations have delivered significant public safety outcomes by targeting a high volume of repeat offenders and holding them accountable, reducing public exposure to violent crime, and disrupting cycles of violence. Since the program's launch in May 2023, SITE has:
 - supported 113 operations across 33 communities, with approved funding of over \$10M.
 - facilitated investigations of over 2,930 individuals, with 1,912 recommended charges for 965 individuals, with substantial seizures of illegal weapons, drugs, and criminal assets.
- The Province is aware of and remains committed to combating retail crime and offences that contribute to street disorder.
 - SITE funding has enhanced these types of police operations by increasing capacity for proactive hotspot patrols and boost-and-bust operations in high-incident business corridors, which has delivered robust enforcement outcomes and strengthened community partnerships.

Qs and As

- 1. Given the ongoing budget constraints and the existing level of investment to policing, how do you justify the continued investment for SITE?**
 - Investing in SITE helps police prioritize repeat violent offending and street disorder, which remains a top priority for government and law enforcement partners.
 - Significant policing demand for enhanced support is demonstrated through the high volume of funding requests and full allocation of SITE funding (\$5M in FY 2023/24 and \$6M in FY 2024/25) in both fiscal years since the program launched.

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- SITE provides operational funding, while other investments target human resource increases.
- Investigations funded by SITE have effectively prevented public safety risks, showing tangible results through project outcomes.
- SITE enhances police capacity as a part of the broader multi-agency response under the Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII)¹. Many high-impact offenders managed by ReVOII are identified through SITE-funded operations, making ongoing police involvement in enhanced case management essential.
- Many agencies affirm that SITE funding was crucial for advancing projects addressing pressing public safety concerns, especially in communities facing high risks of violent crimes.

2. What are the outcomes of SITE in addressing repeat violent offending?

- SITE funding has enabled police to expand localized projects targeting repeat violent offending into multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency initiatives.
- Funding support has facilitated an increase in local police presence, with deployments guided by crime data and intelligence analysts, reducing both perceived risk and reported violence in high-risk areas.
- The funding has also expedited critical investigative steps by providing financial support for specialized resources and essential equipment.
- Results from the SITE Program Evaluation demonstrate broad police recognition that increased funding for targeted operations is crucial, with the vast majority of participating agencies affirming SITE's instrumental role in addressing repeat violence and enabling effective interventions that would have been impossible to achieve otherwise.
- Ongoing monitoring and evaluation for FY 23/24 highlight SITE's effectiveness in reducing community risks from repeat violent offenders through strong performance indicators (see Key Facts and Figures below).
 - High numbers of investigations and recommended charges reflect SITE's proactive approach in holding offenders accountable and reducing public exposure to violent crime.
 - Substantial seizures of illegal items—such as weapons (knives, bear spray, replica firearms), drugs (cocaine, meth, fentanyl), and criminal assets (stolen merchandise, cash, vehicles)—help mitigate threats.
- Case studies of high-impact operations highlight the diverse range of crime types and community safety risks addressed through SITE funding, including operations targeting prolific offenders, stranger attacks, violence on transit lines, retail crime, organized theft, property crime, and critical incidents, such as firearm threats.

¹ Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII) is an enhanced coordinated effort between police officers, dedicated prosecutors and probation officers in providing intensive case management of repeat violent offenders.

- SITE aligns with ReVOII to support comprehensive case management and tailored rehabilitative referrals, working together to address the underlying factors that lead to recidivism.

3. How does the SITE program enhance community safety amid evolving public safety issues related to street disorder?

- SITE invests significantly in boost-and-bust operations targeting violent retail theft and street disorder initiatives in crime hotspots and major business corridors linked to homelessness, addiction, and mental health crises.
- These operations are highly successful, resulting in numerous arrests of prolific offenders, seizures of weapons, illegal drugs, stolen merchandise, and a high volume of charges. They also strengthen police-business collaboration and enhance safety for employees and customers.
- Outcomes from SITE projects to-date indicate that the top charge categories are *Property Crime* (89% theft), and *Other Criminal Code Offences* (82% failure to comply with order). This highlights that the offences targeted by SITE operations are predominantly associated with crimes that contribute to street disorder, particularly theft and non-compliance.
- Beyond enforcement, SITE-funded operations also support coordinated operational plans that bring together police, businesses, outreach teams, and social services, ensuring a more strategic and preventative response to street disorder. This collaboration ensures police can work closely with frontline social service providers to connect individuals in crisis to essential services.
 - SITE provided \$120K to Victoria Police's Pandora Project and \$1M to Vancouver Police's Gastown and Hastings initiatives, both demonstrating a collaborative, multi-agency approach to addressing street disorder through community partnerships.
- SITE has implemented several changes to meet emerging policing needs and will remain flexible to evolving crime trends and changing offender profiles.

4. Canadian police agencies have conveyed human resource shortages. How has SITE 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 shared resources.
- The funding for SITE is fenced, which ensures that dedicated resources are not diverted from other policing priorities.
- SITE has remained flexible to address any program gaps, including the revision of certain policies to accept retroactive applications and provide administrative support for projects involving ReVOII individuals.

Background

- SITE is a provincially funded pilot initiative that provides operational funding to enhance police capacity in targeting violent offending and supports a more effective and coordinated prioritization process across jurisdictions.
- SITE's approach is modelled after BC's successful Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority (PTEP) program used to prioritize gang and organized crime initiatives.
- A Law Enforcement Governance Committee (LEGC), consisting of representatives from the RCMP and municipal police departments, is responsible for reviewing and approving SITE applications, ensuring fair distribution across jurisdictions, and aligning the program with diverse community needs.
- The RCMP SITE Team administers the SITE Program on the Government's behalf, actively monitors crime reports, and engages in proactive outreach with all police of jurisdictions, especially those with publicized alarming repeat violent offences to provide support in identifying potential candidates and providing statistical support in prioritizing persons/locations associated with such offences.
- The SITE Program prioritizes equitable funding distribution through active monitoring of funding allocation with considerations for resource-limited communities and those disproportionately affected by repeat violent offences.

Key Facts and Figures**TOPIC: Special Investigation and Targeted Enforcement (SITE)****DESCRIPTION:** The Province provided aGovernment Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications; Security ConcernGovernment Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications; Security Concern

² Funding amounts and outcomes data for concluded projects are as of February 24, 2025.

³ Some communities have been indirectly supported by an integrated or specialized unit (i.e. IHIT, CFSEU) or a multi-jurisdictional department (i.e. Transit Police).

⁴ This is an aggregate count of communities supported by SITE funding. Some RCMP and Independent Police Agency projects have supported the same communities and are therefore counted twice.

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⁵ This is an aggregate count of individuals who were investigated, not a count of unique persons. Some individuals may have been investigated in more than one SITE funded project.

⁶ This is an aggregate count of investigated individuals who were identified as a ReVOII prioritized individual, not a count of unique persons. Some ReVOII prioritized individuals may have been investigated in more than one SITE funded project. Includes individuals who have since been deprioritized due to inactivity, federal custody, moved out of province, or death.

2025/26 ESTIMATES

Situation Tables/
Intervention Circles

Key Messages

Situation Tables

- Situation Tables bring together front-line service providers from the public safety, health, and social services agencies to identify high-risk individuals and rapidly connect them to services and supports to lower the risk of harm or victimization. It allows a community to collaboratively respond to community safety challenges (e.g., crime, substance abuse, street disorder etc.).
- The funding of the model continues to be a Ministry priority. Since 2017, PSSG has spent \$3.4 million dollars to implement and support Situation Tables, Intervention Circles, and related initiatives.
- There are currently 47 Situation Table across BC, in which 37 of them are operational.
 - Lower Mainland: Abbotsford, Agassiz (Kent and Harrison), Burnaby, Chilliwack, Coquitlam, Hope, Langley, Maple Ridge, Mission, New Westminster, Squamish, Surrey (Adult), Surrey (Youth), Vancouver, and Whistler.
 - Kootenays: Columbia Valley and Cranbrook.
 - North: Houston, Kitimat, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Smithers, Terrace, and Williams Lake.
 - Okanagan: Greater Westside Hub (Westbank First Nation, West Kelowna, and Peachland), Kelowna, Penticton, Merritt, and South Okanagan (Oliver and Osoyoos).
 - Vancouver Island: Campbell River, Comox Valley (Courtenay, Comox, and Cumberland), Duncan/North Cowichan, Nanaimo, Port Alberni, Port Hardy, and Victoria.
 - Under Implementation: Fort St. John, Gibsons, Kamloops, Lillooet and Lytton, New Hazelton, North Shore (Adult), North Shore (Youth), Powell River, Princeton, and Richmond.
- In 2024/25, the Ministry provided the following grants for Situation Tables:
 - Establishing Situation Table: Richmond, North Shore (Adult), North Shore (Youth), and Kamloops;
 - Supplemental retraining grant: North Cowichan/Duncan, Penticton, and Prince George; and
 - Community Safety Well-Being: Campbell River and Williams Lake.

Advice/Recommendations

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Intervention Circles

- Intervention Circles are a form of First Nation-led support for people facing high risk situations. Through weekly gatherings, community members and human service agencies come together to share limited information about individuals at high risk, figure out who is best equipped to help, and reach out with a personal support plan.
- The goal of the Circles is to guide people away from the policing and justice system towards those who can provide the appropriate and culturally safe supports to help reduce harm and victimization.
- The Ministry has funded three Intervention Circles across BC. In June of 2023, the Esk'etemc Intervention Circle became operational. In 2024/25, the Ministry provided two additional grants to establish Intervention Circles to the Witset First Nation and the Gitanmaax Band. The implementation of these Circles is underway.

Background

Situation Table

- The Situation Table and Intervention Circle model supports the Ministry's mandate by enhancing:
 - Collaboration across ministries to strengthen proactive interventions for individuals with mental health challenges, addictions, and brain injuries; and
 - Ensure provincial services effectively support police in managing crises and addressing risks to public safety.

Intervention Circles

- Intervention Circles reduce barriers, increase service access, and offer ongoing support to individuals at risk. They can mitigate vulnerabilities, risks, and harms with the broader goals of:
 - Community safety and well-being;
 - Indigenous self-determination; and
 - Increased trust and collaboration among First Nations service agencies and the justice, health, and education sectors.

Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Situation Tables/Intervention Circles

Question	Response
Number of discussions between 2015 to 2024 throughout BC	3,959
Percentage of total discussions that resulted in lowered risk	63%
Number of discussions across all active Situation Tables in 2024	1,009
Percentage that resulted in lowered risk	65%
The police were the top originating agency for discussions across all Situation Tables in BC.	
Percentage of all discussions referred to a Situation Table by the police.	20%
Percentage of clients referred by police that were redirected to more appropriate health or social service agencies	91% This directly prevents the criminalization of individuals at risk. It allows police services to focus on core policing matters for which they are trained and suited.
Most common risk factors in 2024	
• Lack of appropriate housing	65%
• Drug abuse/misuse	47%
• Inability to meet basic needs	44%
• Financial hardship	42%
• Suspected mental health concern(s)	34%

	Total Budgeted: \$3,559,000.00	Total Spent: \$3,430,513.08
Fiscal Year	Program Budget	Actual Spending
2017-2018	\$0.200 M	\$0.200 M
2018-2019	\$0.500 M	\$0.500 M
2019-2020	\$0.500 M	\$0.400 M
2020-2021	\$0.250 M	\$0.250 M
2021-2022	\$0.300 M	\$0.300 M
2022-2023	\$0.650 M	\$0.623 M
2023-2024	\$0.609 M	\$0.609 M
2024-2025	\$0.550 M	\$0.549 M
Total	\$3.559 M	\$3.431 M

Question	Response
How does the Situation Table coordinate with other programs?	Situation Table can complement other programs, such as Interagency Case Assessment Team (ICATs) and ReVOII Hubs, etc. Representatives from these programs can participate in a Situation Table discussion and leverage the partnerships at the Table.
What funding is given to communities to support a Situation Table?	Communities are given one-time start-up funding to train and implement a Situation Table. Once active, a Table is sustained by in-kind contribution from partners.
How does Situation Table differ from other collaborative models?	Situation Tables bring together frontline staff from multiple agencies to discuss individuals facing acute risk in a privacy-compliant manner. As opposed to traditional case management approaches, the Situation Table is a triage model focuses on rapid, interagency information-sharing and coordinated intervention while adhering to confidentiality protocols.

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2025/26 ESTIMATES**Surrey Police Transition****Key Messages**

- The City of Surrey's police model transition is ongoing, reaching a historic milestone on November 29, 2024, when the Surrey Police Service became the City's police agency of jurisdiction.
- The RCMP remains in the City as part of the planned transition process. Under the Provincial Police Service, the RCMP are providing support to the Surrey Police Service to complete the transition.
- The growth of the Surrey Police Service and further reduction of the RCMP in Surrey will occur in a measured and gradual manner, ensuring the stability of policing in the City and in B.C.
- The parties are working collaboratively with a goal of completing the transition by the end of 2026; however, the transition will be completed when the Surrey Police Service has the required resourcing to operate as a stand-alone police agency.
- Provincial oversight and superintendence will continue throughout the remainder of the transition.
- The Province remains committed to working with the City, and all transition parties, to complete the transition in a timely way that keeps the people in Surrey, and the officers that serve them, safe.

Background

- B.C.'s *Police Act* requires that municipalities with a population over 5,000 provide policing by one of three options:
 - their own municipal police department
 - contracting RCMP municipal services, or
 - contracting with a municipal police department.
- The Ministry's Police Model Transition Team (Team) was established in 2019 to provide leadership, expertise, and oversight of municipal police model transitions.
- Surrey's police model transition is the largest in Canada by far and currently drives the majority of the Team's work. The Team's portfolio includes all potential police model transitions.

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- The Team has developed and formalized provincial processes and frameworks to support any (potential) municipal police model transition. The Team has led unique and innovative policy development and analysis supporting unprecedented Ministerial decision-making, as well as negotiating unique arrangements and agreement mechanisms to support Surrey's police model transition.

Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Surrey Police Transition

DESCRIPTION:

Surrey's police model transition has been ongoing since 2018, when the City first resolved to terminate its RCMP municipal services and move to its own municipal police department. Since this time, the City of Surrey, the federal and provincial governments, and the Surrey Police Service (SPS) and the RCMP have been working together to implement a phased approach to the transition period.

- As of January 24, 2025, the SPS has hired 485 sworn officers. Policing in Surrey is also supported by over 450 civilian support staff.
- The SPS and RCMP have developed an operational model to delineate their roles and responsibilities for policing services, functions and programs.
- With respect to frontline policing, the SPS is currently responsible for Whalley/City Centre and Newton and the RCMP in Guildford/Fleetwood, Cloverdale, and South Surrey.
- SPS is targeting to hire an additional 140 sworn officers in 2025, which includes 37 recruits currently in training at the Justice Institute of B.C. (JIBC).
- On January 1, 2024, there were 553 RCMP Members assigned to the PPS for the purposes of providing temporary supports to the SPS and to support the demobilization of Surrey RCMP Members.
 - This equates to an overall reduction of about 230 RCMP Members from the Surrey Municipal RCMP's pre-transition authorized strength of 785.
- The number of RCMP Members will be reduced to 437 to reflect the RCMP's initial required strength for the Temporary Transitional Assistance (aka Surrey Provincial Operations Support Unit).

Contribution Agreement

- In July 2024, the Province entered into an agreement with the City of Surrey that outlines a provincial commitment of up to \$250 million over ten years to help with transition costs. This includes:
 - \$150 million in the first 5 years (\$30 million/year) which the City can use to cover its transition costs, and;
 - In the subsequent 5 years (2029 to 2034), up to an additional \$20 million per year if SPS salary costs are higher than what RCMP salary costs would have been (up to \$100 million in total).

Question	Response
When will this transition be done?	• The RCMP and the SPS are working together to coordinate an increase in SPS officers and delivered services with reductions in RCMP officers and delivered services. • SPS' ability to hire and deploy sworn officers will determine the pace of the transition and inform the Minister in making commensurate reductions to the RCMP in Surrey.
What is the provincial role for the remainder of the transition?	• The Director of Police Services continues to superintend the transition, including monitoring SPS's hiring and conducting further analysis to ensure that SPS' policies, procedures, and structures are in place to expand its responsibility in Surrey. • The Province will also continue to work with the parties to close out Surrey's Municipal Police Unit Agreement.
Where are the demobilized Surrey RCMP Members going? What is the Province doing to ensure RCMP vacancies are filled in other municipalities?	• To date, over 230 Members have been demobilized from Surrey. An additional 115 are in the process of being demobilized or are expected to be demobilized in the coming months. • The Minister has communicated his expectation that demobilized RCMP Members remain in the province to fill vacancies here; however, internal management decisions for the Provincial Police Service, including staffing, are made by the RCMP.

How is the \$250M from the Province being spent?	• The Province committed \$250 million in support of completing the SPS transition to ensure the stability of policing in the province and to ensure that Surrey residents and businesses are not negatively impacted by this unprecedented policing transition. • The Province has made its first payment to the City. Inquiries on specific details for how this payment was applied to offset its transition costs should be directed to the City.
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Contact: Christal Engleder (PSB)	Government Financial Information Mobile:
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2025/26 ESTIMATES**Justice Institute of BC****Key Messages**

- Budget 2025 provides new funding for the Justice Institute of BC (JIBC) that will expand police academy training capacity from 192 to 288 officers per year. This approach to expand JIBC capacity has been endorsed by the BC Association of Municipal Chiefs of Police to meet their recruit training needs.

- **Advice/Recommendations**

- The Policing and Security Branch is developing metrics to assess the cost drivers of the program, ensuring it is sustainable, delivered in a cost-effective way and leveraging economies of scale, to remain affordable for municipalities and future recruits. This work will continue in collaboration with the Ministry of Postsecondary and Future Skills as a tuition review has also been initiated.

Background

- PSSG has been working closely with the BC Association of Municipal Chiefs (BCAMCP) and the JIBC Police Academy Director to expand the capacity of the existing municipal police recruit training program to a 3 x 96 model, resulting in 288 officers per year (previously 192).
- In a September 12, 2024 letter to PSSG, provincial funding was requested by policing stakeholders to support the implementation of the expanded model - \$6.335M in FY25 and \$3.380M for FY26 and beyond.
- A variety of factors are contributing to increased training demand beyond normal Police Academy capacity. Some of these factors include a large retirement cycle exacerbated by pension improvements, hiring of additional officers by various agencies, and the creation of the Surrey Police Service (SPS).
- The annual grant from the Policing and Security Branch has not increased in the last decade; however, in the past PSSG has provided additional funds on an occasional basis (e. g. \$270,000 in 2018, \$170,000 in 2020, and \$957,000 in 2022) to assist the JIBC with budget shortfalls and curriculum improvements.

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Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Justice Institute of BC

DESCRIPTION: PSSG requested access to Contingencies funding over the next three years (2025/26 to 2027/28) to expand the capacity of the recruit training program from 192 to 288 officers per year.

Question	Response
How many police recruit classes occur at the Justice Institute of BC annually?	Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications
How many recruits are in each class?	
Total number of police recruits per year	
Cost of tuition for agencies per recruit (determined by JIBC)	
Cost of tuition for recruit (determined by JIBC)	
Total agency and recruit tuition	
Annual grant from PSSG to the Police Academy	
Funding from the Ministry of Postsecondary and Future Skills (PSFS) to the Justice Institute of BC.	
Why is the Province providing additional funding for police training and not other emergency or public safety programs? (Sheriffs, paramedics, etc.)	

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Question	Response
How are seats allocated at the Police Academy?	Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications
When will the tuition review be completed?	
How does increased tuition impact the diversity of recruits?	

See Appendices for Seat Allocations and Funding Request Breakdown

Contact: Matt Brown, PSB	Government Financial Information Mobile:
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Background from Treasury Board Submission

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences

How are seats allocated at the Police Academy?	The Director of the JIBC Police Academy is responsible for allocating seat requests. These numbers are closely tracked to ensure equitable distribution across agencies, in consideration of their hiring needs and authorized strength.
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2025 Seat Allocations

Class 177 - May 2025					
Dept	Authorized Strength	Requested	Allocated	Total Requested	
Vancouver	1448	25	20	Seat Requests	97
Surrey	531	20	10	Max Class Size	64
Victoria	255	13	6	Excess Capacity	33
Abbotsford	218	5	5		
Delta	197	4	3		
Transit	204	6	4	Surrey Seats Not Met	10
Saanich	166	6	4		
New West	115	6	3		
West Van	81	4	3		
Port Moody	54	2	2		
Central Saanich	23	2	1		
Oak Bay	27	2	1		
Nelson	20	1	1		
St'atl'imx	14	1	1		

Appendix: JIBC Police Academy - 2026 Projections; 2024-2025 Seat Allocations
Current as of March 2025

Class 176 - January 2025					
Dept	Authorized Strength	Requested	Allocated	Total Requested	
Vancouver	1448	24	20	Seat Requests	97
Surrey	531	20	13	Max Class Size	64
Victoria	255	13	6	Excess Capacity	33
Abbotsford	218	9	4		
Delta	197	6	4		
Transit	204	6	6	Surrey Seats Not Met	7
Saanich	166	8	4		
New West	115	6	3		
West Van	81	4	3		
Port Moody	54	3	1		
Central Saanich	23	0	0		
Oak Bay	27	0	0		
Nelson	20	0	0		
St'atl'imx	14	0	0		

2024 Seat Allocations

Class 175 - September 2024					
Dept	Authorized Strength	Requested	Allocated	Total Requested	
Vancouver	1448	20	20	Seat Requests	97
Surrey	531	20	13	Max Class Size	64
Victoria	255	10	6	Excess Capacity	33
Abbotsford	218	7	4		
Delta	197	4	2		
Transit	204	4	4	Surrey Seats Not Met	7
Saanich	166	8	4		
New West	115	8	4		
West Van	81	4	2		
Port Moody	54	2	1		
Central Saanich	23	1	1		
Oak Bay	27	0	0		
Nelson	20	2	2		
St'atl'imx	14	1	1		

Appendix: JIBC Police Academy - 2026 Projections; 2024-2025 Seat Allocations
Current as of March 2025

Class 174 - May 2024					
Dept	Authorized Strength	Requested	Allocated	Total Requested	
Vancouver	1448	25	20	Seat Requests	91
Surrey	531	20	10	Max Class Size	64
Victoria	255	10	6	Excess Capacity	27
Abbotsford	218	7	5		
Delta	197	6	3		
Transit	204	4	4	Surrey Seats Not Met	10
Saanich	166	7	4		
New West	115	6	3		
West Van	81	4	3		
Port Moody	54	2	2		
Central Saanich	23	0	1		
Oak Bay	27	0	1		
Nelson	20	0	1		
St'atl'imx	14	0	1		

Class 173 - January 2024					
Dept	Authorized Strength	Requested	Allocated	Total Requested	
Vancouver	1448	22	20	Seat Requests	81
Surrey	531	15	10	Max Class Size	64
Victoria	255	8	7	Excess Capacity	17
Abbotsford	218	6	4		
Delta	197	4	4		
Transit	204	6	4	Surrey Seats Not Met	5
Saanich	166	6	5		
New West	115	6	4		
West Van	81	4	2		
Port Moody	54	2	2		
Central Saanich	23	0	0		
Oak Bay	27	0	0		
Nelson	20	1	1		
St'atl'imx	14	1	1		

2025/26 ESTIMATES**Cannabis Enforcement –
First Nations****Key Messages**

- The Community Safety Unit (CSU) determines its enforcement priorities on First Nations Land on several factors:
 - The Director of the CSU is an independent statutory decision maker, who holds discretion in exercising the Unit'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.
- Community Safety Unit's approach to 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 BC, including on lands governed by First Nations.
 - Some First Nations have implemented their own cannabis laws, which may or may not be in alignment with the provincial and federal cannabis laws.
 - CSU works to build positive relationships with First Nations in alignment with B.C.'s reconciliation commitments, with the goal of collaborating to find a resolution.
 - 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.
- Community Safety Unit's (CSU) policy regarding the enforcement of unlicensed cannabis operations on First Nations land has not changed since legalization:

- 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 368 education inspections and 120 enforcement inspections.
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.

Background

- While B.C.'s cannabis laws are laws of general application, some First Nations are very critical of CSU and the Province and bring forward complex legal arguments and/or litigation related to Indigenous rights and sovereignty. Conversely, CSU and the Province have faced criticism, and litigation, for a perceived lack of enforcement on First Nations lands.

Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Cannabis Enforcement - First Nations

DESCRIPTION: The below figures are drawn from internal Community Safety Unit (CSU) databases and tracking sheets. These figures reflect a point in time (Feb 19, 2025) and reflect the work of CSU following the commencement of compliance and enforcement activities in 2019.

CSU Activities	Response
Education inspections on all unlicensed cannabis operations	2018 – 1 2019 – 226 2020 – 39 2021 – 28 2022 – 22 2023 – 19 2024 – 32 2025 – 1 Total – 368

Intergovernmental Communications

Unlicensed cannabis operations that have voluntarily closed or shut down since enforcement started	238 total Intergovernmental Communications	
Enforcement actions involving seizures of cannabis at unlicensed cannabis operations	120 total	Intergovernmental Communications
	2019 – 24	2019 – 1
	2020 – 29	2020 – 1
	2021 – 20	2021 – 4
	2022 – 17	2022 – 5
	2023 – 8	2023 – 1
	2024 – 17	2024 – 14
2025 – 5	2025 – 0	
Estimated value of cannabis seized from unlicensed cannabis operations	\$39.9M Total	
Illicit Online Cannabis Stores Investigated	1647	
Illicit Online Cannabis Stores Disrupted	1054	
Administrative Monetary Penalties issued	21	
Value of Administrative Monetary Penalties issued	\$11.4M	
Value of Administrative Monetary Penalties paid	\$1.49M	
Value of Administrative Monetary Penalties in collections action	\$9.9M	
Intergovernmental Communications		
Indigenous communities CSU has engaged with	37	

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Complaints received regarding unlicensed cannabis operations for each year since the Act was brought into force	5715 Total	309 on First Nations Land
	2018 - 241	2018-0
	2019 -1136	2019 -16
	2020 -1109	2020 - 54
	2021 -966	2021 - 42
	2022 - 1025	2022 - 58
	2023 - 708	2023 - 81
	2024 - 421	2024 - 56
	2025 - 25	2025 - 2
CSU positions authorized within the province	30	
CSU positions currently filled	Security Concern	
Location of CSU resources within the province	4 Regional Offices (Surrey, Victoria, Kelowna, Prince George)	

Contact: Matthew Brown (PSSG)	Mobile: Government Financial Information
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2025/26 ESTIMATES**Public Drug Use –
Prescription Drug Diversion
and Enforcement****Key Messages**

- Following the May 7, 2024 amendments to decriminalization, police officers in BC have the power to enforce against problematic drug use in public places. Public drug use is illegal, and people are not allowed to use or possess illicit drugs in public spaces, such as hospitals, businesses, transit, and parks. This new approach is endorsed by the BC Association of Chiefs of Police (BCACP).
- In February 2025, the Province revised the Prescribed Alternatives Program to require that the consumption of all prescribed alternatives must be witnessed by health professionals, ensuring they are consumed by their intended recipient. This new program is endorsed by BCACP.
- Our government takes the diversion of prescription medications – including Prescribed Alternatives – very seriously.
- Diversion of prescription medications is not unique to BC and does not occur only with Prescribed Alternative medications or people who use drugs.
- Diversion occurs at various points along the supply and distribution chain, including healthcare facilities, prescribers, employees, pharmacies, and individual patients. Investigations have been initiated to prevent bad acting pharmacies from contributing to diversion.
- It is the role of law enforcement to intercept and disrupt the flow of illicit drugs, including prescription opioids that may have been diverted for the purposes of selling or trafficking. PSSG provides ongoing annual funding for integrated drug trafficking units, intelligence services and targeted enforcement initiatives.

Background**Decriminalization and Public Drug Use**

- In Spring 2024, BC requested a change to the s. 56 CDSA exemption from Health Canada in response to public concerns about public drug use. The new exemption bans open drug use in nearly all public places.

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- People can now only possess drugs in private residences or designated health-care sites, such as overdose prevention, drug-checking, or addiction treatment service locations. An exception has also been made for unhoused people in legal overnight sheltering locations.
- The *Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act* (RPCISA), passed in November 2023, was intended to restrict public drug use from certain areas but was never brought into force because a constitutional court challenge prevented it from coming into effect.
 - The changes to decriminalization restrict the use of drugs in all the places that had been intended to be covered by RPCISA.
 - As a result, the RPCISA was repealed in December 2024.
- At present, no decisions have been made regarding an extension to the exemption. Discussions with Health Canada on the options available will also inform decisions regarding the exemption going forward.

Prescription Drug Diversion

- Since 2023, the Ministries of Health (HLTH) and Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG) have taken action to address diversion of prescribed alternative medications. This includes:
 - Introduction of the requirement for all new prescribed alternative medications to be witnessed, including the release of updated prescribing guidance for clinicians.
 - Enhanced diversion monitoring and mitigation, including establishing a joint Ministry of Health/Public Safety Solicitor General working group with police to improve information.
 - Funding for specialized enforcement and intelligence initiatives related to guns, gangs, and illicit drug trafficking.
- As of February 2025, the Working Group is being co-led with HLTH's Overdose Emergency Response Centre to reflect their ministry mandate letter commitments.
 - Membership on the DPA Working Group involve PSSG and multiple divisions of HLTH, including the Specialized Investigations Unit, as well as police partners from RCMP, Victoria PD, and Vancouver PD.
 - The Working Group's objectives are to share necessary information to address communication gaps; consider the process for more accurate data collection; prepare educational materials for police related to harm reduction practices; identify additional partners, as needed; and coordinate external communications, as appropriate.
 - To date, the Working Group has created communication and training materials for police agencies and facilitated cross-sector information sharing discussions on existing data collection.

