

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

2010/11 – 2012/13 SERVICE PLAN

March 2010



For more information on the British Columbia
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General,
see Ministry Contact Information on page 25.

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
PO BOX 9282
STN PROV GOVT
VICTORIA, BC
V8W 9J7

www.gov.bc.ca/pssg

Published by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement



I am pleased to introduce the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General *2010/11 – 2012/13 Service Plan*. This plan reflects the Ministry's growing role as government's central coordinator of multifaceted and often multi-ministry responses to key public safety issues – particularly organized crime and gang violence, domestic violence, and emergency response. It is also guided by three key policy and legislative principles: accountability, transparency and effectiveness.

In February 2009, Premier Gordon Campbell announced a comprehensive initiative to strengthen BC's fight against gun and gang violence. The plan includes more police, more prosecutors, more jails and secure courts, tougher laws, a crackdown on illegal guns, outlawing body armour and armoured vehicles, and a new gang hotline and rewards program.

Less than a year later, this seven-point plan is yielding concrete results: more than 207 organized crime and gang members and associates have been arrested and charged with approximately 420 serious offences. This success paralleled rapid implementation of the plan. We have a 398-strong police force dedicated to fighting gangs and organized crime. A new Firearms Enforcement Team is working to stem the movement of illegal firearms. Ten additional prosecutors were hired, bringing the gang prosecution team to 26 members. In March, we funded a new Anti-Gang Tip and Reward Program managed by Crime Stoppers; by October, it saw Crime Stoppers' volume of gang-related tips increase by 28 per cent over the same period in 2008. Last fall, we announced we would build a new, state-of-the-art corrections facility beside Surrey's existing pretrial centre, and passed pioneering legislation to become the first Canadian jurisdiction to restrict the sale and use of body armour. The federal government is an essential partner in toughening laws to help us arrest and incarcerate more gangsters. We succeeded in convincing Ottawa to introduce legislation to eliminate '2-for-1' time served and saw progress on other prosecution-related reforms.

We also continue to work with Ottawa to ensure the most effective and accountable police services across British Columbia. These efforts will see BC's recently updated approach to public complaints against municipal police officers mirrored in the complaint-handling process of the RCMP. The federal force currently has more than 5,000 officers under contract to police most of British Columbia; their accountability is vital to our efforts to maintain and enhance public confidence in police. A strong, consistent, open and accountable police complaint process is a key goal as we continue negotiating toward a renewed RCMP contract in 2012. In keeping with what municipalities have asked us to raise at the negotiating table, other important topics include improved financial and operational accountability and planning, and greater local control over policing priorities.

In August 2009, the Province moved to consolidate domestic violence programs under the Ministry and protect related, frontline services. Since that time, we have launched a Domestic Violence Action Plan to protect victims of domestic violence and ensure offender accountability. The plan includes supporting the establishment of a Domestic Violence Unit in the Capital Region. As well, the BC

Coroners Service will convene a death review panel to look at domestic violence cases, with the goal of preventing similar incidents in the future. A standard set of bail conditions will also be established to be requested for accused that have been identified as high-risk, to better protect victims. A cross-government working group of high-level officials from affected ministries is working together to identify further areas where improvements can be made to improve services for victims and hold offenders responsible.

The Ministry remains the main provincial lifeline for communities and individuals faced with extraordinary emergencies. Emergency Management BC supported Okanagan communities to ensure no civilian loss of life during a challenging wildfire season and helped countless Vancouver Island families affected by flooding. To help keep backcountry enthusiasts apprised of avalanche risks, the Province increased its annual funding to the Canadian Avalanche Centre.

Other Ministry-led innovations are advancing public safety in many other areas. In January 2010, well-publicized new rules prohibited fully licensed drivers from texting, dialing and using hand-held cellphones and other electronic devices at the wheel, and banned new drivers from using any electronic devices, including hands-free ones. In the year ahead, significant, new measures will be introduced to address rising incidences of impaired driving.

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General *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. All material fiscal assumptions and policy decisions as of February 17, 2010 have been considered in preparing the plan and I am accountable for achieving the specific objectives in it.



Honourable Kash Heed
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

February 17, 2010

Table of Contents

Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement	1
Purpose of the Ministry	4
Strategic Context	5
Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures	8
Resource Summary	22
Resource Summary Table	22
Major Capital Projects	24
Ministry Contact Information	25
Hyperlinks to Additional Information	26

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; law enforcement; adult custody and community corrections; restorative justice; victim services; addressing violence against women¹; road safety; emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery; fire prevention, life safety and property protection; the BC Coroners Service; and consumer protection policy, including oversight of the administration of consumer protection legislation by Consumer Protection BC² and the Motor Vehicle Sales Authority of British Columbia. The Ministry is also responsible for the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC).³

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, partner agencies and other levels of government.

***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; these mechanisms include 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 Responsibility for programs to address violence against women was transferred to the Ministry from the Ministry of Housing and Social Development in August 2009.

