

Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport

Estimates 2025

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January 16, 2025

Honourable Spencer Chandra Herbert
Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Chandra Herbert:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport 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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**Office of the
Premier**

Web Site:
www.gov.bc.ca

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

Location:
Parliament Buildings
Victoria



- **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 Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport programs and initiatives to ensure our programs remain relevant, are efficient, respond to the needs of tourism service providers and arts organizations, grow the economy, and help keep British Columbia as a world class tourism destination. This is important in the context of current Provincial budget constraints and the priorities of communities in the province.
- Work with communities to support the development of recreation centres, community centres, arts and cultural centres, sports fields, and other critical social infrastructure.
- Support communities in delivering community events such as fairs and festivals that bring people together.
- Continue to support the development, promotion, and growth of BC's film, television, and animation sectors in partnership with the Parliamentary Secretary for Arts and Film and the Minister of Finance.
- Continue to support tourism as a strong pillar of the BC economy by working with the sector to enhance economic growth and community vibrancy, sustainably promoting BC's unmatched geography and diverse experiences, and continuing to support rural and Indigenous tourism opportunities.

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- Continue to support accessibility of amateur sport for all British Columbians.
- Leverage the opportunities provided by the Invictus Games, the FIFA World Cup in 2026, and other major event bid proposals to maximize the economic development and tourism impact of major events across the province.
- Support the work led by the Ministers of Agriculture and Food and Public Safety and Solicitor General 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.

To assist you in meeting the commitments we have made to British Columbians, you are assigned a Parliamentary Secretary for Arts and Film whose focus will be to:

- Engage with producers, workers, and employees of BC's film and television sectors to ensure our province is a good partner in supporting the promotion, diversification, and growth of our domestic and international industries.
- Identify opportunities for BC to enhance and grow the arts, culture, and film sectors and ensure their long-term prosperity.

You will work closely together and ensure your Parliamentary Secretary receives appropriate support to deliver on this work.

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

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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.

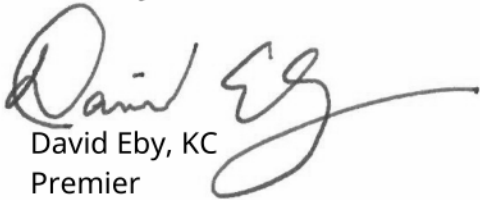
We have an obligation to protect and defend British Columbians, as well as seize opportunities, in these uncertain times.

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

cc: Nina Krieger, MLA
Parliamentary Secretary for Arts and Film





November 18, 2024

Nina Krieger, MLA
Parliamentary Secretary for Arts and Film
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Parliamentary Secretary Krieger:

Congratulations on your appointment as Parliamentary Secretary for Arts and Film in the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport. Thank you for agreeing to serve in this important role. I am looking forward to working alongside you to deliver for the people of British Columbia.

In the coming weeks, Ministers will receive specific mandate expectations laying out priorities for action to address key challenges and opportunities. These mandate letters will also provide additional direction regarding your role supporting the Minister.

Our government's mandate comes from the clear message voters sent us in the election. In times of extraordinary change and uncertainty, British Columbians have asked us to work together to get things done that make a real difference in their daily lives. They expect us to focus on the challenges they worry about at the kitchen table.

Specifically, we will work to:

- **Reduce costs for families** by helping people access affordable housing, including support for first-time homebuyers and stronger measures to crack down on housing speculation. Additionally, we will implement a middle-class income tax cut that will put \$1,000 back into the pockets of BC households, every year.
- **Strengthen healthcare** 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.

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- **Make our neighbourhoods and communities safer** by working with law enforcement to keep guns off our streets, crack down on organized crime, and address repeat offenders. We will reduce street disorder by getting people access to the services and resources they need.
- **Build a sustainable, clean economy** with good jobs across BC by working closely with business, workers and communities to attract global investments, bring certainty for business and ensuring that all British Columbians benefit from economic growth - not just those at the top.

Essential to our path towards a more prosperous future is continuing as a leader on tackling climate change. The cost of inaction is not just environmental, it's also economic. The transition to a low-carbon future represents a generational opportunity we must seize, not abandon.

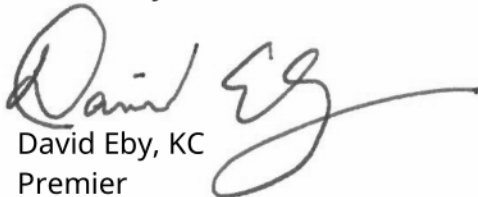
This work will be enabled and accelerated by advancing true, lasting, and meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Reconciliation is not just a priority—it is foundational to our collective future. Our government will strengthen our relationships with Indigenous communities in tangible, measurable ways that benefit all communities across the province.

Achieving these goals will take time. Governing is a process that requires patience, hard work, and a commitment to listening and learning from British Columbians from all walks of life and different perspectives. In a province as diverse as BC, it does not mean we will always agree - but we do share a common future in one of the most extraordinary places in the world.

As Parliamentary Secretary, you must uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct and professionalism and establish a collaborative working relationship with the public service. Serving as an elected representative is a privilege, and it is a responsibility we must carry out with integrity and a deep commitment to the people of British Columbia.

I look forward to working with you in the months and years ahead.

Yours truly,



David Eby, KC
Premier

TACS Announcements

UPDATED: Jan. 30, 2025

Date	Portfolio	Description	Organizations and People
Jan. 29, 2025	Heritage	News Release: Enhanced visitor experiences planned for Barkerville historic site	Visitors can look forward to continuing strong operations, along with expanded hands-on demonstrations and interpretations at Barkerville Historic Town & Park and Cottonwood House Historic Site as part of the site operator's proposed plan. Barkerville Heritage Trust will receive more than \$2 million in annual funding to support site operations, ensure conservation and maintain public access.
Jan. 29, 2025	Heritage	News Release: New operator will revitalize historic site experience at Fort Steele	Cranbrook Archives, Museum and Landmark Society (CAMAL), the new operator of Fort Steele Heritage Town, is planning new, dynamic, interactive and diverse visitor experiences that complement the site's community traditions. Fort Steele Heritage Town receives \$900,000 in annual funding from the Province to support site operations, ensure conservation and maintain public access.
Dec 12, 2024	Creative	News Release: B.C. sets the scene to attract more film, TV productions	Budget 2025 will include increases to the Film Incentive BC (FIBC) tax credit, which supports Canadian-content productions, and the production services tax credit (PSTC) that provides a tax incentive for international projects made in B.C. This increase will help attract more major productions and ensure that good-paying film and TV industry jobs stay in B.C.
Nov 20, 2024	Creative	News Release: Delegation heads to California to promote, grow B.C.'s film, TV industry	A delegation from British Columbia is arriving in Los Angeles to highlight the advantages of partnering with the film and TV industry on Canada's West Coast and to explore the benefits of staging productions in B.C.



TACS Announcements

UPDATED: Jan. 30, 2025

September 10, 2024	Sport (Marquee)	News Release: Adaptive Sport Grant creates lasting legacies for the 2025 Invictus Games	viaSport announces the 14 recipients of the \$750,000 adaptive sports grants. Funding is provided by viaSport (\$250,000) and TACS Community Gaming Grants (up to \$500,000). The adaptive sport grants will be used to purchase adaptive sport equipment and the training of officials for the Invictus Games. Equipment will be returned to organizations and left as a legacy.
May 31, 2024	Arts & Culture	News Release: Engagement launched for provincial Filipino cultural centre	Province launches a website and an online survey to ensure everyone has an opportunity to share their ideas and be represented. The development of the website and survey follows multiple roundtables with community organization leaders.
April 2, 2024	Arts & Culture	News Release: Engagement launched for Canadians of South Asian Heritages museum	People in British Columbia now have multiple new ways to contribute to the vision for the first-of-its-kind cultural museum celebrating Canadians of South Asian heritages and their contributions to the success of the province. Building on the first phase of engagement, public engagement opportunities will be expanded starting Tuesday, April 2, 2024, through an updated website, enabling people to provide written or video input and participate in an online survey. Community-led conversations will also begin this month.



TACS Announcements

UPDATED: Jan. 30, 2025

April 30, 2024	Sport (Marquee)	News Release: Province provides updates for FIFA World Cup 26	With seven matches to be played in Vancouver during the FIFA World Cup 26 tournament, the Province, City of Vancouver and BC Pavilion Corporation (PavCo) have updated their estimates of the costs, revenues and economic benefits for the world's largest single sporting event. The gross core cost for FIFA World Cup 26™ in Vancouver is estimated to be between \$483 million and \$581 million. These gross costs are expected to be offset by \$383 million to \$436 million in estimated revenues and recoveries. The Province estimates economic impact benefits to be \$224 million.
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Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport

2025/26 Estimates Summary

MINISTRY ESTIMATES BUDGET OVERVIEW

Vote 44 Ministry Operations

2025/26 Estimates Budget: \$191.478M

**(a net increase of \$2.521M or 1.3% from the
Restated Estimates 2024/25 of \$188.957M)**

The \$2.521M increase in Ministry Operations is due to the following:

- \$2.449M increase due to the Shared Recovery Wage Mandate
- \$0.072M increase to Minister's Office Operating Budget. Increase is attributed to adjustments made to align the Ministers' Offices budgets in accordance with staffing levels approved by the Office of the Premier. This resulted in a \$14K decrease to Legislative Salaries, \$11K increase to Salaries and Benefits, and \$75K increase to Travel.

Vote 49 Capital Funding

2025/26 Estimates Budget: \$59.222M

**(a net increase of \$49.222M from the
Restated Estimates 2024/25 of \$10.000M)**

- \$49.222M in Capital Funding for the PavCo BC Place FIFA Upgrades.



CORE BUSINESS SUMMARY

Tourism Sector Strategy \$26.113M

- \$0.205M increase to Restated Estimates 2024/25 of \$25.908M
 - \$0.205M increase for the Shared Recovery Wage Mandate

Arts and Culture \$41.646M

- \$0.229M increase to Restated Estimates 2024/25 of \$41.417M
 - \$0.229M increase for the Shared Recovery Wage Mandate

Sport and Creative Sector \$27.239M

- \$0.122M increase to Restated Estimates 2024/25 of \$27.117M
 - \$0.122M increase for the Shared Recovery Wage Mandate.

Transfers to Crown Corporations and Agencies \$88.432M

- BC Games Society \$2.242M
\$0.014M increase to Restated Estimates 2024/25 of \$2.228M
 - \$0.014M increase for the Shared Recovery Wage Mandate
- British Columbia Pavilion Corporation \$9.897M
\$1.509M increase to Restated Estimates 2024/25 of \$8.388M
 - \$1.509M increase for the Shared Recovery Wage Mandate
- Destination BC Corp. \$56.431M
\$0.163M increase to Restated Estimates 2024/25 of \$56.268M
 - \$0.163M increase for the Shared Recovery Wage Mandate
- Knowledge Network Corporation \$6.611M
No change from Restated Estimates 2024/25
- Royal BC Museum \$13.251M
\$0.165M increase to Restated Estimates 2024/25 of \$13.086M
 - \$0.165M increase for the Shared Recovery Wage Mandate



Executive and Support Services \$2.618M

- Minister's Office \$0.924M
\$0.072M increase to Restated Estimates 2024/25 of \$0.852M
 - \$0.072M increase to Minister's Office Operating Budget. Increase is attributed to adjustments made to align the Ministers' Offices budgets in accordance with staffing levels approved by the Office of the Premier. This resulted in \$14K decrease to Legislative Salaries, \$11K increase to Salaries and Benefits, and \$75K increase to Travel.
- Corporate Services \$1.694M
\$0.042M increase to Restated Estimates 2024/25 of \$1.652M
 - \$0.042M increase for the Shared Recovery Wage Mandate

Special Accounts \$5.430M

- BC Arts and Culture Endowment Fund
\$4.230M; No change from Restated Estimates 2024/25
- Physical Fitness and Amateur Sports Fund
\$1.200M; No change from Restated Estimates 2024/25

Capital Funding Vote allocation \$59.222M

- BC Pavilion Corporation (\$59.222M)
 - \$10.000M is for BC Pavilion Corporation annual routine maintenance projects for the BC Place Stadium and the Vancouver Convention Centre.
 - \$49.222M to PavCo for Capital upgrades to BC Place Stadium required to host FIFA World Cup games.

Ministry Capital Budget

- \$0.003M; no change from Restated Estimates 2024/25
- This capital budget allocation is a placeholder in the event the Ministry needs to incur furniture and equipment costs



ESTIMATES NOTE

Ministry Overview

ISSUE: Ministry Overview including FTEs and Funding

RESPONSE

- The mission of the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport is to enrich community and economic wellbeing by creating conditions for B.C.'s tourism, arts, culture, sport, creative and heritage sectors to thrive.
- The ministry's work supports welcoming, inclusive communities that value diversity and equitable opportunities for participation in sports, cultural activities, and the arts.
- The ministry oversees five Crown corporations: Destination BC, the BC Pavilion Corporation, the Royal BC Museum, the Knowledge Network and the BC Games Society.
- The ministry also provides oversight to the Office of the BC Athletic Commissioner.
- The ministry works with the BC Arts Council to support cultural and artistic diversity in the province and with viaSport to support quality, inclusive and accessible sport across B.C.
- Further, the ministry works with Creative BC to grow the economic impact of B.C.'s creative sector, support sustainable employment, and promote B.C. owned creative content and production capabilities.

KEY FACTS

Tourism Sector Strategy Division

Assistant Deputy Minister: Nick Grant

Description:

The Division supports the tourism sector which contributes significantly to the quality of life for British Columbians. In 2023 (most recent data available), the tourism sector generated \$22.1B in revenue¹, up 12.4% from 2022 (\$19.6B) and contributed \$9.7B² to provincial real GDP, up 9.6% from 2022. This represents a

¹Destination BC, 2023 Value of Tourism 10-Year Trends

² Using 2017 dollars



ESTIMATES NOTE

larger contribution than mining, oil and gas extraction, agriculture and fishing, and forestry and logging.

A flourishing tourism industry is a key pillar of the StrongerBC Economic Plan. The tourism sector strategy division leads coordination of provincial tourism priorities, sets strategic direction for tourism in B.C., and works with various facets of the industry to create a conducive environment for the sustainable growth of tourism while ensuring that it contributes positively to the economy. Key programs include the resort municipality initiative, tourism events program, and destination development. The division also contains the provincial resort and heritage programs.

To do this, the Division works across government to maximize the economic, cultural and social advantages that tourism brings to B.C. This includes working closely with the following key agencies and Crowns, Destination BC (DBC) and B.C. Pavilion Corporation (PavCo).

Budget (in \$000s):

Core Business Area	2024/25 Restated Estimates	2025/26 Estimates	2026/27 Planned	2027/28 Planned
Tourism Sector Strategy	25,908	26,113	26,113	26,113
Division Total	25,908	26,113	26,113	26,113

Positions: 66 full-time equivalents (based on organizational charts as at February 2025).

Arts and Culture Division

Assistant Deputy Minister: Claire Avison

Description:

The Division supports the arts and culture sectors, and the not-for-profit sector through Community Gaming Grants, which contribute significantly to the quality of life for British Columbians. Culture GDP in B.C. (including arts, heritage, and creative industries such as film) totaled \$9.3 billion in 2022, an 8.2% increase from 2021.

To do this, the Division works across government to maximize the economic, cultural and social advantages that these industries bring to B.C. This includes

ESTIMATES NOTE

working closely with several key agencies, Crowns, and organizations: including the BC Arts Council (BCAC), the Royal BC Museum (RBCM), and the Chinese Canadian Museum Society of BC. The Division is also responsible for the distribution of commercial gambling revenue, through the Community Gaming Grants program. A strong arts and culture sector contributes to a sustainable economy by encouraging creativity and innovation across sectors and in our workforce; the sector attracts business investment, increases exports, and directly impacts employment and tourism. There were 115,286 culture jobs in British Columbia in 2022, and the arts and culture sector contributed \$9.3 billion to provincial GDP.

The community non-profit sector employs over 87,000 people in B.C. and contributes \$6.7 billion to B.C.'s economy while other programming, such as search and rescue and environmental education, directly contribute to B.C.'s tourism sector.

Budget (in \$000s):

Core Business Area	2024/25 Restated Estimates	2025/26 Estimates	2026/27 Planned	2027/28 Planned
Arts and Culture	41,417	41,646	41,797	41,797
Division Total	41,417	41,646	41,797	41,797

Positions: 55 full-time equivalents (based on organizational charts as at February 2025).

Sport and Creative Sector Division

Assistant Deputy Minister: Kim Lacharite

Description:

The Division supports the development of a strong and sustainable creative sector, which includes the motion picture, music, book and magazine publishing and interactive digital media industries. Based on Creative BC's Creative Industries Economic Results Assessment³, in 2023, B.C.'s creative sector provided approximately \$5.6B in total gross domestic product (GDP) in 2023 and provided 69,000 jobs, employing 121,612 people when including freelancers.

The Division is supporting several marquee sport events, including the Grey Cup 2024, Invictus Games 2025, and the upcoming FIFA World Cup 2026™. Working

³ Creative Industries Economic Results Assessment 2023: [CIERA™ 2023 - Creative BC](#)

ESTIMATES NOTE

collaboratively with hosting partners and Indigenous peoples, the Division engages across government to create pathways for the province to secure lasting social and economic benefits from these events for local communities and people throughout B.C.

In B.C., the Sport sector contributed \$1.22 billion to GDP⁴ and 16,098 jobs⁵ in 2022. The Division supports the development and implementation of policy and programs related to sport, including support and funding for sport, physical activity, and event hosting; and the administration of the Physical Fitness and Amateur Sports Fund. The Division works to maximize the power of sport and ensure sport better meets the needs of British Columbians through implementation of *Pathways to Sport: A Strategic Framework for Sport in British Columbia 2020-2025*. The Framework sets a clear direction to increase sport participation opportunities; support athletes, coaches, officials and administrators to develop and compete at the highest levels; and support hosting of sport events to help communities realize the associated social and economic benefits.

To do this, the Sport and Creative Sector team works across all levels of government and with the following key agencies: Office of the B.C. Athletic Commissioner, Creative BC, Knowledge Network, BC Games Society, viaSport and the Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council.

Budget (in \$000s):

Core Business Area	2024/25 Restated Estimates	2025/26 Estimates	2026/27 Planned	2027/28 Planned
Creative Sector	3,637	3,655	3,655	3,655
Sport	23,480	23,584	23,584	23,584
Division Total	27,117	27,239	27,239	27,239

Positions: 35 full-time equivalents (based on organizational charts as at February 2025)

⁴ Source: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220602/t001b-eng.htm> Data released June 26, 2023.

⁵ Source: [Cultural Satellite Account \(2022 figures\)](#) Data released June 26, 2023.

ESTIMATES NOTE

Deputy Minister's Office

The Deputy Minister's Office (DMO) is responsible for all aspects of information that flows from Elected Officials and the Executive Council (Cabinet) to the ministry by acting as the touchpoint between the elected arm of government and the public service. The office provides strategic advice on issues management, oversees the development of Cabinet material, and provides strategic direction to staff. The DMO also ensures the ministry is in compliance with Cabinet approved mandates, Treasury Board directives and other specific issues.

The DMO builds strategic alliances across government and works with the Executive team and ministry staff to ensure efficient collaboration, the flow of information and increased integration within the Ministry to support the achievement of the Ministry's strategic direction and government's overall objectives.

Budget (in \$000s):

Core Business Area	2024/25 Restated Estimates	2025/26 Estimates	2026/27 Planned	2027/28 Planned
Deputy Minister's Office	804	820	820	820

Positions: The Deputy Minister's Office currently has 4 full-time equivalents (as at February 2025).

Contact:

Tracy Campbell ADM/EFO HMA and TACS 250-387-9180

ESTIMATES NOTE

MINISTRY RESPONSE TO TRC & UNDRIP

Issue: Actions being taken to implement UNDRIP and TRC Calls to Action

Key Messaging and Recommended Response

- My Ministry continues to make significant progress to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Truth & Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action.
- We share the guiding principles and framework goals of promoting the rights, well-being, and self-determination of Indigenous peoples.
- My Ministry is also on track to meet our commitments outlined in the *Declaration Act* Action Plan, which were developed in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples.
- This important work continues to be a priority and a central focus of our initiatives to address historical injustices, foster cultural revitalization, and promote economic opportunities in B.C.

Tourism

- In Tourism, we continue to advance Indigenous tourism efforts that support resiliency and self-determination.
- The Ministry and Destination BC works closely with Indigenous Tourism BC (ITBC) to develop, support the growth of, and promote Indigenous tourism throughout the province.
- Tourism can create sustainable and meaningful economic opportunities for First Nations communities and Indigenous Peoples wanting to share with visitors.
- We remain committed to working alongside Indigenous partners and communities to preserve and promote the living cultures and rich heritage of Indigenous peoples.

Arts and Culture

- In Arts & Culture, we continue to be focused on our commitments specified in the *Declaration Act* Action Plan to provide resources to Indigenous organizations.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- The BC Arts Council supports Indigenous arts and culture across all its grant programs and by upholding a longstanding partnership with the First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC). Indigenous Peoples are one of BC Arts Council's Designated Priority Groups.
- The Ministry is co-developing a policy framework to support repatriation initiatives with an external Steering Committee with representation from the First Nations Leadership Council, Union of BC Indian Chiefs, First Nations Summit, B.C. Assembly of First Nations, the Alliance of B.C. Modern Treaty Nations, the First Peoples Cultural Council, the Royal B.C. Museum, the BC Arts Council, the B.C. Museums' Association's Indigenous Advisory Committee, Indigenous heritage experts, and the provincial government. The Royal BC Museum continues to work with Indigenous communities to repatriate their ancestral remains and Cultural Belongings, and to improve access to residential school records in the BC Archives.

Creative

- Through Creative BC and the Knowledge Network, we amplify the voices of Indigenous creators, producers, and storytellers.
- Creative BC advances reconciliation through partnerships with FPCC and Rogers to support more opportunities for Indigenous creators.
- The Knowledge Network invests in original Indigenous content and measures success through its commissioning targets.

Sport

- In sport, through the *Declaration Act* Action Plan and TRC Actions 87-91, we are recognizing Indigenous excellence, investing in Indigenous participation, expanding sport pathways, prioritizing Indigenous youth and cultural awareness, and supporting Indigenous community-led games and championships.

Key Facts

- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action are specific recommendations and actions outlined by the TRC to address the legacy of residential schools and promote reconciliation.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- The TRC concluded its mandate in 2015 and transferred its records to the safekeeping of National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR).
- B.C.'s *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA) was introduced in 2019. It aims to align the Province's laws with the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
- Per Section 4 of DRIPA, the *Declaration Act* Action Plan (Action Plan) was released in March 2022. It includes collectively identified goals and outcomes that form the long-term vision for implementing the UN Declaration in B.C.
 - The Action Plan has 89 priority actions spread across all ministries.
 - The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) leads tracking of Action Plan initiatives while individual ministries are responsible for implementation of their identified actions.
- Per Section 5 of DRIPA, government is mandated to present annual reports to the Legislature by June 30 of each year, detailing the progress made on implementation of the Action Plan.
 - The Year 1 action report was presented to the Cabinet in June 2023.
- Within the Action Plan, TACS is responsible for six actions and provides support for one action being led by the Ministry of Forests.
 - Arts and Culture has three actions, Tourism/Heritage has two actions (and one supporting), and Sport has one action.

Tourism

- Tourism has committed to two actions under the Declaration Act Action Plan:
 - **4.37:** Provide funding to assist Indigenous tourism businesses that have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, to further support recovery of the Indigenous tourism sector in B.C. (**completed action**)
 - Result: Indigenous Tourism BC received \$8 million to deliver the BC Indigenous Tourism Recovery Fund (FY20/21 and FY21/22).
 - **4.38:** Provide investments to Indigenous Tourism B.C. to support Indigenous tourism, Indigenous job creation, preservation of Indigenous languages, celebration of Indigenous cultures and the stewardship of territories, and to tell the stories of Indigenous Peoples of B.C. in their own words.
 - Result: Indigenous Tourism BC received \$3.7 million to support the implementation of their *Indigenous Tourism Alignment Strategy 2021-2024* (FY21/22) and \$6 million to implement the Indigenous Tourism Training Initiative (FY22/23).
- Since 2020, the Province has invested over \$17 million to support Indigenous Tourism BC deliver on the opportunities outlined above, including \$13.7 million from TACS.
- In 2022, the Province, represented by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, renewed the Indigenous Tourism Accord with ITBC to reaffirm the Province's commitment to Indigenous Tourism and reconciliation.



ESTIMATES NOTE

- Destination BC has an ongoing funding partnership with Indigenous Tourism BC; this funding partnership is \$1.5 million per year, for 3 years (FY23/24, FY24/25, FY25/26), totaling \$4.5 million.

Arts and Culture

- Arts & Culture has committed to three actions under the *Declaration Act* Action Plan, in addition to BC Arts Council prioritizing Indigenous Arts and Culture and Reconciliation in their Extending Foundations Action Plan.
- **3.05:** Provide resources to Indigenous organizations to improve public understanding of Indigenous histories, rights, cultures, languages and the negative impacts of Indigenous-specific racism.
 - Reporting out in Year 3 (FY24/25) and onwards, this work includes:
 - Strengthening the BC Arts Council's long-standing partnership with FPCC building on the \$1.725 million annual commitment since 2020/21 to support FPCC's Arts programs;
 - With the shift in FPCC eligibility criteria for arts funding programs, BC Arts Council is working to develop an Indigenous Arts Strategy, to support Indigenous artists and organizations in B.C.
 - Seeking partnership opportunities with Indigenous organizations to create programs, policies and funding;
 - Engaging in cross ministry consultation and collaboration.
- **4.33:** Co-develop a policy framework to support repatriation initiatives.
 - Reporting out in Year 4 (FY25/26) and onwards, the Ministry acknowledges the importance of the implementation of action 4.33 being Indigenous-led.
 - The Policy Framework will guide repatriation activities for Indigenous peoples and heritage-holding organizations across B.C., including the Royal B.C. Museum (RBCM) and archaeological repositories holding indigenous ancestral remains and Cultural Belongings.
 - In June 2024, the Ministry began co-development of the Policy Framework with a Steering Committee with representation from the First Nations Leadership Council, Union of BC Indian Chiefs, First Nations Summit, B.C. Assembly of First Nations, the Alliance of B.C. Modern Treaty Nations, the First Peoples Cultural Council, the Royal B.C. Museum, the BC Arts Council, the B.C. Museums' Association's Indigenous Advisory Committee, Indigenous heritage experts and the provincial government.
 - The Ministry has also established a cross-government working group to ensure alignment with related policies and communication across government.



