

**Ministry of
International Trade
and Minister Responsible for
Asia Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism**

**2016/17
Annual Service Plan Report**



For more information on the British Columbia
Ministry of International Trade and Minister Responsible for
Asia Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism,
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and Multiculturalism

Minister's Message and Accountability Statement



I am pleased to present the annual report for the Ministry of International Trade and Minister Responsible for Asia Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism, which outlines the Ministry's priorities and progress toward achieving our commitments during the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017.

This past fiscal year, we have made significant progress on our mandate, which is: to open and expand international markets for B.C.'s goods and services; attract investment for our province's businesses, entrepreneurs and communities; and leverage our many family, cultural and business links to countries across the Pacific and around the world.

The Ministry exceeded all trade and investment targets in 2016/17. The total value of foreign direct investment influenced by government programs was over \$2.0 billion, almost double its target of \$1.1 billion. The Ministry also supported the facilitation of 219 investment deals valued in excess of \$640 million exceeding the target of 125 deals with a value of \$350 million, and assisted 29 new companies – the target was 22 – in setting up offices here.

Under the *Raising Our Game in Asia – The BC Jobs Plan Trade Strategy*, the Ministry opened two new trade and investment offices in Jakarta, Indonesia and Manila, Philippines and announced plans to open an office in Johor Bahru, Malaysia in 2017, which will help British Columbia accelerate our economic ties in the fast-growing ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) region.

As part of government's *#BCTECH Strategy*, we launched the \$100-million BC Tech Fund in October 2016 to provide early stage capital to B.C. companies and grow B.C.'s tech sector.

British Columbia is a strong supporter of free trade and the many benefits that free trade agreements bring for B.C. businesses. Our Ministry participated in negotiations for the Canadian Free Trade Agreement – to come into effect July 1, 2017, and represented the province's interests in the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) signed on October 30, 2016. We have also worked to advance other trade and investment agreements, and defend B.C.'s interests both domestically and internationally.

We have also continued our work towards completing the Chinese Legacy Projects and championing the benefits of multiculturalism for all British Columbians. In partnership with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry introduced the *Discriminatory Provisions (Historical Wrongs) Repeal Act* to permanently remove discriminatory provisions in historical private legislation. The first regional monuments honouring early Chinese Canadian contributions to the development of B.C. were unveiled in Kelowna, Cumberland, Ashcroft, Kamloops and Barkerville – part of the Chinese Legacy Projects.

Finally, I was pleased to host the seventh British Columbia Multicultural Awards recognizing British Columbians whose exceptional work helps bring diverse cultures together. The ceremony was attended by 400 people and five award nominees were recognized for delivering exceptional work in business, organization, individual, youth and government categories.

The *Ministry of International Trade and Minister Responsible for Asia Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism 2016/17 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the Ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in the *2016/17 – 2018/19 Service Plan*. I am accountable for those results as reported.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Teresa Wat". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*Honourable Teresa Wat
Minister of International Trade and
Minister Responsible for Asia Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism
June 16, 2017*

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Purpose of the Ministry

The [Ministry of International Trade and Minister Responsible for Asia Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism](#) pursues strategic opportunities to promote British Columbia internationally as a preferred place to invest and do business. This is achieved by delivering services that accelerate British Columbia's exports, attracting strategic investments including international offices, developing international partnerships, and increasing awareness of B.C.'s competitive advantages, as well as by negotiating and managing trade agreements and delivering venture capital programs.

The Ministry also promotes the benefits of B.C.'s diverse cultures and connects communities with services to eliminate racism and foster the full and free participation of all British Columbians in the economic, social, cultural and political life of British Columbia. These efforts promote economic prosperity in communities across the province while simultaneously positioning the province for long-term growth and creating jobs for British Columbians.