² Formerly called the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Authority.

³ ICBC's service plans and annual reports are available at www.icbc.com.

Strategic Context

Public confidence in the justice system and in police has increased somewhat in British Columbia over recent years, according to the most recent data available from surveys conducted by Statistics Canada.⁴ In 2008, 53 per cent of British Columbians reported having “a great deal of” or “quite a lot of” confidence in the justice system, compared to 50 per cent in 2003.⁵ When asked about a variety of social institutions, British Columbians provided their most favourable assessments to the police, with 81 per cent reporting confidence in 2008 compared to 79 per cent in 2003.⁶ Long-term trends in public perceptions of the justice system can be viewed as indicative of its effectiveness. Citizens must have confidence in the system to ensure continued public participation and support.

The prevalence of crime is indicated by police-reported crime rates and self-reported victimization rates. Together, these rates indicate the state of public safety and provide further context regarding the environment in which the justice system is operating (see also pages 8 and 9).⁷

Although British Columbia has one of the higher crime rates in Canada, it has been generally declining in the province since peaking in 1991.⁸ 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 three decades.

Although not directly comparable to police-reported crime rates, survey-based victimization data indicate that some types of crime may be more frequent than are reported to police. The divergence in crime and victimization rates in British Columbia occurs largely in household/property crime. Police-reported property crime rates have been decreasing, whereas survey-based household victimization rates increased from 1999 to 2004, the most recent years for which victimization data are available. With regard to violent crime, while police-reported violent crime rates have been relatively stable in the province, survey results show violent victimization dropping from 1999 to 2004.

A multitude of factors is believed to affect the prevalence and reporting of crime, including demographics, technological change, influences on police enforcement practices, victims’ responses to crime, societal responses to crime, and reporting structures of police services.

The complexity of crime continues to increase, reflecting rapid and transformative changes in information and communication technology and transportation. Global communication, information and transportation networks span jurisdictions, creating opportunities for multi-jurisdictional and transnational crimes. For example, the Internet allows criminals with few resources to adopt virtual identities and perpetrate crimes on thousands of persons in multiple jurisdictions. Law enforcement and legislative responses to new and evolving forms of crime have become equally complex. Police

⁴ Statistics Canada, *General Social Survey on Social Engagement in Canada*, 2008 (Cycle 22) and 2003 (Cycle 17). Note that the Ministry’s *2009/10 – 2011/12 Service Plan Update* published in September 2009 reported rates of public confidence based on a BC Omnibus Survey. As the Omnibus Survey is no longer being conducted, we will report Statistics Canada data here and in future service plans.

⁵ These percentages compare to 61 per cent of all Canadians in 2008 and 57 per cent of all Canadians in 2003.

⁶ Compared to 84 per cent of all Canadians in 2008 and 82 per cent of all Canadians in 2003.

⁷ Caution should be used when considering the trends in relation to one another. The two data sources collect data from differing populations, on differing crime/victimization types, and report the data using differing scales.

⁸ Detailed information on trends in crime and victimization rates in British Columbia is available at www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/police_services/publications/index.htm.

training and techniques are continually adapting to respond more effectively to new forms of crime. More sophisticated responses to complex crime will be required to keep pace with technological innovations that are used for criminal purposes. Increasing complexity in the legal system, and specifically in the criminal justice system, has also significantly impacted the investigation and prosecution of crime. Court decisions in the areas of disclosure and process have necessitated that police adopt comprehensive and expensive procedures for collecting, storing and disclosing evidence during the course of an investigation and into the conduct of a trial.

Organized crime crosses community, provincial and national boundaries and is expanding into all forms of criminal activity, including illicit drug production and trafficking, precursor chemical smuggling, identify theft, payment card fraud, money laundering, cybercrime and firearms smuggling. Organized crime undermines legitimate economies and market integrity, which directly and indirectly affects all British Columbians. More visibly, gang violence is increasing, particularly in the Lower Mainland, where incidents of gun violence have demonstrated the willingness of gang and organized crime members to act with impunity to defend drug and other criminal markets. With over 130 identifiable organized crime groups in British Columbia, the scope and magnitude of organized crime is significant.

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. It is estimated that 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year; approximately 80 per cent of that number are females and up to half are minors.⁹ Human trafficking is estimated to be the third-highest generator of global criminal profits after drugs and arms. Canada is a source, transit and destination country for people trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced labour, and Vancouver has been identified as a port of significant concern, as both a destination and transit point. Canadian women and girls, many of whom are Aboriginal, are trafficked within the country for commercial sexual exploitation.¹⁰ Domestic trafficking in persons parallels international patterns of recruitment, movement, control and exploitation of victims.¹¹

Domestic violence has a significant impact on families and communities. It is estimated that between 1999 and 2004, nine per cent of women in British Columbia (more than 100,000) were victims of spousal violence.¹² Women and men both report experiencing domestic violence; however, the nature and consequences are typically more severe for women. Canadian research also shows that Aboriginal women are more than three times more likely than non-Aboriginal women to be victims of spousal violence, and are significantly more likely to report the most severe and potentially life-threatening forms of violence. Emerging best practices speak to the need for integrated cross-agency policies as a key component of an effective domestic violence response strategy.