Changes to Prescribed Alternatives Program

- In February 2025, the Province revised the Prescribed Alternatives Program to require that the consumption of all prescribed alternatives must be witnessed by health professionals, ensuring they are consumed by their intended recipient.
- The Province also engaged with the BC Association of Chiefs of Police who issued a statement stating that they recognize the importance of harm reduction measures, including safe supply and addressing the ongoing toxic drug crisis, and noting, with approval, the decision of the province to move to witnessed ingestion, saying: "It is equally essential that these programs are structured in a way that prevents unintended consequences, including the illegal redistribution of prescribed substances."

Drug Enforcement

- Provincial units such as the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit-BC (CFSEU-BC) and specialized units under the Federal Investigative Serious and Organized Crime (FISOC) Division of the RCMP are committed to aggressively pursuing drug traffickers and producers both domestically and internationally.
 - Within CFSEU-BC, the Anti-Trafficking Task Force is mandated to support enforcement efforts to disrupt the flow of illicit substances, including precursors, and illegal firearms through the strategic targeting of traffickers.
- All police agencies in B.C. are required to utilize the Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority (PTEP) model to identify and target the most dangerous gang-affiliated individuals across the province, including those involved in illicit drug production and trafficking.
 - Information for the last full year of reporting we have for the program (December 1, 2022-November 30, 2023) showed that 1346.54 kg of drugs were seized.

Key Facts and Figures**TOPIC: Public Drug Use – Prescription Drug Diversion and Enforcement****Public Drug Use**

- There is no provincial data on public drug use in BC as there is no way for police agencies to clearly determine if an initial call type is a complaint related to drug use. Police can rely on some call-type categories that are related to drug investigations, but a manual review would be required to draw any conclusions about an increase or decrease in public response to changes to the exemption.

Prescribed Alternatives

- In the month of December 2024:
 - 3,892 people were dispensed Prescribed Alternatives (opioids, stimulants, benzodiazepines)
 - 97% of the people who were prescribed an opioid medication in B.C. received it for reasons unrelated to prescribed alternatives, such as pain management.
- Hydromorphone prescribing is decreasing and last year BC saw a 32% reduction in hydromorphone prescribing compared to 2023.
- Since 2024, HLTH has received allegations against more than 60 pharmacies that are suspected of engaging in illegal activities, including misusing fee-for-service payments to offer incentives to attract patients. Police agencies are actively working with HLTH to support these investigations.
- At present, Government does not receive data from police related to drug diversion or seizures of prescription medications, including substances from the Prescribed Alternatives program. Efforts are underway by PSSG to review and contextualize drug seizure data by police agencies.

Drug Enforcement

- The total provincial funding allocated to CFSEU-BC's anti-gang and organized crime initiatives in 2024/2025 was approximately \$95.267 million (provincial portion \$66.687 million; federal portion \$28.58 million).
- Funding in 2024/25 was dedicated exclusively to drug investigation and enforcement efforts to tackle illegal drug trafficking was \$8.74 million.

Question	Response
Will decriminalization be extended past the pilot period (ending January 31, 2026)?	• The government is committed to continuing to review the evidence regarding the Province's response to the toxic drug crisis, and adjusting course as necessary if there are inadvertent consequences or public safety concerns. • The timing of future discussions with Health Canada may be impacted by the federal election, as the federal government is unable to engage or render a decision during the writ period. • If the exemption is allowed to expire, possession of any amount of an illegal substance in any setting would again be subject to the CDSA, except where separate exemptions exist (such as for supervised consumption and drug checking sites). • Police officers will utilize similar practices prior to decriminalization, keeping in mind that CDSA was amended in November 2022 to establish diversion measures for simple drug possession offences. • Under sections 10.1 and 10.2 of the CDSA, police officers must consider whether it would be preferable to take no further action, to warn the individual, or with consent of the individual to refer them to a program, when dealing with an alleged violation of subsection 4(1) regarding personal drug possession.
What has Government done to address diversion?	HLTH and PSSG have taken action to address diversion of prescribed alternative medications by: ○ The introduction for all new prescribed alternative medications to be witnessed, including the release of updated prescribing guidance for clinicians. ○ Enhancing diversion monitoring and mitigation, including establishing a joint Ministry of Health/Public Safety Solicitor General working group with police to improve information and data collection. ○ Funding specialized enforcement and intelligence initiatives related to guns, gangs, and illicit drug trafficking.

Question	Response
Are diverted prescribed alternatives contributing to overdose deaths?	Analysis of the data from HLTH indicates that there has been no increase in opioid use disorder, mortality or morbidity in the population because of the PA program. BC Coroners Service reports that in 2024, fentanyl was detected in 78% of unregulated drug deaths that underwent expedited toxicological testing, while hydromorphone was detected in three percent.
Why are individuals diverting prescribed alternatives?	Police data related to these drug seizures will not explain why diversion is occurring. There are other reasons for diversion that are not related to the prescribed safer supply program (e.g., overprescribing, failing to abide by professional guidelines and policies, illegal actions by pharmacies).
Why did PSSG initially say there is no evidence of widespread diversion?	The statements related to widespread diversion were in reference to prescribed alternatives, not general drug diversion. The information available to date from police agencies suggests a low amount of PA drug seizures, i.e., no quantifiable evidence of widespread diversion. Work is underway to analyze and contextualize the police data, as there are several limitations.

Question	Response
How many pills from the safe supply program have been diverted into the illegal drug trade?	Based on information police agencies like the Vancouver Police Department and the RCMP have shared, we know that most seized substances are congruent with the substances that are associated to the ongoing overdose crisis (fentanyl, cocaine and methamphetamine). In terms of Dilaudid pills, the VPD found that these pills represented only 0.3% of seized substances by weight in 2023. At present, Government does not receive this level of data from all police agencies related to drug diversion or seizures of prescription medications, including substances from the PA program, as this process would require a manual review of all files. We know that this is important information for us to have to better understand the scope of the issue and then strategically align enforcement efforts to target the illegal drug trade. We are committed to responding to the public safety concerns while the data analysis efforts are underway and will support police in their efforts to identify and arrest organized criminals and seize their equipment and proceeds of crime.
How is the government enforcing drug trafficking and cracking down on fentanyl that is coming over the border?	The Province provides ongoing annual funding for integrated drug trafficking units, intelligence services and targeted enforcement initiatives. Provincial units such as the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit-BC (CFSEU-BC) and specialized units under the Federal Investigative Serious and Organized Crime (FISOC) Division of the RCMP which are committed to aggressively pursuing drug traffickers and producers both domestically and internationally.

Question	Response
What data does PSSG have related to diversion?	Efforts are underway by PSSG to review and contextualize drug seizure data by police agencies. RCMP data since January 24, 2024, indicated there have only been 57 files across the province where drugs listed as substances in the prescribed alternatives program were seized. Hydromorphone represented the largest volume of medication seized, both by file count (33; 58%) and weight (1.74kg). However, there are significant limitations with this data. It is challenging to know what suspected PA makes up compared to the proportion of seizures related to prescription medication and drugs generally. Efforts are underway by PSSG to review and contextualize drug seizure data by police agencies. It is important for PSSG and police to continue to work with HLTH partners, as the only reliable way to determine the source of a medication is to match the prescription with the person who received it by a health professional.
How is government protecting youth from accessing these drugs?	If drug traffickers are diverting any substances to youth, police agencies have the authority to arrest the person and seize the substances. It is extremely rare for young people to be admitted to the prescribed alternatives program as it's for people at the highest risk of overdose death to help them stabilize their lives.

Appendix – KMs – QA Safe Supply Investigation Update

Contact: Matt Brown	Mobile: Government Financial Information
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Safe Supply Investigation Update

Garry Begg, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Feb. 18, 2025

1. It's evident that there has been diversion of the Safe Supply Program for quite some time now. RCMP detachments in Prince George and Campbell River reported on this last year, and the Minister of Public Safety at the time said there was no evidence of wide-spread diversion. What are your comments to this?

- The toxic drug crisis is an incredible complex challenge – we're going to keep focusing on saving lives and getting people treatment, and going after the bad actors and criminals who are taking advantage of people – and we are taking action.
- Diversion of prescription medications is not unique to B.C. and does not occur only with Prescribed Alternative (PA) medications or people who use drugs.
- The Premier has been very clear that we have heard concerns about diversion from our partners and that tackling it is a priority – it's reflected in my colleagues mandate letter, and in the appointment of Penny Ballem to focus on these issues.
- We know that diversion occurs at various points along the supply and distribution chain, including healthcare facilities, prescribers, employees, pharmacies, and individual patients.
- There are active investigations, and I cannot comment further.

2. What has government done to date to tackle the issue of diversion?

- Since 2023, the Ministry of Health has taken action to address diversion of prescribed alternative medications. This includes:
 - The introduction for all new prescribed alternative medications to be witnessed, including the release of updated prescribing guidance for clinicians.
 - Enhanced diversion monitoring and mitigation, including establishing a joint Ministry of Health/Public Safety Solicitor General working group with police to improve information.
 - Funding specialized enforcement and intelligence initiatives related to guns, gangs, and illicit drug trafficking.
- It is also important to note, hydromorphone prescribing is decreasing and last year saw a 32% reduction in hydromorphone prescribing compared to 2023.
- This drop is from efforts to change clinical practice to better meet the needs of patients who are more likely to divert because hydromorphone is not meeting their needs.
- But in this case, this presentation is really about preventing bad acting pharmacists from contributing to diversion.

3. How many pills from the safe supply program have been diverted into the illegal drug trade?

- It is the role of law enforcement to intercept and disrupt the flow of illicit drugs, including prescription opioids that may have been diverted for the purposes of selling or trafficking.
- Based on information police agencies like the Vancouver Police Department and the RCMP have shared, we know that the majority of seized substances are congruent with the substances that are associated to the ongoing overdose crisis (fentanyl, cocaine and methamphetamine).
- In terms of Dilaudid pills, the VPD found that these pills represented only 0.3% of seized substances by weight in 2023.
- At present, Government does not receive this level of data from all police agencies related to drug diversion or seizures of prescription medications, including substances from the PA program, as this process would require a manual review of all files.
- We know that this is important information for us to have to better understand the scope of the issue and then strategically align enforcement efforts to target the illegal drug trade.
- We also know that organized crime groups are able to produce counterfeit drugs to appear as though they have been prescribed.

- We will be working with our policing partners immediately to track this data and analyze whether the prescription medication seized was part of a PA program.
- To enhance our enforcement efforts, we know that we will need more detailed information on substances linked to the program, including opioids; such as hydromorphone, fentanyl patches and fentanyl tablets; benzodiazepines; and stimulants.
- Hydromorphone tablets have consistently comprised a small proportion of law enforcement-seized opioid samples in BC.
- It is important for PSB to continue to work with the Ministry of Health, as the only reliable way to determine the source of a medication is to match the prescription with the person who received it by a health professional.
- Police agencies have noted the lack of a formal feedback loop with the health sector on data sharing, so this initiative presents a unique opportunity to formalize and strengthen communication between the two sectors.
- However, we know that police data related to these drug seizures will not explain why diversion is occurring.
- There are other reasons for diversion that are not related to the prescribed safer supply program (e.g., overprescribing, failing to abide by professional guidelines and policies, illegal actions by pharmacies).
- We are committed to responding to the public safety concerns while the data analysis efforts are underway and will support

police in their efforts to identify and arrest organized criminals and seize their equipment and proceeds of crime.

4. Are diverted prescribed alternatives contributing to overdose deaths?

- No, prescribed alternatives – diverted or otherwise – is not the main cause of overdose deaths.
- In 2023, 85% of unregulated drug deaths showed that there was fentanyl present, not hydromorphone.
- The BC Coroners Service stated that there is no indication that prescribed safer supply is contributing to unregulated drug deaths.
- Analysis of the data the Ministry of Health has so far indicates that there has been no increase in opioid use disorder, mortality or morbidity in the population because of the PA program.

5. How is the government enforcing drug trafficking and cracking down on fentanyl that is coming over the border?

- The Province provides ongoing annual funding for integrated drug trafficking units, intelligence services and targeted enforcement initiatives.
- Provincial units such as the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit-BC (CFSEU-BC) and specialized units under the Federal Investigative Serious and Organized Crime (FISOC) Division of the RCMP which are committed to aggressively

pursuing drug traffickers and producers both domestically and internationally.

- Within CFSEU-BC is the Anti-Trafficking Task Force which is mandated to support enforcement efforts to disrupt the flow of illicit substances, including precursors, and illegal firearms through the strategic targeting of traffickers.
- All police agencies in B.C. are required to utilize the *Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority* (PTEP) model to identify and target the most dangerous gang-affiliated individuals across the province, including those involved in illicit drug production and trafficking.
- The total provincial funding allocated to CFSEU-BC's anti-gang and organized crime initiatives in 2024/2025 was approximately \$95.267 million (provincial portion \$66.687 million; federal portion \$28.58 million).
- Funding in 2024/25 was dedicated exclusively to drug investigation and enforcement efforts to tackle illegal drug trafficking was \$8.74 million and includes:
 - \$4.39 million: Anti-Trafficking Task Force (Provincial share: \$3.07M at 70%)
 - \$2.85 million: PTEP Opioid Funding (Provincial share: \$2.00M at 70%)
 - \$1.5 million Guns and Gangs Violence Action Fund (GGVAF) for municipal PTEP targets
- CFSEU-BC over the last full year they have reported (October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024) seized approximately 189.92

kilograms of drugs. In addition, police of jurisdiction across the province, accessing funding through the PTEP program, seized approximately 936.62 kilograms of drugs during the most recent full year of reported data (June 1, 2023-May 31, 2024).

6. How is government protecting youth from accessing these drugs?

- Prescribing pharmaceutical alternatives to toxic street drugs separates people from toxic street drugs and helps keep them alive so they can stabilize their lives and connect to treatment and care.
- This is not a program that people who want to use drugs recreationally can simply choose to opt-in to.
- It is extremely rare for young people to be admitted to the prescribed alternatives program as it's for people at the highest risk of overdose death to help them stabilize their lives.
- If drug traffickers are diverting any substances to youth, police agencies have the authority to arrest the person and seize the substances.

Statement on Diversion of Prescription Medication

February 19, 2025

Statement on Diversion of Prescription Medication

Victoria, BC – The British Columbia Association of Chiefs of Police (BCACP) welcomes today's announcement from the Province of British Columbia regarding the implementation of additional safeguards around safe supply programs to prevent the diversion of prescription medication.

Ensuring that prescribed substances reach those for whom they are intended, while minimizing the risk of diversion into illicit markets, is a critical priority. The BCACP recognizes the importance of harm reduction measures, including safe supply, in addressing the ongoing toxic drug crisis. However, it is equally essential that these programs are structured in a way that prevents unintended consequences, including the illegal redistribution of prescribed substances.

"The BCACP supports evidence-based approaches to reducing harm and saving lives while ensuring appropriate safeguards are in place to mitigate risks associated with diversion," said C/Supt. Wendy Mehat, President of the BCACP. "We appreciate the Province's commitment to strengthening oversight and accountability within the safe supply framework."

The BCACP remains committed to working collaboratively with government partners, health authorities, and community partners to ensure public safety remains at the forefront of harm reduction strategies. Addressing the toxic drug crisis requires a balanced approach—one that prioritizes both public health and community safety.

C/Supt. Wendy Mehat

President, BC Association of Chiefs of Police



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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Estimates 2025/26 Briefing Book**

**BC Corrections
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2025/26 ESTIMATES**Repeat Violent Offending
Intervention Initiative****Key Messages**

- The Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative (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.

Program Impact:

- While a comprehensive evaluation will be completed in the fall of 2025, early findings are promising and suggest the program is:
 - 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.
- ReVOII hub members are seeing the benefits of taking a consistent team management approach. Examples include timely interventions if an accused breaches a term of a release order and the ability to provide information quickly and accurately to the court for the purpose of bail or sentencing.
- With respect to ReVOII clients who exhibit low engagement, these individuals have seen a 27% increase in returns to custody and a 78% increase in breach reports (relative to ReVOII clients with moderate to high engagement). These differences reflect the benefits of coordinated case management, the expedited intervention of response to breaches, and the implications of being able to provide more exhaustive and timely information to the courts.

Supportive Services:

- ReVOII hub members work with various service providers in their 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, culturally appropriate resources, 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 (SDPR) to coordinate access to funds and housing.

- Once admitted to ReVOII, clients' engagement has been linked to improvements in their adaptive behaviour and continuum of needs. A greater proportion of ReVOII clients with moderate to high engagement improved over time on:
 - Compliance with directions/conditions;
 - Resourcefulness/self-efficacy;
 - Mental health stability;
 - Substance use dependence; and
 - Housing stability, relative to clients with low engagement.
- Street disorder/property-related offences: While ReVOII specifically focuses 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, the program does capture individuals who commit property offences if these crimes contain a component of violence, intimidation, or the threat of violence.
- As part of Budget 2025, the Province is launching the Community Safety and Targeted Enforcement Program (C-STEP) to provide police with tools to tackle street disorder and enhance safety in downtowns and commercial areas across B.C.
- C-STEP will primarily target crimes contributing to street disorder, including shoplifting, theft, robbery, and other property-related offences.
- While the Specialized Investigation and Targeted Enforcement Program (SITE) focuses on addressing repeat offences involving violence, C-STEP will provide targeted funding for police agencies to address street disorder, regardless of whether violence is involved.
 - C-STEP will work closely with the SITE Program to ensure a comprehensive public safety strategy that effectively addresses both violent and non-violent crime, adapts to emerging policing needs, and stays responsive to evolving crime trends.
- Other community safety focused initiatives 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.

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 (SITE) that provides expanded resources to strengthen targeted police investigations of repeat violent offending cases and enhance coordination between police agencies.
- As of November 2023, ReVOII hubs have been supported by dedicated Community Integration Specialists (CIS) from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. CIS's help eligible individuals in need apply for and access available ministry funding, community-based supports and services, and assist 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.

Key Facts and Figures

DESCRIPTION: Hub locations and number of individuals identified.

As of April 3, 2025, ReVOII is monitoring 414 individuals throughout B.C.

Hub Location	# of Individuals
Abbotsford	21
Cranbrook	23
Kamloops	25
Kelowna	40
Nanaimo	46
New Westminster	21
Prince George	39
Surrey	41
Terrace	24

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Vancouver	68
Victoria	42
Williams Lake	24
Total Clients	414

DESCRIPTION: Profile of the 414 ReVOII program participants as of April 3, 2025.

Question	Response
Average age of participants	37
Gender	92% self-identify as men 7% self-identify as women 1% self-identify as non-binary
Average current violent charges or convictions	4
Average prior violent or related convictions	10
Participants with significant mental health challenges	65%
Participants with significant substance use challenges	93%
Participants that report having stable housing at program intake	23%
Participants that report having unstable housing at program intake (i.e., precarious housing conditions such as couch surfing, shelter, or being at risk for homelessness)	45%
Participants that report being unsheltered at program intake (i.e., living in a tent or sleeping on the street)	32%
Ethnicity (distribution is similar to the current BC Corrections' custody population)	
Caucasian	49%
Indigenous	38%
Black	5%
South Asian	2%
Asian	< 1%
Other/Unknown	6%

DESCRIPTION: Resource funding.

Treasury Board has provided contingency funding for ReVOII as follows:

BC Corrections	\$0.175 million in 2022/23 \$3.936 million in 2023/24 plus \$0.687 million for vehicle costs \$3.974 million in 2024/25 \$3.974 million in 2025/26*
BC Prosecution Service	\$2.378 million in 2022/23 \$8.162 million in 2023/24 \$8.553 million in 2024/25 \$8.553 million in 25/26*

*TBC once delegation letter received

Funding supports the following dedicated staff resources:

BC Corrections	4 FTEs (director, program manager, policy and program analyst, and senior researcher) to centrally develop, coordinate, and evaluate ReVOII; 9 correctional supervisors 9 probation officers based in correctional centres for release planning 12 probation officers to support each community hub
BC Prosecution Service	21 Crown Counsel 21 BCPS professional staff to establish and support the dedicated prosecution teams.

Contact: Blair Spencer (BCCORR)

Mobile: Government Financial Information

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2025/26 ESTIMATES**Correctional Centre Space
Designated Under Mental
Health Act****Key Messages**

- The Province has identified Living Unit G within Surrey Pretrial Services Centre and the Monarch Houses adjacent to the Alouette Correctional Centre for Women (ACCW) as sites that have been repurposed as designated mental health facilities under section 3(1) of the *Mental Health Act*.
- The Monarch Houses are two buildings outside the secure perimeter of Alouette Correctional Centre for Women that have been discontinued from corrections and are being repurposed.
- The Monarch Houses program, operated by Vancouver Coastal Health, will provide secure care and highly intensive supports in a home-style setting, completely separate from BC Corrections.
 - The Monarch Houses program is expected to be phased in over two years and will house up to 20 individuals at maturity.
 - Phase 1 will operationalize 6 beds within 6 months.
- Living Unit G will create an established secure care space within Surrey Pretrial Services Centre. The unit will initially include 10 beds.
 - Living Unit G is expected to be operational by late fall 2025.
 - Interim options for mental health care are being considered while the necessary renovations take place.

Background

- Individuals in custody certified under the *Mental Health Act* must be transferred to the Forensic Psychiatric Hospital (FPH) for involuntary treatment. Wait times for transfer are often significant, and individuals have limited treatment options until they are transferred to FPH.
- 69 per cent of individuals in custody have a mental health or substance use disorder, while 42 per cent of individuals in custody have both mental health and substance use disorders.

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Key Facts and Figures

Question	Response
Who are these new facilities for? (i.e., People who are already incarcerated? People on the streets? People from other facilities?)	The Monarch Houses are repurposed correctional space, that will be run separately from BC Corrections and will be used for individuals in the community with significant and persistent mental health and substance use issues who require appropriate longitudinal housing. Living unit G in Surrey Pretrial Services Centre is repurposed correctional space that will be run separately from BC Corrections and will focus on rapid treatment of individuals in custody who require treatment for mental health issues and/or acute withdrawal and detox management care.
What oversight mechanisms will be in place to safeguard against violations of people's rights and liberties?	All individuals who are involuntarily admitted under the <i>Mental Health Act</i> have access to a number of oversight mechanisms including requesting a second medical opinion, applying for a hearing with a review panel, and applying to the court for a judge to review the case. In addition, significant legislative amendments were passed during the spring 2022 session to establish an Independent Rights Advice Service to provide information and answer questions, ensuring that those who are involuntarily admitted are informed and supported in understanding their rights.
What is the plan and timeline to open additional facilities? What about using Red Fish Healing Centre, other facilities, and/or re-opening Riverview Hospital?	Additional facilities are currently in the preliminary planning stages. Regarding the future of Riverview lands: - There are mental health services being provided on the Riverlands today - for example, at the Red Fish Healing Centre (105 beds). - We understand the interest in Riverview as a site for expanded healthcare services, including mental health treatment. - Riverview is located on land that is subject to an ongoing title claim from Kwikwetlem First Nation. Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

Question	Response
What is being done about the lack of mental health supports available to people in the community who want and are actively seeking support?	The Province is committed to building up the voluntary system of care, so people can get the help they need, when they need it. We are taking action to expand access to mental health and addictions voluntary care and treatment in communities across the province, including: • Opening more than 650 treatment beds since 2017; • 400 new and modernized mental health beds; • Opening 35 Foundry youth health centres (17 open so far); • Launching an Opioid Treatment Access line, so people anywhere in B.C. can call and get same-day access to addiction treatment and health care providers; • Expanding Road to Recovery across the province to provide seamless care from detox, to treatment to recovery; • Opening First Nations healing and treatment centres; and • Creating complex care housing services for more than 500 people, with more on the way, building more than 8,800 supportive housing units in communities across BC to help people get off the streets and into homes

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2025/26 ESTIMATES**Indigenous Over-Representation –
BC Corrections’ Response****Key Messages**

- Reconciliation and ending Indigenous over-representation in the justice system remains a top priority for BC Corrections. This work includes:
 - Educating all employees about the lasting impacts of colonization, intergenerational trauma, and the role of culture in healing;
 - Building strong partnerships with Indigenous Elders, communities, leaders and service providers to help ensure programs and services are culturally safe;
 - Enhancing policy, practices and expanding culture-based programs and services to improve outcomes and support community reintegration;
 - Improving data collection of Indigenous identity to support case management and facilitate connection to Indigenous community services;
 - Providing Indigenous Cultural Liaison services in all correctional centres to deliver culture-based programs and assist in case planning;
 - Funding 33 community-based Indigenous Justice Programs;
 - Supporting Correctional Health Services to deliver Indigenous Patient Navigator services for Indigenous clients in custody with mental health and addictions concerns to transition effectively to community supports;
 - Building Relationships and developing Memorandums of Understanding with Indigenous communities to support reintegration and community safety; and
 - Supporting the implementation of the Métis Justice Strategy and the BC First Nations Justice Strategy.

Understanding Increasing Rates of Over-representation

- The increasing percentage of Indigenous peoples in the correctional system can be attributed to a combination of factors including a declining non-Indigenous population and a corresponding increase in the number of Indigenous individuals who self-identifying as Indigenous upon intake due to improved policy, practise, and data collection.

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Supports for Indigenous Women

- BC Corrections is working with the BC First Nations Justice Council on the implementation of the Indigenous Women's Justice Plan.
- BC Corrections works with Indigenous justice partners, service delivery agencies, and to deliver services that respond to the unique needs of Indigenous women.
- BC Corrections worked with Indigenous partners to develop programming specifically designed for women to help them overcome thinking and behaviors that lead to involvement with the criminal justice system.
- Indigenous women who give birth while in custody can access the Mother-Child program and develop a strong relationship with their child and a system of support for when they are released.

Key Facts and Figures

DESCRIPTION: Current statistics of Indigenous peoples supervised by BC Corrections and Community-based Indigenous Justice Programs (IJP) in BC.

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 29% in 2024. In custody, the proportion increased from 33% in 2019 to 37% in 2024
What percentage of the custody population identifies as Indigenous compared to B.C.'s population?	Indigenous peoples make up 37% 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?	47% of females and 37% of males in custody identify as Indigenous. ¹
What percentage of community corrections clients identify as Indigenous?	Indigenous peoples make up 29% of the community corrections client population.

¹ BC Corrections is working to align with the BC Gender and Sex Data standards, including collecting data on individuals who identify as gender diverse.

Question	Response
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 2024/25. (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 2024/25. (federal \$2.84 million; provincial \$1.75 million).

Contact: Lori Pruce (BCCORR)

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Government Financial Information

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2025/26 ESTIMATES**Segregation****Key Messages**

- BC Corrections has implemented changes to segregation¹ practices that safeguard the well-being of individuals in its custody, while supporting the safety of correctional centre staff.
- Many of the individuals placed in segregation are dealing with complex issues that require extra supports.
 - When someone is placed in segregation, they receive an individualized intensive case management plan that focusses on identifying and addressing their unique needs through additional programs, interventions, and supports.
 - This plan is designed to focus on increasing integration with peers and providing meaningful human contact.
- Segregation is used after all other options have been exhausted, for the shortest possible time, and with a 15-day limit for a disciplinary penalty.

Background

- Since 2019, BC Corrections has been working to revise segregation practices related to alternatives to segregation, administrative fairness, conditions of confinement, case management, continuous improvement, supporting staff, and has made key changes to policy and practice. The changes reflect court rulings in Canada and align with the international Nelson Mandela Rules.
- Key changes implemented by BC Corrections include:
 - Providing every individual in segregation the option to spend at least 2.5 hours a day out of their cell.
 - Limiting disciplinary segregation penalties to 15 days for both individual and consecutive penalties.
 - Providing an alternative to segregation, called Supported Integration Placement (SIP). SIP gives staff the option to safely house individuals outside of segregation units with a modified living unit routine and an enhanced case plan to address any risks, needs, or behaviours to support integration to the safest and least restrictive placement possible.
 - Enhancing the disciplinary hearing process and increasing administrative fairness through the introduction of independent Correctional Adjudicators in April 2021.

¹ Segregation includes all forms of confinement as outlined in the Correction Act Regulation (CAR), including separate confinement (sections 17,18,19 of the CAR) and disciplinary segregation (sections 24 and 27 of the CAR).

Key Facts and Figures

General Segregation Statistics	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change since 2021
Percentage who spent at least one day in segregation.	35.2% (2,497)	38% (2,897)	50.8% (4,066)	51.1% (4,074)	+15.9%
Average length of stay (days)	7.7	9.2	7.1	6.6	-1.1
Percentage of stays 15 days or shorter	88.8%	89%	91.9%	92.9%	+4.1%

- The increase in the percentage of individuals who have spent at least one day in segregation since 2021 can be attributed to the increasing population of those with complex physical and mental health needs in custody. Short term placement on segregation is used, in collaboration with Correctional Health Services, as a stabilization tool of those suffering from acute mental health and substance use needs.

Indigenous Peoples in Segregation Statistics	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change since 2021
Percentage of individuals who are Indigenous	33.9%	34.6%	34.3%	36.4%	+2.5%
Average length of stay (days) for Indigenous peoples	7.4	8.0	7.0	6.5	-0.9
Percentage of stays 15 days or shorter	90%	90.4%	92%	93.5%	+3.5%

Women in Segregation Statistics	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change since 2021
Percentage of individuals who are women	14.4%	14.8%	13.1%	12.3%	-2.1%
Average length of stay (days) for women	5.5	6.0	6.2	5.9	+0.4
% stays 15 days or shorter	96%	93.6%	93%	94%	-2%

Indigenous Women in Segregation Statistics	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change since 2021
Percentage of individuals who identify as Indigenous women	6.4%	6.7%	5.9%	5.6%	-0.8%
Average length of stay (days) for Indigenous women	5.6	6.0	5.9	6.1	+0.5
Percentage stays 15 days or shorter	95.8%	93.3%	94%	94%	-1.8%

Individuals with Mental Health Needs in Segregation Statistics	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change since 2021
Average length of stay (days) for individuals with mental health needs	9.0	10.3	9.4	8.6	-0.4
Percentage stays 15 days or shorter	85.5%	86.3%	87.2%	89.8%	+4.3%

Qs and As

1. Will you abolish segregation 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 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 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 for Indigenous peoples and people with mental health needs?

