

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

2002/03 – 2004/05 Service Plan Summary

Mission

To ensure the security and economic vitality of communities through effective policing, corrections, liquor control, gaming, protective and regulatory programs.

Strategic Shifts

The goal of the strategic shifts is to bring greater accountability, community ownership, program rationalization and deregulation to the delivery of public safety and community protection. These shifts are:

- Move to risk-based supervision and proven rehabilitation programs; improve efficiencies in the operation of correctional centres;
- Move to greater integration of policing services and refocus the role of the provincial police to emphasize response to complex criminal activities;
- Increase efficiencies in liquor licensing, crime prevention and victim services by reducing regulations, consolidating service delivery, and encouraging community ownership of community-based programs;
- Move to self-regulation and deregulation and risk-based enforcement in regulatory programs, such as film classification and the security industry; and
- Overhaul management of gaming industry by consolidating policy, standards, regulation, licensing, registration and enforcement activities.

Core Business Areas

Corrections: The Ministry ensures public safety through the management of criminal offenders. The Corrections Branch is charged with safe care and control of offenders within a correctional setting. Monitoring and enforcement of community court orders is managed through risk based supervision. Rehabilitative programming is provided for offenders to reduce the risk of re-offending.

Gaming Policy and Enforcement: The Ministry defines the scope and magnitude of permitted gaming in the province; regulates and enforces legal gaming; and provides management and distribution of government's gaming revenues.

Liquor Control and Licensing: The Ministry regulates the manufacture, sale and service of liquor in the province. Regulation and enforcement focused on community standards and public safety helps maintain safe communities and helps reduce health, police, court and offender management costs associated with the misuse of alcohol. The control program is based on a user pay system with licensing fees funding program activities.

Police Services: The Ministry, through Police Services Division (PSD), oversees policing and law enforcement functions in British Columbia to ensure that an adequate and effective level of policing is maintained throughout the province. PSD administers

the Provincial Police Service Agreement for provision of RCMP Provincial Police Services to rural areas and to municipalities under 5,000 population, and administers First Nations policing agreements and programs. There are 124 RCMP units in the provincial police force, 59 RCMP municipal forces, 12 independent municipal forces and 3 First Nations forces. PSD inspects, evaluates and reports on the quality and standard of policing and law enforcement services in the province. The Ministry funds the Organized Crime Agency of BC and administers traffic programs.

Protective Programs:

Victim Services: The Ministry provides victims of crime with services and benefits in their own communities and funds, trains and supports victim service workers across the province.

Community Programs: The Ministry provides strategies, programs, expertise and funding to assist communities in their crime prevention and community-based justice initiatives.

Provincial Emergency Program (PEP): The Ministry provides province-wide emergency preparedness, response and recovery from major disasters, including disaster assistance to victims. PEP supports local governments and volunteers who provide assistance to the public.

Criminal Records Review Program/Protection Order Registry/Community Notification Advisory Program: The Ministry conducts criminal record checks on individuals working with children, maintains a protection order registry for access by the police and conducts assessments of high risk offenders to determine whether notifications or recognisances are required.

Coroners Service: The Ministry, through the Coroners Service, investigates deaths throughout the province and determines all factors surrounding a death. These investigations are not fault finding but designed to provide recommendations to prevent similar deaths or injuries.

Regulatory Programs:

Consumer Services: The Ministry promotes fairness and understanding in the marketplace through consumer protection and industry regulation. Motor dealers, debt poolers, travel agents and funeral services are among the industries regulated.

Residential Tenancy: The Ministry manages the arbitration process and other information and dispute resolution services under the Residential Tenancy Act.

Security Programs: The Ministry licenses the security industry including armoured car guards, private investigators, locksmiths, security patrol and alarm service.

Film Classification: The Ministry provides assistance to the public through the classification and approval of exhibited films and distributed adult videos and the licensing of distributors, theatres and video retailers.

Major Initiatives

Corrections:

