

Ministry of Environment
and the
Environmental Assessment Office

2012/13
Annual Service Plan Report



For more information on how to contact the British Columbia Ministry of Environment,
see Ministry Contact Information on Page 51 or contact:

Ministry of Environment

PO BOX 9339
STN PROV GOVT
VICTORIA, BC
V8W 9M1

or visit our website at

www.gov.bc.ca/env/

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Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement



I am pleased to be reporting on the accomplishments of the Ministry of Environment and the Environmental Assessment Office.

Over the past year the Ministry's accomplishments have served to reinforce our reputation as global leaders in the fight against climate change, while ensuring economic growth and environmental sustainability can in fact co-exist.

We are now seeing the results of the revenue neutral carbon tax, and to date have over 95% of local governments signing on to the Climate Action Charter. Despite population and Gross Domestic Product growth exceeding the Canadian average, we have seen a 5.8% reduction in our greenhouse gas emissions from 2007 to 2011. Sales of fossil fuels are down in B.C. over that period, and by a greater amount than the Canadian average. We are also seeing growth in the green economy, with twice the national adoption rate of hybrid vehicles, 20% of all new LEED Gold buildings in Canada, the most active market for district energy in Canada, and a growing clean technology sector.

In May 2013, government made its final written submission to the Northern Gateway Pipeline Joint Review Panel. All evidence and submissions made to the panel were thoroughly reviewed, and government concluded the project cannot be supported as presented because British Columbians' environmental concerns have not been sufficiently addressed. The Joint Review Panel is ultimately responsible for determining if it is appropriate to grant a certificate for the project as it is currently proposed, and it is our government's firm belief that no certificate should be granted before those concerns are addressed.

Last summer the ministry launched the Northeast Air Quality Monitoring Program in response to resident concerns about the air quality impacts of oil and gas operations in northeastern B.C. The program will run for three years in partnership with the oil and gas industry, will make air quality data easily accessible to the public, and will help citizens make daily decisions about air quality and their health requirements.

Further to this, in support of government's commitment to transparency and new ways of engaging the public, in November 2012 we launched the [Environmental Reporting BC](#)¹ website. Already we've released new content relating to plants and animals, land, waste, and air, and have contributed eight new datasets to the DataBC open data catalogue. This key initiative includes a dynamic new website and the Environmental Reporting BC Twitter feed (@EnvReportBC).

¹ env.gov.bc.ca/soe/

It was a great year to explore B.C.'s spectacular wilderness. It seems that the word has gotten out, as I'm delighted to report that in 2012, for the first time ever, BC Parks attendance exceeded 100,000 visitors! BC Parks was also a key partner in B.C.'s first ever Family Day on February 11, 2013, providing no-fee access to activities such as snowshoeing, hiking, beachcombing, and more. In April 2013, we provided \$240,000 to support [volunteers in BC Parks](#)² across the province. And in May 2013, we committed an additional \$3 million in capital funding for 120 projects and 89 parks across the province.

The protection of B.C.'s native species and ecosystems are among the ministry's most important responsibilities. In recognition of the need for a broader provincial vision for species at risk we drafted [Protecting Vulnerable Species: A Draft Five-Year Plan for Species at Risk in British Columbia](#)³ and opened it up to public comment. The plan proposes a vision for species at risk, demonstrates provincial leadership by outlining a coherent program, and charts a clear path to the future.

As part of ongoing efforts to protect threatened caribou populations, the ministry also enforces snowmobile closures established under the *Wildlife Act* to protect critical winter habitat. Coordinated by the Conservation Officer Service, 'Operation Out of Bounds' saw Conservation Officers, Park Rangers and Natural Resource Officers patrolling closures from January through April 2013 between Valemont and the remote areas of the Hart Ranges near Prince George. In addition to taking enforcement action, officers made contact with an estimated 2,000 members of the public, offering considerable opportunity to educate and reinforce the rules. A decline in non-compliance was observed over the season in key locations.

In recognition of the Pacific Salmon's high ecological, cultural and economic significance to British Columbians, we designated the Pacific Salmon as the official provincial fish emblem. Salmon are often seen as indicators of overall ecosystem and wildlife health, and are also a significant economic driver in B.C. due to commercial and recreational fisheries.

In March 2013, we amended the *Integrated Pest Management Act* to address public concern over the use of cosmetic pesticides. Our goal was to ensure that all pesticides are being used safely and responsibly. These amendments will ensure pesticides are used responsibly by trained individuals by expanding existing requirements for licensing to include those applying pesticides to private landscaped areas.

B.C. continues to be an innovative leader in extended producer responsibility (EPR). It has more extended producer responsibility product and packaging recycling programs than any other jurisdiction in North America. In July 2012, B.C. was awarded the highest ranking in the country for EPR programs on EPR Canada's national report card.

² bcparksvolunteers.ca

³ env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/5_yr_plan

Ministry of Environment and the Environmental Assessment Office

We continued the implementation of our comprehensive response to the Auditor General's 2011 report on the Environmental Assessment Office's oversight of certified projects. As part of this effort, we completed 17 site inspections in 2012/13 and took steps to further ensure effective coordination and collaboration with other agencies. We continued to lead B.C.'s response to the new federal *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, and realized an important milestone by signing a Memorandum of Understanding on Substitution of Environmental Assessments with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. We also successfully completed nine environmental assessment in 2012/13.

I would like to thank ministry staff for their hard work and dedication to the environment over the last year. I am excited to be serving British Columbians in the capacity of Minister of Environment, and am looking forward to continuing the ministry's incredible environmental track record.

The *Ministry of Environment and the Environmental Assessment Office 2012/13 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the actual results to the expected results identified in the ministry's *Revised 2012/13 – 2014/15 Service Plan*. I am accountable for those results as reported.



Honourable Mary Polak
Minister of Environment



A sub-alpine lake below Murray Ridge, Pine Le Moray Provincial Park

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Highlights of the Year

Cosmetic Pesticides

The legislative Special Committee on Cosmetic Pesticides released its report on May 17, 2012, concluding that regulations restricting the use of cosmetic pesticides should be tightened but not banned outright. Taking into account over 8,000 comments from a public consultation as well as recommendations from the committee, the amendments to the *Integrated Pest Management Act* addressed public concern over the use of cosmetic pesticides on private landscaped areas. Over 5,000 of the public responses called for at least a restriction on the scope of pesticides used on private landscaped areas. Additionally, the legislature and the majority of members of the special committee called for tighter restrictions on the sale and use of pesticides.

Input from the public submissions and guidance from the committee's report will help inform the intent of the regulations. Key considerations include:

- pesticides should be used by licensed people with knowledge and training; and
- allowing the Minister of Environment the ability to identify specific exemptions from the licensing requirement, including prescribing lists of pesticides which can be used by uncertified individuals. These lists would be similar to exempted lists in other provinces and will likely include pesticides with naturally occurring active ingredients.

Government took both the committee's report and public input seriously and this will be reflected in the development of regulations.

New Conservancies and Protected Areas

In 2012/13, amendments to the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act* added more than 856,000 hectares to the protected areas system. The amendments added:

- 580,969 hectares to the protected areas system administered by BC Parks by establishing ten new conservancies and making additions to an existing Class A park as a result of the Atlin Taku Land Use Plan;
- marine foreshore areas to nine existing conservancies on Haida Gwaii;
- lands to five existing conservancies on Haida Gwaii; and
- lands to five existing Class A parks on southern Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and the Lower Mainland.

These amendments received royal assent in May 2012.

Northern Caribou Recovery

In November 2012, B.C. committed to protecting 90 per cent of identified high-elevation winter caribou habitat across the South Peace to support the recovery of Northern Caribou. The plan commits government to implement caribou population management activities to support population recovery and opportunities for First Nations' caribou harvest, develop management objectives and best management practices in lower-elevation winter caribou habitat, as well as other important commitments. Approximately 17,000 Northern Caribou live in British Columbia. Northern Caribou in the South Peace are declining and are currently listed as "threatened" under the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

Oil Spill Preparedness and Response

The ministry released an Intentions Paper in November 2012, seeking public input on three key areas intended to strengthen spill preparedness and response in B.C. The three areas were:

- establishing a world class regime for land-based spill preparedness and response;
- developing effective and efficient rules for restoration of the environment following a spill; and
- ensuring effective government oversight and coordination of industry spill response.

Over 90 responses to the Intentions Paper were received. A summary of response comments is posted to the [Ministry of Environment website](#).⁴

In March 2013, the ministry hosted a three day symposium on spill preparedness and response. Over 200 representatives from the international spill response community, oil and chemical producers and transporters, government agencies, First Nations, environmental organizations, stakeholders, and academia met to discuss world leading practices and processes to help shape B.C.'s spill preparedness and response regime. A report on the symposium will be posted in June 2013.

Tsunami Debris Cleanup

Tsunami debris cleanup efforts have continued in earnest. In November 2012, the draft management plan for tsunami debris was presented to marine advisory groups and First Nations in the affected regions of Vancouver Island, the Central Coast, the North Coast and Haida Gwaii. In September 2012, B.C. partnered with the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup to hold cleanup events in communities across the province. And in March 2013, the ministry reached an agreement for B.C. to administer \$1 million received from Japan through the Canadian government to help clean up tsunami debris.

⁴ env.gov.bc.ca/epd/codes/spr_eep/response.htm

Climate Action Outreach

In 2012, the Climate Action Secretariat (CAS) facilitated two Climate Action Exchange events in Dawson Creek and Castlegar to bring together rural local governments, non-profits, businesses and citizens to explore solutions to regionally specific climate challenges. CAS facilitates online engagement between community and thought leaders around the province regarding climate action and sustainability strategies using a customized online social media platform called LiveSmart Leaders. Currently, there are over 1000 members of this community.



