



Ministry of Environment  
including  
BC Climate Action Secretariat and  
Environmental Assessment Office

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2008/09 – 2010/11  
Service Plan

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February 2008



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## Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement

I am pleased to present the 2008/09–2010/11 Service Plan for the Ministry of Environment, the BC Climate Action Secretariat and the Environmental Assessment Office. This plan outlines our continued dedication to sustainable environmental management and the achievement of exemplary levels of environmental stewardship and sustainability.

British Columbians are proud of what our province offers: extraordinary beauty, clean air and water, sustainable natural resources and exceptional recreational opportunities. The Ministry of Environment is committed to ensuring the protection of this rich environmental legacy. This service plan outlines how we are delivering on the government's Great Goal for leading the world in sustainable environmental management. Over the next year, our efforts will continue to be focused on government priorities related to clean air and water, climate change, parks and protected areas, fisheries and oceans management and comprehensive and timely environmental assessments.

Our government is taking aggressive action on climate change, which is demonstrated by our commitment to make government operations carbon neutral by 2010, and by being the first government in Canada to enact legislation requiring greenhouse gas emissions to be cut by 33 per cent by 2020. The BC Climate Action Secretariat, situated within the Office of the Premier, is the central government agency responsible for leading and co-ordinating action on climate change and supporting the Cabinet Committee on Climate Action. In support of the BC Climate Action Secretariat, the ministry is focusing on greenhouse gas reduction mitigation and climate change adaptation strategies. The ministry continues to develop partnerships with communities, local governments and jurisdictions outside our borders to support climate change research and innovations that will help meet the government's climate change goals.

Clean air is vital and that is why the ministry will continue to monitor and protect the province's air quality. Work will move ahead on actions to improve air quality in British Columbia including: reducing the use of conventional wood stoves, encouraging industry to adopt best available emission technologies and retrofitting diesel vehicles. In addition, the ministry supports opportunities to engage local governments and the public on clean air issues. The ministry will also continue to develop partnerships with various organizations to study, monitor and provide air quality information, such as the Air Quality Health Index, which provides the public with daily forecasts on air quality.

We enjoy a world-class parks system in British Columbia, and to make them even better, the government has invested more than \$65 million over the past three years to improve park facilities and acquire new lands. Since 2001, the B.C. government has established 46 new parks, 65 conservancies, one ecological reserve and eight protected areas, and expanded more than 50 parks, three conservancies and six ecological reserves. This expansion of our parks and protected areas system protects more than 800,000 additional hectares, increasing B.C.'s total protected areas to 13.8 per cent of the province — an area approximately the size of Denmark. As in past years, the ministry will continue to enhance visitors' experiences in our provincial parks and protected areas and to develop innovative partnerships for their effective management. In addition, the ministry will continue to focus efforts on the conservation of native species and ecosystems.

British Columbia will continue to play a lead role in the eco-certification of commercial fisheries and in seafood traceability in Canada. This will provide an opportunity for the Province to demonstrate its world class management of commercial fisheries and to meet market demands for sustainable, high quality and healthy seafood. We will look for opportunities to co-operate on these and other initiatives with U.S. fisheries occurring off the states of California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. We will also work with universities, foundations, government and industry to establish B.C. as a global centre of excellence in conducting environmental sustainability assessments for commercial fisheries.

As Minister Responsible for Water Stewardship and Sustainable Communities, I place a high priority on fostering environmental stewardship and individual and corporate responsibility. The ministry will continue to promote water awareness and information sharing, and provide support to communities for developing sustainable water management plans.

Our focus on individual and corporate responsibility has made us a leader in North America in the development of industry-led product stewardship programs. We are continuing to expand this important program, from tires and batteries to a new electronic waste recycling program. This is another step we are taking towards diverting waste from landfills and reducing waste in B.C.

As this plan shows, the Environmental Assessment Office continues to successfully manage the assessment of potential environmental impacts of major development proposals in British Columbia. Through this important work, the Environmental Assessment Office is fostering a positive investment climate and sustainable economic development throughout the province. In addition to working with First Nations and other government agencies, the Environmental Assessment Office encourages early involvement in the environmental assessment process by interested members of the public through public comment periods on projects under review, access to extensive information through the Environmental Assessment Office's website and regular contact with stakeholder groups.

The Ministry of Environment's 2008/09–2010/11 Service Plan, the BC Climate Action Secretariat 2008/09–2010/11 Service Plan and the Environmental Assessment Office's 2008/09–2010/11 Service Plan was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared. All material fiscal assumptions and policy decisions as of February 16, 2008 have been considered in preparing the plan and I am accountable for achieving the specific objectives in the plan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry Penner". The signature is stylized with large, sweeping loops.

Honourable Barry Penner  
Minister of Environment and  
Minister Responsible for Water Stewardship and Sustainable Communities

February 16, 2008



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## Purpose of the Ministry

### **What does the Ministry of Environment do?**

The Ministry of Environment encourages environmental stewardship, provides environmental education opportunities, engages stakeholders and actively promotes the sustainable use of British Columbia's environmental resources. In addition, the ministry is a leader in implementing the government's climate change initiatives. This role has been strengthened by the government's commitment to comprehensive climate action targets. The ministry, many areas of government, stakeholders, and society at large will be engaged in this critical effort.

The ministry strives to enhance the protection and stewardship of water and air resources by ensuring safe, high quality water, monitoring air and water quality, and reducing and removing wastes and toxins from the environment. The ministry champions the provincial freshwater fisheries through stewardship initiatives and works with the federal and other governments, stakeholders and industry to ensure sustainable marine fisheries, protected areas and ocean resources. The ministry also ensures that healthy and diverse native species and ecosystems are maintained and that outstanding recreational and wildlife opportunities are available to all.

The ministry has regulatory responsibilities and administers an extensive list of legislation. The ministry is also responsible for setting standards and ensuring compliance with these standards.

In carrying out its business, the ministry manages and delivers a wide range of programs and services that support the government's environmental goals and objectives, particularly the Great Goal to "lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none." While the ministry works to protect and enhance British Columbia's natural environment, it also has a role in promoting sustainable economic activity for the long-term health and benefit of the province and its citizens.

### **Who are the Ministry of Environment's clients?**

The Ministry of Environment's clients are all citizens of British Columbia, whom we serve in their communities, businesses and workplaces. The ministry's clients also include national and international businesses and organizations that engage in business within B.C.



**How does the Ministry of Environment carry out its business?**

The ministry has approximately 1,465 skilled and experienced staff in over 50 different communities throughout the province. In addition to having an effective and credible regulatory and legislative framework, the success of the ministry's work relies heavily on the ability to form effective relationships and partnerships with other government bodies, First Nations, industry, associations, communities and environmental groups. Some programs and services are provided by third-party partners such as park facility operators, as well as ministry-supported organizations such as the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, the Living Rivers Trust Fund, the BC Trust for Public Lands and the Pacific Salmon Endowment Fund Society. This support, in turn, helps fund local programs that enhance the ministry's ability to fulfill its mandate. The ministry also participates in cross government initiatives with partners such as, but not limited to the BC Climate Action Secretariat, Ministry of Forests and Range, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and the Environmental Assessment Office.



## Strategic Context

The Ministry of Environment plays a critical role in fulfilling the government's environmental objectives. Trends and events within British Columbia and beyond our borders are closely linked to the achievement of these objectives. The ministry uses various strategies to identify emerging opportunities, mitigate potential risks and address changing environmental, economic and societal factors. The ministry routinely reviews and adjusts existing programs, adapts approaches, develops new initiatives and seeks opportunities for partnerships.

### Environmental Factors

Pressures on the environment pose constant challenges to the ministry. To meet these challenges and respond to opportunities, the ministry must anticipate environmental trends and events.

- In British Columbia, climate change is already having far-reaching effects, impacting ecosystems and biodiversity, and increasing the risks from volatile weather patterns, warming conditions, forest fires, flooding and pest outbreaks. The Province, together with public and private organizations, is concentrating on actions to reduce provincial greenhouse gas emissions and improve the assessment of climate change impacts on B.C.
- Freshwater supply, agriculture, hydroelectric generation and fishery and ocean resources are also affected by the changing climate. There is growing concern within some communities that available water supplies could be insufficient to meet fish, human and agricultural demands. The ministry is helping communities integrate water stewardship into local planning activities to ensure the viability of local watersheds.
- British Columbia is experiencing an unprecedented mountain pine beetle epidemic. The beetle has had negative regional economic and environmental impacts and is considered a serious threat beyond B.C. Stopping the spread of the beetle, reducing fuel on the forest floor and salvaging economic value from the affected forests are priorities for the Province. The ministry has been actively involved in a multi-agency working group established to implement *British Columbia's Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan 2006–2011*.



- Unpredictable events such as flooding, fire, wind and rain storms, oil spills, and contamination of food and water supplies require an immediate response and mitigation activities from the ministry and its partners. The ministry continues to focus on minimizing such risks by working with other agencies, local communities and First Nations to effectively mitigate environmental damage and risks to human health and safety.
- British Columbia is the most biologically diverse province in Canada. However, because of this, the number of species at risk<sup>1</sup> in British Columbia is also greater than anywhere else in Canada. Currently, B.C. is home to 168 species at risk that have been listed under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA).<sup>2</sup> In addition, many wildlife species throughout North America are experiencing a population collapse and a reduction in range both westward and northward into B.C. These trends will increase the number of species at risk and the ministry's responsibility for developing appropriate responses.

