

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

2009/10 – 2011/12 SERVICE PLAN UPDATE

September 2009



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Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement



I am pleased to introduce the *Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2009/10 – 2011/12 Service Plan Update*. This document, while consistent with the plan tabled in February, has been strengthened to better address the public safety challenges facing us today. The goals, objectives and strategies outlined in the plan continue to reflect our ongoing commitment to maintain, coordinate and enhance public safety in every community across the province.

The crime rate has been generally declining in British Columbia in the past decade and continues to drop, with a decrease of eight per cent from 2007 to 2008. The crime rate is the lowest it has been in 30 years; however, challenges remain and the Ministry continues to focus its efforts on combating serious crime, such as organized crime and gang violence. Our government has invested in policing at unprecedented levels, with the annual policing budget increasing almost 90 per cent since 2001. Our investment has resulted in over 1,100 more police officers across the province. The Ministry continues to integrate and coordinate efforts with our many justice partners and develop new tools to provide police in British Columbia with the support they need to deliver an effective police service.

Increased targeted enforcement means we need to create more capacity in the provincial corrections system. That is why our government has embarked on a \$185 million capital plan to build new jail cells across the province. The expansion and modernization of correctional facilities will mean they can operate more safely with a higher ratio of inmates to corrections staff and the kinds of more serious offenders that we have today.

Our Victim Services and Crime Prevention team continues to build partnerships with other areas of government to prevent and respond to crime and victimization, including a new, more coordinated approach to addressing violence against women and elder abuse.

Keeping youth out of gangs, away from drugs and connected with their communities are among the goals of community-based projects recently funded by civil forfeiture proceeds. The Ministry's Civil Forfeiture Office has acquired \$7.1 million in cash and assets to date. The *Civil Forfeiture Act* enables the Supreme Court to order the forfeiture to the Province of property acquired as a result of, or used to further, unlawful activity. Proceeds from the sale of forfeited assets go into a special account that is used, in part, to compensate victims of unlawful activity and help prevent and remedy the effects of crime.

Our Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons – Canada's only human trafficking office – has been acknowledged by the U.S. State Department for coordinating with the Vancouver Police Department and Vancouver Olympic Committee to incorporate anti-trafficking measures into the broader security plan for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

We are strengthening road safety enforcement and emerging as a leader in road safety through our innovative policy approaches and integrated traffic enforcement. Bringing together RCMP and

independent municipal police officers in Integrated Road Safety Units, the Enhanced Traffic Enforcement Initiative uses targeted, intelligence-led enforcement to identify and apprehend dangerous drivers. Provincial traffic injuries and fatalities are declining, and it is estimated that for every dollar spent on Integrated Road Safety Units, more than two dollars and 60 cents are realized in savings to taxpayers.

Through Emergency Management BC, we are continuing to strengthen the four main pillars of emergency management – prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. Our direct support to local governments in planning for, responding to and recovering from emergencies and disasters has contributed to British Columbia's leadership position in the field of public safety.

The *Service Plan Update* 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.



Honourable Kash Heed
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

August 25, 2009

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Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General works to maintain and enhance public safety in every community across the province. The Ministry's portfolio includes: crime prevention; restorative justice; law enforcement; adult custody and community corrections; victim services and addressing violence against women; coroners service; road safety; emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery; fire prevention, life safety and property protection; and consumer protection policy, including oversight of the administration of consumer protection legislation by the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Authority and the Motor Vehicle Sales Authority. The Ministry is also responsible for the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC).¹

The Ministry's stakeholders are the citizens of British Columbia and their representatives at all levels of government, community groups, schools, service organizations, businesses and industry associations. Key to the Ministry's success is its ability to maintain strong, collaborative relationships with stakeholders and partner agencies.

***Working in partnership to help
British Columbians stay safe***

Services and programs are delivered either directly by Ministry staff or through contracted professionals and agencies. In all cases, the Ministry ensures that mechanisms are in place to guarantee accountability for public funds, such as policies, legislation, funding agreements and reporting requirements.

The Ministry conducts its business in a manner that upholds government's values as identified in the *Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan*, and continues to focus on the priorities that will ensure the Ministry's success in meeting its goals.

¹ ICBC publishes its own annual service plans and reports.

Strategic Context

Many external factors challenge the Ministry to continue seeking innovative ways to increase public safety. These factors provide context regarding the environment in which the Ministry is operating.