- Enhanced case management is better meeting the needs of individuals whose challenging behaviours may have led to segregation in the past. This includes the application of intensive case management plans, case conferences, and formal peer support.
- A process was implemented at intake to gather more fulsome information about individuals in custody, including Indigenous and/or mental health considerations, to ensure individuals are connected with appropriate services and supports.
- This allows decision makers to make more informed decisions in the areas of case management, classification, and discipline. Additionally, complex needs units provide intensive supervision and healthcare supports in an environment better suited to individuals with complex needs.
- The average length of stay for Indigenous peoples who are placed on segregation is 6.5 days, down by 0.9 days since 2021.
- The average length of stay for people with mental health needs who are placed on segregation is 8.6 days, down by 0.4 days since 2021.

3. What changes have been made to segregation?

- We have invested \$30M (over four years) to add program, socialization, and recreation space to enhance meaningful human contact in segregation 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.
- BC Corrections has also implemented:
 - New behaviour management strategies (supports/services); enhanced case management for high risk/needs;
 - A new Custody Assessment Tool pilot to better inform classification decisions/alternative placements.
 - An increase from one hour to a minimum of 2.5 hours out of cell per day.
 - Daily monitoring by health/mental health staff with mental health review/rating every five days.
 - Enhanced administrative fairness and disciplinary process, including a switch to independent adjudicators in 2021 and 15-day limit for disciplinary penalties.
 - In July 2024, specified correctional centres began piloting strategies to encourage those in segregation to participate in time out of a cell and meaningful human contact opportunities. The successful strategies developed through the pilot will be expanded to all BC correctional centres in early 2025.

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2025/26 ESTIMATES**Adult Custody Recruitment****Key Messages**

- In 2024, the Adult Custody Division hired 235 correctional officers and 191 left the division. Correctional officer turnover rate decreased from 18% in 2023 to 15% in 2024.
- The Adult Custody Division's approved staffing model for FY25 required 1225 full time correctional officers (CO FTEs). The division operated with 1126 CO FTEs due to staff shortage, resulting in a shortfall of 99 CO FTEs.
- Over the last few years, the Adult Custody Division has implemented significant changes to its recruitment and retention strategy to meet its staffing needs.
- Recruitment efforts include:
 - Implementing a provincial recruitment program with a team dedicated to enhancing the applicant experience;
 - A province-wide recruitment campaign including radio, newspaper, bus ads, social media, and online marketing resulted in more than 280,000 views of job postings, 5000 applications, and 235 hires in 2024;
 - Promoting the role of a correctional officer as a career that people can be proud of versus a job: "Be a role model, be a peace officer, create change in your community";
 - A move away from part-time hiring to a full-time only model; and
 - A recruitment and retention incentive of \$10,000 for correctional employees to mitigate challenges posed by current labour market conditions. Retention incentive payments are disbursed to eligible employees twice each year.
- The provincial recruitment program has resulted in 26% reduction in repeat applicants when compared to the previous correctional centre-based recruitment model.

Background

- Since 2022, changes in labour market conditions, inflation, and economic trends have led to much higher staff turnover and adversely affected Adult Custody Division's (ACD) ability to attract and hire suitable employees. The persistently low unemployment rates have resulted in a smaller talent pool, and ACD is facing higher competition from organizations in both the public and private sector.
- Due to the 24/7 operations of correctional centres, most correctional officer posts must be backfilled when vacant, often at overtime rates, until replacements can be put in place. Unforeseen pressures such as hospital escorts, investigations, etc., often take priority, and put additional pressure on existing and limited resources.

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- The 19th Main Public Service Agreement came into effect on April 1, 2022, for a three-year period and will expire on March 31, 2025. PSA and BCGEU are currently negotiating to reach a new collective agreement.

Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Hourly wages and salaries of correctional officers

DESCRIPTION: The table below provides the hourly wages and salaries of correctional officers across 11 jurisdictions in Canada, with British Columbia ranking sixth overall. (Based on annual salary).

Ranking	Jurisdiction ¹	Max hourly rate	Hours per week	Annual salary
1	CSC (Federal)	\$49.39	40	\$103,079 ²
2	Ontario	\$43.66	40	\$91,125
3	Manitoba	\$42.64	40	\$88,988
4	Saskatchewan	\$41.81	37.33	\$81,443
5	NFLD and Labrador	\$38.86	40	\$80,835
6	British Columbia	\$43.43³	35	\$79,322
7	Alberta	\$36.65	38.75	\$74,128
8	Quebec	\$32.28	40	\$74,096
9	Nova Scotia	\$34.08	40	\$71,082
10	Prince Edward Island	\$31.05	37.5	\$60,548
11	New Brunswick	\$30.93	37.5	\$60,521

¹ Northwest Territories (\$48.86/hour), Nunavut (\$40.78/hour), and Yukon (\$38.88/hour) have been removed from this analysis because they are isolated and sparsely populated regions, and as such do not offer comparable wage data for our jurisdiction.

² Based on new tentative agreement and 2,080 hours of work per year (40-hour work week), as of June 1, 2025, the overall salary will be \$103,079 per year for a federal correctional officer at the CX2 level.

³ As of April 7, 2024, includes a Temporary Market Adjustment.

TOPIC: Correctional Officer Hires/Exits

Year	Hires	Exits
2024	235	191
2023	158	235
2022	149	277
2021	301	192

TOPIC: Employee Departures

Year	Correctional Officers	Correctional Supervisors
2024	191	29
2023	235	22
2022	277	25
2021	192	23
2020	129	18

*Based on anecdotal evidence, most staff left for higher wages at similar and competing justice agencies.

TOPIC: ACD Staffing Levels

ACD Staff as of December 31, 2024:	
Correctional officers	1274
Correctional supervisors	250
Managers	157
Admin	135
Instructors	19
Chaplains	13
Total	1848

TOPIC: Overtime costs 2020-2024

Calendar Year	Overtime (Million)
2024	\$16.6
2023	\$14.9
2022	\$11.8
2021	\$10.9
2020	\$9.1

Question	Response
How many Correctional officers were hired by ACD in 2024?	235
How many Correctional Officers left the division in 2024?	191
What was the turnover rate/attrition rate for ACD?	Correctional officer turnover rate decreased from 18% in 2023 to 15% in 2024.
What is the annual salary of a BC correctional officer and how does it rank in comparison to other jurisdictions?	The annual maximum salary of a correctional officer including temporary market adjustment is \$79,322 and ranks sixth compared to other jurisdictions.
What is the salary difference between CSC versus BC Corrections?	Annual salary of federal correctional officer will be \$103,079 on June 1, 2025, as per the tentative agreement versus \$79,322 for BC Correctional officer.
What was the overtime cost for ACD last year?	ACD spent \$16.6 million in overtime costs in 2024

Contact: Abdul (Sam) Sheikh (BCCORR)

Mobile:

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
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**Corporate Strategic Initiatives Branch
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Estimate Notes

1. Policing and Public Safety Modernization – Police Act Reform
2. Next Generation 911
3. E-Comm Review and South Island Dispatch
4. Safer Communities and Street Disorder

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2025/26 ESTIMATES**Policing and Public Safety
Modernization
– Police Act Reform****Key Messages**

- Work continues on the Policing and Public Safety Modernization initiative, which was established to respond to the recommendations of the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act.
- This initiative is taking a phased approach. Phase one introduced legislative amendments in April 2024 that address topics related to municipal police governance, police oversight, and tiered law enforcement, within the current *Police Act*. These amendments directly respond to recommendations of the Special Committee and changes requested by the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner.
- Government is now building on these initial amendments based on a significant consultation process that has been ongoing since 2023, to determine our next priorities for modernizing policing and updating the *Police Act*. For us to do this right, we need to consider future changes carefully and in close partnership with all impacted groups.
- We are also continuing work on developing regulations that will bring all the changes made to the *Police Act* in 2024, into force.

Engagement and Consultation

- The Policing and Public Safety Modernization initiative has and continues to be informed by ongoing consultation and cooperation with Indigenous partners, as well as broad engagement with local governments, police, police oversight agencies, and community organizations.
- Ministry staff have directly connected with 87 First Nations and Modern Treaty Nations, and several Indigenous leadership organizations to guide this work.
- Since 2023, staff have held 27 consultation and cooperation sessions, conducted numerous government-to-government meetings, received many written submissions, and hosted an online survey.
- In addition, 16 engagement sessions were held with Indigenous leadership organizations

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- (including the First Nation Leadership Council, First Nations Justice Council, Alliance of Modern Treaty Nations, and Metis Nation BC).
- The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General has also supported 57 First Nations with over \$2.8M in capacity funding over the last two fiscal years to participate meaningfully in this work.

Background

- The Special Committee's key recommendations include:
 - Implementing new policing legislation to govern the provision of policing and public safety services;
 - A new B.C. provincial police service, that includes amalgamating police services on a regional basis where there are opportunities to improve efficiency and effectiveness;
 - Enhancing oversight and accountability by establishing a single, independent, civilian-led oversight agency with responsibility to oversee conduct, complaints, investigations and disciplinary matters;
 - Ensuring Indigenous communities have direct input into their police services;
 - Ensuring communities have access to high quality policing and public safety services;
 - Enhancing and standardizing police education and training; and
 - Creating and appropriately funding a continuum of responses to mental health, addictions, and other complex social issues.
- The Special Committee's report aligns with action 3.11 of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan, the Province's commitment to developing and implementing policing reforms to address systemic biases and racism.

Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Engagement Partners

Question	Response
Local governments represented on the Local Government Policing Modernization Roundtable (coordinated with UBCM)	• City of Burnaby • City of Coquitlam • Town of Creston • Village of Cumberland • City of Fort St. John • City of Kamloops • City of Langley • District Municipality of Sparwood • City of New Westminster • City of Richmond • City of Vancouver • City of North Vancouver • City of Victoria
Question	Response
Police agencies represented on the BC Association of Chiefs of Police Committee for Policing and Public Safety Modernization	• New Westminster Police Department • Oak Bay Police Department • Surrey Police Service • Vancouver Police Department • Victoria Police Department • West Vancouver Police Department • Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police Service • Metro Vancouver Transit Police • RCMP E Division: ○ Operational Strategy Branch ○ Lower Mainland District ○ Island District ○ Southeast District RCMP ○ North District RCMP

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

Question	Response
What is the scope of Phase 1 amendments to the <i>Police Act</i> ?	Phase 1 amendments were introduced in April 2024 and cover 21 topics over 170 clauses. • 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; the law enforcement continuum; miscellaneous topics.
When will Phase 1 amendments come into force?	• Approximately 40% of the <i>Police Act</i> amendments came into force upon Royal Assent on April 25, 2024. • The majority of the remaining changes will come into force by way of supporting regulations in the spring and fall of 2025. • Some of the more complex topics like the development of classes of Safety Officers may take multiple years.
Who will be consulted on the substantive Phase 1 regulations?	Consultations will vary depending on the regulation but generally the same groups that were consulted during the 2023 and 2024 engagement process will also be consulted on substantive Phase 1 regulations. This includes: • BC First Nations Justice Council • First Nations Leadership Council • Métis Nation BC • Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations • BC First Nations and Morden Treaty Nations (all invited; some participating) • Local Government Police Modernization Roundtable and the Union of BC Municipalities • BC Association Chiefs of Police Policing Modernization Sub-Committee • BC Office of Human Rights Commissioner • Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner • Independent Investigations Office • BC Civil Liberties Association • BC Association of Police Boards • BC Police Association

TOPIC: Phase 2 – Consultation and cooperation on policies and policing legislation

Question	Response
Phase 2 Policy Work – Discussion Papers and Initial Policy Options	37 Discussion Papers and 27 Policy Option Papers on the themes of: • Governance • Oversight • Police funding models • Law enforcement continuum • Training • Indigenous policing • Police model transitions • Organizational culture • Superintendence
Who has been involved in the Phase 2 consultation process to date?	• BC First Nations Justice Council • First Nations Leadership Council • Métis Nation BC • Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations • BC First Nations and Morden Treaty Nations (all invited; some participating) • Local Government Police Modernization Roundtable and the Union of BC Municipalities • BC Association Chiefs of Police Policing Modernization Committee • BC Office of Human Rights Commissioner • Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner • Independent Investigations Office • BC Civil Liberties Association • BC Association of Police Boards • BC Police Association

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Number of Phase 2 engagement, consultation, and cooperation meetings since April 1, 2024	- Local Government Police Modernization Roundtable & Union of BC Municipalities: 7 monthly meetings - Indigenous Leadership Organizations: 16 meetings 26 consultation and cooperation sessions were held with participation from 85 First Nations and Modern Treaty Nations from April to September 2024 to discuss Phase 2 Policy. This included: 6 regional sessions. In addition, 2 regional sessions were held in March 2024, as they were in the previous fiscal year, they have not been included in the total count. 5 virtual policy sessions from April to May 2024. 4 in-person policy workshops in Vancouver in May 2024. 9 virtual policy workshops in June 2024. 2 validation sessions in September 2024. The in-person portion of the validation sessions was held in Kelowna. - Police agencies and police governance bodies: 15 meetings - Police oversight bodies: 14 meetings. In addition, 2 meetings were held with oversight bodies in March 2024. - Community-based/advocacy organizations: 11 meetings
Other ways First Nations Rightsholders were invited to provide feedback	- Government-to-government meetings: 3 First Nations met with the ministry to discuss policing and public safety modernization from June to August 2024. - Completion of a survey between April and September 2024: 7 First Nations completed. - Submission of written or oral responses between April and September 2024: 3 First Nations and 2 Indigenous Leadership Groups provided written responses.

TOPIC: Engagement Funding in FY 2024/25

Funding	Response
Number of Nations that received Capacity Funding (as of March 31, 2025)	57 total First Nations have received capacity funding over the course of the PPSM initiative lifecycle. 34 First Nations have received capacity funding in Fiscal 2024/2025: \$1,394,000 total

Funding	Response
Additional Capacity Funding recipients (as of March 31, 2025)	Advice/Recommendations
Total amount of Capacity Funding issued to Nations, Indigenous leadership organizations, and BIPOC-serving organizations (as of March 31, 2025)	\$1,186,000 (Fiscal 2023/2024) - Advice/Recommendations

TOPIC: Miscellaneous Questions

Question	Response
Oversight and Conservation Officers	- 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. - The Special Committee recommended that there be independent oversight of all police and public safety personnel with powers under the <i>Police Act</i>, and the PSSG is working on this. - The scope and mandate of oversight agencies is being analyzed as part of the policing and public safety modernization initiative.

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Special Committee recommendation 11 – Select Standing Committee on <i>Police Act</i> reform	• PSSG is continuing work to address the Special Committee's recommendations, and we are committed to ongoing consultation and cooperation with Indigenous partners as we contemplate further policy changes. • Interested parties were canvassed extensively about policing and public safety reforms – both as part of the Special Committee process and extensive consultations that were subsequently undertaken by ministry staff. • At this point, it is important we now focus our energies on working directly with partners to make further progress towards implementing the recommendations. • As Minister, I will also continue to provide updates to the legislature as appropriate.
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TOPIC: Policing and Public Safety Modernization Contracts

Contract	Contract Amount
Deloitte – First Nations consultation and cooperation	• Total contract value: \$534,000 ○ Amount of contract for Fiscal 2023/24 – \$259,000 ○ Renewal amount for Fiscal 2024/2025 – \$275,000 • Contract with Deloitte to: ○ Design and execute an engagement process with all First Nations and Modern Treaty Nations. ○ This work included designing the approach, outreach, conducting engagements, and summarizing feedback. ○ Numerous sessions were conducted both virtually and in-person.
Contract	Contract Amount
Deloitte – Comprehensive "What We Heard" Report	Business Information

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TOPIC: Corporate Strategic Initiatives

Public Service Staffing	
Staffing complement	• The Policing and Public Safety Modernization initiative is staffed through a work unit in the Corporate Strategic Initiatives Branch • This work unit is comprised of: ○ 1 Executive Director; ○ 3 Directors, and; ○ 14 Policy and Engagement Staff; ○ totaling 18 FTEs. ○ This work unit will be decreasing to 17 FTEs in April 2025. • The total annual salary and benefits expense for these 17 remaining FTEs is approximately \$2.175M. • The work unit is not anticipating any new hiring in fiscal 2025/26.

Contact: Mark Fassina (CSI)

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2025/26 ESTIMATES**Next Generation 911****Key Messages**

- Public safety and public confidence in the emergency communications services system are priorities for our government.
- When people experience a life-threatening emergency, it's important that they know they can count on an accessible and reliable 911 system.
- Next Generation 911's technological capabilities will lead to safer, faster and more informed emergency call taking and response.
- This advanced internet-based technology will eventually offer people more options for contacting 911, including Real Time Texting and caller location features through Geographic Information System mapping.
- Real Time Texting means a caller, once it has established a 911 call, can continue via text messages instead of voice communication. This is especially useful for people with disabilities and situations where speaking is not safe. Geographic Information System information reduces response times and increases the chances of successful emergency interventions.
- Potential future capabilities enabled by NG911 also include multimedia (pictures and video) and complex data like health information or blueprints flowing from people's phones or other devices to first responders and emergency management personnel.

Next Generation 911 Implementation

- In March 2023, the Province invested \$150 million to assist E-Comm, local governments, and Treaty First Nations with costs for technological and service upgrades as we transition from E-911 to Next Generation 911 (NG911) in British Columbia.
- E-Comm is leading NG911 implementation in B.C. and will begin onboarding its call centres throughout the province in early Fall 2025. Other clients, such as the RCMP, will also be migrating to the NG911 technology in the fall.
- NG911 technology will be implemented in British Columbia before the end of 2025, well ahead of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission's new March 2027 deadline.

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- We are monitoring Government's \$150 million investment and the progress of NG911 implementation by E-Comm and local governments, including the steps and activities of our partners involved.

Background

- The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) had originally mandated the implementation of Next Generation 911 (NG911), an Internet Protocol-based system, and the decommissioning of current 911 networks by March 4, 2025.
- On February 28, 2025, the CRTC announced a new deadline of March 31, 2027, as most of the call centres in Canada were not yet ready to switch to NG911 technology.
- E-Comm is responsible for 99 percent of the province's 911 call volume and answers 911 calls for 25 out of 27 regional districts across B.C.
- Local governments are responsible for their emergency 911 service and fund it primarily through property taxes and landline levies.
- E-Comm is leading the NG911 implementation for several agencies in B.C., including BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) and RCMP, as well as its own call centres.
- In February 2025, E-Comm provided the Province with a revised NG911 implementation schedule of its own call centres. E-Comm's transition and onboarding to NG911 will begin in early September 2025 and be completed by November 2025. BCEHS and RCMP will also transition to NG911 in fall 2025.
- In addition to the provision of funding, the Province has been working with regional districts, TELUS and E-Comm to finalize local government agreements needed to enable NG911.
- E-Comm continues to focus on remaining technical and operational readiness activities and will engage with contracted partners and stakeholders to confirm specific NG911 onboarding dates in Fall 2025.

Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Next Generation 911 Implementation

Question	Response
Provincial funding to support NG911 implementation	• \$150M Provincial investment provided in March 2023 to be used through 2026. The funding was divided into two parts: ○ \$90M was provided to E-Comm for hardware and software upgrades and associated costs, and ○ \$60M to the UBCM to administer as grants to offset NG911 implementation costs for municipalities and First Nations.

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Question	Response
	- Government Financial Information - UBCM grants to December 31, 2024: - Approved grants: \$36,545,000 - Disbursed grants: \$18,047,500 201 communities and treaty First Nations have received grants. - All eligible communities and treaty First Nations¹ have received UBCM funding. To date, communities have received 50% of their total approved grant. - 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. As of December 2024, that balance is \$26,969,484
Provincial funding provided for NG911 operational support beyond March 2027 deadline	There is no additional provincial funding to be provided.
NG911 implementation progress	- 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 E-Comm 911 and dispatch call centres are completing the activities necessary to migrate to the NG911 platform in Fall 2025. - The primary Public Safety Answering Points that service B.C. communities are: two E-Comm locations, Prince Rupert Fire, Nelson, Department of National Defence Fire, and Grand Prairie, A.B.

¹ Gingolx Village Government, Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government, Gitwinksihlkw Village Government, Huu-ay-aht First Nations, Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations, Laxgalts'ap Village Government, shíshálh Nation Government District, Tla'amin Nation, Toquaht Nation, Tsawwassen First Nation, Uchucklesaht Tribe, Yuułu?it?ath First Nation

Question	Response
	• Prince Rupert Fire, and Nelson are not required to transition to NG911 until 2027. As such the Province is only directly funding E-Comm for NG911 transition, while Prince Rupert and Nelson have been funded through the UBCM process. • There are 21 secondary Public Safety Answering Points in B.C. that are required to transition to NG911 by the new March 2027 deadline.
Activities associated with NG 911 implementation	• TELUS (BC's telecommunications provider) was directed by the CRTC to support the NG911 services in B.C. • Access to the NG911 system is dependent on client regional districts signing a Local Government Authority Agreement with TELUS. Agreements must be signed before the 911 centres can migrate to the TELUS NG911 system. • Local Government Authority Agreements require regional districts to assume responsibility for ○ providing TELUS with geographic information system (which was not previously required for 911); and, ○ the accuracy of the data that is the responsibility of municipalities, First Nations, and other entities. • 22 of the 25 regional districts required have currently signed an LGA Agreement. • 4 municipalities have also signed LGAs: Nanaimo, Surrey, District of Squamish, and the Resort Municipality of Whistler.

Contact: Darrion Campbell, Executive Director, CSI

Mobile:

Government Financial Information

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2025/26 ESTIMATES**E-Comm Review and South
Island Dispatch****Key Messages**

- Public safety and public confidence in the emergency communications services system are priorities for our government.
- When people experience a life-threatening emergency, it is important that they know they can count on a dependable, accessible and reliable 911 system.
- On December 5, 2024, the Province announced an independent review of E-Comm's financial sustainability, operational efficiency and governance, that will include recommendations for the future of 911 services in B.C. This review will examine the current funding model and the application of levies in the future.
- The Province is conducting an independent review of E-Comm and 911 services to understand the reasons behind year-over-year cost increases, and to ensure that there is a reliable and sustainable model for 911 services in B.C. for years to come.
- Government's expectation is that there will be no interruption to the current 911 service delivery or impacts on the Next Generation 911 implementation process during the review.
- The independent review will have no financial impact on E-Comm clients.

E-Comm Independent Review

- Through a public request for proposal process, the Ministry has procured Ernst & Young (EY) as the successful vendor to conduct the independent review.
- The review is in its beginning stages and will be completed within 2025. A report will be provided to the Director of Police Services with recommendations for Government's consideration.

South Island Municipalities Police Dispatch Funding

- I appreciate and recognize the concerns raised by South Island communities regarding police dispatch funding impacting their communities.
- South Island communities were informed over four years ago why the change in service delivery costs was taking place and that this would start in 2025.

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- In response to feedback received by these communities, in December 2020, Government provided multi-year transitional funding through 2021 to support the change and help communities plan accordingly. Government extended that in mid-2021 through to March 31, 2025.
- We committed to an analysing future funding models including a call-answer levy (CAL). This will take time and is included within the scope of the E-Comm review underway.
- In addition, while meeting with the South Island Mayors, I committed to reviewing their concerns around cost inequality for police dispatch throughout the province.

Background

- The responsibility for 911 services in B.C. rests with local governments, as delegated by the Province through agreements such as Municipal Police Unit Agreements and Provincial Policing Service Agreements. This applies whether the police of jurisdiction are a municipal police service or the RCMP, and 911 is currently funded primarily through property taxes and landline levies.
- E-Comm is responsible for 99 per cent of the province's 911 call volume and answers 911 calls for 25 out of 27 regional districts across B.C.
- E-Comm and their board determine the levies that they negotiate with their clients. The Province does not play a regulatory role in this process, although the ministry has monitored the levy increases in recent years.

- **Advice/Recommendations**

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E-Comm Independent Review Scope

- The review will examine and provide recommendations on the financial health, governance and operational performance of E-Comm's service delivery model.
 - Financial Review – to evaluate and assess the financial health and sustainability of E-Comm.
 - Operational Review – to evaluate and assess the efficiency, effectiveness, and overall health of E-Comm's operational performance.
 - Governance review – to evaluate E-Comm's governance and decision-making practices.
 - B.C. 911 Service Delivery Model – to provide recommendations to government for the future of 911 service delivery including a funding model and call-taking and dispatch.

Contact: Darrion Campbell, Executive Director, CSI

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2025/26 ESTIMATES**Safer Communities and
Street Disorder****Key Messages**

- Government is committed to keeping people safe and communities safer.
- The public safety challenges we are seeing in our communities are complex and they cannot be resolved in isolation – they require a multifaceted approach and response.
- We are continuing our work and are increasing enforcement efforts to specifically target street disorder and organized crime in our neighbourhoods and downtown cores.
- The Ministry is continuing to partner with other ministries and service providers to deliver a range of important public safety initiatives, including the Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII) and the Special Investigations and Targeted Enforcement (SITE) program.
- In Budget 2025, government is continuing to invest in community safety programs that are having a positive impact, including \$67 million in funding for the:
 - Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative Program (ReVOII);
 - Special Investigation and Targeted Enforcement Program (SITE); and
 - The new Community Safety and Targeted Enforcement Program (C-STEP).
- The new C-STEP program will specifically target street level crimes, including robbery, shoplifting and property crimes. The program will provide police with enhanced tools and resources to enforce a broader range of offences and various forms of street disorder. The program will be aligned with SITE to ensure a comprehensive public safety strategy that effectively addresses both violent and non-violent crime.

Safer Communities Action Plan (SCAP)

- We continue to monitor the effectiveness of the initiatives introduced under the Safer Communities Action Plan and are examining areas where they can be strengthened or realigned.
- These programs are starting to make a difference and are helping build safer, stronger communities by improving coordination and collaboration between law enforcement, community service organizations, justice system officials and healthcare providers.

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Background

- Ministries involved in implementing programs under SCAP include:
 - Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG)
 - Ministry of Attorney General (AG)
 - Ministry of Health (HLTH)
 - Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs (HMA)
 - Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR)
- Each initiative implemented under the Plan was 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 through a collaborative and coordinated approach.
- In the context of continued random violent attacks, chronic street disorder, shoplifting and attacks on businesses and residents, there have been calls for government to increase actions regarding safer communities, in addition to the investments to date.
- The Ministry is hearing directly from local governments, law enforcement, the business community, community level organizations and service providers that there is a disproportionate level of crime and victimization rates in some neighbourhoods with complex encampments, high rates of homelessness and drug use.
- Business and community leaders state that retail crime, continues to have a significant impact on business operators, their employees, and customers. They note that retail crime is directly causing store closures, job losses, and difficulty recruiting and retaining staff.
- In its annual Crime Severity Index for 2023 (released in July 2024), Statistics Canada found that violent crime in B.C. experienced a 4.3% decrease, while non-violent crimes experienced a nearly 7% increase. The overall per capita crime rate, based on police reports, is down in B.C. by about 3% since 2018.

Key Facts and Figures

- *For detailed information on PSSG safer community initiatives, please refer to the specific estimates notes for ReVOII, SITE, Situation Tables and Intervention Circles, Organized Crime and Civil Forfeiture.*

Contact: Darrion Campbell, Executive Director, CSI

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
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**Community Safety and Victim Services Branch
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3. Path Forward: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQ+ People
4. Gender-based Violence

2025/26 ESTIMATES

Community Safety and
Victim Services Programs

Key Messages

- The ministry provides over \$60 million annually in funding to support more than 475 victim service and violence against women programs across the province, including the 70 new sexual assault services programs and 5 sexual assault centres.

Background

Contracted programs include:

- **Police-Based and Community-Based Victim Service Programs** provide emotional support, information, referrals and practical assistance to victims of crime and trauma across B.C.
- **Domestic Violence Units (DVU)** co-locate dedicated police officer(s) with community-based victim services and, in some communities, a child protection worker, to improve case coordination and collaboration in highest risk cases of domestic violence. DVUs are operational in nine communities: Abbotsford, Capital Region, New Westminster, North Shore (North Vancouver and West Vancouver), Surrey, Nanaimo, Kelowna, Vancouver and Prince George.
- **VictimLinkBC** is a multilingual confidential service available across BC and the Yukon 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, which provides information and referral services to victims of crime and immediate crisis support to victims of family and sexual violence. The service can be accessed by phone, email and text.
- **Stopping the Violence Counselling programs** provides individual and group counselling for women who have experienced childhood abuse, sexual assault and violence in relationships.
- **Prevention, Education, Advocacy, Counselling and Empowerment programs** (PEACE) provides group and individual counselling for children ages 3-18 years (and their non-offending caregiver) who have witnessed abuse, threats or violence at home.
- **Outreach Services** help women identify and access services by providing information, referrals, accompaniment, and transportation to other necessary services.
- **Multicultural Outreach Services** provide services to communities in up to 24 languages to ensure immigrant and visible minority women receive assistance from workers who speak their own language and are familiar with their culture.
- **Sexual Assault Services programs** – including 22 Indigenous-focused programs – deliver co-ordinated, community-based services to victims of sexual and gender-based violence throughout British Columbia.
- **Sexual Assault Centres** are located in Victoria, Vancouver, Surrey, Kamloops, and Prince George, access a range of services in one location including interviews with police, medical and forensic examination.

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Ministry delivered programs include:

- **Crime Victim Assistance Program (CVAP)** is a financial benefits program to assist victims, immediate family members, and some witnesses to cope with and heal from the effects of violent crime by providing a range of benefits (e.g., counselling, income support, protective measures) to help offset financial costs.
- **Victim Safety Unit (VSU)** provides safety and notification services about the status of an adult accused/offender to higher risk victims and works with victim service programs to ensure victims are aware of and have access to safety services.
- **Victim Court Support Programs** assist victims through the justice process by coordinating between victim service and justice system personnel (e.g. Crown).
- **Restitution Program** assists victims of crime who have unpaid restitution orders; works with offenders to encourage compliance.
- **Intimate Images Protection Service** supports people in B.C. who have had their intimate images shared without their consent, and provides emotional support and resources, information on how to get intimate images removed, and supports victims through the Civil Resolution Tribunal or other reporting processes.