## Societal Factors

As the population of our province grows and our demand for resources, goods and services increases, there is an ever-greater need for all British Columbians to take action to meet the challenge of protecting and enhancing our natural environment.

- Rapid population and urban growth has the potential to significantly impact the quality of our air, land and water, particularly in the southern regions of the province. Population increases put pressure on communities, resulting in greater water, land and energy consumption and discharge of pollutants into the environment. The ministry continues to seek opportunities to work with local governments and communities to address these issues.
- The products British Columbians use in their homes, yards and vehicles are major contributors to environmental pollution and climate change. Using and discarding these products irresponsibly can have lasting effects on B.C.'s air, land and water resources. Opportunities exist for the ministry to work with local governments, producers, industries, educators and the public to develop and implement sound environmental stewardship practices.
- Society expects businesses to be responsible for their actions — employing sustainable business practices while continuing to meet consumer demands. As a result, producers are beginning to respond to consumer demands for “greener” products and are creating new market niches. There is an opportunity to effectively build on this growing trend.

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<sup>1</sup> Species at risk includes those species that are categorized as extirpated, endangered, threatened or special concern.

<sup>2</sup> The total list of species under SARA can be found at [www.sararegistry.gc.ca/species/default\\_e.cfm](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/species/default_e.cfm). The most recent additions, which have not yet been added to this list, can be found in the *Canada Gazette*, Part II, Vol. 141, no. 26 (December 2007), p. 2575 at <http://canadagazette.gc.ca/partII/2007/20071226/html/sor284-e.html>.

- Demographic and lifestyle changes are affecting how people use British Columbia's parks and protected areas. Increasing cultural diversity and an aging population are resulting in demands for different services. Urbanization and a shift away from nature-based outdoor experiences by young people mean many people are less connected to the environment. The ministry is identifying opportunities to offer a variety of experiences in parks and protected areas that will appeal to all of these groups.

### **Economic Growth**

- Impacts to the environment from resource use and extraction can be felt locally, regionally and internationally and can affect the ability of the Province to maintain a strong economy, sustainable growth and high quality of life for its citizens. Permitting, licensing and other similar activities, as well as less wasteful consumption patterns and more sustainable production methods, can help ensure environmental impacts can be minimized or averted.

### **Workforce Demographics**

- The ministry continues to seek opportunities to support projects aimed at retaining our current workforce, providing young people with valuable work experience in the environmental field and attracting new workers to the range of opportunities available in government. For example, the ministry provides \$3 million per year for the BC Conservation Corps program, which employs more than 150 young people every year.



# Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures

The following sections provide an overview of the ministry's key goals, their supporting objectives and strategies, and performance measures that support the government's overall priorities.

## Goal 1: Clean and safe water, land and air

### Objective 1.1: Effective responses to climate change

Climate change is a serious issue that has broad local, regional and global significance. Climate change includes gradual changes in average temperature and precipitation, and increased frequency of extreme events such as drought, heavy precipitation and coastal storm surges. Changes in climate drive changes in natural systems that will also affect economic and social interests. The human-contributed greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere mean that ongoing climate change and its impacts are certain. All jurisdictions, including British Columbia, have a responsibility to join the global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) and prepare for the effects of future climate change (adaptation). These two approaches are interrelated. Emission reduction is expected to slow climate change and provide human and natural systems more time to adjust to the altered environment.



The Province passed new legislation in the fall of 2007 that mandates greenhouse gas emission targets and the government's commitment to make government operations carbon neutral by 2010. The Province is developing additional tools that will enable implementation of key elements of the government's strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 33 per cent below current levels by 2020.

A Climate Action Team, which is made up of leaders from environmental organizations, private enterprise, the scientific community, First Nations and academia, will recommend additional actions to achieve the 2020 target and targets for 2012 and 2016.

The government has established the BC Climate Action Secretariat to co-ordinate and support the wide range of initiatives aimed at achieving provincial targets. Please see the BC Climate Action Secretariat Service Plan on page 36 for further information.

The Ministry of Environment is responsible for work in key areas that address both greenhouse gas reductions and climate change adaptation. These include:

- developing new regulations for industrial, landfill and vehicle tailpipe greenhouse gas emission standards;
- reporting on provincial greenhouse gas emissions and leading work on developing a community energy and emissions inventory;
- preparing for the impacts of climate change on water and other environmental resources in B.C. by collaborating with and supporting partners including communities, industries, other agencies and non-governmental organizations; and
- leading the initiatives designed to increase overall provincial capacity to prepare for impacts of climate change, including applied research, assessment of impacts, outreach and the development of adaptation tools.

### Objective 1.2: Enhanced protection and stewardship of our water resources

Achievement of this objective through effective legislation, innovative approaches to water governance and co-ordinated watershed-based planning contributes directly to the goal and is critical to the health of British Columbians and the environment.

*Achievement of this goal is vital to a healthy and sustainable environment for British Columbia, and supports the government's broader goal to have the best air and water quality, bar none.*

#### Strategy

- A key strategy for this objective is leading the implementation of the government's vision for sustaining and protecting water for the future, including actions and targets for shared water stewardship.

### Performance Measure 1: Water bodies monitored under the Canada–B.C. Water Quality Monitoring Agreement

Performance Measure	2007/08 Forecast	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target	2010/11 Target
Percentage of water bodies monitored under the Canada – B.C. Water Quality Monitoring Agreement with stable or improving water quality trends	96%	96% or greater by 2015/16	96% or greater by 2015/16	96% or greater by 2015/16

Data Source: Ministry of Environment.

## Discussion

This measure monitors trends in surface water quality based on the presence of environmentally significant variables, such as metals, nutrients, pH, temperature, dissolved gases and flow, within 30 water bodies monitored under the Canada – B.C. Water Quality Monitoring Agreement. The purpose of the agreement is to provide coordination and integration of surface water quality monitoring activities within Canada and B.C., and to develop joint, cost-shared, comprehensive assessments of water quality in these 30 water bodies. In addition, the ministry measures water quality at approximately 150 other community-based stations on other water bodies, either directly or through other partnership agreements such as those with Metropolitan Vancouver and the Columbia River Integrated Environmental Management Plan.

To determine which water bodies are monitored under the agreement, the ministry bases its decisions on provincial coverage, land use, water use, widespread issues such as climate change, and events or issues near water bodies that may have negative consequences for the water quality of those water bodies. In 2006/07, 96 per cent of water bodies monitored had stable or improving water quality trends. The trend for water quality stability and improvement has been consistently increasing over the years in B.C. However, this trend may slow as the number of water bodies having stable or improving water quality trends nears 100 per cent. If the number of monitoring sites changes, or if some sites that have stable trends are replaced by other sites, the actual calculated percentages may vary slightly in years to come.



The results of this measure will provide a good indication of the outcomes of water protection efforts and stewardship of B.C.'s water resources. In addition, the information helps inform authorizations for wastewater discharges, identifies shifts that need to occur in the management approach, and helps establish further water quality monitoring requirements.



### **Objective 1.3: Reduced contamination from toxins and wastes**

By reducing contamination from toxins and wastes efficiently and effectively, the ministry will minimize impacts to water, land, air, human health and safety, and the economy.

#### **Strategies**

Key strategies for this objective include:

- exploring new ways to reduce municipal solid waste disposal;
- supporting the development of a brownfields<sup>3</sup> strategy for B.C.; and
- promoting the development and adoption of integrated pest management practices.

### **Objective 1.4: Healthy air quality**

Many communities in B.C. have good air quality and meet ambient air quality standards. However, research shows that even low concentrations of air pollution can affect the health of British Columbians. Taking action to reduce air pollution will help improve the health of the province's citizens, address the government's air quality targets, preserve our environment and enhance our economic competitiveness.



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<sup>3</sup> Brownfields are abandoned, vacant, derelict or underutilized commercial or industrial properties where past actions have resulted in actual or perceived contamination and where there is an active potential for redevelopment.

## Strategy

- A key strategy for this objective is leading the implementation of B.C.'s air action plan, which is aimed at continuing to reduce emissions from industry, transportation, urban growth, ports and marine vessels and continuing to develop and support airshed management.

## Performance Measure 2: Air quality monitoring – PM<sub>2.5</sub> and low level ozone

Performance Measures	2007/08 Forecast	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target	2010/11 Target
Percentage of monitored communities achieving the Canada-wide standard quality objective for:				
• particulate matter (PM <sub>2.5</sub> )	93%	100% by 2010	100% by 2010	100%
• low level ozone	96%			
Ranking of PM <sub>2.5</sub> concentrations in Vancouver compared to major metropolitan areas of equal size (>500,000 population) across Canada	Lowest	Maintain lowest ranking	Maintain lowest ranking	Maintain lowest ranking

**Data Source:** Ministry of Environment.

**Note:** Due to an increase in the number of monitored communities having sufficient data to generate the statistics needed to determine the Canada-wide standard, the number of communities reported on for PM<sub>2.5</sub> and low level ozone has generally increased over time. In 2006/07, 26/28 communities met the PM<sub>2.5</sub> Canada-wide standard objective, whereas this figure was 21/24 communities in 2005/06 and 14/16 communities in 2004/05. In 2006/07, 26/27 communities met the low level ozone Canada-wide standard objective, whereas this figure was 25/26 in 2005/06 and 24/25 in 2004/05.

## Discussion

The outdoor air contaminants of most concern in British Columbia, from a human health perspective, are particulate matter (PM) and ground level ozone.