The prevalence of crime in British Columbia is indicated by police-reported crime rates and self-reported victimization rates.² Although British Columbia has one of the higher crime rates in Canada, the rate has been generally declining in the province since peaking in 1991. In 2008, the crime rate was 95.8 *Criminal Code* offences per 1,000 population, a decrease of eight per cent from 2007, and the lowest it has been in 30 years.

While not directly comparable to the crime rates, victimization data for some types of crime indicate that incidents can be more frequent than reported to police. The divergence of crime and victimization rates occurs largely in household/property crime. Police-reported property crime rates have been decreasing. In 2008, property crime rates dropped 14 per cent, the lowest recorded rate in 30 years. On the other hand, household victimization rates increased from 1999 to 2004, the most recent year for which data are available.

The nature of crime is changing. Organized crime is crossing community, provincial and national boundaries and expanding into all forms of criminal activity. Police are seeing new types of crime, such as identity theft and Internet luring and fraud. Gang violence is increasing, particularly in the Lower Mainland where gun violence is a significant concern. The number of large-scale investigations in the province has grown, consuming increasing proportions of available resources. While crime rates are somewhat indicative of police workloads, they cannot reflect the resources required to investigate complex criminal activities, such as those involving serial offenders or organized crime groups.

Domestic Violence has a significant impact on families and communities. It is estimated that from 1999 to 2004, nine per cent of women in British Columbia (more than 100,000) were victims of spousal violence.³ Both men and women report experiencing domestic violence; however, the nature and consequences are typically more severe for women. Children who are exposed to violence in the home suffer from emotional trauma, may have poor educational outcomes, and are at increased risk of using violence to solve problems.

Rising Corrections caseloads significantly impact Ministry operations. The current daily adult inmate population is around 2,750 to 2,850. This volume has reached critical capacity, with the Province's nine correctional centres operating at an average of 170 to 180 per cent of designed capacity. The increase in adults in custody has been largely driven by growth in the number of persons awaiting trial or sentencing. Ten years ago, remand inmates accounted for one-third of the provincial inmate population; now they account for one-half.

The number of people under community supervision has increased by approximately 4,000 over the past five years and currently stands at about 23,000. Offenders posing a medium or high risk to re-offend make up about 74 per cent of the sentenced community offender population. The growth in the

² For more information on crime and victimization rates, see pages 17 and 18.

³ Statistics Canada (2006). *Measuring Violence Against Women: Statistical Trends 2006*, p. 19.

number of offenders in custody and under supervision in the community is increasingly compromising community and staff safety.

Managing multi-needs offenders has become more challenging, and a disproportionate number of individuals under Corrections supervision are affected by substance abuse, addictions, persistent mental illnesses and/or concurrent disorders. The proportion of violent, high-risk and/or multi-needs offenders has significant resource implications and requires specialized staff training, program development and delivery, security, and custodial and community supervision.

Over-representation of Aboriginal people in the justice system impacts the work of the Ministry and its partners. Aboriginal people comprise just four per cent of British Columbia's population, but make up 22 per cent of the prison population and 17 per cent of people supervised by Community Corrections. Research indicates that Aboriginal offenders are at a higher risk to re-offend and score higher on all needs dimensions, such as substance abuse and unstable employment. Aboriginal people are also more likely to become victims of crime. In the last General Social Survey conducted by Statistics Canada in 2004, roughly 40 per cent of Aboriginal people aged 15 and over reported being victimized at least once in the prior 12 month period, compared to 28 per cent of non-Aboriginal people. Aboriginal people were also nearly twice as likely as non-Aboriginal people to be repeat victims of crime and three times more likely to be victims of violent crime.

Trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation and forced labour is a prolific area of international criminal activity and a leading source of profits for organized crime. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime estimates that 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. Approximately 80 per cent of trafficked persons are women and up to half are minors. Vancouver has been identified as a port of significant concern, as both a destination and a transit point for trafficking activities.

Safety of all road users remains a top priority in British Columbia. Motor vehicle collisions continue to be the leading cause of accidental death or serious injury for persons under age 25 and a leading cause of death for those over 25. These deaths and injuries create enormous social and financial burdens on society. Increasingly, road crash fatalities and injuries are viewed as a significant public health issue where the numbers of people negatively impacted can be significantly reduced through a combination of programs and policies. British Columbia is emerging as a leader in road safety through its innovative policy approaches and integrated strategic traffic enforcement.