*Alpine Larches in the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy
Provincial Park*

Clean Energy Vehicles

The Clean Energy Vehicles incentive program has been given a one year extension in our efforts to put emission-free technology onto B.C. roads. Through 2012/13, 363 new plug-in electric vehicles were sold or leased in B.C. To support the growing movement towards electric vehicles, over 600 publicly accessible electric recharge stations were built throughout the province this past year. B.C. also completed a \$2 million investment in the Prince George-based Carbon Offset Aggregation Cooperative to help retrofit heavy diesel trucks, and in March 2013 awarded Fortis BC with the first Green Economy Leadership award for its work in promoting natural gas vehicles.

Civil Forfeiture

For the first time, the Conservation Officer Service made use of civil forfeiture as an added measure for enforcing environmental legislation. Civil forfeiture is a legal process wherein private property involved in criminal activities can be forfeited to the Crown. In 2012, firearms were in one instance forfeited in response to a *Wildlife Act* offense. In another case, private land near Christina Lake was placed under a performance agreement, and will be automatically forfeited for further *Wildlife Act* violations.

Wood Stove Exchange

In November 2012, the ministry announced over \$192,000 in grant funding to 14 communities and regional districts to encourage residents to replace their old wood stoves with cleaner burning models that will improve personal health and air quality. B.C.'s goal is to have close to 700 stoves exchanged across the province this year. Since 2008, government has partnered with the BC Lung Association to run the provincial Wood Stove Exchange Program. To-date, government has put over \$1.8 million towards the program, which has resulted in over 5,000 old wood stoves successfully replaced.

Purpose of Ministry

British Columbia's water, land, air, and plant and animal life are among the most abundant and diverse in all of Canada, and provide British Columbians with a plethora of valuable economic and social benefits. The Ministry of Environment is responsible for encouraging and maintaining the effective protection, management, and conservation of B.C.'s water, land, air, and living resources. It administers the province's parks and protected areas, and monitors and enforces compliance with environmental laws and regulations. It is also responsible for providing leadership to minimize the effects of climate change and ensuring that British Columbians and industry are prepared to adapt to the effects of a changing climate.

B.C.'s environment is a natural resource that is entrusted to every B.C. resident. To help British Columbians protect their water, land, and air, the ministry has developed environmental reporting tools such as Environmental Reporting BC and the on-line searchable Environmental Violations Database. The ministry also uses the Report All Poachers and Polluters line to acquire important information from British Columbians on what they see happening in all parts of the province. The ministry takes a leadership role in engaging with stakeholders, First Nations and industry in sharing the stewardship of our environment.

Monitoring, assessing, and reporting on environmental conditions are critical services provided by the ministry, and delivering on those requires extensive scientific data. The ministry collects, stores, retrieves, analyzes, and sets standards for environmental data, and makes key data available to the public as part of the government's *Open Data* initiative. The ministry also undertakes, commissions, and coordinates environmental studies.

Threats to the environment are inherently threats to public safety. Incidents such as oil spills can threaten habitats and drinking water and require rapid and diligent responses. To this end, the ministry manages a comprehensive emergency response program in order to protect the welfare of the public from environmental emergencies and disasters. The Conservation Officer Service provides critical public safety services, human-wildlife conflict response, and natural resource sector compliance and enforcement to the citizens of B.C.

Through leadership, expertise, and sound scientific practices, the ministry provides the services and support necessary to enable government to meet its environmental goals while supporting positive economic outcomes for B.C. The successful delivery of key cross-government initiatives such as the *BC Jobs Plan: Growing Green Jobs* and the *Climate Action Plan* depend heavily on the knowledge and hands-on planning expertise of ministry staff.

Strategic Context

Climate Change

In 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change⁵ released its Fourth Assessment Report, concluding that warming of the earth's climate is certain, the increase in global average temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely caused by human activity. It further concluded that continued greenhouse gas emissions at or above current rates would induce larger changes in the climate system than have been observed recently. In October 2011, the independent Berkeley Earth Study confirmed the rise in average world land temperature of approximately 1°C since the mid-1950s, validating findings of additional studies by various U.S. and U.K. scientific agencies. The current and future risks to B.C. associated with some of these predicted changes are substantial.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for unavoidable climate change will help to minimize impacts within the province and globally. B.C. is reducing emissions through various policies such as the carbon tax. The extent to which other nations and jurisdictions are effective in reducing emissions will influence the extent of climate impacts. Many of B.C.'s key trading partners and neighbouring jurisdictions are implementing actions, including Alberta, California, Australia, China and other Asian countries. Reducing emissions, using and exporting clean technologies and low-carbon fuels, and developing an innovative clean energy sector all demonstrate climate leadership on an international scale.

Population Growth

The population of B.C. is expected to increase by up to 1.4 million by the year 2035. As the population increases, environmental pressures around the province will increase accordingly. Population increases result in higher levels of transportation activities, increased pressure on waste management systems, increased potential for human-wildlife conflict, and additional housing and industrial development. As industry grows, so do pressures on ecosystems resulting from changes to the land base, natural resources, and species.

Resource Management Coordination

Under the direction of the Natural Resource Board, natural resource ministries are making bold changes to service delivery in the natural resource sector. This sector approach promotes streamlined authorization processes and enhanced access to public services across the province. The reconfiguration facilitates more consistent engagement and consultation with industry, stakeholders, partners and clients. It also enhances inclusion of Aboriginal, economic and environmental considerations into decision making. The ministries are working together to make these improvements and meet the commitments of the [BC Jobs Plan](#).⁶

⁵ A scientific intergovernmental panel that assesses scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to the understanding of climate change.

⁶ bcjobsplan.ca

Economic Forecast

B.C.'s real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased by 1.7 per cent in 2012 (according to preliminary GDP by industry data from Statistics Canada), following growth of 2.8 per cent in 2011. Annual gains in the domestic economy during 2012 were observed in employment, consumer spending and housing starts. B.C.'s exports fell during the year, however, as global demand weakened and prices fell for some key commodities. Several risks to B.C.'s economy remain, including further slowing of domestic economic activity, renewed weakness in the U.S. economy, the ongoing European sovereign debt crisis threatening the stability of global financial markets, exchange rate volatility, and slower than anticipated economic growth in Asia dampening demand for B.C.'s exports.



Black Tusk forms the scenic backdrop for this BC Parks ranger in Garibaldi Provincial Park

Report on Performance

Performance Results Summary Table

Goal 1: Effective action on climate change For greater detail see pages 14 to 19	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual
1.1 Reduced provincial greenhouse gas emissions Annual level of greenhouse gas emissions in British Columbia relative to 2007 levels	6% reduction by 2012	2012 DATA NOT AVAILABLE
1.2 Preparing for unavoidable climate change and its impacts Number of provincial ministries that include a strategy on climate change adaptation in their Service Plans	All ministries	14 of 16 SUBSTANTIVELY ACHIEVED
Goal 2: Clean and safe water, land and air For greater detail see pages 19 to 25	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual
2.1 Enhanced protection and stewardship of our water resources Percentage of water bodies monitored under the Canada – B.C. Water Quality Monitoring Agreement with stable or improving water quality trends	96% or greater	96% ACHIEVED
2.3 Enhanced protection and stewardship of our air Number of air emission standards incorporating current Best Achievable Technology practices	7	7 ACHIEVED
Goal 3: Healthy and diverse native species and ecosystems For greater detail see pages 25 to 28	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual
3.2 Conserved, maintained and enhanced native species and ecosystems Changes in the status of five groups of species over five years	Net Improvement	Net Decline NOT ACHIEVED
Goal 4: British Columbians share responsibility for the environment For greater detail see pages 29 to 32	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual
4.3 Industry and client groups implement best environmental management practices Percentage of product sub-categories in the Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility fully covered by industry-led recycling programs in British Columbia	68%	68% ACHIEVED
Goal 5: Sustainable use of British Columbia's environmental resources For greater detail see pages 32 to 34	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual
5.2 Optimize outdoor and economic opportunities from British Columbia's parks, fish and wildlife Number of recorded park visits	20.5 million	20.5 million ACHIEVED
Visitor satisfaction survey	Maintain or improve (from 80%)	79% SUBSTANTIVELY ACHIEVED

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

The following sections provide an overview of the ministry's 2012/13 key goals and their supporting objectives, strategies and performance measures.

Goal 1: Effective action on climate change

Climate change has broad global, regional and local significance. Changes in climate drive changes in natural systems that affect economic, environmental and social interests. The current rapid rate of change is of serious concern and is linked to the burning of fossil fuels and other human activities that release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Population growth is also contributing to the impact. How we respond to climate change will shape our economy, the environment, our society, our communities and our way of life.



Camping at Fintry Provincial Park

The government has made a strong commitment to tackle climate change by addressing its causes (mitigation) and preparing the province for the unavoidable consequences of climate change (adaptation). The Ministry of Environment leads the government's cross-ministry climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives.