Specifically, the Ministry works to:

- Open and expand priority markets for B.C. goods and services, particularly in Asia, Europe and the United States, and to engage B.C. exporters in new opportunities;
- Fight protectionism and address barriers to trade, investment and labour mobility in domestic and international markets to ensure B.C. companies, investors and workers compete on a level playing field;
- Advance the province's interests and priorities with the Government of Canada in international trade negotiations and defend the province's interests in domestic and international trade disputes;
- Attract strategic investments to B.C.'s priority sectors that create jobs and grow competitiveness;
- Leverage investment capital programs (venture capital and infrastructure) to support a competitive business environment; and
- Promote the value of diversity and inclusiveness in B.C. communities.

The Ministry has an oversight role for the following Crown agencies: the [BC Immigrant Investment Fund](#) and its subsidiary the [BC Renaissance Capital Fund](#), and [Forestry Innovation Investment](#). Please see Appendix B for information on these agencies.

Strategic Direction and Context

The Ministry plays a key role in delivering on government strategic priorities with a focus on creating good jobs, sustainable economic growth and exports. These priorities are supported by a number of Ministry initiatives, including attracting foreign investment and promoting the export of B.C. products and services to various markets, particularly in Asia.

The Premier's [Mandate Letter](#) to the Minister of International Trade and Minister Responsible for Asia Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism, included direction to, among other actions: balance the ministerial budget; work with the Ministries of Advanced Education, and Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services to develop and present options to Cabinet on ways to improve the availability of

venture capital funding in British Columbia; and develop options and present to Cabinet a strategy for increasing B.C.'s trade with India and presence in the ASEAN region.

In addition, the Ministry works with the Ministry of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction, and the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training to help growth-oriented small and medium-sized businesses navigate and access existing services to support them in becoming export ready and make it easier to get their goods and services to new domestic or international markets.

Finally, the introduction of the [Taxpayer Accountability Principles](#) (TAP) in June 2014 provided a framework to enhance greater strategic engagement between the Ministry of International Trade and its Crown corporations. The Ministry will continue to work with its Crown corporations to implement TAP and strengthen accountability, promote cost control and support strategic alignment so that these public sector agencies can continue to be effective and efficient in their service delivery, while doing so in the best interest of taxpayers with integrity and respect.

British Columbia's real GDP increased by 3.7 per cent in 2016 (according to preliminary GDP by industry data from Statistics Canada), the strongest growth among provinces. Employment in B.C. grew by 3.2 per cent in 2016, its fastest annual pace since 1994. Consumer spending was strong for a third consecutive year as retail sales were supported by strong employment growth, increased tourism, interprovincial migration and low interest rates. B.C.'s housing market saw elevated levels of activity in 2016, with the highest number of annual housing starts since 1993. B.C. manufacturing shipments and exports expanded in 2016 as goods exports to both the U.S. and the rest of the world increased.

The strategic context in which the Ministry operated in 2016/17 was also marked by:

- Current economic conditions, including the multi-year declines in commodity values, has impacted international investment interests globally and also in B.C.'s traditional natural resource sectors. The Ministry is continuing to actively market and promote provincial strengths in these sectors, but is also taking initiative to increase awareness of B.C. capabilities in associated sectors such as Agritech and Natural Resource technology areas.
- The province's technology sector experienced significant growth, resulting in increased investment interest and requests to support B.C. exports.
- Protectionist sentiments in key markets for B.C., such as the United States and the United Kingdom, have changed the landscape for open trade policies. Significant Ministry resources were expended supporting key sectors of the province, such as forestry and construction, in international disputes. Global attention has also been drawn towards East Asia where Canada has a free trade agreement with South Korea; and China has stepped forward to champion free trade and open markets.

Report on Performance

The reference point for this annual report is the Ministry's [2016/17- 2018/19 Service Plan](#), which was informed in part by the Premier's July 30, 2015 [Mandate Letter](#) to the Minister of International Trade and Minister Responsible for Asia Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism. In 2016/17, the Ministry successfully completed 12 of the 14 deliverables outlined in the *Mandate Letter*, while the remaining two are of an ongoing nature. More detail on actions taken in response to the *Mandate Letter* can be found in Appendix C of this report.