Emergencies and disasters require co-ordinated mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery efforts to minimize loss of life and suffering; protect health, property, infrastructure and the environment; limit economic loss; and reduce social impacts. Climate change contributes to the number and severity of interface fires, landslides, severe weather, floods, ice jams and drought, challenging communities and all levels of government.

Managing staffing costs has always been one of the prime considerations in maintaining overall government affordability, and since 2001 this government has been diligent in reviewing staff spending each year. This is particularly true in these current economic times. All governments are in the similar position of having to balance spending and service levels against revenues that have declined over the past year in this extraordinary fiscal climate.

Staffing costs can be managed through removal of unfilled positions, retirements, staff efficiencies gained through coordination and collaboration across government, administrative program changes and, if necessary, a reduction in the staffing budget. In the 2010/11 budget, we will be managing staffing costs in the context of the current economic climate, examining all opportunities to continue to reduce these costs where possible. In the 2009/10 budget every effort has been made to preserve high staffing levels for frontline services.

In future years, government will continue to review its staffing budget to ensure those resources are allocated prudently, efficiently and toward government's key priorities.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures

Goal: Increased safety for individuals and communities throughout British Columbia

Goal: Public confidence in British Columbia's justice and regulatory systems

Objective 1: Enhanced effectiveness of policing

Strategies:

The Ministry strives to increase the effectiveness of policing to respond to the changing nature of crime and better protect citizens and communities.

- The Ministry continues to support evidence-based policing, which is more effective than traditional response-to-call service and allows for the strategic deployment of resources where operations are targeted on the basis of concrete law enforcement information gathering. This approach is based on sophisticated knowledge of emerging developments (trends, etc.) likely to impact a community, and achieves maximum policing results using a minimum of resources. Information and communication technologies, such as PRIME-BC, as well as training and employment of skilled crime analysts are crucial elements of this strategy.
- The Ministry is working with justice partners and other stakeholders to develop a holistic approach to reducing crime by focusing on root causes to get individuals out of the "crime cycle."
- Policing is being restructured by integrating specialized and capital-intensive police services to better respond to the cross-jurisdictional, cross-border nature of organized crime.
- The Ministry is working with police agencies and municipalities to ensure that the appropriate infrastructure(s) is in place so that police have the most modern technologies to help combat crime.

Objective 2: Integrated justice transformation

Strategies:

The Ministry continues to work in partnership to strengthen collaboration among criminal justice, health, housing and social service agencies.

- The Provincial Community Safety Steering Committee was established to set priorities for provincial crime prevention and reduction strategies for all agencies responsible for criminal justice, health and social service operations in British Columbia.
- Through the Prolific Offender Management Project, justice, health and social service agencies in six pilot communities are working together to test an integrated approach to managing the most prolific offenders in their communities. The key objective of the pilot is to reduce the criminal behaviour of these offenders, whether through incarceration or through treatment for the issues driving their offending.
- The Downtown Community Court is addressing crime issues in Vancouver's downtown core. The Community Court worked with about 1,800 offenders between its opening in September 2008 and the end of July 2009. The Court brings together prosecution, defence, corrections, victim services, health, housing and social service agencies to help offenders break the cycle of crime while holding them accountable in a timely manner.
- The Drug Treatment Court of Vancouver was designed as an alternative to the regular criminal court process for individuals charged with offences motivated by drug addiction. As a method of eliminating future criminal offending, the Court, prosecution, defence, and corrections work together with Vancouver Coastal Health to reduce participants' addiction to cocaine, heroin or crystal methamphetamine. When charged, eligible individuals have immediate access to treatment and a variety of health and social service supports.
- The Vancouver Intensive Supervision Unit is a specialized supervision team comprised of probation officers and mental health professionals, providing intensive interventions in the Downtown Eastside to reduce hospital and jail admissions.
- The Bail Reform Project aims to increase the efficiency of the criminal justice system. The project involves providing better access to information to improve decisions on bail, earlier access to counsel to expedite hearings, and using video-conference technology for the interview and hearing process to avoid the necessity of transporting an accused to a courthouse for a hearing. The project was launched in late 2008 in three communities in the Peace District, and in Surrey and Delta in early 2009.
- Community Corrections is involved in integration initiatives with ministries, agencies and community resources, such as the Ministry of Housing and Social Development, BC Housing, Health Authorities, and the Forensic Psychiatric Services Commission. These partnerships enhance the delivery of services such as mental health, addictions, housing and employment services, and target individuals demonstrating high needs and utilizing services from multiple service providers.