Objective 1.1: Reduced provincial greenhouse emissions

Reducing the amount of greenhouse gases that are released into the atmosphere is an important step in addressing the causes of climate change and minimizing its impacts on generations to come.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- coordinating the development and implementation of citizen engagement initiatives to mobilize the public and ministry partners to reduce provincial greenhouse gas emissions;
- a whole of government approach to developing climate action policy and providing advice, research and planning documents that integrate with and support broader government plans and initiatives;

- working with partners to promote the BC Jobs Plan, including liquefied natural gas exports to Asia that provide a new low-carbon energy alternative that will help avoid potentially significant increases in global greenhouse gas emissions;
- promoting clean transportation initiatives that provide clean energy vehicle purchase incentives and new charging infrastructure, as well as programs to improve heavy duty vehicle efficiency and converting vehicle fleets to natural gas;
- guiding the implementation of the BC Climate Action Plan across government;
- developing, and assisting other ministries in developing, policy, legislation and/or regulations, as needed;
- leading and coordinating climate aspects of provincial and local government initiatives to reduce emissions, create jobs and grow the economy;
- reporting on greenhouse gas emissions at the provincial, local government and industrial levels; and
- working with international, national and regional partners to advance B.C.'s climate action commitments.

Performance Measure 1: Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

Performance Measure	2007 ² Baseline	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Target	2012 Actual
Annual level of greenhouse gas emissions ¹ in British Columbia relative to 2007 levels	66.1 megatonnes	63.3 megatonnes	62.2 megatonnes	6% reduction by 2012 (62.1 megatonnes)	DATA NOT AVAILABLE ³

Data Source: Ministry of Environment

¹ Greenhouse gases are measured in units of tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. One megatonne equals 1,000,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent greenhouse gas. See the *British Columbia Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report 2008*, pages 4-5, for details at www.env.gov.bc.ca/cas/mitigation/ghg_inventory/pdf/pir-2008-full-report.pdf.

² Data collection, target setting and progress are on a calendar-year basis.

³ Actual data for 2012 will be available in April 2014.

Discussion of Results

The *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act*, brought into effect on January 1, 2008, put into law B.C.'s target of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by at least 33 per cent below 2007 levels by 2020, and by at least 80 per cent below 2007 levels by 2050. Interim targets have been set for 2012 and 2016, and the former is reflected in the table above. The Ministry of Environment is responsible for reporting on GHG emissions released into the atmosphere from a number of activities in B.C., including those resulting from industry, transportation, buildings, landfills, agriculture and net deforestation.

The data for the performance measure are taken from Environment Canada’s *National Inventory Report*, which is prepared to meet Canada’s obligations under the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#).⁷ The report is published annually with an approximate 16-month lag relative to the reported year. B.C. publishes a [Provincial Inventory Report](#)⁸ with B.C. data only. The report includes B.C. data from the Environment Canada inventory, as well as provincial GHG emissions from afforestation, deforestation and by-product GHG emissions from certain gases from the industrial and electricity sectors.

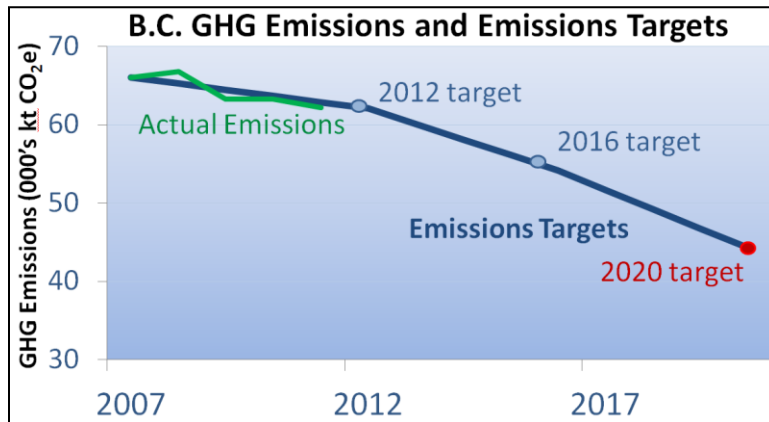


Figure 1 - B.C. GHG Emissions and Emissions Targets

Data Source: Ministry of Environment

GHG emissions decreased from 63.3 megatonnes in 2010 to 62.2 megatonnes in 2011, a change of 1.7 per cent. From 2010 to 2011, emissions decreased due to a decrease in electricity and heat generation and fossil fuel production and refining energy use, and decreased emissions from off-road diesel vehicles. Increases in emissions were seen in coal mine and oil and natural gas fugitive emissions, residential, commercial and institutional buildings, and heavy duty diesel vehicles. Going forward, climate change policies are expected to have a strengthening role in reducing energy use and GHG emissions. B.C.’s 2011 emissions were 5.8 per cent lower compared to 2007, which puts the province on pace to meet the 2012 interim target of a 6% reduction compared to 2007.

Both the *British Columbia Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report 2012* and the *Progress to Targets Report* required by the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act* are due to be released by the ministry in the summer of 2014.

Objective 1.2: Preparing for unavoidable climate change and its impacts

Taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions now will reduce the impacts of future climate change and provide human and natural systems more time to adjust. However, the greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere will continue to influence the global climate for decades to come, and some impacts are unavoidable. A comprehensive climate change action plan, therefore, includes preparing for such impacts, or “adapting.” Adaptation will help maximize the opportunities and reduce the risks related to climate change and its impacts on society and the natural environment.

⁷ unfccc.int

⁸ env.gov.bc.ca/cas/mitigation/ghg_inventory/

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- leading the implementation of government's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy⁹ by:
 - building a strong foundation of knowledge and tools to help decision makers across B.C. prepare for a changing climate, for example, through supporting and collaborating with research institutions and organizations, and developing expertise and experience in adaptation;
 - ensuring that actions on climate change are considered in policies, planning and decision making across government; and
 - engaging citizens and ministry partners, including federal agencies, local governments, First Nations, industry and non-governmental organizations, in preparing for climate change and its impacts.
- integrating adaptation into the ministry's internal business areas, including developing policy, setting standards, and managing land, air, water, species, ecosystems and parks and protected areas by:
 - developing new approaches to water management that address the impacts from a changing water cycle, such as legislation to address water sustainability;
 - connecting with stakeholders in the oil and gas sector to help further our climate change goals;
 - maintaining robust observation networks that contribute to increased understanding of the direction and pace of climate change in B.C.; and
 - planning for species, ecosystem and landscape conservation and restoration in a way that maximizes resilience to changing conditions.

⁹ For more information on the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, please go to livesmartbc.ca/attachments/Adaptation_Strategy.pdf.

Performance Measure 2: Number of provincial ministries considering climate adaptation in business planning and delivery

Performance Measure	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual
Number of provincial ministries including climate adaptation in business planning and implementation	6	8	All ministries	14 of 16 ¹ SUBSTANTIVELY ACHIEVED

Data Source: Ministry of Environment

¹ Ministries of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation; Advanced Education; Agriculture; Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services; Community, Sport and Cultural Development; Education; Energy and Mines; Environment; Finance; Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations; Health; Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training; Justice; and Transportation and Infrastructure.

Discussion of Results

The Ministry of Environment, through the Climate Action Secretariat (CAS), is responsible for leading and coordinating climate change adaptation across government. British Columbia's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy was released by government in February 2010.



The Adaptation Strategy is now in its third year of implementation and significant progress has been made in advancing climate adaptation in B.C. The province has built a strong foundation of knowledge by investing in regional climate science. Communities around the province are taking action to incorporate adaptation into decision-making at a local level and B.C. ministries are making climate adaptation part of government business.

Several ministries have initiated processes to assess risks to and opportunities for their business arising from a changing climate. Examples include:

- the Ministry of Agriculture completed a series of regional climate adaptation risk and opportunity assessments that recommend actions to help agricultural producers prepare for climate change. It has since initiated a number of projects to support these recommendations;
- the Ministries of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, Transportation and Infrastructure and Justice (Emergency Management B.C.) have partnered with CAS to assess the ability of B.C.'s flood policy to perform in a changing climate in coastal areas;

- the Ministry of Energy and Mines is working with CAS to examine policy drivers and barriers to adaptation in the mining sector in B.C.;
- CAS and the Engineering-Highways Department are undertaking a risk assessment of extreme precipitation events in B.C.; and
- BC Parks has mapped the sensitivity of coastal regions to climate change.

A number of ministries have initiated the development or amendment of legislation, regulation or policy to consider climate change impacts and adaptation. The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations has developed a number of new guidelines and policies to take into account climate change impacts in the areas of forestry and flood safety. Considerations of current and future pressures on water supply are being addressed through the *Water Act* modernization process and it is expected that the new legislation will enable climate adaptation. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is now considering climate change impacts in the design and cost of highway construction, in life-cycle cost of highway rehabilitation, and when improving highway safety and reliability.

Across government new programs and initiatives have contributed to increasing the resilience of B.C. to a changing climate. From 2009-2012, the Ministry of Environment and the Fraser Basin Council were co-leads for the B.C. Regional Adaptation Collaborative, which supported the development of over 115 reports, policies, guidelines, plans and case studies to provide technical advice and guidance to adaptation decision-making across B.C. and engaged over 5,400 decision-makers and key stakeholders from a broad range of sectors. A new phase of funding available from Natural Resources Canada has resulted in 14 new climate adaptation projects in B.C. being launched in 2013. Through one of these projects, 55 public service employees from eight different ministries received training in adaptive policies and how to assess the adaptability of existing policies and programs to climate change impacts.