Particles smaller than 2.5 microns (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) are believed to pose the greatest health risk. These fine particulates, which are most often generated by combustion processes and chemical reactions that take place in the air, are easily inhaled and penetrate the lungs, posing a threat to human health.

Although ozone in the stratosphere (the ozone layer) is beneficial and filters out harmful ultraviolet rays, ground level ozone is a pollutant and can be damaging to human health and the environment.



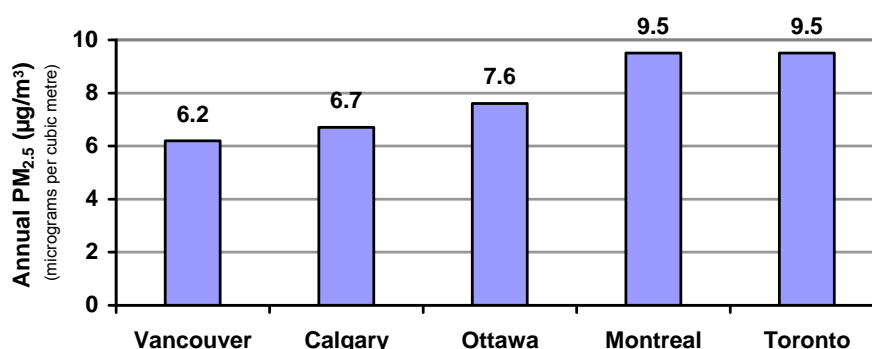
*Hybrid car*

The ministry, in conjunction with regional districts and industry, collects PM<sub>2.5</sub> data from approximately 50 air quality monitoring sites from over 30 communities across the province. The ministry also collects ozone data from approximately 35 monitoring sites from over 25 communities. The number of communities reported on for PM<sub>2.5</sub> and ground level ozone has generally increased over time. This is due to an increase in the number of monitored communities having enough data to generate the information needed to determine the Canada-wide standard. As more communities meet the Canada-wide standard, the better the air quality — and the cleaner and healthier the environment.

The ministry continues to lead the development of initiatives designed to meet government’s goal of the best air quality. The B.C. government’s 2007 budget allocated \$13.5 million over three fiscal years to achieve air quality improvements in communities throughout the province. Planned initiatives include retrofitting diesel buses, providing incentives to reduce the use of conventional wood stoves and encouraging industry to adopt the best available emission technologies. In June 2007, British Columbia became the first province in Canada to make clean technology mandatory in older commercial transport diesel vehicles in order to reduce diesel emissions and protect human health. Use of this performance measure is designed to help the ministry determine how effectively it is achieving its air quality improvement targets.

In addition, the ministry will continue to support local airshed planning efforts to improve air quality by offering technical expertise and resources, providing information sharing, and encouraging partnership building. Based on 2006 PM<sub>2.5</sub> data, Vancouver is ranked best in Canada, with respect to its air quality, among major metropolitan areas of similar size and population. Vancouver’s ranking compared with other jurisdictions in Canada in recent years is shown in the graph below. The government’s 2015/16 target for PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations in major metropolitan areas is to remain at first place.

**Annual Mean PM<sub>2.5</sub> Concentrations  
by City over 500,000 Population**  
(based on 2006 data)



## **Objective 1.5: Effective management of environmental risks**

Events in the environment, such as industrial spills or flooding, can present risks to public health and safety, property and the environment itself. Although not all environmental risks are avoidable, effective management means that impacts from risks can be minimized. The ministry anticipates, responds to and manages the consequences of risks to the environment.

### **Strategies**

Key strategies for this objective include:

- responding effectively to high-risk environmental emergencies;
- reducing the risk to public health and safety and the environment through effective management and response programs, and compliance and enforcement strategies and actions;
- managing the environmental risks of human-wildlife interactions through proactive and reactive strategies; and
- managing the remediation of high-risk contaminated sites, and regulating the remediation of all contaminated sites.

## **Goal 2: Healthy and diverse native species and ecosystems**

### **Objective 2.1: Well-managed and accessible information on species and ecosystems**

The collection, storage, management and distribution of scientific information on native species and ecosystems provides for effective research, contributes to the understanding of the status of native species and ecosystems and is critical to making informed decisions.

*British Columbia is home to a rich diversity and abundance of native species and habitats. To support the government's actions to preserve these special features for our children, grandchildren and visitors, the ministry is engaged in a range of activities from species-at-risk inventories to habitat and park restoration initiatives.*

## Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- collecting and distributing information on species and ecosystems, including their conservation status;
- assessing the conservation status of plants, animals and ecosystems and related risks and threats within parks and protected areas; and
- providing guidelines and standards for the protection and conservation of species and ecosystems, including monitoring and reporting on achievements.



## Objective 2.2: Well-managed parks and protected lands

The designation of parks and protected lands means these areas will be preserved for future generations and demonstrates British Columbia's commitment to the conservation of native species and ecosystems.

## Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- undertaking parks and protected lands planning and management to ensure long-term protection of natural, cultural and recreational assets; and
- maintaining and promoting partnerships for securing and managing parks and protected lands.

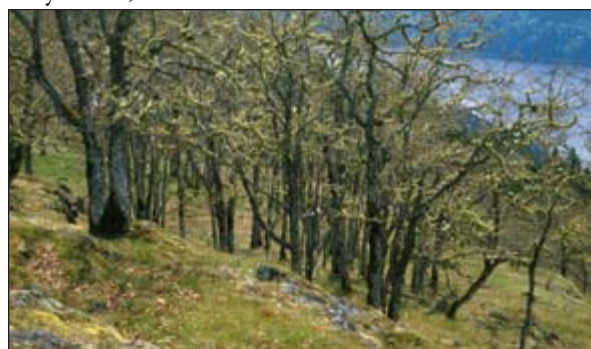
### Objective 2.3: Protected, maintained and restored native species and ecosystems

Ministry programs conserve biodiversity, maintain and enhance native ecosystems and achieve a balance between the needs of wildlife and the needs of people. The ministry encourages others to accept a greater role in environmental stewardship and facilitates community initiatives to protect and restore local environments.

#### Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- leading the implementation of a conservation framework to set priorities for species and ecosystem recovery and management action;
- continuing to work with and expand partnerships, including those with First Nations, to identify, protect and restore species and ecosystems;
- continuing to develop and implement guidelines, policies and standards for the protection, conservation and management of species and ecosystems;
- providing leadership in species-at-risk status ranking and legal designation, and preparation and implementation of recovery plans; and
- leading, in collaboration with the federal government, the development of a marine protected area system for the Pacific coast.



### Performance Measure 3: Completed designations under the *Forest and Range Practices Act*

Performance Measure	2007/08 Forecast	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target	2010/11 Target
Number of completed designations by the Ministry of Environment under the <i>Forest and Range Practices Act</i> , including Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHAs), Ungulate <sup>1</sup> Winter Ranges (UWRs) and Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds (FSWs)	WHAs – 1017 UWRs – 55 FSWs – 36	WHAs – 1047 UWRs – 60 FSWs – 46	WHAs – 1077 UWRs – 62 FSWs – 66	WHAs – 1107 UWRs – 64 FSWs – 100

**Data Source:** Ministry of Environment.

**Note:** The number for UWR designations specifies the number of ungulate winter range packages, with each package representing a plan for a timber supply area or tree farm licence. In this case, a package may include as few as 1 to more than 1,000 winter ranges. When monitoring progress in this area, it is important to consider the amount of area designated.

<sup>1</sup> An ungulate is a hoofed mammal such as a caribou, moose, bison or goat.



## Discussion

Designations under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* provide special management for species and plant communities affected by forest and range activities on Crown land. These designations provide legislated protection for habitats and contribute to the conservation of native species. It is important to measure ministry progress in establishing environmental standards for the protection and restoration of species and their habitats under the Act.

The ministry is assessing its progress by monitoring the number of legal designations for Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHAs), Ungulate Winter Ranges (UWRs) and Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds (FSWs). Since 2004, the number of WHAs and UWRs has steadily increased as outlined in the table below. The number of FSWs, a new designation and measured since 2006, has also increased and is expected to increase annually for several years.

	FSWs	WHAs	UWRs
March 31, 2007	31 FSW designations <sup>1</sup>	917 WHA designations approved covering 743,863 hectares	48 UWR designations approved covering 3,601,200 hectares
March 31, 2006	17 FSW designations	414 WHA designations approved covering 668,424 hectares	35 UWR designations approved covering 2,658,725 hectares
March 31, 2005	n/a	320 WHA designations approved covering 658,935 hectares	28 UWR designations approved covering 2,284,917 hectares
March 31, 2004	n/a	160 WHA designations approved covering 49,120 hectares	15 UWR designations approved covering 913,462 hectares

<sup>1</sup> Fisheries sensitive watersheds ranged from 2,700 to 71,000 hectares.

## Goal 3: British Columbians share responsibility for the environment

### Objective 3.1: British Columbians understand the benefits of healthy living and the effect of their actions on the environment

In order for a society to become environmentally conscious, its citizens must understand the relationship between their actions and how those actions directly impact their health, the quality of their lives, and the lives of other people and species with which they share ecosystems. As British Columbians

*Attaining the government's objectives for environmental sustainability depends on the collective knowledge, commitment and actions of individuals, organizations, communities and all levels of government as a whole. Achievement of this goal requires strong and expanded partnerships with industry and stakeholders, and an environmentally conscious and knowledgeable public.*

continue to make the connection between actions and impacts, they are much more likely to take on the role of stewards and demand a much higher environmental standard for their own actions and those of others.

## Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- implementing and supporting a comprehensive and integrated ministry stewardship outreach strategy; and
- promoting outdoor activities as beneficial for a healthy lifestyle.

### **Objective 3.2: Shared environmental stewardship is a priority for all British Columbians**

The ministry recognizes that a successful shared stewardship model needs to integrate cooperative and collaborative partnerships with First Nations, industry, associations, academia, communities, environmental groups and other government bodies across all sectors and geographic jurisdictions. Success depends on information and knowledge sharing, consultation and partnerships.



## Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- recognizing, promoting and enhancing shared stewardship through consultative processes and volunteer initiatives that engage stakeholders, clients and partners;
- promoting sustainable natural resource management through collaborative management; and
- enhancing and promoting shared stewardship through effective and timely communication of compliance activities to protect the environment.



### Objective 3.3: Industry and client groups implement best environmental management practices

British Columbia continues to enjoy expanding economic opportunities. More and more, industry, organizations and other ministry client groups understand the benefits of incorporating environmental values and best practices into their decision-making processes and activities. Good environmental management practices not only protect the environment, and greatly reduce costs (e.g., by using resources and energy more efficiently), they also set 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;
- continuing to research and collaborate with key stakeholders on product categories suitable for inclusion in the B.C. Recycling Regulation;
- continuing to explore opportunities to reduce regulatory burden<sup>4</sup> through changes such as implementing codes of practice to replace permit-based frameworks, while promoting best environmental management practices and maintaining stringent environmental standards; and
- encouraging compliance by reporting those in non-compliance with ministry environmental standards and/or regulatory requirements.

#### Performance Measure 4: Industry-led product stewardship programs

Performance Measure	2007/08 Forecast	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target	2010/11 Target
Number of product categories with industry-led product stewardship programs	9	9	9	11

**Data Source:** Ministry of Environment.

**Note:** Target figures are cumulative.

<sup>4</sup> 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. Regulatory reform has been and will continue to be undertaken throughout the ministry as the organization pursues its move to a results-based regulatory approach. Since 2001, the ministry has reduced its regulatory requirements by 42 per cent, while continuing to maintain stringent environmental standards.

## Discussion

For this measure, the ministry is counting the number of post-consumer product categories with industry-led product stewardship programs. Last year, a new industry-led product stewardship program for electronic products was initiated. This brought the total number of programs in place to nine — electronic products, tires, paint, used oil products, beverage containers, pharmaceuticals, solvents and flammable liquids, domestic pesticides, and gasoline. The ministry has initiated a process to add two additional product



categories within the next three years, which would bring the total to 11 product categories by 2010/11. The ministry is currently consulting with the public, industry and other stakeholders to determine the next two product categories.

Industry-led stewardship programs require producers (manufacturers, distributors and retailers) to be responsible for the life-cycle management of their products, including collection and recycling. The outcome of these stewardship programs is increased investment in the B.C. recycling industry, less waste in landfills for local governments to manage and reduced environmental impact. Industry-led product stewardship programs are primary examples of how shared stewardship can produce superior environmental results.

## Goal 4: Sustainable use of British Columbia's environmental resources

### Objective 4.1: 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. Understanding the important benefits these resources provide, the ministry ensures that wise and prudent management of our water and air resources will continue to provide these benefits to British Columbians in the future.

*Sustainable use means that resources are used in ways that ensure their continued availability today and for generations to come. This goal reflects the government's focus on the sustainable use of British Columbia's environmental resources, which promotes job creation and contributes significantly to the quality of life of residents and visitors.*

## Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- promoting increased community and stakeholder involvement at the local level;
- responding in a timely manner to water licence applications, based on reviews that ensure optimal environmental, social and economic outcomes;
- ensuring sustainable use and benefits for water through legislative review, economic and other incentives and promoting water use efficiency and demand management;
- promoting and facilitating multi-stakeholder watershed management plans;
- promoting and facilitating multi-stakeholder airshed management plans;
- continuing to support local air quality projects; and
- continuing to fund scientific research into the relationship between air quality and health.

## Performance Measure 5: Completed and implemented water or watershed management plans

Performance Measure	2007/08 Forecast	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target	2010/11 Target
Number of water or watershed management plans completed and implemented	3	3	6	6

**Data Source:** Ministry of Environment.

**Note:** Target figures are cumulative.

## Discussion

Water or watershed management plans are undertaken to co-ordinate development and management of water, land and related resources to optimize the benefits and sustainability of the community, economy and environment. These plans serve as a valuable tool to address conflicts between water users and in-stream flow requirements, risks to water quality and aquatic ecosystems, concerns about land use and other issues. Currently, the Trepanier Creek Watershed Plan has been completed, and it is expected that additional plans will be completed in 2008/09.

The water management plan performance measure assesses both the number of water management plans designated under the *Water Act* and plans with no statutory basis. The provincial



government will seek to promote and facilitate the completion and implementation of water management plans over the coming years as an important part of its goal to sustain British Columbia's water resources.

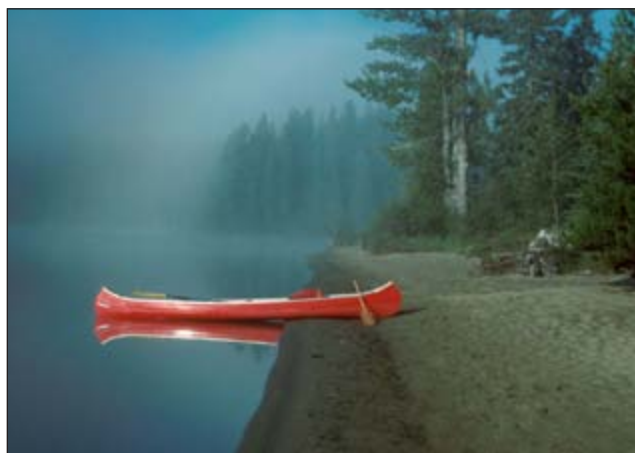
#### **Objective 4.2: Optimize public, outdoor and commercial opportunities from British Columbia's parks, fish and wildlife**

British Columbia's parks, fish and wildlife provide a variety of unique outdoor opportunities for residents and visitors in the form of recreation, camping, marine and freshwater angling, hunting and wildlife viewing. Engaging in these activities by British Columbians and visitors promotes healthy living and an appreciation of B.C.'s landscape, native species and the environment as a whole. The use of campgrounds contributes to the maintenance and infrastructure of B.C.'s natural places and to environmental protection and management activities. Several commercial organizations also provide services and recreational activities, attracting visitors from around the world. This creates jobs within B.C. and contributes significantly to the province's economy. Effective management and use of these resources will ensure their sustainability and promote economic opportunities.

#### **Strategies**

Key strategies for this objective include:

- maximizing stewardship and economic opportunities with First Nations, local communities, non-profit groups, private land owners and others;
- developing strategic plans for parks, fish and wildlife management that promote exceptional outdoor opportunities, while ensuring long-term protection of natural resources;
- developing and implementing marketing strategies to promote healthy living through park visitation;
- improving and expanding the quality of park recreation opportunities and services;
- providing angling licences through electronic licensing and developing the provision of hunting licences through a similar framework; and
- streamlining the provision of commercial licences (e.g., for guides, trappers and fur traders) through process improvement and regulation simplification focused on client service standards.



## Performance Measure 6: Park visitation and visitor satisfaction

Performance Measure	2004/05 Baseline	2007/08 Forecast	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target	2010/11 Target
Number of recorded park visits and visitor satisfaction level					
• Park visits	18.0 million	18.9 million	19.4 million	19.8 million	21.6 million
• Visitor satisfaction level	80%	83%	Maintain or improve	Maintain or improve	Maintain or improve

**Data Source:** Ministry of Environment.

**Note:** Recorded park visits: The number of recorded visits to B.C. parks was approximately 19.0 million as of March 2007.

Visitor satisfaction: The satisfaction rating is based on an extensive satisfaction survey that is conducted in campgrounds and day-use areas around the province and is based on nearly 5,000 respondents. The five-year rolling average for 2004/2005 was approximately 80 per cent, which is based on the Visitor Satisfaction Index rating of the reporting years of 2000/01 to 2004/05. The five-year rolling average for 2003/04 was approximately 80 per cent, which is based on the Visitor Satisfaction Index rating for the reporting years of 1999/2000 to 2003/2004.

### Discussion

Recreational services and opportunities provided in provincial parks make an important contribution to local economies, promote healthy living and support an appreciation for the environment by protecting representative landscapes and native species. The number of visitors to provincial parks is used to measure the contribution of parks to the government's priorities of health, tourism and economic goals. The trend in these data should provide a reasonable indication of the trend in the public, outdoor and commercial opportunities from British Columbia's parks.

Additionally, the ministry is the largest supplier of overnight camping accommodation throughout British Columbia. Since 1985, the ministry has monitored the effectiveness of providing services in provincial park campgrounds and day-use areas by conducting an annual satisfaction survey with a random sample of park visitors in these campgrounds. The results of this survey are used by ministry staff and park facility operators to better assess which services are being provided well and which services require improvements.



The targets for park visitation and visitor satisfaction are realistic and a key focus for the ministry. However, the target forecasts for park attendance contain a variable degree of risk associated with key business drivers, such as weather conditions, major construction projects, forest fires and forest health, which may be specific to the province, a region or an individual park. External variables can also affect park attendance and tourism trends. Some examples include gas prices, the value of the Canadian dollar and terrorism threats in North America.