The Ministry will

- Provide rehabilitative programming for offenders in custody and the community. This ensures all efforts are made to facilitate offender behaviour change.
- Ensure supervision in the community is focused on offenders who pose the greatest risk.
- Consolidate correctional facilities for greater efficiencies and reduced costs. There has been a recent decline in the prison population. Incarcerated offenders have become increasingly more serious and are less suited for open and medium secure centres.
- Close eight open and medium centres: Chilliwack Community Correctional Centre and Mount Thurston Correctional Centre (Chilliwack), Bear Creek Correctional Centre (Clearwater), Rayleigh Correctional Centre (Kamloops), Stave Lake Correctional Centre and Alouette River Correctional Centre (Maple Ridge), Hutda Lake Correctional Centre (Prince George), Terrace Community Correctional Centre (Terrace). In addition, the Vancouver Pretrial Services Centre will close.
- Establish lower operating costs in all facilities through double bunking. Facilities will be upgraded for effective supervision and monitoring to accommodate increased double bunking.
- Establish lower operating costs for housing provincially incarcerated women. This will include closure of Burnaby Correctional Centre for Women and conversion of the Alouette River Correctional Centre from male to female inmates.
- Close five community probation offices (Hope, Kitimat, Parksville, Sidney, 100 Mile House) for greater efficiencies and reduced costs. Offenders will continue to be supervised in these communities by probation officers from neighbouring communities.
- Discontinue community contracted drug testing and alcohol drug programs. The drug testing contract and two alcohol and drug contracts were provided on a limited basis only in the lower mainland. Alcohol and drug programs will now be delivered by staff.
- Establish consistent costs for the Keep of Prisoners Program (provincial prisoners in local police lock-ups). The target is to reduce costs related to KOP by 50%.
- Implement initiatives to reduce the number of provincial prisoners in local police lockups, including the use of video and revised prisoner transport schedules.
- Reduce contracts for Alternative Measures (alternatives to formal court process), Community Work Service and Violence in Relationship Programs.

Corrections will reduce the number of its FTEs from 2,274 to 1,777 (497 FTEs) by 2004/05 to reflect the above initiatives.

Gaming Policy and Enforcement

The Ministry will:

- Regulate and enforce legal gaming more effectively, by consolidating four gaming agencies into one. This reduces duplication and ensures strict accountability.
- Develop comprehensive gaming legislation, policies and standards to protect the public interest.
- Establish limits on the scope of legal gaming and ensure responsible gambling programs are in place across the province, in order to minimize the negative impacts of gaming on families and communities.
- Simplify rules governing the distribution and use of gaming proceeds, and remove conditions that unnecessarily restrict the ability of charities to access or generate gaming funds.
- Encourage public/stakeholder confidence in government's management of gaming.

The number of FTEs in Gaming Policy and Enforcement will be reduced from 130 to 115 (15 FTEs) by 2004/05 to reflect the above initiatives.

Liquor Control and Licensing

The Ministry will:

- Strengthen the role of local government in determining the number of bars and pubs based on community need.
- Reduce the number and categories of licences and focus staff resources on enforcing public safety issues such as the service of minors, overcrowding and over service.

The number of FTEs in Liquor Control and Licensing will be reduced from 101 to 98 (3 FTEs) by 2004/05 to reflect the above initiatives.

Police Services

The Ministry will:

- Maintain provincial policing funding, ensuring equitable enforcement and aggressively targeting organized crime.
- Support police training through the Police Academy at the Justice Institute, but at reduced funding levels.
- Develop a 5-year plan for the provincial police force.
- Review costs of and funding for policing of communities under 5,000 and rural areas in cooperation with the Ministries of Finance, Provincial Revenue and Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services.
- Target resources where they are most effective and pressure the federal government to reallocate resources from areas such as gun registration to fight serious crime.
- Focus resources on initiatives that substantially improve policing capability such as the introduction of PRIME, an electronic records management system that will link all police department information across the province and allow police to significantly improve their ability to solve major crimes. The Ministry will not be providing funds for local activities such as criminal document service.

- Support the auxiliary constable program (volunteers) and develop a new armed reserve program (part time officers) in cooperation with RCMP.

The number of administrative FTEs in Police Services will be reduced from 70 to 27 (43 FTEs) by 2004/05 to reflect the above initiatives and initiatives undertaken in 2001/02, (for example, cancellation of photo radar program). Police officers are not reflected in Ministry FTEs.

Protective Programs

Victim Services: The Ministry will implement the Crime Victim Assistance Program to respond to the changing needs of victims of crime. Consistent with other Canadian jurisdictions, pain and suffering awards will be eliminated. The Program's focus will be on victim support in counselling and protective services. The administration of this Program will be streamlined as will administration of other programs in the Victim Services Division.

Community Programs: The Ministry will work with communities to build their capacity to develop and deliver crime prevention and community justice programs, with specific focus on Aboriginal communities and youth. There will be more delivery of programs by communities. Program administration will be streamlined, to ensure as much funding as possible goes to community-based programs.

Provincial Emergency Program (PEP): The Ministry will streamline emergency preparedness and response and reduce some support for training and small events. The flood protection program, which provides grants to local governments for flood prevention, will continue for the next two years.