Objective 3: Strengthened public confidence in police

Strategies:

The Ministry strives to ensure transparent and accountable police services in communities throughout British Columbia.

- The *Police Act* and Provincial Standards for Municipal Police Departments are being updated to increase consistency of police services between municipalities and enhance government oversight of policing.

Objective 4: Community crime prevention and restorative justice programs

Strategies

Research indicates that communities can become safer if they actively engage in programs designed to reduce the incidence of crime and repair the harm caused by criminal behaviour.

- The Ministry continues to work with its federal government counterparts to implement prevention strategies to address issues such as youth gang violence and sexual exploitation.
- The Ministry supports community-based crime prevention and remediation initiatives through the Civil Forfeiture Crime Remediation and Crime Prevention Grant Program. Over 40 projects have shared a total of \$700,000 through the grant funding program to help prevent and address the effects of crime. The goals of the projects supported include prevention of domestic violence, prevention of cyber-bullying, restorative justice, helping at-risk children return to school, and keeping kids from joining gangs.
- The Ministry supports the Youth Against Violence Line – a toll-free, multilingual phone line and e-mail service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for youth to report incidents of crime or seek help from local police or service providers.

Objective 5: Effective protective programs for women and other vulnerable adults, youth and children

Strategies:

Public safety is enhanced through effective protective programs.

- The Ministry maintains the Protection Order Registry, a confidential database containing all civil and criminal protection orders issued in British Columbia. The intent of the registry is to help reduce violence against women and other vulnerable adults, youth and children through support of the enforcement of protection orders.
- Under the *Criminal Records Review Act*, anyone who works with children or who has unsupervised access to children must submit to a criminal record check. The Criminal Record Review Program protects children from individuals whose criminal record indicates they pose a risk of physical or sexual abuse.
- Protective measures such as home alarms and relocation expenses are available through the Ministry's Crime Victim Assistance Program to address the safety concerns of victims of domestic violence and to prevent further abuse.
- The Ministry supports the Provincial Protective Measures Unit, which specializes in assisting victims at risk of serious injury or death as a result of domestic violence. In addition, Domestic Violence Units and Elder Abuse Units are partnerships between Victim Services and police to

provide rapid follow-up on high-risk domestic violence cases reported to police and to support older, vulnerable adults.

Objective 6: Prevention of trafficking in persons

Strategies:

The prevention of domestic and international trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation and forced labour continues to be a priority of the Ministry.

- The Ministry promotes awareness of trafficking and works to increase identification of trafficked persons and traffickers through public education campaigns and training programs for law enforcement agencies, immigration and border officials, and front-line service providers.
- The Ministry is working with the Canada Border Services Agency, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, provincial law enforcement agencies and Crown Counsel to prevent trafficking and contribute to successful prosecution of traffickers.
- Collaboration with community service organizations and all levels of government helps to ensure that trafficked persons in British Columbia are provided with the supports and services required to ensure their protection, aid in their recovery and reduce their risk of re-trafficking.

Objective 7: Reduced profit motive behind crime

Strategies:

Targeting the profit motive behind crime is an effective means of suppressing criminal activity.

- Through its Civil Forfeiture Office and other means, the Ministry continues to work with the Ministry of Attorney General and law enforcement agencies to seek the forfeiture of assets obtained through illicit behaviour or used to further wrongdoing.
- Training and orientation programs with police and other enforcement agencies continue to be implemented to support and strengthen collaborative partnerships.

Objective 8: Effective regulation of the security industry

Strategies:

The security industry plays an important role in the safety of communities throughout British Columbia.

- The *Security Services Act* and Regulation were brought into force in September 2008, strengthening government oversight of the security industry by addressing areas that were previously unregulated and ensuring consistent standards across the industry.
- A Code of Conduct and a public complaints process were also introduced to ensure that complaints against security workers or businesses are investigated and resolved.

Objective 9: Timely information, assistance and support for victims of crime

Strategies:

Victim service programs aim to reduce the impact of crime through a range of supports and services.