ESTIMATES NOTE

- Related policies, such as the *Heritage Conservation Act* (HCA) and archaeological repository policy, are outside of the scope of the policy framework.
- Targeted engagement with the 204 First Nations in B.C. and B.C. heritage-holding organizations is planned for 2025.
- The Ministry is engaging with the Department of Canadian Heritage to discuss the previous federal commitment to develop a repatriation policy.
- Between 2016 and 2023, TACS provided a total of \$3.51 million in one-time funding for repatriation-related initiatives to the Royal BC Museum, BC Museums Association, and First Peoples' Cultural Council, resulting in grant programs for repatriation/rematriation, research, and the Repatriation Handbook (published in 2019 by the Royal BC Museum and the Haida Gwaii Museum).
- **4.34:** Reset the relationship between the Royal BC Museum (RBCM) and Indigenous Peoples in B.C. by ensuring Indigenous voices are prioritized, informing the development of narratives, exhibitions and learning programs.
 - RBCM has recently completed a robust multi-year engagement with British Columbians on the future of the museum, including consultations with Indigenous communities across B.C.
 - RBCM's current service plan and mandate letter reflects commitments to advance DRIPA actions.
 - The Ministry is also working with the RBCM to advance repatriation and reconciliation efforts, such as working with the Heiltsuk First Nations to return a renowned chief's seat carved by Chief Richard Carpenter, Dúqvaýlá Hawallis and expediting access to Indian Residential School records held with the RBCM's BC Archives to Indigenous communities and researchers in partnership with MIRR.
 - The Ministry will begin to report on the RBCM's progress as part of Year 5 (FY26/27) of the Declaration Act Action Plan's legislated reporting.

Sport

- With regards to the Sport sector, the Ministry has committed to one action under the *Declaration Act* Action Plan:
 - **4.06:** Promote culturally relevant sport, physical activity and recreation initiatives and opportunities that increase Indigenous engagement, participation, and excellence in both traditional and mainstream sports for individuals in both urban and rural or remote areas.
 - Provide \$1.4 million annually to the Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council (ISPARC) to support their Indigenous Sport,



ESTIMATES NOTE

Physical Activity and Recreation Strategy and the Premier's Awards for Indigenous Youth Excellence in Sport.

- Develop collaborative partnerships with ISPARC, provincial and disability sport organizations to enhance reconciliation in the sport sector.
- Continue funding the After School Sport and Arts initiative to support children & youth facing barriers to sport or arts participation.
- Support Indigenous athletes to compete in Box Lacrosse at the 2025 Canada Summer Games.
- Supporting the Tkemlúps te Secwépemc and City of Kamloops to host the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships in 2025 with a \$0.08 million grant from the Major Sport Event Hosting program. The event is being further supported by Tourism with \$0.0222 million from the 2024 intake of the BC Fairs, Festivals and Events Fund.
- Expand pathways for Indigenous athletes to compete at the Lhtako Quesnel 2024 BC Winter Games and the Maple Ridge 2024 BC Summer Games.
- Partnerships with Cross Country BC, BC Archery Association and Badminton BC led to additional spots in the Lhtako Quesnel Winter Games for athletes, coaches and officials of Indigenous ancestry.
- Support Indigenous athletes to compete at the 2025 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships (NAHC) and the 2027 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG).
- The Sport Branch is continuing work to implement additional actions related to the TRC Calls to Action and UNDRIP, including:
- The Province is investing \$3.6 million to ISPARC over five years in the new RISE grant program to empower children and youth during and after government care to participate in sport, physical and cultural activities. RISE stands for Resilient, Inspire, Strength and Engage.
 - Between the program's inception in June 2022 and October 2024, ISPARC has awarded 1,685 individual RISE Grants and 54 organizational RISE Grants.
- TACS is supporting ISPARC to develop cultural safety awareness and education in the sport sector to further support the delivery and improved access to programs and initiatives for Indigenous people.
- The Province invested \$0.2 million for the expansion of the Indigenous Sport Gallery into an interactive online experience and for translation of the gallery's content into Indigenous languages. The interactive online project will be completed in the spring of 2024 and will bring exciting stories and powerful history of Indigenous athletes, coaches and builders to communities and classrooms throughout the province.



ESTIMATES NOTE

- The Indigenous Sport Gallery currently has 10 sport exhibits translated into Indigenous languages and will be translating an additional 13 exhibits. All translated sport exhibits will be included in the online Gallery.
- TACS is partnering with KidSport BC to expand opportunities for Indigenous children and youth who cannot afford to register in sport. The Province invests \$0.4 million annually to Sport BC to fund KidSport BC.
- The Province supports ISPARC's work with Disability Sport Organizations to provide more sport and physical activity opportunities for Indigenous people with disabilities. ISPARC is also ensuring their program staff and volunteers are trained to provide accessible programming for Indigenous people with disabilities.

Creative

- Creative BC advances meaningful reconciliation through its programs and partnerships, including the Indigenous Music Initiative delivered by the FPCC through Amplify BC, and the \$1 million Rogers Group of Funds partnership to support Indigenous motion picture creators.
- Knowledge Network's 2025/26 Service Plan includes a three-year performance measure related to licence fees invested by Knowledge Network in first-window commissions of original one-off documentaries being with projects led by majority owned (min 51 per cent) BC independent Indigenous production companies. The target is to reach 25% over six years.

Contact:

Claire Avison ADM Sport and Creative Sectors 250-217-9059

ESTIMATES NOTE

CORE MESSAGING – TOURISM

ISSUE: Key Messages for Tourism

RESPONSE

- British Columbia is a world-class destination, and tourism is one of our province's most dynamic industries and a vital engine for economic growth and opportunity.
- With its stunning landscapes, diverse culture, and vibrant cities, people from all over the world are planning a visit to our beautiful province.
- Tourism is one of the largest employers and small business generators, creating good jobs in every region of the province.
- Tourism is also one of the province's most significant economic sectors, contributing:
 - \$9.7 billion to our provincial GDP, and
 - \$22.1 billion in annual tourism revenue.
- We will continue to support communities throughout B.C. in delivering community events and festivals and large world-class sporting events like the Invictus Games and the FIFA World Cup 26™ that bring benefits to people and strengthen our economy.
- No matter what happens, British Columbians and our tourism sector welcome Americans and international travelers to visit our province.
- By working together, we will enhance economic growth and community vibrancy and become a more resilient sector.

KEY FACTS

- The tourism sector remained strong through 2024, following government funding of more than \$500 million over the past four years to support the tourism industry's recovery from the pandemic. For instance:
 - Hotel occupancy returned to pre-pandemic levels with an average occupancy rate of nearly 69% (2024). In 2024, the highest monthly provincial hotel occupancy was 82% in August, up 1.7 points from 2023.
 - In 2024, YVR recorded the second-highest passenger count in its history, with 26.2 million travelers passing through the airport in 2024. A 5% increase over the previous year's 24.9 million travelers.
 - In 2024, the B.C. cruise industry had another strong season.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- Vancouver welcomed 327 cruise ship visits and a record 1.3 million passengers, breaking 2023's record for passengers by 7%.
- Victoria welcomed 316 ship calls and approximately 970,000 passengers—on par with 2023.
- Examples of investments to support a strong visitor economy and healthy communities include:
 - Since 2021, nearly \$80 million to support close to 3,000 fairs, festivals, and events in 184 communities.
 - Since 2022, \$60 million in Destination Development grants to support the development of tourism infrastructure, assets and experiences.
 - Since 2021, more than \$2.8 million to partner with go2HR to have five Regional HR specialists to help with tourism workforce challenges.
 - In 2022-2023, \$6 million provided to Indigenous Tourism BC for the delivery of the Indigenous Tourism Training Initiatives.
 - In 2023, \$3 million in funding was provided to launch the B.C. Tourism Climate Resiliency Initiative to support a resilient tourism sector to continue to adapt to climate change.
 - From 2021-2023, \$8 million in support to restart business events and conferences.
- The Resort Municipality Initiative is a \$13 million annual program that provides B.C.'s 14 resort municipalities support to build and diversify their tourism infrastructure, deliver exceptional visitor experiences and incorporate sustainable tourism practices.
- The Tourism Events Program provides up to \$5 million a year and will continue to support communities throughout B.C. to host events that bring visitors to our province and bring people together.

Contact:

Nick Grant ADM Tourism Sector Strategy Division 778-698-7967

ESTIMATES NOTE

KEY FACTS AND STATISTICS

ISSUE: Tourism sector facts and statistics

RESPONSE

- In 2023, tourism in B.C. generated \$22.1 billion in revenue, an increase of 12.4% over 2022.
- In 2024, the tourism sector showed strong signs of growth and continued recovery.
- Hotels recorded an average provincial occupancy rate of nearly 69% in 2024, with peak provincial occupancy of 82% in August 2024.
- We are seeing continued growth of international visitors to B.C. with YVR recording 26.2 million travelers passing through the airport in 2024.
- Data reported for 2023 shows the number of tourism establishments in the province was 16,860, down slightly from 16,910 in 2022.
- Tourism also accounted for 125,700 jobs in 2023, up nearly 8% from 2022.
- Tourism is an incredibly resilient sector, and it has immense potential for growth. I am committed to continuing to work with the sector to build a strong, vibrant future.

KEY FACTS

- The most recent GDP and revenue numbers are from 2023¹ as reported by Destination BC and BC Stats.

Tourism GDP & revenue:

Revenue:

- In 2023, tourism generated \$22.1 billion in revenue, up 12.4% from 2022 (\$19.6 billion).
- The forecast for 2024 revenue is a 2% increase over 2023 to \$22.5 billion.
- Most of this revenue came from accommodation and food services (\$7.9 billion), transportation services (\$5.2 billion), and retail services (\$4.1 billion).

GDP:

- Tourism contributed \$9.7 billion² to provincial real GDP in 2023 (3.1% of total B.C. GDP), up 9.6% from 2022.
- Nearly half of this came from the accommodation and food services sector (\$4.2 billion).
- In 2023, tourism contributed more to provincial GDP than mining (\$5.3 billion), oil and gas extraction (\$4.6 billion), agriculture and fishing (\$3.1 billion) and forestry and logging (\$1.7 billion).

¹ Destination BC, 2023 Value of Tourism 10-Year Trends

² Using 2017 dollars

ESTIMATES NOTE

- B.C.'s tourism industry had the strongest growth rate (up +9.6% over 2022) compared to any other primary resource industry.

Tourism employment & wages:

Employment:

- Tourism jobs reached 125,700³ in 2023, up 7.9% from 2022; this represents a portion of the total jobs in the broader tourism and hospitality sectors.
- Total employment in the broader tourism and hospitality sectors during 2024 ranged from 331,500 in January 2024 (-0.7% from January 2023) to 355,750 in August 2024 (down -3.3% from August 2023).⁴
- The unemployment rate in the Tourism and Hospitality sector in BC increased from 4.6% in December 2024 to 6.1% in January 2025. The unemployment rate is above the pre-COVID level (4.4% in January 2019 vs 6.1% in January 2025).

Wages:

- In 2024, the average hourly earnings for employees in the tourism and hospitality sector was \$27.91/hour, up from an average of \$27.00/hour in 2023.
- The highest-paid employees in the tourism sector work in Transportation, where the average hourly wage in 2024 was \$39.17.

Accommodation:

- Average annual provincial hotel occupancy rate in 2024 was 68.8%, down 0.2 points from 2023.
- The highest monthly provincial hotel occupancy was 82.2% in August 2024, up 1.7 points from 2023.
 - Hotel occupancy was highest in Downtown Vancouver in August, reaching 90.2%, up 0.9 points from August 2023.

Tourism establishments:

- Approximately 16,860 businesses directly provided services to visitors in B.C. in 2023, down -0.3% from 2023.⁵

International travel

- Between January and November 2024 (most recent data available), the number of international visitor arrivals⁶ (4.7 million) increased 6.4% from the same period in 2023.

Other tourism statistics:

³ Destination BC, 2023 Value of Tourism 10-Year Trends

⁴ Go2HR

⁵ BC Stats, Annual Tourism Indicators

⁶ Destination BC, Tourism Industry Dashboard

ESTIMATES NOTE

- Total receipts of B.C. food services and drinking places⁷ in 2024 (YTD January to November (\$15.3 billion) was up 3.9% from the same period in 2023.⁸

Contact:

Nick Grant ADM Tourism Sector Strategy Division 778-698-7967

⁷ BC Stats, Monthly Tourism Indicators

⁸ Statistics Canada. Table 21-10-0019-01 Monthly survey of food services and drinking places (x 1,000)



ESTIMATES NOTE

TOURISM EVENTS SUPPORTS

ISSUE: Overview of Tourism Events Supports

RESPONSE

- Events are an important part of B.C.'s tourism, arts, culture and sports sectors.
- Our government is pleased to have provided nearly \$80 million since 2021 through the Fairs, Festivals and Events Fund to support rebuilding the events sector and to attract people back to communities following the pandemic and extreme weather events.
- We are committed to supporting communities in hosting events that draw visitors to our province and bring people together.
- Our priority is to strengthen the economy in a way that benefits individuals, families, and businesses across the province.
- I look forward to continuing to work with the tourism sector to deliver targeted event support for B.C.'s communities.

If asked if there will be an BCFFE intake in 2025

- The B.C. Fairs, Festivals and Events Fund was established in 2021 as a one-time grant to support the restart of events impacted by restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- This support was provided to restore community confidence and wellbeing and stimulate the economy.
- All ministries are reviewing programs in 2025.
- The focus of the review will be to ensure that public dollars are used to ensure programs remain relevant, are efficient, protect services, and grow the economy.
- We will look at refreshing existing programs such as the Tourism Events Program, which is an ongoing annual program that supports tourism-related events.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

Tourism Events Program

- The Tourism Events Program (TEP) aims to strengthen B.C.'s reputation as an events destination and increase visitation to communities and regions across B.C.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- The program was created in 2015 and is funded by a portion of the Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) revenue from communities voluntarily choosing to implement a 3% MRDT rate.
- TEP provides up to \$5 million per year to support the marketing and promotion of financially viable events that provide a high tourism impact and value to the host community.
- Due to the uncertainty of the global pandemic, TEP was paused in 2020 and 2021; however, during that time, TACS granted \$30 million through B.C. Fairs, Festivals and Events (BCFFE) Fund to support 680 events across B.C.

B.C. Fairs Festivals and Events Fund

- The BCFFE fund was created in 2021, as a one-time recovery fund, in response to the pandemic to support the safe restart of community-based fairs, festivals and events and to stimulate travel across B.C.
- BCFFE was relaunched in 2023 and again in 2024 to alleviate acute and continued challenges faced by the sector including increased costs, declining revenues, lack of sponsorships, workforce availability, and cancellations due to extreme weather events.
- BCFFE was never intended to be an annual ongoing program, but a time-limited fund to support the rebound of events to become self-sustaining.
- Over the three BCFFE funding intakes (2021, 2023 and 2024), nearly \$80 million has been provided to support close to 3,000 events across 184 communities in B.C:
 - 2021/22 – \$30 million
 - 2022/23 – \$30 million
 - 2023/24 – \$20 million* (**\$15 million BCFFE with \$5M TEP top-up*)

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		Strategy Division	

Attachments: Appendix A: Summary of Tourism Events Funding

ESTIMATES NOTE

Appendix A: Summary of Tourism Events Funding

Tourism Events Program

Intake	Funding (\$M)	Events Supported
2015 TEP	\$0.670 M	4
2016 TEP	\$1.41 M	15
2017 TEP	\$2.31 M	45
2018 TEP	\$4.14 M	77
2019 TEP	\$5.09 M	80
2020 TEP	PAUSED	n/a
2021 TEP	PAUSED	n/a
2022 TEP	\$4.80 M	96
Total	\$18.45 M	317

BC Fairs Festival and Events Fund

Intake	Funding (\$M)	Events Supported
2021 BCFFE	\$29.95 M	682
2023 BCFFE	\$30.00 M	1172
2024 BCFFE	\$15.00 M + \$5.00 M TEP	1110
Total	\$74.95 M	2964

ESTIMATES NOTE

TOURISM WORKFORCE

ISSUE: Tourism Sector Workforce Supports

RESPONSE

- Tourism is a key employment generator for the province.
- In 2023, 125,700 people were employed in 16,860 tourism-related businesses.
- Tourism wages and salaries reached \$5.9 billion, up nearly 12% over 2022.
- The tourism sector is a robust employer, with an ever-growing need for workers.
- We recognize businesses continue to face challenges finding and keeping workers.
- Factors such as global inflation and changes to Federal Government policies have an impact on the tourism sector's ability to deliver the world-class experiences British Columbia is known for.
- To proactively address these challenges, we are working with sector partners to make training more accessible, affordable, and relevant to help businesses grow and prepare British Columbians for the jobs of tomorrow.
- We continue to build a strong and diverse workforce by championing leading human resources practices to address recruitment and retention challenges and promote a variety of job and career opportunities.
- We will continue listening to the sector and finding new ways to support people and businesses as we work to build resilient communities throughout British Columbia.

KEY FACTS

- The tourism sector is supported by Go2HR, the human resources and health & safety association for the tourism and hospitality industry in B.C. Go2HR provides workforce development support, including recruitment resources, training programs, and industry-specific health and safety guidance. Their services help tourism businesses attract, retain, and train employees while ensuring compliance with workplace safety regulations. They also manage certification programs, such as the Serving It Right and FoodSafe courses, which are required for many hospitality roles in BC.



ESTIMATES NOTE

- Since 2021, the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture, and Sport (TACS) provided a total of \$2.8 million to go2HR through COVID-19 recovery funding for five Regional Tourism HR Specialists who support tourism and hospitality employers in each of the tourism regions.

Other Tourism Workforce Supports

- In March 2023, the Ministry of Post Secondary and Future Skills (PSFS) announced \$51.8 million for a new center for food, wine, and tourism for Okanagan College Kelowna Campus. The new center is expected to graduate roughly 500 students annually and is expected to open in 2026.
- In May 2023, PSFS announced the Future Ready Action Plan (FRAP), along with a \$480 million commitment, to ensure B.C. supports its workforce with the skills they need to succeed in a changing economy, and to help close the skills gaps many businesses are facing.
- PSFS provides labour market programs and services that support individuals, communities, employers and sectors across the province. In 2024/25, PSFS allocated \$79 million through federal transfer agreements and targeted StrongerBC funding to these programs, which are expected to serve more than 12,000 British Columbians.
- Between 2019 and 2022, through their Labour Market Partnership Program, PSFS provided financial support to Indigenous Tourism B.C. (ITBC) (\$440K) to conduct in-depth labour market research on B.C.'s Indigenous Tourism sector and develop a strategy to retain and increase Indigenous employment, as well as \$290K to go2HR to help determine the tourism and hospitality sector's short-term and long-term workforce needs in each region of B.C. as the province recovered from COVID-19.
- The Labour Market Partnership Program has also provided the B.C. Restaurant and Foodservices Association (BCRFA) and Chefs' Table Society of B.C. funding for a project to help restaurants across B.C. better retain and attract the talent they need to thrive and grow.
- In March 2023, TACS and the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR) partnered to provide \$6 million to the Indigenous Tourism Training Initiative to provide training and educational opportunities in the sector. This initiative is being delivered by ITBC until April 2026.
- SDPR's Employment and Labour Market Services Division has collaborated with the Tourism Industry Association of B.C., ITBC and go2HR to help sector members and their networks find talent using WorkBC Centers.
- SDPR administers the Community and Employer Partnerships (CEP) program, which funds projects to increase training and work experience for job seekers in B.C.



ESTIMATES NOTE

Food and Restaurant Sector

- Restaurants Canada (RC) and BCRFA have worked closely with government in recent years, particularly during the pandemic, to highlight sector interests and identify opportunities and challenges.
- To better support these organizations, the Minister of Agriculture and Food is the designated point of contact for the restaurant and hospitality sector for the Province, and will continue to work across government to explore options on how best to support the sector.

Contact:

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ESTIMATES NOTE

TOURISM PRIORITIES

ISSUE: Tourism Priorities and Mandate Commitments

RESPONSE

- Tourism is an essential part of the B.C. economy and our work to support it is important for communities and individuals across our province.
- Thousands of B.C. families rely on tourism jobs and our government is committed to supporting continued growth of this vital sector.
- The mandate letters issued to me for Tourism call for me to:
 - Continue to support tourism as a strong pillar of the B.C. economy and continuing to support rural and Indigenous tourism opportunities,
 - Leverage the opportunities provided by the FIFA World Cup™ and other major events to maximize the economic and tourism impact of these events, and
 - Support the development of innovative tourism products and unique experiences by supporting food and beverage producers, farmers, restaurants and the tourism sector with more flexible regulations.
- I am committed to continuing to work alongside my colleagues and tourism partners on charting the path toward a more prosperous and resilient sector.

If asked about tariffs between the U.S. and Canada, and the possible impacts on tourism ...

- The tourism sector is generally a tariff-free industry so there are opportunities to create economic activity throughout the province through tourism if tariffs on goods are implemented.
- Destination BC continues to promote visits to the province to international travellers from all over the world, including the U.S.
- Supporting locally made products, services, arts, and events is more important than ever and every choice to support local not only keeps our economy strong but also invests in the resilience of our communities.

ESTIMATES NOTE

KEY FACTS

- Minister Chandra Herbert's tourism-related mandate commitments issued in January 2025 include:
 - Support communities in delivering community events such as fairs and festivals that bring people together.
 - Continue to support tourism as a strong pillar of the B.C. economy by working with the sector to enhance economic growth and community vibrancy, sustainably promoting B.C.'s unmatched geography and diverse experiences, and continuing to support rural and Indigenous tourism opportunities.
 - Leverage the opportunities provided by the Invictus Games, the FIFA World Cup in 2026, and other major event bid proposals to maximize the economic development and tourism impact of major events across the province.
 - Support the work led by the Ministers of Agriculture and Food and Public Safety and Solicitor General 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.

Highlights

Event Supports:

- Events are an important part of B.C.'s tourism, arts, culture and sports sectors.
- Fairs, festivals and events have struggled to fully recover due to pandemic impacts which have been amplified by climate related events such as wildfires and economic uncertainties causing event cancellations and visitor decline to certain areas in the province.
- Government has provided nearly \$80 million in funding since 2021 to support nearly 3,000 events in 184 communities.

Marquee Events:

- The Province recognizes the importance of marquee events and is committed to maximizing the economic benefits for the people of B.C.
- B.C. hosted the 2024 Grey Cup (Nov 10-17, 2024) and the Invictus Games in Vancouver and Whistler (Feb 8-16, 2025) and is hosting the FIFA World Cup 26™ (June 8-July 19).
- The Province provided \$3.5 million in funding for the 2024 Grey Cup to support a free family-friendly festival and legacy programs. The estimated economic impact of the Grey Cup is \$125 million.
- In support of the first ever winter 2025 Invictus Games the Province provided \$15 million, with an expected economic impact of \$63.3 million.
- The gross core cost for planning, staging and hosting the FIFA World Cup 26™ in Vancouver is estimated to be between \$483 million and \$581 million. The



ESTIMATES NOTE

seven matches in Vancouver are expected to attract more than 350,000 soccer fans during the tournament and is anticipated to generate over \$1 billion in visitor spending for B.C.'s economy from 2026 through 2031.

- The Province enabled a Major Events Municipal Regional District Tax (MRDT) for Vancouver to provide time-limited support to offset the cost of hosting FIFA 2026.
- The Ministry is also working with Destination BC and the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation to coordinate tourism and economic development opportunities related to the FIFA World Cup 26™.

Contact:

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ESTIMATES NOTE

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS

ISSUE: Tourism's role in emergencies and climate-related events

RESPONSE

- Emergencies can cause severe disruptions to the B.C. tourism sector resulting in lingering economic and operational effects.
- We are working closely with the B.C. tourism industry to keep people safe, ensure tourism businesses are prepared and resilient, and maintain our reputation as a safe and welcoming destination.
- This includes mitigation and preparedness work before an emergency, coordination of tourism resources supporting response, and assessing needs for recovery.
- This work helps mitigate the economic impacts of emergencies on tourism as the sector is better prepared and more resilient.

If asked about funding for tourism recovery...

- Every emergency is different, requiring different responses and recovery efforts.
- There are several complex policy considerations associated with providing funding to businesses following a natural disaster.
- We continue to work with our colleagues in the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation to ensure businesses have tools and guidance to be better prepared to respond to disasters.
- Destination BC helps coordinate recovery marketing campaigns and initiatives across the sector, so we can drive tourist traffic back to impacted areas quickly once it is safe to do so.

KEY FACTS

- Extreme weather events like flooding and wildfires are becoming more prevalent, affecting travel and tourism businesses throughout the province.
- Depending on the severity of the event and proximity to affected communities, impacts vary on tourism businesses from cancelled bookings, decreased revenue, and lost jobs. In some cases, they are unable to continue operating.
- In 2022, government and industry released the Tourism Emergency Management Framework, focusing on preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation to address tourism interests during emergency events.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- The vision is an emergency management system that contributes to supporting the safety of visitors, the viability of tourism businesses, and B.C.'s reputation as a safe and welcoming destination.
- The Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport (TACS) staff co-chair a joint government-industry Tourism Emergency Management Committee (TEMC) supporting alignment of tourism with emergency management.
- During an emergency response, members of the TEMC and other tourism leaders will activate a Tourism Emergency Response Team (TERT) to immediately share information and coordinate resources.
- TACS is facilitating work between the B.C. Hotel Association (BCHA) and the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness – Emergency Support Services (ESS) to utilize an online booking system to more effectively and efficiently place evacuees in hotels.
- Destination BC regularly updates emergency related information on their public and industry websites for visitors and offers communications toolkits and crisis communications workshops for the sector.
- Regional destination management organizations (RDMOs) provide resources and guidance to community tourism organizations and businesses.
- In 2023/24, the Province provided Destination BC with \$3 million over two years for the BC Tourism Climate Resiliency Initiative, a government-industry project to support a resilient tourism sector prepared to adapt to climate change.
- Almost 400 businesses have accessed the program and developed tourism climate adaptation plans and over 150 micro-grants were awarded for climate adaptation projects including carbon capture projects, e-bike purchases, energy efficiency upgrades, fire-smart adaptations, and water-capture during drought.

Contact:

Nick Grant	ADM	TSSD	778 698-7967
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ESTIMATES NOTE

SHORT TERM RENTALS

ISSUE: Short-term rental legislation

RESPONSE

- British Columbia is a world-class destination, and tourism is a strong pillar of our province's economy and one of the most dynamic industries.
- Short-term rentals (STR) are an important part of the tourism sector and the action our government has taken to return STR units to the long-term housing market aims to balance competing interests.
- Since the introduction of STR legislation, preliminary data shows a 10% decline in the number of entire homes being listed on STR platforms.
- The STR legislation creates a better balance between homes for people, including tourism workers, and visitor accommodations, while supporting municipalities with more tools to better manage STRs in communities.
- Visitors continue to have a variety of accommodations to choose from – everything from registered STRs to hotels and motels, and campgrounds and lodges.
- For questions related to the legislation or registry, please refer to the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs.

