

**Ministry of  
Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation**

**2010/11 – 2012/13  
SERVICE PLAN**

**March 2010**



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Published by the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

## Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement



I am pleased to deliver the service plan for the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation. This plan gives me the opportunity to outline the practical and measurable actions the ministry will undertake over the next three fiscal years to further the New Relationship with Aboriginal peoples. This relationship will continue to build on the principles of mutual respect, recognition and reconciliation.

The Ministry will continue to advise and support government agencies and organizations on initiatives to help close the social and economic gaps between Aboriginal citizens and other British Columbians.

In 2009, the treaty process gained momentum with the implementation of the Tsawwassen final agreement and the signing of the Maa-nulth final agreement. Most recently, the Yale final agreement was initialled, paving the way for the First Nation's ratification vote, the passing of provincial and federal legislation and, finally, the treaty effective date. Work towards finalizing other treaties continues, with In-SHUCK-ch Nation, Yekooche First Nation, and Sliammon Indian Band. Treaties are a formal expression of reconciliation and they are a positive tool for building capacity and stimulating community economies.

The Klahoose and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations, who signed the Province's first incremental treaty agreements in 2008, are starting to realize tangible benefits. In the case of Klahoose, the agreement helped them to purchase a tree farm licence near one of their reserves in Toba Inlet. This is already creating jobs and generating real economic opportunities for their community. We continue to pursue incremental treaty agreements to further progress at the treaty table and create opportunities for First Nations to build social and economic opportunities while they negotiate broader treaties.

The New Relationship gained traction with the signing of historic reconciliation protocols with the Haida Nation and with six of the Coastal First Nations. The Haida protocol – Kunst'aa Guu – Kunst'aayah meaning "the Beginning" in Haida – encourages economic activity, sustainable growth and sustainable prosperity for Haida Gwaii communities. In recognition of the long history and presence of the Haida Nation, the Province has committed that the Queen Charlotte Islands will be renamed Haida Gwaii. The Coastal First Nations protocol will increase economic and legal certainty for resource and land use and establish a process for shared-decision making.

The Province's first strategic engagement agreement, signed with Nanwakolas First Nations, will streamline consultation on natural resource decisions and provide increased certainty for investors. We also signed five significant agreements with three of the Treaty 8 First Nations – Doig River First Nation, West Moberly First Nations and Prophet River First Nation – that provide for collaborative planning, management and operation of Treaty 8 lands in the northeast.

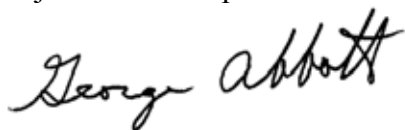
The Province and First Nations leaders are engaged in a dialogue about reconciliation and how, together, we can further implement the New Relationship. We will continue this dialogue and

determine how we can build further agreements that achieve reconciliation to long standing issues, and close the gaps in health, education and economic development.

The Province will continue working across government on initiatives in education, housing, health, sport and other areas through partnership agreements such as the Aboriginal post-secondary strategy, First Nations Education Jurisdiction Agreements, the Tripartite First Nations Health Plan, and the Tripartite First Nations Housing Memorandum of Understanding.

The 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games provided opportunities to support economic development and build cultural pride for First Nations and Métis. Through the efforts of the Four Host First Nations, the stories of Canada's Aboriginal peoples were shared with the world.

The *Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation 2010/11 – 2012/13 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 and for achieving the specific objectives in the plan.



Honourable George Abbott  
Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation  
March 1, 2010

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## Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation initiates and promotes innovative approaches to Aboriginal policy and is the Province's representative for all treaty negotiations. The ministry builds collaborative relationships with Aboriginal peoples based on respect and recognition to achieve reconciliation. It works actively towards a future where the Province has forged positive, enduring relationships with Aboriginal peoples, whose communities are healthy, prosperous, sustainable and self-determining.

The ministry provides strategic leadership and advice across government on the Province's relationship with Aboriginal peoples. This includes leading, coordinating and reporting out on the *Transformative Change Accord* and *Métis Nation Relationship Accord* for government. It is also government's lead on the New Relationship and works with First Nations to foster strong governments, social justice and economic self-sufficiency.