Recidivism rates are also linked to the prevalence of crime and provide a litmus test when assessing the overall effectiveness of the justice system in deterring and rehabilitating offenders. The provincial overall recidivism rate has been increasing somewhat over the last decade. In 2008/09, 34 per cent of offenders returned to BC Corrections within two years of their release from custody or commencement of a community sentence, compared to 33 per cent in 2007/08. Like crime rates and victimization

⁹ US Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report*, 2007.

¹⁰ US Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report*, 2009.

¹¹ Criminal Intelligence Service Canada Central Bureau, *Strategic Intelligence Brief*, August 2008.

¹² Statistics Canada, *Measuring Violence against Women: Statistical Trends*, 2006.

rates, recidivism rates are affected by a variety of individual and societal factors, while also being influenced by processes and programs within the justice system.

Rising Corrections caseloads in British Columbia significantly impact Ministry operations. The current daily adult inmate population is between 2,750 and 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.¹³ The increase in adults in custody has been largely driven by growth in the number of persons awaiting trial or sentencing. Ten years ago, these 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 30 per cent, or approximately 5,500, over the past four years and currently stands at about 23,500. Offenders posing a medium or high risk to re-offend make up about 74 per cent of the sentenced community offender population.

Over-representation of Aboriginal people in the justice system is evident in the correctional system. Aboriginal people comprise just four per cent of British Columbia's population, but make up 23 per cent of the prison population and 19 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 a 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.¹⁴ 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.

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

The safety of all road users remains a top priority. Motor vehicle collisions continue to be a leading cause of accidental death and serious injury for all age groups. 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 coordinated prevention, preparedness, and 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 wild land/urban interface fires, landslides, severe weather, floods, ice jams and drought, challenging communities and all levels of government.

¹³ Individuals who are remanded into custody or sentenced to a term of two years less a day are incarcerated in these provincial facilities. An offender who receives a jail sentence of two years or more typically remains in a regional correctional centre for up to 15 days before being transferred to a federal penitentiary.

¹⁴ Statistics Canada, *General Social Survey*, 2004.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures

Changes have been made to the Ministry’s goals, objectives, strategies and performance measures since publication of the *2009/10 – 2011/12 Service Plan Update* in September 2009. These changes do not reflect shifts in the Ministry’s priorities; rather, they reflect the Ministry’s ongoing commitment to improved public reporting of performance.

In this Service Plan, we present five goals rather than two, to more clearly reflect the Ministry’s diverse program areas. Some objectives have been revised for added clarity, and the key strategies have been updated throughout.

New performance information is presented. Measuring the performance of British Columbia’s justice, regulatory, and emergency management systems is complex. Long-term outcomes, 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 as well as other areas of government, such as health and social services. They are also influenced by many factors outside government’s control.

The measures included here represent only a few indicators of performance. The degree of influence varies by measure. In some cases a measure indicates a specific program result; in other cases a measure may be the result of multiple agencies’ efforts as well as external influences. Together, these measures, along with the trends discussed in the Strategic Context section, allow readers of this plan to gauge the Ministry’s progress towards its goals and objectives.

Goal 1 People living in, working in and visiting British Columbia are safe from crime and victimization

Performance Measures 1 and 2: Crime and Victimization Rates

Performance Measure: Police-reported BC Crime Rates (<i>Criminal Code</i> offences per 1,000 persons) ¹	2008 Actual	2010 Target	2011 Target	2012 Target
Violent crime	11.4	5% decrease from 2009	5% decrease from 2010	5% decrease from 2011
Property crime	45.1	5% decrease from 2009	5% decrease from 2010	5% decrease from 2011
Other crime	39.3	5% decrease from 2009	5% decrease from 2010	5% decrease from 2011
Total	95.8	5% decrease from 2009	5% decrease from 2010	5% decrease from 2011

Data source: Police-reported crime rates are obtained through the *Uniform Crime Reporting Survey*. Every police agency in British

Columbia participates in this annual survey, managed nationally by Statistics Canada. The data are reported by calendar year; 2008 is the most recent year for which data are available.

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 is 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 Rates¹	2004 Actual	2010 Target	2011 Target	2012 Target
Violent Incidents (per 1,000 population 15 years and older)	108	Decrease ²	Decrease	Decrease
Household Incidents (per 1,000 households)	376	Decrease ²	Decrease	Decrease

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 presently 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.

² Specific targets to be determined when 2009 data become available.

Discussion

A limitation in the use of police-reported crime rates and self-reported, survey-based victimization rates as performance indicators is that current data are often unavailable. At this time, for example, the most recent crime rate data available are for 2008 and the most recent victimization data are for 2004. Despite this limitation, crime and victimization rates provide a broad indication of the safety of individuals and communities, particularly if trends in the rates are considered over the long term.