If asked about the soft summer season in the Okanagan...

- We know tourism numbers in the last few summers have fluctuated for a variety of factors including wildfire impacts, past travel restrictions, economic uncertainty, ongoing reporting of extreme heat and potential wildfires.
- In 2024, the aggregate total hotel occupancy for Thompson Okanagan region (Kamloops, Kelowna, North and South Okanagan) was 57.3% compared to 57.7% in 2023.
- I recognize last year was particularly challenging but tourism numbers in the region remain steady. I am committed to continuing to work with the tourism sector to drive visitation across all regions and seasons.

KEY FACTS

- Questions related to short-term rental (STR) accommodations legislation and regulations should be referred to the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs (HMA).

ESTIMATES NOTE

- The Ministry provided input to HMA on the legislation and regulations, and its impacts to the tourism and mountain resorts sectors.
- The legislation limits STRs to principal residences (PR) across the province and requires hosts to register their short-term rental, including hosts operating outside areas with the PR requirement.
- Prior to the introduction of the STR legislation, the STR market was at an all-time high, taking over 16,000 housing units out of B.C.'s long-term housing market.
- Since the introduction of STR legislation, data shows a 10% decline in STR listings, opening additional housing options for British Columbians.

Exempted communities/accommodations:

- B.C.'s 14 resort municipalities and B.C.'s Mountain Resorts and communities with less than 10,000 residents are exempt from the PR requirement.
- Exempted communities can opt-in to the PR requirement. To date, 18 tourism-oriented communities, including Tofino and Osoyoos, opted into the PR requirement to support the community and housing supply.
- Some accommodations are exempt from the PR requirement due to restrictions on their ownership or use, such as time share properties.

Provincial STR Registry:

- In January 2025, the STR registry was announced. Hosts have until May 1, 2025, to register their STR with the provincial registry.
- Hosts who do not register will have their listings taken down as of June 1, 2025.
- The registry gives the Province another tool to help enforce rules and to ensure people with multiple, illegal listings are no longer allowed to operate.
- The registry will help ensure a level playing field for hosts and platforms like Airbnb, Vrbo and other similar listing platforms, and provide peace of mind for guests booking short-term rentals.
- Visitors will continue to have a variety of accommodations to choose from – everything from registered short-term rentals to hotels and motels, and campgrounds and lodges. Guests will not face any fines for staying in a short-term rental.
- Registration fees are:
 - \$100 per year for an STR in which the host lives, such as a whole home the host rents out while away or a bedroom within it;
 - \$450 per year if the host does not live in the STR, such as a secondary suite, cottage or laneway home; and
 - \$600 per year for an entire strata hotel.

Contact:

Nick Grant

ADM

Tourism

778-698-7967



ESTIMATES NOTE

HOTEL CAPACITY

ISSUE: Hotel Capacity in British Columbia

RESPONSE

- The accommodation sector plays a strong part in our tourism economy – contributing to tourism jobs and revenues.
- Hotel occupancy has been steadily improving post pandemic across British Columbia.
- Hotel rooms are needed for leisure tourists, people travelling for business, and for cultural and athletic events of all sizes.
- Hosting large events, like Grey Cup, the Invictus Games, and FIFA World Cup 26™ provides significant economic and social benefits to B.C.
- I am aware of the concerns about hotel capacity in Vancouver to meet future demands like hosting the FIFA World Cup 26™ matches.
- This is something I have been discussing with our tourism and accommodation stakeholders and government partners.
- Downtown Vancouver hotel occupancy averaged over 80% in 2024, and was above 85% from May through September, peaking at over 90% in August 2024.
- According to the City of Vancouver, there are 3,700 hotel rooms in the development pipeline for Vancouver, which is good news for the tourism industry.
- There is also work underway in the Lower Mainland to attract hotel investment and new hotel builds. For example, Burnaby will celebrate the opening of its first new hotel since 2014 this June.
- We have a strong relationship with British Columbia's accommodation sector and I am committed to continuing to work with the tourism sector to support hotel development across B.C.

KEY FACTS

- Average annual provincial hotel occupancy rate in 2024 was 69%.
- The number of properties collecting Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) in B.C. increased from 2,284 in 2019 to 2,732 in October 2024.
- In 2023, provincial room revenues (\$4.6 billion) far exceeded revenues from 2019 (\$3.2 billion), pointing to a strong economic recovery.



ESTIMATES NOTE

- Hotel occupancy and revenues look positive across the province; however, the situation varies by region.
- In recent years, the COVID-19 pandemic, barriers to investment, severe weather events, supply chain delays and the increasing cost of materials and labour have all posed challenges to hotel development and capacity in B.C.

Vancouver hotel capacity:

- Data collected by Destination BC show hotels in downtown Vancouver had an 80% occupancy rate in 2024 – much higher than the provincial average. Occupancy in the month of August 2024 exceeded 90%, which means there are many nights in the summer with no vacancy in downtown Vancouver.
- Destination Vancouver projects that Metro Vancouver will be short 21,000 hotel rooms by 2050.
- Recent and upcoming Marquee events, like the Grey Cup (2024), Invictus Games (2025), and FIFA World Cup 26™ (2026), will continue to drive up occupancy rates in the region over the next few years.
- According to the City of Vancouver, currently there are 3,700 hotel rooms in development in Vancouver.
- Hotel construction in Vancouver is on pace to satisfy the short-term needs of the city by 2030. Additionally, Delta and Maple Ridge are actively working on hotel attraction and there are new hotel builds underway in Richmond and Burnaby.
- Destination Vancouver, the BC Hotel Association and the Vancouver, Coast & Mountains tourism region are working together with the City of Vancouver and other Lower Mainland municipalities to support hotel development in the region.

Short-Term Rentals and hotel supply:

- We know there is strong demand for hotel rooms in Vancouver, particularly during peak seasons and major events.
- Challenges around hotel capacity are not just attributable to STR legislation, there are a variety of factors, including economic uncertainty, labour costs and competing interests in land use and residential planning.
- The Tourism Industry Association of BC and others in the tourism sector have expressed their support for the STR changes and newly implemented provincial STR registry.

Contact:

Nick Grant

ADM

TSSD

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ESTIMATES NOTE

DESTINATION BC OVERVIEW

ISSUE: Destination BC Crown Corporation

RESPONSE

- Destination BC's (DBC) mandate is to market B.C. domestically and internationally and to promote the development and growth of the tourism industry.
- DBC supports a strong and competitive future for B.C. tourism through global marketing, destination development, industry learning, community-based programs, and visitor services.
- In 2025/26, our government will provide \$56.431 million to DBC to deliver programs and services and promote the tourism sector.
 - DBC's 2025/26 Service Plan reports a contribution from Province of \$56.268 million. The lower variance of \$0.163 million is for Shared Recovery Wage Mandate which is included in 2025/26 Estimates, and will be provided to DBC.
- DBC works with industry partners including Regional Destination Marketing Organizations, communities, sector groups, Indigenous partners, and key stakeholders.
- In 2025/26, DBC will continue to focus on:
 - growing the tourism economy across all regions of B.C. and in all seasons;
 - providing tools, training, and research for small businesses and organizations;
 - supporting Indigenous tourism development and growth; and
 - leading efforts to capture the tourism benefits of hosting the 2026 FIFA World Cup™.

KEY FACTS

Statutory Authority: Destination BC Corp. Act.

Type of Organization: Crown Corporation

Appointment Process: Order in Council

Background

- Destination BC (DBC) was established on November 2, 2012, under the Business Corporations Act and continuing as a statutory Crown corporation pursuant to the Destination BC Corp. Act.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- It is wholly owned by the Province of British Columbia and commenced operations on April 1, 2013.
- DBC supports a strong and competitive future for B.C.'s tourism industry through a combination of global marketing, destination development, industry learning, cooperative community-based programs, and visitor servicing.
- DBC's objective is to market British Columbia to increase industry revenue and employment and provincial economic benefits.
- As of February 2025, DBC's Board of Directors has nine members appointed through Orders in Council.
- DBC's programs and investments are aligned with StrongerBC and the Strategic Framework for Tourism in B.C., and other government priorities.
- In 2025/26, DBC's budget to deliver these programs is \$56.848 million.

Client Profile

- Visitors from British Columbia, across Canada, and international markets including U.S., U.K., Germany, Australia, Mexico and China.
- Tourism businesses, inbound tour operators, sectors, and associations providing accommodation, attractions, and experiences.
- Communities throughout the province, especially those with Municipal and Regional District Tax in place.
- Indigenous communities and Indigenous Tourism BC, Regional and Community Destination Marketing Organizations, federal counterparts and associations, provincial and municipal institutions, and B.C. ministries.

Priorities/Key Initiatives

- DBC's programs help to improve the visitor experience, support businesses and communities across the province, and strengthen B.C.'s worldwide reputation as a destination of choice under the Super, Natural British Columbia® brand.
- DBC's 2023-2025 Corporate Strategy and the 2025 Global Marketing Plan align with Destination BC's purpose as articulated in the Destination BC Corp. Act.
- DBC's work aims to grow the tourism economy across all regions of B.C. and in all seasons through its Invest in Iconics Strategy. In FY2025/26 DBC will complete the launch of its six new iconic brands in its key international markets (i.e. U.S. UK, Germany, Australia, Mexico, China).

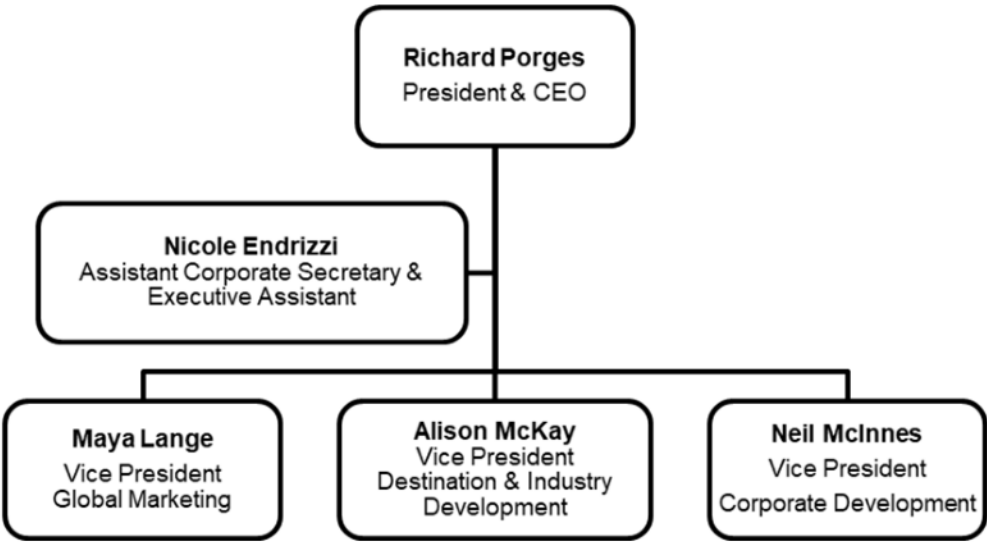
Websites: www.DestinationBC.ca www.HelloBC.com

Contact:

Nick Grant	ADM	Tourism and Strategy	778 698-7967
Richard Porges	President and CEO		778 572-1808

ESTIMATES NOTE

Organizational Chart



DBC Board Members:

Last Name	First Name	Title	Mechanism	Initial Appt	Term Expiry
Blakeney	Amy	Director	Order in Council	2020-07-31	2026-07-31
Wright	Randall	Director	Order in Council	2020-07-31	2026-07-31
Fraser	Scott	Chair	Order in Council	2021-07-31	2025-07-31
McPhee	Annita	Director	Order in Council	2022-10-11	2025-07-31
Simcox	Lori	Director	Order in Council	2021-06-15	2026-07-31
Riediger	Mike	Director	Order in Council	2022-11-25	2025-07-31
Simpson	Robert	Director	Order in Council	2023-07-31	2026-07-10
Friesen	Brian Rea	Director	Order in Council	2023-07-31	2026-07-31
Wilson-Mah	Rebecca	Director	Order in Council	2024-03-08	2027-03-08

ESTIMATES NOTE

PAVCO OVERVIEW

ISSUE: British Columbia Pavilion Corporation (PavCo)

RESPONSE

- B.C. Pavilion Corporation (PavCo) generates economic and community benefits for the people of B.C. by hosting a wide array of events in its two Vancouver facilities – BC Place and the Vancouver Convention Centre.
- This not only bolsters B.C.'s economy but also provides significant economic benefits by creating jobs and supporting tourism, hospitality, and the broader business community.
- For 2024/25, PavCo is forecasting ^{Government}Financial in economic and related community benefits.
- The Vancouver Convention Centre estimates that it hosted 1.817 million conference attendees in 2024.
- BC Place set a new attendance record of ^{Government}Financial ^{Information} in 2024, spurred by hosting the Grey Cup and showcasing the final three nights for the world-renowned Taylor Swift Eras Tour concert.
- Global attention of B.C. is supported with high-profile events at BC Place and Vancouver Convention Centre including live concerts such as AC/DC; conventions such as Web Summit and Alcoholics Anonymous International; and marquee events like the Invictus Games and FIFA World Cup 26™.

If asked about Costs and BC Place Upgrades for FIFA World Cup 26™...

- We continue to work with all partners to deliver BC Place in the condition required to meet its contractual obligations for hosting and staging seven FIFA World Cup 26™ matches from June to July 2026 (Fiscal Year 2027).

KEY FACTS

Statutory Authority: British Columbia Pavilion Corporation Act

Type of Organization: Crown Corporation

Appointment Process: Shareholder Consent Resolution

Background

- The events held at PavCo's facilities support the tourism and hospitality industries as well as trade development.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- PavCo's clients and guests utilize hotel rooms, local hospitality services, and goods and services produced by many B.C.-based businesses.
- BC Place is the largest indoor gathering place in British Columbia, a venue for consumer shows, and a key B.C. sports and entertainment centre.
- The Vancouver Convention Centre is B.C.'s flagship for conventions, trade and consumer shows and meetings. It was the world's first LEED® Platinum certified convention centre for both construction and maintenance.
- PavCo constantly evaluates current trends to inform its long-term strategies in the face of challenges posed by the current economic climate, changing economic forecasts, and geopolitical concerns.
- PavCo will continue to explore options for additional revenue streams that align with PavCo's mandate, the Strategic Framework for Tourism, and other Provincial priorities.

Client Profile

- Visitors from British Columbia and around the world.
- Businesses and associations representing tourism and hospitality.
- Clients leasing space for commercial activity and renting space for events.
- Suppliers of goods and services to events.
- Community neighbours, Indigenous Communities, the public, and federal, provincial, and municipal governments and agencies.

Priorities/Key Initiatives

- Deliver marquee events such as FIFA World Cup 26™ and Web Summit.
- Create economic and community benefit while optimizing corporate profit.
- Provide exceptional customer service at all events.
- Continue to build a highly engaged workforce.

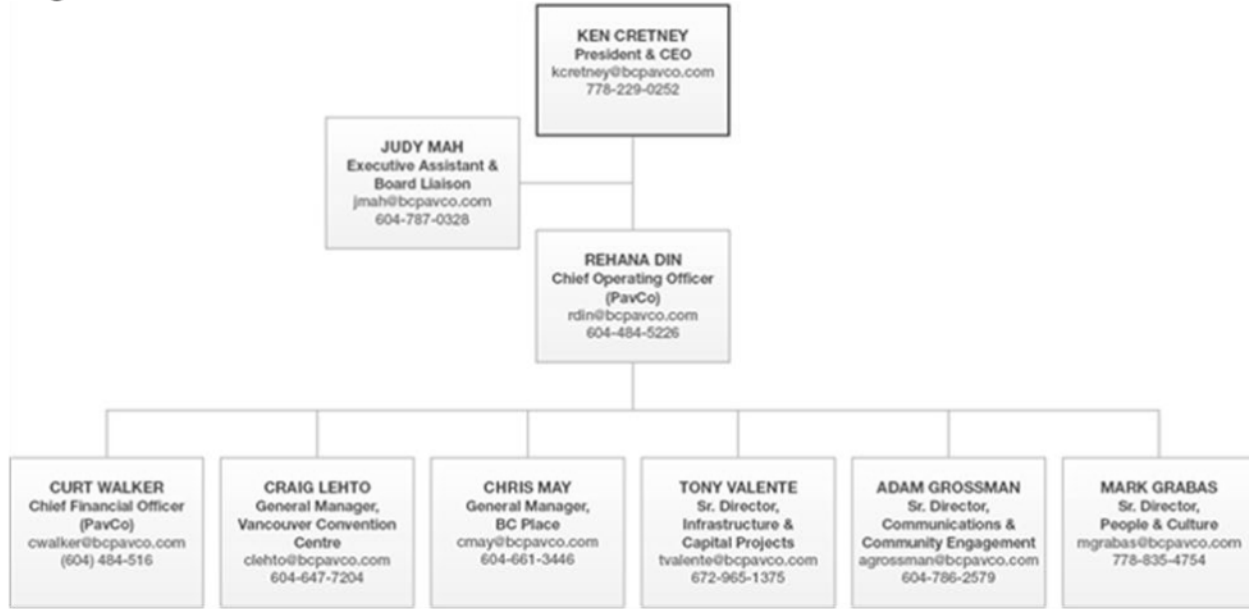
Website: www.bcpavco.com

Contact:

Nick Grant	ADM, Tourism	778-698-7967
Ken Cretney	President and CEO	604 647-7205

ESTIMATES NOTE

Organizational Chart



PavCo Board Members:

Last Name	First Name	Title	Mechanism	Initial Appt	Term Expiry
Cahill	Clifford (Dan)	Director	Shareholder Consent Resolution	2018-09-01	At pleasure
Coughlan	Flavia	Director	Shareholder Consent Resolution	2018-09-01	At pleasure
Guerrera	Carla	Director	Shareholder Consent Resolution	2018-09-01	At pleasure
Harris	Roderick	Director	Shareholder Consent Resolution	2018-09-01	At pleasure
Jagger	Joanna	Director	Shareholder Consent Resolution	2024-09-01	At pleasure
Mander	Harpreet (Harpo)	Director	Shareholder Consent Resolution	2024-09-01	At pleasure
Point	Dr. Gwendolyn (Gwen)	Chair	Shareholder Consent Resolution	2018-09-01	At pleasure
Rai	Jatinder	Director	Shareholder Consent Resolution	2017-09-01	At pleasure
Williams	Bruce	Director	Shareholder Consent Resolution	2024-09-01	At pleasure

ESTIMATES NOTE

HERITAGE PROPERTIES FUNDING AND CONTRACT STATUSES

ISSUE: Funding for Provincially Owned Heritage Properties

RESPONSE

- The Province is committed to protecting B.C.'s heritage resources, including the 16 sites owned and regulated by our Heritage Branch.
- Of those 16 sites, seven are staffed heritage properties that are managed through contracts with site operators.
- In 2024/25, we provided \$4.09 million to support heritage site operations to conserve the heritage value of those sites and support public access.
- While some site operators are seeking greater and longer-term financial operating commitments, these requests must be considered in light of other heritage site needs and available funding.
- I am pleased to report that all our staffed sites have signed new operations contracts over the last three years. These updated contracts provide stability to our not-for-profit operators.

KEY FACTS

- Funding has been provided annually since 2002 to offset operating shortfalls (gap between site-earned net revenue and operating cost) at seven staffed heritage properties, although funding has not been consistent year to year.
- Funding in 2024/25 for provincially owned heritage properties is \$4.09 million. The staffed sites were also provided with approximately \$1.3 million in major maintenance/special project funding (over and above the \$4.09 million), and reap the benefits of any new revenue opportunities created as a benefit of previous funding investments (e.g. Replacement of the visitor centre at Fort Steele). In FY 2024/25, major maintenance funding has been utilized to repair and replace key infrastructure at the properties, for example, sewage system at Barkerville, as well as emergency preparedness projects at multiple sites.
- Many of the sites have sought increased and stable funding. The branch continues to review operational costs at the sites in context of visitation levels as well as maintenance needs.
- In addition to the seven staffed properties operated under agreements with site operators and three that are leased to community societies, there are a further 11 properties that are unstaffed and managed directly by Heritage Branch. As well, 44 others are provincially heritage designated, owned by other levels of government or non-profits, and receive no dedicated operational

ESTIMATES NOTE

funding. Occasionally, depending on funding availability and conservation priorities, maintenance funding is provided to these properties.

- In the last three years, all staffed PHPs have undergone competitive procurement processes to ensure good value for public funding and ensure public access.
- In 2020/21 the Province also invested \$20 million in community-owned Unique Heritage Infrastructure through the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP). In 2021/22 \$30 million was also invested through BC 150. That program allocated \$2.5 million directly to the seven staffed sites.
- The table below shows **operational funding** allocated to provincially owned heritage properties for each identified year since 2019/20.

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26*
Staffed Properties	Allocated	Allocated	Allocated	Allocated	Allocated	Allocated	Forecast
Barkerville and Cottonwood	\$2,405,000	\$2,085,000	\$2,085,000	\$2,085,000	\$2,250,000	\$2,250,000	\$2,085,000
Fort Steele Historic Town	\$1,000,000	\$900,000	\$900,000	\$900,000	\$1,200,000	\$900,000	\$900,000
Hat Creek Ranch	\$320,000	\$320,000	\$320,000	\$320,000	\$390,000	\$350,000	\$350,000
Kilby Farm and Store	\$105,000	\$105,000	\$105,000	\$155,000	\$180,000	\$180,000	\$180,000
Historic Yale	\$150,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$110,000
Point Ellice House	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$160,000	\$105,000	\$160,000	\$160,000	\$160,000
Emily Carr House	\$45,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000
Leased Properties							
Keremeos Grist Mill	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$13,000	\$45,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
McAbee Fossil Site	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$60,000	\$0**	\$0**
Craigflower School/Manor	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Totals	\$4,165,000	\$3,620,000	\$3,700,000	\$3,763,000	\$4,485,000	\$4,090,000	\$3,925,000

*Only includes STOB 80 operational funding projections (subject to change based on available funding). Major maintenance project funding is also provided annual to all PHPs.

** McAbee Fossil Site operations included in Hat Creek Ranch operations since FY 2024/25.

Contact:

Nick Grant ADM Tourism Sector Strategy 778-698-7967

ESTIMATES NOTE

BARKERVILLE HERITAGE SITE

ISSUE: Barkerville Heritage Site Operations and Funding

RESPONSE

- The Provincial Government recognizes the importance of preserving and interpreting B.C.'s history through our heritage properties, including at Barkerville and Cottonwood Heritage Sites.
- We value Barkerville Heritage Trust's (the Trust) stewardship of these important public assets and recognize their recent success in the procurement for site operations effective April 1, 2025.
- Operating funding for the past two fiscal years was \$2.25 million, a \$0.165 million increase from FY 2022/23. This increase was provided in recognition of costs associated with climate preparedness, inflation and staffing.
- FY 2025/26 operating funding is forecast at \$2.085 million. This will ensure the Trust can provide maximum public benefit at Barkerville and Cottonwood, while also maintaining the additional infrastructure and public assets established during previous years of elevated funding.
- The current annual operating funding provided to the Trust represents approximately 53% of all operational funding provided to the seven Provincial Heritage Properties (PHPs).
- The Trust has taken positive action to align operations to available funding.

Key Facts

- Barkerville Heritage Trust manages two provincial heritage sites under contract to the Province – Barkerville Historic Town and Park (Barkerville) and Cottonwood Historic House (Cottonwood).
- Barkerville is a 457-hectare historic town and gold mining landscape near Quesnel. Comprised of 160 buildings and three campgrounds, Barkerville is currently open to the public year-round, providing costumed interpretation and public programming during the summer 'high season' and self-guided access to the site during the fall and winter months.
- With their 20-year operations contract set to expire March 31, 2025, a Request for Proposal (RFP) was posted on BC Bid for the site operation service contract in Fall 2024. Following an open and competitive procurement process, the Trust

ESTIMATES NOTE

was selected as the successful proponent and a new contract was established for site operations at both sites starting April 1, 2025. The service contract has a 7-year term with up to two 2-year options to renew.

- Cottonwood is a historic farm on the Cariboo Wagon Road between Quesnel and Barkerville. The grounds are open year-round for self-guided tours, with the house opening during the summer high season.
- Between FY 2015/16 and FY 2019/20, the Trust received elevated annual operating funding of \$2.4 million to address deferred maintenance and implement wildfire risk reduction measures and climate adaptation preparedness. This elevated funding supported some progress on addressing deferred maintenance.
- In addition to annual operating funding, Barkerville was provided an additional \$357K in major project funding in FY 2024/25 to support projects, including the maintenance of the sewage lagoon and emergency preparedness measures to reduce the wildfire risk at the site.
- Barkerville is very remote and there have been significant climate challenges, including flooding, snow loads, and in 2024 the Antler Creek wildfire which almost decimated the site and limited the operator's ability to drive visitation and earn essential revenue. These realities make this site particularly challenging economically.
- The Trust has taken action to balance operational needs and funding availability, while also finding ways to increase public access to the site. In 2024, they hosted the BC Winter Games at the last minute after snow levels in the original host areas were too low.

Contact:

Jennifer Goad ED Mountain Resorts and Heritage 778-698-9404

ESTIMATES NOTE

FORT STEELE HERITAGE SITE

ISSUE: Fort Steele Heritage Site Operations and Funding

RESPONSE

- The Province recognizes the importance of preserving and interpreting B.C.'s history through our heritage properties, including at Fort Steele Heritage Site.
- The contract for operations of Fort Steele Heritage Town expires March 31, 2025. A request for proposal (RFP) was posted on BC Bid in the fall of 2024.
- The Cranbrook Archives, Museum and Landmark Society (CAMAL) was the successful applicant as part of that RFP process.
- I am pleased to report we have entered into a new site operations service contract with CAMAL, which starts April 1, 2025.
- This new partnership will ensure the site provides high quality historic experiences that keep visitors coming back and elevates the site as a must-visit destination in B.C.
- Operating funding for FY 2024/25 was \$0.900 million and FY 2025/26 operating funding is also forecast at \$0.900 million. In addition, we provided \$500K to rebuild the visitor centre, following damage from a fire in 2023.
- The Province gratefully acknowledges the Friends of Fort Steele Society for their stewardship of the site and operations over the past 20 years.