Goal 2: Clean and safe water, land and air

Objective 2.1: Enhanced protection and stewardship of our water resources

A safe and sustainable supply of high-quality water is vital to our communities, economy and environment. This can be achieved through effective legislation, innovative approaches to water governance and coordinated watershed-based planning.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- encouraging shared water stewardship by leading and coordinating the implementation of the actions and commitments in *Living Water Smart: British Columbia's Water Plan* (LivingWaterSmart.ca);
- working with the ministries of Health and Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to protect drinking water;
- engaging with First Nations, stakeholders and the public to develop new water sustainability legislation to protect stream health and aquatic environments, improve water governance arrangements, introduce more flexibility and efficiency in the water allocation system, and regulate groundwater use in priority areas and for large withdrawals;
- supporting decision making in permitting and environmental assessment processes by:
 - setting water quality objectives for Bamfield Inlet, Osooyos Lake, and Vernon Creek, and developing water quality guidelines for selenium and sulphate levels; and,
 - creating guidance documents, including water monitoring for mine proponents, groundwater modelling, and assessment of large groundwater extraction from deep saline aquifers;
- assessing the health of water resources through collaborative science and monitoring programs, including:
 - the provincial biomonitoring program, which will assess 53 sites and provide new on-line GIS support tools through the provincial biomonitoring program;
 - the federal-provincial water quality network, which will assess water quality in 30 major rivers and streams; and
 - the groundwater observation wells network, where over 140 wells provide ongoing information about the health of provincially significant groundwater aquifers;¹⁰



Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park

¹⁰ Information from these networks provides overall trends on water quality and quantity, directly supports authorizations and regulations and helps local decision-makers manage water resources.

- chairing and actively contributing to the Council of the Federation’s Water Stewardship Council, and engaging other governments and external stakeholders in implementing the Water Charter;¹¹ and
- recognizing water flow requirements for ecosystems and species, and using that information to inform policies and guidelines.

Performance Measure 3: Water quality trends monitored under the Canada – B.C. Water Quality Monitoring Agreement

Performance Measure	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual
Percentage of water bodies monitored under the Canada – B.C. Water Quality Monitoring Agreement with stable or improving water quality trends	96%	96%	96% or greater	96% ACHIEVED

Data Source: Ministry of Environment

Discussion of Results

Under the Canada – B.C. Water Quality Monitoring Agreement, 31 provincially significant rivers and streams, including the Fraser, Columbia and Peace, are monitored in British Columbia. This performance measure relies on data collected from 37 monitoring stations to determine whether water quality is stable or improving in each of these key water bodies. By measuring the concentration of variables such as metals, nutrients, pH, temperature and dissolved oxygen, the ministry is able to identify trends in overall water quality. The 96% target was once again achieved in 2012/13, with 388 of 404 measured variables showing stable or improving water quality trends.

The Federal-Provincial Surface Water Quality Monitoring Group (SWQMG) focused much of their work this year on the development of statistical tools. These tools will assist with the assessment and interpretation of water quality data, and with the development of future water quality monitoring projects to ensure that sampling effort is maximized. SWQMG will assess and report on the status and trends from stations in the Columbia River Basin in 2013/14.

SWQMG has established a new trend station in Pettitot River to monitor the effects of natural gas extraction (hydraulic fracturing) activities in northeast B.C. SWQMG also plans to establish a station in the Murray River early this fiscal year to monitor for coal mining activities, and is assessing the feasibility of a new station on the Quesnel River to assess impacts from heavy metal mining. These new stations will increase the geographic coverage of the network and allow the province to monitor for cumulative impacts from resource extraction activities.

¹¹ For more information on the Water Charter, see councilofthefederation.ca/pdfs/Water_Charter_Aug_4_2010.pdf.

Data collected from sites under the Canada – B.C. Water Quality Monitoring Agreement are used for a variety of reports, including the annual [Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators Water Quality Index](#).¹²

Objective 2.2: Reduced contamination from toxins and waste

By reducing contamination from toxins and wastes efficiently and effectively, the ministry will enhance public health and safety and mitigate impacts to water, land and air.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- continuing to work with industry to develop, implement and continuously improve industry-led product stewardship programs;¹³
- regulating the remediation of contaminated sites in order to protect human and environmental health and facilitate economic development;
- ensuring that the generators, carriers and receivers of hazardous waste handle, store, transport, treat and dispose of it according to the Hazardous Waste Regulation and in a manner that does not compromise the safety of human health and the environment;
- collaborating with communities, public organizations, industry and other agencies and private parties to protect human health and the environment by promoting the safe use and management of hazardous waste; and
- revising the Hazardous Waste Regulation and developing training and guidance materials to promote increased accountability for hazardous waste management.

Objective 2.3: Enhanced protection and stewardship of our air

By encouraging the use of clean technologies and supporting the establishment of effective emissions standards, the ministry strives to reduce the impacts of air pollution on public health and safety and environmental sustainability. Reducing emissions of some pollutants has benefits for both air quality and climate change.

¹² ec.gc.ca/indicateurs-indicators

¹³ As per the Canada-Wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility (cme.ca/assets/pdf/epr_cap.pdf). See also Objective 4.3.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- leading the implementation of policies and initiatives designed to avoid, minimize and offset emissions from industry, transportation, urban growth, ports and marine vessels;
- maintaining coverage of the air quality monitoring network to ensure that it meets or exceeds National Air Pollution Surveillance standards;¹⁴
- continuing to develop new industrial air emissions standards that require using the cleanest available practices;
- continuing to introduce tools, guidance materials and other resources to support the development and implementation of airshed plans;
- developing ambient air quality objectives, standards and guidelines to support airshed planning and decision making in permitting and environmental assessment processes;
- collaborating with the federal and provincial governments to develop a national Air Quality Management System that will include national emission standards, national ambient air quality standards and be delivered through an air zone management approach;
- effectively managing prescribed forestry burns. This includes revising the Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation to ensure air quality is protected especially within areas of the province that are heavily populated, and experience deteriorated air quality due to topography and the presence of other air discharge sources; and
- collaborating with the Oil and Gas Commission, Ministry of Energy and Mines and local partners in the northeast to monitor, report out to the public, assess and reduce impacts of oil and gas development on air quality.

Performance Measure 4: Clean air standards for industry

Performance Measure	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual
Number of air emission standards incorporating current Best Achievable Technology practices	5	6	7	7 ACHIEVED

Data Source: Ministry of Environment

Note: Target figures are cumulative.

¹⁴ The standards are available at ec.gc.ca/rnsps-naps/.

Discussion of Results

The government works with industry to ensure that business practices support British Columbians' environmental and health priorities, while ensuring economic sustainability. The Best Achievable Technology¹⁵ approach encourages new and expanding industry to use the cleanest available practices and technologies. The standards for air emissions are set through guidelines, policies, codes of practice and regulations. The 6 standards developed in past years have been for the slaughter and poultry processing industries;¹⁶ biomass-fired electrical power generation;¹⁷ wood-burning boilers used in agricultural operations;¹⁸ pellet plant manufacturing operations;¹⁹ waste to energy facilities²⁰; and beehive burner phase out (by 2016).²¹

In 2013, a new Guideline for Emissions from Biomass Boilers was developed to cover a need for guidance to ministry staff and proponents involved with energy projects in response to the BC Energy Plan.

Objective 2.4: Effective management of environmental risks

Events such as oil spills and catastrophic fires can present risks to public health and safety, property and the environment. Although not all environmental risks are avoidable, effective management can help to minimize and offset the impact of these risks. The ministry anticipates, responds to and manages the consequences of risks to the environment.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- continuing to prevent, prepare for, mitigate and respond to spills that effect human health and the environmental quality of the province's water, land and air resources along with the flora and fauna they contain by establishing policies and procedures, response plans, operational guidelines, cooperative agreements and technical guidance on emergency response;

¹⁵ The Factsheet Air Emissions for Best Achievable Technology can be found at env.gov.bc.ca/epd/industrial/factsheets/pdf/bat.pdf.

¹⁶ The code of practice for the slaughter and poultry processing industries is available at env.gov.bc.ca/epd/industrial/regs/codes/slaughter/index.htm.

¹⁷ The Factsheet Air Emissions for Biomass-Fired Electrical Power Generation can be found at env.gov.bc.ca/epd/industrial/factsheets/pdf/biomass-fired-generation.pdf.

¹⁸ More information on the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation (Part 6–Agricultural Emissions) is available at bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/10_131_92.

¹⁹ The Factsheet Air Emissions for Wood Pellet Manufacturing Facilities can be found at env.gov.bc.ca/epd/industrial/factsheets/pdf/wood-pellet.pdf.

²⁰ The Factsheet Air Emissions for Combustion of Municipal Solid Waste can be found at env.gov.bc.ca/epd/industrial/factsheets/pdf/combustion-msw.pdf.

²¹ The Wood Residue Burner and Incinerator Regulation can be found at bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/51_519_95

- promoting stewardship with other provincial agencies, industry, First Nations, local government, federal government and other stakeholders to protect the public and the environment in the event of an emergency or disaster;
- implementing new approaches to the management of compliance verification data to allow the ministry to improve its response to environmental risks and provide increased public accountability;
- collaborating with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to manage the public safety risks of human-wildlife interactions, including awareness programs and, in severe conflicts, employing a specialized Predator Attack Team composed of specially trained conservation officers and the Provincial Veterinarian from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations;
- providing policy guidance to support staff in delivering consistent input into environmental impact assessments and the mitigation of environmental impacts;
- managing the remediation of high-risk contaminated sites and regulating the remediation of all contaminated sites; and
- managing fire interface and fuel loading in parks and protected areas, especially near communities and other infrastructures.