Consistent with its *Mandate Letter* direction, the Ministry worked to achieve the following two goals:

Goal 1: B.C. is recognized globally as a preferred place to invest and do business.

Goal 2: British Columbians value diversity and inclusiveness in our communities.

Of its four performance targets for the year, the Ministry exceeded three and met one. More detail about the Ministry's goals, strategies, performance measures and targets is provided below.

The Ministry operates under the [Taxpayer Accountability Principles](#), which strengthen accountability to the citizens of B.C. by providing a common platform of compensation and accountability across the public sector. The six principles—cost-consciousness (efficiency), accountability, appropriate compensation, service, respect and integrity—are integrated into the Ministry's operations and reflected by the goals, objectives and measures of its service plans.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

Goal 1: B.C. is recognized globally as a preferred place to invest and do business

This goal supports B.C. business and industry in the creation of long-term jobs and investments in the province and converting B.C.'s strengths into strategic, competitive advantages in the global economy.

Objective 1.1: Open and expand priority markets for B.C. goods and services, particularly in Asia

Strategies

Key strategies in 2016/17 included:

- Promoting B.C. internationally and growing markets in key sectors by capitalizing on our expanded international trade and investment representative presence and deploying dedicated sector and market staff both domestically and in overseas offices.
- Providing B.C. businesses and exporters with streamlined services, business-to-business opportunities including trade shows and missions, and targeted in-market assistance to help them expand their business through exports, and enter new markets to achieve their business growth goals.
- Reducing barriers to trade and investment by advancing B.C.'s priorities in international and domestic trade negotiations and reducing or eliminating protectionist measures in other jurisdictions through engagement and, where necessary, more formal means.
- Continuously improving the supports that help B.C. businesses grow through trade with international partners.

Performance Measure 1: Total number of international export agreements facilitated by Ministry programs

Performance Measure	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Total number of international export agreements facilitated by Ministry programs	276	250	125 agreements with a value in excess of \$350M	219 agreements with a value in excess of \$640M	135 agreements with a value in excess of \$375M	150 agreements with a value in excess of \$375M

Data Source: Ministry of International Trade and Minister Responsible for Asia Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism internal data.

Discussion

Expanding the sale of goods and services to new markets is critical to growing B.C. businesses and keeping them here. Export agreements take the form of international purchases of B.C. goods and services and represent an agreement between two distinct business entities. In 2016/17, the Ministry facilitated 219 international business agreements with a financial value of approximately \$640 million. The Ministry supports and facilitates international export agreements by connecting B.C. businesses and institutions to qualified international prospects, supporting key international trade events, organizing and supporting inbound and outbound missions to target markets, providing information necessary to conclude agreements, assisting parties to work with all levels of government in B.C., Canada and internationally and providing other services tailored to the needs of the parties. Examples of agreements facilitated by the Ministry may be found on our [website](#). B.C.’s Special Representative in Asia also worked with B.C.’s Trade and Investment Representative Offices to support export agreements in East Asia markets.

The Ministry focused this measure on export agreements that involve the sale of goods and services to clients outside B.C. These agreements show the economic value that government assistance provides exporters.

Objective 1.2: Attract increased investment to B.C.’s priority sectors

Strategies

Key strategies in 2016/17 included:

- Identifying strategic investments and—working closely with the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and other ministries—supporting successful outcomes from investment opportunities.
- Encouraging reinvestment from companies that have previously invested in B.C.
- Working with HQ Vancouver to attract five Asian head offices to B.C. and continuing to attract other national and international offices that create jobs for British Columbians.
- Facilitating positive investment decisions by identifying potential obstacles to investment, developing strategies and delivering timely solutions for clients considering B.C. as an investment location.