KEY FACTS

- The Province contracts non-profit societies to protect these sites and support operations, including providing public access, and ongoing conservation and maintenance.
- The Friends of Fort Steele Society (the Friends) held the contract to operate the site since 2004.
- With the 20-year operations contract set to expire March 31, 2025, a Request for Proposal (RFP) was posted on BC for the site operation service contract in the fall. Following an open and competitive procurement process, the Cranbrook Archives, Museum and Landmark Society (CAMAL) was selected as the successful proponent and a new contract was established for site

ESTIMATES NOTE

operations starting April 1, 2025. The term of the new contract is 6-years and up to two 2-year options to renew.

- Fort Steele is both a Provincial and National Historic Site and is a key attraction for the East Kootenay region of B.C. It serves as a vibrant hub for cultural immersion, education, and entertainment, offering unique experiences that celebrate the rich history of B.C. The site takes visitors back to B.C. in the 19th-century through its restored buildings, interpreters and exhibits. There are more than 60 original or accurately reconstructed buildings from the 1890s, offering an authentic experience for visitors.
- In FY 2023/24, the Friends received elevated annual operating funding of \$1.2 million to address deferred maintenance and support the development of revenue generating projects.
- In addition to annual operating funding, the Friends were provided over \$500K in major project funding in FY 2023/24 and 2024/25 to support repairs to the visitor centre following a fire. The Province has also provided financial and technical support for the repair of Fort Steele's steam train.

Contact:

Jennifer Goad ED Mountain Resorts and Heritage 778-698-9404

ESTIMATES NOTE

MOUNTAIN RESORTS CRITICAL PROJECT ACTIVITY

ISSUE: Summary of Critical Project Activity

RESPONSE

- The resort sector is a key contributor to tourism in BC.
- The majority of BC's mountain resorts are developed on provincial land with operations and authorizations overseen by the Mountain Resorts Branch.
- There is opportunity for increased visitation and revenues through greater buildout of existing approved Master Plans and by promoting all-seasons activities at resorts.
- The Province works closely with Indigenous communities, resort proponents and operators to ensure it is meeting its consultative duties and will look for further reconciliation opportunities with Indigenous Peoples related to resort development.
- The Province will continue to engage communities, local governments, stakeholders, and the public as part of resort planning and major resort project review processes.

KEY FACTS

Economic and Social Benefits

- B.C. has some of North America's most recognizable and successful ski resorts.
- Mountain resorts provide significant economic and social benefits, particularly in smaller, rural communities.
- Visitation at mountain resorts continues to be strong.
- Total direct revenue received by the branch in FY2023/24 was over \$10.7 million.

Recent and Proposed Investment

- The sector continues to seek to invest in recreational infrastructure, residential and commercial development, and future expansion planning.
- In 2024, the resort sector invested over \$86 million directly into Crown land recreational improvements. In 2019, 2022 and 2023, the investments were \$100 million, \$50 million and \$45 million respectively. Resorts are actively investing in summer recreational infrastructure, i.e. bike parks, hiking trails, etc. to expand all-seasons activities and support sustainability. Recent activities include:

ESTIMATES NOTE

- Big White – Expansion Master Plan/Update and Master Development Agreement (MDA) Replacement application review underway, new residential accommodations in construction.
- Kimberley – Master Plan Update and Operating Agreement application review underway.
- Mt Timothy – \$700K investment in recreational infrastructure in 2023. Resort is working to prepare an Expansion Master Plan and Master Development Agreement application.
- Powder King – New approved Master Plan Update and MDA replacement (2023), new day lodge construction and planning for new residential development.
- Revelstoke – Updated Base Area Plan and significant investments in 2024 amounting to ~\$72 million, including upgrades and realignment of the road, new hotel, staff housing/administration building and golf course development underway, new suspension bridge and viewing platform, reservoir and improvements to snowmaking, ski trails and parking.
- Sun Peaks – New water supply infrastructure to be constructed summer 2025. A new highspeed chairlift, Westbowl Express, opened this winter (\$12 million investment). A new non-market employee housing development was completed for 2024/25 season. Residential construction and planning are ongoing.
- Panorama – Master Plan Update and Master Development Agreement replacement application submitted February 2025; currently under review. A new mountain coaster and aerial park were constructed and opened in the summer of 2024 (\$3 million investment).
- Troll - 2023 saw ~\$1-1.3 million in direct capital investment resulting in the doubling of ski terrain and addition of 25+ new ski runs and construction of a new 4000ft² lodge for 24/25 season. Planned investments in 2025 include earthworks and installation of the new tube lift (~\$300K) and a new T-Bar (Pinegrove) to be open in Dec 2025 (\$2 million investment).
- Whitewater – 2024 saw \$1.5 - 2 million investment for improvements to the RV campground, trail development and parking. New cabins and multi-family accommodation development proposals are currently under application review.
- Whistler Blackcomb – Over \$95 million investment in lift infrastructure over the last 3 years including the new Jersey Cream lift that was completed and operational for this season, as well as the Fitzsimmons Chair (2023) representing the first D Line 8 pack in Canada, Creekside Gondola and Big Red Express Chair (2022). The resort will be looking to update their 2013 Master Plans in 2025.



ESTIMATES NOTE

- Zincton Mountain Resort – New resort proposal near New Denver. Currently in Formal Proposal review stage, consideration of Interim Agreement.
- Bridal Veil Mountain Resort – actively reviewing Expression of Interest for new resort proposal. Public engagement underway.
- South Anderson Mountain Resort – new resort proposal located in the South Anderson Valley northwest of the Coquihalla Summit Recreation area (proposal by Spuzzum First Nation), that recently completed Expression of Interest stage and is invited to submit a Formal Proposal.
- Over \$450K in Wildfire Risk Reduction projects was delivered in 2024 to mountain resort communities and ski areas to reduce wildfire risk at mountain resorts.
- Over \$3.38 million in Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program and Destination Development funding allocated to resorts in 2023 for planning and investment into recreational infrastructure in 2024.

Accommodation and Reconciliation with First Nations

- The Branch has six Economic and Community Development Agreements for revenue sharing and has shared up to \$1 million annually with First Nations.
- The Branch has finalized two land transfer agreements with First Nations for accommodations related to major resort project approvals including the Squamish Lillooet Cultural Center land in Whistler.
- Specific Agreements are currently in place:
 - Sun Peaks – 2021-2024 Reconciliation Framework Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Adams Lake & Little Shuswap Lake Bands and 2022-2023 Contribution Agreement with Neskonlith Band (Secwepemc First Nation). Currently working to deliver Indigenous Funding Program agreements in support of an MOU update.
 - Big White - Contribution Agreements to Westbank First Nation to support participation in Master Plan Review and MDA Replacement process (2021-2025)
 - Whistler Blackcomb – 2017 Umbrella Agreement & 2020 Framework Agreement signed with Squamish and Lil'wat Nations.

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Tourism Sector Strategy Division

ESTIMATES NOTE

ZINCTON ALL-SEASONS RESORT APPLICATION

ISSUE: Zincton Resort Formal Proposal in Central Kootenays

RESPONSE

- The Province is committed to ensuring a comprehensive review process of the Zincton All-Season Resort Proposal that considers all environmental, community, social and economic elements are undertaken to inform decisions about development of this area.
- The Zincton All-Season Resort Proposal is currently in the second stage of a three-stage resort review process, which includes working with the proponent to address the potential issues and impacts identified within the formal proposal review.
- The Formal Proposal stage has included public engagement, agency, local government, and stakeholder feedback, and First Nations consultation. Staff continue to work with the proponent to address any potential issues and impacts identified within the review.
- A fundamental part of the All-Seasons Resort Major Project Review process is to better understand the environmental considerations and their relationship to the project proposal.
- If the Formal Proposal can satisfactorily address identified impacts and meets the policy requirements, the Province would accept the Formal Proposal, issue an Interim Agreement and invite the Proponent to the next stage of the review process.

KEY FACTS

- In fall 2019, Mountain Resorts Branch (MRB) received a new mountain resort proposal (Zincton) located near New Denver, BC in the Central Kootenays and Selkirk Mountain Range.
- The project proposes lift-accessed backcountry alpine skiing with a small, pedestrian village on the privately-owned parcel located immediately adjacent. The Zincton Area of Interest (AOI) encompasses 5,600 ha of Crown land.
- Under the Province's Resort Major Project Review Process, the initial Expression of Interest (EOI) review stage is followed by progressively more intensive and detailed Formal Proposal and Master Plan planning/review stages. If successful, Master Plan (non-statutory) and Operating Agreement (statutory) decisions would follow the major project review process.
- In April 2020, MRB accepted the EOI and it was advertised for public comments and referred to stakeholders, government agencies and First Nations. The EOI

ESTIMATES NOTE

was evaluated in accordance with the requirements and procedures as defined in the All Seasons Resort Policy.

- In December 2020, MRB approved the EOI and invited the Proponent to submit the Formal Proposal.
- In September 2021, MRB accepted the draft Formal Proposal and received an application for an Interim Agreement. The acceptance and issuance of an Interim Agreement is contingent on the approval of the Formal Proposal. If approved, the Interim Agreement will allow the Proponent to access the land to conduct studies and assessments for the purpose of participating in the Master Plan review process.
- In October 2021, MRB initiated the Formal Proposal and Interim Agreement review process which included a public open house, public comment period, referral with government agencies, stakeholders, local government and engagement/consultation with First Nations.
- MRB has collated and reviewed all comments and referral and has created a "What We Heard" document that is posted on the MRB website. That information has been provided to the Proponent who must look for ways to address any potential impacts that have been identified.
- The Zincton proposal does not meet the threshold for requiring an environmental assessment, as per the *Environmental Assessment Act* - Reviewable Project Regulation. However, in November 2023, an environmental organization formally requested that the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) make the Zincton proposal reviewable under the Act. As of February 2025, EAO has initiated this designation application review.
- MRB continues to advance the Province's duty to consult with affected First Nations, who have expressed opposition to the proposal. The Province received the Ktunaxa Nation Council (KNC) Cumulative Effects report on June 19, 2023 as part of B.C.'s consultation engagement with KNC on the proposal.
- There are no defined timelines for decision points within the Province's All-Seasons Resort Review process.

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ESTIMATES NOTE

BRIDAL VEIL MOUNTAIN RESORT

ISSUE: Bridal Veil Mountain Resort Major Project Review Process, Cascade Skyline Gondola and Engagement with Sto:lo First Nations.

RESPONSE

- My ministry is responsible for reviewing the Bridal Veil Mountain Resort Proposal.
- We recently administered a public comment period and call for competing Expressions of Interest which are steps in the All-Seasons Resort Major Project Review Process.
- I recognize this project is one of two gondola proposals located in the Bridal Falls area of the Fraser Valley.
- Provincial staff (Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport and Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS)) are actively engaged with local First Nations, local government and stakeholders to understand the extensive interests and values in the area, including environmental, public recreation and natural resource interests.
- It is too early to set a timeframe for any decisions as both proposals are at early stages of review.
- As with all application review processes, no proponent is guaranteed approval or authorization.

KEY FACTS

- The Province received two separate tourism/recreation land proposals for the same area near Chilliwack, which are being adjudicated under two separate policies by two ministries:
 1. The Cascade Skyline Gondola (CSG) Project (formerly the Bridal Falls Gondola) received by the South Coast Region Crown Lands in the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) on July 28, 2020. The application falls under the Adventure Tourism Policy for a gondola project and was accepted by FrontCounter BC on December 18, 2020.
 2. The Bridal Veil Mountain Resort (BVMR) Expression of Interest (EOI), was received by Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport (TACS) Mountain Resorts Branch under the All-Seasons Resorts Policy in November 2020, and was accepted for review in January 2021.
- Initially, the two proposals substantially overlapped in land area and were mutually exclusive. There are extensive Indigenous, environmental, public

ESTIMATES NOTE

recreation and natural resource interests in the area. As such, the two proposals were to be evaluated through a combined competitive process under the same Crown Land policy and with a singular set of evaluation criteria.

- On March 5, 2024, the CSG proponent (with the strong support of the Cheam First Nation who is an equity partner) amended their application to eliminate the geographic overlap and reduce the project scope. Due to this change, executive direction was sought and confirmed that the proposals would be reviewed separately with overarching natural hazard and water feasibility assessments.
- It has been communicated to First Nations and proponents of each project that the BVMR and CSG project proposals will proceed independently, with each proponent required to produce water supply and natural hazards assessments as an initial submission in their application to be able to assess mutual exclusivity and cumulative effects. This enables a separate but coordinated review process.
- The Province is engaging with Sto:lo communities to determine how to undertake a consensus-based process that aligns with the principles of the *Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.
- TACS moved to the next stage of the BVMR EOI review in January 2025. This work is the next stage in the major project review process outlined in the All-Seasons Resort Policy, and includes a statutory advertisement that initiates a public comment period and call for competing Expressions of Interest.
- Cascade Skyline Gondola is in the application review process for the necessary land and water authorizations with WLRS.

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ESTIMATES NOTE

PROPOSED SOUTH ANDERSON MOUNTAIN RESORT

ISSUE: Proposed South Anderson Mountain Resort

RESPONSE

- We are pleased to see a resort proposal brought forward by Spuzzum First Nation. It is exciting to see a First Nation led resort proposal.
- I am aware that Mountain Resorts Branch has completed their review of the proposed South Anderson Mountain Resort Expression of Interest and invited Spuzzum First Nation to submit a Formal Proposal.
- The proposal is located northwest of the Coquihalla Summit recreation area (Highway 5).
- The Expression of Interest is the first stage of the multi-stage All-Seasons Resort Major Project Review Process. The next stages include more intensive and detailed Formal Proposal and Master Plan review stages, which also include opportunities for public and First Nation engagement.

KEY FACTS

- Spuzzum First Nation submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) proposal for a new all-seasons resort to Mountain Resorts Branch (MRB) in September 2023. The resort is referred to as South Anderson Mountain Resort (SAMR).
- The SAMR proposal is being reviewed as per the requirements of the All-Seasons Resort Policy and Guidelines.
- Spuzzum First Nation's vision includes creating economic opportunities for the Nation's membership and creating an exceptional all-seasons resort and recreation opportunity in the Cascade Mountains in an environmentally sustainable and responsible manner.
- The proposed SAMR is located northwest of the Coquihalla Summit Recreation area, in the upper South Anderson Valley and Central Anderson River area, situated east of Hwy #1 and west of Hwy #5.
- The proposed Controlled Recreation Area (CRA) encompasses 7, 415 hectares, and envisions three phases of development, on three mountains. The preliminary concept includes a base area resort village, 11 lifts, and 330 hectares of ski terrain. All-seasons use includes a golf course, hiking, and First Nation interpretive experiences.



ESTIMATES NOTE

- The EOI is the first stage of the major project review process and is a preliminary step in assessing project feasibility. MRB has completed review of the EOI and invited Spuzzum First Nation to submit a Formal Proposal.
- The EOI was referred to other First Nations, provincial agencies, local governments, and stakeholders for comments. A public engagement process took place from April 15 to May 24, 2024.
- Key feasibility issues were identified in the EOI review, including access, environmental issues, First Nation engagement, governance models, and financial capacity. The proponent is aware of these issues and will further address them in the Formal Proposal stage.
- The Ministry of Transportation and Transit is involved in discussions with Spuzzum First Nation to assess access options for the proposed resort.
- The proposed SAMR meets reviewability thresholds under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (2018).
- Spuzzum First Nation is engaged with the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) and is preparing to enter the EAO process. Efforts would be sought to consider where the Province could harmonize the two Major Project Review Processes for resorts.
- Spuzzum First Nation is a member of the Nlaka'pamux Nation. The present day Nlaka'pamux Nation involves 15 present-day First Nation Bands, and the Province considers the proper rights holder to be the Nation. Yale First Nation and the Sto:lo also have consultative areas that overlap with the project area. Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council and Nooaitch Band have expressed opposition to the resort proposal.

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ESTIMATES NOTE

ALL-SEASONS RESORT REVIEW PROCESS

ISSUE: Summary of the All-Seasons Resorts Review Process

RESPONSE

- Consideration of resort development, both new resort proposals and expansions of existing resorts in B.C., is guided by the All-Seasons Resort Policy (ASRP).
- Proposals which meet the defined criteria go through a major project review process with consideration of community, environmental, social, economic and cultural values.
- Review processes typically take years to complete due to the complexity and need for working with all users and interests.
- Updates on project reviews can be found on the ministry website.

KEY FACTS

- The disposition of Crown land for the use, operation and development of an All-Season Resort is guided by the All-Season Resort Policy (ASRP) and the All-Season Resort Guidelines (ASRG). These hold legislative authorities in the *Land Act*, *Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing Act*, and *Resort Timber Administration Act*.
- The ASRP provides for a comprehensive, multi-stage resort planning and review process whereby each stage of review informs planning requirements for the next stage. The Province determines if the proponent has sufficiently addressed key issues before allowing the proposal to proceed in the process.
- Under the Province's ASRP, the initial Expression of Interest review stage is followed by progressively more intensive and detailed Formal Proposal and Master Plan planning/review stages. If successful, Master Plan (non-statutory) and Operating Agreement or Master Development Agreement (statutory) decisions would follow the major project review process.
- The ASRP major project review process is in effect a land use planning process which assesses current conditions within and adjacent to the project proposal area. That includes inventory of existing values, constraints and legal interests, which provide considerations for the project assessment and the context for the review of negative impacts. Mountain Resorts Branch staff work with government agencies, stakeholders and local First Nations through the process.
- A critical component of the ASRP Major Project Review process is to satisfy legal consultation obligations with First Nations. MRB works with First Nations to understand implications to their Aboriginal Interests and to determine any necessary accommodation measures.



ESTIMATES NOTE

- ASRP provides for stable and predictable review processes with multiple engagement opportunities. The review process seeks to identify and address key issues and potential negative outcomes and work with review participants and the proponent to address those. The planning and review process stages, Expression of Interest, Formal Proposal and Master Plan are progressively more detailed and intensive and will inform provincial land use decision making on the project should the proposal successfully advance.
- Resorts are significant, long term capital investments on Crown land which require certainty of future provincial authorizations for the successful implementation of the approved Master Plan. Increasingly, review and engagement process focuses on the potential integration of First Nations, public recreation, community and economic development interests.
- Resort Master Plan proposals (new greenfield proposals or expansions to existing resorts) which include the proposed development of residential and commercial overnight accommodations may also be subject to reviewability under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. Reviewability thresholds are set out in EAO's Reviewable Projects Regulation. Mountain Resort Branch works with EAO and the proponent to harmonize the ASRP Major Project Review and EAO's review process to support coordination and efficiency.
- Information on the ASRP/G review process and active major project reviews is available on the Mountain Resorts Branch [website](#).

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ESTIMATES NOTE

CORE MESSAGING – ARTS AND CULTURE

ISSUE: Overview of the Ministry's Arts and Culture Division

RESPONSE

- Arts and culture and the not-for-profit sector are critical to the well-being of society and support vibrant, resilient, innovative, and engaged communities.
- A strong arts and culture sector contributes to a sustainable economy by encouraging creativity and innovation across sectors and in our workforce; the sector attracts business investment, increases exports, and directly impacts employment and tourism.
- There were 115,286 culture jobs in British Columbia in 2022, and the arts and culture sector contributed \$9.3 billion to provincial GDP.
- Community Gaming Grants support diverse, vibrant and engaged communities by empowering local non-profit organizations to deliver programs that meet local needs across the province.
- The community non-profit sector employs over 87,000 people in B.C. and contributes \$6.7 billion to B.C.'s economy while other programming, such as search and rescue and environmental education, directly contribute to B.C.'s tourism sector.
- The work of the Division across the arts, culture and non-profit sectors contributes to our mental and physical health, community connectedness and overall quality of life.
- Government is committed to ensuring the sustainability of these important sectors and those who depend on them for their livelihood.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status

- The Arts and Culture Division is responsible for developing policies, delivering projects, and administering programs and funding that empower the arts and culture sector, and the not-for-profit sector in B.C.
- The Division is also responsible for the distribution of commercial gambling revenue, through the Community Gaming Grants program.

BC Arts Council

- The BC Arts Council is the primary arts and culture funding body for B.C.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- The BC Arts Council budget of \$36.281 million and an additional \$3.795 million (subject to investment earnings) from the BC 150 Culture Fund, for a total of \$40.076 million, supports arts and cultural activities throughout B.C. For details, see estimate note 31 – Arts and Culture Funding.
- Grant recipients represent a diverse group of practitioners and arts and culture organizations from every region of the province, including Indigenous groups, scholarship students, professional artists, arts administrators, museums and community arts organizations.
- The BC Arts Council works with partners to deliver funding and programs, including the First Peoples' Cultural Council, the BC Touring Council, ArtStarts in Schools, Creative BC and the Pathways consortium of art service organizations. For further details, see estimate note 32 – BC Arts Council.

Royal BC Museum

- The Division provides oversight of the Royal BC Museum (RBCM) Crown Corporation including: supporting the development of the RBCM PARC Campus facility currently under construction in Colwood; supporting corporate requirements such as annual service planning and reporting, and mandate letter development; and serving as the primary contact between the RBCM and government.
- For further details, see estimates note 35 - Royal BC Museum.

Cultural Infrastructure

- The Division is working in consultation with communities to advance emerging museum programs and proposals including, a Canadians of South Asian Heritages museum, and a provincial Filipino cultural centre.

Repatriation/Rematriation

- The Division is co-developing a Policy Framework to support repatriation/rematriation initiatives, as outlined in Action 4.33 of the Declaration Act Action Plan.
- This work is being advanced through a co-development process with an external Steering Committee with representation from the First Nations Leadership Council (Union of BC Indian Chiefs, First Nations Summit, B.C., Assembly of First Nations), the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations, the First Peoples Cultural Council, Royal B.C. Museum Indigenous Advisory and Advocacy Committee, the BC Museums Association Indigenous Advisory, Indigenous heritage and repatriation/rematriation experts, the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, and the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.



ESTIMATES NOTE

Community Gaming Grants

- The Community Gaming Grants program is government's largest single funder of the non-profit sector.
- The current grant budget of \$140 million includes \$5 million dedicated to capital projects, including facilities, infrastructure, acquisitions and repatriation projects.
- The other \$135 million supports a variety of community programming, including approximately \$12 million for extracurricular activities for K-12 students and \$2.4 million for land-based search and rescue operations.
- Grant recipients represent a diverse group of non-profits from every region of the province, including Indigenous groups, local sports associations, fairs and festivals, and community arts and cultural organizations.

Contact:

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ESTIMATES NOTE

KEY FACTS AND STATISTICS

ISSUE: Arts and Culture Key Facts and Statistics

RESPONSE

- A strong arts and culture sector contributes to our economy by encouraging creativity, innovation, technological development, business investment, exports, direct employment, and tourism.
- The Arts and Culture Division supports this work through investing in organizations, individuals and grassroots community groups.
- In Canada, British Columbia ranks 3rd largest for cultural sector employment, performing arts attendance rates, and cultural Gross Domestic Product, and has more artists per capita than any other jurisdiction in the country.
- Budget 2025 provides \$45.876 million (subject to investment earnings) through the Arts and Culture Division and \$140.00 million to distribute in Community Gaming Grants.

KEY FACTS

Arts and Culture Sector Statistics

- Culture GDP in B.C. (including arts, heritage, and creative industries such as film) totaled \$9.3 billion in 2022, an 8.2% increase from 2021.¹
- This is almost equivalent to the combined GDP of all other provinces and territories (\$10.3 billion) except Ontario and Quebec.
- Employment in the arts and culture sector accounts for 4.1% of all jobs in B.C. (115,286).²
- According to the 2021 Census B.C.'s labour force includes:
 - 39,700 artists (or 1.4%), the highest proportion of artists in the labour force among Canadian provinces (national average is 1%),³ and
 - 4.7% culture workers, the second-highest concentration in Canada, next to the Yukon.
- The arts and culture sector is composed almost exclusively of non-profit organizations, of which approximately 60% are small (under \$500,000 annual operating budget).⁴

¹ Statistics Canada, Provincial and Territorial Culture Indicators, 2022)

² Statistics Canada, Provincial and Territorial Cultural Indicators, 2022)

³ Hill Strategies, Artists in British Columbia in 2021, published October 17, 2023

⁴ Vantage Point and SPARC BC, Labour Market Research on the Non-Profit Sector in British Columbia, January 2024



ESTIMATES NOTE

- Over two-thirds (69%) of B.C.'s professional artists reside in Metro Vancouver, compared with 55% of all B.C. workers. The City of Vancouver, on its own, accounts for 28% of B.C.'s artists.⁵
- Rural areas and areas with less than 100,000 residents account for 25% of B.C.'s artists.⁶

Community Gaming Grant Statistics

- The community non-profit sector in British Columbia employed 92,000 workers and contributed approximately \$4.87 billion to B.C.'s GDP.⁷
- Of the overall \$140 million budget for Community Gaming Grants, total funding to the Arts and Culture sector was \$22.5 million in 2023/24.
- This has increased gradually each year from \$16.3 million funding to the Arts and Culture sector in the 2012/13 fiscal year.

Arts and Culture Division Supports

- The Division base budget is \$41.65 million from Budget 2025 with additional funds of \$4.23 million subject to investment earnings, for a total of \$45.88 million.
- The BC Arts Council budget of \$ 36.28 million and an additional \$3.80 million (subject to investment earnings) from the BC 150 Culture Fund, for a total of \$40.08 million that supports arts and cultural activities throughout B.C.
- An additional \$2.88 million supports the Cultural, Strategic and Corporate Priorities branch budget with \$0.44 million provided (subject to investment earnings) from the Arts Legacy Fund, for a total of \$3.32 million.
- The Division supports access and participation in the arts by supporting provincial-wide programs, including: artsvest B.C., B.C. Culture Days, and the After-School Sports and Arts Initiative.
- The Division supports the development of several large cultural infrastructure projects, including the Royal BC Museum's new provincial archives, research and collections building project.

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⁵ Hill Strategies, Artists in British Columbia in 2021, published October 17, 2023)

⁶ Hill Strategies, Artists in British Columbia in 2021, published October 17, 2023

⁷ Statistics Canada, 2022



ESTIMATES NOTE

ARTS AND CULTURE FUNDING

ISSUE: Arts and Culture Investments and Initiatives

RESPONSE

- Through Budget 2025, Government is providing \$185.88 million through the Arts and Culture Division:
 - \$ 41.65 million in Ministry appropriation;
 - \$ 4.23 million (estimated/approximate) from the BC Arts and Culture Endowment special account, subject to investment earnings; and
 - \$140.00 million through Community Gaming Grants.
- This funding supports a range of programs and provincial initiatives to encourage:
 - Artist creation and arts dissemination, participation and access;
 - Cultural infrastructure development;
 - Development of the economic sector and its artists and cultural practitioners; and
 - Community engagement and direct participation in program delivery through the non-profit sector.
- Government is committed to supporting the resiliency of these vibrant and important sectors.

KEY FACTS

- Budget 2025 provides a total budget to the Arts and Culture Division of \$185.88 million (subject to investment earnings discussed below).