For more information on crime and victimization rates in British Columbia, please see the Strategic Context section (page 5).

Objective 1.1 Effective, innovative, integrated and accountable law enforcement

Strategies:

- Combat gang and gun crime through a robust strategy that includes more resources, enhanced criminal justice capacity, new laws and prevention support. With the Premier’s announcement in February 2009, the Province launched an aggressive seven-point plan. Key accomplishments include: 160 new police officers and 10 more prosecutors dedicated to organized crime investigations and prosecutions; new offices opened in Kelowna and Prince George, expanding the regional support for organized crime enforcement; implementation of a new Firearms Enforcement Team to crack down on illegal firearms; implementation of a new anti-gang tip hotline and rewards program; and enactment of first-in-Canada body armour legislation. British Columbia continues to press the federal government to enact new laws to bolster the fight against organized crime. In addition, British Columbia is negotiating to take over the administration of the firearms program.

Legislation targeting armoured vehicles as well as mandatory gunshot wound reporting are planned.

- Support intelligence-led, evidence-based policing. This approach combines research on „what works’ to reduce crime with using timely and accurate data to analyze crime problems and deploy resources efficiently to prevent and reduce crime. Police agencies are increasingly relying on crime data and police data to develop strategies and assess results. The Province’s investment in PRIME-BC has created the environment to support this advancement in policing.¹⁵
- Restructure policing by integrating specialized and capital-intensive police services to better respond to the cross-jurisdictional, cross-border nature of organized crime.
- Work with police agencies and municipalities to ensure that appropriate infrastructures are in place so that police have the most modern technologies to help combat crime.
- Update the *Police Act* and *Provincial Standards for Municipal Police Departments* to enhance police governance and accountability and create the conditions for comprehensive and highly skilled police services in all jurisdictions of the province.

Policing in British Columbia

Residents of British Columbia receive police services from an RCMP provincial force, 58 RCMP municipal forces, 11 independent municipal police departments and two First Nations forces. The RCMP federal force, the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit, and the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific railway police forces also provide law enforcement within the province. The South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Police Service is a designated police unit in the Lower Mainland, and there are also enhanced police services at the Vancouver International Airport.

Objective 1.2 Strengthened collaboration among justice, health, housing and social service agencies

Strategies:

- Lead systemic change to help first responders, support workers, the courts and communities to deal more effectively with domestic violence. The Domestic Violence Action Plan, launched by the Province in January 2010, will result in strengthened partnerships, better training, and development of an integrated, cross-agency domestic violence policy, setting out the obligations and commitments for justice system partners and service providers involved in high-risk domestic violence cases.
- Work with justice partners and other stakeholders to develop a holistic approach to reducing crime by focusing on its root causes and working to break the cycle of crime.

¹⁵ In 2008/09, British Columbia achieved a North American milestone in police intelligence gathering and information sharing, completing provincewide implementation of the Police Records Information Management Environment (PRIME-BC), an online data-sharing system that allows instant access and updating of information by officers across the province.

- Continue the Prolific Offender Management Project, through which enforcement agencies (police, corrections and Crown counsel) work with a range of health and social service partners to reduce the amount of crime committed by a small number of prolific offenders in six pilot communities. The key objective is to reduce the criminal behaviour of prolific offenders through incarceration or through treatment of the issues driving their offending.
- Support the Downtown Community Court in Vancouver, bringing 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. Lessons learned from the community court model are also being identified to develop best practices.
- Maintain the Drug Treatment Court of Vancouver as an alternative to the regular criminal court process for individuals charged with offences motivated by drug addiction. The Court, prosecution, defence, and corrections work together with Vancouver Coastal Health to reduce participants' addictions and, in turn, reduce their re-offending. When charged, eligible individuals have immediate access to treatment and a variety of health and social service supports.
- Maintain the Vancouver Intensive Supervision Unit, a specialized supervision team comprised of probation officers and mental health professionals that provides intensive interventions in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside to reduce hospital and jail admissions.
- Support the Bail Reform Project to better inform decisions on bail, provide earlier access to counsel to expedite hearings, and facilitate the use of video-conferencing to avoid transporting accused for hearings. The project was launched in late 2008 in three communities in the Peace District, and in Surrey and Delta in early 2009.
- Strengthen partnerships between Community Corrections and other ministry agencies and community resources to 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 providers.

Objective 1.3 Effective protective programs for women and vulnerable adults, youth and children

Strategies:

- Maintain 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 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 committing physical or sexual abuse. Following 2009 amendments to the Act, the Ministry will expand this program to include those who work with vulnerable adults, including seniors and

individuals with physical, mental or developmental disabilities, in order to protect them from physical, sexual or financial abuse.