The Parks for People Strategy, developed by the ministry in 2006, identifies world class, high quality recreation, tourism and stewardship opportunities, while ensuring the protection of B.C.'s special places. Activities include increasing visitor attendance and satisfaction, investing in facility upgrades, working with partners such as the Society of Park Facility Operators and the Federation of BC Naturalists to offer interpretation services, expanding partnerships with communities and stakeholders to encourage visitation, engaging in stewardship activities and continuing to administer the visitor satisfaction surveys to understand and effectively respond to client needs.

### **Objective 4.3: Collaborative management and use of marine and ocean resources**

British Columbia's marine and ocean resources provide great economic and social benefits to the citizens of the province. The ministry works in close collaboration with the federal government, particularly the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, to represent British Columbia's interests through new shared governance arrangements for ocean and marine resources and to ensure that these resources are managed in a sustainable manner.

#### **Strategies**

Key strategies for this objective include:

- representing B.C.'s interests to ensure a fair share of federal and cross government programs, initiatives and activities to promote research, exports and investment for our seafood sector; and
- undertaking initiatives, such as third-party certification of B.C.'s fisheries, to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of B.C.'s seafood products in domestic and international markets.



**Performance Measure 7: Marine-based commercial and recreational fisheries managed through a collaborative decision-making process**

Performance Measure	2007/08 Forecast	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target	2010/11 Target
Number of marine-based commercial and recreational fisheries managed through a collaborative decision-making process	5	6	7	8

**Data Source:** Ministry of Environment.

**Note:** Target figures are cumulative.

**Discussion**

Economic sustainability is dependent on the level and certainty of access to resources. The federal government has the constitutional authority for the management and regulation of B.C.’s marine fisheries. The B.C. government actively participates in marine fisheries management to represent the Province’s interests, and is a key partner in federal management activities and decision-making processes. Measuring the increase in the number of B.C. marine fisheries that are managed collaboratively and include provincial government and stakeholder participation will determine if B.C.’s interests concerning fair allocation and certainty of access to resources are represented.



During 2006/07, the Strait of Georgia rockfish and lingcod fishery joined the herring, hake and tuna fisheries that are now governed with a collaborative management regime that includes strong stakeholder and ministry participation. Together, hake, herring, tuna, rockfish and lingcod generate over \$220 million<sup>5</sup> in wholesale value to the B.C. economy.

<sup>5</sup> B.C. Ministry of Environment. *2005 British Columbia Seafood Industry Year in Review*. September 2006. Available at [www.env.gov.bc.ca/omfd/reports/YIR-2005.pdf](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/omfd/reports/YIR-2005.pdf)

# Resource Summary

## Resource Summary Table

Core Business Area	2007/08 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2008/09 Estimates	2009/10 Plan	2010/11 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
Environmental Stewardship <sup>2</sup> .....	78,619	82,503	84,143	84,207
Water Stewardship.....	39,487	63,924	70,119	70,906
Oceans and Marine Fisheries.....	2,285	2,401	2,502	2,502
Environmental Protection <sup>3</sup> .....	39,350	43,334	43,286	43,287
Compliance.....	18,738	19,961	20,165	20,165
Executive and Support Services.....	33,508	34,397	34,901	34,942
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>211,987</b>	<b>246,520</b>	<b>255,116</b>	<b>256,009</b>
<b>Full-time Equivalents (Direct FTEs)</b>				
Environmental Stewardship.....	478	495	499	499
Water Stewardship.....	127	138	142	143
Oceans and Marine Fisheries.....	14	15	16	16
Environmental Protection.....	270	280	283	283
Compliance.....	152	153	154	154
Executive and Support Services.....	383	384	384	384
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>1,424</b>	<b>1,465</b>	<b>1,478</b>	<b>1,479</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>				
Environmental Stewardship.....	29,673	14,996	15,033	15,133
Water Stewardship.....	162	109	72	72
Oceans and Marine Fisheries.....	5	5	5	5
Environmental Protection.....	283	245	272	272
Compliance.....	1,153	974	945	945
Executive and Support Services.....	2,710	2,032	2,034	2,034
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>33,986</b>	<b>18,361</b>	<b>18,361</b>	<b>18,461</b>

<sup>1</sup> The amounts have been restated, for comparative purposes only, to be consistent with Schedule A of the 2008/09 *Estimates*.

<sup>2</sup> Includes the Park Enhancement Fund Special Account.

<sup>3</sup> Includes the Sustainable Environment Fund.

Note: The BC Climate Action Secretariat and the Environmental Assessment Office are reported separately.



The Ministry of Environment received budget lifts in 2008/09 for increased caseloads, angling, industry product stewardship, implementation of government land use decisions, increased water rental remissions to BC Hydro to support implementation of Water Use Plans, and climate action mitigation and adaptation activities. The latter include activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, assess the impacts of climate change and improve provincial climate monitoring networks.

## Environmental Appeal Board and Forest Appeals Commission

The Environmental Appeal Board (Board) and Forest Appeals Commission (Commission) are independent, quasi-judicial tribunals jointly administered by the same office. They hear appeals of government decisions under several provincial statutes concerned with natural resource management, environmental quality and public health protection.

As well, the Board and Commission administer other tribunals including the Hospital Appeal Board and the Community Care and Assisted Living Appeal Board for the Ministry of Health and the Industry Training Appeal Board for the Ministry of Economic Development.

While the Board and the Commission operate independently from the Ministry of Environment, their budget vote is the responsibility of the ministry. Therefore, they are not considered one of the core business areas accountable to the Minister of Environment, but they are included in the Resource Summary of this Service Plan.

## Resource Summary

Core Business Area	2007/08 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2008/09 Estimates	2009/10 Plan	2010/11 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000).....	2,077	2,096	2,113	2,113
Full-time Equivalents (Direct FTEs).....	11	11	11	11
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000).....	15	15	15	15

<sup>1</sup> These amounts have been restated, for comparative purposes only, to be consistent with Schedule A of the 2008/09 Estimates.

# Ministry Contact Information

Regional Office	Telephone	Fax	Website
<b>Victoria — Headquarters</b>	250 387-1161	250 387-5669	<a href="http://www.gov.bc.ca/env">www.gov.bc.ca/env</a>
<b>Vancouver Island Region</b>			
Main Regional Office: Nanaimo	250 751-3100	250 751-3103	<a href="http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/vir/">wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/vir/</a>
Other offices: Black Creek, Duncan, Goldstream Park, Parksville, Port Alberni, Port Hardy, Ucluelet			
<b>Lower Mainland Region</b>			
Main Regional Office: Surrey	604 582-5200	604 930-7119	<a href="http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/sry/">wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/sry/</a>
Other offices: Brackendale (Squamish), Cultus Lake, North Vancouver, Powell River			
<b>Thompson Region</b>			
Main Regional Office: Kamloops	250 371-6200	250 828-4000	<a href="http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/sir/">wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/sir/</a>
Other offices: Clearwater, Lillooet, Merritt			
<b>Okanagan Region</b>			
Main Regional Office: Penticton	250 490-8200	250 490-2231	<a href="http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/sir/">wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/sir/</a>
Other offices: Grand Forks, Kelowna, Oliver, Princeton/Manning Park, Vernon			
<b>Kootenay Region</b>			
Main Regional Offices: Cranbrook Nelson	250 489-8540 250 354-6333	250 489-8506 250 354-6332	<a href="http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/kor/">wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/kor/</a>
Other offices: Castlegar, Creston/West Creston, Fernie, Invermere, Revelstoke			
<b>Cariboo Region</b>			
Main Regional Office: Williams Lake	250 398-4530	250 398-4214	<a href="http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/car/">wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/car/</a>
Other offices: 100 Mile House, Bella Coola/Hagensborg, Quesnel			
<b>Skeena Region</b>			
Main Regional Office: Smithers	250 847-7260	250 847-7591	<a href="http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/">wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/</a>
Other offices: Atlin, Burns Lake, Dease Lake, Queen Charlotte City, Terrace/Lakelse Lake			
<b>Omineca/Peace Regions</b>			
Main Regional Offices: Fort St. John (Peace) Prince George (Omineca)	250 787-3411 250 565-6135	250 787-3490 250 565-6629	<a href="http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/nor/">wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/nor/</a>
Other offices: Chetwynd/Moberly Lake Park, Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson/Liard Hot Springs, Mackenzie, Vanderhoof			

## Hyperlinks to Additional Information

The Ministry of Environment's vision, mission and values can be found here:

[www.env.gov.bc.ca/sp/2008/vision\\_mission\\_values.pdf](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/sp/2008/vision_mission_values.pdf)

The Ministry of Environment's organizational chart can be found here:

[www.env.gov.bc.ca/sp/2008/org\\_chart.pdf](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/sp/2008/org_chart.pdf)

Descriptions of the Ministry of Environment's core business areas can be found here: [www.env.gov.bc.ca/sp/2008/core\\_business.pdf](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/sp/2008/core_business.pdf)

The Ministry of Environment's glossary of terms can be found here:

[www.env.gov.bc.ca/sp/2008/glossary.pdf](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/sp/2008/glossary.pdf)

A listing of the legislation administered by the Ministry of Environment can be found here:

[www.env.gov.bc.ca/sp/2008/leg.pdf](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/sp/2008/leg.pdf)

The Ministry of Environment's risk management framework can be found here:

[www.env.gov.bc.ca/sp/2008/riskmgmt.pdf](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/sp/2008/riskmgmt.pdf)

# BC Climate Action Secretariat

## Purpose of the Secretariat

British Columbia's climate action goals are a key part of achieving the government's Great Goal of leading the world in sustainable environmental management. As a reflection of the significance of the issue to the government and in recognition of the fact that the issue of climate change cuts across all ministries, all levels of government, and all aspects of daily life, the government established the BC Climate Action Secretariat (BC CAS).