- The Ministry supports 161 police-based and community-based victim service programs which provide information, referrals, practical support, court accompaniment and other services to victims of crime and their families.
- As of August 2009, the Ministry is responsible for providing funding and support to 69 outreach programs and 194 programs that provide counselling to women fleeing violence in their relationships and to children who witness abuse.

The Ministry also provides direct services to victims.

- The Crime Victim Assistance Program provides eligible victims of violent crime and their family members with financial assistance and other benefits.
- Victims of crime can register with the Victim Safety Unit to receive information about an accused or offender in their case, including whether or not the person is incarcerated, when they may be released, and what conditions they must follow in the community.
- Court Support Programs at Vancouver's Downtown Community Court and in Port Coquitlam and Surrey assist victims of crime through the justice process by providing information, court accompaniment, and referrals to other justice and community services.

Objective 10: Offenders are supervised and managed based on court orders and risk to re-offend

Strategies:

To effectively supervise offenders while they are under court orders, and to achieve reductions in re-offending behaviour over the long term, it is critical to understand the risk an offender poses to society, how that risk can best be addressed, and the need to target higher-risk offenders.

- More than 20 years of correctional research has resulted in the development of standardized, validated risk/needs assessments tools that are used by the Ministry to provide information on the rehabilitative needs of offenders and their risk to re-offend. Ministry policy allows a 60-day period during which risk/needs assessments of offenders serving a community order must be completed.

Objective 11: Reduced re-offending behaviour

Strategies:

Correctional research confirms that offender case management, offender responsiveness to change, and rehabilitative programming can mitigate harm and reduce re-offending behaviour.

- Based on risk/needs assessments conducted on offenders serving community orders, case management plans are developed to guide program interventions on an individual basis.

- The Ministry delivers a range of correctional programming designed to impact offenders' risk to re-offend, including programs that address risk factors known to contribute to criminality, and programs that promote the acquisition of cognitive skills necessary to bring about behavioural change. The Ministry is also developing correctional programs to increase foundational skills, such as life skills, employability and literacy.
- The Ministry continues to strengthen partnerships with social, health and justice agencies to deliver integrated services that provide basic living essentials to higher-need offenders, with the aim of reducing re-offending.

Objective 12: Reduced over-representation of Aboriginal people in the justice system

Strategies:

The Ministry is working with other ministries, Aboriginal agencies and community representatives to address the root causes of Aboriginal criminality and victimization, engage communities in the management of offenders, and promote community healing.

- The Ministry sponsored cross-cultural training events hosted by First Nations and/or Aboriginal peoples to enhance the capacity, knowledge and sensitivity of justice system personnel throughout the province.
- The Ministry supports Aboriginal programming in correctional centres and communities, and is working in partnership with Justice Canada to support 30 community-based Aboriginal Justice Programs and the Native Courtworker Program.
- The Ministry is supporting over 20 victim service programs which focus on providing services to Aboriginal victims, including VictimLINK, which provides 24/7 information, referral and support in 17 North American Aboriginal languages.

Objective 13: Increased Road Safety

Strategies:

The Ministry continues to work with all road safety partners and stakeholders to reduce fatalities and serious injuries from preventable road crashes.

- The Enhanced Traffic Enforcement Initiative brings together RCMP and independent municipal police officers in Integrated Road Safety Units, and uses targeted, data-driven, intelligence-led enforcement to identify and apprehend dangerous drivers. Other tools included in the Enhanced Traffic Enforcement Program are the Air One and Air Two traffic safety helicopters, the Integrated Municipal Provincial Auto Crime Team, Bait Cars, and the Automated Licence Plate Recognition Program, which maximizes officer efficiency and safety by using technology to automatically scan licence plates and detect unlicensed, uninsured prohibited drivers as well as stolen vehicles.
- Curbing aggressive and distracted driving at intersections are policing priorities, as more than 40 per cent of injury or fatal crashes in British Columbia occur at intersections. The expanded

Intersection Safety Camera Program will put digital cameras at 140 high-risk sites, enabling targeted enforcement at individual sites during periods when risk is greatest.

- The RCMP have refocused police resources on two priority issues by implementing the Impaired/Intersection Night-time Seatbelt Traffic Enforcement Project. Supplementing other approaches to drinking driving enforcement, such as the Ignition Interlock Program and CounterAttack, the project deploys officers in civilian clothes at key times and locations to observe vehicles for signs of impaired driving or unbelted occupants. These officers radio others to intercept unidentified vehicles.
- The Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles conducted an extensive review of distracted driving research and recently released the discussion paper *Distracted Drivers - the Use of Cell Phones and other Technologies while Driving*. Based on this research, the Ministry is conducting a public consultation process to seek British Columbians' input on the use of cell phones and other electronic devices while driving.