- Provide protective measures such as home alarms and relocation expenses through the Crime Victim Assistance Program to address the safety concerns of victims of domestic violence and to prevent further abuse.
- Support the Provincial Protective Measures Unit, which specializes in assisting victims at risk of serious injury or death as a result of domestic violence.
- Support integrated Domestic Violence Units and Elder Abuse Units which are partnerships between Victim Services, police and other service providers to ensure rapid follow-up on high-risk domestic violence cases reported to police and to support older, vulnerable adults.

Objective 1.4 Prevention of trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation and forced labour

Strategies:

- Promote awareness about human trafficking in British Columbia and Canada through public education and information sessions for community members.
- Increase identification of trafficked persons through participation in training programs for law enforcement agencies, immigration and border officials, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and Crown counsel, and by developing unique Canadian first-responder training for front-line service providers.
- Contribute to the successful prosecution of traffickers by working with Canada Border Services Agency, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, provincial law enforcement agencies, Crown counsel and Victim Services.
- Keep Aboriginal youth safe from traffickers by working with Aboriginal organizations, relevant provincial ministries, the BC Teachers Federation and others to inform teachers and youth of the dangers and indicators of trafficking.
- Further develop international, domestic, and Aboriginal anti-human-trafficking strategies to combat all forms of human trafficking in British Columbia.

Objective 1.5 Reduced profit motive behind crime

Strategies:

- Continue and enhance pursuit of the forfeiture of assets acquired through, or used in, crime and other illegal activities. Proceeds recovered under the *Civil Forfeiture Act* are used to compensate eligible victims, fund crime prevention activities, remedy the effects of crime and cover the costs associated with administering the Act.

- Bolster training and orientation programs on civil forfeiture for police and other enforcement agencies to strengthen existing collaborative partnerships and increase the use of services provided by the Province to enforcement agencies through the Civil Forfeiture Office.

Objective 1.6 An effective and professional private security industry

- Continue building and maintaining relationships with all private security industry stakeholders to ensure stakeholders obtain the level of service required to fulfil their various mandates, and to ensure that training and requirements for the industry remain current and appropriate.
- Maintain an effective compliance and enforcement strategy to make certain that only qualified security workers, who have undergone the requisite background checks, training and licensing, provide security services in the British Columbia.
- Ensure that all complaints are recorded and investigated in a timely manner, that appropriate action is taken to address complaints, and that regular updates and conclusion reports are provided to complainants.

Objective 1.7 Enhanced supervision and management of offenders based on court orders and risk to re-offend

Strategies:

- Develop new infrastructure to effectively address the increasing inmate population.
- Apply risk/needs assessments to sentenced offenders supervised in the community (and expand their application to sentenced offenders in custody) to provide information on the rehabilitative needs of offenders and their risk to re-offend.

Correctional Facilities in British Columbia

The Ministry operates nine correctional centres – two on Vancouver Island, two in Greater Vancouver, three in the Fraser Valley, one in the Interior and one in the North. The Ministry also operates over 50 community corrections offices that provide service to more than 400 communities across the province. To learn more, please go to www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/corrections/index.htm.

Objective 1.8 Applied and supported evidence-based case management and program delivery to address factors associated with re-offending

Strategies:

- Continue evidence-based community case management and engage in ongoing quality assurance activities, ensuring adherence to the principles of risk, need and responsivity.
- Provide correctional programs that are responsive to the needs of distinct offender groups, focus interventions on offenders most likely to re-offend, and address factors known to contribute to re-offending.

- Develop correctional programs to increase essential skills, such as life skills, literacy and employability.
- Increase inmate access to programming in custody centres.
- Continue 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.

Performance Measure 3: Percentage of community case management quality assurance activities that meets Community Corrections’ policy expectations overall

Performance Measure	2009/10 Forecast	2010/11 Target	2011/12 Target	2012/13 Target
Percentage of community case management quality assurance activities that meets Community Corrections’ policy expectations overall	83%	84%	85%	86%

Data source: Results for this measure are derived from the Corrections operating system. This is a new measure, with consistent data collection starting September 2009. Quality assurance activities include the reviews completed by local managers of probation officers’ work in the program areas of Alternative Measures, Bail Supervision, Core Facilitation, Interviewing, Pre-Sentence and Community Assessment Reports, and Risk/Needs Case Management. Ratings associated with reviews of Conditional Sentence Order Calculation will be added in 2010/11.

Discussion

This measure provides information on the steps taken to ensure high-quality and resource-effective case management. Local managers assess the case management work of probation officers with offenders to determine whether casework meets Community Corrections’ policy expectations. This is the integral first step in breaking the cycle of criminogenic behaviour and reducing recidivism. It is critical for probation officers to work with offenders to address factors associated with re-offending behaviour.