As the Province's arm for reconciling provincial interests with First Nations' Aboriginal and treaty rights, negotiating treaties and other lasting agreements continues to be a key commitment to which ministry resources are dedicated. As more agreements are signed, the focus on implementing these agreements will increase. The ministry also works with First Nations to improve treaty-making through the Common Table and Treaty Revitalization processes. The Common Table deals with policy challenges to concluding treaties, while Treaty Revitalization deals with treaty process issues.

The ministry works closely with First Nations on priorities they have identified to build capacity, based on individual communities' assets and strengths. It also champions community capacity development principles within government to increase effectiveness in working with Aboriginal peoples.

The ministry collaborates with First Nations and other Aboriginal peoples to meet mutual interests. It works with the federal government and other organizations to foster and enhance positive relationships with Aboriginal peoples. It promotes creative multi-sectoral work on Aboriginal initiatives, bringing together representatives from other ministries and Crown agencies, Aboriginal partners, other levels of governments, industry and non-governmental organizations. The Ministry facilitates cross-government efforts to work together to meet common goals.

Working with its partners, the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation also makes appointments to a number of agencies, boards and commissions including the BC Treaty Commission; First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council; First Peoples' Advisory Committee; Native Economic Development Advisory Board and New Relationship Trust Board.

A list of statutes that fall under the responsibility of the ministry can be found at:  
[www.leg.bc.ca/procs/allacts/arr.htm](http://www.leg.bc.ca/procs/allacts/arr.htm)

Definitions of terms related to Aboriginal peoples can be found at:  
<http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/index.html>

## Strategic Context

The impetus for treaty negotiations in British Columbia is linked directly to constitutional, legal, ethical and economic considerations that must be addressed in order for British Columbia to prosper both socially and economically.

The *Constitution Act, 1867* assigned Aboriginal peoples a special place in the constitution, which was entrenched in the *Constitution Act, 1982*. Section 35 recognizes and affirms the existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada.

Through a number of important decisions, the courts have reinforced that Aboriginal rights and title exist and that these rights must influence the way government operates. The Supreme Court of Canada has also stated that the ability of government to infringe those rights is constrained. Governments are obliged, by law, to justify infringements of Aboriginal and treaty rights as being required in the public interest.

Uncertainty over the nature and application of Aboriginal rights and title hinders the development of First Nations communities and economies and may detrimentally affect the provincial economy by discouraging investment. To maximize opportunities for economic development and job creation for all British Columbians, the ministry looks for ways to reconcile the rights and interests of First Nations with those of the Crown. Treaty negotiations are a path for resolution of these issues, as are other agreements such as reconciliation agreements, strategic engagement agreements and economic and community development agreements.

### *Considering the Challenges*

Government's commitment to green energy initiatives and demonstrating leadership in climate action is reflected in the efforts the ministry is making to partner with First Nations in B.C. to confront the challenges of climate change and generate new economic opportunities. The ministry has been participating in and supporting meetings with the BC First Nations Energy and Mining Council. Memoranda of Understanding with First Nations have been implemented that will assist the Province in making policy decisions required for carbon offset projects on Crown land. In addition, First Nations have been assisted with engaging potential sources of technical and financial assistance within government for projects that reduce climate impacts, such as renewable energy developments and greenhouse gas reduction projects.

Climate change has wrought profound impacts to the resource sector environment. For example, consequences resulting from the mountain pine beetle and declines in the wild fisheries stock have necessitated shifts in the way the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation does its business.

The economic downturn has put additional pressure on Aboriginal groups including Aboriginal business and not-for-profit organizations. The ministry continues to work with its Aboriginal partners to explore opportunities for further collaboration and to craft solutions jointly for moving forward during these challenging economic times.