Crime Prevention Programs and Services

- The ministry provides annual funding to the Block Watch Society of B.C., and the B.C. Crime Stoppers Local Program and Tip Line.
- The ministry provides annual funding for the Surrey Wrap program, a partnership between the Surrey School District, Surrey RCMP and the City of Surrey that brings together community partners to provide long-term services and wrap-around supports for gang-associated youth and their families.

Key Facts and Figures**TOPIC: Community Safety and Victim Services 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 and other governments 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.

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Program Area	Funding
Contracted victim services programs • 92 Police-Based • 66 Community-Based • 9 Domestic Violence Units • 1 Provincial Helpline	\$21.7M
Contracted violence against women programs • 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	\$38.8M
Total funding provided to contracted services	\$60.5M
Community Accountability Programs (CAPs) - 51	Up to \$4,000 per CAP \$196,500 total in 25/26
Crime Victim Assistance Program budget	\$21.2M
CSVS's total projected expenditures	\$104.03M
CSVS's net operating budget	\$93.91M

Contact: Taryn Walsh (CSVS)

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2025/26 ESTIMATES**Civil Forfeiture Program
Overview and Priorities****Key Messages**

- The BC Civil Forfeiture Office (CFO) operates under the authority of the *Civil Forfeiture Act* to target and remove the illegal profits and tools of criminal activity that fuel the cycle of exploitation and violence in our communities.

Cabinet Confidences

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- In addition to deploying innovative tools such as Unexplained Wealth Orders (UWO's), the Province also continues to work with the federal government to encourage legislative changes that would enhance the effectiveness of civil forfeiture, including access to key financial intelligence from FINTRAC.

Background

- Money laundering is a significant and disruptive issue in British Columbia, with the proceeds most frequently sourced from illegal drug production and trafficking, which fuels violence that negatively impacts the safety of our communities.
- The Province remains steadfast in its commitment to curb money laundering, dismantle the operations of organized crime and enhance public safety through a multi-pronged approach involving early detection, deterrence, and disruption.
- BC is a national leader in the use of civil forfeiture as a tool against the illegal profits and tools of criminal organizations. Last year, BC forfeited more illegal assets than all other Provinces combined.
- The funds from forfeitures do not flow into general revenue. Instead, the CFO, as a self-funding agency, uses the proceeds to cover all its operational and legal costs and then disburses the remaining funds to communities across BC in the form of crime prevention grants. Approximately half of the funds from all forfeitures are invested back into BC communities – making an important contribution to public safety.
- In 2022, the Cullen Commission of Inquiry into Money Laundering in British Columbia provided a list of 101 recommendations, including three targeting the CFO. The Commission recommended significantly expanding the CFO's operational capacity, as well as establishing an Unexplained Wealth Order regime¹.

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- In 2023, BC was the first Province to file an Unexplained Wealth Order application against a member of a criminal organization and, since then, a further three orders have been filed².
- That same year and for the first time in BC history, the CFO successfully forfeited three Hells Angels/Outlaw Motorcycle Gang clubhouses. Additionally, the BC Court of Appeal validated the constitutionality of civilly forfeiting the *tools* (and not just the proceeds) of unlawful activity.
- Most recently, the CFO filed proceedings against a property that contained Canada's largest clandestine 'superlab' which had been producing vast quantities of fentanyl and methamphetamine on behalf of transnational organized crime.
- In 2023, the international Anti-Money Laundering "watchdog", the Financial Action Task Force, made the use of civil forfeiture³ a requirement by all countries and is set to audit Canada in late 2025. Canada is relying on provincial CFO programs to meet this requirement.

Key Facts and Figures

- Since the program's inception in 2006, the CFO has forfeited approximately \$200M.
- On average, judicial (in court) forfeiture accounts for approximately 77% of proceeds generated by the CFO, while administrative (non-court) forfeiture accounts for about 23%.
- To date, \$83M in the proceeds from forfeitures have been invested in crime prevention programs throughout BC with 90% going directly to community programs and 10% going to police for specialized training & equipment. A total of \$1.7M has also been disbursed as compensation to certain eligible victims.
- As of February 2025, there are 268 active judicial forfeiture cases that total \$361M in gross value, and 997 administrative forfeiture cases that total \$9.9M in gross value, which are potentially available for government to successfully forfeit.

Contact: Phil Tawtel, Executive Director, CFO	Mobile: Government Financial Information
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² The first UWO court hearing is scheduled on March 31, 2025.

2025/26 ESTIMATES**Path Forward: Missing and
Murdered Indigenous Women,
Girls and 2SLGBTQ+ People****Key Messages**

- We are committed to a path forward to end violence against Indigenous Women, Girls, Two-Spirit and gender diverse people that is directly informed by survivors, family members and communities.
- In 2021, government released A Path Forward: Priorities and Early Strategies for BC that responds to the Calls for Justice of the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). A Path Forward contains 28 key mandate commitments that reflect priorities identified in community dialogues and sets a solid foundation with strategies for a path forward to ending violence.
- Government releases yearly Status Updates on A Path Forward. Preparation of the 2025 Update report is underway with its release expected on June 3, 2025. All 28 commitments are well underway and six are complete.

Path Forward Community Fund

- We have heard from Indigenous people that it's important for government to provide the resources they need to lead the work to end this violence.
- To answer that call and as part of BC's Path Forward, the Path Forward Community Fund was established in 2022 to meet the need for Indigenous-led capacity building and safety planning, and help Indigenous communities and organizations create and implement their own culturally safe solutions.
- Managed by the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, there have been four rounds of funding, providing \$15.84 million for Indigenous-led, anti-violence projects around the province. 51 projects have been supported to date, with more projects to be announced shortly.
- Dismantling the underlying and systemic issues that result in Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people experiencing violence at a much higher rate than other populations is fundamental to our government's work toward true and lasting reconciliation and advancing gender equality.

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Background

- In September 2016 the Federal government established the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) to examine and report on systemic causes of violence experienced by Indigenous women and girls and their greater vulnerability to violence.
- A 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 Federal government released the National Action Plan, a path towards ending violence against Indigenous Women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples. On that same day, BC released its own plan, A Path Forward: Priorities and Early Strategies for BC, as well as What We Heard, a report of the 2019 and 2021 community dialogues.
- Since the release of the A Path Forward, BC has acted 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 (BCAAFC) was selected through a competitive process 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 BCAAFC was chosen for its accessibility to diverse populations, community connections, geographical reach, experience administering funds and understanding of the causes of violence against women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.
- The annual Path Forward Status Updates, released on the anniversary of BC's A Path Forward, outline cross-government action to end violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQ+ people. The updates highlight the progress of 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 2025 Status Update is expected to be released on June 3, 2025.
- The Path Forward is also reflected in Action 3.8 of B.C.'s Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan.

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Key Facts and Figures

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

Question	Response
It's been six years since the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and four years since the release of BC's response: <i>A Path Forward: Priorities and Early Strategies</i> . What's BC 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 commitments that are relevant to the provincially relevant Calls for Justice. The key 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. The next Update Report is expected in June 2025. All 28 commitments are well underway and six are complete.
How much money is being spent to find solutions to this important issue?	Since 2022, \$15.8 million has been invested in the Path Forward Community Fund, supporting 51 Indigenous-led anti-violence projects, with more funded projects to be announced soon. There are many other branches and ministries working on Calls for Justice responses and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls related 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;

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	• 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 (WAGE) funding to enhance two Gender-Based Violence crisis lines (one operated by the Indian Residential Schools Survivors Society) and improvements to VictimLinkBC; • Operating the Family Information Liaison Unit which provides supports and resources to families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls; and • \$2 million to the Moose Hide Campaign in 2023 to expend over four years.
The Path Forward Community Fund has been funded in excess of \$15 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 reduce violence against Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit and gender diverse people. An evaluation of the Fund is underway to assess the implementation and outcomes of the Fund.

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2025/26 ESTIMATES**Gender-based Violence****Key Messages**

- We have expanded services for victims of gender-based violence with new programs to respond to sexual assault and non-consensual sharing of intimate images.
- We recognize that gender-based violence has impacts across society and that women, girls, racialized and gender diverse people are at higher risk.
- We continue to support victim services across the province to address the diverse needs of victims. Through the provincial Gender-Based Violence Action Plan, we are working with community-based organizations to address waitlists and expand capacity.

Background

- The ministry provides over \$60 million annually in funding to support more than 475 programs to support survivors of gender-based violence, including the 70 new sexual assault programs and 5 sexual assault centres. Sexual assault centres are trauma-informed spaces where survivors can access a range of services and support including counselling, police interviews, health care and forensic examination. One centre is already in operation (Victoria) and four others are planning to complete related renovations in order to provide the full range of services in 2025 (Kamloops, Prince George, Vancouver and Surrey).
- As the government lead in victim services, the ministry manages a large portion of funding and actions identified in BC's Gender-Based Violence Action Plan, *Safe and Supported* released in December 2023.
- PSSG received more than half of the total funding for Years 1 and 2 of the Action Plan (\$17.996 million of the total \$25.896 million), with the majority of this funding managed by the Community Safety and Victim Services Branch (CSVs).
- The three year Action Plan is committed to mobilizing funds for community-based organizations and Indigenous-led initiatives. As such, almost all funds allocated to PSSG were in turn granted to service providing organizations.

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Key Facts and Figures**TOPIC: Gender-based Violence**

DESCRIPTION: CSVS supports victims of violence through more than 475 contracted services across the province, as well as providing direct service to victims through programs that involve victim court support workers in Metro Vancouver and through the new Intimate Images Protection Service. These supports respond to the diverse needs of victims and are available regardless of whether a victim reports the crime to police.

Program Area	Funding
Contracted victim service and violence against women programs • 92 Police-Based Victim Services • 66 Community Based Victim Services • 9 Domestic Violence Units • 91 Stopping the Violence Counselling Programs • 84 PEACE Programs • 53 Outreach Programs • 11 Multicultural Outreach Programs • 70 Sexual Assault Services • 5 Sexual Assault Centres (Victoria, Vancouver, Surrey, Kamloops, Prince George) • 1 Provincial Helpline (VictimLink)	\$60.5M
Crisis Lines for gender-based violence	2 (with funding from Women and Gender Equality Canada)

Question	Response
When will Sexual Assault Centres be operational?	Centres will be operational in 2025. All of the centres are managed by organizations with strong connections in their communities, and they continue to offer essential supports to survivors while they undertake renovations and develop agreements to offer health care and examination services in a trauma-informed setting in the community.

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There is increasing attention to risks and impacts of brain injury for people who experience GBV. What is the ministry doing about this?	This is a current and important issue which is part of our ongoing conversations with contracted organizations and provincial partners. Training materials and guidance for supports to victims continue to be updated as our understanding about traumatic brain injury evolves.
People working in the anti-violence sector continue to raise concerns about women being killed by intimate partners (16 reported in 2024) and lack of protections for women wanting to leave violent relationships.	The programs that our ministry supports continue to provide critical services to people who experience violence, including nine Domestic Violence Units where police, victim services and social services work together to provide coordinated supports to individuals and families, including alleged offenders. Inter-Agency Case Assessment Teams convene both support services and police to plan for safety in highest risk cases, and our ministry supports the Ending Violence Association of BC to provide guidance on operation of these teams. The Systemic review of the legal system's treatment of victims of sexual and intimate partner violence will provide our government with recommendations later in 2025.
Communities across Canada are referring to GBV as an "epidemic". What is your ministry doing about this?	As the lead ministry providing victim services, we continue to support organizations across the province which provide services to people who experience violence. We recognize the critical importance of violence prevention and are pleased to have a strong partnership and additional funding through the GBV Action Plan to support the BC Society of Transition Houses to offer prevention programming (PEACE) in schools. We also support prevention programming through the Be More than a Bystander program which is a collaboration between the BC Lions and the Ending Violence Association of BC, as well as community-led initiatives through Civil Forfeiture funds and new sexual assault funding.

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Estimates 2025/26 Briefing Book**

**BC Coroners Service
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Estimate Notes

1. Post-mortem Diagnostics (Autopsy & Toxicology)
2. Unregulated Drug Crisis
3. Inquests
4. Coroner Attendance at Deaths in the Community
5. Death Investigation System in BC - Coroners vs Medical Examiners

2025/26 ESTIMATES

Post-mortem Diagnostics (Autopsy & Toxicology)

Key Messages

- Death investigations in B.C. include a thorough examination of the scene, the body and the decedent's history.
- The BC Coroners Service has many investigative techniques, including autopsy and toxicological analysis, to support a coroner's determination of how, where, when and by what means a death occurred.

Security Concern

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- In 2024, while 13,593 deaths were reported to the Coroners Service, 6,831 deaths were ultimately investigated and as part of those investigations:
 - autopsies were conducted in 2,253 of deaths investigated;
 - 1,948 decedents underwent expedited toxicological testing; and
 - standard toxicological testing was performed in 2,430 deaths.

Unregulated drug toxicity deaths and expedited toxicological testing

- Expedited toxicological testing is used by the Coroners Service in suspected unregulated drug toxicity death investigations, as an efficient, less intrusive, low risk alternative to autopsies.

Security Concern

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Background

- In 2016, a public health emergency was declared in B.C. due to the increase in unregulated drug toxicity deaths.
- The BC Coroners Service established a dedicated team to investigate all deaths related to unregulated drug toxicity.
 - This unit consists of experienced coroners and considers all aspects of the circumstances of a death in determining if the postmortem investigation is necessary.
- The Coroners Service employs an innovative Postmortem Diagnostic Services team of seven forensic pathologists and several 'fee for service' pathologists, who are available to consult with coroners and perform autopsies when deemed necessary to establish cause and manner of death.

Key Facts and Figures**TOPIC: Post-mortem Diagnostics (Autopsy & Toxicology)**

DESCRIPTION: Both coroners and pathologists support the BC Coroners Service's mandate of determining the facts of all sudden, unnatural and unexpected deaths, all children's deaths and all deaths in designated institutions.

Question	Response
Why does the Coroner Service rely on rapid toxicological testing versus autopsy?	Both forms of postmortem testing are regularly performed in coroner investigations. Coroner investigations are thorough, examining all circumstances and relying on drug testing to provide information.

Security Concern

Question	Response
How is an autopsy deemed necessary?	Autopsies are routinely performed by Coroners Security Concern The Coroners Service's Postmortem Diagnostic Services team of pathologists, the chief medical officer and a medical unit staffed with a physician regularly consult with coroners when determining the need for an autopsy.
How accurate is toxicological testing?	Expedited toxicological testing can be completed for any accidental drug toxicity death when the body, scene and history are consistent with drug toxicity as the cause of death. Expedited toxicological testing in B.C. is performed by the Provincial Toxicology Centre. Security Concern

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2025/26 ESTIMATES

Unregulated Drug Crisis

Key Messages

- Reporting from the BC Coroners Service shows the continued tragic impact of unregulated drug toxicity throughout B.C., with 2,271 lives lost in 2024.
- The Coroners Service uses many investigative techniques, including expedited toxicological testing and autopsy, to thoroughly investigate deaths and increase public safety.

Expedited toxicological testing

- Security Concern

- Results are reviewed and confirmed by an independent, board-certified forensic toxicologist before use in a coroner investigation.
- When results are less definitive, other investigations such as an autopsy may be undertaken.
- The program has been recognized as an exemplar by other jurisdictions and has allowed the BC Coroners Service to present timely data that informs evidence-based health actions locally, provincially and nationally.

Autopsy

- Security Concern

- The BC Coroners Service's Medical Unit, which includes forensic pathologists and emergency room physicians, is routinely consulted when decisions about autopsy are made.

Prescribed Alternatives and diversion

- Substances such as hydromorphone, which is part of the province's safer supply program, are included in the BC Coroners Service's monthly reporting into drug toxicity deaths.
- In 2024, hydromorphone was detected in 3% of expedited toxicological testing, while fentanyl was detected in 78% of results; it is important to note that almost every drug-related death in BC is the result of mixed drug toxicity, notably fentanyl.
- If a death were to occur where an identified safer supply substance was determined to be the sole contributor to the death, and the decedent had a recent prescription for that safer supply substance, then it would fall under the "prescription drug poisoning" category.

Advice/Recommendations

-

Background

- Since the public health emergency into unregulated drug toxicity deaths was declared in B.C. in 2016, at least 16,047 people have died.
- Under its mandate, the BC Coroners Service investigates all sudden, unnatural and unexpected deaths, all children's deaths and all deaths in designated institutions; deaths from unregulated drug toxicity fall within the mandate.

Key Facts and Figures**TOPIC: Unregulated Drug Crisis**

Question	Response
Total number of deaths reported to BC Coroners Service <i>*based on Coroner Notification Date</i>	2024: 13,592 2023: 13,946 2.5% decrease year-over-year
Number of suspected drug-related deaths investigated	2024: 2,281 2023: 2,580 11.6% decrease year-over-year

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Number of expedited toxicological tests completed in suspected drug-related death investigations	2024: 1,948 2023: 2,022
Presence of hydromorphone in expedited toxicology	2024: 3% of tests 2023: 3% of tests
Presence of fentanyl in expedited toxicology	2024: 78% of tests 2023: 85% of tests
Total autopsies conducted by BC Coroners Service	2024: 2253 2023: 2032
Autopsies conducted in suspected drug-related death investigations	2024: 310 2023: 365
Number of forensic pathologists employed by BC Coroners Service	7, plus several 'fee for service' pathologists

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2025/26 ESTIMATES**Inquests****Key Messages**

- Inquests in British Columbia are public hearings designed to determine the facts surrounding a person's death.
- Inquests are not a routine occurrence and on average, the BC Coroners Service conducts approximately eight to 14 inquests per year.
- An inquest can reveal information about issues or gaps in services, programs or policies and raise awareness about a specific cause of death that may prevent future deaths in similar circumstances.
- Directions by the chief coroner to hold an inquest are only made after careful consideration of the circumstances of the death; an inquest may be held if the chief coroner has reason to believe the public has an interest in being informed of the circumstances surrounding a death or, that the death resulted from a dangerous practice or circumstance and similar deaths could be prevented if recommendations were made to the public or an authority.
- The *Coroners Act* mandates that inquests be held, with some limited exceptions, when a person dies in the custody of, or while detained by a peace officer, which includes police officers and sheriffs.
- The Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General may order an inquest if the minister determines it is necessary or desirable in the public interest.
- An inquest is overseen by a presiding coroner, who ensures the jury of five to seven people maintains the goal of fact-finding, not fault finding. The jury is selected by sheriffs from members of the public. For work-related deaths covered by the Workers Compensation Act, at least some members of the jury must be familiar with the type of work the deceased was performing.
- At the end of an inquest, the jury prepares a verdict, which contains :
 - the jury's findings of key facts regarding the death;
 - classification of the death determined by the jury; and
 - any recommendations on how to prevent deaths in similar circumstances.

Coroner's inquest versus criminal court proceedings

- By law, an inquest jury is restricted to finding the facts of the case and making recommendations.
- The jury may not make any finding that implies legal responsibility; like a coroner's investigation, an inquest is fact-finding, not fault-finding.
- The strict rules of evidence for a civil or criminal trial do not apply at coroners' inquests, as no one is on trial; there is no accused, defendant, parties or plaintiff.
- The presiding coroner, assisted by Inquest Counsel, is responsible for determining what evidence is relevant and admissible for the purposes of the inquest.
- Questions with respect to culpability with respect to a death fall to law enforcement or other regulatory agencies.

Requests for inquest

- There is no specific process in the *Coroners Act* for an individual to request an inquest, and there is no bar to an individual from making this request.
- If an individual believes an inquest should be held, they may contact the investigating coroner or the chief coroner to make that request and explain why they believe an inquest should be held.
- The *Coroners Act* mandates the coroner with jurisdiction in a death to determine the identity of the decedent and how, when, where and by what means the death occurred.
- Once a Coroner's Report is issued, the investigation into a death is concluded and the Coroners Service has no further jurisdiction to investigate, unless the chief coroner directs that an investigation be re-opened.
- Section 17 of the *Coroners Act* permits the chief coroner to reopen an investigation if new evidence has arisen or has been discovered that the chief coroner considers to be substantial and material to the investigation, or if the chief coroner considers that re-opening the investigation would be in the public interest.

Key Facts and Figures**TOPIC: Inquests**

Question	Response
Why is there a four-to-seven-year delay in inquests, after a death?	• Inquests are mandatory for deaths in peace officer custody, with two exceptions: ○ a death by natural causes that was not preventable, or ○ no meaningful connection between the deceased person's death and the nature of the care or supervision received by the person while detained or in custody. • Coroner's investigations into a death while a decedent was in custody are independent but often run parallel to investigations by other agencies, like police or the IIO. • Once those investigations, and any related court proceedings, have concluded and the coroner has reviewed all information available to them, an inquest is held as a conclusion to the investigation. • This process can take multiple years.

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It was recently announced that Coroner's Inquests have been scheduled to be held in Burnaby. Why has this changed from the community in which the death occurred?	• The BC Coroners Service has a designed Coroner's Court at its headquarters in Burnaby. • Holding inquests at the Coroners' Court with existing resources allows the BC Coroner's Service to perform inquests in a timelier manner. • Over time this will increase the capacity to do more inquests, by allowing more flexibility in scheduling and reducing the time needed for setting up inquests elsewhere. • Inquests held outside of Burnaby require significant additional time to set up and to run. • Scheduling inquests outside of Burnaby is also dependent on court availability and at certain locations weather must be considered because of safety issues for witness and party travel.
How many deaths in custody are known to the Coroners Service for which an inquest has yet to be scheduled?	• Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications •

Given the backlog in inquests, why is the Coroners Service not holding more inquests annually?	• There are capacity limitations as to how many inquests the Coroners Service can conduct each year. • Inquests vary in complexity from ones that can be concluded in one week to those that are very high profile that may run for several weeks and have many participants represented by counsel such as the deaths of Mary Ann Garlow and Dennis Guay in the Winters Hotel fire or the recent inquest into the death of Florence Girard. • Staffing resources and limitations on budget also factor into the number of inquests the Coroners Service can conduct each year. Advice/Recommendations
Is the Coroner Service considering changing the inquest process, given the current backlog?	Advice/Recommendations • The Coroners Service acknowledges the timeline between the date of death and when an inquest may be held can often be difficult for the decedents loved ones, as well as witnesses who may be asked to testify.

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2025/26 ESTIMATES

Coroner Attendance at Deaths in the Community

Key Messages

Security Concern

Compensation for Community Coroners

- The wage rate was set by regulation in 2004 and was increased in 2016 to \$32.32/hour).
- Community Coroners work on an “as-and-when required” basis, with no compensation for being on-call, no set work shifts and do not collect medical or pension benefits.

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- ## Background

- ## Key Facts and Figures

Percentage of Scene Visited by Case Type and Region, 2019-2023

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Security Concern

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2025/26 ESTIMATES**Death Investigation System in BC
– Coroners vs Medical Examiners****Key Messages**

- British Columbia's Coroners Service operates within the framework of the provincial government and has statutory independence; it is a well-established organization ensuring objective, high-quality death investigations.
- Death investigation systems vary across Canada. Most provinces and territories employ a coronial model and smaller number use a medical examiners system. In medical examiners systems a physician completes an investigation and report. In coronial systems the investigator may or may not be a physician.
- Coroners receive training in investigation practices and cultural competency.
- To address challenges in forensic pathology access, government approved the creation of the Post Mortem Diagnostic Service under the Coroners Service.
- Pathologists support BC's Coroners Service by conducting autopsies, toxicology testing, and post-mortem examinations as needed.
- The current system delivers high-quality death investigations without requiring all coroners to be physicians, ensuring accessibility and cost-effectiveness while maintaining expert forensic support when needed.
- The BC Coroners Service employs a multidisciplinary team, including experts from health, law, social sciences, and forensic fields, ensuring a comprehensive, collaborative death investigation system that has effectively served the province

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

Advice/Recommendations;
Intergovernmental Communications

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

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- Postmortem testing (autopsy, forensic toxicological analysis and anthropological testing etc.) is conducted when needed. The Coroners Service's Medical unit, which includes forensic pathologists and emergency room physicians, is routinely consulted when decisions about autopsy are made.
- BC collaborates nationally through the Canadian Forum of Chief Coroners and Chief

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Medical Examiners to maintain best practices.

Background

- The BC Coroners Service has been in place since the province's establishment and operates under the *Coroners Act*, which grants the Chief Coroner discretionary authority to administer its provisions.
- Coroners have broad investigative powers, examining not only the medical cause of death but also the surrounding circumstances to identify risk factors and provide recommendations that enhance public safety.
- The Coroners Service operates independently from the Minister's office, ensuring impartiality in investigations, inquests, and death review panels.
- In addition to forensic pathology and toxicology services, the Coroners Service emphasizes cultural sensitivity, community engagement, and the use of mortality data to support evidence-based policies.

Key Facts and Figures**TOPIC: Death Investigation System in BC – Coroners vs Medical Examiners****DESCRIPTION:**

Broad investigative powers allow coroners to conduct thorough inquiries into deaths, ensuring transparency and accountability. The Coroners Service model is adaptable, allowing investigations to focus on:

- Broader social and public safety issues, beyond just medical causes.
- Preventing future deaths through death review panels and inquests.

Advice/Recommendations

Question	Response
Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications	

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Question	Response
Who oversees the BC Coroners Service?	The Chief Coroner, who has discretionary authority under the <i>Coroners Act</i> to administer its provisions and ensure independent investigations.
How are coroners in BC trained?	Coroners do not need to be physicians but must have investigative experience, analytical skills, and cultural competency. They undergo specialized training before conducting investigations.

Advice/Recommendations

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**Liquor and Cannabis Issues
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 - a. Appendix A - Illicit Cannabis Action
2. Cannabis Economy – Indigenous Participation
3. Liquor Licensing Modernization

2025/26 ESTIMATES**State of the
Cannabis Industry****Key Messages**

- The Government of Canada legalized cannabis in October 2018. Health Canada's *Cannabis Act* provides the national framework for controlling the production, distribution, sale and possession of cannabis in Canada.
- In response, B.C. enacted a legal and regulatory framework to govern retail sale and distribution, as well as dedicated enforcement to support the transition from illicit operations to a legal and regulated sector.
- PSSG leads the ongoing implementation of the provincial regulatory framework, as well as policy coordination across ministries and alignment with the federal government.
- B.C.'s regulated cannabis market continues to see growth in sales and legal market capture. However, we recognize the sector is facing challenges with high regulatory costs and taxes, as well as a competitive illicit market.
- We are working across ministries, 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 increasing access to industry support programs and gradually enabling cannabis hospitality and tourism experiences.
- Since legalization we have made several adjustments to the provincial framework to support the legal sector. Examples include authorizing licensed retailers to offer online sales and delivery, developing programs for farm-gate sales and direct delivery distribution, and adjusting rules around promotion of places to consume cannabis. The ministry is now looking towards enabling cannabis sales at events.
- At the same time, we are monitoring implementation to ensure public health and safety is protected as provincial cannabis policy evolves.
- The B.C. Cannabis Use Survey is an example of the Province's efforts to monitor implementation of the legal cannabis framework and is designed to provide insights into both public health and economic activities. The most recent iteration is underway, with a public report anticipated for release later this year.

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Federal issues

- B.C. is also working with the federal government to support changes to the national framework in support of the legal sector. This includes calling for review of the excise tax, which is impacting the financial viability of many B.C. producers.
- Through the federal *Cannabis Act* review process, B.C. made several recommendations to support the legal sector's ability to effectively compete with the illicit market. With the federal review now complete, we are continuing to encourage changes in support of a stable and diverse regulated cannabis economy in B.C and Canada.

Background

- The Province conducts the B.C. Cannabis Use Survey, which is the largest survey on cannabis use in Canada. Results are representative of B.C.'s population and provide information specific to each health authority and health service delivery area.
- In Spring 2024, an Expert Panel released a report with recommendations from a legislative review of the *Cannabis Act*. B.C. is working with the federal government on actions to address priorities identified in the report – including the financial stability of legal producers and public education.

Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: State of the Cannabis Industry

Question	Response/Estimate
Federal Production Licences located in B.C. (as of January 2025)	232 total 105 Standard 107 Micro-Class 8 Sales Only 11 Nursery 1 Combined Sales & Nursery
Federal Processing Licences located in B.C. (as January 2025)	145 total 88 Standard 57 Micro
Indigenous-affiliated Federal Licences in B.C. (as of January 2025)	21
Completed s.119 agreements	7

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Question	Response/Estimate
Number of Indigenous cannabis stores (as of February 2025)	12 s.119 stores 19 Indigenous affiliated stores
Number of cannabis stores in B.C. (s.119, public, and private)	534 (January 2025) 519 (January 2024)
Jobs in B.C.'s cannabis sector	Estimated 5,000+ direct jobs in 2023/24
Legal share of the cannabis market in B.C.	57% (2023) 51% (2022)
Annual non-medical cannabis retail sales	\$784M (2024)
Growth in B.C. producers medical export sales	\$53M (first six months of 2024) \$30M (2023)
People in B.C. using cannabis	Around 26%, or an estimated 1.2 million adults in 2024.

Contact: Hovan Baghdassarian (LCRB-CS)	Mobile: ^{Government Financial Information}
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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
CANNABIS ILLICIT MARKET ACTION**

Speaking Notes

ISSUE SUMMARY:

- B.C. has come a long way since cannabis legalization nearly 7 years ago – and there's more work to do.
- BC has a long history with cannabis.
- Bringing the illicit industry into a regulated framework has taken a lot of work.
- We have legal market capture of approximately 60%, with 5 to 8% annual growth the past 3 years.
- The regulated cannabis industry is supporting producers, retailers and businesses in rural and urban communities across B.C.
- **BUT we're not done yet....**
- Illicit operators still hold about 40% of B.C.'s cannabis market – profiting from deceptive

marketing, funding crime and undercutting honest businesses.