Performance Measure 4: Average number of program hours per month available to inmates in custody centres

Performance Measure	2009/10 Forecast	2010/11 Target	2011/12 Target	2012/13 Target
Average number of program hours per month available to inmates in custody centres	540	567	595	625

Data source: Results for this measure are derived from the Corrections operating system. Programs included for male offenders are Substance Abuse, Violence Prevention, and Respectful Relationships. Programs included for female offenders are Substance Abuse, Emotions Management, and Relationship Skills.

Discussion

This measure indicates the level of access inmates have to correctional programming linked to behavioural change that is provided in correctional centres across the province. The targets established represent annual increases of five per cent.

Accepting the premise that inmates who complete correctional programming are less likely to re-offend, the ultimate long-term outcome associated with this measure is reduced recidivism. Trends in recidivism rates are discussed in the Strategic Context section (see pages 6 and 7).

Objective 1.9 Support for reduction of the over-representation of Aboriginal people in the justice system

Strategies:

- Continue to work with other ministries, Aboriginal agencies and community representatives to address the root causes underlying the incidence of criminal behaviour and victimization within Aboriginal populations, to engage communities in the management of offenders, and to promote community healing.
- Support Aboriginal programming in correctional centres and communities, and work in partnership with Justice Canada to support 30 community-based Aboriginal Justice Programs and the Native Courtworker Program.
- Support over 20 victim service programs that focus on providing services to Aboriginal victims, including VictimLINK, a 24/7, 1-800 helpline which provides information, referral and assistance in 17 North American Aboriginal languages.

Goal 2 Individuals and communities in British Columbia receive support to prevent crime and reduce the harm caused by it

Objective 2.1 Timely information, assistance and support for victims of crime

Strategies:

- Support VictimLINK to provide crisis support to victims of family and sexual violence, and to provide information, referrals and assistance to victims of all crimes.
- Support 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.
- Provide funding and support to 68 outreach and multicultural outreach programs, and 188 counselling programs for women fleeing violence in their relationships and for children who witness abuse.

- Provide eligible victims of violent crime and their family members with financial assistance and other benefits through the Crime Victim Assistance Program.
- Through the Victim Safety Unit, provide victims of crime with access to 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.
- Deliver Court Support Programs at Vancouver’s Downtown Community Court, and in Port Coquitlam and Surrey, to assist victims of crime to understand and participate in the justice process by providing information, court accompaniment, and referrals to other justice and community services.
- Collaborate with community service organizations and all levels of government to ensure that trafficked persons in British Columbia are provided with the supports and services required to ensure their protection, aid their recovery and reduce their risk of being re-trafficked.
- Develop service networks for trafficked persons outside of the Lower Mainland (Vancouver Island, Interior and North).
- Develop protocols with key partners (RCMP, municipal police and others) to better coordinate services for trafficked persons.

Performance Measure 5: Average number of days to adjudicate claims for financial assistance from victims and others impacted by violent crime

Performance Measure	2009/10 Forecast	2010/11 Target	2011/12 Target	2012/13 Target
Average number of days to adjudicate claims for financial assistance from victims and others impacted by violent crime	150	150	150	150

Data source: Results for this measure are derived from the Electronic Victim Information System and manual records, taking into account the dates claims were received, the dates they were completed, and the cases that remain outstanding.

Discussion

This measure indicates the level of client service and system efficiency in administering the *Crime Victim Assistance Act*, providing victims and others impacted by violent crime with access to financial assistance and other benefits to assist in reducing the impact of crime. The consistent target of 150 days reflects an ambitious effort to maintain high levels of service despite continued increases in the number of applications (a 20 per cent increase since 2006).

To determine claimants’ eligibility for benefits, the Crime Victim Assistance Program must obtain supporting information from third parties, such as police and medical professionals. This reliance on third parties to provide information results in the majority of claims being adjudicated within five months; urgent cases requiring immediate assistance are expedited. The target of a 150-day average compares to a two-year timeframe in Ontario.

Objective 2.2 Support for community crime prevention and restorative justice programs

Strategies

- Continue to work with the federal government to implement crime prevention strategies to address issues such as youth gang violence and sexual exploitation.
- Assist community-based crime prevention and remediation initiatives.
- Support the Youth Against Violence Line, a toll-free, multilingual phone line and e-mail service available 24/7 for youth to report crime or seek help from local police or service providers.
- Support Crime Stoppers, a toll-free tip line and secure, online tip-taking program allowing citizens to anonymously report information about a crime or potential crime to the police without fear of reprisal.