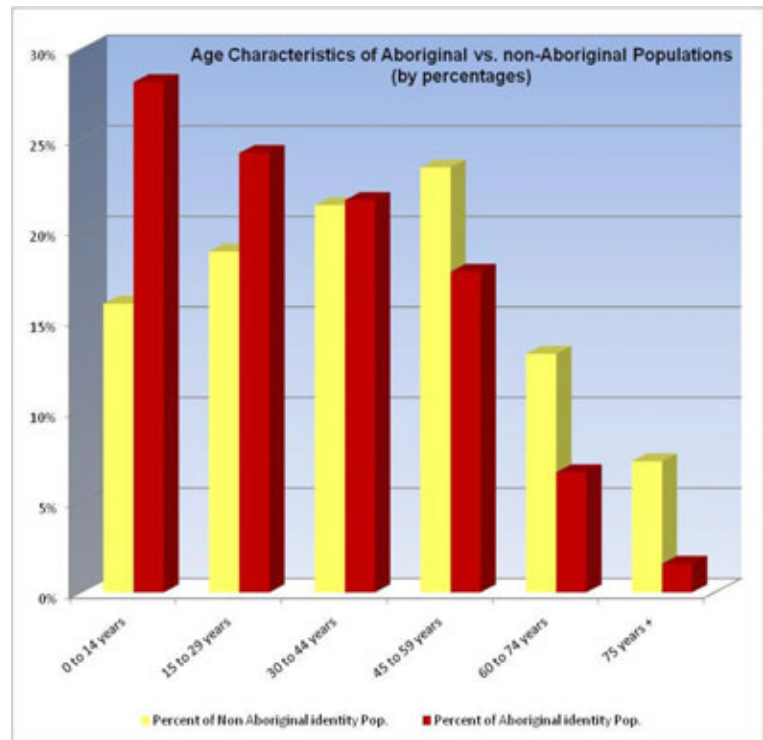
Despite these challenges, the past few years have witnessed unparalleled success in negotiating treaties and achieving final agreements. This success has led to a relatively new business area for the Province – agreement implementation. The growing number of agreements between British Columbia and First Nations requires the ministry to enlarge its focus on agreement implementation. This work requires all parties to build sufficient capacity and resourcing to meet agreement obligations effectively. The ministry is also working with partners to increase information sharing within government and facilitate the conclusion and implementation of agreements.

The ministry is also exploring new approaches to treaty with flexible, shorter term agreements, such as incremental treaty agreements, reconciliation agreements and economic and community development agreements that link First Nations to resource and economic development opportunities. These types of agreements may also stimulate faster economic growth by reducing the time and costs associated with decision processes.

Some First Nation communities note that progress under the New Relationship must be supported by appropriate community development to create meaningful change. The ministry works with First Nations and other partners to address community aspirations through better coordination and integration of effort and resources. This has included partnerships on community projects and social and economic agreements.

The Aboriginal population in British Columbia is characterized by unique demographic qualities that will inform policy and program decisions in the coming years. British Columbia is home to over one-third of the more than 600 First Nations communities in Canada, comprising the most culturally and linguistically diverse groups of Aboriginal peoples in the country. There are nearly 200,000 people in British Columbia who identify themselves as First Nation, Métis, or Inuit. Between 2001 and 2006, the Aboriginal population in the province grew by 15 per cent. This is more than three times the growth rate of the non-Aboriginal population.

The fastest growing population demographic province-wide is Aboriginal youth. In fact, the median age of the Aboriginal population in British Columbia is approximately 12 years younger than the median age of the province’s population overall. The stark differences between the population “pyramids” of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations necessitate a diverging policy focus and a disparate suite of programs and services. This demographic also compels the Province to engage



Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census



Aboriginal youth to develop opportunities to address both their ambitions and their potential to make important contributions to productivity and labour market demands created by an aging population.

Another important demographic consideration is the increasing urbanization of Aboriginal peoples. In 2006, 60 per cent of the Aboriginal population in British Columbia lived in urban areas and only 26 per cent lived on reserves. Engaging with urban Aboriginal peoples requires special effort because their voices are diffused. There is no formal system or entity in place to facilitate dialogue between urban Aboriginal interests and government. Some of the challenges for the ministry include ensuring opportunities for discourse are available to urban Aboriginal peoples, understanding the distinct needs of an urban Aboriginal population, and supporting ministries and agencies to take appropriate steps so Aboriginal peoples across the demographic spectrum, whether residing on or off reserves, have access to services and economic opportunities at the same level as other British Columbians.