Goal 3: Healthy and diverse native species and ecosystems

Objective 3.1: Well-managed, integrated, open and accessible information on species and ecosystems

The collection, storage, management and open distribution of scientific information on species and ecosystems enables effective science and policy development, contributes to the understanding of the status of native species and ecosystems, and leads to greater certainty in land use decision making.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- developing data systems to support the acquisition and management of data and information, and providing open access to that information in support of science, policy development and shared stewardship;

- employing the [B.C. Species and Ecosystems Explorer](#)²² and the [Conservation Framework](#)²³ websites to make available information on species and ecosystems at risk, including their conservation status, associated threats, priority score and progress in implementing recommended actions;
- assessing the conservation status of plants, animals and ecosystems and related risks and threats throughout B.C., including parks and protected areas; and
- providing enforcement services under the *Wildlife Act* and using a specialized conservation officer service response team to control alien species.

Objective 3.2: Conserved, maintained and enhanced native species and ecosystems

Many ministry programs support the conservation of biodiversity and the maintenance and enhancement of native ecosystems to achieve a balance between the needs of wildlife and the needs of people. The ministry encourages and supports others to accept a greater role in environmental stewardship, and facilitates community initiatives to protect and restore native species and ecosystems.



A Ruffed Grouse amongst the leaves at Charlie Lake Provincial Park

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- setting priorities for species and ecosystem recovery and management action through B.C.'s Conservation Framework;
- continuing to work with and expand partnerships, including those with First Nations, to identify, protect and restore species and ecosystems;
- implementing plans informed by B.C.'s Species at Risk Task Force recommendations to continue to improve conservation of species and ecosystems;
- implementing applied research programs to support species and ecosystem conservation;
- providing guidelines and standards for the protection and conservation of species and ecosystems, including inventory, monitoring and reporting on achievements;

²² a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/eswp/

²³ env.gov.bc.ca/conservationframework/

- providing leadership in provincial species at risk status ranking and legal designation, and preparing and implementing recovery plans;
- collaborating with partners on strategies to address invasive species;
- developing new tools for analyzing the cumulative effects of different resource uses within a defined area in order to assist with natural resource decision making; and
- leading the development of an environmental mitigation policy and associated procedures to help support natural resource decision making and to foster avoidance, minimization and offsetting of impacts to the environment.

Performance Measure 5: Changes in the conservation status of native species

Performance Measure	2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual
Changes in the conservation status of species	Net Decline	Net improvement	Net Decline NOT ACHIEVED

Data Source: Ministry of Environment

Note: This measure reflects the net change in the conservation status of species in B.C.

Discussion of Results

B.C. has one of the most diverse assemblages of species of any Canadian province. Changes in the status of native species of plants and animals is an important indicator of the ministry’s efforts to promote shared stewardship of B.C.’s ecosystems and native species. This performance



Tiger Lily, South Chilcotin Mountains Provincial Park

measure coincides with a similar indicator used by the World Conservation Union to reduce the current rate of global biodiversity loss.

Tracking the status and occurrences of species and ecosystems at risk is done by the [B.C. Conservation Data Centre \(CDC\)](http://www.bccdc.ca).²⁴ Every species or subspecies in the province is given a conservation status rank, which is a measure of its risk of becoming extinct in B.C., using internationally recognized methods and science-based criteria and factors such as rarity, trends in populations or habitat, and threats.

²⁴ env.gov.bc.ca/cdc/index.html.

Each year, the CDC reviews the rankings for a different subset of species. This performance measure reports on the numbers of species assessed that had improved or deteriorated status since the previous assessment. It is important to note that sequential yearly reports do not constitute a trend, as the sample of species that are assessed is different each year. Rather, it is an accumulation of information that each year gives us a better picture of how the status of biodiversity is changing. It is also important to realize that the changes reported for a subset of species in one year are not necessarily representative of the changing state of the status of all species.

In 2012/13 the CDC conducted 425 reviews of species status ranks; 45 reviews were of previously unranked species and 380 reviews were of previously ranked species. Of the 380 previously ranked species, 314 remained unchanged from previous assessments, 27 species improved, and 39 species worsened. Only 5 species had changes in status rank that reflected real changes in abundance or distribution (2 improved, 3 worsened). Other changes in ranking were not reflective of changes in population, but were due to improvements in inventory information, knowledge of species taxonomy and threats, or ranking procedures.

Ministry Response

While the target of a net improvement in the status of ranked native species and ecosystems was not met, the results nevertheless indicated relative stability over the reporting period. The net decline of 12 out of 380 species assessed represents a modest 3% decline. The province has already taken an important step to improve its management of species at risk by developing [*Protecting Vulnerable Species: A Draft Five-Year Plan for Species at Risk in British Columbia*](#). The province committed in November 2012 to take steps to protect the Northern Caribou in the South Peace region, and in April 2013 committed nearly \$10 million to build and operate a new sturgeon conservation centre on the Nechako River in Vanderhoof.

Objective 3.3: Well-managed parks and protected areas

Parks and protected areas help to ensure the protection of native species and ecosystems, provide families with outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities, and contribute to meeting our environmental, social and economic goals. British Columbia has the third largest parks system in North America and largest provincial/territorial system in Canada protecting over 14% of the province. Our world-class parks system provides a legacy for future generations.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- protecting, restoring and managing high-priority habitat and ecosystems including invasive species, forest health impacts, species at risk, and landscape connectivity;
- collaborating with First Nations and communities in protected areas planning and management to ensure long-term protection of natural, cultural and recreational assets;

- collaborating with local, regional and federal governments and other partners to establish new terrestrial and marine protected areas such as the Southern Strait of Georgia;
- strengthening the role parks and protected areas play in climate change adaptation; and
- increasing and promoting partnerships to expand the opportunities and involvement in stewardship initiatives.

Goal 4: British Columbians share responsibility for the environment

Objective 4.1: British Columbians understand the effect of their actions on the environment

In order to foster an environmentally conscious society, people must understand the relationship between their actions and their health, as well as how their actions affect the health of other people, species and ecosystems. As British Columbians continue to make the connection between their activities and environmental impacts, they are much more likely to set a higher environmental standard for their actions and those of others.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- promoting the sharing of the responsibility for protecting the environment, human health, and public safety through initiatives such as the [Parks 100 Celebration](#),²⁵ Community Stewardship Initiatives, and the Bear Smart and [Urban Ungulate](#)²⁶ programs;
- continuing to work with stewardship organizations to increase environmental awareness;
- promoting outdoor activities to foster a connection to and an appreciation for the natural environment;
- developing and openly delivering information on critical issues like climate change, environmental policies and water stewardship to targeted audiences through innovative communication tools, such as social media; and
- maintaining and enhancing the [B.C. Air Quality website](#)²⁷ as the provincial government portal for the open sharing of air quality data, information, resources and tools.²⁸

²⁵ env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/BCParks100/

²⁶ env.gov.bc.ca/cos/info/wildlife_human_interaction/UrbanUngulates.html

²⁷ BCAirQuality.ca

²⁸ Including access to real-time air quality data and an interactive map-based interface for the Air Quality Health Index and the BlueSky Western Canada Smoke Forecasting System.

Objective 4.2: Shared environmental stewardship is a priority for all British Columbians

The ministry recognizes that in order for shared stewardship to be successful, it is necessary to engage citizens and work in partnership with First Nations, industry, communities, environmental groups and other government bodies.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- recognizing, promoting and enhancing shared stewardship through communication, consultative processes and volunteer initiatives that engage stakeholders, clients and partners;
- enhancing and promoting shared stewardship through effective and timely communication of compliance activities to protect the environment;
- leading industry engagement on planning and regulatory development that supports and encourages the transition to a low-carbon economy, and ensures international partners are apprised of B.C.'s progress;
- fostering sustainable natural resource management through collaborative approaches with the public, non-profit groups, communities, First Nations governments, academia and industry;
- using social media, such as the LiveSmartBC.ca Twitter feed ([@LiveSmartBCca](https://twitter.com/LiveSmartBCca)), to engage British Columbians on current environmental issues;
- using online resources to foster collaboration on climate action among engaged stakeholders; and
- promoting shared water stewardship through the [Living Water Smart blog](#).²⁹

Objective 4.3: Industry and client groups implement best environmental management practices

Sustainable environmental management practices not only protect the environment, they reduce costs through more efficient use of resources and energy, and lay the foundation for good corporate citizenship.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- continuing to work with industry to develop, implement and continuously improve industry-led product stewardship programs;³⁰

²⁹ LivingWaterSmart.ca

- encouraging compliance by reporting those in non-compliance with ministry environmental standards and regulatory requirements, and posting the names of those in non-compliance in the quarterly compliance and enforcement reports;³¹
- continuing to explore opportunities to reduce regulatory burden³² through changes such as implementing codes of practice to streamline authorization processes; and
- promoting best environmental management practices and maintaining high environmental standards.

Performance Measure 6: Completion of the Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility

Performance Measure	2011/12 Baseline	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual
Percentage of product sub-categories ¹ in the Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility fully covered by industry-led recycling programs in British Columbia	53%	68%	68% ACHIEVED

Data Source: Ministry of Environment

¹ The Canada-wide Action Plan places a number of products into different categories. The ministry divides these categories into sub-categories. For example, one category is packaging, which the ministry divides into two subcategories: beverage containers and packaging and printed paper. Some product categories include a large number of products and require multiple industry-led stewardship programs in order to attain complete coverage.

Discussion of Results

B.C.'s industry-led product stewardship programs require producers of designated products to take Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for the life cycle management of their products, including collection and recycling. EPR initiatives have been proven to yield substantial economic and environmental benefits, including generating job opportunities, reducing the amount of packaging on the market, lowering energy consumption and greenhouse gas production levels and increasing recycling rates.