Performance Measure 2: Foreign direct investment facilitated by Ministry programs

Performance Measure	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Total value of foreign investment facilitated by Ministry programs	\$1.91 billion	\$1.407 billion	\$1.1 billion	\$2.0 billion	\$1.2 billion	\$1.25 billion

Data Source: Ministry of International Trade and Minister Responsible for Asia Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism internal performance tracking system.

Discussion

Foreign investment helps B.C. grow its industries, create and safeguard jobs, and secure a position of strength in the global economy. B.C. has fostered a highly competitive and open investment climate and has included strong investment provisions in trade agreements to show investors that B.C. is a desirable and secure place to do business. The Ministry attracts foreign investment to B.C. by marketing the province’s competitive advantages and world-class business environment, and targeting potential investors through our international trade and investment office network.

The Ministry also undertakes activities focused specifically on attracting investment to B.C., for example through marketing campaigns, key market public relations and a suite of services for potential investors. These services include providing detailed information on B.C.’s business climate, facilitating site tours, supporting connections with business services suppliers and providing assistance with accessing federal, provincial and local government incentive and support programs. Examples of investments facilitated by the Ministry can be found on our [website](#). In 2016/17, ministry programs facilitated \$2.0 billion in foreign investment. The target for investment has been increased to reflect the growth of B.C.’s trade and investment network to the ASEAN region.

Performance Measure 3: National and international offices locating in British Columbia

Performance Measure	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Total number of national and international offices that locate in B.C. annually as a result of the Ministry and HQ Vancouver’s assistance	15	21	22	29	25	25

Data Source: Ministry of International Trade and Minister Responsible for Asia Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism internal performance metrics tracking system. International offices must occupy a physical space such as storefront to be counted.

Discussion

Attracting foreign offices to B.C. creates direct and indirect economic benefits, including new jobs, increased contributions to the tax base, higher demand for business services such as accounting, legal, advertising and real estate leasing, and greater national and international awareness of the fact that B.C. is one of the most competitive business jurisdictions in North America. Moreover, businesses are generally more likely to reinvest in a location once they have an established office location and these investments often create proportionately more jobs.

Foreign office attraction also helps strengthen B.C.'s sectors by creating industry clusters that attract other complementary businesses. As new offices locate to B.C., other companies that are a part of, or are looking to enter the supply chain, will locate nearby. This helps to grow an increasingly skilled workforce that leads to higher paying jobs and greater productivity.

In 2016/17, the Ministry exceeded its goal of 22 national and international offices locating in B.C., with 29 offices opening in the province. These outcomes are a result of the Ministry working directly with international companies to generate interest in locating in the province and then helping to facilitate their move to B.C. This includes, among other things, providing them in-depth sector information, operating costs and B.C. cost comparison information, connecting them with B.C. suppliers, and identifying appropriate industry contacts and service providers.

Objective 1.3: Leverage investment capital programs to support a competitive business environment

Strategies

Key strategies in 2016/17 included:

- Continuing to promote and deliver the [Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit](#) program to facilitate access to investment capital for small businesses in B.C.
- Continuing to manage \$90 million of committed capital in the BC Renaissance Capital Fund, a venture capital fund-of-funds model, aimed at attracting venture capital fund managers to B.C. Investments are committed to fund managers who make direct equity investments in companies across four key technology sectors: information technology, digital media, clean technology and life sciences.
- Implementing the \$100 million [BC Tech Fund](#), a venture capital fund-of-funds to address the current early stage (A-round) venture capital funding gap in B.C. and support the development of a stronger venture capital system over the longer-term.
- Completing a venture capital review and implementing its findings through the development of a multi-year action plan.

Goal 2: *British Columbians value diversity and inclusiveness in our communities*

Objective 2.1: Celebrate B.C.’s rich diversity as a source of innovation and global networking

Strategies

Key strategies in 2016/17 included:

- Supporting capacity-building across B.C. through the development and recognition of leaders in multiculturalism, anti-racism and cultural diversity.
- Providing community grants that support cultural expression and raise awareness about or enhance B.C.’s multicultural identity.
- Working to integrate multicultural festivals and events with in-bound trade and investment missions to highlight the strong cultural ties that connect B.C. to our overseas business partners.