BC Arts Council Funding

- The total annual BC Arts Council budget is \$40.08 million. The base budget has increased by \$0.07 million or 0.17% from fiscal year 2024/25 to 2025/26 due to the Shared Recovery Mandate impacting 2022/23-2025/26 salaries.

Fiscal Year	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Base Budget ¹	\$35.815	\$36.097	\$36.210	\$36.281
BC 150 Fund ²	\$3.795	\$3.795	\$3.795	\$3.795
Total	\$39.610	\$39.892	\$40.005	\$40.076
¹ Total includes grants, contracts, administration, operations and salaries				
² Forecasted endowment earnings				
*in Millions				

ESTIMATES NOTE

Cultural, Strategic and Corporate Priorities Funding

- The total annual Cultural, Strategic and Corporate Priorities base budget is \$3.310 million.
- The Cultural, Strategic and Corporate Priorities base budget has increased by \$0.12 million or 3.76% from fiscal year 2024/25 to 2025/26 due to the Shared Recovery Mandate impacting 2022/23-2025/26 salaries.

Fiscal Year	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Base Budget ¹	\$2.288	\$2.464	\$2.755	\$2.875
Arts Legacy Fund ²	\$0.435	\$0.435	\$0.435	\$0.435
Total	\$2.723	\$2.899	\$3.190	\$3.310
¹ Total includes grants, contracts, administration, operations and salaries				
² Forecasted endowment earnings				
*in Millions				

Community Gaming Grants Funding

- The total annual Community Gaming Grants base budget is \$2.49 million.
- The program grants budget is \$135 million (through recoveries).
- The program grants budget has remained unchanged since fiscal 2010.
- An additional \$5 million was added in 2017/18 for the provision of a capital projects grant program (through recoveries).

Fiscal Year	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Base Budget	1.682	2.281	2.452	\$2.490
Program Grants Budget ¹	\$135.000	\$135.000	\$135.000	\$135.000
Capital Projects Budget ¹	\$5.000	\$5.000	\$5.000	\$5.000
Total	\$141.682	\$142.281	\$142.452	\$142.490
¹ Program and Capital Projects through recoveries.				
*in Millions				

Endowment Funds

- The B.C. Arts and Cultural Endowment Special Account contains two sub-accounts: the BC 150 Cultural Fund, which allocates funding on the recommendations of the BC Arts Council in support of the arts; and the Arts Legacy Fund, which is used for the creation, development, or presentation of works of art at events or venues that will provide significant exposure of those works of art.
- This year, these endowment funds are budgeted to add \$4.230 million (subject to investment earnings) in funding to support the arts and culture sector.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- The funding will be directed towards grant programs or initiatives aligned with the purposes of the funds.

Fiscal Year	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
BC 150 Fund	\$3.795	\$3.795	\$3.795	\$3.795
Arts Legacy Fund	\$0.435	\$0.435	\$0.435	\$0.435
Total	\$4.230	\$4.230	\$4.230	\$4.230
*in Millions				

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ESTIMATES NOTE

BC ARTS COUNCIL

ISSUE: BC Arts Council support for arts and cultural development

RESPONSE

- The Province supports arts and cultural activity and participation through significant investments distributed through the BC Arts Council.
- The BC Arts Council supports the arts and culture sector and provides grants to organizations and individuals, with funding provided to over 155 B.C. communities in 2023/24.
- The BC Arts Council's total annual budget is \$40.076 million.
 - This budget is subject to investment earnings from the BC150 Cultural Fund, estimated at \$3.795 million for this upcoming fiscal year, along with the base budget of \$36.281 million.
- Government recognizes that arts and culture is critical to the health, well-being, and economic prosperity of communities.
- Support for arts and culture through the BC Arts Council ensures that artists and organizations can thrive in our communities.

KEY FACTS

- The BC Arts Council was created in 1995 under the *Arts Council Act*. It is the primary grant funding body for the arts and culture sector in the province, supporting arts and cultural activity in over 155 communities across B.C.
- The BC Arts Council offers funding programs for a range of arts and cultural activities that contribute to community vitality, livability, and sustainability including support for:
 - Annual operating assistance; capacity building initiatives; creation and dissemination of art; artist training and development; arts-based community development; and capital/infrastructure development.
- Budget 2025 supports the BC Arts Council's total annual budget of \$40.076 million through an appropriation of \$36.281 million and an additional \$3.795 million (subject to investment earnings) from the BC150 Cultural Fund sub-account (part of the BC Arts and Culture Endowment Special Account).



ESTIMATES NOTE

Fiscal Year	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Base Budget	\$21.850	\$23.598	\$28.618	\$33.776	\$33.706	\$35.815	\$35.815	\$36.097	\$36.210	\$36.281
BC150 Fund ¹	\$2.150	\$2.150	\$2.150	\$2.150	\$3.795	\$3.795	\$3.795	\$3.795	\$3.795	\$3.795
Total ²	\$24.000	\$25.748	\$30.768	\$35.926	\$37.501	\$39.610	\$39.610	\$39.892	\$40.005	\$40.076

¹ Forecasted endowment earnings

² Total includes grants, administration, and salaries

- Since fiscal year 2016/17, the BC Arts Council budget has increased by \$16.076 million as a result of base budget lifts, the Shared Recovery Mandate funding, and increased endowment earnings through special accounts.
- The BC Arts Council has up to 15 members, intended to broadly represent the regions, cultural diversity, and artistic communities of B.C.
 - Members are appointed by Order in Council on recommendation of the Minister and approval by Cabinet.
 - The Chair and Vice Chair are also designated by Order in Council.
- Ministry staff provide support for programs, policy, operations, outreach, communications, and secretariat functions for the Council.
- The BC Arts Council partners with organizations to deliver funding and services, including the First Peoples' Cultural Council, ArtStarts in Schools, BC Live Performance Network, Creative BC, and a consortium of arts service organizations.

Strategic Vision

- In July 2018, the BC Arts Council launched a strategic plan, *New Foundations: 2018-2022*, with four strategic directions: Sustainability and Creative Development; Indigenous Arts and Culture; Equity, Diversity and Access; and Regional Arts and Community Arts.
- In April 2022, after further engagement and consultation, the BC Arts Council extended its strategic plan and launched *Extending Foundations: Action Plan 2022-2024* to address calls for social justice and support the sector through a period of renewal and recovery.
- The action plan provided concrete steps towards increased reconciliation, equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility. Progress has included:
 - Delivering the Accelerate Program to support capacity building for regional and equity-deserving organizations.
 - Creating an equity advisory network to centre Indigenous and equity-deserving voices and inform policy, programs, and processes.
 - Rebalancing historic funding patterns.
 - Increasing access through outreach and accessibility supports.
 - Launching the Pathways Pilot Program in partnership with a consortium of arts service organizations to support sector development in the areas of reconciliation, equity, and access.

ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice/Recommendations

- informed by engagement and consultation with the arts and culture sector and broader community connections.

Appendix 1: BC Arts Council Membership

Contact:

Claire Avison	ADM	Arts and Culture	250-217-9059
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ESTIMATES NOTE

Appendix 1

BC Arts Council Membership

NAME	ROLE	CURRENT TERM EXPIRY	LOCATION
Dr. Sae-Hoon Stan Chung	Chair	August 1, 2026	Cranbrook
Kirandeep Dhaliwal	Vice Chair	July 31, 2025*	Vancouver
Jules André-Brown	Member	Dec 31, 2027	Victoria
Haley Bassett	Member	August 1, 2026	Groundbirch
Nika Collison	Member	July 31, 2026	Skidegate
Carey Fouks	Member	August 1, 2026	Vancouver
Marnie Hamagami	Member	July 31, 2026	Prince George
Miranda Huron	Member	Dec 31, 2027	New Westminster
Dr. Toby Lawrence	Member	August 1, 2026	Victoria
Melissa Lee	Member	August 1, 2026	Vancouver
Tonya Martin	Member	August 1, 2026	New Westminster
Brian McBay	Member	August 1, 2026	Vancouver
Michael Murray	Member	July 31, 2025*	Vancouver
Bukhosi Nkosi	Member	August 1, 2026	Vancouver
Smokii Sumac	Member	August 1, 2026	East Kootenay

*Vice Chair Kiran Dhaliwal and Mike Murray's time on Council ends on July 31, 2025 having served the maximum six-years.

ESTIMATES NOTE

ROYAL BC MUSEUM

ISSUE: Royal BC Museum

RESPONSE

- Through exhibitions, educational programs, and the B.C. Archives, the Royal BC Museum (RBCM) tells the stories of the people, places, and history of our province.
- The province has invested \$270.021 million in the Provincial Archives, Research and Collections (PARC) Campus in Colwood to preserve the Museum's vast collections and enhance access for British Columbians.
- Construction of the PARC Campus began in September 2023 and remains on track to open to the public in 2026. The project is progressing on time and on budget.
- RBCM's multi-year, province-wide public engagement process concluded earlier this year. Insights collected from British Columbians will inform the RBCM's future.
- RBCM continues to update and expand permanent exhibitions including the popular Old Town, alongside a range of dynamic feature exhibitions, including *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* and the upcoming *Beyond the Beat: Music of Resistance and Change*, opening in May.

KEY FACTS

Corporate Operations

- The Royal BC Museum (RBCM) was founded in 1886, and in 2003, was amalgamated with the B.C. Archives to form the Royal BC Museum Crown Corporation under the *Museum Act*.
- The Province provides annual operating funding, covering approximately 47% of RBCM's operating budget. In fiscal year 2025/26, the annual operating grant will be \$13.251 million.
- The RBCM is governed by an 11-member board appointed by Lieutenant Governor in Council.

PARC Campus

- PARC Campus will house the Province's collections and archives, and provide learning spaces and improved access to the collections for the public.



ESTIMATES NOTE

- PARC Campus is a state-of-the-art facility built with mass timber construction, that will be LEED Gold Certified and meet CleanBC energy efficiency standards.
- PARC Campus budget timeline:
 - July 2020: PARC Campus project was approved with a capital budget of \$177.40 million.
 - June 2021: Capital budget revised to \$224.4 million to accommodate cost escalations related to additional storage capacity, and energy efficiency improvements.
 - February 2023: final approved capital funding of \$270.021 million to accommodate construction cost escalations and extended project schedule.
 - The new budget reflects the hot construction market during the pandemic along with global inflation, which has caused significant pressures to projects around the world, including the escalating costs of materials and labour.
 - The budget increase is primarily a reflection of escalation on the design-build contract; and extended project schedule, increasing planning, procurement and implementation costs.
- PARC Campus will feature six site-specific public artworks by B.C. artists:
 - Three artists were selected through a government procurement process in June 2024.
 - The Marston family of Coast Salish master artists was invited through ləkʷəŋən cultural protocols to create two sculptural artworks and a mural.

Repatriation

- RBCM holds significant collections of Indigenous cultural items, ancestral remains, and residential school records. Many Indigenous communities are engaging with the Museum to access these items and pursue repatriation processes.
- For additional information see Estimate note 34 - Repatriation.

Engagement

- In January 2023 RBCM launched a multi-year public engagement process regarding the future of the Museum. The engagement concluded in January 2025.
- Advice/Recommendations
-

ESTIMATES NOTE

3rd floor Reopening

- RBCM's *Old Town, New Approach* has been open since July 2023, alongside other third-floor exhibits including *HMS Discovery*, *Our Living Languages*, and *Johnathan Hunt House*.
- In 2024/25 RBCM expanded its third-floor exhibitions, including the addition of *Forgotten Landscapes* and *Hayashi Photography Studio*.

Contact:

Claire Avison

ADM

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ESTIMATES NOTE

REPATRIATION

ISSUE: Declaration Act Action Plan item 4.33: Co-develop a policy framework to support repatriation initiatives

RESPONSE

- Returning Ancestral remains and Cultural Belongings is essential for true and lasting reconciliation.
- This work is guided by the Province's commitment to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, as included in the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.
- The Ministry is co-developing a Policy Framework to support repatriation initiatives with an external Steering Committee with representation from the First Nations Leadership Council (Union of BC Indian Chiefs, First Nations Summit, B.C., Assembly of First Nations), the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations, the First Peoples Cultural Council, the Royal B.C. Museum, the BC Arts Council, the BC Museums' Association's Indigenous Advisory Committee, Indigenous heritage experts, and the provincial government.
- The Province has supported past repatriation funding programs offered by First Peoples' Cultural Council, the Royal BC Museum, and the BC Museums Association, based on principles of self-determination and collaboration between Indigenous peoples and heritage-holding institutions.

If asked about funding/implementation:

- The development of a Policy Framework will inform future implementation and funding programs.

KEY FACTS

- DRIPA action item 4.33 directs the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport (TACS) to co-develop a policy framework to support repatriation initiatives.
- The Policy Framework will guide repatriation activities for Indigenous peoples and heritage-holding organizations across B.C., including the Royal B.C. Museum (RBCM) and archaeological repositories holding Indigenous Ancestral remains and Cultural Belongings.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- TACS acknowledges the importance of Indigenous-led repatriation activities and is engaging with First Nations in B.C., cultural heritage experts, and those with lived repatriation/rematriation experience across B.C.
- In June 2024, TACS began co-development of the Policy Framework with a Steering Committee with representation from the First Nations Leadership Council (Union of BC Indian Chiefs, First Nations Summit, B.C., Assembly of First Nations), the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations, the First Peoples Cultural Council, the Royal B.C. Museum, the BC Arts Council, the BC Museums' Association's Indigenous Advisory Committee, Indigenous heritage experts and the provincial government.
- TACS has also established a cross-government working group to ensure alignment with related policies and communication across government.
- Related policies, such as the *Heritage Conservation Act* and archaeological repository policy, are outside of the scope of the policy framework.
- Targeted engagement with the 204 First Nations in B.C. and B.C. heritage-holding organizations is planned for 2025.
- Between 2016 and 2023, TACS provided a total of \$3.51 million in one-time funding for repatriation-related initiatives to the Royal BC Museum, BC Museums Association, and First Peoples' Cultural Council, resulting in grant programs for repatriation/rematriation, research, and the Repatriation Handbook (published in 2019 by the Royal BC Museum and the Haida Gwaii Museum).
- TACS continues to engage with the Department of Canadian Heritage to discuss the federal commitment to develop a repatriation policy and the current national museums policy review.

Contact:

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ESTIMATES NOTE

COMMUNITY GAMING GRANTS – PROGRAM GRANTS

ISSUE: Program Grants

RESPONSE

- Approximately 5,000 not-for-profit organizations, representing communities throughout B.C., benefit from \$140 million in Community Gaming Grants (CGG) every year through three funding streams: Program Grants, Capital Project Grants, and PAC/DPAC Grants.
- Program Grants is the primary funding stream, which specifically funds ongoing programs, as well as minor capital projects and capital acquisitions related to program delivery.
- In 2025/26, Program Grants will continue to distribute gambling revenues to a diverse range of not-for-profit organizations representing five sectors: arts and culture, sport, environment, public safety, and human social services.
- CGG's core annual funding of \$135 million to support the Program Grant and PAC/DPAC Grant funding streams has remained unchanged since 2010.
- Program Grant applications are assessed on a non-competitive basis. All applicants that demonstrate eligibility will receive a grant.
- CGG is committed to considering input from all stakeholders regarding the program, including ongoing consultation with the British Columbia Association for Charitable Gaming.

KEY FACTS

CGG funding level history/status

- Prior to 2010, not-for-profit organizations had access to gambling revenues through two funding streams:
 - Bingo Affiliation
 - Direct Access from casino revenues
- In 2010, the two funding streams were combined into what is now known as Community Gaming Grants. The budget was set at \$135 million.
- The core budget of \$135 million has supported the Program Grant and PAC/DPAC Grant funding streams since 2010 and has not changed.
- In 2017/18 the overall budget increased to \$140 million. Treasury Board approved an additional \$5 million specifically for the inclusion of a new funding stream: Capital Project Grants.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- A gaming revenue-sharing agreement between B.C. and First Nations communities was announced in Budget 2019.
- This revenue-sharing arrangement does not change the amount of funding that currently goes to B.C.'s not-for-profit sector through the CGG program.
- CGG has seen an increase in applications for the 2024/25 grant year, along with many organizations asking for an increase to their grant funding request.
- Not-for-profit organizations play a vital role in providing essential services to communities across the province.
- Advice/Recommendations

Contact:

Claire Avison

ADM

Arts and Culture

250-217-9059

ESTIMATES NOTE

COMMUNITY GAMING GRANTS – CAPITAL PROJECT GRANTS

ISSUE: Capital Project Grants

RESPONSE

- The Capital Project Grant funding stream has been delivered since 2017/18. As part of Budget 2017, government approved a \$5 million budget lift to the Community Gaming Grants program (from \$135 million) to support the new Capital Projects program.
- Applications to the Capital Grants Program are competitively assessed against the published eligibility criteria.
- In 2024/25, 54 projects were funded representing all regions of B.C. and five sectors: arts and culture, sport, public safety, environment, and human and social services.
- Three Indigenous projects were supported in 2024/25 with grants totaling \$600,000.

KEY FACTS

- Detailed program assessment criteria have been developed with input from other areas of government and key stakeholders, such as the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres and the British Columbia Association for Charitable Gaming.
- The Capital Projects Guide is updated each year, providing information on eligibility, the application process, the assessment criteria, and the appropriate use of funds.
- Eligible not-for-profit organizations can be approved for between 20 – 50% of the total cost of a project, up to a maximum grant of \$250,000.
- Applicants are required to have matching funds to cover the remaining costs of the project. Projects must cost between \$20,000 and \$1,250,000.
- Eligible project categories include the construction of new facilities and renovation of existing facilities, development of public amenities, and the purchase of fixed capital assets.
- All projects are primarily for community benefit and accessible to the public.
- Additional considerations are made to include regional distribution, sector distribution, project size and Indigenous inclusion.
- Community Gaming Grants received 215 Capital Project Grant applications in 2024/25, representing a total request of over \$20 million.
- Additional capital projects were funded in 2017/18, 2018/19, 2020/21 and 2021/22 with funds that were not fully spent under the Community Gaming Grants program's core budget of \$135 million.



ESTIMATES NOTE

- Community Gaming Grants did not fund additional projects in 2019/20, 2022/23, 2023/24, or 2024/25 due to the increase in applications for the Program Grant and PAC/DPAC Grant funding streams.
- Demand continues to grow for the core funding streams.

Funding history is as follows:

Year	Projects Funded	\$ Distributed
2017/18	107 projects	\$9.2M
2018/19	88 projects	\$8.3M
2019/20	63 projects	\$4.9M
2020/21	81 projects	\$7.7M
2021/22	96 projects	\$8.9M
2022/23	49 projects	\$5.3M
2023/24	87 projects	\$7.2M
2024/25	54 projects	\$5 M

Contact:

Claire Avison ADM Arts and Culture 250-217-9059

ESTIMATES NOTE

COMMUNITY GAMING GRANTS – PAC/DPAC GRANTS

ISSUE: Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) Grants

RESPONSE

- Community Gaming Grants (CGG) core funding of \$135 million is distributed between PAC/DPAC Grants and Program Grants.
- PAC Grants are awarded at a set amount of \$20 per student, or a minimum base of \$2,000 for schools with smaller enrollment. The funding supports the enhancement of extracurricular opportunities.
- DPAC Grants are awarded at a flat rate of \$2,500 per district. The funding supports parental involvement in schools and effective communication between schools, parents, students, and the community.
- The average annual funding for PACs and DPACs is approximately \$12 million.
- In 2025/26, CGG will continue to distribute gambling revenues to PACs and DPACs, with amounts expected to increase along with increased population in British Columbia.

KEY FACTS

- To determine the number of students in each school, CGG uses publicly available records posted by the Ministry of Education.
- PAC Grants are not automated. A completed application form is required each year to ensure recipient PACs have an active membership that is responsible for the funds and to ensure banking and contact information are correct.
- PACs are responsible for reporting on the use of funds.
- As of the 2022/23 school year, there were 663,225 students enrolled in public and independent schools in British Columbia; this translates to a total of \$13.27 million in eligible PAC funding.

PAC and DPAC Funding History

2007	\$15,319,703	2016	\$11,523,751
2008	\$16,066,603	2017	\$11,837,081
2009	\$ 6,874,520 ¹	2018	\$14,438,567
2010	\$14,812,400	2019	\$11,972,839
2011	\$11,832,570	2020	\$11,773,580
2012	\$11,721,800	2021	\$12,025,860

ESTIMATES NOTE

2013	\$11,694,600		2022	\$11,363,515
2014	\$11,483,980		2023	\$12,422,000
2015	\$12,719,698		2024	\$12,347,457
¹ Reflects a funding cut that was restored the following year				

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ESTIMATES NOTE

PROVINCIAL FILIPINO CULTURAL CENTRE

ISSUE: Provincial Filipino Cultural Centre

RESPONSE

- The contributions of the Filipino community in B.C. are an important part of our province's history, culture, and success.
- The Filipino community in B.C. has expressed a need for a provincial cultural center that celebrates heritage and culture and provides a space for community, that brings people together.
- The Province is committed to working closely with the Filipino Canadian community to support the development of a cultural center.
- The community engagement process was designed to ensure the vision for the cultural center is informed and guided by interested and impacted people throughout B.C.
- Input from the community-led public engagement in 2024 will help shape the direction for a cultural center
- Nothing has been decided about the vision, scope or location for this cultural center.
- I look forward to sharing the results of the engagement in the spring of 2025.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- More than 170,000 Filipino Canadians call British Columbia home and are one of the fastest growing communities in the province.
- The Filipino community in B.C. has a long history dating back to the 1880s and has established hundreds of formal and informal community-serving groups and organizations.
- There has been strong interest and enthusiasm within B.C.'s Filipino community for the advancement of a provincial Filipino cultural center (PFCC).
- Groups who initiated work on the center include: the National Pilipino Canadian Cultural Centre (NPC3), Filipino BC, and Mabuhay House Society (MHS).
- The December 2022 Minister's mandate letter directed the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport (TACS) to "work in consultation with affected communities to advance emerging museum programs and proposals including ... a provincial Filipino cultural center", with support from the then-Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- The January 2025 Minister's mandate letter states that the Ministry would "work with communities to support the development of... community centres, arts and cultural centres... and other critical social infrastructure".
- The FCC is not explicitly mentioned in the 2025 mandate letter.
- In March 2023, the Province provided \$0.250 million to Mabuhay House Society (MHS) for capacity building to support government in the planning and public engagement for a provincial Filipino cultural center.
- MHS submitted their final report on January 10, 2024, and presented how the provincial funding was expended at the Minister's community meeting in February 2024.

Survey and Engagement

- TACS launched the engage.gov.bc.ca website and online multilingual survey on May 31, 2024, to gather input from British Columbians for a proposed PFCC.
- TACS developed this website and survey with the support of MHS and leveraged MHS networks and volunteers for community awareness.
- The survey closed on December 31, 2024.
- The survey data is now being analyzed as the basis for a *What We Heard* Report which will be available in spring 2025.
- In June 2023, a few months after the MHS engagement funding announcement, Filipino BC, a nonprofit established in April 2023, launched an engagement initiative that included a website, survey and a series of town hall meetings for a Filipino Community Centre.
- On February 15, 2025, Filipino BC hosted an event in Vancouver to release their *What We Heard* Report. The scope of Filipino BC's proposed project includes a community center, a museum and cultural education center, a food hub and innovation & tech center.
- Former TACS Minister Lana Popham hosted three roundtable events in Vancouver, with leaders of Filipino community organizations to foster dialogue:
 - August 10, 2023: 15 participants from 6 organizations
 - September 28, 2023: 14 participants from 6 organizations
 - February 15, 2024: 25 participants from 16 organizations (included additional representation from youth, arts, regional language and heritage groups, and BC regional presence.)

Contact:

Claire Avison

ADM

Arts & Culture

250-217-9059

ESTIMATES NOTE

CANADIANS OF SOUTH ASIAN HERITAGES MUSEUM

ISSUE: Canadians of South Asian Heritages museum

RESPONSE

- The contributions of Canadians of South Asian heritages (CSAH) in B.C. are an important part of our province's history, culture and success.
- Our government continues to seek and build partnerships with communities of South Asian heritages in B.C. to address historical injustices and to recognize their contributions to our province's cultural richness and successes.
- Communities of South Asian heritages have expressed a need for a museum that brings together artifacts, documents, and stories.
- We are committed to continuing to work closely with communities in B.C. of South Asian heritages to advance this work.
- The second phase of public engagement is now complete, and we look forward to sharing the results in a *What We Heard* report in the Spring.

KEY FACTS

- The January 2025 Minister's mandate letter directs the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport (TACS) to *"work with communities to support the development of recreation centres, community centres, arts and cultural centres, sports fields, and other critical social infrastructure."*
- The December 2022 TACS Minister mandate letter directed TACS to *"with the support of the Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives," "work in consultation with affected communities to advance emerging museum programs and proposals including the Chinese Canadian Museum, a South Asian Museum, and a provincial Filipino cultural centre."*
- The 2020 Minister mandate letter directed TACS to *"start work to create a first-of-its-kind museum to document the history, art and contributions of South Asian people in B.C."*
- The genesis of the project stems from the Punjabi Canadian Legacy Project (2014-2018) and the South Asian Canadian Legacy Project (2020-2022) led by the South Asian Studies Institute and supported through \$1.2 million in funding from government.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- A Ministerial Advisory was appointed in Fall 2023, currently comprised of 15 individuals who have both the professional, lived and community engagement experience to support the project.
- During the first phase of work from October to December 2023, the Advisory made recommendations regarding the design of a province-wide, community-led engagement process that will shape the vision for the new Museum.
- In the second phase, running from January 2024 to July 2025, the focus has shifted to the implementation of key engagement activities and community-led initiatives, including:
 - community led conversations,
 - a public survey,
 - targeted engagement sessions to hear from lesser-represented South Asian demographics across the province, and
 - a *What We Heard* Report summarizing the findings made available in spring 2025.
- In April 2024, the Province provided \$500,000 to the BC Museums Association (BCMA) to administer a community engagement grant program.
 - The BCMA provided grants of up to \$5,000 to community organizations for hosting sessions, with additional funding available for translation and accessibility.
- The City of Vancouver and the City of Surrey have expressed interest in supporting the development of a CSAH museum.
- On Nov. 13, 2024, the Vancouver City Council agreed, in principle, to cover one-third of the capital costs for the new CSAH museum, provided it is built within the city. The commitment may include the contribution of land towards the project.
- On Dec. 3, 2024, Surrey City Council committed to collaborating with the province to build the new CSAH museum in Surrey.