B.C. is a participant in the Canada-Wide Action Plan for EPR, and in July 2012 was awarded the highest national ranking for provincial leadership of product stewardship programs by the nonpartisan group, EPR Canada. In 2012/13, B.C. added the Phase 5-Electronic and Electrical subcategory, which includes such products as tools, lighting, sporting equipment, toys, large appliances, and monitoring and control equipment. Currently, B.C. has 23 operational stewardship programs, covering 68% (13 of 19) of the product sub-categories identified in the Canada-wide Action Plan for EPR, achieving the targets identified in the 2012/13 Service Plan.

³⁰ As per the Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility (ccme.ca/assets/pdf/epr_cap.pdf).

³¹ See env.gov.bc.ca/main/compliance-reporting/ for the *Quarterly Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Summaries*.

³² British Columbia continues to make regulatory reform a priority across government, making it easier for businesses to operate and succeed in B.C., while still preserving regulations that protect public health, safety and the environment. Between 2001-2010, the ministry reduced its regulatory requirements by 42 per cent while continuing to maintain stringent environmental standards.

The EPR approach remains a ministry priority and is recognized as a good policy approach to support superior environmental results. More information on B.C.'s approach to product stewardship, a complete list of products with industry-led stewardship programs and listing of products which are being evaluated for possible regulation in the future can be found on the [Ministry of Environment's product stewardship website](#).³³

Goal 5: Sustainable use of British Columbia's environmental resources

Objective 5.1: Wise management and continued benefits of water and air

British Columbia's water and air resources sustain a full range of economic, community and ecosystem needs. The ministry seeks to ensure that all British Columbians will continue to benefit from the wise and prudent management of these resources, which are crucial to the health and sustainability of our environment.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- developing an environmental mitigation policy and associated procedures to foster avoidance, minimization and offsetting of impacts to the environment;
- operating the hydrometric network³⁴ to obtain information to support water management;
- acquiring, interpreting and openly sharing environmental science and information; and
- supporting communities engaged in multi-stakeholder air and watershed management plans.

Objective 5.2: Optimize outdoor and economic opportunities from British Columbia's parks, fish and wildlife

British Columbia's parks, fish and wildlife provide families and visitors with a variety of unique outdoor opportunities in the form of recreation, camping, marine and freshwater angling, hunting and wildlife viewing. Engaging in these activities promotes an appreciation of B.C.'s landscape, native species, ecosystems and the environment as a whole, while supporting economic opportunities.

³³ recycling.gov.bc.ca

³⁴ The B.C. hydrometric network is an environmental monitoring system that collects stream flow data from over 450 locations in British Columbia. The data are essential for hydroelectric power production, infrastructure, as well as for flood forecasting, agriculture and other purposes.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- promoting sponsorship and donation opportunities through the Park Enhancement Fund to enhance conservation and recreation opportunities in BC Parks;
- implementing a volunteer strategy that will engage British Columbians in conservation and recreation activities throughout BC Parks;
- targeting capital investment to accessibility improvements such as wheelchair accessible picnic tables and trails;
- working with partners both inside and outside government to implement strategies and programs that promote exceptional outdoor opportunities while ensuring the long-term protection of natural resources;
- offering the public increased opportunities for park recreation by providing high-quality outdoor recreational opportunities and experiences;
- working with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to coordinate the provincial regulatory, social and economic support needed for new recreational fishing opportunities, as identified and initiated by B.C. municipalities and the federal government; and
- optimizing stewardship and economic opportunities with First Nations, local communities, non-profit groups, private land owners and others.



A pair of hoary marmots in Mt. Robson Provincial Park

Performance Measure 7: Park visitation and visitor satisfaction

Performance Measure	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual
Number of recorded park visits	19.8 million	19.3 million	20.5 million	20.5 million ACHIEVED
Park visitor satisfaction level	80%	82%	Maintain or improve (from 80%)	79% SUBSTANTIVELY ACHIEVED

Data Source: Ministry of Environment

Discussion of Results

B.C.'s parks system is the single largest recreation enterprise in the province and one of the best in the world. The number of visitors to provincial parks is used to measure the contribution of parks to the government's priorities of families and jobs. This data is intended to provide a reasonable indication of the trend in the level of use of public outdoor and commercial facilities and services available in B.C.'s parks.

Preliminary estimates show that the number of park visits will reach the target of 20.5 million. BC Parks migrated to a new attendance system in May which has increased the reliability of attendance data. The Visitor Satisfaction Index is calculated as an average provincial rating of five services considered by park visitors to be important to their stay in a campground: cleanliness of restrooms; cleanliness of grounds; condition of facilities; a sense of security; and control of noise. The rating is based on the number of "excellent" and "above average" responses. The actual visitor satisfaction level in 2012/13 was 79 per cent; one per cent lower than the target. The decline in visitor satisfaction can be mostly attributed to low scores given for the cleanliness of restrooms and control of noise.



Report on Resources Summary Table

Core Business Area	2012/13 Estimates ⁽¹⁾	Other Authorizations ⁽²⁾	Total Estimates	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses (\$000)					
Environmental Protection	6,954	4,551	11,505	10,495	1,010
Environmental Sustainability	19,429		19,429	18,918	511
Parks and Protected Areas	30,122		30,122	31,288	(1,166)
Conservation Officer Service	16,714		16,714	16,675	39
Climate Action	4,123	7,195	11,318	11,376	(58)
Executive and Support Services	22,024		22,024	22,360	(336)
Sub Total	99,366	11,746	111,112	111,112	-
Sustainable Environment Fund	20,305		20,305	15,705	4,600
Park Enhancement Fund	500	869	1,369	1,369	0
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual	-	-	-	(357)	357
Total	120,171	12,615	132,786	127,829	4,957

Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)					
Executive and Support Services	17,415		17,415	17,309	106
Park Enhancement Fund	400		400	49	351
Total	17,815	-	17,815	17,358	457

⁽¹⁾ Corresponds to the Estimates as presented to the Legislative Assembly in March 2012.

⁽²⁾ Includes access to contingencies in Environmental Protection, Climate Action, and an approved spending increase in the Parks Enhancement Fund.

Environmental Assessment Office

Highlights of the Year

Project Updates

The Environmental Assessment Office effectively managed the environmental assessments of 85 projects representing over \$53 billion in potential capital investment to B.C.'s economy. Nine of those projects were referred to ministers for decision with seven of them receiving an environmental assessment certificate and approval to proceed to the permitting process.

Table 1: Assessments completed in the fiscal year 2012/13

Project Name	Sector	Potential Capital Investment (\$M)	CEAA Coordinated EA ³⁵	Certification Date
Big Silver Creek Water power	Energy - Power	\$60	No	20-Aug-12
McLymont Creek Hydroelectric	Energy - Power	\$200	Yes	31-May-12
Shovel Creek Water power	Energy - Power	\$35	No	20-Aug-12
Tretheway Water power	Energy - Power	\$55	No	20-Aug-12
Upper Lillooet Hydro	Energy - Power	\$415	No	08-Jan-13
Kitsault Mine	Mining	\$641	Yes	18-Mar-13
Morrisson Mine	Mining	\$200	Yes	Certificate refused
Roman Coal Mine	Mining	\$323	No	14-Dec-12
Vancouver Airport Fuel Delivery	Energy – Oil and Gas	\$70	Yes	Suspended

An environmental assessment certificate was not issued for the proposed Morrison Copper-Gold Project based on the determination that the potential long-term risks of the project on the environment outweighed the potential benefits to the province. The potential impact to a genetically unique sockeye salmon population was considered to be an unacceptable risk given insufficient data about the behaviour of Morrison Lake and the potential adverse effects on water quality. The proposed Vancouver Airport Fuel Delivery Project was referred for decision; however, the assessment was suspended by the Minister of Environment until consultations on world-leading land-based and marine spill preparedness and response processes are completed.

³⁵ In some cases, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency reviews proposed projects that are also undergoing review by the Environmental Assessment Office. In 2012, federal legislation was amended to introduce new triggers for determining which proposed projects must undergo federal environmental assessment. The projects are listed in this table.

The Environmental Assessment Office also conducted amendments to eight certified projects, for reasons such as changes in ownership or proposed changes to the design of the project. Amendment processes were conducted for the following projects Cabin Gas Plant, Cape Scott Wind Farm, Interior-Lower Mainland Transmission, Air Liquide Liquid Nitrogen, Mt Milligan Gold-Copper Mine, Prosperity Mine, Tulsequah Chief Mine and Garibaldi at Squamish Resort. While amendments are not governed by a legislated timeline, they take time and resources for the Environmental Assessment Office to manage.

Coordination with the Federal Government

The Environmental Assessment Office has realized major advancements in coordination with the federal government. In particular, the Environmental Assessment Office and Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency signed a memorandum of understanding to implement substitution in British Columbia. Substitution is a new tool enabled by the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012) that supports B.C.'s longstanding goal of "one project, one environmental assessment."

A key principle of the memorandum of understanding is that substitution must support the continued rigour of federal and provincial environmental assessments and First Nations consultation. In order for the federal government to grant substitution, the Environmental Assessment Office must commit to meeting numerous requirements for substitution that are described in CEAA 2012. For example, the Environmental Assessment Office has committed to invite federal experts to participate on provincial working groups, ensure that certain environmental factors are considered, and conduct specific aspects of Aboriginal consultation for the purposes of substituted environmental assessments.³⁶

Compliance Management

In July 2011, the Office of the Auditor General published a report on the Environmental Assessment Office's oversight of certified projects and concluded that oversight was insufficient to ensure that potential adverse effects are avoided or mitigated. Since that time, the Environmental Assessment Office and key partners have developed a fully operational Compliance and Enforcement Program that ensures that certificate conditions are enforceable and actively monitored.