The BC Climate Action Secretariat, situated within the Office of the Premier, is the central government agency responsible and accountable for meeting the Province's greenhouse gas reduction targets by co-ordinating climate action activities across government and with stakeholders. The Secretariat has a mandate to ensure an innovative, co-ordinated and effective approach to climate action in British Columbia.

The BC Climate Action Secretariat will:

- co-ordinate and facilitate best practices research and policy on climate action across government ministries;
- advise and support the Cabinet Committee for Climate Action (CCCA);
- establish engagement processes with First Nations, municipalities, other governments, industries, environmental organizations, and the scientific community, to facilitate their input into the planning process;
- assess incentives and other fiscal and financial mechanisms to lead and drive the change envisioned;
- recommend the allocation of federal EcoTrust funding to support British Columbia projects that will help significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- lead and co-ordinate the carbon neutral public sector initiative;
- co-ordinate the development of a public outreach and strategic engagement program to mobilize citizens and partners;
- establish and support the Climate Action Team and its deliverables;
- establish and support the Citizen's Conservation Council;
- develop and facilitate the implementation of a regional cap and trade system and standardized offsets program;
- develop necessary adaptation strategies and procedures for the province;
- lead and support the development of all required climate action related legislation and regulations;
- work with international, national, and regional partners to forward climate action goals; and
- establish the BC Carbon Trust.

## Strategic Context

The BC Climate Action Secretariat has begun its operation within a strategic context characterized by both challenge and opportunity. This context includes an increasingly serious global environmental crisis, a robust economy, a dynamic intergovernmental relations backdrop, and a complex, multi-dimensional public sector. These four contexts will affect the ability of the Secretariat to perform its mandate and achieve success.

### Environmental Context

British Columbia's geographic location in the northern hemisphere means that the effects of global warming are more pronounced here than elsewhere. As a result of these temperature increases, the province is experiencing the symptoms of climate change right now — from the warming of the North to increased forest fires, flooding, and rising sea levels. The mountain pine beetle epidemic, caused by the lack of cold winters for more than a decade, is costing our province millions of dollars.

The impact of this environmental crisis on British Columbia is clear. So is the need for strong early action. As indicated in the reputable Stern Report, “Tackling climate change is the pro-growth strategy for the longer term, and it can be done in a way that does not cap the aspirations for growth.” In fact, Stern's comprehensive economic review of the impact of climate change argues that “the benefits of strong, early action considerably outweigh the costs.” The question is not whether to act to mitigate climate change, but how. It is not action that creates unmanageable economic, social and environmental burdens. It is inaction.

The BC Climate Action Secretariat must focus both on strategies for mitigation (greenhouse gas reduction), as well as on assisting the province to adapt to the effects of climate change and prepare for the anticipated impacts of tomorrow. The scope of the problem for British Columbia is serious; the success of the BC CAS will thus depend in part on its ability to adequately respond to climate change through appropriate mitigation *and* adaptation strategies.

### Economic Context

At the same time as the province faces the global crisis of climate change, the economy of British Columbia is experiencing great success, with high economic growth rates and unemployment at the lowest level in 30 years. The province is also actively pursuing opportunities for economic growth as Canada's Pacific Gateway to the surging economies of the Asia-Pacific and as a result of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

The vigorous British Columbia economy presents both an opportunity and a challenge for climate action in the province. While strong economic growth makes it possible for the government to invest in transportation infrastructure and other capital intensive strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, high growth also generates its own increases in greenhouse gas emissions through economic activity, industry, construction, increased trade-related transportation, greater energy demand, and population growth. The province is also experiencing a labour shortage, which may present problems for climate action initiatives that require human resources — such as increasing provincial expertise in carbon trading, expanding the province’s capacity to perform energy audits, and so on. One of the challenges the BC CAS will face, then, is balancing the pursuit of climate action initiatives with economic growth opportunities. The government is also committed to supporting the province’s potential to capitalize on the burgeoning green economy and to create innovative technologies and industries that will enhance competitiveness in the new carbon-sensitive economy of the future.

## **Intergovernmental Context**

Climate change does not recognize borders, whether they be municipal, regional, provincial, national or international. It is also not a challenge that we can tackle alone. The British Columbia government has recognized the need to build new partnerships that establish a critical mass for decisive action and that can leverage collective strength, build on common purpose, share resources and expertise, and launch regional and international systems that will help us reach our targets.

National and international collaboration to establish market mechanisms for identifying efficient greenhouse gas reductions is therefore a key part of British Columbia’s climate action strategy. The partnerships British Columbia has joined will lay the foundation for compatible market-based systems to trade carbon offsets and credits worldwide. It is critical for British Columbia to help lead in the early stages of how these systems are designed and structured.

The intergovernmental relations context related to climate action is not characterized by certainty, however. As a result, the success of several key components of the provincial approach to climate action, including the establishment of a regional cap and trade system, for example, are dependent on maintaining and strengthening intergovernmental relationships and encouraging other jurisdictions to join similar emissions trading systems.

## **Provincial Government Context**

The government of British Columbia has committed to lead by example, by harnessing the energy, enthusiasm and dedication of the BC Public Service to become carbon neutral by 2010. This commitment is an important way for the government to demonstrate leadership and “walk the walk” of climate action. The public sector includes not only core government ministries, but also a variety of crown agencies, schools, colleges, universities, and health authorities. Creating a system by which all of these diverse entities can easily measure, report, reduce, and offset their emissions through a valid emissions offset system, is a complex challenge. The achievement of a carbon neutral public sector will also depend on the engagement of a wide variety of public servants. This must occur within a public service that is facing the demographic challenge of an increasing number of retirements and an increasingly competitive marketplace for skilled employees. The ability of the BC CAS to guide the public service and inspire their commitment to carbon neutrality will be important determinants in the successful implementation of this key climate action initiative.

# Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures

## Goal 1: Government's Climate Action Plan is completed and implemented

### Objective 1.1: Lead the successful development and implementation of climate action initiatives across government

By leading and co-ordinating initiatives across government ministries, the BC CAS will assist government in identifying priority initiatives, developing a comprehensive climate action plan and ensuring its implementation.

Challenges associated with this objective include co-ordinating diverse and technically complex initiatives and ensuring that policies are consistent and reinforcing.

### Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- developing climate action policy research and planning documents as directed by the Cabinet Committee on Climate Action (CCCA);
- assisting ministries to develop policy, legislation and/or regulations as required;
- providing research support and leveraging existing ministry capacity to guide strategic policy development;
- supporting the work and deliverables of the Climate Action Team; and
- establishing the Carbon Trust.



## Performance Measure 1: Government Climate Action Plan in place to guide initiatives

Performance Measure	2007/08 Forecast	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target	2010/11 Target
Government Climate Action Plan in place to guide initiatives	In development	Climate Action Plan Complete	Update/monitor Climate Action Plan	Update/monitor Climate Action Plan

Data Source: BC Climate Action Secretariat.

### Discussion

By developing a comprehensive Climate Action Plan, the BC CAS will ensure that government priorities are co-ordinated across government. The Climate Action Plan will be a significantly updated and expanded version over the 2004 *Weather, Climate and the Future* produced by the Ministry of Environment. The 2008/09 target for the creation of a Climate Action Plan was set to ensure adequate time to develop policy, consult with ministries and external stakeholders, and ensure consistency. The form of the Climate Action Plan is expected to evolve over time and will be reviewed and amended as needed.

## Goal 2: Ministries and Crown agency activities are aligned with government climate action priorities and integrated

### Objective 2.1: Guide the successful delivery of climate action goals across government by providing direction and resolving issues

The BC CAS will facilitate the co-ordination and integration of activities across all ministries and crown agencies by providing necessary direction and co-ordination.

Challenges associated with this objective include resolving complex technical issues and providing consistent direction in the context of a dynamic environment.

### Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- ensuring ministries and Crown agencies are aware of climate action priorities;
- supporting ministries in the development of legislation required to reflect priorities;

- fostering two-way communication through meetings with key climate action ministries; and
- presenting climate action vision and priorities across the public service through presentations and an Intranet website.

**Performance Measure 2: Ministry and Crown agencies assist in implementation of climate action priorities and policies**

Performance Measure	2007/08 Forecast	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target	2010/11 Target
Ministries and Crown Agencies assist in implementing climate action priorities	Planning and development	50% of Climate Action Plan priorities underway	75% of Climate Action Plan priorities underway	100% of Climate Action Plan priorities underway

Data Source: BC Climate Action Secretariat.

**Discussion**

The BC CAS will ensure that government priorities are implemented by providing direction and leadership to ministries and crown agencies. The targets set here are based on the recognition that implementation of Climate Action Plan priorities will increase over time as legislative and regulatory frameworks are put in place and based on the recommendations of the Climate Action Team in July 2008.