Objective 2.2: Collaborate with communities and partners to challenge racism and barriers to inclusivity

Strategies

Key strategies in 2016/17 included:

- Fulfilling the requirements and objectives established in the B.C. *Multiculturalism Act*, which includes developing the annual *Report on Multiculturalism* and supporting the Multicultural Advisory Council in its public engagement and advisory role to the Minister.
- Providing support to B.C. communities to deliver locally-led anti-racism projects.
- Promoting awareness and understanding of cultural diversity in B.C. through public education, including online resources and community events.
- Continuing the implementation of B.C.’s Chinese Legacy projects commemorating the May 15, 2014 apology to the province’s Chinese Community for historical wrongs.

Performance Measure 4: *Organizing Against Racism and Hate Network (OARH) membership*

Performance Measure	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Number of communities who have completed their annual deliverables to be an active member of the Organizing Against Racism and Hate network	28	28	32	32	36	40

Data Source: Ministry of International Trade and Minister Responsible for Asia Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism.

Discussion

The Ministry is responsible for the *Multiculturalism Act*, which includes a policy directive to “reaffirm that violence, hatred and discrimination on the basis of race, cultural heritage, religion, ethnicity, ancestry or place of origin have no place in the society of British Columbia” and “work towards building a society in British Columbia free from all forms of racism and from conflict and discrimination based on race, cultural heritage, religion, ethnicity, ancestry and place of origin.”

This measure provided an indication of the strong foundation of community partners working to continually challenge racism in B.C. It measures the number of communities active in the [Organizing Against Racism and Hate](#) (OARH) network until March 2017. The OARH network helps government implement that policy directive through a community partnership approach, which strives towards local solutions for local incidents. This approach allows communities to prepare for a racially motivated incident early, before it becomes a major issue.

The OARH community membership ensures that British Columbia communities are able to identify and respond to incidents of racism and hate. Increasing the number of communities involved in OARH strengthens British Columbia’s overall ability to foster a society in which there are no impediments to the full and free participation of all British Columbians in the economic, social, cultural and political life of British Columbia.

Active members of OARH are required to hold regular community partnership meetings, monitor and record acts of racism, and have an established critical incident response protocol for racism and hate as well as a working relationship with the local police force.

Financial Report

Discussion of Results

This Discussion of Results reports on the Ministry of International Trade and Minister Responsible for Asia Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism financial results for the year ended March 31, 2017 and should be read in conjunction with the Financial Report Summary Table provided below.

Operations

- In 2016/17, the Ministry managed within its Estimates budget and other authorizations with no overall variance before accounting for an adjustment of prior year accruals.
- A surplus in Executive and Support Services Division was realized due to lower than estimated administrative costs for the Ministry.
- In 2016/17, additional financial appropriation was provided through access to contingencies to support the expansion of B.C.'s Trade and Investment Office network in the ASEAN region and export capacity development for small- and medium-sized enterprises.

Financial Report Summary Table

	Estimated	Other Authorizations ¹	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance ²
Operating Expenses (\$000)					
International Business Development.....	19,678	1,354	21,032	21,131	99
International Strategy and Competitiveness	8,974	2,500	11,474	11,491	17
Corporate Initiatives and Multiculturalism	1,627	0	1,627	1,651	24
Transfers to Crown Corporations and Agencies...	18,300	0	18,300	18,300	0
Executive and Support Services	1,712	0	1,712	1,572	(140)
Sub-Total	50,291	3,854	54,145	54,145	0
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual³	0	0	0	(20)	(20)
Total	50,291	3,854	54,145	54,125	(20)

Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)					
By Core Business	1	0	1	0	(1)
Total	1	0	1	0	(1)

¹ “Other Authorizations” include Supplementary Estimates, Statutory Appropriations and Contingencies. Amounts in this column are not related to the “estimated amount” under sections 5(1) and 6(1) of the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act* for ministerial accountability for operating expenses under the Act.