First Nations Engagement

The Environmental Assessment Office has established a team of technical experts within the Office to focus on First Nations engagement. One of the first initiatives that this team focused on was developing an Environmental Assessment Consultation Framework that serves two key purposes: (1) describing how the Provincial Consultation Procedures converge with the environmental assessment process as it related to First Nations consultation activities by the

³⁶ The Environmental Assessment Office-Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency Memorandum of Understanding on Substitution of Environmental Assessments (2013) can be found here: http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca/pdf/EAO_CEAA_Substitution_MOU.pdf.

Ministry of Environment and the Environmental Assessment Office

Environmental Assessment Office and the proponent of a proposed project, and (2) providing a repository of provincial and Environmental Assessment Office guidance documents and tools to identify what consultation activities should occur for each of the individual steps within the environmental assessment process.

The Environmental Assessment Office also delivered Cultural Awareness Workshops that provided staff with an in-depth overview of B.C.'s diverse First Nations and provided tools for staff to strengthen the relationships between the Environmental Assessment Office and First Nations. Topics discussed at the Workshop included the evolution of the relationship between B.C. First Nations and the provincial government, the important role of elders, current issues and protocols.

Purpose of the Office

The Environmental Assessment Office was established in 1995 to administer the *Environmental Assessment Act* and its regulations. The Act gives authority to the Environmental Assessment Office to evaluate proposed projects that are reviewable under the Act for potential adverse environmental, economic, social, heritage and health effects that may occur during the life of the project, and to verify and enforce compliance with the conditions of environmental assessment certificates.

The Environmental Assessment Office's vision is to support vibrant communities, a healthy environment and a prosperous economy. The Environmental Assessment Office ensures that proposed major projects meet provincial environmental, economic and social goals, and that the interests and concerns of B.C.'s families and communities, First Nations, government agencies and other interested parties are considered in each assessment.



Geotechnical drilling at proposed Ajax Mine Site

Strategic Context

The Environmental Assessment Office's workload continued to remain high due to the number of projects being assessed in 2012/13. The Office effectively managed environmental assessments of 85 reviewable projects representing over \$53 billion in capital investment to B.C.'s economy. The majority of projects reviewed were in the energy sector, with the others distributed across the industrial, mining, resorts, waste and water sectors.

External factors that affected the business of the Environmental Assessment Office include:

Federal Statutory Amendments

The Environmental Assessment Office was actively engaged in the recent statutory review of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, which culminated in July 2012 with the enactment of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*. Since that time, the Environmental Assessment Office has worked closely with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency to understand the new federal legislation and to determine how the two governments can best coordinate on environmental assessments of proposed projects in British Columbia. Through this dialogue, the two governments have reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining the rigour of environmental assessment and First Nations consultation.



Structure for new pot lines at the Rio Tinto Alcan smelter modernization project in Kitimat, BC.

First Nations

Consultation with First Nations is a critical component of the environmental assessment process. For each proposed project under review, the Environmental Assessment Office contacted all potentially affected First Nations early in the environmental assessment process, provided the opportunity to engage, and offered capacity funding to participate. Not all First Nations chose to participate in reviews of potential projects.

Report on Performance

Performance Results Summary Table

Goal 1: Respected Environmental Assessment For greater detail see pages 42 to 46	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual
1.1 Ensure desired outcomes related to provincial environmental, social and economic goals are delivered to the people of British Columbia Compliance Inspections completed on certified projects	10 inspections	17 inspections EXCEEDED
1.2 Build Upon a strong legislative framework Application reviews in the B.C. environmental assessment process are completed within 180 days		
B.C. process only	100%	100% ACHIEVED
Joint B.C./Canada Process	100%	100% ACHIEVED
Goal 2: Successful Partnerships No performance measures. For greater detail see pages 46 to 47		
Goal 3: Meaningful Engagement For greater detail see pages 47 to 49	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual
3.2 Ensure environmental assessment is meaningful to First Nations Percentage of potentially affected First Nations engaged in the environmental assessment process:		
Given the opportunity to engage in the environmental assessment process	100%	100% ACHIEVED
Engaged in the environmental assessment process	80%	80% ACHIEVED

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

Goal 1: Respected Environmental Assessment

Objective 1.1: Ensure desired outcomes related to provincial environmental, social and economic goals are delivered to the people of British Columbia

The environmental assessment process is an integrated and iterative process through which the Environmental Assessment Office works with the proponent, government agencies, First Nations, potentially affected parties, and the public to ensure that the potential adverse environmental, economic, social, heritage and health effects of a proposed major project are identified and avoided or mitigated so that if the project is to proceed, it will do so in a sustainable manner. The Environmental Assessment Office ensures that once an assessment has been completed, Ministers are informed of both the potential benefits and adverse effects of the proposed project before they decide whether or not to issue an environmental assessment certificate.

Strategies

The key strategies for this objective are to maintain and continually to improve on the effectiveness of the environmental assessment process by developing a quality assurance program that includes:

- continuous improvement and ongoing enhancement of the environmental assessment process;
- a compliance management program to ensure that projects comply with certificate conditions and commitments; and
- an effectiveness management program to evaluate whether environmental assessments are avoiding or mitigating the potentially significant adverse effects of certified projects.

Performance Measure 1

Performance Measure	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual
Compliance inspections completed on certified projects	N/A	New measure	10 inspections	17 inspections EXCEEDED

Discussion of Results

The Environmental Assessment Office conducts site inspections of certified projects to promote compliance and enforce legally binding certificate conditions. This measure was set at 10 inspections for 2012/13, which was based on the experience of a pilot program initiated in 2011/12.

Since the conclusion of the pilot phase, the Environmental Assessment Office has recruited a dedicated compliance unit, supported by a network of natural resource compliance officers and other agencies. As a result of increased operational expertise, the Environmental Assessment Office completed 17 inspections in 2012/13.



Compliance site inspection for the McLymont Creek Project over the Iskut River.

In October of 2012, the Environmental Assessment Office submitted a follow-up report to the Office of the Auditor General, indicating substantial implementation of the 2011 recommendations, including:

Measureable and Enforceable Certificate Conditions

The Environmental Assessment Office has revised its approach to the development of certificate conditions. Compliance management now begins during the environmental assessment process by ensuring that certificate conditions are measurable and enforceable.

Sector approach to compliance and resource management

In 2011, the Environmental Assessment Office struck an interagency compliance management committee that brought together agencies with roles in environmental assessment, permitting, and compliance. This committee crafted a compliance strategy that guided the development of the Environmental Assessment Office's compliance and enforcement program. The compliance strategy was designed to complement government's broader objectives of integrating compliance resources and activities across the natural resource sector, and builds on best practices in other jurisdictions while recognizing the unique operational realities in B.C.

A priority for the natural resource sector is to ensure proponents who seek authorizations deal with government as "one land manager." To coordinate compliance and enforcement roles and responsibilities between the Environmental Assessment Office and regulatory agencies, compliance management plans have been developed for all projects certified since May of 2012.

These plans identify and eliminate potential overlaps or gaps in agency mandates, while minimizing the potential duplication of compliance efforts.

In January 2013, the Environmental Assessment Office invited agencies involved in the interagency compliance management committee to participate in a Lean review of the compliance management planning process. Workshop participants identified tools and approaches that will further enhance collaboration and coordination between the Environmental Assessment Office and permitting agencies.

The 2011 Report from the Office of the Auditor General also made specific policy integration recommendations. The Environmental Assessment Office supports the development of the Environmental Mitigation Policy and Cumulative Effects Assessment Framework being led by the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. Trial application of the Environmental Mitigation Policy is in progress for the Big Silver, Shovel Creek, Tretheway Creek, and Upper Lillooet hydroelectric projects (projects were certified in 2012/13).

Ministry Response

Compliance inspections of environmental assessment projects continue to be a core business requirement for the Environmental Assessment office. The Environmental Assessment Office has adjusted its target number of compliance inspections in future years. The revised targets are reflected in the *2013/14-2015/16 Ministry of Environment and Environmental Assessment Office Service Plan*.

Objective 1.2: Build upon a strong legislative framework

One of the strengths of B.C.'s environmental assessment legislation is its requirement that project reviews be completed within specific timelines.

While the *Environmental Assessment Act* provides a strong and rigorous framework for environmental assessment, the Environmental Assessment Office undertakes regular study and analysis of other legislative frameworks to ensure that B.C. remains a leader in environmental assessment standards.



Construction on the access road for the Interior to Lower Mainland Transmission Project.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- ensuring that environmental assessment decisions occur within a predictable and timely regulatory framework;
- using legislative tools, such as entering into delegation agreements with other levels of government, to eliminate duplication of environmental assessment efforts conducted by more than one level of government on the same proposed projects;
- working with other provincial agencies to coordinate necessary authorizations for a proposed project to provide better service to clients and to improve the natural resources sector’s internal administration efficiency; and
- ensuring that comprehensive environmental assessments are completed within legislated timelines.

Performance Measure 2

Performance Measure	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual
Application reviews in the B.C. environmental process completed within 180 days:				
B.C. process only		100%	100%	100% ACHIEVED
Joint B.C./Canada process		100%	100%	100% ACHIEVED

Discussion of Results

The legislative timelines in the *Environmental Assessment Act* include a 180-day limit for the Environmental Assessment Office to review applications for environmental assessment certificates. These timelines offer process certainty to stakeholders and are important for effective planning and decision making.