Goal 3 Roads in British Columbia are safe for all road users

Objective 3.1 Increased Road Safety

Strategies:

- Develop and implement new approaches to address the increasing prevalence of impaired driving.
- Continue to support CounterAttack for RCMP and Independent Municipal Police to combat impaired driving, as well as the Impaired/Intersection Night-time Seatbelt Traffic Enforcement Project, through which the RCMP deploys officers at key times and locations to observe vehicles for signs of impaired driving or unbelted occupants. These efforts support other initiatives to remove drinking drivers from the roads, such as the Ignition Interlock Program.
- Enforce new legislation restricting the use of cellphones and other electronic devices while driving.
- Continue to work with police, the BC Coroners Service, ICBC and other stakeholders to develop specific policies and measures to improve road safety outcomes for motorcyclists. The focus will be on licensing requirements, training and skills development, and helmet standards.
- Maintain the Enhanced Traffic Enforcement Initiative, bringing together RCMP and Independent Municipal Police officers in Integrated Road Safety Units, and using targeted, data-driven, intelligence-led enforcement to identify and apprehend dangerous drivers.
- Continue to build on the success of the Integrated Municipal Provincial Auto Crime Team, bait cars, traffic safety helicopters and the Automated Licence Plate Recognition Program, which maximizes officer efficiency and safety by scanning licence plates to detect unlicensed, uninsured and prohibited drivers, as well as stolen vehicles.
- Curb aggressive driving at intersections by expanding the Intersection Safety Camera Program and installing digital cameras at 140 high-risk sites, enabling targeted enforcement at individual sites during periods when the risk is greatest.

- Enforce regulations under the *Motor Vehicle Act* to protect child passengers, including infant restraint configurations and booster seat requirements. British Columbia now has one of the most comprehensive sets of requirements in North America for booster seat use.

Performance Measures 6 and 7: Numbers of traffic fatalities and injuries per 100,000 population

Performance Measure	2008 Forecast ¹	2010 Target	2011 Target	2012 Target
Number of traffic fatalities per 100,000 population	8.0	3% reduction from 2009	3% reduction from 2010	3% reduction from 2011
Number of traffic injuries per 100,000 population	502.3	3% reduction from 2009	3% reduction from 2010	3% reduction from 2011

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. 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.

¹ These data are reported by calendar year. The forecast rates presented for 2008 are preliminary only and are subject to change. Rates for 2009 are not yet available.

Discussion

The most recent traffic injury and fatality rates available for British Columbia are for 2008. These rates are preliminary only until the various data sources (police, ICBC and the BC Coroners Service) have been fully reconciled and the final rates are approved.

Targets have been established based on a three per cent annual reduction in traffic fatalities and injuries. As the rates are affected by random variations from year to year, trends in the rates are most meaningful when considered over the long term. The influence of factors external to government programs must also be taken into account. For example, reductions in traffic injury and fatality rates that have occurred across North America from 2007 to 2008 may have been significantly influenced by downward economic trends and increases in the cost of fuel.¹⁶

Despite these considerations, reductions in fatalities and injuries over the long term remain the best indicators of road safety improvements.

¹⁶ The 2007 rates for British Columbia were 9.7 fatalities and 603 injuries per 100,000 population.

Goal 4 Emergency management in British Columbia minimizes the likelihood of emergencies and disasters and minimizes the negative impact of those that occur

Objective 4.1 Enhanced emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery

Strategies:

- Continue to work with and provide support to 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.
- Ensure that government’s essential services are maintained during business disruptions through support and coordination of all ministries’ and selected agencies’ business continuity planning.
- Coordinate provincial integrated planning and response to disasters and emergencies.
- Prepare multi-agency emergency management plans and update them as required to ensure that effective strategies are in place to address many possible types of emergencies and disasters. These plans foster cooperation among multiple organizations focusing on public safety, human consequence management, infrastructure and property protection, and managing the aftermath of events.
- Maximize the Province’s ability to recover funding from the federal government Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement (DFAA) Program through claims for all DFAA-eligible events.

Public Safety Lifeline Volunteers

About 13,000 people across the province volunteer their time and expertise in preparing for and responding to emergency situations. Registered volunteers participate in Search and Rescue, Emergency Social Services, Emergency Radio Communications, Provincial Emergency Program Air Search and Rescue, BC Road Rescue Service, and General Services. For more information, see www.pep.bc.ca/volunteer/volunteer.html.

Performance Measure 8: Percentage of critical Temporary Emergency Assignment Management System (TEAMS) positions filled by qualified Provincial Government volunteers

Performance Measure	2009/10 Forecast	2010/11 Target	2011/12 Target	2012/13 Target
Percentage of critical TEAMS positions filled by qualified Provincial Government volunteers	83%	93%	100%	100%

Data source: Results for this measure are derived from records kept during training and operational deployments.

Discussion

The Temporary Emergency Assignment Management System (TEAMS) is a staffing system that maintains a resource pool of Provincial Government employees from various ministries who, through formalized training and on-site mentoring, have achieved a high level of emergency management expertise and experience. TEAMS members fill key functional positions within the British Columbia Emergency Response Management System (BCERMS) in Regional and/or Provincial Emergency Coordination Centres across the province when they are activated in support of local communities responding to emergencies and disasters.

Critical TEAMS positions are those required to accommodate a small to moderate emergency or disaster response. Qualified TEAMS members include those who have developed and maintained their skills in either an exercise or field deployment scenario in the past 12 months, and who are registered with the program and available for rapid deployment.