Contact:

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ESTIMATES NOTE

CHINESE CANADIAN MUSEUM

ISSUE: Annual Operating Funding for the Chinese Canadian Museum

RESPONSE

- The contributions of British Columbians of Chinese heritage are an essential part of our province's success.
- The importance of the Chinese Canadian community in our collective history cannot be overstated.
- Our government has invested more than \$48.5 million to establish the Chinese Canadian Museum to date.
- The Chinese Canadian Museum is Canada's first museum to recognize the significant contributions of Chinese Canadians to British Columbia and Canada, both past and present, and features stories from across the province.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

Chinese Canadian Museum (CCM)

- The CCM celebrated its first year of operations on July 4, 2024, welcoming over 28,000 visitors to its permanent site at the historic Wing Sang Building in Vancouver Chinatown.
- The Provincial Government has invested more than \$48.5 million into the CCM:
 - **2019:** \$1 million grant to the City of Vancouver for initial planning.
 - **2020:** \$10 million announced, including an \$8M endowment for future operations and \$2 million for planning and development funding to establish the Chinese Canadian Museum Society of BC (CCMSBC).
 - **2022:** \$27.5 million announced for the purchase of the Wing Sang Building, the oldest building in historic Vancouver Chinatown, and \$2 million for initial operational support.
 - \$23 million for the purchase of the building, \$2.5 million for closing costs, \$1.95 million for renovations, and \$2M in operations.
 - Only \$0.5 million required for closing costs as CCM was granted federal charitable status and was not required to pay land transfer costs as a result. The remaining funds were repurposed for renovations.
 - Vancouver developer Bob Rennie donated \$7.8 million towards the purchase price of the Wing Sang building.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- **2023:** Additional \$10 million provided, including \$5 million for renovations and \$4 million for operating costs over 2 years and \$1 million from the Destination Development Fund for accessibility renovations and exhibition development.
- **2024:** The CCM received another \$0.250 million from the BC Arts Council Arts Infrastructure grant program, as well as \$0.045 million from other BC Arts Council programs (Arts Circulation and Touring, and Museum Project Assistance grants).
- The Chinese Canadian Museum is not eligible for Community Gaming Grants due to the governance structure.
- CCM has raised significant funds from federal and municipal governments as well as from private donors to support museum opening and initial operations including:
 - \$5.179 million in federal support from the Department of Canadian Heritage Canada Cultural Spaces Fund and the Pacific Economic Development Agency of Canada (PacifiCan).
 - \$0.335 million in annual operations support from the City of Vancouver's Arts Culture and Community Service operating budget for three years.Over \$12 million in charitable donations including significant contributions of more than \$1.1 million from CCM Board Chair Grace Wong, the Honourable Dr. Vivienne Poy (first Chinese Canadian Senator) and family, and \$1 million from the David and Dorothy Lam Foundation (David Lam former B.C. LG).

Victoria Chinatown Museum Society (VCMS)

- CCM was originally conceptualized as a hub and spoke model, with the provincial hub in Vancouver Chinatown and regional spokes across the province, with financial support provided by the provincial hub.
- VCMS is a distinct non-profit entity from CCMSBC and received charitable status in 2023.
- In July 2020, VCMS signed a MOU with CCMSBC to cooperate and support the establishment of the Vancouver-based CCM and regional hub for Greater Victoria.
- On October 1, 2024, the VCMS announced that they would take over operations from the CCMSBC, and the Fan Tan Alley space became a permanent museum named the *Victoria Chinatown Museum*, operated by VCMS.

Contact:

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ADM

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250-217-9059



ESTIMATES NOTE

CORE MESSAGING - CREATIVE

ISSUE: B.C.'s creative sector is resilient and an economic driver.

RESPONSE

- British Columbia's creative sector includes motion picture, music and sound recording, interactive digital media, and publishing industries.
- The creative sector generates well-paying jobs for people living in British Columbia, inspires youth, and fosters community connections through the hosting of festivals and events.
- In 2023, we boosted support for the creative industries to ensure B.C. remains a destination of choice for creators around the world.
- 2025 is the *Year of Music*, with major events coming to B.C., such as the 2025 JUNO Awards (Vancouver) and Canadian Country Music Awards (Kelowna).
- Through Budget 2025, we are increasing the motion picture tax credits to support our domestic sector and ensure B.C. remains competitive and continues to attract major productions to the province, like HBO's *The Last of Us*.
- Also through Budget 2025, we are increasing the Interactive Digital Media Tax Credit and removing the sunset clause, to help support companies attract the talent they need and compete for work, boosting jobs and our economy.
- These opportunities showcase B.C.'s talent and our province as a prime destination for creators, events and tourism.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- Based on Creative BC's [Creative Industries Economic Results Assessment \(CIERA\) 2023](#) data, it is estimated that B.C.'s creative sector generated an estimated \$5.6 billion in total gross domestic product (GDP) in 2023 and 69,174 jobs, employing 121,612 people when including freelancers.
 - Freelance work is common in the creative sector, particularly in music and motion picture, where work is often short-term and project-based.
- B.C.'s creative sector includes:



ESTIMATES NOTE

- The largest volume of foreign service motion picture production and third largest for overall production in Canada;
- Canada's third largest centre for music;
- The third largest interactive games industry in Canada; and
- The second-largest English-language book publishing sector in Canada.
- The creative industries continue to face challenges, which include:
 - The high cost of paper, printing, and shipping for the publishing industry. They are also concerned about the impact of U.S. tariffs.
 - Music festivals face ongoing issues with the high cost of equipment rentals, staffing, insurance, and global competition for talent, and new challenges with global warming, such as fires during festival season.
 - In motion picture, the industry is experiencing a global decrease in major studio investment in production.
 - The interactive digital media industry is experiencing a global slowdown, particularly impacting smaller studios and independent developers.
- On a long-term (ten year) basis, the creative sector demonstrates strength, with 32.5% more jobs and 60.3% more GDP than in 2014.

Government Priorities:

- The Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport and Parliamentary Secretary for Arts and Film have three creative sector mandate commitments:
 - Continue to support the development, promotion, and growth of B.C.'s film, television, and animation sectors (in partnership with the Minister of Finance);
 - Engage with producers, workers, and employees of B.C.'s film and television sectors to ensure our province is a good partner in supporting the promotion, diversification, and growth of our domestic and international industries; and
 - Identify opportunities for BC to enhance and grow the arts, culture, and film sectors and ensure their long-term prosperity.
- TACS is committed to safeguarding the key programs and initiatives people working in the creative sector depend on and ensuring all programs deliver value to our communities.
- The goal is to support a resilient creative sector, including the promotion, diversification and growth of our domestic and international industries.

Provincial Support to the Creative Sector:

- Through Budget 2025, the Province is making several enhancements to the motion picture and interactive digital tax credits to ensure B.C. remains competitive.



ESTIMATES NOTE

- Through Budget 2025, the Province is providing \$3.215 million to Creative BC and \$6.611 million to Knowledge Network to support operations.
- In April 2023, the Province announced a contribution of \$42 million over three years, the largest-ever single investment in the creative sector.

Contact:

Kim Lacharite ADM Sport and Creative Sectors 250-588-1700



ESTIMATES NOTE

KEY FACTS AND STATISTICS (+ INDUSTRY OVERVIEW)

ISSUE: The creative sector is a strong contributor to B.C.'s economy.

RESPONSE

- Creative BC data reports that B.C.'s creative sector contributed an estimated \$5.6 billion in GDP and more than 69,000 jobs in 2023.
- B.C.'s creative sector is a global leader. It is:
 - The largest volume of foreign service motion picture production and third largest for overall production in Canada;
 - Canada's third largest centre for music production;
 - The third largest interactive games industry in Canada; and
 - The second largest English-language publishing sector in Canada.
- The creative industries are facing challenges, which include:
 - High costs of production and supplies, and threat of U.S. tariffs,
 - Challenges with the impacts of global warming, such as fires during the summer festival season,
 - A global slowdown of major studio investment in production and shifting consumer behavior.
- Our government's historic \$42 million investment in 2023/24 is supporting the sector's continued resiliency.
- Through Budget 2025, we increased the motion picture tax credits to support our domestic sector and ensure B.C. remains competitive and attracts major productions.
- Also through Budget 2025, we increased the Interactive Digital Media Tax Credit and removed its sunset clause to help companies attract the talent they need and compete for more contracts, supporting jobs and our economy.
- We are committed to supporting the creative sector to ensure it continues to be a strong contributor to the economy.

KEY FACTS

Motion Picture

- The motion picture industry consists of film, tv, animation, and visual effects.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- In 2023, the industry supported 26,154 jobs, employing 70,774 people including freelancers, and contributed \$2 billion in GDP, down 26.2% from 2022, due to the U.S. labour strikes and global production slow down.
- In 2024, production activity remained lower due to reduced studio spending.
- Starting in 2023/24, the Province is investing \$15.9 million, over three years, into B.C.'s domestic motion picture industry through Creative BC.
- In 2023/24, the Province invested over \$908 million into motion picture tax credits.
- In November 2024, Minister Chandra Herbert, Parliamentary Secretary Kreiger, and Minister Bailey joined Screen BC's trade mission to Los Angeles.
- Through Budget 2025, government is enhancing the motion picture tax credits to ensure B.C. remains competitive and attracts major productions.

Music and Sound Recording

- B.C. is the third-largest centre for music production in Canada, with diverse artists, professionals, 200+ sound recording studios, and 80+ record labels.
- In 2023, the B.C. music industry contributed an estimated \$431 million in GDP, a 25% increase from 2022, which surpassed pre-pandemic numbers.
- In 2023, there were 5,919 jobs, with up to 13,235 when including freelancers.
- Starting in 2024/25, the Province is investing another \$22.5 million, over three years, in Amplify BC to continue to develop and grow B.C.'s music industry.
- In 2023/24, the Province provided \$2 million to bring the 2025 JUNO Awards to Vancouver and \$0.5 million to bring the 2025 Canadian Country Music Week to Kelowna.

Interactive Digital Media (IDM)

- In 2023, the gaming industry contributed approximately \$1.87 billion in GDP in B.C. and provided 21,437 jobs, a 5.8% increase from 2022.
- B.C. has the third largest interactive games industry in Canada with 146 studios and 32% of workers, with the second highest average salary of \$161,100¹.
- In 2023/24, the Interactive Digital Media Tax Credit program provided \$162 million.
- Starting in 2023/24, the Province is providing \$2 million to DigiBC to help small to medium-sized businesses participate in work-integrated learning programs.
- Starting in 2024/25, the Province is investing \$3 million, over three years, in IDM through Creative BC programs, events, and export initiatives.
- In 2024/25, Creative BC received \$0.675 million in BC Arts Council funding to support 14 interactive and digital media projects in B.C. through the Interactive Fund.
- Through Budget 2025, the Interactive Digital Media Tax Credit (IDMTC) is being increased from 17.5% to 25% and the sunset clause is removed, providing increased and secure support to the industry.

¹ 2024 Entertainment Software Association of Canada Report on Gaming



ESTIMATES NOTE

Book and Magazine Publishing

- B.C. has the second-largest English-language book publishing sector in Canada and is home to over 280 magazines.
- In 2023, B.C.'s book publishing industry contributed \$51 million in GDP and provided 569 jobs, employing 808 people including freelancers, and B.C.'s magazine publishing industry contributed \$117 million in GDP in 2023 and provided 1,655 jobs.
- Starting in 2023/24, the Province is investing \$0.600K, over three years, through Creative BC and Books BC to address challenges and promote adaptation.
- In 2024/25, Creative BC provided \$0.860K to books through the Market Expansion Fund and \$0.390K to the Magazine Publishers Travel Support program.
- Budget 2025 forecasts \$3 million in book publishing tax credits for 2025/26.

Contact:

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ESTIMATES NOTE

CREATIVE BC OVERVIEW

ISSUE: B.C.'s agency for creative sector and economic development.

RESPONSE

- Creative BC is British Columbia's agency for creative sector economic development in the province.
- Each year, our government provides more than \$3 million to Creative BC to deliver programs and services to develop and promote the creative sector.
- Creative BC also administers the Film Incentive BC Tax Credit and the Production Services Tax Credit on behalf of the Province.
- Creative BC champions sustainability, diversity, and equity, and regional access across all of their programs and initiatives.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- Creative BC is an independent, not-for-profit agency, established by the Province in 2013, to build the capacity of B.C.'s creative sector.
 - There are 12 board members, led by Co-Chairs Michelle Grady and Bill Tam, and 47 staff members, led by Prem Gill, CEO.
- Creative BC's mission is to elevate a diverse and dynamic creative sector through leadership, collaboration, and investment.
- For 2025/26 (and annually), the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport (TACS) provides \$3.215 million to Creative BC for program delivery, strategic planning, research, marketing, promotion, and film commission services.
- Creative BC also collects application fees for administering the motion picture tax credit programs, which covers the costs of program administration, supporting the film commission services, and delivering the Domestic Motion Picture Fund (if surplus funds are available).
 - In 2023/24, Creative BC received approximately \$2.9 million in tax credit application fee revenue. Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information
 - In 2024/25, Creative BC forecasts collecting approximately \$3 million in tax credit application fees, Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information
 - Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

ESTIMATES NOTE

- In April 2023, the B.C. government announced a historic three-year, \$42 million investment in the creative sector, which is being delivered through Creative BC to support the creative industries.
 - Funding roll-out is staggered, with some programs completing in 2025/26 and some in 2026/27.
- Creative BC also delivers additional partner funding. In 2024/25 this included:
 - \$675,000 from the BC Arts Council to deliver the Interactive Fund;
 - \$500,000 partnership funding from the Canada Media Fund to deliver the Video Games Business Development Program;
 - \$307,500 from the City of Vancouver for the Vancouver Music Fund;
 - \$412,075 from Rogers Group of Funds to deliver the Rogers Indigenous Film Fund and the Documentary + Factual Development Fund; and,
 - \$8,500 from other industry sources to support Reel Green.

Creative BC's 2024/25 Priorities:

- Annually, TACS reviews and approves Creative BC's business plan, which outlines how their activities support the B.C. government's key priorities.
- Creative BC's priorities for 2024/25 are:
 - Motion picture industry services;
 - Information and communication;
 - Justice, equity, decolonization, diversity, and inclusion;
 - Reconciliation;
 - Organizational development; and
 - Program delivery and administration.

Creative BC Programs and Services:

- Administration of the provincial motion picture tax credit programs.
- The Provincial Film Commission and funding for eight regional film commissions. Services include: marketing activities, scouting support, location library, facilitating permitting processes, and other guidance to productions.
- Delivery of multi-industry and industry-specific programs, including *Amplify BC*.
- Export marketing initiatives and funding for B.C. companies to attend export-focused conferences and events.
- Support for motion picture environmental initiatives through *Reel Green* and motion picture equity, diversity, and inclusion through *Creative Pathways*.
- Delivery of knowledge, research, insight, and information about the sector, including the Creative Industries Economic Results Assessment (CIERA) tool.
 - CIERA provides annual sector indicators, including gross domestic product, output and jobs, derived from Statistics Canada datasets.

Contact:

Kim Lacharite ADM

Sport and Creative Sectors 250-588-1700

ESTIMATES NOTE

KNOWLEDGE NETWORK OVERVIEW

ISSUE: Knowledge Network supports B.C.'s domestic film industry

RESPONSE

- Knowledge Network is B.C.'s public education broadcaster, and is one of the most watched primetime broadcasters in B.C.
- In 2025/26, the B.C. government is allocating \$6.611 million for service delivery. This is consistent with the previous fiscal year.
- Knowledge Network plays an important role in supporting B.C.'s domestic documentary film industry.
- I am looking forward to watching their new *Wildfire* series when it is released at the end of April. It will shine the light on this incredibly important work.
- Although Knowledge Network is internally mitigating growing operational costs, we are monitoring the situation closely and working with the Crown to identify the best pathway forward.
- We are committed to their ongoing success.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- Knowledge Network (KN) is a provincial Crown corporation established in 1981. It is legislated under the *Knowledge Network Corporation Act*.
- KN provides a public educational program service for all people living in B.C., free and commercial-free, via television, internet, and mobile platforms.
- KN is one of the largest investors in original B.C.-owned documentary content in the Province.
 - It also plays a significant role in showcasing quality Canadian children's programming.
- With a 4.5% market share, KN is within the top five most watched broadcasters among competitors.
- KN's activities include:
 - Commissioning original content from B.C. filmmakers and purchasing the broadcasting rights to content from other sources;
 - Supporting literacy, problem-solving, and cooperation through quality children's content;
 - Ensuring seniors have affordable and easy access to programs; and
 - Providing a platform for diverse stories, cultures, and histories.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- For example, *Stories (Un)told* is a three-year partnership between Creative BC and Knowledge Network to support the development, commissioning, and showcasing of premium limited documentary series by mid-career B.C. senior producers and directors.
 - A minimum of two of the three projects selected for production will be with majority-owned B.C. Indigenous- and Black and People of Colour- (BPOC) owned production companies.
- There are 11 board positions, led by Satwinder Kaur Bains, Board Chair. The Board is appointed by Order in Council.
- KN has 48.3 full-time employees, led by Michelle van Beusekom, CEO.
- The most recent Knowledge Original, *Wildfire*, will premiere on KN's broadcast and streaming services on April 29, 2025.
 - A preview screening will take place in Kelowna on April 13, 2025.

Funding:

- KN is partially funded through an annual operating grant from the provincial government and viewer donations.
- Almost half of Knowledge Network's operating budget comes from viewer donations through the Annual Fund.
- In 2025/26, KN is projecting \$5.8 million in viewer donations.
 - Future targets remain at \$5.8 million per year as the high cost of living is impacting charitable donations.
- In 2025/26, the B.C. government will provide \$6.611 million for service delivery, consistent with the previous fiscal year.
 - KN has not received an operating grant increase since 2018/19.
- Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

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ESTIMATES NOTE

UPDATE ON \$42 MILLION CREATIVE SECTOR INVESTMENT (22/23)

ISSUE: Status of historic investment in the creative sector.

RESPONSE

- In April 2023, the Province announced a historic \$42 million investment in B.C.'s creative sector over three years.
 - This was the largest single provincial investment ever made in the sector.
- Along with other government support, like the tax credit programs, our investment is helping the sector to remain competitive.
- Together, we're working to ensure the creative sector remains a significant contributor to the B.C. economy.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- In April 2023, the Province announced a three-year \$42 million investment through Creative BC to support B.C.'s creative sector.
- The \$42 million investment included:
 - \$22.5 million, over three years, for Amplify BC (starting in 2024/25), to build the province's music talent and businesses. It also continues partnerships with Music BC and the First Peoples' Cultural Council.
 - \$15.9 million, over three years (starting in 2023/24), to support B.C.'s domestic motion picture productions, workforce and creators, which includes (approximately):
 - \$10.2 million for the Production Program to support production companies during the production stage of a project;
 - \$1.8 million for the Slate Development Program to support mid-level and experienced production companies that have multiple projects;
 - \$0.75 million for under-represented filmmakers through the Emerging and Equity Development Program to support them at the earliest stages of development;
 - \$2.25 million for *Stories (Un)told*, a three-year partnership between Creative BC and Knowledge Network to support the development, commissioning and showcasing of premium limited documentary series by B.C. mid-career/senior producers and directors; and
 - \$0.9 million for *Creative Pathways* and *Reel Green* to support initiatives to foster an equitable, diverse and inclusive workforce, and to support production practices and tools that reduce environmental impacts.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- \$3 million over three years (starting in 2024/25) to support programming and export initiatives that will help develop and grow B.C.-owned interactive digital media companies.
- \$0.6 million over three years (starting in 2023/24) for the publishing industry to address pressing challenges and support future opportunities.

FY 2024/25 Updates:

- In 2024/25, Creative BC administered \$12.899 million of the \$42 million to B.C.'s creative industries, including:
 - \$6.187 million to support the music and sound recording industry through Amplify BC programming;
 - \$4.9 million in motion picture programming plus \$0.3 million to support *Creative Pathways* and *Reel Green* and \$0.75 million for the *Stories (Un)told* partnership with Knowledge Network;
 - \$0.5 million for the interactive digital media industry to deliver the new Video Games Business Development Program (in addition to \$0.5 million from the Canada Media Fund), plus \$0.075 million for interactive digital media events and initiatives; and
 - \$0.187 million to Books BC and Mags BC for targeted initiatives, such as industry research projects.
- Some highlights included:
 - In June 2024, Knowledge Network announced the first project funded as part of *Stories (Un)told*. *Seeking Saltwater* (working title) is an extensively researched three-part series that moves between past and present to tell an intimate story of Chinese Canadians in B.C.
 - Creative BC leveraged \$0.5 million from the Canada Media Fund to launch a new Video Games Business Development Program. The program is designed to open new funding opportunities to support the success and growth of B.C.-based video game companies.
- Funding from the 2023 creative sector investment is expected to be fully expended by the end of 2026/27.
 - Motion picture and publishing programming started in 2023/24 and will be complete by 2025/26.
 - Music and Interactive Digital Media programming started in 2024/25 and will be complete by 2026/27.

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ESTIMATES NOTE

MOTION PICTURE COMPETITIVENESS

ISSUE: Ensuring B.C.'s motion picture industry remains competitive.

RESPONSE

- In 2023/24, the motion picture industry supported more than 26,000 jobs, employing more than 70,000 British Columbians, and generated more than \$2 billion in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), making it a key economic driver for the province.
- Film production in B.C. has taken a hit over the last few years, due to lasting impacts from the pandemic, multiple labour disruptions, changes to consumer behaviour, and decreased studio spending.
- We are working hard to ensure B.C. remains competitive by attracting productions and major projects like *The Last of Us* and building our resilience by supporting our domestic sector.
- In November 2024, Minister Bailey, Parliamentary Secretary Krieger and I travelled to Los Angeles to meet with studio executives to keep B.C. top of mind when they're making decisions about where to take their projects this year.
- In Budget 2025, we are enhancing the motion picture tax credits to support our domestic sector and ensure B.C. remains a destination of choice for productions.
- In 2023, we invested \$15.9 million over three years into our motion picture industry, and we continue to invest annually into our domestic sector through Creative BC's programs and services.
- Any questions related to the Budget 2025 tax credit changes should be directed to the Minister of Finance.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- B.C. has the largest volume of foreign service motion picture production in Canada and third-largest for motion picture production overall.
 - In 2023, the motion picture industry employed 70,774 people including freelancers, and generated \$2.0 billion in GDP (down 26.2% from 2022).
 - While 2024 data is not available, Creative BC has seen an increase in tax credit certificates and activity levels, in part due to filming *The Last of Us*.
- In 2024, industry continued to experience shifting global trends including the rise of streaming platforms, changing consumer behaviours, rising production

ESTIMATES NOTE

costs, global production slowdown, and enhanced incentives in other jurisdictions.

- With approximately 80% of B.C.'s production activity being foreign service work, it is susceptible to the impacts of changing global production patterns and foreign labour disruptions.
- Competing jurisdictions around the world are actively adjusting their tax credit incentives to attract more production.
 - On October 27, 2024, California announced plans to more than double their tax credit cap.
 - Other jurisdictions with recent changes to improve tax credits include the United Kingdom, Quebec, Australia, Germany, Nevada, and Thailand.
- In September 2024, HBO's *The Last of Us Season 2* finished filming in B.C. This is the largest production ever filmed in B.C. A decision on Season 3 is pending.

What B.C. is Doing to Enhance Competitiveness

- On November 20, 2024, Ministers Chandra Herbert, Bailey, and Parliamentary Secretary Krieger joined Screen BC's annual marketing trip to Los Angeles.
 - The delegation met with key studio decision-makers to promote B.C. as a destination for film and reinforce government's commitment to industry.
- Through Budget 2025, government is implementing several changes to the motion picture tax credit programs to encourage production activity in B.C.
 - The Film Incentive BC tax credit is increased from 35% to 40%, and the Production Services Tax Credit is increased from 28% to 36%.
 - Projects with total B.C. production costs greater than \$200 million will receive a 2% bonus tax credit.
 - The regional and distant tax credits are restored for animation projects.
- In 2024/25, Creative BC administered over \$4.7 million in domestic motion picture programming to support domestic productions and filmmakers (as part of 2023 multi-year investment into the creative sector).
- Currently, the Ministry is reviewing the structure of the regional film commissions (RFCs) to ensure services are consistent and provide a competitive advantage.
 - 2025/26 funding for the RFCs will remain at the current level for a third year to ensure production activity across the province is well supported.
- Since November 2024, Minister Chandra Herbert and Parliamentary Secretary Krieger have met with several industry representatives to better understand industry needs and priorities. Representatives included:
 - The regional film commissioners, the Provincial Film Commission, Screen BC, the Canadian Media Producers Association of BC, the Pacific Screenwriters Program, unions and guilds, and studios.

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ESTIMATES NOTE

JUNO AWARDS

ISSUE: Value of hosting marquee events in B.C.

RESPONSE

- Vancouver will host the JUNO Awards (JUNOs) and JUNO Week from March 26-30, 2025.
- The JUNOs recognize outstanding achievement in Canada's music industry.
- The Province contributed \$2 million to ensure a successful event with a strong regional presence, community engagement, and legacies.
- The Vancouver JUNO Host Committee's mandate is to *Extend, Include, Impress and Amplify*, to celebrate and foster B.C.'s music scene.
- This investment complements the three-year renewal of B.C.'s music fund, Amplify BC, at \$22.5 million, which started in 2024/25.
- We are thrilled to welcome this amazing event back to B.C. and I look forward to taking part.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The JUNOs is an iconic, marquee Canadian music event. It represents a unique hosting and tourism opportunity for B.C.
- The annual event includes a nationally-televised awards and performance event, a week-long community festival, and industry events.
- It has a wide reach, typically attracting over 3.14 million national broadcast viewers.
- Anticipated attendance at the JUNOs broadcast show is over 15,000 people, and the event will attract thousands of additional visitors to the Lower Mainland throughout the week, while also engaging regional audiences through touring initiatives and province-wide programs.
- The 2025 JUNOs in Vancouver will be the fifth time the event has taken place in B.C., with the most recent being in 2018 in Vancouver.
- The JUNOs are led by the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS) and supported by the Vancouver Host Committee (HC).
 - CARAS organizes the nationally-televised awards show on CBC and offers events throughout the week.
 - The HC is responsible for delivery of community events, as well as regional and legacy activities.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- The HC is comprised of 11 local music industry leaders, and an advisory committee of 12 members, including representatives from Creative BC, the ministry, and the three host First Nations: Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh (MST).
- In 2023, the B.C. government provided a \$2 million grant to Creative BC to support hosting the JUNOs:
 - \$1.35 million to CARAS for the bid fee.
 - \$0.65 million to the Host Committee for administration costs and delivery of community-driven events and legacy initiatives throughout JUNOs Week.
- Business Information

- The bid fee of \$1.75 million covers a portion of these costs. CARAS funds the remaining expenses.