- My ministry is taking action, coordinating efforts to address the illicit market:
 - Enforcement and compliance through the Community Safety Unit.
 - Supporting the legal cannabis industry – new sales channels and profiling B.C. products.
 - Working across governments – with First Nations and the federal government on shared governance and priorities.
 - Educating consumers to buy legal.

BACKGROUND:

- B.C. progress in transitioning to a legal, well-regulated cannabis market.
 - Legal market capture trends up each year.
 - Sector contributed \$1.4B to B.C.'s GDP (2023)

- Close to \$800M in sales across 500+ stores
- Over 5,200 jobs, and a recent export boom
- Most B.C. consumers are buying at least some cannabis from legal sources (est. 84%)

Enforcement:

- To date, PSSG's **Community Safety Unit** has:
 - Closed over 230 illicit stores, seized over \$39M in cannabis and disrupted over 1,000 illegal cannabis websites.
- We are going after the complex illicit cannabis market **that**:
 - Uses deceptive websites that make it difficult for consumers to tell which products are legal or meet safety standards – if any do at all.
 - Associates with organized crime and illegal activities (weapons, tobacco, drugs, cash).

- Benefits from consumers long-standing habits buying from illicit cannabis.

Industry supports:

- We are supporting communities and legal cannabis businesses through better regulations and industry supports:
 - Enabling cannabis sales at events and consumption spaces to increase revenue.
 - Cross-ministry mandates to develop tourism, innovation, exports and boost the economy – taking advantage of world-class events like FIFA 2026 World Cup.
 - Supporting small, craft B.C. producers with programs like direct delivery.

Working across governments:

- My ministry works closely with partners – including federal and First Nation governments to reduce

regulatory burden and involve Indigenous communities in the legal cannabis market.

- We are supporting the legal cannabis industry through our mandates to grow the economy and help communities with improved regulations, sales and industry supports.
- I look forward to sharing more progress and seeing B.C.'s responsible, regulated cannabis industry thrive – at the expense of the illicit market.

2025/26 ESTIMATES

Cannabis Economy –
Indigenous Participation

Key Messages

- B.C. is committed to advancing reconciliation and working with Indigenous peoples to support their full participation in the cannabis sector. This work supports the regulated cannabis market and protects public safety in communities across B.C.
- The Province has worked with partners to develop dedicated programs that support Indigenous cannabis businesses and communities participate in the regulated cannabis market.
- Work is proceeding with First Nations and Indigenous leadership organizations on B.C.'s *Declaration Act* Action Plan commitment (4.47) to advance a collaborative approach to cannabis governance and jurisdiction.
- The Ministry continues to negotiate government-to-government agreements with First Nation governments, as authorized under section 119 (s.119) of the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act*.
- B.C. included s.119 in our legislation to support meaningful government-to-government relations with First Nations in this economic sector. The provision enables some variation from the provincial framework for a First Nation government's cannabis operations, while maintaining alignment with the provincial and federal regulatory regimes.
- To date, seven agreements have been signed, with several negotiations underway.

New Financial Component for s.119 Agreement Holders

- Last year a financial component for s.119 agreements was finalized with First Nation government partners that operate in cannabis retail.
- The arrangement is an interim measure until a permanent arrangement can be concluded.
- The transfer is based on the amount the First Nation's retail entities purchase from the provincial wholesaler (BC Liquor Distribution Branch). The transfer is equal to:
 - 80% of the wholesale mark-up for on-reserve stores
 - 40% of the wholesale mark-up for off-reserve stores

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- Transfer funds are issued from the Province to s.119 First Nations in support of their social and economic initiatives.

Background

- The seven First Nations with s.119 agreements are: Cowichan Tribes, Kispiox First Nation, Lhtako Dene First Nation, Shxwhá:y Village, Snuneymuxw First Nation, Tsleil-Waututh Nation, and Williams Lake First Nation.
- The focus of these agreements is to enable variances from the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act* in support of economic development and self-determination.
- S.119 variances include vertical integration, specified tied-house and direct delivery exemptions, and some variation to store rules and requirements.
- In 2022, BC committed to advancing a collaborative approach to cannabis governance and jurisdiction with First Nations (Declaration Act Action Plan, Action 4.47).
- Preliminary engagement with First Nations occurred Winter 2022 and Spring 2023, in collaboration with First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC). A "What We Heard Report" was released to participants in Fall 2023. Government is continuing to work with Nations on the 4.47 priorities.
- In collaboration with the FNLC, B.C. has developed two programs to support Indigenous businesses and communities participation in the cannabis economy:
 - B.C. Indigenous Cannabis Business Fund addresses gaps in capacity and funding to support inclusion of Indigenous communities and businesses in the regulated cannabis sector. Eligible applicants can access funding for planning and implementation, including capital.
 - B.C. Indigenous Cannabis Product Program supports B.C. based Indigenous businesses by highlighting products in regulated retail locations. It is available to cultivators and processors that have at least 51% Indigenous ownership. There are currently five Indigenous-owned businesses participating in the program.

Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Cannabis Economy – Indigenous Participation

Question	Response
Completed Section 119 Agreements with First Nation Governments	7
Number of Indigenous cannabis stores (As of February 2025)	12 s.119 stores 19 Indigenous affiliated stores
Number of Indigenous cannabis producers (federally licensed) (As of February 2025)	21 licence holders 12 in the application process

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Question	Response
Number of Indigenous producers using the Direct Delivery Program (As of January 2025)	4 cultivators 100 products registered
Number of Indigenous producers selling in the international market	1
B.C. Indigenous Cannabis Product Program (As of February 2025)	5 producers 67 registered skus (products) >\$20M sales
Calculation of financial transfer of the 15% mark-up, equates to	80% for on-reserve stores = 12% of the 15% mark-up 40% for off-reserve stores = 6% of the 15% mark-up
B.C.'s contributions to the Indigenous Cannabis Business Fund	FY2025 - \$1.25M (Total contribution \$6M over 3 years FY2023 – FY2025)

Contact: Hovan Baghdassarian (LCRB-CS)

Mobile: Government Financial Information
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2025/26 ESTIMATES**Liquor Licensing
Modernization****Key Messages**

- The 2025 Public Safety and Solicitor General's Mandate Letter calls on the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch to modernize British Columbia's liquor licensing and enforcement system to focus enforcement on high-risk and repeat non-compliant businesses, and to expedite and simplify permits using examples like Ontario to inform program design.
- To support the ministry's mandate, work is ongoing to simplify and streamline licensing, compliance and enforcement, policy and regulatory processes and where possible, to adopt a more risk-based approach.
- Risk is determined through a public health and safety lens, balanced with enabling vibrant liquor and cannabis industries.

Completed Liquor Licensing Modernization Projects

- In 2024/25, changes to various liquor licences helped streamline processes.
- Enhancements to outdoor visitor experiences at manufacturing sites considered the unique business needs of manufacturers. Manufacturers can implement the changes without additional cost or oversight from local authorities.
- Moving liquor stores was simplified with changes that enabled liquor store licensees to apply for a temporary relocation of their store for up to five years while significant alterations (e.g. renovation, reconstruction) are made to their original location.
- Using a risk-based approach, changes to hospitality licences enabled establishments such as bars and nightclubs to sell and serve a whole bottle of spirits (commonly known as bottle service). Clear requirements help mitigate public health and safety risks (e.g. over service and intoxication).
- Further changes allowed large outdoor event venues that previously hosted events (e.g. music and arts festivals, live concerts) under multiple liquor permits to apply for permanent liquor licences, simplifying the licensing process.
- In the third quarter (Q3) of 2024/25, two key initiatives reduced incomplete liquor licence applications and simplified requirements using a risk-based approach.

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- The first initiative streamlined the corporate documents private corporations need to submit.
 - The second introduced an early review process to quickly identify incomplete applications and notify applicants.
- Together, these changes helped applications for establishments such as restaurants return to baseline processing times in Q3.
- The Compliance and Enforcement Division of LCRB has developed and implemented a Power BI based tool which uses data elements to quantify risk related to public safety. The tool enhances the capacity to allocate resources on the highest public safety risks and repeat offenders' noncompliance.

Liquor Modernization Licensing Projects Currently Underway

- Full implementation of the new initiatives to support risk-based licensing are planned for Q1 2025/26, which is expected to resolve the performance issues projected for 2024/25.
- Further improvement in application processing times are anticipated in the subsequent years as additional enhancements are introduced.

Government Financial Information; Security Concern

Background

Visitor Experience

- Wine Growers BC advocated for enhanced outdoor visitor experiences at wineries to maintain increased retail sales that occurred during the pandemic.
 - The Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch responded with changes that enable all manufacturers (wineries, breweries, distilleries) to offer new/improved outdoor experiences to support retail sales at manufacturing sites.

Liquor Store Temporary Relocations

- In response to requests from liquor store licensees over several years, the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch enabled licensees to operate at a temporary location.
- To mitigate negative business impacts on other stores, relocations are for a limited period of time and must meet distance requirements.

Bottle Service

- Licensees requested the ability to offer bottle service to patrons as a high-margin service.
- The Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch met this request while mitigating risks of over service and intoxication (e.g. requiring licensees to maintain control of the bottle of spirits to prevent patrons from self-serving).

Outdoor Event Venues

- Issuing permanent licences to outdoor event venues provides the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch with a stronger set of compliance and enforcement tools.
- Permanent licences also support community impact assessments and other local considerations through the established local government/Indigenous Nation notification processes.

Government Financial Information

Tied-house and Suitability Review

- Licensing has previously required all shareholders of private corporations holding over 10% of shares to provide criminal record checks and corporate documentation.
- The reviewing and processing of complex multi-level corporations was a key contributor to longer timelines.

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- Now the LCRB will only look at directors and officers of the applicant company, significantly reducing the requirements for application.

Occupant Load Pilot Project

- Incomplete applicants are a significant contributor to delays in licence approvals.
- Occupant load stamps from the local jurisdiction are the most common document missing from applications.
- The LCRB is now piloting a process where licensing prioritizes applications received with an occupant load stamp.

Government Financial Information

Contact: Janet Donald (LCRB)

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Estimates 2025/26 Briefing Book**

**Gaming Issues
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Estimate Notes

1. Online Gambling
2. Gambling Regulatory Framework Implementation
3. Horse Racing Economic Review

2025/26 ESTIMATES**Online Gambling****Key Messages**

- The BC Lottery Corporation's (BCLC) Playnow.com is the only legal and regulated online gambling website in BC. All other gambling websites operate outside of BC's jurisdiction.
- Our government is concerned about the risks that unregulated online gambling websites pose to British Columbians, such as fraud, access by minors, lack of responsible gambling controls, potential money laundering risks, and failure to contribute to provincial revenue.
- BCLC and the Province are working to educate BC residents about the benefits of playing on a regulated site, including player health protections, keeping jobs in BC, and delivering net income back to the Province to fund important programs and services, such as healthcare and education.
- The Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch is exploring options to address unregulated online gambling websites and continues to take steps to enforce illegal advertising and websites operating contrary to BC's *Gaming Control Act*.

Background

- The legalization of single event sports betting and the expansion of the Ontario online gambling market have led to the proliferation of online gambling advertising across the country and market confusion for players.
- Many gambling websites hosted outside of Canada allow BC residents to gamble on their platforms, including international affiliates of Ontario-licensed sites, the Province has no role in regulating these sites.
- Many operators licensed only in Ontario appear to have purchased significant national advertising packages with Canadian broadcasters.
- While gambling advertising for BCLC is regulated by the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch, the Province does not have authority to regulate national advertising.

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Key Facts and Figures**TOPIC: Online Gambling**

Question	Response
Will BC adopt an open market online gambling model like Ontario?	We are monitoring the online gambling model in Ontario and considering options for BC to address unregulated online gambling in our province. Careful consideration is needed to weigh impacts on public safety and public health as well as provincial revenue. PlayNow is well-established and successful in BC and delivered \$282 million to the Province in the 2023/24 fiscal year.
What is government doing to prevent the proliferation of online gambling advertising?	Most levers to limit online gambling advertising rest with the federal government, and we have raised this issue with our federal counterparts. Many of the operators that are regulated in Ontario have purchased significant national advertising space. BC does not have authority to regulate national advertising.
What is government doing about problem gambling risks associated with increased gambling advertising?	Our government takes harms from gambling seriously, and significant exposure to gambling advertising may have negative health implications. This is why we've raised concerns with the federal government. Gambling Support BC delivers prevention and free clinical treatment services to anyone experiencing harm from gambling. For BC's regulated gambling industry, GPEB sets advertising and responsible gambling standards. These are being updated as general manager regulations under the new <i>Gaming Control Act</i>, and we plan to prohibit the use of athletes and celebrities that appeal to minors in gambling advertising.

Contact: Sam MacLeod (GPEB)

Mobile: 778-698-3843

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2025/26 ESTIMATES**Gambling Regulatory
Framework Implementation****Key Messages**

- In fall 2022, government passed a new *Gaming Control Act*, delivering on our commitment to address systemic weaknesses in BC's regulatory framework that hindered an effective response to money laundering through Lower Mainland casinos. The amendments to the Act are anticipated to come into force by regulation in 2025.
- The new GCA 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 Cullen Commission.
- Regulations under the new GCA are substantially underway, including new general manager regulations to prevent and detect problem gambling and unlawful activity, including money laundering in casinos and online.
- When the new Act comes into force, government also intends to transition the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch (GPEB) to the Independent Gambling Control Office (IGCO).

Background

- The Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch is developing regulations under the new *Gaming Control Act* and has consulted with the BC Lottery Corporation (BCLC), industry, the charitable sector, and Indigenous partners.
- There are two types of regulations being developed under the Act.

Lieutenant Governor in Council regulations

Lieutenant Governor in Council (LGIC) regulations will authorize government to:

- update registration and licensing classes for the sector and establish the administrative monetary penalty amounts under the Act.
- set out requirements for the development of gaming facilities, horse racing drug testing, enforcement disclosure, and the protection of minors.

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General Manager (GM) regulations

- The amendments to the Act create authority for the general manager to make regulations on a range of regulatory issues like prevention of problem gambling, and unlawful activity.
- GM regulations will also set requirements for registration and licensing, advertising, security and surveillance, and training.
- prevention and detection of unlawful activity and problem gambling, as well as advertising, security and surveillance, and training.

Key Facts and Figures**TOPIC: Gaming Control Act**

Question	Response
When will government bring the new Gaming Control Act (2022) into force?	We anticipate bringing the new Act into force in fall 2025.
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 developing them has required time to thoroughly consult with the BC Lottery Corporation, gambling companies, charities, and Indigenous partners.

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2025/26 ESTIMATES**Horse Racing Economic Review****Key Messages**

- The ministry is conducting a review of the horse racing industry in BC to better understand the sector's economic and social contributions to the province.
- The review includes an economic impact assessment and engagement with industry, the track operator (Great Canadian Entertainment), the BC Lottery Corporation, and the Cities of Vancouver and Surrey.
- The review will help inform government on opportunities and challenges for the industry.

Background**Horse Racing Industry**

- Betting on horse racing is regulated by the Canadian Pari-Mutuel Agency, a federal agency within Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.
- The Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch regulates the sport of horse racing and licenses all eligible participants to ensure racing events are conducted in compliance with the *Gaming Control Act*.
- There are two racetracks in BC: Fraser Downs Racetrack in Surrey (Standardbred racing) and Hastings Racecourse in Vancouver (Thoroughbred racing).
- The tracks have co-located casinos on land owned by the cities and leased to Great Canadian Entertainment's subsidiaries, which operate the racetracks and co-located casinos.

Government Revenue Sharing with Industry

- The Horse Racing Industry Management Committee was created in 2009 to manage the industry's revitalization and sustainability. It includes one representative from Great Canadian Entertainment, the Standardbred sector and the Thoroughbred sector.
- The committee approves and manages a revenue-sharing agreement between the three parties. Industry revenues include:
 - 25 per cent of net slot machine revenues from the casinos that are co-located with the tracks, which was approximately \$8.5 million in 2024;
 - a portion of betting fees government collects on each horse racing wager; and
 - a share of horse racing wagering.
- Industry revenue has declined in recent years due to the decline in wagering on races.

Horse Racing Review
Advice/Recommendations

Government Financial Information

Contact: Sam MacLeod, GPEB

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
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**Office of the Fire Commissioner
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Estimate Notes

1. Volunteer and Rural Fire Services Funding
2. *Fire Safety Act* Implementation

2025/26 ESTIMATES**Volunteer and Rural Fire
Services Funding****Key Messages**

- 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.
- The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, that is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities and has a suite of funding streams. One stream, a Volunteer and Composite¹ Fire Departments and Equipment and Training stream, has completed three intakes since 2017.
- Funding from this stream has helped 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.

Background

- There are approximately 400 independent community-based fire departments throughout B.C. collectively employing about 4,000 career firefighters and 10,000 volunteer firefighters.
- Volunteer firefighters provide fire and all hazard emergency services to their communities.
- Many of them receive some form of pay on call, an honorarium, or are given some funding to cover expenses, but they do not draw a living wage from firefighting.

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

Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Volunteer and Rural Fire Services Funding

Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) – Volunteer and Rural Fire Services Funding

- Since 2017, more than \$26.4 million has been provided to volunteer and composite fire departments through the CEPF for additional equipment and training.
 - On March 14, 2025, the Province announced the results from the October 18, 2024, intake of the CEPF with more than \$9.4 million being provided for 134 local projects, benefiting more than 230 volunteer and composite fire departments.²
 - In January 2024, the Province announced the results from the 2023 intake of the CEPF³ with more than \$6.2 million being provided for 122 local projects, benefiting more than 200 volunteer and composite fire departments.⁴
 - In February 2023, the Province announced the results from the 2022 intake for the CEPF⁵ with \$6.3 million in grants distributed to 114 local governments, First Nations and volunteer and composite fire departments.⁶

Other Funding

- In September 2023, the Province announced the following funding to help rural, First Nation and volunteer fire departments:⁷
 - \$1.4 million 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 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.

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² BC Gov News³ Under the volunteer and composite fire department funding stream.⁴ [Funding will support local volunteer fire departments, keep people safe | BC Gov News](#)⁵ Under the volunteer and composite fire department funding stream.⁶ [Communities benefit from funding for firefighting equipment, training | BC Gov News](#)⁷ [Province provides support to strengthen local fire departments | BC Gov News](#)[Return to Table of Contents](#)

2025/26 ESTIMATES**Fire Safety Act
Implementation****Key Messages**

- On August 1, 2024, the *Fire Safety Act* came into force, replacing the *Fire Services Act* of 1979.
- This legislation incorporates significant advancements in fire protection strategies and a deeper understanding of fire prevention behaviour since the last substantial update of the *Fire Services Act* in 1979.
- It also includes updated fire safety standards, risk-based compliance monitoring and an administrative penalty system to improve owner compliance with fire safety legislation and regulations.
- The Act will help protect people and communities through regular fire safety inspections, effective enforcement of fire safety requirements and is crucial for preventing fire-related tragedies and damage in residential, commercial and industrial properties.
- The *Fire Safety Act* was developed in response to stakeholder feedback and recommendations from a May 2015, BC Coroners report on the 2012 Lakeland mill explosion, which recommended penalties for building owners for non-compliance with the BC Fire Code and fire safety orders of the fire commissioner.
- The legislation was implemented after close collaboration with the Union of BC Municipalities, regional districts and other key partners.
- The Office of the Fire Commissioner continues to work closely with partners to ensure a measured implementation of the Act's requirements.

Background

- The *Fire Safety Act* (FSA) was passed in 2016 but was not brought into force until August 1, 2024, due to regional districts identifying resource and administrative challenges that they believed would prevent them from undertaking fire inspections and fire investigations in their jurisdictions.

- The FSA 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 encourage owner compliance and more effective enforcement.
- The FSA responds to the BC Coroner inquiry on the 2012 Lakeland sawmill explosion which recommends that the Province create penalty provisions for non-compliance with the BC Fire Code and orders of the fire commissioner. The verdict was certified on May 14, 2015.
- The FSA also addresses the BC Coroner's inquiry report on the 2022 Winters Hotel fire which recommends the Fire Safety Act be brought into force without delay to provide fire services with tools for additional enforcement. The verdict was certified on February 5, 2024.
- The FSA:
 - enables local authorities to designate personnel to carry out fire inspections and fire investigations and enables local fire services to perform immediate evacuations.
 - establishes an administrative penalty enforcement model to address non-compliance issues in a more direct, timely and effective manner; and implement a risk-based approach for fire safety compliance monitoring in municipalities.

Improvement Districts and the Fire Safety Act

- On February 26, 2025, the BC Fire Commissioner sent a letter to improvement districts and regional districts that have fire protection in their letters patent advising them on the BC government's position on improvement districts in the context of the FSA. The letter advised that:
 - The BC government has received some requests from improvement districts to be identified as a local authority.
 - Under the FSA, local authorities (defined as municipalities and regional districts) have a requirement to designate fire inspectors and fire investigators.
 - The Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) encourages regional districts to collaborate and coordinate with improvement district fire services that wish to conduct inspections and investigations to operate within the improvement districts boundaries.
 - The BC government is confident that regional district governance structures will allow elected decision-makers to balance the needs of their communities with the need to meet fire inspection and fire investigation requirements under the FSA.
 - The BC government is not currently considering any legislative changes or prescribing improvement districts as local authorities.

Fire Inspections and Fire Investigations

- It is a requirement for local authorities (municipalities and regional districts) to designate local fire inspectors and fire investigators.

- Municipalities will operate within a risk-based compliance monitoring model, which means municipalities will have the ability to assign a risk designation to the inspectable buildings in their jurisdictions. Inspection frequency will be based on a building's risk designation, allowing local authorities to manage their inspection resources more efficiently, focusing more on high-risk buildings instead of low-risk buildings.
- Municipality's designated fire inspector(s) will be responsible for conducting all fire inspections and fire investigations.
- As regional districts are not monitoring entities, they will operate within a reactive (complaint-based or owner-requested) model.
- Upon request from a regional district, the OFC fire service advisors will conduct fire inspections and fire investigations for the regional district.
- The regional district has the discretion to use their own designated fire inspector(s) and fire investigator(s), or to request the OFC to support the inspection or investigation requirements.
- There will be no fee for service for any fire inspection, investigation, reporting in the OFC's Fire Inventory Reporting Evaluation System (FIRES) or travel expenses incurred by OFC staff.
- Upon request from a regional district, the OFC fire service advisors will conduct fire inspections and fire investigations, at no cost to the regional districts.
- Both reactive inspections and risk-based compliance monitoring are intended to keep occupants safe from potential fire hazards, with the goal to prevent fire-related tragedies, preserve human life, and reduce property and economic loss due to structure fires.
- The regional district model was developed in collaboration with UBCM and the OFC.

Administrative Penalties and Enforcement

- The FSA establishes the authority for the fire commissioner to issue an administrative penalty in specific circumstances of non-compliance, such as non-compliance of a fire inspector order or a preventive evacuation order.
- An administrative penalty is designed to deter non-compliance with requirements under the FSA and the regulations (BC Fire Code).
- Administrative penalty maximum amounts are:
 - Up to \$25,000 in the case of an individual and \$50,000 in the case of a corporation.
 - If a contravention continues for more than one day, separate daily administrative penalties, each not exceeding the maximums previously noted, may be imposed by the fire commissioner.
- The issuance of an administrative penalty will be considered by the OFC after the local authority has exhausted all the tools (e.g., bylaw enforcement and fines) that they have at their disposal.
- Administrative penalties will be focused on serious, repeated, or deliberate cases of non-compliance with the FSA.

- Administrative penalty matters are between the provincial government and the person who is believed to have contravened the FSA or failed to comply with an order issued under the FSA.

Support and Resources

- The OFC has regionally located fire service advisors throughout the province.
- Fire service advisors are knowledgeable fire safety experts who can assist local authorities and their fire services with any aspect of the FSA.
- They are also delegated by the fire commissioner as inspectors and investigators under the FSA.
- All the OFC fire service advisors have worked in the fire services field for several years and have established collaborative working relationships with fire services personnel throughout the province.

Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Fire Safety Act Implementation and OFC Budget

Question	Response
Funding	
What is the OFC's annual budget?	
2024/25	\$3.261M
2025/26	\$4.378M

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
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**RoadSafetyBC
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Estimate Notes

1. Intersection Safety Cameras Expansion
2. Driver Medical Fitness
3. Violation Tickets – Fines and Points

2025/26 ESTIMATES**Intersection Safety Cameras****Key Messages**

- Intersection safety cameras have a proven record of reducing red-light runners and serious crashes resulting in injury.
- Experience in other jurisdictions strongly suggests B.C.'s approach to automated speed enforcement – in fixed locations, at high-risk intersections and with prominent warning signs – will bring further safety gains.
- The goal of the Intersection Safety Camera program is to change driving behaviour, prevent serious crashes and injuries, and save lives.
- The placement of intersection safety cameras throughout the province is the result of careful consideration. All 140 camera sites were selected based on extensive data analysis of 1,400 intersections across BC, to identify locations where incidents were most frequent and resulted in serious crashes.

Program Expansion

- There are multiple approaches to improving road safety and creating effective deterrents to reduce speeding. The Intersection Safety Camera program is continuing to explore many different approaches to further maximize road safety, including upgrades to existing technical infrastructure to improve speed compliance and additional use of automated enforcement technologies.
- Government is reviewing the program including opportunities to expand in the future. Any changes to the program will require extensive engagement and formal consultation with the Union of BC Municipalities.
- As we move into the future, we also recognize that new technologies will continue to play a greater role in all areas of police enforcement and road safety.

Background

- The Intersection Safety Camera (ISC) program has been operational in BC since 1999. The original 30-unit, red-light film camera program has undergone a series of transformations over the years.
- The ISC program operates through a partnership between RoadSafetyBC and ICBC. The joint team has built its operational plans, policies, data strategy, financial reporting, staffing approaches, evaluations, and efficiencies as a unified business approach.

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- Intersection Safety Camera Officers are responsible for laying charges for all ISC speeding offences and red-light offences under the *Motor Vehicle Act*. The Officers are appointed as Special Provincial Constables under Section 9 of the *Police Act*.
- Citizens continue to benefit from the convenience of online ticket payment. 64% of ISC violation tickets were paid online via PayBC in 2023
- 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.

Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Intersection Safety Camera Program

Question	Response
Percentage of crashes that occur at intersections	75%
Impact of ISC Program Redlight infractions Repeat offenders	13% decrease 29% decrease
Impact of adding speed enforcement at 35 ISC locations Drivers exceeding the speed limit by more than 25 km/h. Severe crashes (collisions resulting in a death or serious injury)	51.8% decrease 57% decrease (average of 13 fewer crashes annually)
Public perception of ISCs (based on a survey conducted annually) Percentage supportive of red light cameras Percentage supportive of speed cameras at intersections	77% 72%
Low annual dispute rate of violation tickets ISC violation tickets Other violation tickets	4% 16%

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

Contact: Brad Truswell (RSBC)

Mobile: Government Financial Information

2025/26 ESTIMATES**Driver Medical Fitness****Key Messages**Driver Medical Fitness Backlog

- RoadSafetyBC's goal is to allow people to drive for as long as they safely can, and the primary tool used to assess driver fitness is the Driver's Medical Examination Report, which is completed by a physician or nurse practitioner.
- There are over 200,000 medical assessments received by RoadSafetyBC each year. B.C.'s aging population is expected to contribute to an increase in the volume of medical reports.
- The Ministry recognizes that current delays in processing times are frustrating for people. RoadSafetyBC is currently engaged in a transformation project that will digitize and transform the Driver Medical Fitness program to increase efficiency. The project aims to reduce processing times and backlogs, improve customer service and communication, and improve tracking and reporting of data through automated information collection methods.
- The project includes a new case management system that was launched in February 2024, which will increase the efficiency of the program and assist with managing increasing volumes.
- Driver Medical Fitness files are triaged by the program based first on medical urgency and then reviewed in the order they are received.
- 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.
- RoadSafetyBC has undertaken several measures to assist with the backlog, which include staff working overtime, reallocation of staff from other areas to assist with processing of files and hiring new staff. Additional measures are currently being assessed.

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Driver Medical Fitness Fees

- The fees that doctors and nurse practitioners charge patients for completing Driver Medical Examination Reports are not set by government. These fees are set 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.
- Doctors are not able to bill the Medical Services Plan (MSP) for age-based and commercial Driver Medical Examination 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 or 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.

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 for 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 200,000 documents in a backlog for initial triage; of these documents, approximately 18,000 will require driver medical fitness reviews.
- B.C.'s aging population is expected to contribute to an increase in volume of medical reports.

Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Driver Medical Fitness

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

Year	Number of Aged 80+ Drivers (all classes)
2012	89,500
2013	93,000
2014	97,000
2015	100,200
2016	103,500
2017	106,700
2018	110,000
2019	114,500
2020	125,000
2021	133,000
2022	145,000
2023	158,000
2028*	201,600
2033*	257,300
2038*	328,400

*Source: projections of age 80+ drivers based in BC Stats population projections average 5% /year.

Contact: Brianna Fougere, RSBC

Mobile: Government Financial Information
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2025/26 ESTIMATES**Violation Tickets –
Fines and Points****Key Messages**

- Police issue violation tickets for a variety of traffic offences including drivers travelling over the posted speed limit or using an electronic device while driving. If a driver is convicted of a traffic offence, penalty points are applied to their driving record.

Research shows speeding and distracted driving continue to be the main factors in crashes resulting in the loss of life and serious injury.

- Fines and penalty points are used as deterrents to ensure drivers understand the severity of dangerous driving behaviors.
- ICBC also uses insurance premiums as deterrents to address frequent or serious driving convictions.
- The Superintendent of Motor Vehicles has authority to take action against drivers with multiple penalty points on their driving record by imposing driving prohibitions.