Objective 14: Enhanced emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery

Strategies:

Enhanced emergency management reduces the overall impact of any emergency or disaster occurring in the province.

- The Ministry continues to work with other emergency management stakeholders, such as local governments, First Nations, federal departments, other jurisdictions, industries and volunteers to support the four main pillars of emergency management – prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.
- The Ministry ensures that government's essential services are maintained during business disruptions through support and coordination of ministry and agency business continuity planning.
- The Ministry coordinates provincial integrated planning and response to disasters and emergencies.
- Multi-agency hazard plans are prepared and updated as required to ensure effective strategies are in place to address many possible types of emergencies and disasters. These plans foster co-operation among multiple organizations focusing on public safety, infrastructure and property protection, and managing the aftermath of events.
- The Ministry will maximize the Province's ability to recover funding from the Federal Government Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement program through claims for all eligible events.

Objective 15: Promotion of fire prevention, life safety and property protection programs

Strategies:

Effective fire safety and prevention require strong working relationships with local governments, fire service organizations and other jurisdictions.

- The Ministry, through the Office of the Fire Commissioner, continues to strengthen its relationships with partner agencies and stakeholder groups, and enhance the support it provides to fire departments, local governments and the public.
- The Ministry also continues to work with the Ministry of Forests and Range and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities to provide for structure protection during wildfire season, primarily in regions of the province with no local authority fire departments.

Objective 16: Improved community safety and quality of life through death investigations

Strategies:

Coroners' cases must be completed in a timely manner and be based on current and consistent information.

- Operating within the Ministry, the BC Coroners Service is building on its use of investigative protocols, its new, more robust database, and its use of advanced technology and statistical surveillance measures.
- The BC Coroners Service continues to work with the Ministry of Health Services and other agencies to ensure availability of timely pathology and toxicology services.

Performance Measures

Measuring the performance of British Columbia’s justice and regulatory systems is complex. Long-term outcome indicators, such as crime rates, victimization rates and recidivism rates are affected by many factors and are not under the exclusive control of any one program area or ministry. These outcomes are multifaceted, involving all components of the justice system and other areas of government, such as health, education and social services, as well as factors outside government’s control.

The measures included here represent only a few indicators of performance, but together they allow the Ministry to gauge progress toward the goals of increased safety for individuals and communities throughout the province, and public confidence in British Columbia’s justice and regulatory systems.

Performance Measure 1: Public Confidence in the Justice System

Performance Measure: Self-reported Confidence in the Justice System	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2010/11 Target	2011/12 Target
Percentage of British Columbians who have “a great deal of” or “quite a lot of” confidence in the justice system	44%	46%	48%	50%

Data source: The 2008/09 actual is based on the responses of a random sample of British Columbians surveyed in the BC Omnibus Survey conducted by BC Statistics monthly from September through February each year. The BC Omnibus Survey uses a subset of survey questions from the Statistics Canada 2003 General Social Survey on Social Engagement (Cycle 17). Statistics Canada conducts surveys to measure confidence in public institutions in Canada roughly every five years.

Discussion

Long-term trends in public confidence in the justice system are an indicator of its effectiveness. Members of the public must have confidence in the justice system for it to function effectively and to ensure continued public participation and support. Public confidence in the justice system is also being tracked by the Ministry of Attorney General.

The targets for this measure have been adjusted based on the actual for 2008/09.

Performance Measures 2 and 3: Police-reported BC Crime Rates and Self-reported Victimization Rates

Performance Measure: Police-reported BC Crime Rates ¹	2008 Actual	2009 Target	2010 Target	2011 Target
Violent crime	11.4	10.8	5% decrease from 2009	5% decrease from 2010
Property crime	45.1	42.8	5% decrease from 2009	5% decrease from 2010
Other	39.3	37.3	5% decrease from 2009	5% decrease from 2010
Total	95.8	91.0	5% decrease from 2009	5% decrease from 2010

Data source: Police-reported crime rates are obtained through the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. Every police agency in British Columbia participates in this survey, which is managed nationally by Statistics Canada. The data are reported by calendar year.