The Ministry tracks the number of TEAMS members registered with the program as well as the average number of training and operational (deployed) days per TEAMS member as an indicator of the readiness of the provincial emergency management structure. The number of qualified TEAMS members currently required for a full provincial complement is 120.

Objective 4.2 Promotion of fire prevention, life safety and property protection programs

Strategies:

- Strengthen relationships among the Office of the Fire Commissioner, partner agencies and stakeholder groups, and enhance the support provided to fire departments, local governments and the public to ensure effective fire safety and prevention.
- Work with the Ministry of Forests and Range and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities to provide for structure protection during the wildfire season, primarily in regions of the province with no local authority fire departments.

Objective 4.3 Improved community safety and quality of life through death investigations

Strategies:

- Build upon the BC Coroners Service’s use of investigative protocols and advanced technology and statistical surveillance measures.
- Continue to develop the expertise of the BC Coroners Service’s Child Death Review Unit to review the deaths of all children 18 and under in British Columbia. The intent of these reviews is to better understand how and why children die, and to use those findings to prevent other deaths and improve the health, safety and well-being of all children in the province.
- Work with the Ministry of Health Services and other agencies to ensure availability of timely pathology and toxicology services.

Goal 5 Sound regulatory measures in British Columbia ensure consumer protection and fair business practices

Objective 5.1 Straightforward and effective consumer protection regulation and enforcement

Strategies:

- Provide effective oversight of the administration of consumer protection legislation by Consumer Protection BC and the Motor Vehicle Sales Authority of British Columbia, and continue to work with them to enforce consumer protection legislation and protect consumers’ interests.
- Undertake research and participate with other jurisdictions on emerging consumer issues, such as enforcement best practices and alternative consumer credit.
- Review areas requiring new or strengthened consumer protection legislation and regulation.

Resource Summary

Resource Summary Table

Core Business Area	2009/10 Restated Estimates ¹	2010/11 Estimates	2011/12 Plan	2012/13 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Corrections	190,688	192,904	192,102	192,102
Policing and Community Safety	282,362	294,169	294,274	295,274
Victim Services and Crime Prevention ..	42,204	41,874	41,679	41,679
Emergency Management BC ²	29,442	26,913	28,023	28,023
Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles	4,892	4,708	4,541	4,541
Executive and Support Services	12,985	11,594	11,543	11,543
Emergency Program Act ³	20,302	14,559	14,559	14,559
Statutory Services ⁴	14,316	14,805	14,805	14,805
Total	597,191	601,526	601,526	602,526

Core Business Area	2009/10 Restated Estimates	2010/11 Estimates	2011/12 Plan	2012/13 Plan
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)⁵				
Executive and Support Services	8,826	5,826	3,951	3,854
Total	8,826	5,826	3,951	3,854

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

² This core business area includes Integrated Planning and Mitigation, the Provincial Emergency Program, the Office of the Fire Commissioner and the 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 the Civil Forfeiture Account, the Corrections Work Program Account, the Forfeited Crime Proceeds Fund and the Victim Surcharge Special Account.

⁵ All Ministry operations capital has been centralized under one core business 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 2013/14 for three separate projects. Of these, the building of a correctional remand centre will add 180 cells to the current provincial capacity by mid-2013. In March 2009, the Ministry, assisted by the Metro Vancouver Mayors' Committee, identified various suitable sites for a new remand centre. Three municipalities submitted proposals. In October 2009, the Ministry announced that the existing Surrey Pretrial Services Centre would be expanded to add the 180 cells.

Benefits of the projects include: reduced overcrowding; reduced risk of inmate disturbances, staff assaults and liability to lawsuits; increased staff safety; and increased ability to meet the needs of inmates and their families. Challenges include 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 Minister Public Safety.....	250-953-4002
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

Hyperlinks to Additional Information

Access to Justice Network: www.acjnet.org/splash/default.aspx

BC Coroners Service: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/coroners

BC Corrections: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/corrections

Community Safety and Crime Prevention: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/crimeprevention

Consultation on Policy and Legislation: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/legislation

Consumer Protection BC: www.ConsumerProtectionBC.ca

Criminal Records Review: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/criminal-records-review

Federal Solicitor General: www.publicsafety.gc.ca

Guide Animal Certification: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/guideanimal

Insurance Corporation of BC: www.icbc.com

Justice Institute of BC: www.jibc.ca

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Legislation: www.leg.bc.ca/PROCS/allacts/pssg.htm

Motor Vehicle Sales Authority of BC: www.mdcbc.com

Municipal Police Forces in BC: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/police_services/forces

National Parole Board: www.npb-cnlc.gc.ca

Office of the Fire Commissioner: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/firecom

Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/osmv

Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/octip

Police Services: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/police_services

Provincial Emergency Program: www.pep.bc.ca/index.html

RCMP: www.rcmp-grc.ca

Security Industry Licensing: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/securityindustry

Victim Services: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/victim_services

Victim Services Directory: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/victim_services/directory