Government Financial
Information; Intergovernmental
Communications

- Other partners include City of Vancouver (\$0.15 million), City of Surrey, Destination Vancouver (\$0.35 million), Downtown Van (\$0.05 million), as well as City of Prince George, and Talking Stick Festival.

Government Financial
Information

Alignment with Provincial Priorities:

- Hosting the JUNOs aligns with Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport mandate commitments to maximize the economic development and tourism impact of major events across the province.
- According to the economic impact report on 2018 JUNOs in Vancouver, the event fueled \$10.9 million in economic activity.
- Hosting the 2025 JUNOs will strengthen the Province's investment in the Amplify BC program, as it builds upon B.C.'s reputation as a national music hub, and shines a light upon B.C.'s music industry.
- 2025 is the *Year of Music*, with major events coming to B.C., such as the 2025 JUNO Awards (Vancouver) and Canadian Country Music Awards (Kelowna).

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ESTIMATES NOTE

MOTION PICTURE – LA TRADE MISSION

ISSUE: Participation in an industry-led marketing trip to Los Angeles (November 19-21, 2024)

RESPONSE

- Minister Bailey and I, as well as Parliamentary Secretary Kreiger, attended Screen BC's annual marketing to L.A. to promote B.C. as a destination for film, and reinforce our commitment to the industry.
- We met with current and potential investors to showcase B.C. as a premier destination for motion picture production.
- We know the motion picture industry is highly competitive and other jurisdictions are fighting hard to attract these investments.
- We got to work right away, getting in front of key decision makers when they're making decisions on where to take their projects, while also taking advantage of an already scheduled trip and meetings.
- The total trip costs were approximately \$21,000 for six provincial delegates to travel to Los Angeles for three days (one full day of meetings plus two partial travel days).

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- Screen BC organizes an annual marketing trip to Los Angeles (L.A.) to strengthen ties with motion picture clients (typically every November).
 - The last provincial delegation joined Screen BC was in November 2022.
- The Provincial delegation attendees on the 2024 trip were:
 - Spencer Chandra Herbert, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
 - Brenda Bailey, Minister of Finance
 - Nina Krieger, Parliamentary Secretary of Film and Arts
 - Silas Brownsey, Deputy Minister, Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
 - Doug Scott, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance
 - Amy Schneider, Executive Director, Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
- The objectives for Provincial participation in the 2024 Screen BC marketing trip to L.A. were to:
 1. Leverage the existing Screen BC annual marketing trip to meet with key decision makers as they make decisions on locations for 2025 projects.
 2. Communicate the B.C. government's commitment to the film industry by increasing the tax credit rates to maintain competitiveness.

ESTIMATES NOTE

3. Strengthen relationships with B.C.'s key investment partners in film, television and digital production.

Trip Activities:

- Meeting with key motion picture studio decision makers.
- Meeting with several B.C. film tourism leads to discuss opportunities to grow film-related tourism opportunities.
- Attend a B.C. tax credit information session with over 30 B.C. and L.A based studio executives.
- Attend a dinner meeting with B.C. motion picture labour organizations.
- Participate in an evening reception with the Consulate General of Canada.

Outcomes:

- The Ministers and Parliamentary Secretary had successful meetings with:
 - Six L.A. motion picture studios, including Sony, Apple, Warner Brothers, Netflix, Hyphenate, and Hallmark,
 - Over 40 motion picture studio and production decision makers,
 - Six B.C. labour organizations, and
 - Approximately 130 industry representatives (from B.C. and L.A.) at a reception with the Consul General of Canada.
- The timing of the trip ensured studio decision-makers had key information about the value of filming in B.C. as part of their planning for 2025.
- The trip was also an opportunity to meet with the Screen BC delegation, including B.C.-based studios, production companies, unions, and guilds.
- As well, the delegation included two B.C. tourism organizations to build awareness of film tourism opportunities in the province.
- The Ministers and Parliamentary Secretary received valuable feedback directly from industry partners to build strong relationships and ensure B.C. remains a competitive motion picture jurisdiction.

Trip Expenses:

- The total cost for the provincial delegation is estimated at \$21,000.
- The Province did not host any events or activities.
- The only costs of trip participation were accommodation, travel, transit and per diems for the six provincial attendees.

Contact:

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ESTIMATES NOTE

FILM COMMISSION SERVICES

ISSUE: Funding and structure of Provincial and regional film commission services in B.C.

RESPONSE

- B.C.'s film commissions are a key factor in attracting, facilitating, and supporting production activity in our province.
- B.C. has a competitive advantage in the Provincial Film Commission and regional film commissions, which work hard to attract and facilitate production activity across the province.
- In 2025/26, the Provincial Film Commission will receive approximately \$2.9 million (through the film tax credit application fees and annual funding to Creative BC).
- In 2025/26, we are providing \$580,000 to support the regional film commissioners through Creative BC.
 - We are maintaining this funding level for the year ahead to support the important work they do.
 - This funding will be tied to an enhanced accountability and communications framework.
 - I am actively looking at ways that our government can provide increased sustainable funding to the regional film commissions.
- I am aware that the Columbia Shuswap Regional District recently decided to put their Tourism and Film Office "on hold" due to lack of funding from the local governments.
 - We are working closely with the Provincial Film Commission to ensure productions continue to be supported in the area.

KEY FACTS

Provincial Film Commission:

- Since 1978, the Provincial Film Commission (PFC) has served B.C.'s motion picture industry, and it has been housed within Creative BC since 2013.
- The PFC promotes and facilitates motion picture activity to make B.C. a global production hub. Key activities include:
 - Ongoing issues management and facilitating permitting processes.
 - Marketing to promote B.C.'s infrastructure, talent, and diverse locations.
 - Community affairs services focused on film friendliness.
 - Supporting *Reel Green* and *Creative Pathways*.
 - Overseeing support to the regional film commissions.



ESTIMATES NOTE

- In 2025/26, the PFC's estimated budget is \$2.9 million, funded through the film tax credit application fees and Creative BC's annual operational funding.
 - In 2023, TACS provided \$900,000, over three years, to the PFC (through Creative BC) to support *Reel Green* and *Creative Pathways*.
- Creative BC is currently working on a motion picture marketing strategy, called *Film in BC*, led by the Provincial Film Commission with support from Screen BC.
 - The objective of the strategy is to raise the profile of B.C. as a world-class filming destination and attract foreign service work back to the province.

Regional Film Commissions

- B.C. is unique in Canada for having eight Regional Film Commissions (RFCs).
 - Currently, the Columbia Shuswap Film Commission is "on hold" due to lack of funding from the Columbia Shuswap Regional District.
 - TACS is working with the PFC to ensure industry continues to be supported; however, film activity is low in the region.
- The RFCs provide on the ground support to productions, including scouting, facilitating permitting processes, maintaining a locations library, and sourcing suppliers and other resource needs for a production.
- The RFCs have differing levels of support from their local governments and varying governance structures, including independent non-profits and structures residing within regional districts and tourism associations.
- Film activity and service varies greatly across the regions, with some hosting many productions while others host few to none (including Columbia Shuswap).
 - Differing capacity, infrastructure, access to locations, and local government support are key determinants of the variances.
- In 2023 and 2024, in response to industry feedback that the RFCs provide inconsistent service levels, TACS undertook a review of the RFC structure and funding model.
 - The goal of the review was to ensure productions received consistent support province-wide, while also being cost effective.
 - Feedback emphasized that it is essential to have local knowledge and relationships to provide regionally-based support.
- For 2025/26, Creative BC can allocate additional funding using interest earned on investments to maintain the funding level at \$560,000 for a third year.
 - For the year ahead, TACS will work with the RFCs and the PFC to implement stronger accountability requirements and communication protocols.
- Currently, TACS is pursuing an increase to the Production Services Tax Credit application fee, pending government approval. If approved, additional revenue generated may be used to support the RFCs in future years.

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ESTIMATES NOTE

CORE MESSAGING - SPORT

ISSUE: Sport's contribution to society.

RESPONSE

- We all have seen the positive difference sport makes in people's lives.
- Over 814,000 British Columbians participate in sport, making us one of the most physically-active provinces in Canada.
- That is why the provincial government invests approximately \$50 million annually in sport to help bring healthy living and community economic benefits to the entire province.
- As outlined in our *Pathways to Sport* policy framework, our funding reflects government's priorities related to affordability, participation, long-term athlete development, and economic development that comes from hosting sports events.
- Funding from TACS for the sector includes:
 - Direct transfer of \$15.4 million to sport organizations to run programs across 70 sports in every community in our province.
 - \$2.1 million to the BC Games Society to run the winter and summer games where our young athletes can shine.
 - \$2.3 million to programs for under-represented populations including our ASSAI, RISE, and KidSport programs.
 - \$1.4 million to our Indigenous sport partner, ISPARC, to help boost participation of Indigenous athletes in sport.
 - \$1 million for hosting over 129 events in 40 communities in B.C.
 - \$28 million comes from the Community Gaming Grants program for youth and amateur sports programs that provide opportunities for all people to participate in organized, competitive physical activities.

KEY FACTS

Sport Participation

- The Province's *Pathways to Sport* policy framework boosts sport participation.
- Funding for under-represented groups includes:
 - KidSport: \$500,000 is part of the \$3.6 million in grants that KidSport provides to 10,695 kids to enjoy sport.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- BC Sport Participation Program: \$1 million for 70+ programs in 38 B.C. communities in 2024/25.
- Afterschool Sports & Arts Initiative (ASSAI): \$1.4 million for 11,000 students in 22 B.C. school districts.
- ISPARC: \$1.4 million for Indigenous sport programs. In 2023/24, ISPARC reached 10,995 individuals through their sport programming.
- TACS also has one-time funding of \$3.6 million (over 5 years beginning in FY22/23) for the Resilient, Inspire, Strength and Engage (RISE) program. The \$1,000 grants target children and youth in government care to participate in sport, physical, and cultural activities. Since the program's inception in June 2022, 1,685 individual grants and 54 organization grants (up to October 2024) have been awarded.
- The Province also directly invests \$15.4 million in provincial and local sport organizations through viaSport.

Athlete Development

- The Province supports B.C. athletes from the playing field to the podium.
 - British Columbians represent 29% of the athletes on Canada's national team, even though our province only makes up 14% of the country's population.
- B.C.'s \$5.3 million annual high-performance investment includes:
 - \$1.6 million to the Canadian Sport Institute (CSI) Pacific which provided services to 2,785 targeted high-performance athletes in 2023/24.
 - \$1.6 million in Enhanced Excellence grants to provincial sport organizations.
 - \$2.1 million to the BC Games and Team BC. The 2024 BC Summer Games had 2,430 athlete participants, and in 2023 over 350 Team BC athletes competed at the Canada Games.

Sport Event Hosting

- Hosting events boosts local economies and contributes to B.C.'s reputation as a host jurisdiction.
- In 2024/25, B.C. supported 129 sport events in 44 communities with an investment over \$3 million through the BC Summer and Winter Games and our Major Events and Hosting BC programs.

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ESTIMATES NOTE

KEY FACTS AND STATISTICS

ISSUE: Key Facts and Statistics on Sport in British Columbia.

RESPONSE

- \$50 million annual investment.
 - \$22 million – Sport Branch
 - \$28 million – Community Gaming Grants
- This investment directly supports over 70 sport organizations and 814,000 members.
- Sport is an economic driver with B.C. having the second highest sport GDP and employment in Canada:
 - \$1.22 billion to GDP¹
 - 16,098 jobs
- Event hosting: 129 sport events in 44 communities, investing more than \$3 million in local hosting.
- Reaching underrepresented groups: efforts to make sport more inclusive, including investments in ASSAI, ISPARC and KidSport BC.

KEY FACTS

B.C.'s Investment in Sport

- TACS' \$22 million amateur sport budget is distributed to the sector as follows:
 - \$15.4 million to viaSport, including:
 - \$13.6 million to Provincial Sport Organizations for annual funding and sport sector application grants and funded initiatives.
Specifically, this funding consists of:
 - \$8.8 million to Provincial and Disability Sport Organizations,
 - \$3.1 million to Multi-Sport Organizations (CSI Pacific, BC Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, SportMedBC, and the Regional Alliance).
 - \$1.6 million to Grant application programs, for example, Hosting BC, Sport Participation.
 - \$1.8 million in viaSport operating costs.
 - \$2.1 million to BC Games Society,
 - \$1.4 million to the Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council,

¹ Source: Stats Can Cultural Satellite Account (2022 figures)

ESTIMATES NOTE

- \$0.4 million base funding to Sport BC to support KidSport BC, and an additional \$0.1 million in one-time funding in 2024/25 to address increased demand,
- \$0.175 million for the 55+ BC Games, and
- \$2.25 million in funding directly administered by the Ministry, including:
 - \$1.4 million for After School Sport and Arts Initiative (ASSAI).
 - \$0.5 million for Major Events Program.
 - \$0.35 million for BC Sport Participation Program.

Economic Impact

- B.C. has the second-highest sport GDP and employment in Canada (after Ontario), while leading the country in sport GDP per capita.
- The BC Winter and Summer Games typically generate \$1.6 million to \$2 million each in economic impact for local host communities.
- The BC Seniors Games have an estimated annual impact of \$6.5 million for the local host community.

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ESTIMATES NOTE

PATHWAYS TO SPORT: A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

ISSUE: B.C.'s Sport Policy Framework

RESPONSE

- The *Pathways to Sport* Strategic Framework is the Province's policy approach for quality sport opportunities for all British Columbians.
- The Framework lays out how sport can help support the social and economic well-being of communities across the province.
- It is the Province's first public-facing sport framework in decades and was developed in consultation with the sport sector.
- The Framework was launched in March 2020, just before the start of the pandemic.
- Despite having to pivot and prioritize pandemic response at that time, we continue to use the Framework to focus on a provincial sport system that is safe, accessible, and inclusive.

KEY FACTS

Background:

- The Framework was released on March 12, 2020. It is based on three key priority areas:
 - increasing sport participation;
 - strengthening athlete development; and
 - enhancing sport event hosting opportunities for B.C. communities.
- Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, achievements in the Framework include:
 - Membership growth increased 6.5% from 2019 to 2023;
 - Female representation in sport increased from 41.9% in 2019 to 42.2% in 2022/23;
 - Female sport organization leadership (at CEO or Executive Director level) increased by 25% from 2019 to 2024.
 - Number of coaches and officials trained and certified increased by 2% from 2019-2022/23.
 - 101 organizations completed the "Commit to Kids" training in 2022-23, bringing the total to 1,260 organizations since 2018.
- The Framework builds off the Province's strong network of coaches, officials, administrators, and volunteers who provide support to over 800,000 British Columbians who belong to sport organizations.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- The Framework also recognizes the success that B.C.'s high performance athletes continue to have, and communities throughout the Province hosting world-class sporting events.
- The Framework sets a path to help make the provincial sport system more accessible, affordable, safe, and inclusive through key actions to reach population groups traditionally under-represented in sport, including:
 - People with disabilities;
 - Lower income families;
 - Indigenous Peoples;
 - Immigrants and new Canadians;
 - Older adults; and
 - Girls, women, and non-binary genders.
- With *Pathways to Sport* concluding in 2025, the Sport Branch is exploring options for a policy framework beyond 2025.

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ESTIMATES NOTE

viaSport Overview

ISSUE: Overview of viaSport's programs and services.

RESPONSE

- viaSport is the main service delivery partner for the Province's investment in the amateur sport sector.
- Through an annual funding agreement, viaSport supports key provincial initiatives such as:
 - funding administration for sport organizations;
 - development of the provincial Safe Sport program, PlaySafe BC; and
 - support for implementing *Pathways to Sport: A Strategic Framework for Sport in B.C.*
- I look forward to continuing my collaboration with viaSport and other organizations in the sector, as we work together to strengthen sport.

KEY FACTS

- viaSport operates as an independent non-profit organization that supports more than 70 provincial sport organizations across the Province.
 - The organization is led by Andrew Price, CEO, and has 18 staff members.
 - The Board is led by Geoffrey Wong, Board Chair, and consists of 10 Board Members.
- The government's annual agreement with viaSport is informed by government priorities, mandate letters, and the ministry's Annual Service Plan.
- In 2022/23, provincial sport organizations provided programs and services to more than 814,000 provincial sport organization members.
 - Membership increased 2% from 798,000 in 2021/22.
- Sport organizations include:
 - Over 50 Provincial Sport Organizations (e.g., BC Soccer Association);
 - 7 Disability Sport Organizations (e.g., BC Wheelchair Sports); and
 - 12 Multi-Sport Organizations (e.g., Canadian Sport Institute Pacific and SportMedBC).
- viaSport administers \$15.4 million in annual funding on behalf of the ministry under an agreement that sets out the purpose of funding and reporting requirements.
- viaSport administers the following grants on behalf of the Province of B.C.:
 - Provincial Sport Development Fund (\$400K) – Supports the growth and development of provincial sport organizations to enhance sport participation in BC.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- Community Sport Program Development Fund (\$145K) – Funds community-level sport programs that promote accessibility, inclusion, and increased participation in local communities.
- Hosting BC (\$500K) – Provides financial support for organizations to host competitive sport events to generate tourism and economic benefits in B.C.
- Indigenous Youth Legacy Fund (\$40K) – Empowers Indigenous youth through funding for sport, recreation, and physical activity programs.
- LeadForward Grant (\$15K - additional provincial funding increased annual amount to \$40K for each year: 23/24, 24/25 & 25/26) – Promotes leadership opportunities for women and girls in sport, supporting initiatives that drive gender equity in sport leadership roles.
- Sport on the Move (\$150K) – Assists with travel costs for teams and athletes from underserved regions, enabling participation in competitive sport events.

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ESTIMATES NOTE

BC GAMES SOCIETY OVERVIEW

ISSUE: BC Games Society funding and background

RESPONSE

- The BC Games Society oversees the BC Winter and BC Summer Games and Team BC's participation in the Canada Summer and Winter Games.
- The BC Games provide developmental opportunities for athletes, coaches, and officials in preparation for higher levels of competition.
- The BC Games also provide important economic and tourism benefits, enabling host cities to profile their communities and benefit from an economic impact ranging from \$1.6 to \$2 million.

KEY FACTS

Background:

- The BC Games Society (BCGS) is incorporated under the *Societies Act* and reports to the ministry as a Crown service delivery agency.
 - Alison Noble is the Society's President and CEO. She oversees nine staff members.
 - The Society's board is chaired by Niki Remesz and comprised of 15 board members which includes an ex officio member from the Sport Branch.
- The BC Summer and Winter Games each take place every two years.
 - BC Winter Games (on average):
 - 19 sports, up to 2,100 participants (1,500 athletes, 350 coaches and managers, and 250 officials) and 2,000 volunteers.
 - A \$550,000 provincial grant goes to the BC Winter Games host communities.
 - BC Summer Games (on average):
 - 18 sports, more than 3,700 participants (2,800 athletes, 550 coaches and managers and 375 officials) and 3,000 volunteers.
 - A \$625,000 provincial grant goes to BC Summer Games host communities.
- Athletes ages range from 9 – 19 years, with an average age of 14 years.
- In August 2023, the Province announced \$1.5 million in one-time funding to support the staging of five Games.
- In late 2023-24, TACS provided an incremental \$2 million in funding to BCGS to further support its operations and success of future games.

ESTIMATES NOTE

Upcoming Games:

- The next Canada Games will be the St. John's (NL) 2025 Canada Summer Games, which will take place August 8 – 25, 2025.
- The next BC Games:
 - BC Winter Games will be the Trail-Rossland, February 25 – March 1, 2026.
 - BC Summer Games will be in Kelowna, July 22 - 26, 2026.
- In 2024-25, the Society supported the planning and delivery of the Maple Ridge 2024 BC Summer Games (July 17 – 21, 2024) and the Lhtako Quesnel 2024 BC Winter Games (February 22 – 25, 2024).

Size and Scope Review:

- The BC Games Society is currently undergoing a size and scope review in collaboration with all its sport partners, as the Games have grown too large to ensure an exceptional sport experience for all.
 - The number of communities that can host is also limited due to the size of the Games.
- The objective of the review is to ensure the Games align with each sport's athlete development pathway and to reduce the maximum Winter and Summer Games sport packages to 2,700 participants for each Games.
- The size and scope review is being led by an external consultant familiar with the sector and staff from the BC Games Society, with support from sport sector leaders and government representatives. These groups make up the stewarding committee.
- The stewarding committee will evaluate existing policies developed by the BC Games Society and how such policies may be altered to address size and scope concerns.
- Between 2023 and 2026, the BC Games Society will work with Provincial Sport Organization (PSO) and Disability Sport Organization (DSO) partners to establish the fit and relevancy of each sport participating in the Games.
- The BC Games Society and sport organizations will have regular meetings throughout the process to ensure all parties remain informed.
- The outcomes of the review will take effect at the 2028 Winter and Summer Games.

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ESTIMATES NOTE

SAFE SPORT

ISSUE: Actions to prevent and address maltreatment in sport.

RESPONSE

- B.C. is committed to ensuring all people involved in sport can participate in a safe, welcoming, and respectful environment.
- Bad behaviours like bullying, abuse, and racism that happen in society also can show up in the sport sector.
- These behaviours have no place in sport.
- That is why we have invested over \$8 million in one-time funding to build the PlaySafe BC program, and to create a new non-profit that will oversee an independent complaints process for people playing amateur sports.
- The Province is also doing its part to help build a national sport system we can all be proud of and feel safe playing in.

Key Facts

Background/Status

- Several high-profile cases and athlete testimony at two federal parliamentary committees have shown the failure of the current sport complaints system.
- In February 2019, Sport Ministers from across the country issued the *Red Deer Declaration* where provinces and territories committed to developing an independent mechanism for maltreatment complaints.
- Sport Canada established the Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner (OSIC) in June 2022 to handle maltreatment complaints for national level athletes.
- Early criticism of the OSIC centered on conflict-of-interest concerns as OSIC was seen to be too close to sport organizations. This led to OSIC moving from the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC) to the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) effective April 1, 2025.
- Under the CCES, the complaints program will be renamed the Canadian Safe Sport Program (CSSP).

Safe Sport in B.C.

- Following Cabinet direction in March 2024, the Sport Branch has been working closely with viaSport to create the governance structure for the new maltreatment complaints process.
- The governance structure will be an independent non-profit organization that oversees the service provider managing the complaints.



ESTIMATES NOTE

- A constitution and bylaw for the new entity has been developed and viaSport's Board is currently finalizing selection of the first directors for the non-profit.
- Next steps include:
 - Register the non-profit society in B.C. and recruit staff;
 - Develop an RFP to hire a service provider;
 - Develop administrative policy and services; and
 - Onboard sports organizations.
- It is expected that services will be available to designated sport organizations in late 2025/26.

Other Provincial/Territorial activities

- B.C. continues to collaborate with Canadian jurisdictions advancing towards the Red Deer commitment.
- Quebec and New Brunswick have operational independent complaint services.
- Other provinces have not yet finalized their approach to handling complaints.

Future of Sport in Canada Commission

- In December 2023, the federal government announced the Future of Sport in Canada Commission, which has a mandate to:
 - address safe sport issues, and
 - gather input on how to improve sport in Canada.
- Minister Chandra Herbert met with the Commissioner in Vancouver on January 31, 2025. A formal submission on behalf of the Province was also submitted to the Commissioner on February 14, 2025.
- An interim report is expected from the Commissioner in late spring 2025, with final recommendations to Sport Canada expected in fall 2025.

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ESTIMATES NOTE

SPORT AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

ISSUE: Rising costs limit British Columbians' participation in sport.

RESPONSE

- We understand people's concerns with rising costs and how they impact many parts of people's lives, including playing sport.
- We also have heard how rising costs are impacting sport organizations and their ability to host events in the Province.
- We continue to work with our sport partners to look at short- and long-term solutions that help with affordability and accessibility for sports.
- Every year the province invests in targeted programs that help reduce the costs of sport for young people.
- Programs like the After School Sports and Arts Initiative (ASSAI) and KidSport BC bring sport to kids who couldn't otherwise afford to play.
- We have also made several one-time investments to address sport affordability in the last three years, including \$3.6 million for the RISE Grant Program to help young people in and from government care, and \$3.5 million for the BC Games Society to ease inflation pressures related to their operations.

KEY FACTS

Background

- As the cost of living rises, individuals of all ages are less likely to engage in sport:
 - Cost keeps one out of three kids out of organized sport.
 - Among parents with children aged six and up, 50% reported that affordability issues have restricted their children's involvement in sports.
 - 75% of B.C. residents emphasize the importance of having affordable sports programs available in their communities.
 - Between 2021 and 2022, there was a 15% increase in survey respondents earning \$50,000 and under, indicating that sport equipment cost and registration fees were barriers to participation.
 - On average, in 2023 Canadian parents spent approximately \$1,820 per child annually on youth sports. This represented an 11% increase since 2021.
 - For example, the cost of soccer and martial arts, which are among the most affordable sports, rose from \$1,260 to \$1,400.
- Higher shelter and food costs force people to prioritize essential expenses.



ESTIMATES NOTE

- Sport is seen as non-essential and is often the first to get cut when household spending increases, ultimately reducing access to sport.
- Rising rents, legal, staffing, and insurance costs for sport organizations are passed on to participants through higher registration fees.

Government Solutions

- Government funding for sport organizations has remained static since 2010.
- There is no single solution to sport affordability. A long-term solution will require a systems change.
- In addition to evaluating options for long-term solutions, TACS is:
 - Funding Sport BC with \$0.4 million annually to support KidSport BC grants.
 - Funding the ASSAI program with \$1.4 million annually to provide free opportunities for youth to pursue sport and arts after school.
 - Continuing to work with viaSport and the sport sector to explore systemic affordability challenges and potential solutions.
 - Continuing to engage in partnership with the Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity & Recreation Council (ISPARC) to understand how best to support Indigenous people to access sport.
 - Utilizing data-driven analyses to develop funding strategies that prioritize community programs or leverage under-utilized public infrastructure (i.e. schools).
- The Province provided ISPARC with \$3.6 million for the RISE Grant Program in 2022/23, to be used over five years.
 - RISE supports youth in and from care with grants to participate in physical activity, sport, recreation, and cultural activities.
- The Province provided the BC Games Society with one-time grants of \$2.0 million in 2022/23 and \$1.5 million in 2023/24 to address affordability concerns for the Society and host societies for upcoming Games. These grants are used to keep athlete fees low, provide subsidies for athletes in need, and provide athlete transportation costs.
- The Province provided BC Seniors Games Society with \$300K in one-time funding to help with rising costs and to better support host societies for upcoming Games.

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ESTIMATES NOTE

SPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

ISSUE: There is insufficient and aging sport and recreation infrastructure across the Province, with limited funding available.