While increasing urbanization may represent the loss of “place” as a cultural touchstone, similarly, the decreasing numbers of First Nations individuals fluent in native languages signals the loss of an intrinsic expression of shared cultural heritage and affiliation. Language plays both practical and symbolic roles in maintaining and reinforcing cultural identity. A growing concern among First Nations people and the Province is the imminent extinction of many First Nations languages. British Columbia is home to 32 distinct First Nations languages, representing two-thirds of all the indigenous languages in Canada. Without action, many of these languages will disappear within a generation.

### ***Identifying the Opportunities***

While challenges may exist, innovative approaches, sound planning and vibrant partnerships with First Nations and Aboriginal organizations have made it possible for the ministry to maintain the dynamic energy that has propelled parties towards mutual goals in the last few years.

The Province remains committed to the negotiation of treaties as an expression of reconciliation. Treaties are an important tool for First Nations to develop stable, healthy, self-sufficient communities with governance over treaty lands and resources. British Columbia has worked with Tsawwassen and Canada to implement the Tsawwassen treaty and is now in the process of implementing the Maa-nulth treaty with five First Nations on the west coast of Vancouver Island. The recently completed Yale final agreement awaits a community ratification vote, and British Columbia is in final agreement negotiations with three First Nations: In-SHUCK-ch, Sliammon and Yekooche.

Along with treaties are other lasting agreements that vary in scope and content but all contribute to achieving reconciliation. They may work to build relationships with First Nations, resolve conflicts or address concerns associated with development on traditional territories. The Haida Reconciliation Protocol – Kunst'aa Guu – Kunst'aayah and The Coastal First Nation Reconciliation Protocol are two recent examples of agreements that address land and resource management issues. Strategic engagement agreements and economic and community development agreements also create innovative ways to streamline consultation obligations and share new resource revenues, respectively, with First Nations. Likewise, incremental treaty agreements represent a valuable opportunity to make progress with First Nations that are participating in the treaty process but are not yet close to a final agreement. These agreements create economic opportunities and accelerate and stimulate treaty negotiations.

Land and resource agencies within the BC Public Service are making strides toward increasing coordination and streamlining their activities. Much of this work is focused on coordinating consultation with First Nations. This process improves information sharing and allows government to work in an integrated fashion to better realize its objectives.

The ministry also promotes coordinated efforts on language and cultural initiatives. For almost 20 years, the ministry has supported First Nations language, heritage, culture and arts revitalization through the work of the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council. The Council develops and administers programs such as the B.C. Aboriginal Languages Initiative that supports First Nations communities to revitalize language through documentation, immersion programs and curriculum development, and the Aboriginal Arts Development Awards Program that supports emerging Aboriginal artists and organizations. In addition, the ministry has partnered with the Council, the New Relationship Trust and the First Peoples Cultural Foundation to deliver language immersion pilot programs to support language learning between children, youth and elders, and provide capacity and resource materials for First Nations language speakers and learners.

In 2010, Métis Nation BC will be marking the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Métis Nation in Canada. Celebrations of Métis culture and heritage are anticipated to take place across the province, all of which will help raise awareness of the Métis in B.C. This will be a significant event as Métis make up 30 per cent of British Columbia's Aboriginal population. The ministry will continue to work in partnership with Métis Nation BC to achieve the goals of the Métis Nation Relationship Accord.

Recognizing the growing Aboriginal youth population, the ministry is working with youth to find ways to create their own opportunities, initiating projects related to leadership development and working with outside partners to provide programming that focuses on youth-identified priorities such as creative technologies, sports and recreation, and traditional arts and culture projects.

The success of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games was enhanced by the support and participation of the Lil'wat, Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations – known collectively as the Four Host First Nations. As official partners, a first in Olympic and Paralympic history, the Four Host First Nations represented their peoples and shared their cultures with the world. The legacy of the games will benefit the Four Host First Nations for generations to come in the form of lands, capacity building, business development, skills enhancement and other cultural and economic development opportunities.