Speeding

- Speeding is the top contributing factor for vehicle crashes resulting in serious injuries or fatalities in BC.
- In BC, the penalties for speeding range from \$138 to \$483 with three penalty points.

Distracted Driving

- Distracted driving occurs when drivers divert their attention away from the primary task of driving, which reduces reaction times.
- Anything that takes your attention away from driving can contribute to distracted driving. This includes looking down at a phone or GPS, turning around to talk to someone in the back seat, changing the radio station, eating, drinking, or putting on makeup.
- Distraction/inattention is the second highest contributing factor for vehicle crashes resulting in serious injuries or fatalities in BC.
- Using an electronic device (e.g., GPS) while driving, and emailing or texting while driving is a \$368 fine with four penalty points.

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- The Use of Electronic Devices While Driving Regulation contains rules about how drivers must use permitted devices (e.g., GPS) while operating a motor vehicle.

ICBC Driver Penalty Point and Driver Risk Premiums

- Drivers with more driving offences or convictions are involved in more crashes than other drivers.
- There are two different ICBC insurance premium programs, both of which are assessed annually.
 - Driver Penalty Points Premium:
 - Drivers with more than three points within a 12-month period may be required to pay a Driver Penalty Point premium.
 - The premium ranges from \$214 for four points up to \$29,376 for 50 or more points.
 - Driver Risk Premium:
 - Drivers who receive more than one driving conviction within a three-year period may need to pay a Driver Risk Premium.
 - The Driver Risk Premium for excessive speed, as well as for using an electronic device while driving, ranges from \$453 for a second conviction to \$1383 after the tenth conviction.
- Some offences or convictions, such as excessive speeding, may apply to both the Driver Penalty Point program and the Driver Risk Premium.

Background

- Fines for traffic offences are set out in Schedule 3 of the Violation Ticket Administration and Fines Regulation under the *Offense Act*. Penalty points are set out in Division 28 of the Motor Vehicle Act Regulations.
- Most Motor Vehicle Act traffic offences are assigned 2 or 3 penalty points. All speeding offences are assigned 3 points and all distracted driving fines are assigned 4 points.
- Penalty points may also be accumulated by a driver through convictions for contravention of the Motor Vehicle Act Regulations, and Criminal Code offences.
- The Superintendent of Motor Vehicles has the legislative authority to take action against drivers with poor driving records.
- The Driver Improvement Program uses the penalty point system to identify drivers who engage in poor or dangerous driving behaviour. Driver records are monitored, and when a driver accumulates a certain level of penalty points, the Superintendent intervenes to address the individual's risky driving behaviours through imposing a driving prohibition.

- The program is one of several intervention-based programs aimed at improving public safety on BC roads.

Contact: Sharon Stewart (RSBC)

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Information

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Estimates 2025/26 Briefing Book**

**Insurance Corporation of BC
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2. ICBC Affordability
3. Enhanced Care Model
4. Material Damage
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6. Tariff Impacts

2025/26 ESTIMATES**ICBC Financial Update****Key Messages**

- ICBC's forecasted net income for 2024/25 as of Q3 is \$1.4 billion, which includes a customer rebate ("2025 Rebate") estimated at \$410M. The forecast net income is \$1.4 billion favourable to the 2024/25 Budget net income of nil (\$0).
- ICBC's strong financial position in 2024/25 presented an opportunity to issue a one-time \$110 rebate to eligible ICBC policyholders, while continuing to build ICBC's capital reserves to support long term financial
- stability for the benefit of all British Columbians.
- ICBC's recent capital reserve levels, measured by the Minimum Capital Test ("MCT") ratio, are currently adequate to absorb adverse events that may arise due to uncertainty and volatility of the financial markets.
- Further, Basic insurance rates are not changing (through to March 31, 2026) - marking 6 years in a row without a Basic rate increase.

Background**Q3 Year-to-Date (YTD) Net Income**

- ICBC closed 2024/25 Q3 with a corporate net income of \$1.2 billion.
- ICBC has benefited from strong year-to-date financial markets and lower than expected claims costs.
- At December 31, 2024, the year-to-date investment income was more than \$911 million better than Budget and net claims costs more than \$155 million lower than Budget.

Q3 2024/25 Outlook Net Income as Compared to Full Year Budget

- At Q3, ICBC's forecasted year-end net income is \$1.4 billion, including the 2025 Rebate. This is \$1.4 billion favourable as compared to the 2024/25 Budget net income of nil (\$0).
- The 2024/25 Budget net income of \$0 assumed a market slowdown in the last quarter of FY 2023/24 and into FY 2024/25. To date, the market slowdown has not materialized in FY 2024/25.
- The favourable net income is primarily the result of better than budget investment earnings and lower than expected claims costs.

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- Higher investment earnings in 2024/25 have been due to stronger than expected growth in the equity markets as well as improved bond prices from lower interest rates.
- With favourable trends anticipated to continue through the end of the year, claims costs are expected to end the year \$618 million under budget. Claims costs are favourable to Budget due to lower numbers of compensable claims and lower costs for injury and Material Damage (MD) than expected. Claims results under Enhanced Care continue to be favourable, in terms of lower-than-expected number of compensable injury claims and estimated severity, while acknowledging that ICBC's experience with the Enhanced Care product is still quite new. Growth on MD costs has moderated as compared to prior years' trends, and fewer delayed repairs have been required, resulting in lower-than-expected MD claims costs.
- Premium revenues are lower than Budget primarily due to the \$410 million customer rebate.
- Operating costs are on budget. The favourable impact from lower-than-budget staffing levels (primarily due to recruitment challenges), are offset by several non-recurring items.
- Acquisition costs, premium taxes and commissions, are lower due to the lower premium revenues.
- ICBC's corporate loss ratio and combined ratio are lower than budget, in spite of the impact of the 2025 Rebate, mainly due to lower claims costs.

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 three fiscal years, primarily due to better than expected investment income and lower than expected claims costs. A 7% capital provision is built into Basic rates primarily to maintain and build capital levels.
 - ICBC's Corporate MCT was 194% at December 31, 2024, as compared to the MCT of 155% at the fiscal year end 2023/24.
 - The Basic MCT ratio was 210% as of 2024/25 Q3, an improvement over the Basic MCT ratio of 173% at the end of 2023/24 Q4.
 - ICBC's 2024/25 year-end MCT forecast at Q3, (after rebate) is 203%.
- Optional capital levels are currently below target and expected to increase at a moderate rate.

Key Facts and Figures

Topic	Response
Dec 31 2024 YTD (Q3) Actuals	
YTD Net Income	\$1.2B
Minimum Capital Test (MCT) Ratio	194%
2024/25 Year End Forecast (at Q3)	
Net Income Forecast	\$1.4B and \$1.4B favourable to Budget
Revenues (Net of Acquisition Costs)	\$351M unfavourable to Budget - primarily due to the 2025 Rebate of \$410M
Investment Income	\$1,133M favourable to Budget - due to stronger than expected investment markets
Operating Costs	On Budget - Lower FTE costs (recruitment challenges) offset by several non-recurring items
Claims Costs	\$618M favourable to Budget - Lower number of compensable claims and lower severity for both Enhanced Care and MD costs.
Minimum Capital Test (MCT) Ratio	203% Year End forecast
Policy Holder Rebate	\$410M Greater-than-forecast results provides the opportunity for one-time rebate

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Risks

- Impact from the US administration tariffs.
- Volatility in the global investment markets.
- Claims – MD risks regarding changes in MD frequency and severity.
- Claims – Enhanced Care experience has been favourable (lower compensable claims and severity) however it is a new product with a limited history.
- Claims – The legal-based injury book (preceding Enhanced Care), continues to experience higher large loss count emergence that has not fully moderated and there is continued severity risk (risk of higher costs) for outstanding legal-based injury claims. There are approximately \$5 billion in claims still open from crashes that occurred under the previous legal-based insurance model.

Appendix

Appendix - ICBC Statement of Operations

Contact: David Wong - CEO (ICBC)	Phone:	
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Financial Summary – December 2024

Financial Results

ICBC's corporate net income for the third quarter of the 2024/25 fiscal year (April 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024) was \$1.221 billion.

The results demonstrate that the Enhanced Care insurance model implemented in May 2021 is continuing to deliver on the promise of providing British Columbians with a financially stable auto insurance system that offers some of the best care, recovery and income replacement benefits available in Canada, along with more affordable premiums.

ICBC's net income was \$604 million better than our net income for the same period last fiscal year (2023/24). Key factors behind the change were higher investment income, primarily as a result of the stronger financial markets, and higher premium revenue, driven by increasing demand for both the mandatory insurance coverage for all vehicles registered in B.C. and ICBC's Optional insurance products.

The strong performance of the financial markets resulted in investment income of \$1,244 million, which is a \$338 million improvement compared to the same period last year.

While these factors have a positive impact on our net income, current year claims are higher as costs to repair and replace vehicles damaged in crashes continues to climb, mainly due to more sophisticated and expensive vehicle technology, which is an industry-wide trend affecting insurers across Canada. With increased material damage costs affecting both Basic and Optional cost, Optional rates have been impacted, however we are keeping Basic rates steady for another year, meaning no changes until at least April 1, 2026.

ICBC's capital levels are measured by the Minimum Capital Test (MCT) ratio. MCT is an important industry measurement used to determine whether a company has sufficient capital to absorb unexpected losses.

We have rebuilt our capital levels and we have a higher MCT ratio than the last fiscal year driven by the higher net income so far this year. Our Corporate MCT was 194% in the third quarter of 2024/25, an improvement over the MCT of 155% at the end of 2023/24.



Statement of Operations

For the Nine Months Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023¹

	Basic		Optional		Corporate	
(\$ Millions)	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24
Premiums written	\$ 2,576	\$ 2,539	\$ 2,325	\$ 2,017	\$ 4,901	\$ 4,556
Insurance revenues						
Premiums earned	2,515	2,468	2,156	1,807	4,671	4,275
Service fees	98	86	77	58	175	144
Total insurance revenues	2,613	2,554	2,233	1,865	4,846	4,419
Insurance service expenses						
Current year claims	2,079	1,936	1,580	1,462	3,659	3,398
Prior years' claims adjustments	(295)	(239)	(272)	(78)	(567)	(317)
Total claims incurred	1,784	1,697	1,308	1,384	3,092	3,081
Claims services, road safety and loss management services	250	242	126	127	376	369
Total claims and related costs	2,034	1,939	1,434	1,511	3,468	3,450
Operating expenses	41	39	51	56	92	95
Premium taxes, commissions and other acquisition costs	194	190	467	407	661	597
Total insurance service expenses	2,269	2,168	1,952	1,974	4,221	4,142
Net expenses (recovery) from reinsurance contracts	2	2	9	3	11	5
Insurance service result	342	384	272	(112)	614	272
Realized investment income (loss)	738	338	331	170	1,069	508
Unrealized gains (losses) on investments	121	264	54	134	175	398
Net investment income (loss)	859	602	385	304	1,244	906
Net insurance finance expenses	289	256	114	102	403	358
Other operating expenses (income), non-attributable ²	51	36	49	38	100	74
Net insurance and investment result	861	694	494	52	1,355	746
Non-insurance expenses						
Administrative and other	29	27	-	-	29	27
Driver licensing	82	81	-	-	82	81
Commissions	32	31	-	-	32	31
Non-insurance other income	(9)	(10)	-	-	(9)	(10)
Total non-insurance expenses	134	129	-	-	134	129
Cost of non-insurance operations	(134)	(129)	-	-	(134)	(129)
Net income (loss)	\$ 727	\$ 565	\$ 494	\$ 52	\$ 1,221	\$ 617
Net income (loss) attributable to:						
Non-controlling interest ³	\$ (1)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1)	\$ -
Owner of the corporation	728	565	494	52	1,222	617
	\$ 727	\$ 565	\$ 494	\$ 52	\$ 1,221	\$ 617
Insurance Industry Ratios						
%	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24
Loss ratio	92.5	89.0	72.1	89.4	83.1	89.1
Expense ratio	17.5	16.9	26.9	28.4	21.8	21.8
Combined ratio	110.0	105.9	99.0	117.8	104.9	110.9

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

³ 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.



As at December 31 2024¹ and March 31, 2024

(\$ Millions)	December 31 2024	March 31 2024
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 12	\$ 13
Accrued interest	26	28
Assets held for sale	22	22
Financial investments	18,256	17,821
Other receivables	166	264
Reinsurance contract assets	32	35
Investment properties	190	234
Property, equipment, intangible and lease assets	309	336
Accrued pension benefits	237	262
Deferred premium acquisition costs and prepaids	39	44
	<u>\$ 19,289</u>	<u>\$ 19,059</u>
Liabilities and Equity		
Liabilities		
Current liabilities	\$ 393	\$ 380
Bond repurchase agreements and investment-related liabilities	297	266
Premiums and fees received in advance	41	69
Lease liabilities	53	57
Insurance contract liabilities ¹	11,596	12,607
Pension and post-retirement benefits	180	172
	<u>12,560</u>	<u>13,551</u>
Equity		
Retained earnings	6,170	4,948
Other components of equity	555	555
Equity attributable to parent corporation	6,725	5,503
Non-controlling interest	4	5
	<u>6,729</u>	<u>5,508</u>
	<u>\$ 19,289</u>	<u>\$ 19,059</u>

Minimum Capital Test ("MCT") ratio

Corporate	194%	155%
Basic	210%	173%
Optional	161%	118%

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 Insurance contract liabilities is made up of:

Provision for unpaid claims	\$ 10,154	\$ 10,824
Unearned premiums	3,067	2,836
Claims related payables	127	135
Premiums receivable	(1,752)	(1,188)
	<u>\$ 11,596</u>	<u>\$ 12,607</u>



Glossary – December 2024

Premiums Written

Amount of total premiums of all the auto insurance policies issued during the fiscal year.

Premiums Earned

Premiums earned are the portion of the premiums written for which coverage has already been provided based on the period the policy has been in effect. For example, a 12-month policy will have one twelfth of the total policy premium earned each month, over the life of the policy.

Current year claims

Current year claims expense is the total costs (paid and expected) to settle claims occurring in the current year. Current year claims includes loss events that have occurred during the year but are not yet reported to ICBC.

Prior years' claims adjustments

Prior years' claims adjustments are the change in the reserve to settle claims that occurred in prior years.

Unrealized gains (losses)

Unrealized gains (losses) are the increase (decrease) in the value of an investment asset that is not yet sold ("paper" gains/losses).

Net insurance finance expenses

Net insurance finance expense represents changes in the amount of discount applied to show future payments on claims at their present value. This change can occur for two reasons: a reduction due to the passage of time, known as discount unwinding; and an update in the rate used for discounting. Prior to the change in accounting rules for insurance entities that ICBC began using on April 1, 2023, these amounts were included as part of total claims incurred.

Non-controlling interest

ICBC's financial reporting standards attribute the total comprehensive income of investment partnerships between the majority and minority partners based on their respective ownership interests. Non-controlling interest represents the portion of ICBC's net income and assets that are attributable to minority partners.

Expense ratio

The ratio of operating expenses (excluding claims costs and claims-related costs), premium taxes, commissions and other acquisition costs to premiums earned. A lower expense ratio is better.

Loss ratio

The loss ratio is an industry measure of claims and claims-related costs (claims services, road safety and loss management services) to premiums earned. The lower the percentage, the more profitable the product is.

Combined ratio

A key measure of overall profitability within the insurance industry. It is the ratio of all costs (claims, claims-related costs, operating expenses, premium taxes, commissions and other acquisition costs) to premiums earned. A lower combined ratio is better.

Minimum Capital Test ("MCT") ratio

An industry measure used to determine whether a company has sufficient capital levels, commensurate with the risks within its business. The measure is based on guidelines set by the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions.

2025/26 ESTIMATES**ICBC Affordability****Key Messages**

- There has been no overall increase to Basic insurance rates in B.C. for six years.
- On May 8, 2024, ICBC's Policy Year 2023 was extended by one year to end on March 31, 2026. With this, ICBC's next rate application filing with the B.C. Utilities Commission (BCUC) is in December 2025 and any change to Basic rates would take effect in April of 2026.
- ICBC reviews and adjusts rates on a regular basis to reflect claims trends, with annual filings to the BCUC on Basic rates and even more regular Optional rate reviews to remain competitive in pricing.
- ICBC's goal is to keep Basic auto insurance rates in the province affordable for all drivers.

Background

- While material damage costs continue to increase, ICBC has experienced some moderation in the growth of the material damage trend as compared to recent years where heightened levels of inflation put considerable pressure on the ability to manage claims costs in terms of higher material and labour costs, delayed repairs due to shortage of parts and skilled technicians.
- 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 6 years.

Policy Year 2023 extended 1 year (April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2026)

- In 2024, Policy Year 2023 was extended an additional year to March 31, 2026, also extending the Basic rate change of 0% an additional year, making it 6 years with a 0% (or less) Basic rate change.
- ICBC's Basic rate includes a capital provision (at a 7% constant rate) to maintain and build capital levels.

Optional Rate Changes

- ICBC competes with private insurers on Optional insurance and making sure prices for its Optional products are competitive in the industry is very important to the organization.
- 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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Facts and Figures

Topics	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 0.0% - 2025/26
No overall increase to Basic insurance rates	6 years (since April 2019)
Current policy year (PY2023)	April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2026
Next Revenue Requirements Application to BCUC	December 15, 2025

Contact: David Wong - CEO (ICBC)	Phone:	Personal Information
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2025/26 ESTIMATES

Enhanced Care Model

Key Messages

- Enhanced Care is approaching its four-year implementation mark (May 2021).
- Enhanced Care provides drivers in B.C. with more affordable auto insurance compared to the previous legal-based system and provides anyone injured in a crash with improved care and recovery benefits.
- This system follows a care-based approach. Anyone injured in an accident – whether they are a driver, passenger, motorcycle rider, cyclist or pedestrian – can access benefits that support their recovery.
- While care is available to all regardless of who is responsible for an accident, fault still matters, and accountability remains a key tenet of the Enhanced Care insurance model.
- Both the Province and ICBC take concerns about the model seriously. ICBC continues to listen and respond to feedback from all road users, including drivers, pedestrians and cyclists, in addition to health care partners and industry experts, to continuously improve the delivery of Enhanced Care and ensure the best supports are in place for anyone injured in a crash.

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. 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 psychology. 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.

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- Unlike the previous model where pain and suffering awards were only a possibility for those not responsible for causing an accident, Enhanced Care provides lump-sum compensation for permanent impairment of up to \$307,461 regardless of fault.
- Anyone catastrophically injured in a crash is now entitled to up to \$11,628 per month for 24-hour personal care assistance.
- Amounts provided for Enhanced Accident Benefits (including Permanent Impairment compensation, Income Replacement and assistance with Activities of Daily Living) are adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index. The amounts listed in this section were adjusted on April 1, 2024 and will have been adjusted again on April 1, 2025.

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 \$119,000 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, and that 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. And that's assuming they have someone to sue – about 40% of people involved in crashes do not 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, which would need to pay for all their care for the rest of their life.
- Now, an injured person is eligible for medical and rehabilitation benefits to support their recovery, as soon as they file their claim. For the most seriously injured customers, these benefits may be ongoing for 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 \$307,461. Those with serious, non-catastrophic, permanent injuries may also be eligible for some compensation.
- 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 and provided an updated response in September 2024.
- As the matter is before the courts, it would be inappropriate to comment further.
- In November 2024, Alberta announced they will move to a “no fault/care-based” auto insurance model, consistent with what ICBC offers in response to unsustainable rising costs under the current tort model.

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.
- If a customer feels like they have exhausted ICBC’s channels and are still dissatisfied, there are other 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.

Key Facts and Figures

- B.C. isn’t the only province in Canada that uses a care-based insurance model – it’s also been used for decades in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and Alberta is adopting a similar model, with private insurance providers, in 2027.
- More than 96% of all claims costs under Enhanced Care goes directly to the customer through appropriate benefit application for customers involved in a crash and requiring recovery from their injuries.
- As of Dec. 31, 2024, ICBC had paid out \$1.18 billion in Enhanced Care benefits to 170,000 injured British Columbians, which included the following:
 - \$582 million for treatments and programs, supporting 172,000 customers
 - \$260 million for income replacement to 21,000 customers

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- \$66 million to 770 families to support them after the unfortunate passing of a family member.
- \$68 million to 5,200 customers to help them with the activities of daily living (such as cleaning and food preparation)
- \$63 million in Permanent Impairment compensation to 4,100 customers
- \$5.3 million to 126 customers requiring modifications to their homes and vehicles to make them safe and accessible.

Appendix

Appendix - Enhanced Accident Benefits Key Benefits Comparison

Contact: David Wong - CEO (ICBC)		Personal Information
		Phone:

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Appendix - Enhanced Accident Benefits Key Benefits Comparison

*Limits are inclusive of indexing for 2025 and rounded to the nearest dollar, where applicable

Accident Benefits	Former system	Enhanced Accident Benefits proposed in Feb 2020 Intentions Paper	New limits effective April 1, 2025
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 \$119,000 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	\$6,619 \$12,267 \$24,534
Family enterprise	N/A	\$800/week	\$948/week
Permanent impairment compensation Catastrophic Non-catastrophic	N/A	\$250,000 \$800 to \$160,000	\$307,461 \$972 to \$194,716 (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	\$5,851/ month \$6,997/ month \$11,628/ 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	\$169/ week \$215/ week \$263/ 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	\$678/ week \$738/ week \$795/ week \$835/ week
Recreation benefit	N/A	\$500 to \$4,000/2 years (depending on severity of impairment)	\$582 to \$4,651 every 2 years (depending on severity of impairment)
Extended benefit for catastrophically injured	N/A	\$1,200,000	\$1,430,055
Death Benefits Spouse Dependant Dependant with disabilities (additional amount) Non-dependant child or parent	\$30,000 6,000 each N/A N/A	\$60,000 - \$500,000 \$30,000 to \$60,000 each \$28,000 \$14,000 each	\$77,889 minimum (max. is limited by the cap on gross yearly employment income up to \$544,840) \$36,994 to \$69,764 each \$34,076 \$17,346 each
Funeral expenses	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$10,616
Grief counselling	N/A	\$3,500 total (per deceased)	\$4,440 per eligible person per deceased
Travel expenses to attend insured in critical care	N/A	\$4,600	\$5,784 if 1 individual \$2,891 per individual if 2

2025/26 ESTIMATES

Material Damage

Key Messages

- Trends in B.C. vehicle repair costs continue to rise, like other jurisdictions in Canada and the United States. A key driver is the complexity of newer vehicles, which are more expensive to repair. Current inflation rates also affect the cost of parts and materials used in repairs.
- To help ensure customers can obtain timely repairs throughout B.C., ICBC is partnering with industry representatives to support attraction and retention of key technical roles in automotive trades, improve access to education about incentives, grants, and training for industry, and monitor changing market conditions.
- To help address longer wait times in some areas outside the Lower Mainland, ICBC is implementing new work processes to increase repair facility capacity and reduce delays for customers.
- ICBC's new Salvage and Vehicle Information Management project involves implementing a new technology platform in the sale of salvage vehicles, which will increase salvage revenue, improve the experience of salvage customers, employees and external stakeholders, and streamline interactions with suppliers.
- ICBC will be updating the compensation structure for the use of Alternative Transportation Service at Collision Repair Program shops. This update will reflect the fact that not all transportation options to customers involve the same costs. ICBC will increase compensation when a replacement vehicle is provided and fund this increase by reducing the amount paid when customers are provided less costly alternatives (e.g., transit pass, taxi voucher, pick up and drop off service.) These updates are designed to help address rising cost pressures faced by industry and better align the compensation to the true cost of transportation provided by each facility.
- ICBC's efforts strike the right balance between providing material damage suppliers with stability and helping them plan for future years, while keeping rates affordable for British Columbians.

Background

- A multi-year rate schedule provides ICBC material damage partners with consistency and helps them better plan for future years, while delivering on ICBC's commitment to keep rates affordable for British Columbians. ICBC also commits to reviewing paint and material rates for collision suppliers on an annual basis.

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- ICBC is closely monitoring potential impacts from tariffs and investigating options to mitigate risks.

Collision

- Current 3-year rate framework (equivalent to 13% increase in 2022, 3% annual increases for 2023 & 2024) ends June 30, 2025.
 - Work is underway to establish a new rate framework, aiming to commence July 1, 2025.
- ICBC is currently working on establishing this year's paint and material rate increase.
 - In 2024, the paint and material rate increase equated to a 4.3% increase in paint and a 1.8% increase in body material.

Tow

- New tow rate framework was established in August 2024.
 - 4% increase in 2025, 0% increase in 2026, up to 3% increase (based on CPI) in 2027.

Glass

- Current 3-year framework (3% annual increases for 2022, 2023, and 2024).
 - Work is underway to establish a new rate framework, aiming to commence July 1, 2025.
- In October 2023, Glass Program was re-designed, rewarding top performers. In 2024, ICBC paid \$1.3M in accumulated rebates.

Salvage and Vehicle Information Management Project

- The rising cost of repairing and replacing vehicles has created significant cost pressures for ICBC.
- ICBC looks for opportunities to mitigate rate pressures, including by modernizing programs.
- In April 2025, ICBC will implement a modern salvage management system, which will introduce new technology, adopt industry best practices for sale, and streamline the processing of salvage. The new system will also establish a towing program supported with technology and process enhancements.
- Through this program, ICBC expects to realize increased salvage revenue through an expanded buyer base and have improved governance of towing and storage suppliers.
- ICBC processes an average of 50,000 salvage vehicles each year. To offer a more accessible and transparent market for these vehicles, ICBC is partnering with industry leader Impact Auto Auctions to replace the current salvage web with an online auction platform.
- Automobile insurance companies recover some of their losses through the sale of vehicles written off during the claims process. Revenues from salvage sales help to control insurance rates, supporting insurer fiscal responsibility and customer rate affordability.

Alternate Transportation Service

- Alternative Transportation Service (ATS) is a service offered by collision repair program participants to provide alternate transportation while a customer's vehicle is being repaired. Alternate transportation may include courtesy cars, rentals, taxis, and transit.
- There has been a significant shift in industry and customer transportation choices. Collision repair program participants have smaller fleets and customers can access a broader range of options while their vehicles are being repaired, including transportation network companies. By adjusting compensation closer to associated costs, ICBC will better manage claims transportation costs.
- Effective March 31, 2025, Collision Repair facilities will receive payments based on the type of service provided to a customer – an hourly rate (increased from \$8.68 to \$11.05/hr) when an ATS vehicle is provided to a customer or a flat fee (\$100) when another form of transportation service (e.g., transit pass, taxi voucher, etc.) is provided.
- Currently, facilities are eligible to charge the hourly rate on every claim, regardless of the type of ATS provided, if any.
- ICBC is making this update to acknowledge the evolving way ATS is being offered in the industry and to help address rising cost pressures faced by industry and better align the compensation to the true cost of transportation provided.

Skilled Labour

- ICBC's Material Damage Strategy focuses on addressing industry sustainment, capacity, and affordability. Short-term initiatives are focused on capacity and cost-control, 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.
- Beyond rate increases, ICBC continues to address other challenges including helping the collision repair industry with issues related to labour shortages and training through initiatives which have included funding for collision repair apprentices and training that focuses on different themes that are critical for industry, such as safety. ICBC is contributing up to \$1.5 million over 6 years (to 2028) to help build further capacity for their industries for the long term.
- The initiatives are designed to support and develop skills and talents of British Columbians looking for a fulfilling career in the collision repair industry. ICBC will continue to monitor its effectiveness. Fiscal Year 2024 saw increases in both new apprentice registrations (+9%) and active apprentices (+13%) from the previous fiscal year.

Key Facts and Figures

Topic	Response
Glass Supplier Compensation	3-year rate framework resulted in a 3% annual increase for 2022, 2023, & 2024. - Work is underway to establish a new rate framework.
Collision Supplier Compensation	3-year rate framework resulted in an equivalent of 13% increase in 2022 & an annual 3% increase for 2023 & 2024. - Work is underway to establish a new rate framework.
Towing Supplier Compensation	- New tow rate framework, established in August 2024. - Provides a 4% increase in 2025, 0% increase in 2026, up to 3% increase (based on CPI) in 2027.
Commercial Supplier Compensation	10% labour rate increase in 2022 followed by a 3% increase in 2023 & 2024. - Work is underway to establish a new rate framework.
ICBC Industry Liaison Committees	6 industry liaison committees (Collision, Glass, Towing, Recycling and Heavy Truck industries).
Industry Support and Training	- 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. - ICBC continues to evaluate future incentives through industry consultation.

Contact: David Wong - CEO (ICBC)

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Personal Information

2025/26 ESTIMATES**ICBC Efficiency****Key Messages**

- ICBC is a significant organization with investments and assets worth approximately \$19 billion that delivers multiple, complex and critical province-wide public services.
- ICBC's operating costs support injury claims, material damage claims, driver licensing, and road safety initiatives.
- Every day, ICBC processes approximately 2,300 to 2,400 new claims, 7,000 driver licence transactions, and over 15,000 new policies in addition to other road safety services.
- Further, Enhanced Care provides a new way of doing auto insurance in British Columbia which costs less and provides improved care and recovery benefits. In the first year, 95% of claims costs went to customers and greater than 96% in 2022/23 and 2023/24; while in the previous system, before Enhanced Care, roughly 80% went to customers due to high legal costs.
- As a result of Government and ICBC's hard work, auto insurance rates in B.C. have gone from some of the most expensive in Canada to being among the most affordable.

Background**Operational Efficiency**

- ICBC's 2023/24 expense ratio was 23.2%, which is significantly better than the industry benchmark of 29.7%. ICBC also has a lower expense ratio compared to private sector insurers despite providing various supplementary non-insurance services, such as driver licensing, which private insurers do not provide.
- For 2024/25, ICBC is expecting a 23.9% expense ratio. Excluding the impact of the 2025 Rebate, the 2024/25 expected expense ratio would be 22.3%.
- The expense ratio is a standard industry measure to assess the operational efficiency of an insurer. A lower expense ratio means a more efficient organization. ICBC calculates this as a ratio of insurance expenses and non-insurance expenses (excluding incurred claims and claims-related costs) to premiums earned.