RESPONSE

- We know B.C.'s art, creative, culture, heritage, and sport sectors are facing growing challenges due to aging infrastructure and increasing demands from population growth. As a result of this demand, infrastructure has been included in the TACS mandate letter.
- Infrastructure requirements range from local community sports facilities to major public cultural venues. Addressing these needs is crucial for the well-being of people across the province.
- These sectors are not just cultural cornerstones; they are also significant economic drivers.
- We are actively engaging across government and with other partners to better understand the specific infrastructural needs of our diverse communities.
- I am committed to collaborating with provincial and federal counterparts to identify and advocate for much needed infrastructure funding.

Sport Sector:

- We have seen a substantial rise in requests for infrastructure project funding.
- Provincial and federal infrastructure programs exist, though they are not sport specific and do not meet existing needs.
- We will continue to work with partners in the sector to identify specific needs and solutions to infrastructure demands.

KEY FACTS

Background

- BC Recreation and Physical Activity (BCRPA) cites an estimated recreational infrastructure need of \$5 billion in B.C.
- Existing recreational facilities across B.C. are heavily oversubscribed, particularly swimming pools and ice rinks.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- This means many sport organizations do not have facilities in which to train or play, resulting in people missing out on sport and recreation and/or much higher participation costs.
 - When recreation facilities close either for maintenance or permanently, more strain is put on the existing facilities and the infrastructure deficit is amplified.
- Sport Branch has conducted research on working towards the possibility of better utilizing spaces in schools to meet the need for more court and field space.
 - Using these spaces more efficiently may require investment and will not entirely solve the need for investment in new and renovated sport infrastructure, particularly specialized spaces, such as pools and rinks.

Funding

- The Province does not have a sport-specific infrastructure fund.
- Provincial and federal infrastructure programs exist, but they are oversubscribed and serve all infrastructure needs.
- Traditionally, infrastructure priorities like transit, storm water, and sewage get funded, which means sport and recreation infrastructure receive limited funds.
 - Also, the existing programs do not support the scale of funds needed to advance or realize mid- to large-scale projects, which require \$0.250 million to \$25 million in funding.
- The Province's Community Gaming Grants Capital Project stream provides \$5 million annually for infrastructure projects and capital asset acquisitions. However, this fund alone is not sufficient to cover the province's sport and recreation infrastructure needs.
 - Non-profit sport organizations are eligible for funding.
 - In fiscal 2023-24, sport organizations received \$1.241 million.
 - Other sectors that received funding include Arts & Culture, Human and Social Services, Environment and Public Safety, as well as Parent Advisory Councils (PAC) and District Parent Advisory Councils (DPAC).

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ESTIMATES NOTE

GENDER AND SPORT

ISSUE: Trans athletes in sports

RESPONSE

- B.C. is committed to the inclusion and support of all kids in sports and the Province's focus on inclusive sport environments is outlined in our Pathways to Sport Framework.
- This includes celebrating differences, being free of discrimination, and supporting participation for everyone.
- Young people in our province, including trans kids, have the right to be recognized, safe, and respected. That right doesn't end just because they are at the track, arena, or field/pitch.
- No one should be the target of bullying or violence because of who they are. We will continue to support people who are transgender and their families.
- viaSport also provides guidance, following the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport, to support sports organizations to be inclusive for all participants.
- Fitness, sport, and healthy lives are important for everyone. Participation in sport is an important component of mental health and well-being.
- The Province does not regulate the categories in which participants compete in for their respective sport.
- Each sport is unique and that is why decisions around eligibility are made by sports' international, national, and provincial governing bodies, depending on the level of play.

KEY FACTS

- As of 2024, 14 of 59 International Sport Organizations (ISOs) have a related policy, all of which restrict trans athletes in some way.
- 19 of 59 National Sport Organizations (NSOs) and 16 of 59 Provincial Sport Organizations (PSOs) have a related gender inclusion, or diversity and equity policy.
- No NSO or PSO restrict trans athletes; however, many rely on the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport's (CCES) guidance from research they have commissioned. Research to-date includes a literature review, and recommendations and findings, both from biomedical and sociocultural perspectives.



ESTIMATES NOTE

- Many sports are moving to establishing an open category to provide opportunities for transgender participation.
- In addition to balancing competing human rights, many sports are also trying to balance participant safety when establishing transgender inclusion in their sports. Sport specific considerations may include biological differences, fairness concerns, social and physiological impacts, and scientific uncertainty.

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ESTIMATES NOTE

CORE MESSAGING – MARQUEE SPORT

ISSUE: Provincial role, funding, and status in Marquee Sport Events

RESPONSE

- Sport has the power to change lives, and large events like the Invictus Games and the FIFA World Cup can inspire the next generation to play, to participate, to kick off their careers, and to climb all the way to the podium.
- Marquee sport events are internationally recognized major sporting events that promote B.C. globally as a prime destination while stimulating economic growth and sparking tourism, sport development, and community engagement.
- B.C. is an attractive host destination for sport events due to our world-class facilities, suitable climate and geography, and a wealth of hosting capacity and expertise.
- Hosting marquee sport events creates opportunities to attract international visitors to B.C., helping to achieve long-term benefits through increased tourism.
- The Province has had an impressive lineup of marquee events in recent years, including:
 - 2024 Grey Cup at BC Place in Vancouver
 - 2025 Invictus Games in Vancouver and Whistler
 - The upcoming 2026 FIFA World Cup at BC Place in Vancouver
- B.C.'s investment in these events is a major step in continuing to build a vibrant and resilient tourism sector and economy.

KEY FACTS

- Marquee sport events, such as major multi-sport games, are evaluated by assessing the economic, tourism, and sport benefits and potential community and social legacies.
- This assessment is done on a case-by-case basis and includes the analysis of a detailed business plan, budget, legacy plan, economic impact forecast, and confirmation of stakeholder and government support.
- Hosting marquee events aligns with TACS' mandate to maximize economic and tourism impacts and supports the *StrongerBC Economic Plan* and *Pathways to Sport: A Strategic Framework for Sports in B.C. 2020-2025*.

ESTIMATES NOTE

2024 Grey Cup, Vancouver

- The 2024 Grey Cup took place at BC Place on November 17, 2024.
- This annual championship event of the Canadian Football League is a national celebration that attracts visitors and viewers from across the country.
- In October 2023, the Province approved a \$3.5 million commitment (\$1 million in 2023/24, \$2.5 million in 2024/25) for the six-day Grey Cup Fan Festival and to support legacy initiatives that will benefit amateur sport development, the tourism sector, and local communities.

2025 Invictus Games, Vancouver and Whistler

- The Invictus Games took place in Vancouver and Whistler February 8-16, 2025.
- 550 competitors, 250 support staff, and 1,100 friends and family from 23 participating nations took part.
- The Province worked closely with the Vancouver Whistler Games Corporation, (the organizing committee) to ensure recognition of the Province's investment, leverage provincial priorities, collaborate on legacy initiatives, and ensure sound governance and event management practices.
- In April 2022, the Province approved a \$15 million commitment (\$1 million in 2022/23, \$1.5 million in 2023/24, \$12.5 million in 2024/25) for the 2025 Invictus Games.

FIFA World Cup 26

- On June 16, 2022, Vancouver was confirmed as a Host City for the FIFA World Cup 26.
- The tournament will be co-hosted by 16 Host Cities in three countries: Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Toronto is the other Canadian Host City.
- Vancouver will host seven matches, including five group stage matches and two knockout matches (one round of 32 and one round of 16).
- All parties have been working collaboratively to review FIFA's hosting requirements and develop plans to deliver a successful event.
- In March 2022, before Vancouver was confirmed as a Host City, the Province's preliminary estimate for planning, staging, and hosting five matches was \$240 to \$260 million. This included both the City and BC Place Stadium costs.
- In April 2024, core hosting cost estimates were revised and are now estimated to be between \$483 million and \$581 million. This includes costs for the City, BC Place, and the Province.
- These costs are expected to be offset by \$383 million to \$436 million in estimated revenues and recoveries, including:
 - Close to \$116 million from the federal government,
 - \$230 million from the additional Major Events Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) in the City of Vancouver (CoV), introduced February 1, 2023,
 - \$37 million to \$90 million in anticipated revenue from other sources, such as facility rental fees, FIFA's commercial program including the FIFA Fan Festival, and the Host City Supporter and Donor programs.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- In January 2023, the Province, at the request of the CoV, introduced a modest temporary increase to the MRDT on short-term accommodations to help cover the CoV's hosting costs.
- The CoV and Province will communicate the costs of, and revenues from, hosting this event as they become clear. TACS and the Ministry of Finance are working closely with federal and municipal event partners to maximize the long-term economic benefits of hosting this event for B.C.

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ESTIMATES NOTE

KEY FACTS AND STATISTICS

ISSUE: Attracting and hosting marquee sport events and leveraging these events to benefit British Columbians.

RESPONSE

- Marquee sport events contribute to British Columbia's social and economic prosperity.
- Our goal is to maximize the benefits of marquee sport events for all British Columbians, and to ensure B.C. remains a top destination for tourism and event hosting.
- These events provide opportunities to highlight the importance and benefits of sport for our physical and mental well-being and to build legacies that benefit communities and people across the province.
- The Province is working closely with event organizers, local First Nations, and community stakeholders on legacy plans to ensure long-term benefits for British Columbians.

If asked about the differences in economic impact estimates between the Province and FIFA Canada:

- FIFA's modelling focuses on the period leading up to and including the tournament, and uses different assumptions. For example:
 - FIFA Canada uses all host cities to benchmark their analysis,
 - FIFA has higher estimated expenditures, which are attributable to increased estimates of FIFA, VIP, and media spending.
- Whereas the Province's conservative modelling approach focuses on the tournament period and the five following years.

KEY FACTS

- British Columbia has a strong reputation for successful sport event hosting.
- In 2019, Sport Tourism Canada indicated that sport tourism expenditures in B.C. were valued at \$1.72 billion annually.
- The same analysis found that B.C. ranks second among provinces in sport tourism visits (behind only Ontario) but ranks first in the percentage of sport tourism revenues generated by international visitors (65 percent).

ESTIMATES NOTE

Background/Status

- B.C. has successfully hosted two marquee sport events in the past year (Grey Cup 2024 and Invictus Games 2025) and is set to play host to the FIFA World Cup in 2026.
- Hosting these marquee sport events aligns with provincial priorities for enhancing economic growth and advancing meaningful reconciliation with First Nations through involvement of local First Nations in event planning and participation, as outlined in Call to Action #91.
- The Province is committed to leveraging the opportunities provided by the FIFA World Cup 26 and other major events to maximize economic development and tourism impact.
- Hosting marquee events provides the opportunity to build legacies that will benefit all British Columbians. This includes infrastructure and programs as well as improved capacity for hosting major events.

2024 Grey Cup, Vancouver

- Key stats:
 - 54,000 spectators
 - 9.9 million Canadian viewers
 - 500,000 festival visitors
 - 30,000 estimated out-of-town visitors
 - \$3.5 million in provincial funding
 - \$125 million in economic impact (estimate provided by the organizer, based on previous Grey Cup impacts and assumptions about 2024 event attendance).
 - Final economic impact analysis is expected in Spring 2025.

Invictus Games 2025, Vancouver and Whistler

- Key stats:
 - 23 participating nations
 - 9 different sports
 - 550 competitors
 - 1,100 friends and family
 - 1,900 volunteers
 - \$15 million in provincial funding
 - \$63.3 million of economic impact (based on a forecast by Sports Tourism Canada)
 - Final economic impact analysis is expected in Spring 2025.

FIFA World Cup 26 (FWC26)

- Key stats:
 - 7 matches at BC Place Stadium
 - FIFA Fan Festival in Vancouver
 - 48 qualifying teams

ESTIMATES NOTE

- 4 billion viewers expected (based on Qatar FIFA World Cup 2022)
- Over 1 million additional out of province visitors are expected between 2026-2031
- Over \$1 billion in additional visitor spending
- \$1 billion added to provincial GDP
- Up to potentially \$224 million in direct, indirect and other related provincial tax revenues

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ESTIMATES NOTE

2026 FIFA WORLD CUP

ISSUE: British Columbia will host seven matches of the World Cup in 2026.

RESPONSE

- The FIFA World Cup 26 is the largest single-sport event in the world. Hosting it will be a once-in-a-generation opportunity for all British Columbians, especially soccer fans.
- This event will put a global spotlight on B.C. as a prime destination like no other, boosting tourism for years to come and strengthening B.C.'s economy.
- Destination B.C. and BC Stats estimated that, based on hosting seven matches, the FIFA World Cup 26 could bring over \$1 billion in additional visitor spending between 2026 and 2031.
- It is expected that people who visit B.C. will return four times in their lifetimes. These visitors fill up hotel rooms, buy from local businesses and take their positive experiences home, encouraging their friends and relatives to visit.
- Over the last year, a number of FIFA-related delegations have visited Vancouver as part of the planning process.
- B.C. companies will have opportunities to bid on goods and services to the FIFA World Cup via BC Bid or other procurement sites.
- The Province is committed to maximizing the economic impact of these matches and making sure people across B.C. share in the benefits of hosting.
- The Province and the City are collaborating with the MST Nations, on whose territories the World Cup matches in Vancouver will be held, to ensure they share in the benefits and opportunities the FIFA World Cup 26 will bring to B.C.

Costs:

- We continue to work with all partners to assess hosting requirements and refine our plans accordingly, including updating our assessment of estimated costs and revenues.
- Cost estimates are influenced by several factors, some of which are not yet known, including:
 - Which teams will play in Vancouver,

ESTIMATES NOTE

- Greater understanding of FIFA's hosting requirements, informed by regular site visits and meetings with FIFA,
- The rate of inflation, and
- Safety and security assessments.
- Ultimately, each host city is unique, and each will have different cost estimates to meet FIFA's hosting requirements.
- The Province remains committed to being transparent about hosting costs and will provide regular updates on cost estimates.

Hotel Capacity:

- I am aware of the concerns about hotel capacity in Vancouver to meet future demands like hosting the FIFA World Cup 26.
- This is something the Province has raised with tourism and accommodation stakeholders and the federal government.
- I understand that 3,700 hotel rooms are in the development pipeline for Vancouver, which is good news for the tourism industry.
- We have a strong relationship with British Columbia's accommodation sector and we will continue to work with the City of Vancouver (CoV), other cities, and our partners on all issues that affect tourism and accommodation as we move closer to the World Cup.
- We are open to hearing solutions from the accommodation sector to address the need for more hotel rooms.

Disclosure of FIFA Agreements:

- The Host City Agreement is between the City of Vancouver and FIFA. Questions about this agreement should be directed to the City.
- I expect the City of Vancouver, as well as any other parties in B.C. that have agreements with FIFA, to comply with provincial access-to-information laws and work with FIFA, as appropriate, to respond to access-to-information requests.
- The Province has signed an agreement with FIFA that allows it to use some FIFA Intellectual Property to promote the FIFA World Cup 26 in British Columbia.
- The Province has no agreements with FIFA related to the planning, staging or hosting of FIFA World Cup 26 matches in Vancouver.

ESTIMATES NOTE

If asked about the differences in economic impact estimates between the Province and those announced by FIFA Canada:

- The Province uses a conservative approach in modelling to ensure impacts are not overstated.
- FIFA Canada's analysis is focused on the economic impacts of the preparation for, and hosting of, the tournament.
- The Province's estimates are based on the impacts of tourism to B.C.'s economy during the tournament and the following five years.

If asked about the disclosure of the Province's agreement with FIFA Canada:

- Any agreements or documents released by the Province will comply with provincial access-to-information laws and the Province will work with the signatories, as appropriate, to respond to access-to-information requests.

If asked about the additional Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT)

- Questions about MRDT should be directed to the Ministry of Finance.

If asked about priority access to health care for FIFA athletes or officials:

- No agreements exist with Vancouver Coastal Health to provide FIFA athletes or VIPs with priority access to the provincial health care system.
- As always, urgent care will be provided based on medical need, with patients triaged and treated according to the severity of their illness or condition.

KEY FACTS

Background

- On June 16, 2022, Vancouver was confirmed as a Host City for the FIFA World Cup 26. The tournament will be co-hosted by 16 Host Cities in three countries: Canada, the United States and Mexico. Toronto is the other Canadian Host City.
- The tournament is the largest single-sport event in the world.
- The FIFA World Cup 26 will be the first with a 48-team format, up from 32 teams. In March 2023, FIFA announced a further expansion of the 2026 tournament to include 104 matches, up from the previously planned 80 matches.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- FIFA announced its match schedule on February 4, 2024, and confirmed that Vancouver will host seven matches, including five group stage matches and two knockout matches (one round of 32 and one round of 16).
- Following the confirmation of Vancouver as a Host City, FIFA signed legal agreements with the CoV, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, BC Pavilion Corporation (PavCo), and Vancouver Airport Authority (YVR).
- While the Province is not a signatory to these agreements, it has provided FIFA with guarantees in relation to: work permits/labour law, taxation, provision of health care to participants and guests, integrated safety and security, sale and advertising of liquor, protection of personal information and access to information laws in B.C.
- Governance committees have been established at the national and provincial level to support collective planning and aligned decision-making, including:
 - National Level Committees: representation from the Government of Canada, City of Toronto, CoV, the Province of British Columbia, and the Province of Ontario, with secretariat support provided by Sport Canada.
 - Provincial Level Committees: representation from the Province, CoV, PavCo, and YVR, with secretariat support provided by TACS and CoV.
 - The Province has established a cross-government ADM Committee and operational leads table to ensure ministries are effectively engaged in FWC26 planning and preparation.
- Killarney Park in Vancouver will be a venue-specific training site. On January 20, 2025, UBC, the Vancouver Whitecaps, and the CoV signed a Letter of Intent outlining key terms for FIFA Canada's potential use of the National Soccer Development Center at UBC's Vancouver campus as a team base camp and training site location.
- Indigenous participation in FIFA World Cup 26 is a priority for the Province and the Host City.

Financial Impact

- Hosting marquee events creates opportunities for significant profile and international exposure and can bring new international visitors to B.C., helping to achieve long-term economic and social benefits that will provide lasting legacies for British Columbians.
- In March 2024, the Province estimated that, based on hosting seven matches, the FIFA World Cup 26 will bring over 1 million additional out-of-province visitors to B.C. between 2026 and 2031, which could generate over \$1 billion in additional visitor spending during that period.
- In December 2024, FIFA released an economic impact assessment which indicates that FWC26 will generate \$1.3 billion in positive economic output and contribute \$760 million gross GDP for British Columbia.



ESTIMATES NOTE

- This analysis is done on a different basis to the Province's own assessment. FIFA's analysis is focused on the economic impacts associated with the preparation for and hosting the tournament.
- The Province's estimates are based on the impacts of tourism on B.C.'s economy during the tournament and the following five years.
- Additionally, FIFA Canada uses all host cities to benchmark their analysis. They have higher estimated expenditures, which are assumed to be attributed to an increased estimate of FIFA, VIP, and media spending.
- In March 2022, prior to Vancouver's selection as a Host City, the Province's preliminary estimate for planning, staging, and hosting five FIFA World Cup 2026 matches was approximately \$240 to \$260 million. This included both the City and BC Place Stadium costs.
- In April 2024, core hosting cost estimates were revised and are now estimated to be between \$483 million and \$581 million. This includes costs for the City, PavCo, and the Province.
- These costs are expected to be offset by \$383 million to \$436 million in estimated revenues and recoveries, including:
 - Close to \$116 million from the federal government for core operational and capital costs,
 - \$230 million from the additional Major Events Municipal and Regional District Tax in the City of Vancouver,
 - \$37 million to \$90 million in anticipated revenue from other sources, such as facility rental fees, FIFA's commercial program which includes the FIFA Fan Festival, and the Host City Supporters and Donors program.
- The Province continues to work with all partners to contain costs, identify efficiencies and maximize revenues and recoveries.

Major Events Municipal Regional District Tax

- In November 2022, the Ministry of Finance introduced and passed legislation to allow for an additional Major Events Municipal Regional District Tax (MDRT) of up to 2.5% on short-term accommodation to generate revenue toward hosting large international events.
- At the request of the CoV, as of February 1, 2023, visitor accommodation properties in Vancouver began collecting the additional Major Events MRDT. It is expected to generate \$230 million over seven years to help offset the CoV's hosting costs.

Indigenous Participation

- On June 20, 2023, Premier David Eby, the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport (TACS) and the Mayor of Vancouver met with Chief Wayne Sparrow (Musqueam), Wilson Williams (Squamish), and Chief Jen Thomas (Tsleil-Waututh) to discuss their respective interests regarding FIFA World Cup 26.

ESTIMATES NOTE

- On December 6, 2023, the TACS Minister and Mayor once again met with MST Nation leadership to strengthen relationships and continue discussions about their participation in FIFA World Cup 26.

- Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications representatives from MST Nations continue to meet with the Province (Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and TACS) and the City of Vancouver to discuss their participation in the planning, staging and hosting of FIFA World Cup 26.

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ESTIMATES NOTE

2025 INVICTUS GAMES

ISSUE: Provincial role, funding, and status of Invictus Games 2025

RESPONSE

- We were thrilled to provide \$15 million in funding support towards hosting the first-ever winter hybrid Invictus Games in 2025, and welcome athletes, coaches, families, and visitors to B.C.
- The Invictus Games honoured wounded, ill and injured veterans and military personnel from 23 participating nations from around the world as part of their journey to recovery.
- The Invictus Games increased the profile of B.C.'s adaptive sport opportunities and programming.
- The nine-day event also highlighted the important role of Indigenous members of our Canadian Armed Forces.
- The event created lasting legacies for the amateur sport sector, veterans and their families.
- We expect the final Economic Impact Assessment in the coming months. It is currently estimated at estimated \$63.3 million in additional economic activity.

Key Facts

Background

- The seventh Invictus Games took place February 8 -16, 2025, in Vancouver and Whistler.
- The event invited wounded, injured and sick military service personnel to compete in eleven different sports.
- B.C. welcomed approximately 550 international competitors, 250 support staff and 1,100 friends and family from 23 participating nations.
- The 2025 Invictus Games were the first event with winter sports (alpine skiing, snowboard, cross-country skiing, biathlon, skeleton and wheelchair curling).
- B.C. leveraged existing facilities including winter sport facilities from the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- The Vancouver Whistler Games Corporation, the organizing committee, was established as a not-for-profit and created a Board of Directors that included leaders of the Squamish, Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh and Lil'wat Nations.
- The Invictus Games were founded by Prince Harry, the Duke of Sussex. Previous Invictus Games have taken place in London (2014), Orlando (2016), Toronto (2017), Sydney (2018) The Hague (2022) and Dusseldorf (2023.)



ESTIMATES NOTE

Financial Impact

- In April 2022, the Province approved a \$15 million commitment (\$1 million in 2022/23, \$1.5 million in 2023/24, and \$12.5 million in 2024/25) for the Invictus Games 2025.
- The Federal Government, through Veterans Affairs Canada, provided \$15 million in funding in support of this event.
- The Province worked closely with Vancouver Whistler Games Corporation to ensure the Province was appropriately recognized for its investment; provincial priorities were leveraged; collaboration took place on legacy initiatives; and sound governance and event management practices were implemented.

Legacy

- As a direct result of hosting the Games, new and lightly used adaptive sports equipment will remain in B.C. following the games to be used by amateur sport organizations, helping grow inclusive sport participation.
- Additional legacy programming includes adaptive snow sport research, veterans' employment, and an enhanced awareness of Reconciliation and the role of Indigenous members of the Canadian Armed Forces.
- As a direct result of hosting the Invictus Games, over 2,500 volunteer applicants opted to have their contact information shared with viaSport. This will help boost sport volunteerism in British Columbia, which had declined since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Indigenous Participation

- The Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and Lil'Wat Nations were involved in planning and delivering the event. The Nations participated in the bid process and a representative travelled to Dusseldorf, Germany in 2023 for the handover of the Games to Canada.
- The Invictus Games 2025 brand was co-developed with artists from all four Host Nations and was an integral part of the event.

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ESTIMATES NOTE

2024 GREY CUP

ISSUE: Provincial role, funding, and status of 2024 Grey Cup.

RESPONSE

- The Government of B.C. is proud to have supported the 2024 Grey Cup and Grey Cup Festival, hosted in Vancouver from November 10-17, 2024.
- The Grey Cup is Canada's largest annual sporting event and showcased British Columbia to over 500,000 fans and 9.9 million television viewers, generating significant economic benefits.
- To maximize the benefits of hosting this event, the Province committed up to \$3.5 million to support a family-friendly fan festival and legacy projects to ensure this event benefits British Columbians throughout the Province.
- The Grey Cup attracted an estimated 30,000 out-of-town visitors who spent their dollars at local businesses, hotels, restaurants and attractions in Vancouver and throughout the province.
- It was exciting to see the Grey Cup event fill the stands at BC Place and inspire fans to visit B.C. again in the future.
- Out-of-province travellers spend more, stay longer, and travel to smaller communities after visiting larger urban areas. We know that these visitors take positive experiences home - encouraging others to come here in the future.
- The Grey Cup also profiled B.C. as a prime destination for sport hosting, creating more opportunities for boosts to the economy that will benefit all of B.C.

Key Facts

Background

- The 111th annual Grey Cup took place at BC Place on November 17, 2024.
- The event featured a six day, free-to-the-public, festival leading up to the game that aligned with TACS' mandate to ensure the event provides positive benefits for businesses, communities, and the tourism sector.



ESTIMATES NOTE

- The Grey Cup has strong reach and is one of Canadian television's largest annual sporting events, with the 2024 event attracting approximately 9.9 million national broadcast viewers.
- The BC Lions established the 2024 Grey Cup Organizing Committee, responsible for organizing the 2024 Grey Cup and associated events.
- Legacy activities and other programs to increase sport development and youth participation as well as ancillary events were developed by the 2024 Grey Cup Organizing Committee.

Financial Impact

- The Grey Cup is an iconic Canadian event that represents a unique sport hosting and tourism opportunity for British Columbia.
- The event welcomed more than 500,000 festival fans and an estimated 30,000 out-of-town visitors for the Grey Cup and Grey Cup Festival.
- In October 2023, the Province announced a \$3.5 million commitment (\$1 million in 2023/24, \$2.5 million in 2024/25) for the six-day Grey Cup Festival and to support legacy initiatives.
- The total event budget was the responsibility of the Grey Cup 2024 Organizing Committee, not the Province of B.C.
- The 2024 Grey Cup Organizing Committee projected a \$125 million economic impact (based on review of previous Grey Cup event impacts and assumptions about event attendance).
- The Grey Cup Organizing Committee have commissioned Sport Tourism Canada (STC) to conduct a post-event economic impact analysis. The final report is anticipated by spring 2025.

Indigenous Participation

- The BC Lions and the Grey Cup 2024 Organizing Committee engaged with Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations to ensure their communities participated in, and benefited from, hosting this event on their territories.

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