¹ The crime rate is the number of *Criminal Code* offences or crimes (excluding drug crimes and traffic-related offences) reported for every 1,000 persons. It is a better measure of trends in crime than the actual number of offences because it allows for population differences. Police-reported crime is divided into three major categories of *Criminal Code* offences: crimes against persons (violent crime); crimes against property (property crimes); and other crimes. Offences which are not violent or property related are classified as other crimes.

Performance Measure: Self-reported BC Victimization Rates ¹	2004 Actual	2009 Target	2010 Target	2011 Target
Violent Incidents	108	5% decrease from 2008	5% reduction from 2009	5% reduction from 2010
Household Incidents	376	5% decrease from 2008	5% reduction from 2009	5% reduction from 2010

Data source: Victimization data are obtained through the General Social Survey on Victimization, administered by Statistics Canada every five years. The most recent year for which data are currently available is 2004.

¹ The rate of violent incidents is the number of sexual assaults, physical assaults, robberies and robbery attempts per 1,000 population, 15 years and older. Incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault are included. The rate of household incidents is the number of household crimes per 1,000 households. To determine this rate, individuals were asked about four crimes that might have occurred to their household: break and enter, theft of household property, motor vehicle/parts thefts or attempts, and vandalism.

Discussion

Police-reported crime rates and self-reported victimization rates are both susceptible to several reporting biases and are not directly comparable; however, they may be used together to provide a broad indication of the safety of individuals and communities.

Performance Measure 4: Rate of Non-re-offending

The non-re-offending rate is the percentage of offenders who do not return to BC Corrections within two years of their release from custody or commencement of a community sentence. This overall rate is used by the Ministry as an indicator of the effectiveness of correctional programs, case management, specialized training, and re-integration initiatives.

Performance Measure: Rate of Non-re-offending	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2010/11 Target	2011/12 Target
Percentage of offenders who do not re-offend for two years following release from custody or commencement of community supervision ¹	66%	66%	66.5%	67%

Data source: Data for this measure are drawn from the Corrections operational system and are very reliable. The methodology for calculating the measure uses a two-year tracking period. It is based on a rolling average of all offenders who have been sentenced for another offence within the two-year time frame tracked. Consequently, for any given year, the results reported are for offenders found guilty and sentenced two years prior.

¹ The wording of this performance measure has been revised for increased accuracy.

Discussion

Criminal behaviour is a highly complex phenomenon involving a variety of individual and societal factors. Research demonstrates that changes in rates of re-offending are not directly attributable to the activities of any one component of the justice system. The effectiveness of particular programs is best assessed through evaluative research.

The Ministry continues to strengthen its evidence-based strategies to increase rates of non-re-offending. Projections indicate, however, that the inability to meet the resource demands associated with the growing volume will negatively impact these rates.

Performance Measure 5: Traffic Fatalities and Injuries Rates

Performance Measures: Traffic Fatalities and Injuries Rates	2007 Actual	2009 Target	2010 Target	2011 Target
Number of traffic fatalities per 100,000 population	9.7	3% reduction from 2008	3% reduction from 2009	3% reduction from 2010
Number of traffic injuries per 100,000 population	603	3% reduction from 2008	3% reduction from 2009	3% reduction from 2010

Data source: Data for these measures are collected from police-attended collisions involving injuries and/or fatalities. Collision data are collected by police and individual reports may be subject to error, depending on accuracy of completion. Collisions involving only property damage and collisions unattended by police are not included. As policing priorities do not allow officers to attend all collisions, it is estimated that police reports may not include up to 20 per cent of injuries. These data are reported by calendar year. Rates for 2008 are not yet available.

Discussion

Key indicators of road user safety are rates of traffic fatalities and injuries. As well as resulting in loss of life, motor vehicle crashes significantly impact quality of life, incur legal, court and health care costs, and place demands on enforcement, insurance and municipal services.

The Ministry continues to work in partnership with other ministries, including the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport, and the Ministry of Health Services, along with the BC Medical Association, the BC Automobile Association Traffic Safety Foundation, municipal police, the RCMP, ICBC and other key stakeholders to improve road safety performance.

Resource Summary

Full Time Equivalent (FTE) numbers for each Ministry are currently being reviewed across government and therefore are not reported in this *Service Plan Update*. FTEs are routinely reported in the Public Accounts and more detailed information will now be publicly reported in a new Annual Report on the Corporate Human Resource Plan, released each fall. For more information, see the Budget and Fiscal Plan documentation.

