

Ministry of Competition, Science and Enterprise
Minister of State for Deregulation
2002/03 - 2004/05 Service Plan Summary

Mission

The Ministry's mission has three parts:

- Competition:** Ensure British Columbia has the most attractive investment and business climate in North America.
- Science:** Encourage a culture of innovation and the development and transfer of new knowledge benefiting individuals, businesses and communities.
- Enterprise:** Promote economic growth by aggressively pursuing increased marketing of British Columbia that results in the growth of investment and trade.

Strategic Shifts

The Ministry had the following strategic shifts approved by Cabinet:

- From socially-focused economic policies, to business-focused economic policies;
- From providing financial assistance and subsidies, to ending subsidies, and deregulating;
- From government as financier, builder and promoter, to marketing British Columbia as "open for business"; and
- From government's voice to business, to a voice for entrepreneurs and business to government.

Core Business Areas

The core businesses approved as part of the Ministry's service plan are:

- Removing barriers to business;
- Marketing and investment; and
- Encouraging innovation and the development and transfer of new knowledge.

Major Initiatives

The Ministry of Competition, Science and Enterprise has four key goals:

- RETURN BRITISH COLUMBIA TO ECONOMIC PROSPERITY -- We will help return British Columbia to economic prosperity by taking a proactive, focused role in making sure the taxation, regulatory and labour environment is consistent with the new economy and stays competitive with other jurisdictions.
- AGGRESSIVELY MARKET BRITISH COLUMBIA -- We will lead government in aggressively pursuing opportunities to let the world know that British Columbia is Open for Business.
- MAKE BRITISH COLUMBIA A GLOBAL MAGNET FOR INVESTMENT -- We will play a lead role in encouraging the development of an economic climate that makes British Columbia a global magnet for investment in high tech and science infrastructure.
- BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE -- We will work to bridge the digital divide and encourage a culture of innovation to make sure all British Columbians are full participants in the new economy.

To achieve these goals, the Ministry will make a fundamental change in culture and focus. The Ministry's strategic shifts mean the organization will no longer provide direction and subsidies to business. Instead, we will proactively and aggressively reduce barriers to business and market the province as Open for Business. The organization and activities of the entire Ministry of Competition, Science and Enterprise are focused on these shifts. Four of the major initiatives directly related to these shifts are:

- First, we have substantially completed the review and removal of all subsidies to business.
- Second, we are cutting red tape and will reduce the regulatory burden by one-third within three years.
- Third, we are developing a marketing plan for British Columbia, to let the world know that we are Open for Business.
- Fourth, we are reviewing government fees and licences to make sure they are competitive, consistent and fair.

All of these major initiatives fulfill commitments in the New Era document.

Achieving this refocused direction means the Ministry will eliminate:

- Subsidies to business;
- Business loans and guarantees;
- The Northern Development Commission;
- Industry-specific investments, such as pulp mills; and
- Site selection rostering and site development.

Ministry Resources

	Fiscal Year				Percentage Change
	(restated estimates) 2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	
Operating Expenditures (\$m)	63	48	45	40	(36)
FTEs	284	202	152	101	(64)

* These figures do not include communications staff, who have been transferred to the Public Affairs Bureau, or budget for the Pavilion Corporation of British Columbia.

Attachment 1



New Era Commitments Completed

The ministry has made significant progress on the government's New Era Commitments to, within 90 days of being sworn into office, act to initiate the following commitments:

- Eliminate government subsidies to businesses that give some companies an unfair advantage over their competitors.
- Establish a new Premier's Council on Technology to help bridge the "digital divide" and recommend strategies to enable all British Columbians to participate in and benefit from increased jobs and opportunities in the new economy.

New Era Commitments included in 2002/03 -2004/05 Service Plan

- Push to eliminate inter-provincial trade barriers and become a leader in open and free trade
- Lead annual international "Leading Edge" marketing missions to promote British Columbia technology and investment
- Stimulate tourism with a plan to improve operators' ability to successfully compete for visitors from around the world
- The Minister of State for Deregulation will cut red tape and reduce the regulatory burden by one-third within three years.

In addition to the above New Era Commitments attached to the June 25, 2001 letter from the Premier, the Ministry has included the following in both its Core Services Review and budget documents:

- Build the fastest growing technology industry in Canada
- Work towards broadband Internet access throughout British Columbia
- Use public corridors to leverage communications growth
- Work with federal government to ensure that our tax treatment of stock options and capital gains is globally competitive.

Key Projects Included in 2002/03-2004/05 Service Plan

- Cut regulations and reduce regulatory burdens by one-third within three years
- Eliminate business subsidies
- Increase awareness of the New Era for British Columbia - we are "Open for Business"
- Rebuild the national and international competitiveness of British Columbia's science and technology base
- Foster improvements in our physical and human infrastructure to promote growth
- Increase regional and sectoral economic development