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ICBC's Financials

- ICBC provides more than just auto insurance to British Columbians and their operating costs reflect the full scope of what they do. For example, ICBC delivers important services on behalf of government such as driver licensing as well as road safety improvements and campaigns.
- For fiscal 2024/25, ICBC is forecasting a year-end net income of \$1.4 billion.
- Over the last five years, on average for every \$1 that ICBC collected in Basic insurance, it paid out \$1.03:
 - \$0.81 claims costs
 - \$0.05 ICBC operations
 - \$0.17 other (driver licensing, premium tax, commission, Road Safety, non-insurance and other expenses)
- Funds available for investment purposes come primarily from the premiums collected and set aside for unpaid claims. Investment income earned from these funds helps reduce the gap between premiums collected and ICBC's expenses, including the claims it pays out. This ensures a more affordable and sustainable auto insurance system for British Columbians and is a standard practice within the insurance industry.

Claims Costs

- The biggest reason for the reduction in claims payments with Enhanced Care is the elimination of litigation costs. Under the tort system, claimants were often paying up to 33% of their settlements to their lawyer in fees.
- Now, more than 96% of all claims costs under Enhanced Care goes directly to the customer through appropriate benefit application for customers involved in a crash and requiring recovery from their injuries.

Management & Staff

- Following a government review in 2012, senior management roles (Executive, Senior Directors and Directors) have been reduced by 40%, and this reduction has been sustained.
- As of February 25, 2025, ICBC senior executive is made up of seven people, including the CEO and vice-presidents.
- Over the past three years, ICBC's proportion of bargaining unit employees to management and confidential employees has remained relatively stable at an average of approximately 77% to 23%, respectively.
- Year-over-year increases in B.C.'s population demands for more ICBC services which increases ICBC's FTE requirements to provide continued support to customers without negatively impacting the customer or the employee experiences. Despite the increase in demand, ICBC has managed to keep FTE levels consistent year-over-year.

Contact: David Wong - CEO (ICBC)

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Personal Information

2025/26 ESTIMATES**Tariff Impacts****Key Messages**

- ICBC provides services that are integral to the everyday lives of British Columbians – from affordable Basic auto insurance and vehicle registration to road safety initiatives, driver licensing and issuing B.C. Services Cards.
- As a Crown Corporation, the revenue that ICBC generates stays within British Columbia to not only help keep insurance rates affordable but also to contribute to our province's economic health and support local communities.
- ICBC directly employs thousands of people across the province, providing jobs and supporting our economy. They also collaborate with a wide network of stakeholders including auto body and glass repair shops, insurance brokers, health care practitioners and driving schools, generating additional economic activity within B.C.
- ICBC has reviewed its business practices. Most of ICBC's direct work is done with Canadian businesses, including the recent rebate where they're exclusively working with Canadian vendors to make these rebates happen.

Background**2025 Rebate**

- The 2025 rebate is based on ICBC's financial performance, including investment performance, over the 2024/25 fiscal year. The tariffs are not retroactive, and in that sense, do not impact on our ability to deliver a rebate this year.
- ICBC has healthy capital reserves and sound financial management practices. However, should ICBC experience any financial impacts as a result of tariffs moving forward, those would be taken into consideration when evaluating any future potential rebates.
- As a public insurer, ICBC will work with the Province to ensure alignment on any potential impacts of imposed tariffs.

Impact on Insurance Rates

- ICBC doesn't anticipate significant changes in the short-term, but the extent of the tariffs and wider impacts will be monitored.
- ICBC is having discussions about the possible impact tariffs could have on the

cost to repair and replace damaged vehicles but it's too early to know what impact this could have and how it could translate to the overall cost of insurance. As a public insurer, ICBC will work with the Province to ensure alignment on any potential impact to imposed tariffs.

- ICBC's next rate requirement application filing with the B.C. Utilities Commission (BCUC) is in December 2025 and any change to Basic rates would take effect in April of 2026.
- ICBC reviews and adjusts rates on a regular basis to reflect claims trends, with annual filings to the BCUC on Basic rates and even more regular Optional rate reviews to remain competitive in pricing.
- Like other insurers, ICBC adjusts Optional insurance rates in response to current and forecasted market conditions, including claims estimates and crash volume.
- As ICBC competes with other insurers in the Optional market, adjustments are not typically announced publicly.

Procurements

- While there is no impact to existing contracts, ICBC is following government's directives respecting any new procurements with U.S. based businesses.
- There may be an impact on auto repair providers. ICBC is monitoring and will work with impacted business areas.

Personal Information

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**Liquor Distribution Branch
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2. Tariff Impacts

2025/26 ESTIMATES**Liquor Distribution Branch
Overview and Financial
Update****Key Messages**

The BC Liquor Distribution Branch's (LDB) net income projections have been adjusted to reflect current economic conditions and consumer spending trends.

- The LDB is projecting being able to reduce its expenses to meet its adjusted net income target for FY 2024/25 (\$1.076 billion).
- B.C. is 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 and
 - global events that are increasing supply chain costs.
- 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 LDB.
- With the current economic conditions expected to continue, the LDB has updated its net income targets for the coming fiscal years. These forecasts reflect lowered revenue expectations and the need to invest in operating capital projects that support long-term revenue growth, business modernization, and competitiveness.
- The LDB continues to explore measures to increase net income and reduce operating expenses.
- Please note the impacts of tariffs on discretionary spending and revenue have not yet been taken into account in the projections.

Background

- The LDB, 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 LDB is required to comply with the requirements of a Crown agency in relation to its financial reporting.
- Revenue generated by the LDB 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 BC.
- The LDB 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 two fiscal years, investments in capital and operating projects will primarily go towards BCL and BCCS updates and upgrades to operating and IT equipment.

Key Facts and Figures

TOPIC: Operational Overview

Number of BCLIQUOR 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 (3,175 regular, full-time and over 2,415 auxiliary and regular, part-time)
Retail fundraising total in FY 2024/25	\$2M for local charities and humanitarian causes

TOPIC: Budget to 2024/25 Q3

Budget (\$ in millions)	2023/24 Actuals	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Plan	2026/27 Plan	2027/28 Plan
Revenue	\$3,939	\$3,896	\$3,848	\$3,875	\$3,912
Gross Margin	\$1,702	\$1,655	\$1,623	\$1,633	\$1,646
Operating Expenses	\$569	\$594	\$610	\$626	\$636
Other Income ¹	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15
Net Income	\$1,148	\$1,076²	\$1,027³	\$1,022⁴	\$1,025
Capital	\$18	\$25	\$32	\$30	\$30

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

²Net income forecast is reduced by \$13M from the previous Service Plan projection of \$1,089M.

³Net income target reduced by \$66M from previous Service Plan projection of \$1,093M.

⁴Net income target reduced by \$79M from previous Service Plan projection of \$1,101M.

TOPIC: Capital Projects Overview

LDB Capital (\$ in millions)	2023/24 Actuals	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Plan	2026/27 Plan	2027/28 Plan
Operating Capital ⁵	\$18	\$25	\$31	\$26	\$26
Capital Projects ⁶	\$0	\$0	\$1	\$4	\$4
Total Capital	\$18	\$25⁷	\$32	\$30	\$30

⁵Includes operating and IT equipment, vehicles, and retail store upgrades.

⁶Includes IT capital projects.

⁷Total Capital Projects forecast reduced to \$25M from previous Service Plan projection of \$34M.

Government Financial Information

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2025/26 ESTIMATES

Tariff Impacts

Key Messages

- The BC Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB) has been taking immediate actions in support of the provincial government response to U.S. tariffs and the Government of B.C. directive announced on March 10, 2025.
 - The LDB halted the importation of all U.S.-made liquor products.
 - BCLIQUOR (BCL) stores have also halted the retail sale of all U.S.-made liquor products and have removed these products from store shelves.
 - Hundreds of BCL employees across 198 BCL locations removed over 500,000 bottles of U.S.-made liquor products from store shelves and repacked them into 55,000 cases.
 - U.S.-made liquor products will continue to be available for purchase through LDB wholesale distribution channels (i.e., for purchase by private liquor stores, restaurants, bars and pubs) until existing inventory in British Columbia sells through.
- The LDB and BCL have been encouraging customers to support B.C. manufacturers and are adding more locally-made products to empty BCL shelves.
 - BCL currently carries over 868 local B.C. products and is adding more locally-made products to BCL shelves this spring.
 - BCL has issued additional listing invitations to suppliers for more B.C. and Canadian-made wine, beer, spirits and refreshment beverages including ciders and coolers and Advice/Recommendations
 - Many BCL stores have dedicated sections for local products including BC VQA wine, wine bottled in B.C., and B.C. craft beer and will be utilizing empty U.S. product shelf space to add more B.C. and Canadian-made products to store shelves.
 - BCL is running a “Support Local. Buy Canadian” campaign on its website, social media and in traditional and digital advertising channels.
 - This campaign features red maple leaf labels to help customers distinguish Canadian-made products in stores.
 - BCL regularly profiles regional producers and local products in BCL’s *taste* magazine.
 - BCL showcases BC VQA wines in April during BC VQA month and locally produced craft beer, wine, spirits and refreshment beverages in August during “Buy Local” month.

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- The LDB currently provides industry supports to B.C. liquor manufacturers that align with broader government policy objectives, such as 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.
 - Different B.C. liquor manufacturers, whether breweries, distilleries, or wineries – operate under distinct sales agreements, each with specific eligibility criteria and requirements.
 - In recognition that certain sales agreements, such as those governing craft distilleries and land-based wineries, require liquor manufacturers to meet particularly strict eligibility criteria, the LDB provides additional benefits to manufacturers that meet these high standards for local input use and production quality. These benefits may include:
 - direct sales and delivery of their product to hospitality customers and private retailers; and/or
 - Government Financial Information
 - The LDB is exploring ways to reduce barriers for B.C. manufacturers to access empty shelf space at BCL stores following the removal of U.S.-made products.
 - Responding to requests for additional financial support for the liquor industry must be carefully balanced with broader public funding priorities, ensuring that essential services remain properly funded.

Background

B.C. liquor manufacturer advocacy and requests

- B.C. craft distillers and other local liquor manufacturers have publicly expressed strong interest in accessing the empty shelf space in BCL stores following the removal of U.S.-made liquor products.
- Under their manufacturer sales agreement with the LDB, B.C. craft distillers can direct deliver their products to private liquor stores and licensed hospitality establishments at a reduced graduated mark-up.
- Craft distillers are requesting government provide them with a rebate on product sold to the LDB and BCL stores, similar to the benefits provided on the sale of BC VQA wines.
- In 2023/2024, the LDB contributed just over \$1 billion to the Government of British Columbia.

Key Facts and Figures

Current BC product selection at BCLIQUOR

Number of BC-made products currently listed at BCL stores as of March 31, 2025.

Product Category	# BC-made products
BC VQA Wine	420 SKUs
Bottled in B.C. Wine	128 SKUs
Commercial Spirits	12 SKUs
Craft Spirits	19 SKUs
Cider	31 SKUs
Commercial Beer	103 SKUs
Micro Brew (Craft) Beer	80 SKUs
Regional Beer	72 SKUs

Additional BC products to be available at BCLIQUOR

Number of BC-made products that will be added to BCL product selection (confirmed as of March 31, 2025)

Product Category	# BC-made products
BC VQA Wine	32 SKUs
Crafted in B.C. Wine ¹	45 SKUs
BC Craft Beer	8 SKUs

¹ Crafted in B.C. wines to support Okanagan wineries impacted by the grape shortage following the deep freeze in January 2024

U.S. products removed from BCLIQUOR shelves

Number of U.S.-made products removed from BCL shelves in response to the U.S. tariffs.

Product Category	# U.S.-made products
Beer	5 SKUs
Refreshment Beverages	10 SKUs
Spirits	193 SKUs
Wine	276 SKUs

Contact: Blain Lawson, General Manager and CEO.
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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
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January 16, 2025

Honourable Garry Begg
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Begg:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General at a critical time for our province. Serving as a member of the executive council is a privilege and responsibility which I am confident you will fulfill with integrity and a commitment to the people of our province.

British Columbians have trusted us with a mandate to deliver for them in ways that make a tangible difference in their daily lives. They expect us to listen and learn from people of different perspectives – and work together to make things better for everyone.

Specifically, we will tackle the challenges people worry about at the kitchen table:

- **Grow the economy by creating good jobs across British Columbia.** We will collaborate with businesses, workers, and communities to attract investments in both new and traditional sectors as well as emerging sectors of the economy. This approach will bring certainty for business, security for workers, and generate the wealth needed to support the essential services British Columbians rely on.
- **Reduce costs for families** including by helping people access homes they can afford through support for first-time homebuyers, increasing the supply of rental housing stock, and stronger measures to crack down on housing speculation.

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- **Strengthen health care** by expanding access to family doctors and recruiting and training more health professionals, ensuring that every British Columbian can access the care they need, no matter where they live. We will also increase access to addictions treatment and provide help for people whose struggles require intensive supports.
- **Make our neighbourhoods and communities safer** by working with law enforcement and social agencies to address street disorder, crack down on organized crime, and do all we can to ensure repeat offenders stay behind bars.

Our commitment to take action on climate change remains foundational and will be key to a healthy and prosperous BC for future generations.

Underlying all this work is our partnership with Indigenous peoples. Advancing reconciliation, implementing the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and working in partnership with First Nations rights-holders to advance shared interests is the responsibility of every Minister.

Over this mandate I expect you to prioritize making progress on the following:

- In order to protect key services that British Columbians rely on, work with the Minister of Finance to review all existing Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General programs and initiatives to ensure our programs remain relevant, are efficient, ensure safe and strong communities, grow the economy, and help keep British Columbians safe. This is important in the context of current Provincial budget constraints and the priorities of communities in the province.
- Facilitate strong cooperation between police, Crown prosecutors, probation officials, and the federal government to reduce repeat, violent, and gang offences. To this end, strengthen targeted policing and offender management, including continuing anti-gang programs, and work with the Attorney General to strengthen case management capacity.
- Continue to work with the federal government to respond to identified issues with federal criminal law that prevent keeping prolific and repeat violent offenders in custody.
- Ensure safe and strong communities by working with colleagues across ministries to support efforts to provide services and proactively intervene with individuals struggling with mental health, addiction, and brain injuries. In particular, work with the Minister of State for Community Safety and Integrated Services and other partners to ensure that provincial services are relevant and available to support police officers engaging in frontline responses to people in crisis, or who have identified individuals who present a risk to themselves or the public.

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- Spearhead policy work to use civil and administrative processes to target organized criminals in British Columbia by expediting seizing assets and denying access to government privileges, including licences or permits.
- Work proactively with federal colleagues and provincial and territorial counterparts to ensure British Columbia is a strong partner in supporting border security along our coast and along all land borders with American states.
- Coordinate provincial regulatory enforcement agency and police authorities, including gaming, liquor, cannabis, tobacco, and transit, to ensure efficiency, consistent authorities, and training, and to improve coordination to ensure public safety, prompt and effective regulatory response, and strong communities.
- Support the Minister of State for Community Safety and Integrated Services in accessing dedicated funding for enforcement initiatives related to organized shoplifting and the protection of retail workers.
- Work with the Cabinet Committee on Community Safety to ensure that initiatives identified by the committee are prioritized and delivered by your ministry as required.
- Work with ICBC to ensure a comprehensive and independent review of the enhanced care model is conducted with the twin goals of delivering affordable rates for British Columbians and high-quality services and rehabilitation for those injured in collisions.
- Make it easier for communities and families to follow preferred funeral and cremation practices by ensuring that relevant laws are modernized and responsive to cultural communities and their faiths and traditions.
- Modernize British Columbia's liquor licensing and enforcement system to focus enforcement on high-risk and repeat non-compliant businesses, and to expedite and simplify permits. Use examples like Ontario to inform program design.
- Work with the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport and the Minister of Agriculture and Food to grow our economy by supporting food and beverage producers, farmers, restaurants, and the tourism sector with flexible liquor, land use, and cannabis regulations in relation to the development of innovative tourism products and unique experiences.
- With support from the Minister of Transportation and Transit, take steps to ensure safety and efficiency across our public transportation system through partnerships with TransLink, BC Transit, and local governments to permit the use of technology in relation to enforcement of public transportation safety for everyone.

As you are aware, we have established an accord with the BC Green Caucus that supports our shared commitment to ensuring stable governance focused on delivering progress and tangible outcomes for British Columbians. The commitments in that accord complement the direction in these mandate letters.

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

The work we have ahead takes place in a profoundly challenging geopolitical environment. Close friends and neighbours to our south are contemplating imposing draconian tariffs on our products that would hurt both Americans and Canadians. Our allies internationally face governmental instability. Hate and racism are on the rise around the world. Artificial intelligence breakthroughs with unclear implications and astonishing potential are announced daily. Global inflation, snarled supply chains, and war are threatening global economic growth and prosperity as well as the transition to a low-carbon economy.

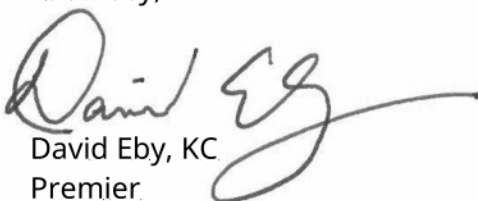
We have an obligation to protect and defend British Columbians, as well as seize opportunities, in these uncertain times.

The good news is that we have everything we need to succeed, and we will succeed. British Columbia's people – our workers, entrepreneurs, business leaders, artists, and innovators – are among the most talented in the world. We are home to world-class educational institutions and public services. Our natural beauty is unmatched, we have internationally envied resources, and we are one of the most diverse places on the planet. Your job is to help us leverage these advantages in perilous times.

Use this mandate letter to guide your work, and do not be afraid to challenge assumptions, or be innovative, bold and aggressive in achieving the goals set out for you and your Ministry by the people of this province.

Thank you for joining me in the work ahead.

Sincerely,



David Eby, KC
Premier

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January 16, 2025

Honourable Terry Yung
Minister of State for Community Safety
and Integrated Services
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Yung:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of State for Community Safety and Integrated Services at a critical time for our province. Serving as a member of the executive council is a privilege and responsibility which I am confident you will fulfill with integrity and a commitment to the people of our province.

British Columbians have trusted us with a mandate to deliver for them in ways that make a tangible difference in their daily lives. They expect us to listen and learn from people of different perspectives – and work together to make things better for everyone.

Specifically, we will tackle the challenges people worry about at the kitchen table:

- **Grow the economy by creating good jobs across British Columbia.** We will collaborate with businesses, workers, and communities to attract investments in both new and traditional sectors as well as emerging sectors of the economy. This approach will bring certainty for business, security for workers, and generate the wealth needed to support the essential services British Columbians rely on.
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Our commitment to take action on climate change remains foundational and will be key to a healthy and prosperous BC for future generations.

Underlying all this work is our partnership with Indigenous peoples. Advancing reconciliation, implementing the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and working in partnership with First Nations rights-holders to advance shared interests is the responsibility of every Minister.

Over this mandate I expect you to prioritize making progress on the following:

- Engage with police, business associations, downtown resident associations, public safety advocates, and other interested groups on initiatives to strengthen safety in the province's downtown core commercial areas. Focus on rural hub communities that act as services centres for outlying areas, as well as major urban centres that have faced public safety challenges.
- Gather information to ensure that services offered by the province are consistent with those needed by police when engaging with people in crisis, especially those struggling with mental health, addiction, and brain injury who are contributing to public concerns about safety in downtown areas.
- Work with the Cabinet Committee on Community Safety to ensure that initiatives identified by the committee are prioritized and delivered by your ministry as required

As you are aware, we have established an accord with the BC Green Caucus that supports our shared commitment to ensuring stable governance focused on delivering progress and tangible outcomes for British Columbians. The commitments in that accord complement the direction in these mandate letters.

As a Cabinet, we will uphold the highest standards of ethics, collaboration, and good conduct in service of the public, and as a Minister of the Crown, you are expected to review, understand, and act according to the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act*. You will

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establish a collaborative working relationship with your Deputy Minister and the public servants under their direction, who provide the professional, non-partisan advice that is fundamental to delivering on our government's priorities. Your Minister's Office must meet the highest standards for integrity and provide a respectful, rewarding environment for all staff.

The work we have ahead takes place in a profoundly challenging geopolitical environment. Close friends and neighbours to our south are contemplating imposing draconian tariffs on our products that would hurt both Americans and Canadians. Our allies internationally face governmental instability. Hate and racism are on the rise around the world. Artificial intelligence breakthroughs with unclear implications and astonishing potential are announced daily. Global inflation, snarled supply chains, and war are threatening global economic growth and prosperity as well as the transition to a low-carbon economy.

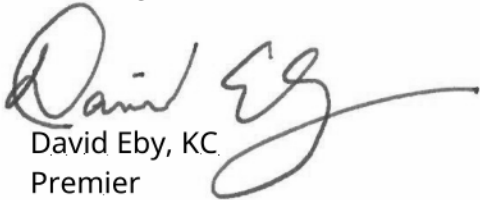
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Use this mandate letter to guide your work, and do not be afraid to challenge assumptions, or be innovative, bold and aggressive in achieving the goals set out for you and your Ministry by the people of this province.

Thank you for joining me in the work ahead.

Sincerely,



David Eby, KC
Premier

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Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

2025/26 – 2027/28 Service Plan

March 2025



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[Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General](#)

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Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2025/26 – 2027/28 Service Plan was prepared under my direction in accordance with the Budget Transparency and Accountability Act. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

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

Honourable Garry Begg
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
March 4, 2025

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Minister of State's Accountability Statement



I am the Minister of State for Community Safety and Integrated Services and under the Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act, I am accountable by [regulation](#) for achieving the expected results for the 2025/26 fiscal year, based on the following priorities in my mandate letter:

- Engage with police, business associations, downtown resident associations, public safety advocates, and other interested groups on initiatives to strengthen safety in the province's downtown core commercial areas. Focus on rural hub communities that act as services centres for outlying areas, as well as major urban centres that have faced public safety challenges;
- Gather information to ensure that services offered by the Province are consistent with those needed by police when engaging with people in crisis, especially those struggling with mental health, addiction, and brain injury who are contributing to public concerns about safety in downtown areas; and
- Work with the [Cabinet Committee on Community Safety](#) to ensure that initiatives identified by the committee are prioritized and delivered by the ministry as required.



Honourable Terry Yung
Minister of State for Community Safety and Integrated Services
March 4, 2025

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Strategic Direction

In 2025/26, the Government of British Columbia will continue to prioritize delivering the services and infrastructure needed for people to build good lives in strong communities.

To support this objective, government will focus on growing the economy, responding to the threat of tariffs, creating good paying jobs, improving affordability, strengthening health care and education, and making communities safer.

Government will also continue deepening relationships with Indigenous Peoples while advancing implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan.

This 2025/26 – 2027/28 service plan outlines how the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General will support the government's priorities and selected action items identified in the Minister's January 2025 [mandate letter](#).

Purpose of the Ministry

The [Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General](#) (PSSG) and the [Ministry of Attorney General](#) (AG) work together as the justice and public safety sector to advance a shared vision of a safe, secure, just, and resilient British Columbia.

PSSG's mission is to develop public safety policy and legislation and deliver associated services and programs, and administer regulations for the liquor, cannabis, and gambling sectors.

The ministry is responsible for: [policing and law enforcement superintendence](#); [911 emergency communication services](#); [correctional services](#); [victim services](#); [crime prevention and reduction](#); [restorative justice](#); [civil forfeiture](#); [coroners' services](#); [liquor and cannabis regulation](#); [gambling regulation](#); [problem gambling prevention and treatment services](#); [road safety](#); [criminal record checks](#); [the protection order registry](#); [security industry regulation](#); and [structure fire prevention and fire safety](#).¹

The Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General is also responsible for the [BC Liquor Distribution Branch](#) (LDB), the [Insurance Corporation of British Columbia](#) (ICBC), and Municipal Police Boards (see Appendix A), and the [Organized Crime Agency of BC](#) within the [Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia](#) (see Appendix B).

¹ On February 1, 2025, responsibility for consumer protection policy and legislation moved to the AG.

Performance Planning

Goal 1: The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia protects people

A foundational role of British Columbia's justice and public safety sector is to protect people, especially those who are most vulnerable.

Objective 1.1: Improved public safety for all British Columbians

The ministry will continue to advance strategies to improve public safety through a broad range of program areas, including policing; crime prevention and reduction; support for integrated, community-based mental health and social services; road safety; structure fire prevention and fire safety; and other core functions such as corrections and coroners' services. Safe communities, along with positive public perceptions of safety, are central to the well-being of British Columbians.

Key Strategies

- Utilize the Police Superintendence Framework to assist the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the Director of Police Services in meeting their statutory obligations under the [Police Act](#) to ensure adequate and effective policing and law enforcement in British Columbia.
- Continue to provide oversight of the [Provincial Police Service](#) (PPS) to ensure the PPS and the federal government adhere to commitments in the [Provincial Policing Service Agreement](#).
- Ensure safe and strong communities by:
 - Engaging with police, business associations, downtown resident associations, public safety advocates, and other interested groups on initiatives to strengthen safety in the province's commercial areas in larger urban and rural hub settings;
 - Working across ministries to provide services and interventions with people struggling with mental health, addiction, and brain injuries, including ensuring that provincial services are relevant and available to both responders and people in crisis; and,
 - Prioritizing the initiatives identified by the Cabinet Committee on Community Safety.
- Facilitate strong cooperation between police, Crown prosecutors, probation officials, and the federal government to reduce repeat, violent, and gang offences. This includes supporting B.C.'s 12 [Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative](#) hubs, which focus on addressing the specific public safety needs of the communities in which they are located along with the surrounding communities. These multi-agency hubs ensure that identified individuals are continuously monitored from investigation, charge

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assessment, bail, trial or plea and sentencing, through to enhanced release planning and ongoing case management of community supervision orders.

- Support efforts to create new and enhance existing [Situation Tables](#) to help front line staff to identify vulnerable people and collaboratively and rapidly connect them to services before they experience negative or traumatic events.
- Work to increase the proportion of sentenced individuals under BC Corrections' supervision, either in-custody or in the community, who are referred to cognitive-behavioural and/or skills-based programming to help them make meaningful, positive, and lasting changes in their lives and contribute to [reducing reoffending](#).
- Work with police to address serious and organized crime, including targeting mid-level and high-level drug traffickers, and make communities across the province safer from gangs and guns through a variety of measures, such as:
 - Continued implementation of the BC Organized Crime Strategy designed to enhance the Province's oversight of coordinated efforts to combat organized crime and gang violence through the Organized Crime Agency of BC;
 - Measures to combat illegal firearms, such as regulation of the purchase of imitation firearms and disruption of the illegal transportation and possession of firearms through enforcement of the [Firearm Violence Prevention Act](#) when it is brought into force, and operation of the [BC Provincial Forensic Firearms Laboratory](#) to help police build intelligence on illegal firearms and aid in prosecutions; and
 - Using all measures available (criminal, civil and administrative) to disrupt and dismantle organized crime and making it less profitable.
- Continue to support initiatives that are proven to prevent and reduce crime and promote an integrated, cross-sector approach to the use of [restorative justice](#) in B.C., including supporting community-based projects through the [Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Remediation Grant Program](#).
- Support the Minister of State for Community Safety and Integrated Services in advancing enforcement initiatives related to organized shoplifting and the protection of retail workers.
- Continue work to improve road safety, with a focus on reducing high-risk driving behaviours, increasing the efficacy of traffic enforcement, and ensuring that B.C.'s licensing system supports safe driving.
- Work in collaboration with other ministries and levels of government to prevent structure fires, reduce the number of structure fire-related injuries and deaths, and enhance structure firefighting training throughout the province through:
 - applying the [Fire Safety Act](#) through an enhanced system of fire inspections and effective enforcement that incentivizes owner compliance with fire-safety legislation;
 - use of the [Community Fire Risk Reduction Dashboard](#), a geospatial tool developed in partnership by Statistics Canada and the Office of the Fire Commissioner to

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enable the targeting of fire prevention resources within neighbourhoods at greatest risk of structure fires; and

- advancing fire safety education to provide people with information and tools to take precautions against fire, reduce fire hazards and respond effectively when fires do occur.

Objective 1.2: Improved outcomes for Indigenous Peoples across the justice and public safety sector through strengthened partnerships with Indigenous leadership and communities

Social and economic disparities persist in B.C. with disproportionate impacts on Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous Peoples continue to be overrepresented in the justice and public safety sector as both offenders and victims, while being underrepresented in positions of leadership, and face unique challenges to their physical, social, and economic well-being.

Key Strategies

- Continue to implement the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) (DRIPA) as it relates to public safety and work toward fulfilling designated commitments in the associated Action Plan.²
- In partnership with the AG, the federal government and Indigenous communities, continue work with the [BC First Nations Justice Council](#) to advance the [B.C. First Nations Justice Strategy](#) and, in partnership with the AG, work with [Métis Nation BC](#) to develop a detailed implementation plan to advance the [Métis Justice Strategy](#). These strategies are Indigenous-led and require ongoing collaboration with Indigenous partners.
- Continue to work with Indigenous leadership and communities to take action to reduce the number of Indigenous Peoples adversely involved in and impacted by the justice system, including recognizing culture for its role in healing, reducing re-offending, and supporting community reintegration, and providing culturally relevant programming in communities and correctional centres.
- Continue to provide comprehensive [BC Coroners Service](#) mortality data and analyses to the [First Nations Health Authority](#) and First Nation communities to inform community-based initiatives that reduce health and safety risks and support wellness, and continue to engage with First Nations in investigating suspected human remains on the sites of former residential schools and hospitals.
- Continue to support Indigenous participation in the regulated cannabis sector through agreements with Indigenous Nations pursuant to Section 119 of the [Cannabis Control and Licensing Act](#), and work with Indigenous partners to advance a collaborative approach to cannabis-related governance and jurisdiction.