Resource Summary Table

Core Business Area	2008/09 Restated Estimates ¹	2009/10 Estimates	2010/11 Plan	2011/12 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Corrections	234,987	235,215	230,926	233,719
Policing and Community Safety	313,899	327,072	324,435	323,964
Emergency Management BC ²	35,927	33,549	30,898	30,403
Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles	7,214	5,631	5,426	5,256
Executive and Support Services	23,581	23,964	24,012	23,950
<i>Emergency Program Act</i> ³	15,630	20,975	15,242	15,242
Statutory Services ⁴	14,601	14,316	14,805	14,805
Total	645,839	660,722	645,744	647,339
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)⁵				
Corrections	3,393	0	0	0
Policing and Community Safety	469	0	0	0

Core Business Area	2008/09 Restated Estimates ¹	2009/10 Estimates	2010/11 Plan	2011/12 Plan
Emergency Management BC ²	637	0	0	0
Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles	313	0	0	0
Executive and Support Services	113	8,826	7,975	5,615
<i>Emergency Program Act</i> ³	0	0	0	0
Statutory Services ⁴	93	0	0	0
Total	5,018	8,826	7,975	5,615

¹ These amounts have been restated, for comparative purposes only, to be consistent with Schedule A of the 2009/10 *Estimates*.

² This core business area includes Integrated Planning and Mitigation, Provincial Emergency Program, Office of the Fire Commissioner and BC Coroners Service.

³ The *Emergency Program Act* provides for response to and recovery from emergencies and disasters, and for hazard mitigation initiatives.

⁴ Statutory Services includes Civil Forfeiture Account, Corrections Work Program Account, Forfeited Crime Proceeds Fund and Victim Surcharge Special Account.

⁵ All Ministry operations capital has been centralized under one core business at this time. Capital allocations by branch and asset type are to be confirmed pending review by the Ministry.

Major Capital Projects

The Corrections Capital Asset Management Plan (CAMP) Phase 1 is part of a multi-year plan to address dangerous levels of inmate overcrowding and meet future capacity demands in correctional centres in British Columbia.

CAMP Phase 1 includes a total of \$185 million in capital between 2008/09 and 2012/13 for three separate projects. Of these, one project exceeds \$50 million: the building of a correctional remand centre which will add 180 cells to the current provincial capacity by fall 2012. The total cost of this project will be \$130 million, as estimated in the business case developed in consultation with Partnership British Columbia. During 2009/10, approximately \$3 million will be spent on planning and consultation. In March 2009, the Solicitor General asked the Metro Vancouver Mayor's Committee to assist in identifying a suitable site for the new remand centre. This process is underway and will conclude in September 2009.

The benefits of the project include reduced overcrowding, risk of inmate disturbances, staff assaults and liability to lawsuits, and increased staff safety and ability to meet the needs of inmates and families. Challenges associated with the project are possible project delays, which could lead to cost escalation and risks to staff and public safety due to prolonged overcrowding.

Ministry Contact Information

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Communications Office
PO Box 9282 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9J7
Phone: 250 387-0520
Facsimile: 250 387-1753

Call the following headquarters telephone numbers:

BC Coroners Service.....	604-660-7745
Civil Forfeiture Office.....	250-356-1560
Corporate Policy and Planning Office.....	250-387-0306
Corrections Branch.....	250-387-5059
Crime Victim Assistance Program.....	604-660-3888
Deputy Solicitor General.....	250-356-0149
Emergency Management BC.....	250-953-4002
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General	250-356-7717
Office of the Fire Commissioner.....	250-356-9000
Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles.....	250-387-7747
Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons.....	250-953-4970
Policing and Community Safety Branch.....	250-387-1100
Provincial Emergency Program.....	250-952-4913
Victim Services and Crime Prevention Division.....	604-660-5199

The Enquiry BC contact centre provides telephone access to government information:

In Vancouver.....	604-660-2421
In Victoria.....	250-387-6121
Toll-free elsewhere in British Columbia.....	800-663-7867
Outside British Columbia.....	604-660-2421

VictimLINK provides help and information for victims of family and sexual violence and all other crimes.

Call toll-free 24 hours a day, seven days a week.....1-800-563-0808