**Goal 3: Government is successful in achieving its intergovernmental relations climate action objectives**

**Objective 3.1: Lead the development and implementation of government’s climate action intergovernmental relations strategy**

By developing and implementing the government’s intergovernmental relations strategy related to climate action, the BC CAS will successfully reinforce the need for regional, national and international strategies to combat climate change.

Challenges associated with this objective include a dynamic intergovernmental context, changes in priorities of partners and possible delays in action.

## Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- working with the Western Climate Initiative (WCI), the International Climate Action Partnership (ICAP), The Climate Registry, and the Pacific Coast Collaborative to co-ordinate regional climate action goals;
- continuing to work with Canadian provinces and the federal government through the Council of the Federation;
- pursuing other regional, national and international opportunities to advance climate action goals and fostering collaboration through formal agreements and partnerships; and
- working with local governments to further climate action goals.

## Goal 4: The public sector is carbon neutral

### **Objective 4.1: All public sector organizations are provided with the tools and resources needed to comply with carbon neutral requirements**

By facilitating the development and distribution of tools and resources across the public sector, the BC CAS will ensure that the carbon neutral commitment can be achieved.

Challenges associated with this objective include ensuring a consistent and user friendly accounting system across the public sector.

## Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- working with the Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services to develop a carbon measurement tool for all public sector organizations to use;
- developing and distributing guidelines for carbon neutrality to all public sector organizations;
- providing expertise and advice as required;
- reporting on progress; and
- making emission offsets available to ministries through the BC Carbon Trust.

**Performance Measure 3: Carbon neutral tools and resources developed and implemented by public sector organizations**

Performance Measure	2007/08 Forecast	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target	2010/11 Target
Carbon Neutral tools and resources developed and implemented by public sector organizations	Plan to support a carbon neutral public sector created	Measurement tool created and distributed; guidelines for reporting developed	Public sector organizations achieve carbon neutrality	Public sector organizations achieve carbon neutrality

Data Source: BC Climate Action Secretariat.

**Discussion**

The carbon neutral public sector commitment requires the compliance of a diverse group of public sector organizations. The targets set here reflect the need to develop tools and resources to assist public sector organizations to learn how to measure, reduce and offset the greenhouse gas emissions for which they are responsible. All public sector organizations will be carbon neutral by 2010 and for each subsequent year.

**Goal 5: The public is engaged in climate action and positive behaviour change is occurring**

**Objective 5.1: A comprehensive strategy for public engagement is developed and implemented**

By developing a comprehensive strategy for public outreach BC Climate Action Secretariat will assist the province in encouraging the level of public engagement and behaviour change required to reduce provincial greenhouse gas emissions significantly.

Challenges associated with this objective include a lack of research on British Columbians’ approach to climate change and best practices on successful public outreach strategies related to climate action.

## Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- establishing the Citizens' Conservation Council to advise on public engagement strategies; and
- launching an informative, comprehensive and engaging website and other communications resources as identified.

## Performance Measure 4: Comprehensive public engagement strategy

Performance Measure	2007/08 Forecast	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target	2010/11 Target
A comprehensive strategy for public engagement is developed and implemented	Public engagement plan developed	Citizens' Conservation Council established Full website launched	Annual review of strategy and implementation of new initiatives	Annual review of strategy and implementation of new initiatives

## Discussion

Public engagement and outreach is a critical component in achieving our greenhouse gas reduction targets. The performance measure targets set here reflect the need to conduct the necessary analysis in order to adopt the best possible public engagement strategy for the province, solicit the advice of a new Citizens' Conservation Council, and continually develop new tools to incent public behaviour change.

# Resource Summary

## Resource Summary Table

Core Business Area	2007/08 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2008/09 Estimates	2009/10 Plan	2010/11 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
Climate Action Secretariat .....	4,000	15,458	15,533	15,383
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>15,458</b>	<b>15,533</b>	<b>15,383</b>
<b>Full-time Equivalents (Direct FTEs)</b>				
Climate Action Secretariat .....	—	18	18	18

<sup>1</sup> Amounts have been re-stated, for comparative purposes only, to be consistent with Schedule A of the 2008/09 *Estimates*.

## Secretariat Contact Information

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# Environmental Assessment Office

## Purpose of the Office

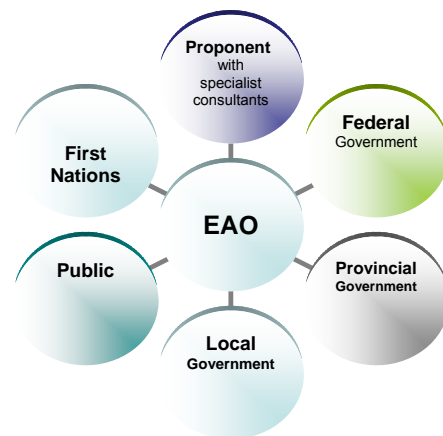
The Environmental Assessment Office was created in 1995 to co-ordinate the assessment of proposed major projects in British Columbia as required under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. This role was continued for the Environmental Assessment Office when government proclaimed the new *Environmental Assessment Act* in December 2002.

Environmental assessment examines the potential for adverse environmental, economic, social, health and heritage effects from the construction, operation and, where required, decommissioning stage of a project. For any project requiring an environmental assessment certificate, the proponent must complete an environmental assessment review and receive a certificate before ministries can issue approvals for the project under other provincial enactments.

There are three ways a project can be designated reviewable under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. Projects in the following sectors that meet or exceed the size thresholds established in the Reviewable Projects Regulation (B.C. Reg. 370/2002) are automatically subject to the *Environmental Assessment Act*: industrial, mining, energy, water management (dams, dykes, and reservoirs), waste disposal, food processing, transportation and tourism (destination resorts). Project proponents may also apply to the Environmental Assessment Office to have their project reviewed under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. The Minister of Environment may also order the assessment of a project if the Minister believes the project has potential for significant adverse effects and where it is in the public interest to do so.

The environmental assessment process administered by the Environmental Assessment Office provides for:

- opportunities for First Nations, local government, government agencies, and all interested parties to provide input and identify issues;
- consultations with First Nations to address and, where appropriate, accommodate potential effects on established or asserted aboriginal rights and title;
- technical studies to identify any potentially adverse environmental, social, economic, heritage or health effects of a proposed project;



- strategies and measures to avoid, prevent or reduce potential adverse effects through mitigation or project redesign;
- development of a comprehensive environmental assessment report summarizing issues and findings that may include recommendations on whether to issue an environmental assessment certificate for a project; and
- assigning conditions and follow-up or compliance reporting requirements to a proponent in an environmental assessment certificate.

Major projects subject to the *Environmental Assessment Act* may also be reviewable under the federal *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. To minimize duplication and overlap, Canada and British Columbia agreed in the Canada/British Columbia Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation (2004) to co-ordinate information requirements, use provincial time limits and issue a joint assessment report wherever possible, while retaining their respective decision-making powers.

During an assessment, the Environmental Assessment Office obtains valuable advice from other provincial ministries, such as the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, the Ministry of Economic Development, the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, and the Ministry of Community Services on technical and policy considerations within their respective mandates.

## Strategic Context

The continued strong performance of the provincial economy, as well as increasing demand for energy and mineral resources from Asia and the United States, has significant effects on the workload of the Environmental Assessment Office. Over the past three years, the Environmental Assessment Office has experienced an unprecedented number of energy, mining, and infrastructure projects entering the assessment process. With additional economic growth projected, this trend is expected to continue.

A key challenge for the office, therefore, is meeting the demand for environmental assessments resulting from continued economic growth and delivering timely reviews to support the economy. The Environmental Assessment Office People Plan is designed to support the office in meeting its workload pressures and its ability to hire people with the required skill sets, while ensuring appropriate succession planning measures are also in place.

Energy and mining project proposals represent the majority of projects in the assessment process and will use the bulk of the Environmental Assessment Office's resources. The energy projects, especially from independent power producers who are helping to meet the government's goal to be electricity self-sufficient by 2016, represent a wide diversity of energy resources (such as hydro, wind, and biomass). This diversity of projects will help enable the province to acquire 90 per cent of its energy needs from clean sources. Project proposals for new mines primarily in the northwest and northeast are expected to continue to enter the environmental assessment process at an unprecedented rate.

When conducting assessments and preparing recommendations to government on applications for environmental assessment certificates, the Environmental Assessment Office is guided by the evolving case law and government policy related to the obligations of the Crown. This means ensuring that government's consultation and accommodation obligations to First Nations have been met.

The Environmental Assessment Office is committed to building a new relationship with First Nations that is founded on reconciliation, mutual respect and trust. As part of this commitment, the Environmental Assessment Office recognizes that First Nations have interests that are based on established or asserted aboriginal rights and title, and is working to engage First Nations early and effectively in the environmental assessment process.

More specifically, the Environmental Assessment Office seeks First Nations input on its project-scoping decisions, encourages and helps fund First Nations participation in technical working groups, and makes provisions for First Nations discussion outside of working groups where necessary. First Nations are also provided an opportunity to review and comment on the draft

Assessment Report, which identifies the issues considered during an environmental assessment. The draft report includes a detailed assessment of potential impacts of the proposed project on established or asserted aboriginal rights and title, and summarizes the conclusions of the review, including the documentation of any unresolved issues. It is then finalized and forwarded to Ministers for their consideration as the statutory decision-makers under the British Columbia *Environmental Assessment Act*.

The Environmental Assessment Office also actively encourages proponents to meet with First Nations at their earliest opportunity to learn about First Nations communities and First Nations interests and concerns.