Contingencies access:

- ASEAN Trade Investment Office Presence \$1.354 million.
- Export capacity development for small and medium-sized enterprises \$2.500 million.

² Variances of a business line’s Actual results from Total Estimated are considered material if they exceed 5 per cent. The Ministry experienced a \$0.140 M surplus in Executive and Support Services as the result of lower than estimated administrative costs incurred for the year.

³ The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual of \$0.02 million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

Appendix A – Contact Information and Hyperlinks

Minister’s Office

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To learn more about the numerous programs and services provided by the Ministry of International Trade and Minister Responsible for Asia Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism, please visit www.gov.bc.ca/mit.

To find a specific person or program in the Ministry of International Trade and Minister Responsible for Asia Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism, you can use the [B.C. Government Directory](#).

Appendix B – List of Crowns, Agencies, Boards and Commissions

[BC Immigrant Investment Fund \(BCIIF\)](#)

This Crown Corporation promotes economic development and job creation through its investments in public infrastructure projects and venture capital funds that are focused on four key technology sectors: information technology, digital media, clean technology, and life sciences.

[BC Renaissance Capital Fund \(BCRCF\)](#)

This subsidiary of the BC Immigrant Investment Fund invests in venture capital funds that focus on four key sectors: information technology, digital media, clean technology, and life sciences.

[Forestry Innovation Investment \(FII\)](#)

This Crown Corporation is the B.C. government's market development agency for forest products. FII works closely with industry associations and other levels of government in marketing B.C. forest products around the world.

[Multicultural Advisory Council \(MAC\)](#)

This council is a legislated body officially created in 1988 to provide advice to the Minister Responsible on issues related to multiculturalism and anti-racism. The council also performs other duties and functions as specified by the Minister as set out in Section 5(1) of the [Multiculturalism Act](#).

[Legacy Initiatives Advisory Council](#)

This council works with Chinese Canadian communities and other key partners to support and advise government and ensure that the legacy projects recommended in the Chinese Historical Wrongs Consultation Final Report are successfully implemented and are known and communicated throughout the province.

[AdvantageBC](#)

This non-profit Society communicates the tax incentive program as well as the many advantages British Columbia offers as a location for corporate investment, including an educated and multilingual workforce, an outstanding telecommunications infrastructure, clean and competitive energy, and a high quality of living.

Appendix C – Minister’s Mandate and Actions Summary

In the [Premier’s July 30, 2015 Mandate Letter](#), the Minister of International Trade and Minister Responsible for Asia Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism received direction on strategic priorities for the 2016/17 fiscal year. These priorities and the Ministry’s resulting actions are summarized below:

Mandate Letter Direction	Ministry’s Action
1. Balance your ministerial budget in order to control spending and ensure an overall balanced budget for the province of British Columbia.	Completed – The Ministry balanced its budget in 2016/17, and met expenditure targets.
2. Coordinate trade missions across all ministries to ensure maximum coverage and minimal duplication as ministries execute BC Jobs Plan strategies.	Completed – The Ministry of International Trade submitted the 2016/17 Cross Government Mission Plan to the Premier’s Office. The Ministry continues to work with all ministries across government to ensure approved trade missions align with government priorities. The Ministry is coordinating all international travel to ensure there is no duplication in market.
3. Work with the BC chapter of the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters Association to further export opportunities for BC business that were identified by your ministry last year.	Completed – The Ministry worked closely with the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters Association of BC (CME BC) to develop recommendations to advance export opportunities for B.C. businesses. CME BC was engaged in the consultation process to develop the Export Navigator pilot project, which assists B.C. companies with export readiness.
4. Continue to work with Canada and the BC Business Council and HQ Vancouver to attract major Asian firms to invest in BC and locate their North American presence in our province as committed in Strong Economy, Secure Tomorrow.	Ongoing – The project was announced in February 2015. The first head office announcement was made on May 1, 2015. The project spans three years and includes ongoing alignment between the Ministry and HQ Vancouver.
5. Work with the federal government to ensure British Columbia's interests are protected in the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade negotiations.	Completed – A final agreement was signed in February 2016. Since then, the United States has withdrawn from the TPP and the agreement is now not likely to come into force.
6. Work with the BC construction industry to fight the federal tariffs imposed on imported rebar and ensure construction costs remain as low as possible in BC.	Completed – The Canadian International Trade Tribunal (CITT) issued its original opinion and supporting reasons report in December 2015. CITT found that public interest does not warrant a reduction or elimination of duties.
7. Work with the Ministries of Advanced Education and	Completed – The Ministry worked with the Ministries of Advanced Education and Technology,