Coroners Service: The Service will set stricter criteria for conducting coroner's inquests and autopsies. Two of the current nine coroners offices will be closed (Victoria and Fraser Valley), but local coroners services will continue in those areas.

Criminal Records Review Program/Protection Order Registry/Community Notification: The Ministry will continue to assist communities to protect children and vulnerable people from sexual and dangerous offenders. The Protection Order Registry will be enhanced through technology which will make information available to police on an instantaneous basis. To achieve budget efficiencies, the Criminal Record Review Program will recover its costs from agencies whose employees work with children.

The number of FTEs in Protective Programs will be increased from 106 to 131 (25 FTEs) by 2004/05 to reflect the above initiatives. This increase is due to an additional 29 FTEs for the transfer to the Ministry of the Crime Victim Assistance Program, formerly the Criminal Injury Compensation Program administered by the Workers Compensation Board.

Regulatory Programs

Consumer Services: The Ministry will introduce legislation to reduce red tape and eliminate unnecessary regulations in the marketplace, and allow for self-regulation of certain sectors such as motor dealers and travel services. Consumer protection

enforcement will target areas of highest risk to public safety and those who repeatedly break the rules.

Residential Tenancy: The Residential Tenancy Act will be modernized and written in plain language so it will be better understood by landlords, tenants and the general public. To achieve greater efficiencies, two offices will close (Nanaimo, Vancouver), more hearings will be held by conference call, fee waivers for arbitration hearings will be reduced or eliminated, mediation and orders by the director regarding security deposits will be eliminated and parties will proceed directly to arbitration. To enhance service to clients, residential tenancy offices will make more use of new technologies such as interactive websites.

Security Programs: The Ministry will work closely with industry to achieve self-management and self-regulation of private investigators.

Film Classification: The Ministry will collaborate with other jurisdictions and the industry to achieve efficiencies in the classification of films, adult videos and video games, by moving toward a national rating system. License categories will be reduced or eliminated where public safety is not a concern.

The number of FTEs in Regulatory Programs will be reduced from 208 to 128 (80 FTEs) by 2004/05 to reflect the above initiatives.

Ministry Resources

	Fiscal Year				Percent Change
	(restated estimates) 2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2001/02 to 2004/05
Operating Expense (\$ millions)					
Budget Base*	494	495	458	441	-10.7%
One-time items**	4	11	17		
Total Operating	498	506	475	441	
FTEs ***	2,903	2,758	2,470	2,293	-21.0%

* Due to adjustments, mainly for the RCMP contract, the operating budget shows a reduction of 10.7%. The rest of the Ministry's budget reduction target is 21% by 2004/05.

** Includes transition costs associated with the wind-down of the photo radar program in 2001/02 and one time funding in 2002/03 and 2003/04 for communications systems and equipment for police.

*** Totals include FTEs in Minister's & Deputy Minister's offices, Parole Board and appeal boards.

Government Priorities Relating to the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General



New Era Commitments Achieved

- Scrap photo radar, to put police officers back on the street, enforcing traffic safety. (Photo radar program cancelled in Summer 2001.)
- Pressure the federal government to fulfil its contractual obligation to fully fill all RCMP vacancies. (All vacancies are filled.)
- Parental Responsibility Act passed to ensure greater parental responsibility for children who commit property crimes. (Act in effect January 1, 2002.)

New Era Commitments Included in 02/03 - 04/05 Service Plan

- Modernize the Residential Tenancy Act to properly protect renters and landlords in plain language everyone can understand. (Consultations are underway on the new Act.)
- Stop the expansion of gaming that has increased gambling addiction and put new strains on families. (As outlined in the major initiatives section of this document, the Ministry is working to achieve this commitment and will establish limits on the scope of legal gaming and ensure responsible gaming programs are in place across the province, in order to minimize the negative impacts of gaming on families and communities.)
- Ensure auxiliary police officers are properly trained and armed to protect their communities. (Consultation with the RCMP is underway to support the auxiliary constable program and provide for an armed reserve police service.)
- Ensure all laws are equally applied and enforced for all British Columbians. (As outlined in major initiatives section.)
- Continue to pressure the federal government to scrap mandatory gun registration and put those resources into fighting crime. (As outlined in major Initiatives section.)

Key Projects Included in the 02/03 – 04/05 Service Plan

- Review the current Safer Community programs and make recommendations on how to increase their effectiveness. (Note reference to greater community delivery of community justice programs.)
- Review the status of the RCMP Agreement and make recommendations, including a policing plan to deal with the impact on communities of less than 5,000 as of the last census. (The Ministry will work with the Ministries of Finance, Provincial Revenue, and Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services to rationalize the costs of and funding for policing of communities under 5,000 and rural areas.)