² The [Declaration Act Action Plan](#), released in March 2022, includes collectively identified goals and outcomes that form the long-term vision for implementing the [UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) in B.C. It also identifies 89 priority actions, which are tangible steps to advance this work, PSSG is identified as the lead ministry for actions 3.08, 3.11, 4.11 and 4.47.

Objective 1.3: Strengthened prevention, protection and support for victims of crime, and marginalized and vulnerable women and children

Gender-based violence (GBV) happens in communities of every kind, urban and rural. It happens at work, at school and in the home. Indigenous women and girls, immigrants and newcomers, racialized people, transgender, gender diverse people and others in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, as well as people with disabilities, are especially targeted with violence.³

Key Strategies

- Continue work to implement [A Path Forward: Priorities and Early Strategies for B.C.](#) and the [Calls for Justice](#) of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and support the development of community-driven activities to end violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.
- Support the [Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity](#) and continue working with the Ministry of Finance's [Gender Equity Office](#) to implement [Safe and Supported: British Columbia's Gender-Based Violence Action Plan](#) (GBV Action Plan).
- Provide victims of non-consensual disclosure of intimate images with support through the confidential [Intimate Images Protection Service](#).
- Continue to support the continuum of [victim services and violence against women programs](#) across B.C. and domestic violence prevention and intervention measures, such as Domestic Violence Units, Interagency Case Assessment Teams, domestic violence programming in BC Corrections, and the Protection Order Registry.
- Continue to conduct [coroners' investigations](#) of all deaths of women and children related to violence and criminal activity; provide key information to law enforcement investigators; inform the development of policy and legislation protecting and supporting victims of crime; conduct inquests and death review panels to highlight risks to marginalized and vulnerable populations; and identify opportunities for greater protection and support.

³ The acronym 2SLGBTQIA+ refers to people who are Two Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and/or asexual.

Performance Measures

Performance Measures	2023 Baselines ¹	2024 Forecasts ²	2025 Targets ³	2026 Targets	2027 Targets
[1a] Violent Crime Severity Index (CSI) for B.C. ⁴	96.89	101.91	99.87	97.87	95.91
[1b] Non-violent CSI for B.C. ⁵	107.88	108.61	106.43	104.30	102.22

Data source: [Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics](#) (CCJCSS). Each index has been standardized at 100 for the base year of 2006. Results are reported by calendar year.

¹ 2023 is the most recent year for which results are available. The 2023 baseline figure for B.C.'s Violent CSI is lower than the national Violent CSI for the same year, which is 99.45. However, B.C.'s baseline for the Non-violent CSI is higher than the national Non-violent CSI which is 73.54.

² The forecasts were calculated based on linear trends from 2020 onwards. It is anticipated that actual results will be available in August 2025.

³ The ministry is targeting reductions in crime severity over time and the 2025 and subsequent year targets are based on projections of two per cent year-to-year decreases from the 2024 forecasts.

⁴ The Violent CSI is based on the total volume of police-reported violent federal statute offences and measures the relative severity of violent crime.

⁵ The Non-violent CSI is based on the total volume of police-reported federal statute offences not considered violent in nature and measures the relative severity of non-violent crime.

Discussion

The CSI is a measure developed by Statistics Canada for measuring police-reported crime in Canada. The CSI is an improved indicator of trends in crime compared to police-reported crime rates as it considers both the volume and severity of crime. The CSI accounts for changes in the level of severity of crime from year to year in comparison to other crimes. The overall CSI for any given year can be separated into the Violent CSI and the Non-violent CSI as reported in the table above.

CSIs use weights which assign higher values to more serious crimes and lower values to less serious high-volume crimes based on actual sentences handed down by the courts in all provinces and territories. A jurisdiction with a higher proportion of more serious crimes will have a higher CSI value while a jurisdiction with a higher proportion of less serious crimes will have a lower CSI value. The CSI is standardized to a base value of 100 for Canada in 2006. In 2006, B.C.'s CSI was 139.79, meaning crime severity in B.C. was significantly higher than the national baseline. By 2023, B.C.'s CSI had decreased to 104.11, indicating a notable improvement in crime severity over time, even though it remains above the 2023 national CSI level (80.5).

The CSI is not intended to be used or interpreted in isolation and is not a universal indicator of community crime and safety. It should always be considered within a broad community context, such as how many people live in the area, demographics, employment opportunities and wages, level of remoteness and service availability, among other factors. The CSI gives us a different view of crime and allows us to answer questions that were not easily answerable previously, such as: Is police reported crime in Canada more serious than it was last year? Has police reported crime become more serious over time? And, is police reported crime in my jurisdiction more or less serious than in another jurisdiction?

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The 2024 forecasts reported above are estimates based on projected trends using data from 2020 onwards to better reflect recent patterns, rather than including pre-pandemic years like 2019, which saw different crime levels. The 2024 forecast is higher than the 2023 actual due to crime trends observed between 2020 and 2023. Procedural changes implemented in 2019 led to a general increase in crime levels,⁴ followed by significant shifts in crime patterns due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Crime Rates and CSI have been trending toward resuming pre-pandemic levels, contributing to the anticipated increase in 2024. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted crime patterns and historical trends through changes in public behaviour, criminal behaviour and policing practices.

While trends in crime rates and crime severity are influenced by factors outside of government's control, they are tracked by the ministry as a high-level indicator of community safety and are helpful in informing where attention needs to be directed.⁵

Performance Measure		2023/24 Baselines	2024/25 Forecasts ¹	2025/26 Targets ²	2026/27 Targets	2027/28 Targets
[1c] Percentage of the sentenced BC Corrections population, rated as moderate/high risk to reoffend ³ , who have been referred to at least one cognitive behavioural and/or skills-based program. ⁴	Indigenous ⁵	24.5	22.0	23.0	24.0	25.0
	Non-Indigenous	23.8	23.0	24.0	25.0	26.0

Data source: Results for this measure are derived from BC Corrections' case management system.

¹ The 2024/25 forecasts were estimated using 2024/25 year-to-date data and trends from the same period in 2023/24.

² The ministry is working to increase program referral rates and the 2025/26 and subsequent year targets are based on a conservative estimated trajectory of one per cent growth per year. Due to the multitude of factors influencing program referrals, as discussed below, growth in this indicator is not expected to be linear.

⁴ In 2018, Statistics Canada updated the definition of "founded" incidents to improve the tracking of offences with complex characteristics and to address broader inconsistencies in how crime statistics were reported in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey. Previously, a case was considered "founded" only if there was evidence that a crime had occurred. Under the new definition, an incident is founded unless there is credible evidence that it did not occur. This shift means that cases with insufficient evidence to confirm or refute an offence are now counted as founded. Police agencies across BC implemented these scoring rule changes in January 2019 which may have affected BC's crime data for 2019.

⁵ There are many factors that influence police-reported crime statistics. First, an incident must come to the attention of police. The willingness of individuals to report criminal incidents to police has a considerable impact on the number of crimes recorded by police. Second, differences between individual police services, such as available resources or departmental priorities, policies, and procedures, can also affect police-reported crime trends. Third, and more broadly, social and economic factors can influence the volume of police-reported crime, including changes in age demographics, economic conditions, neighbourhood characteristics, the emergence of new technologies, and attitudes toward crime.

³ Sentenced individuals rated as moderate/high risk on the Community Risk Needs Assessment, or moderate/high need on the Inmate Needs Assessment were considered for this metric, as per the [risk-need-responsivity principles](#); interventions for low risk/need clients should be kept to a minimum.

⁴ Rates reflect the percentage of Indigenous and non-Indigenous sentenced individuals, who are rated as moderate or high risk/need, who are referred to BC Corrections' programs (core programs and/or Essential Skills for Success) in the year specified and the prior fiscal year. A two-year window was selected as BC Corrections supervises individuals sentenced to two years less a day; referrals are typically made at the outset of one's sentence while developing a case management plan, and the two-year timeframe was therefore selected to ensure all referrals were included.

⁵ Indigenous includes individuals who self-identify as Aboriginal, First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and/or Native.

Discussion

Individuals who have been sentenced to custody or are under community supervision, and who are rated as moderate or high risk to reoffend, may be referred to one or more of BC Corrections' programs to help them make positive changes in their lives. These include: [cognitive behavioural programs](#), and skills-based programming that targets living skills and employability skills. These referrals link individuals to the programs that will help to address their needs.

Referral, enrollment, and completion rates for these programs are dependent on a multitude of factors, including a sufficiently sized cohort to run a given program, sufficient time remaining on an individual's sentence to complete the program, client motivation to participate in the program, and appropriate staffing levels to deliver it.

The marginal downward trend forecasted for 2024/25 reflects the above noted factors, in addition to ongoing challenges with the recruitment and retention of correctional staff, and fewer individuals identified as suitable for programming due to the increasing complexity of clients under supervision. BC Corrections has taken action to address staffing challenges and is committed to monitoring program referral rates to ensure continued emphasis is placed on helping individuals gain new skills and improve their thinking, behaviour, and interactions with others.

It is important to note that in addition to programs delivered by BC Correction's staff, individuals are also referred to external programs offered by community agencies. Further, probation officers routinely provide cognitive-behaviourally based services one-on-one with clients that wouldn't be reflected in the results for this performance measure. As such, these rates only reflect one component of BC Corrections' services to clients.

Performance Measure	2019 – 2023 Baseline ¹	2024 Forecast ²	2025 Target ³	2026 Target	2027 Target
[1d] Number, per 100,000 population, of fatalities and serious injuries resulting from a motor vehicle crash where alcohol, drugs, speeding and/or distraction were suspected to be a factor ⁴	31.7	29.4	28.7	27.2	25.9

Data source: Data on the number of traffic fatalities for the 2019-2023 baseline is from the Traffic Accident System (TAS) maintained by ICBC. Population estimates and projections are from BC Stats and are as of July 1 each year. Results are reported by calendar year rather than fiscal year. All numbers have been rounded to the closest tenth.

¹ The baseline is the average rate from 2019 through 2023. The 2020 rate was artificially low due to decreased traffic volumes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Results for 2024 were not included in the baseline as the data has not yet settled for that year or been fully approved.

² The 2024 forecast is based on the most recent data available, extrapolated from TAS data.

³ The 2025 and subsequent year targets are based on annual reductions of three per cent from the 2024 forecast, considering population projections.

⁴ Police attend most crashes occurring on a public road that result in serious injuries or fatalities. At the scene of such crashes, police record the factors they believe influenced the crash and assess whether victims have serious or fatal injuries. Serious injuries are assessed by the officer and may differ from hospitalization counts. A fatality or serious injury with more than one of the high-risk driving contributing factors (alcohol, drugs, speeding and/or distraction) will be counted once for each incidence reported.

Discussion

This performance measure is an indicator of success in protecting the public from high-risk driving behaviours (alcohol, drugs, speeding and distraction), which are the leading cause of traffic fatalities and serious injuries in B.C. The ministry operates high-risk driver programs to combat these behaviours and contribute to improved road safety across the province.

Goal 2: The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia is fair

Fairness in the justice and public safety sector requires sound regulatory measures that protect public safety and interests while minimizing regulatory impacts on businesses and restrictions on civil liberties.

Objective 2.1: Regulatory systems that promote public safety and interests, and fair and efficient business practices

In regulating the liquor, cannabis, and gambling sectors and overseeing ICBC, the ministry works to support and balance business and community interests. This is done through policy development and implementation and by ensuring compliance with regulatory frameworks to reduce related threats to public safety and well-being through public education and enforcement actions.

Key Strategies

- Support the continued growth and development of the regulated cannabis sector while disrupting the illicit cannabis supply chain and removing illicit product from the market.
- Continue to streamline liquor and cannabis regulation, compliance and enforcement practices and facilitate improved service delivery, incorporating a risk-based approach.
- Enhance the effectiveness of the gambling regulatory framework by completing work to bring the new [Gaming Control Act](#) into force through regulation and implementing an independent office.
- Identify opportunities to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of cannabis, liquor, and gambling enforcement through the alignment of regulatory authorities, consistent

training, and opportunities for coordination and collaboration between regulatory agencies.

- Work with ICBC to monitor the [Enhanced Care](#) model to ensure it continues to meet the needs of British Columbians by providing improved care and recovery benefits for people who are injured in a crash and delivering affordable auto insurance.

Performance Measures

Performance Measures	2023/24 Baselines	2024/25 Forecasts ¹	2025/26 Targets ²	2026/27 Targets	2027/28 Targets
[2a] Percentage of Food Primary liquor licences granted within four months of application	78	53 ³	78	80	82
[2b] Percentage of Manufacturer liquor licences granted within six months of application	91	67 ³	83	85	87
[2c] Percentage of Liquor Primary licences granted within six months of application ⁴	58	68	69	71	73
[2d] Percentage of Cannabis Retail Store applications granted within 13 months of application ⁴	67	64	67	69	71

Data source: Data for these measures is from the case management system of the ministry's Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB).

¹ The 2024/25 forecasts were based on current 2024/25 year-to-date data.

² The 2025/26 and subsequent year targets represent efforts to achieve year-to-year improvements in the timeliness of application processing through the LCRB.

³ Food Primary and Manufacturer liquor licence application timelines were negatively impacted in 2024/25 as staff shifted focus to other application types. Over 1,000 permanent changes to a licensee and transfer applications were processed, bringing timelines for those application types closer to service standards. Initiatives were introduced in the third quarter (Q3) of 2024/25 to improve timelines across a range of application types and to address challenges with incomplete applications, as outlined in the discussion below. Immediate improvements in processing timeliness have been realized and are anticipated to continue into future reporting periods.

⁴ The processing times for Liquor Primary licences and Cannabis Retail Store licences can be impacted and made longer because they involve local government processes that are outside the ministry's control.

Discussion

LCRB tracks the percentage of licences granted within established service standards for key licence classes as an indicator of the timeliness of service delivery.⁶ Efficient and timely

⁶ The established service standards are informed by average processing times and incorporate consideration of the factors that can affect those averages, such as local government processes and the actions of applicants. Average processing times may be skewed by a small number of outliers where processing times were significantly extended through factors not in the

licensing of liquor and cannabis establishments allows licensees to operate in the legal industry sooner, which ensures that products are sold safely to the public while contributing positively to British Columbia's economy.

In addition to impacts of local government on LCRB processes, application timelines are impacted by application completeness. Incomplete applications are held for processing while applicants obtain required documentation. A growing trend of incomplete application submissions has been noted in 2024/25, impacting LCRB's capacity to process applications within service standards.

In Q3 of 2024/25, two key initiatives were assessed to reduce incomplete applications and simplify requirements using a risk-based approach. The first initiative streamlined the corporate documents private corporations need to submit. The second introduced an early review process to quickly identify incomplete applications and notify applicants.

Together, these changes helped food primary applications return to baseline processing times in Q3. Full implementation is planned for Q1 of 2025/26, which is expected to resolve the performance issues projected for 2024/25. Additional improvements in processing times are anticipated in the following years as more enhancements are introduced.

Goal 3: The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia is sustainable

The justice and public safety sector must be innovative, adaptive, well-managed and efficient to remain sustainable.

Objective 3.1: Strengthened sustainability of the justice and public safety sector to deliver accessible and effective programs and services

The ministry continues efforts to ensure that appropriate resource levels are sustained to facilitate the successful delivery of core public safety services, with resources and decision making oriented to optimize public safety benefits to British Columbians.

Key Strategies

- Oversee the RCMP's continued implementation of core police funding to bring the PPS to its full authorized strength of 2,602 members, providing police with the resources they need to address public safety concerns and ensuring adequate and effective levels of policing across B.C.
- Continue to implement the PSSG and AG Workforce Plan 2023 – 2026 with a focus on evidence-based practices for recruitment, retention, succession management, and

control of the LCRB. The established service standards serve as goalposts for licence applicants with what may be expected regarding processing times.

leadership and supervisory development, to ensure the ministries continue to have the talent required to deliver on their strategic goals and objectives.

- Continue to enhance and support digital roadside tools for police through the increased adoption of electronic ticketing (eTicketing), digitization of roadside forms, and automated road safety enforcement across B.C.
- Continue work to improve B.C.'s [Driver Medical Fitness Program](#) to reduce backlogs and enable faster removal of unsafe drivers from the province's roads.
- Advance the multi-year initiative to streamline the way people in British Columbia access security and screening licensing processes through online services.⁷
- Continue to advance the multi-year implementation of the [Justice and Public Safety Sector Digital Strategy](#) to unify digital transformation efforts and coordinate investments in data, technology, and resources to optimize how programs and services are delivered.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2023/24 Baseline ¹	2024/25 Forecast ²	2025/26 Target ³	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target
[3] Percentage of traffic violation tickets issued through eTicketing	77	80	82	85	87

Data source: Results for this measure are derived from the eTicket Adoption Dashboard.

¹ The 2023/24 baseline is from data in the eTicket Adoption Dashboard.

² The 2024/25 forecast is based on the anticipated rate of adoption of the system and completion of the project.

³ The 2025/26 and subsequent year targets are based on ongoing training and adoption of the system throughout the province. It is anticipated that by 2027/28, the maximum rate for eTicketing will have been achieved as all police cars that enforce traffic will have adopted the system. Reasons for continuing to issue paper tickets from officers will include issuing tickets from police boats, by officers on foot, and in situations where an officer determines that a paper ticket is more effective.

Discussion

Through the eTicketing process, police officers scan drivers' licence information into an online ticket template that auto-populates offence details, ensuring accuracy while saving time. The vehicle-mounted equipment then rapidly shares this information with justice and public safety sector partners like ICBC, eliminating the need to mail tickets to these partners and for them to re-enter the details. This information is valuable to understanding where enforcement efforts are required.

Through eTicketing, police officers can leverage technology with a process that is more efficient, facilitating faster identification of drivers and enforcement against unsafe driving behaviours and freeing up officer time for additional enforcement activities.

⁷ Services include processing criminal record checks for individuals working with vulnerable populations, administering licences for security guards and businesses, and performing security screening for the provincial public service and other public bodies.

Goal 4: The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia has the public's confidence

British Columbians must have confidence in the integrity and effectiveness of the justice and public safety sector for it to function effectively and to ensure continued public participation and support.

Objective 4.1: Increased public confidence in the justice and public safety sector

This objective is linked to the three previous goals. For the public to have confidence in the justice and public safety sector, it must protect people, be fair, and be sustainable.

Public confidence in the police is of particular importance. How police are viewed affects the public's willingness to report crimes, to cooperate with police investigations, to contact the police if victimized, and to abide by laws and police orders. A positive perception of police among British Columbians is a critical aspect of public safety and contributes to lower levels of crime.

Key Strategies

- Advance regulations to implement amendments made to the Police Act in April 2024, which focus on improvements to municipal police governance, oversight, and police superintendence.
- Analyze the extensive and diverse input provided by partners and interested parties in the comprehensive consultation and engagement processes undertaken from 2023 through 2024, and apply this analysis to define, prioritize, and begin developing the next stage of policing and public safety policy reforms referenced in the 2022 [report](#) of the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act.
- Advance upgrading B.C.'s 911 emergency communications system to Next Generation 911 (NG911) to strengthen emergency services throughout the province, and respond to the recommendations, once released, of the independent review of [E-Comm](#) on financial, governance and operational performance [announced](#) by the Province in December 2024.
- Work proactively with the federal, provincial and territorial governments to ensure British Columbia is a strong partner in supporting border security along B.C.'s coast and along all land borders with American states.
- Continue to support the Province's response to the drug toxicity public health emergency by providing comprehensive aggregate mortality data and coroners' reports to the Ministry of Health, key partners, and the public.
- Continue to explore the factors resulting in all unexpected and unnatural deaths in B.C. with the goal of identifying and addressing public safety risks, through:

- Conducting independent and impartial coroners' investigations, inquests and death review panels into unexpected deaths, including deaths caused by unregulated drug toxicity;
- Collecting data and conducting statistical analyses regarding deaths to allow for collaboration with partner agencies that informs and advances injury and death prevention, and promotes evidence-based public health policies; and
- Reviewing the deaths of all children age 18 and under to better understand how and why children die, and use those findings to improve the health, safety and well-being of all children in B.C.
- Informed by the [Commission of Inquiry into Money Laundering in British Columbia](#), continue work toward eliminating money laundering in the province through a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach. This includes exploring the development of a dedicated law enforcement unit; strengthening and expanding [civil forfeiture processes](#), including the use of Unexplained Wealth Orders; and ensuring appropriate policies and police training are implemented for law enforcement.

Performance Measures

Performance Measures	2022 Baselines ¹	2024 Forecasts ²	2025 Targets ³	2026 Targets	2027 Targets
[4a]. Percentage of British Columbians who have "complete confidence" or "a lot of confidence" in the RCMP ⁴	45.0	45.0	46.0	47.0	48.0
[4b]. Percentage of British Columbians who have "complete confidence" or "a lot of confidence" in their local municipal police (or local RCMP detachment)	50.0	50.0	51.0	52.0	53.0

Data source: The [Angus Reid Institute](#) conducts a biennial series of surveys assessing Canadians' experiences with and opinions of the justice system, with responses disaggregated by province broken down to the provincial level members of the [Angus Reid Forum](#).

¹ 2022 is the most recent year for which results are currently available. In the 2022 Angus Reid survey, there were 577 survey participants from B.C. More detailed results from the 2022 survey are available [here](#).

² The 2024 forecasts are based on the possible scenario that the rates remain unchanged from 2022.

³ The 2025 and subsequent year targets are based on targeted annual increases of one per cent.

⁴ The RCMP is British Columbia's provincial police force. An overview of the structure of police services in British Columbia is available [here](#).

Discussion

The ministry is tracking public confidence in police as an indicator of public confidence in the justice and public safety sector.

For any police department to be effective in serving and safeguarding the public, promoting public confidence is critical. Public confidence is a precursor to peoples' willingness to call upon the police when needed, to freely share information with police, and to maintain a cooperative and trust-based relationship with police in their community.

Performance Measure	2023/24 Baseline ¹	2024/25 Forecast ²	2025/26 Target ³	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target
[4c] Median time, in months, to conclude coroner investigations ⁴	10	10	9	8	7

Data source: Results for this measure are from the BCCS.

¹ The baseline is an estimate and is subject to change as coroner investigations are concluded and the data is revised.

² The 2024/25 forecast is subject to change. It is based on the 2023/24 actuals to date, with 70 per cent of cases concluded. Planned changes to work processes and training, as well as fiscal pressures, could impact the 2024/25 result.

³ The 2025/26 and subsequent year targets were established based on historical actuals and anticipated case closure improvements.

⁴ The time from the date the BCCS is notified of a death until the investigation is closed, after which the coroner's report is distributed. This includes cases that were opened during the relevant fiscal year.

Discussion

Through its impartial and independent investigations, the BCCS supports public safety and confidence in the justice and public safety sector by providing information about individual deaths and aggregated data reporting to inform evidence-based public safety legislation, policies, and programs.

Under the [Coroners Act](#), the BCCS is mandated to investigate all sudden and unexpected, unexplained, or unattended deaths in the province, including:

- deaths which appear to be the result of violence, injury, or self-harm;
- deaths in which the cause of death is unexplained;
- deaths that do not meet the above criteria but where the deceased person has not been under the care of a physician;
- all deaths which occur in provincial correctional facilities, federal penitentiaries, or other facilities where a person is involuntarily detained, such as those committed to a facility under the [Mental Health Act](#); and
- all deaths of children under the age of 19 years.

In 2023/24, 13,896 deaths were reported to the BCCS. Of those, 7,086 – or approximately 51 per cent – met at least one of the above criteria and proceeded to an investigation, representing an increase of 202 investigations from those commencing in 2022/23.⁸

At the conclusion of each investigation, a coroner's report is completed that confirms the identity of the decedent and how, where, when and by what means their death occurred. These reports determine the facts surrounding the death, do not determine fault or blame

⁸ In 2022/23, 13,746 deaths were reported to the BCCS; of those, 6,884 – or approximately 50 per cent – proceeded to an investigation.

and, where appropriate, may include recommendations aimed at preventing future similar deaths. Every investigation is unique, and individual timelines for completion can be impacted by the complexity of the case, parallel investigations by other agencies, case loads, and other factors.

Financial Summary

(\$000s)	2024/25 Restated Estimates ¹	2025/26 Estimates	2026/27 Plan	2027/28 Plan
Operating Expenses				
Corrections	316,804	325,252	326,009	326,009
Policing and Security	541,647	577,082	577,251	576,697
Community Safety and Victim Services	88,310	93,914	93,914	93,914
BC Coroners Service	29,284	31,373	31,765	31,765
RoadSafetyBC	36,440	36,492	36,542	36,542
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation	8,275	8,390	8,390	8,390
Gaming Policy and Enforcement	21,461	22,211	22,509	22,509
Cannabis and Corporate Policy	3,597	3,642	3,642	3,642
Office of the Fire Commissioner	3,261	4,378	4,836	4,764
Executive and Support Services	18,827	19,226	19,226	19,226
Statutory Services ²	15,222	15,222	15,222	15,222
Total	1,083,128	1,137,182	1,139,306	1,138,680
Capital Expenditures				
Corrections	1,062	3,262	3,262	3,262
BC Coroners Service	12	12	12	12
Office of the Fire Commissioner	36	475	290	0
Executive and Support Services	1,887	952	952	952
Total	2,997	4,701	4,516	4,226

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2024/25 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2025/26 Estimates.

² Statutory Services includes Civil Forfeiture Account, Corrections Work Program Account, Criminal Asset Management Fund, and Victim Surcharge Special Account.

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

Capital Expenditures

Major Capital Projects (over \$50 million in total)	Targeted Year of Completion	Project Cost to Dec 31, 2024 (\$m)	Estimated Cost to Complete (\$m)	Anticipated Total Cost (\$m)
Nanaimo Correctional Centre Replacement Project	2024	176	5	181
Objective: The Nanaimo Correctional Centre (NCC) Replacement Project will replace the current aging and outdated 190-cell correctional centre located in Nanaimo, B.C. The new centre is being constructed on the existing site while the current centre remains operational, after which the existing centre will be deconstructed. The new NCC will be a 202-cell, multi-security level facility, including a 12-cell unit for short-term accommodation of women from Vancouver Island. Costs: NCC Replacement Project costs remain at the increased amount of \$181 million due to higher construction costs. Benefits: - The new centre will better support staff and enhance the NCC's unique, effective programs, including the Guthrie Therapeutic Community and vocational and educational programs delivered in partnership with Vancouver Island University. - The project is expected to bring major regional economic benefits, including approximately 1,000 jobs during construction (650 direct and 275 indirect jobs, plus nearly 100 additional jobs associated with spending by workers). Risks: - Not applicable				

Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations

As of March 4, 2025, the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General is responsible and accountable for the following organizations:

BC Liquor Distribution Branch

The LDB is one of two branches of government that provide oversight for the beverage alcohol and cannabis industries; the other is the LCRB. The LDB is responsible for the wholesale distribution and retail sale of beverage alcohol and cannabis.

The [Liquor Distribution Act](#) gives the LDB the sole right to purchase beverage alcohol both within B.C. and from outside the province, in accordance with the federal [Importation of Intoxicating Liquors Act](#).

The [Cannabis Distribution Act](#) establishes a government wholesale distribution model for cannabis, public cannabis retail stores, and a publicly run e-commerce retail channel.

Insurance Corporation of British Columbia

ICBC's mandate is to provide universal compulsory (basic) automobile insurance for all British Columbian motorists and compete with private insurance companies to offer various optional vehicle insurance coverages. ICBC also provides non-insurance services on behalf of the provincial government, including driver licensing, vehicle registration and licensing, and fines collection. ICBC's board has the power and authority given to it by the [Insurance Corporation Act](#) and, subject to the Act, manages and supervises the affairs and business of ICBC.

Municipal Police Boards

Independent municipal police departments are overseen by appointed police boards made up of civilian members of the community. The role of these police boards is to provide general governance, oversight, and direction to the department, in accordance with relevant legislation and in response to community needs.

Organized Crime Agency of British Columbia and Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia

See Appendix B

Appendix B: The Organized Crime Agency of BC and Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – BC

Purpose of the Organization

In 1999, the Organized Crime Agency of British Columbia (OCABC) was created as an independent Designated Policing and Law Enforcement Unit under the provincial Police Act.

In 2004, the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia (CFSEU-BC) was developed in consultation with the provincial government as an initiative to integrate the OCABC, the municipal police departments, and the RCMP.

In 2024, CFSEU-BC concluded its first three-year strategic plan, setting out its mission to facilitate the disruption and suppression of organized crime that poses the highest public safety risk to British Columbians. Its mandate is to investigate, support the prosecution of, disrupt, and suppress criminal organizations, consistent with local, regional, national, and international priorities. The CFSEU-BC also supports other agencies by assisting in organized crime and major crime investigations.

Governance Overview

The Board of Governance for the OCABC also acts as the Board of Governance for the CFSEU – BC.

The board is currently comprised of two civilian members who are community leaders in the areas of finance and governance, the Chief Constable of the Vancouver Police Department; the Chief Constable of the Victoria Police Department; the Deputy Commissioner Pacific Region and Commanding Officer “E” Division RCMP; the Assistant Commissioners of the “E” Division RCMP; and the Associate Director of Police Services of PSSG’s Policing and Security Branch. The Director of Police Services sits as an ex officio member of the board.

The board determines the strategic direction of the CFSEU-BC and ensures its operational priorities are aligned with the policing priorities for British Columbia. The CFSEU-BC operates under the RCMP policies and procedures.

The Chief Officer in charge of the CFSEU-BC leads an executive team comprised of civilian members, in addition to regular RCMP and municipal officers seconded from across the province. The CFSEU-BC Gang Enforcement Unit, Investigation Teams, and the Joint Illegal Gaming Investigation Team are just a few of the teams that fall under the responsibility of the CFSEU-BC. Offices for the CFSEU-BC are located in the Lower Mainland, Prince George, Kelowna, and Victoria.