The Recognition and Reconciliation discussion paper, jointly developed by the First Nations Leadership Council and the Province, was recognized by all parties as a starting point for discussion. After hearing from communities, it was determined that other approaches may be more appropriate to pursue. The Province remains committed to working in partnership with First Nations to achieve reconciliation. It sees the process of reaching reconciliation as one that necessitates exploring many paths. While not all paths may be fruitful, this exploration enhances understanding and awareness. The ministry continues to discuss options to provide greater clarity to questions about Aboriginal rights and title. Throughout the past year, the ministry listened respectfully to many voices and points of view and will continue to explore a range of options to address these outstanding issues.

# Goal, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation's goal, objectives, strategies and performance measures serve as the framework that defines what the ministry intends to achieve during the life of its service plan, and the means for gauging and reporting on performance with respect to its stated goals and objectives.

In this service plan, the core work of the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation remains the same. However, the ministry has united under one goal: to lead provincial efforts for reconciliation with First Nations and other Aboriginal peoples. This goal reflects the broad range of the ministry's work, which all contributes to the same outcome.

The ministry operates in an environment of complex land, resource, social, economic and cultural issues. Many of the areas in which ministry staff work are closely linked. This plan introduces new objectives and strategies that demonstrate the breadth of the ministry's endeavours, and the growing understanding of what reconciliation entails.

The objectives and strategies also highlight the variety of tools used by the Province for working towards reconciliation with Aboriginal partners and creating positive change in communities. These include the *Transformative Change Accord* and the *Métis Nation Relationship Accord*, treaty and incremental treaty agreements, strategic engagement agreements, reconciliation agreements, community and economic development agreements, economic development programs, community capacity development work and language and culture initiatives. When used together, these tools complement each other and help create social, economic, and cultural benefits that strengthen relationships and lead to better outcomes for Aboriginal peoples.

Targets for the ministry's performance measures are cumulative and are generated by considering historical trends associated with the measures and determining reasonable performance expectations during the period covered by this plan. Baselines for key performance indicators are predicated on available data from a variety of sources. The availability of complete data sets varies from key indicator to key indicator.

The Province is actively implementing provincial climate action initiatives that will assist in reaching the greenhouse gas reduction goals of 33 per cent by 2020 as legislated in the *Greenhouse Gas Reductions Target Act* (GGRTA). Operationally, the ministry actively supports the Province's greenhouse gas reduction goals by looking at new ways to achieve its travel reduction targets, including looking at the ways it conducts business. The ministry executive continues to encourage employees to use LiveMeeting and other collaborative communication technology tools to reduce work-related travel. Other initiatives underway within the ministry include 7-tier office recycling, composting and adopting new ways to use less environmentally intrusive supplies and technology to support day-to-day operations.

## **Goal: Lead provincial efforts for reconciliation with First Nations and other Aboriginal peoples.**

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation is the Province's lead for pursuing reconciliation with the Aboriginal peoples of British Columbia. The ministry understands that Aboriginal peoples may have their own vision, goals and perspectives about what reconciliation involves and the process needed to get there.

Reconciliation involves working to heal the relationships between the Province and Aboriginal peoples. It entails the Province and Aboriginal peoples working collaboratively towards a better future built on positive, just and enduring relationships by addressing areas of conflict and opportunity. Reconciliation is a dynamic process intended to create social, economic, and cultural benefits for all parties. It involves everyone in the province, from the grassroots to leaders, and takes into account all aspects of the relationship. Reconciliation is an ongoing process, and rarely straightforward. It requires trust and commitment to overcome stumbling blocks along the way, and openness to learning from each other at all stages. Relationships built on mutual respect, recognition and resolution are key to making reconciliation possible.

*“Reconciliation is a shared journey where we find new ways to work together, to listen, to learn and to act in concert for the well being of all those who will follow.”*

*Honourable George Abbott  
Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation  
June 25, 2009*

## **Objective 1: Close the social and economic gaps between Aboriginal peoples and other British Columbians.**

### **Strategies**

- Work across government, and in partnership with Aboriginal peoples, to implement the *Transformative Change Accord* and *Métis Nation Relationship Accord* in areas such as education, housing and infrastructure, health, economic development, and Crown-Aboriginal relations.
- Monitor and report on activities and progress towards meeting the goals of the *Transformative Change Accord* and *Métis Nation Relationship Accord*.
- Negotiate and implement agreements, including treaties, with First Nations that contribute to addressing social and economic gaps between First Nations and other British Columbians.
- Facilitate and support collaboration among Aboriginal organizations, all levels of government and the private sector on initiatives to close the socio-economic gaps.