<p>Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services to develop and present options to Cabinet on ways to improve the availability of venture capital funding in British Columbia.</p>	<p>Innovation and Citizens' Services to complete the province's venture capital policy review, and received Cabinet direction in summer 2015. The #BCTECH Strategy was announced in December 2015 and the related BC Tech Fund was launched in October 2016.</p>
<p>8. Develop and present options to Cabinet on a trade strategy for China focusing on mid-sized Chinese cities.</p>	<p>Completed – The Ministry worked to develop a strategy for mid-sized Chinese cities, seeking to identify new trade and investment opportunities that align with B.C. sector priorities and building upon current engagement with key coastal cities in China over the past several Premier and Ministers missions to China. The mid-sized Chinese cities strategy was approved by Cabinet in April 2016.</p>
<p>9. Work with the Premier's Office to recognize the 20th anniversary of the sister province relationship between British Columbia and Guangdong, China.</p>	<p>Completed – The Premier's mission to Guangdong Province in November 2015 marked the culmination of a year-long celebration of the 20th anniversary of sister province relations. Over 200 B.C. participants from a diversity of sectors and community members joined the Premier's mission to Guangdong to celebrate the occasion.</p>
<p>10. Develop options and present to Cabinet a strategy for increasing our trade with India and presence in the ASEAN nations.</p>	<p>Completed – Both ASEAN (October 2015) and India strategies (February 2016) were presented and approved by Cabinet.</p>
<p>11. Continue to implement the recommendations of the Chinese Historical Wrongs Consultation Report and provide an update to Cabinet on their status by December 31, 2015.</p>	<p>Completed – As of March 31, 2017, 12 of the 13 Report Recommendations are fulfilled, with the remaining one recommendation expected to be completed by fall 2017.</p>
<p>12. Work with the Ministry of Education to ensure the Historical Wrongs Educational Curriculum Supplement is available to BC schools in the 2015/16 school year.</p>	<p>Completed – The Ministry of International Trade (MIT) worked with the Ministry of Education to develop learning objectives related to Asian and South Asian discrimination in the updated education curriculum. The updated education curriculum was announced in August 2015. The education curriculum supplement for Chinese Historical Wrongs developed by MIT and the Ministry of Education was announced and made available to B.C. schools in September 2015.</p>
<p>13. Work with the Minister of State for Small Business and Tourism to review and make options to Cabinet on ways to expand the LNG-Buy BC online tool to other sectors of the provincial economy.</p>	<p>Ongoing – The Ministry has been working with the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and the Ministry of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction on the LNG-Buy BC online tool.</p>

<p>14. Implement the Medal of Good Citizenship and ensure potential nominees are aware of the program in advance of its first investiture ceremony in 2016.</p>	<p>Completed – The Ministry worked with the Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat to announce the Medal of Good Citizenship Award. The nomination period has closed and the selection committee recommendations have gone forward to the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Regional presentations take place throughout the year.</p>
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