Once a proponent’s project application is accepted for review, the Environmental Assessment Office strives to complete the environmental assessment with the 180-day time limit. However, within the 180-days, proposed projects may be suspended to allow additional time for



Kitimat LNG facility site at Bish Cove.

proponents to gather necessary information about potential adverse effects. If a suspension occurs, the 180-day clock is essentially stopped and the proposed project is considered on-hold until the proponent provides the additional information.

Of the nine projects that were referred to ministers for decision in 2012/13, four were suspended at some point during their environmental assessment (Kitsault Mine, Morrison Copper-Gold Mine, Roman Coal Mine and Vancouver Airport Fuel Delivery); however, three received a decision within the 180-day timeline. One is still currently in suspension (Vancouver Airport Fuel Delivery), pending the outcome of work underway by the Ministry of Environment on land-based spill preparedness and response and a world-class marine spill regime.

The Environmental Assessment Office also reviewed four projects that were reviewed by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. Of these, the federal government has made its decision on the McLymont Creek Hydroelectrical Project. The proposed Kitsault Mine, Morrison Copper-Gold Mine and Vancouver Airport Fuel Delivery projects are still being reviewed by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.

Goal 2: Successful Partnerships

Objective 2.1: Ensure effective partnerships with provincial agencies are established, maintained and enhanced

One of the key functions provided by the Environmental Assessment Office is the coordination and assessment of technical input from various provincial agencies into environmental assessment of proposed projects. In this role, building positive relationships and effective communication networks is a key function undertaken by the Environmental Assessment Office.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- working with other provincial ministries to support the “integrated decision-making” initiative to identify and address efficiencies for projects before, during and after environmental assessment;
- providing clear direction to working group members on their roles and the type of information and input required to support the Environmental Assessment Office;
- ensuring that other provincial agencies are aware of the work of the Environmental Assessment Office through outreach and relationship building; and
- partnering with other provincial agencies where possible (for example, undertaking joint compliance inspections).

Objective 2.2: Enhanced efforts to coordinate environmental assessment with the federal government

Historically, approximately two-thirds of proposed projects undergoing a provincial review have also required a federal environmental assessment. Given the magnitude of the federal environmental assessments in B.C. and the significant contribution of these projects to the Canadian and British Columbian economy, the Environmental Assessment Office has identified greater coordination with the federal government as a top priority.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- ongoing efforts to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of environmental assessments undertaken by both the federal and provincial governments;
- working closely with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and other government agencies to develop new and innovative project management tools, such as joint work plans, team charters and a collaborative approach to First Nations' consultations; and
- continuing to recommend federal legislative changes in the pursuit of a single environmental assessment for each reviewable project.

Goal 3: Meaningful Engagement

Objective 3.1: Communicate the value and benefits of environmental assessment

The Environmental Assessment Office seeks to deliver value by analyzing and making recommendations related to potential environmental, economic, social, health and heritage impacts and First Nations' asserted, treaty, or proven rights for each assessment. In addition, the Environmental Assessment Office informs ministers about both the potential benefits and adverse effects of proposed projects to support ministers in deciding whether or not to issue an environmental assessment certificate.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- delivering a transparent process and supporting decision making;
- communicating with the public, First Nations and interested parties about the benefits of environmental assessment; and

- developing a method to track beneficial changes to proposed projects that are a result of the environmental assessment process.

Objective 3.2: Ensure environmental assessment is meaningful to First Nations

First Nations play a critical role in environmental assessments. Proposed projects that enter into environmental assessment trigger the Crown’s duty to consult with potentially affected First Nations about potential impacts to asserted, treaty or proven rights, and if appropriate, to accommodate those rights.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- building respectful relationships;
- ensuring early communication and consultation with all First Nations potentially affected by a proposed project;
- acknowledging that First Nations rights regarding consultation and accommodation are different from other participants in the environmental assessment process;
- providing First Nations with capacity funding to assist with participation in the environmental assessment process;
- providing First Nations with the opportunity for government-to-government dialogue throughout the environmental assessment process (outside the technical working groups); and
- enhancing coordination of First Nations consultation with the federal government through joint initiatives, including staff training workshops, information sharing, and improvement of procedures and tools.

Performance Measure 3

Performance Measure	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual
Percentage of potentially affected First Nations:				
Given the opportunity to engage in the environmental assessment process	100%	100%	100%	100% ACHIEVED
Engaged in the environmental assessment process	80%	80%	80%	80% ACHIEVED

Discussion of Results

The Environmental Assessment Office is required to meet the Crown's consultation and accommodation duties to First Nations – duties that exist in addition to other opportunities First Nations may have as interested participants in an environmental assessment. For this reason, First Nations are consulted at the outset of the assessment process, and the manner and degree of consultation to be undertaken is discussed.

Report on Resources Summary Table

	2012/13 Estimates	Other Authorizations	Total Estimates	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses (\$000)					
Environmental Assessment Office	8,754	1,207	9,961	9,961	-
Total	8,754	1,207	9,961	9,961	-

Appendix A: Contact Information

Ministry of Environment Contact Information

Headquarters

Victoria

Telephone: 250 387-1161

Fax: 250 387-5669

Website: www.gov.bc.ca/env/

Additional contact information can be found at www.gov.bc.ca/env/contacts.html.

Regional Offices

Coast Region

West Coast

Nanaimo Office:

Telephone: 250 751-3100

Fax: 250 751-3103

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/van-island/

Other offices: Black Creek, Duncan, Goldstream Park, Queen Charlotte City, Parksville, Port Alberni, Port Hardy, Ucluelet

South Coast

Surrey Office:

Telephone: 604 582-5200

Fax: 604 930-7119

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/lower-mainland/

Other offices: Brackendale (Squamish), Cultus Lake, Maple Ridge, North Vancouver, Sechelt, Powell River

Southern Interior Region

Cariboo/Thompson

Kamloops Office:

Telephone: 250 371-6200

Fax: 250 828-4000

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/thompson/

Williams Lake Office:

Telephone: 250 398-4530

Fax: 250 398-4214

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/cariboo/

Other offices: Clearwater, Lillooet, Merritt, Kelowna, Oliver, Princeton, Vernon, 100 Mile House, Quesnel

Kootenay/Okanagan

Nelson Office:

Telephone: 250 354-6333

Fax: 250 354-6332

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/kootenay/

Other offices: Castlegar, Creston/West Creston, Fernie, Grand Forks, Invermere, Golden, Revelstoke

Penticton Office:

Telephone: 250 490-8200

Fax: 250 490-2231

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/okanagan/

Cranbrook Office:

Telephone: 250 489-8540

Fax: 250 489-8506

Northern Region

Skeena

Smithers Office:

Telephone: 250 847-7260

Fax: 250 847-7591

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/skeena/

Other offices: Atlin, Burns Lake, Dease Lake, Terrace/Lakelse Lake

Omineca

Environmental Protection Division

Conservation Officer Service

Prince George Office:

Telephone: 250 565-6135

Fax: 250 565-6629

Environmental Sustainability

Parks and Protected Areas Division

Prince George Office:

Telephone: 250 565-6135

Fax: 250 565-6940

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/omineca/

Other offices: Vanderhoof, Mackenzie, Mount Robson, Fort St. James

Peace

Fort St. John Office:

Telephone: 250 787-3411

Fax: 250 787-3490

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/peace/

Other offices: Chetwynd/Moberly Lake Park, Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson/Liard Hotsprings

Report all Poachers and Polluters

Telephone: Dial Toll-Free 1-877-952-7277

Website: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/rapp/form.htm>

Environmental Assessment Office Contact Information

Second Floor
836 Yates Street
PO Box 9426 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9V1
Email: eaoinfo@gov.bc.ca
Website: www.eao.gov.bc.ca

Water Management Projects and South West Coast Sector

(Dams, Dykes and Diversions, Shoreline Modification, and Groundwater Projects)

Scott Bailey – Executive Project Director

250 356-1763
Scott.Bailey@gov.bc.ca

Oil and Gas Projects, First Nations and Omineca Sector

Trish Balcaen – Executive Project Director

250 952-6507
Trish.Balcaen@gov.bc.ca

Coal Projects and Kootenays Sector

(Industrial mineral, construction stone, sand and gravel)

Karen Christie – Executive Project Director

250 387-2200
Karen.L.Christie@gov.bc.ca

Food Processing, Waste Management, Destination Resorts and Transportation Projects and Northwest Sector

Chris Hamilton – Executive Project Director

250 387-5606
Chris.Hamilton@gov.bc.ca

Power and Industrial Projects and Northeast Sector

Brian Murphy – Executive Project Director

250 387-9409
Brian.Murphy@gov.bc.ca

Metal Mining Projects, Thompson Okanagan and Cariboo Sector

Shelley Murphy – Executive Project Director

250 387-2563

Shelley.Murphy@gov.bc.ca

EA Process and Communications

Greg Leake – Director, Client Communications and Engagement

250 356-7479

Greg.Leake@gov.bc.ca

Policy, Legislation, Compliance, and Intergovernmental Relations

Michelle Carr – Executive Director, Policy and Quality Assurance

250 356-1151

Michelle.Carr@gov.bc.ca

Environmental Assessment Operations

John Mazure - Executive Lead, Environmental Assessments

250 387-9408

John.Mazure@gov.bc.ca

Associate Deputy Minister's Office

Doug Caul – Associate Deputy Minister

250 356-7475