**Performance Measure 1: Collaborative policy development**

Performance Measure	2009/10 Forecast	2010/11 Target	2011/12 Target	2012/13 Target
New provincial policies and initiatives that have been developed collaboratively with First Nations, Métis and Aboriginal organizations.	20	25	28	30

**Data Source:** Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and ministries participating in the implementation of *Transformative Change Accord* and the *Métis Nation Relationship Accord*.

**Discussion**

This measure assesses the outcome of working collaboratively with Aboriginal peoples by tracking the number of agreements and initiatives developed to achieve collaborative policy approaches. Working with First Nations, Métis Nation and Aboriginal organizations to draw on their knowledge and expertise helps ensure more successful and appropriate provincial policies and procedures.

**Objective 2: Reconcile Provincial interests with First Nations’ Aboriginal rights and treaty rights.**

**Strategies:**

- Negotiate and implement treaties, incremental treaty agreements and other lasting agreements that lead to reconciling provincial interests with Aboriginal rights and treaty rights and contribute to closing social and economic gaps.
- Work with First Nation communities to build the capacity required to be ready for the treaty effective date, using capacity development principles in negotiating and creating agreements.
- Support the conclusion of agreements among First Nations, government and local governments.
- Continue to seek improvements to treaty making through the Common Table and Treaty Revitalization processes.

**Performance Measure 2: Treaties and other agreements**

Performance Measure	2009/10 Forecast	2010/11 Target	2011/12 Target	2012/13 Target
Treaties and other agreements that build incremental progress towards reconciliation.	15	16	18	20

**Data Source:** Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and other ministries and Crown agencies as appropriate

(i.e., includes treaty and non-treaty process agreements).

### Discussion

Final treaty agreements are the most far-reaching and permanent means of reconciling provincial interests with First Nations' section 35 rights. Other types of agreements also contribute to reconciliation. For example, incremental treaty agreements that provide benefits in the short term can, over time, help achieve final treaties. Also, the Province has entered into consultation protocols, reconciliation protocols, strategic engagements agreements, and economic and community development agreements with various First Nations or groups of First Nations. For example, five agreements recently signed with three Treaty 8 First Nations provide for collaborative planning, management and operation of Treaty 8 lands in the province's northeast.

### **Objective 3: Work with First Nations to create opportunities to increase community and economic development capacity.**

#### Strategies:

- Support First Nations' access to land and resource tenures.
- Work with other ministries to champion access to business venture and economic development opportunities such as resource development agreements, benefit agreements and other strategic agreements, and employment initiatives in the private and public sectors.
- Work with other ministries to support First Nations' access to training and skills development as well as support systems associated with economic development.
- Support governance and capacity initiatives, including community development approaches that build capacity in First Nations governments and organizations, such as youth and women's groups.

### **Performance Measure 3: Engagement capacity**

Performance Measure	2009/10 Forecast	2010/11 Target	2011/12 Target	2012/13 Target
Initiatives that develop capacity and governance capabilities for First Nation governments and Aboriginal organizations.	10	11	12	13

**Data Source:** Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

**Performance Measure 4: Economic development opportunities**

Performance Measure	2009/10 Forecast	2010/11 Target	2011/12 Target	2012/13 Target
Initiatives that provide economic opportunities to Aboriginal peoples.	10	12	15	16

**Data Source:** Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and other ministries and Crown agencies as appropriate (i.e., includes agreements that provide revenues, economic benefits, training and jobs to Aboriginal people).

**Discussion**

Measure 3 assesses the outcome for capacity and governance development for First Nations governments and First Nation organizations, including youth and women’s groups, by tracking initiatives that work towards this outcome. Increasing First Nation government and organization capacity allows these groups to increase their effectiveness and reach their goals.