One of the benefits of successfully engaging First Nations in environmental assessment reviews is that it helps government establish an effective working relationship with First Nations at the beginning of a potential project. This assists other provincial agencies if the project proceeds to the permitting stage after an environmental assessment certificate has been issued by Ministers.

The Environmental Assessment Office continues to work with First Nations, proponents, stakeholders and other government bodies, including federal government agencies, to improve upon the environmental assessment process.

# Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures

The Environmental Assessment Office has established goals, objectives and related strategies that focus on the completeness and thoroughness of environmental assessment reporting and the clarity of the environmental assessment process. These goals will move the organization towards its vision of excellence in environmental assessment and support its mission to report the outcome of environmental assessments to government.

## **Goal 1: The environmental assessment process is clear and streamlined**

The process managed by the Environmental Assessment Office is continually evaluated and refined to ensure that it is easy to understand, provides effective tools to assist the development of assessment applications and streamlines regulatory requirements wherever possible. To meet the goal of an environmental assessment process that is clear and streamlined, the Environmental Assessment Office set two objectives: (1) an environmental assessment process that is easy to follow and (2) harmonization with the federal government.

### **Objective 1.1: The environmental assessment process is easy to follow**

The Environmental Assessment Office seeks to continually enhance the environmental assessment process by developing tools to improve proponents', First Nations', and the public's understanding of the environmental assessment process and assist with the preparation of assessment documentation. Efforts are also made to enhance public information about the environmental assessment process and to provide access to information about project reviews as they proceed.

### **Strategies**

Key strategies for this objective include:

- continuing to develop and improve guidelines such as the *Proponent Guide to the Environmental Assessment Review Process* and sector-specific guidelines;
- continuing to seek ways to increase public and stakeholder awareness of the environmental assessment process, including the use of the electronic Project Information Centre (e-PIC); and
- conducting surveys to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of the environmental assessment process.

**Performance Measure 1: Satisfaction with the assessment process**

Performance Measure	2007/08 Baseline	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target	2010/11 Target
Proponents' overall level of satisfaction with the assessment process	8 out of 10	Maintain or exceed	Maintain or exceed	Maintain or exceed

**Data Source:** Environmental Assessment Office.

**Discussion**

This measure addresses the level of proponent satisfaction with the environmental assessment process by asking proponents to rate the Environmental Assessment Office on its delivery of a timely and effective environmental assessment process. This is measured through a survey asking proponents to rate their overall experience with the Environmental Assessment Office on a scale of 1 to 10, regardless of where they are in the process. The survey is undertaken every two years. The results of our next survey will be available March 2008. The Environmental Assessment Office also seeks proponents' views on the delivery of the environmental assessment process through periodic telephone interviews and meetings with all proponents actively engaged in, or who have recently completed, the environmental assessment process.



Feedback from other interested parties is obtained through other means, including the Environmental Assessment Office's Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee. This multi-party committee provides advice and feedback to the Environmental Assessment Office on a range of environmental assessment issues.

**Objective 1.2: Harmonized federal/provincial assessment processes**

In 2004, British Columbia and Canada renewed the Canada/British Columbia Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation. The agreement is designed to enhance governmental cooperation and harmonization when a project is subject to both provincial and federal environmental assessment. By doing so, its helps ensure efficient and effective use of public and private resources, and provides procedural certainty for participants in the environmental assessment process.

## Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- continuing to work cooperatively with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency to ensure joint federal/provincial environmental assessments meet all requirements of the Canada/British Columbia Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation; and
- promoting and facilitating negotiations, on a project-by-project basis, for each harmonized environmental assessment.

## Performance Measure 2: Applications completed within provincial timelines

Performance Measure	2007/08 Baseline	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target	2010/11 Target
Percentage of applications in harmonized review completed within provincial timelines	80%	Maintain or exceed	Maintain or exceed	Maintain or exceed

**Data Source:** Environmental Assessment Office.

## Discussion

The Environmental Assessment Office and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency anticipate and resolve problems through the Environmental Assessment Office/Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency Harmonization Working Group. This group is working to strengthen the harmonized process by creating an action plan for improving information and communications; making a stronger commitment to early and co-ordinated engagement; and sharing additional efforts to identify and achieve greater efficiencies on cooperative assessments. This performance measure demonstrates whether the majority of harmonized project reviews are meeting provincial timelines.

In addition to harmonizing joint review processes, the Environmental Assessment Office seeks to pursue creative opportunities to minimize duplication under existing legislation, and participates in federal/provincial discussions concerning the potential for legislative changes to further reconcile federal and provincial interests in environmental assessment.



## **Goal 2: Environmental assessment reports and recommendations are comprehensive and timely**

Ministers require timely, high quality information, analysis and recommendations about the potential effects of a project to decide whether to issue an environmental assessment certificate. Environmental assessment reports are based on a thorough review of all relevant issues and include representation of the interests of those affected by a proposed project, which is supported by formal public comment periods. This provides the basis for balanced decisions by government on whether a project should proceed and results in decisions that also consider the broader public interest. To meet the goal that environmental assessment reports and recommendations are comprehensive and timely, the Environmental Assessment Office set two objectives: (1) applications for environmental assessment certificates are complete and thorough; and (2) meaningful consultation with First Nations.

### **Objective 2.1: Applications for environmental assessment certificates are complete and thorough**

The Environmental Assessment Office works closely with government agencies, First Nations and proponents to identify the information required from a proponent (known as an application for an environmental assessment certificate) to assess the potential for environmental, economic, social, health and heritage effects of a project. The Environmental Assessment Office also assesses the adequacy of proponents' proposed plans for consulting the public and First Nations during the application review. These measures help ensure the proponent's application is complete so the process can proceed in a timely manner.

#### **Strategies**

Key strategies for this objective include:

- providing clear, consistent and effective guidance to proponents regarding information requirements for environmental assessment certificate applications;
- convening multi-disciplinary working groups to engage in meaningful project-related discussions; and
- ensuring applications for environmental assessments contain the required information before they are accepted for review.



**Performance Measure 3: Applications in the B.C. environmental assessment process completed within 180 days**

Performance Measure	2007/08 Baseline	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target	2010/11 Target
Percentage of applications in the B.C. environmental assessment process completed within 180 days				
B.C. Environmental Assessment Process only	90%	Maintain or exceed	Maintain or exceed	Maintain or exceed
Joint B.C./Canada Environmental Assessment Process	80%			

**Data Source:** Environmental Assessment Office.

**Discussion**

The British Columbia environmental assessment process has legislated timelines, and the Environmental Assessment Office monitors whether these timelines are being met. The Environmental Assessment Office is proactive in anticipating and scheduling activities. It also encourages consultation during the pre-application stage to ensure that applications contain all required information so that projects are more likely to stay on track to meet schedules and remain within legislated timelines once they enter the application stage. With a detailed and good quality application, the assessment of the potential impacts of the project and the adequacy of proposed measures to address potential adverse impacts can readily be determined, which assists the Environmental Assessment Office in meeting the legislated time limits. It is recognized that projects subject to comprehensive studies under the *Canadian Environment Assessment Act* can prove challenging to fully harmonize with the British Columbia environmental assessment process in 180 days.

**Objective 2.2: Meaningful consultation with First Nations**

Where projects have the potential to adversely affect asserted or established aboriginal rights and title, the Crown has an obligation to consult with First Nations and, where appropriate, accommodate First Nations interests. The Environmental Assessment Office engages and consults First Nations in the assessment process through working groups, as well as through separate means as necessary. These steps help ensure that environmental assessment decisions are fully informed in terms of First Nations interests and perspectives, and that the Crown’s duties of consultation have been met in respect of environmental assessment decisions.

## Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- ensuring proponents develop comprehensive plans that result in timely and meaningful consultation with First Nations;
- continuing to seek active First Nations involvement in the early stages of project reviews;
- providing opportunities for First Nations to review and comment on key environmental assessment documents, through working groups and otherwise;
- promoting open and regular communication with First Nations communities to identify, understand and address project related issues; and
- providing resources to assist the First Nations Environmental Assessment Technical Working Group.

### Performance Measure 4: First Nations engaged in project assessment working group(s)

Performance Measure	2007/08 Baseline	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target	2010/11 Target
Percentage of impacted First Nations engaged in project assessment working group(s)	75%	Maintain or exceed	Maintain or exceed	Maintain or exceed

Data Source: Environmental Assessment Office.

## Discussion

A key tool for ensuring thorough and comprehensive environmental assessments is the establishment of technical working groups. To this end, the Environmental Assessment Office actively seeks representation from federal, provincial and local government agencies as well as First Nations potentially affected by a project. Although the working group is not the only means of engaging First Nations during the course of an environmental assessment, participation in working groups is seen as an effective and efficient means of ensuring First Nations interests and perspectives are duly incorporated into environmental assessment.

# Resource Summary

Core Business Areas	2007/08 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2008/09 Estimates	2009/10 Plan	2010/11 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
Environmental Assessment Office .....	6,970	10,508	10,563	10,571
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>6,970</b>	<b>10,508</b>	<b>10,563</b>	<b>10,571</b>
<b>Full-time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>				
Environmental Assessment Office .....	49	52	52	52
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Office Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>				
Environmental Assessment Office .....	56	56	56	56
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>56</b>

<sup>1</sup> These amounts have been restated, for comparative purposes only, to be consistent with the presentation of the 2007/08 *Estimates*. Schedule A of the *Estimates* presents a detailed reconciliation.

# Environmental Assessment Office

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