Measure 4 assesses the outcome of work to provide economic opportunities to Aboriginal peoples by tracking the number of initiatives developed to achieve this.

**Objective 4: Build stronger relationships with urban and off-reserve Aboriginal peoples.**

**Strategies:**

- Work to ensure that provincial initiatives to close social and economic gaps address the distinct needs of urban Aboriginal peoples, including First Nations, Métis and non-status Indians.
- Support coordinated and collaborative approaches involving provincial ministries, the federal government and Aboriginal organizations to address urban Aboriginal social and economic issues.
- Support Métis governance and capacity development on a tripartite basis.
- Work with other ministries to support urban and off-reserve Aboriginal peoples’ access to education, training, skills development and employment initiatives as well as support systems associated with economic development.
- Improve data collection and reporting specific to the Métis and urban Aboriginal populations.

**Objective 5: Strengthen the Province’s capacity to engage effectively with Aboriginal peoples.**

## Strategies

- Support and coordinate actions by ministries and Crown agencies related to the New Relationship and improving social and economic outcomes.
- Work within government, with First Nations and with First Nation leaders to understand, clarify and seek solutions to issues involving Aboriginal rights and title.
- Coordinate and streamline consultation processes; integrate information sharing practices within the ministry and provincial government partners.
- Improve corporate knowledge and awareness for working with Aboriginal peoples and communities to improve socio-economic outcomes including community development approaches.
- Increase awareness of Aboriginal cultures, traditions and governance systems, and of how culture impacts the way provincial representatives interact with Aboriginal peoples and communities.

### **Objective 6: Increase awareness of the importance of Aboriginal cultures, and the history of the relationship between the Province and Aboriginal peoples.**

#### Strategies:

- Continue to work with First Nations and Métis leaders and organizations to celebrate their history, culture and current contributions.
- Support the leadership of First Peoples Heritage, Language and Culture Council to revitalize First Nations languages, cultures, arts and heritage.
- Support Aboriginal place names proposed by First Nations being added to the British Columbia Geographical Names Database.
- Develop policy to acknowledge B.C.'s history in agreements with Aboriginal peoples.

### **Performance Measure 5: Public awareness**

Performance Measure	2009/10 Actual	2010/11 Target	2011/12 Target	2012/13 Target
Percentage of British Columbians who strongly agree that First Nations have made a wide range of contributions to B.C	32%	36%	39%	42%

**Data Source:** MARR Monitoring of Aboriginal Awareness in BC report, BC Stats (further measures available in full report).



**Discussion**

Measure 5 assesses the percentage of people in British Columbia expressing strong agreement with a survey statement that First Nations have made a wide range of contributions to British Columbia. This measure is tied to the *Transformative Change Accord* commitment to increase public perception of the diversity and value of First Nation cultures.

# Resource Summary Table

Core Business Area	2009/10 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2010/11 Estimates	2011/12 Plan	2012/13 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
Treaty Negotiations and Implementation.....	14,488	14,147	13,444	13,416
Community and Socio-Economic Development.....	3,021	3,751	3,553	3,516
Strategic Initiatives.....	7,396	7,823	7,061	6,920
Executive and Support Services.....	4,322	4,184	4,183	4,183
Treaty and Other Agreements Funding ..	33,177 <sup>2</sup>	5,927	5,927	6,134
First Citizens' Fund .....	4,100	3,968	3,649	3,030
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>66,504</b>	<b>39,800</b>	<b>37,817</b>	<b>37,199</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>				
Executive and Support Services .....	30	23	1	1
<b>Other Financing Transactions (\$000)</b>				
Treaty and Other Agreements Funding – Nisga'a Treaty Payments .....	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750

<sup>1</sup> Amounts have been restated, for comparative purposes only, to be consistent with Schedule A of the 2010/11 *Estimates*

<sup>2</sup> The decrease in the Treaty and Other Agreements Funding is due primarily to one-time Maa-nulth First Nations final agreement settlement costs in 2009/10 of \$26.6 million.

<sup>3</sup>The 2009/10 restated estimates reflect a change in funding model for corporately provided operations support such as accommodation, most information technology, freedom of information, corporate accounting services, payroll, and corporate sustainability. Funds previously held in Ministries for these activities were centralized into Shared Services BC, the existing service delivery body for these services.

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## Hyperlinks to Additional Information

BC Treaty Commission

[www.bctreaty.net/index.php](http://www.bctreaty.net/index.php)

First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council

[www.fphlcc.ca/](http://www.fphlcc.ca/)

Métis Nation Relationship Accord

[www.gov.bc.ca/arr/social/down/arr\\_metis\\_accord.pdf](http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/social/down/arr_metis_accord.pdf)

Native Economic Development Advisory Board

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/economic/fcf/nedab.html>

New Relationship

[www.gov.bc.ca/arr/newrelationship/down/new\\_relationship.pdf](http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/newrelationship/down/new_relationship.pdf)

New Relationship Trust

[www.newrelationshiptrust.ca/](http://www.newrelationshiptrust.ca/)

Transformative Change Accord

[www.gov.bc.ca/arr/social/down/transformative\\_change\\_accord.pdf](http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/social/down/transformative_change_accord.pdf)

## Appendix: Status Report on Treaty Negotiations

Number of First Nations involved in the BC treaty negotiations process:	106
Number of First Nations at Stage 6 (implementation):	1
Number of First Nations at Stage 5 (final agreement):	13
Number of First Nations at Stage 4 (agreement-in-principle):	86
Number of First Nations at Stage 3 (framework agreement):	4
Number of First Nations at Stage 2 (readiness):	2
Number of First Nations at Stage 1 (statement of intent):	0

The Office of the Auditor General has asked the Ministry to report more fully on treaty negotiations by including an overview of the issues and challenges it faces and the steps the Ministry has taken to overcome these barriers to success.

Ratification of treaties by the Tsawwassen First Nation and the five Maa-nulth First Nations clearly demonstrates that the treaty process is working. The Province ratified both of these final agreements, the federal government ratified the Tsawwassen agreement on June 26, 2008, and the Tsawwassen treaty took effect on April 3, 2009. The federal government ratified the Maa-nulth final agreement on June 18, 2009, and the treaty will come into effect for the five First Nations on April 1st 2011. At that point, the parties will enter Stage 6, the implementation stage of treaty-making.

In addition, BC has two bilateral agreements, with Yale First Nation and In-SHUCK-ch Nation, which confirm negotiations are completed and await Canada's signature before going through the approval process for the three parties.

The Province continues to negotiate treaties that reflect the diversity of First Nations. Over the next few years more final agreements will be concluded as well as significant progress on agreements-in-principle. To address concerns about slow progress, some First Nations, Canada and British Columbia may utilize incremental treaty agreements and treaty related measures to help pave the way towards treaty.

BC has two incremental agreements – with Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations and Klahoose First Nation. Incremental treaty agreements allow First Nations and the Province to enjoy shared benefits in advance of a final agreement. Incremental treaty agreements build trust among the parties, create incentives to reach further milestones and provide increased stability over land and resources. An incremental treaty agreement is not a replacement for treaty. An incremental treaty agreement advances treaty-related benefits for the First Nations and the Province. They are pre-treaty agreements, not final agreements.

In response to concerns raised by First Nations and independent external reviews, the Province, Canada and the First Nations Summit have agreed to discuss ways to improve the treaty process to support further progress in negotiations and work towards greater efficiencies and revitalization of the treaty process by identifying and examining issues that may be impeding treaty negotiations. In

addition, the Ministry and Canada have taken steps to streamline internal approval processes to conclude treaties.

The Common Table, where 64 First Nations, Canada and the Province worked together to identify ways to advance treaty negotiations, has yielded positive results. The parties reached consensus on some common principles and generated a list of areas to explore further to help expedite treaty negotiations. The Ministry also supports the BC Treaty Commission to use the full scope of its authority to advance the treaty process.

Under the treaty process, First Nations are responsible for resolving overlapping claims. At the same time, the Province and Canada have a duty to consult First Nations whose Aboriginal and treaty rights may be adversely impacted by treaties. Consequently, the Province supports consultation efforts to facilitate the expeditious resolution of overlap claims with First Nations both inside and outside of the treaty process.