

**Ministry of  
Attorney General  
and Ministry of Public Safety  
and Solicitor General**

**2017/18 – 2019/20  
SERVICE PLAN**

September 2017



For more information on the Ministry of Attorney General and the  
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, contact:

Ministry of Attorney General  
PO Box 9044  
Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, B.C.  
V8W 9E2

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
PO BOX 9010  
Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, B.C.  
V8W 9E2

Or visit the websites of the  
[Ministry of Attorney General](#)  
and the  
[Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General](#)

Published by the Ministry of Attorney General and the  
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

## Attorney General Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Attorney General and Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2017/18 - 2019/20 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Eby".

Honourable David Eby, QC  
Attorney General  
August 31, 2017

## Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General Accountability Statement



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Honourable Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
August 31, 2017

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## **Purpose of the Ministries**

The Ministry of Attorney General and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General share the vision of a safe, secure, just and resilient British Columbia. The ministries work together to administer justice, deliver public safety services and programs, and provide legal advice to government.

The Ministry of Attorney General is responsible for the following program areas: administrative, civil and family justice services; court services; family maintenance enforcement; legal advice and services to government; legal aid; prosecution services; protection and promotion of human rights; gaming policy development, regulation and enforcement; and liquor licensing, enforcement and distribution.<sup>1</sup>

The areas of responsibility of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General are: policing and law enforcement; correctional services; restorative justice; crime prevention; victim services; coroners service; civil forfeiture; criminal record checks; private security industry regulation; consumer protection; road safety; emergency management, including preparedness, mitigation/prevention, response and recovery; flood protection and mitigation; and fire prevention and safety.<sup>2</sup>

## **Ministry Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures**

The goal of the Ministry of Attorney General and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General is to help government achieve the following three commitments to British Columbians:

- The first commitment is to make life more affordable. British Columbians are counting on government to make their lives easier by containing costs and service fees.
- The second commitment is to deliver the services that people count on. Government services touch the lives of British Columbians every day, and there is so much more that we can – and must – do to provide these services where and when people need them. Additionally, in many cases, critical programs and services are delivered by Crown corporations, and the Ministry of Attorney General will work with its Crown board chairs to improve levels of service to citizens.
- The third commitment is to build a strong, sustainable, innovative economy that works for everyone. Our government believes that all ministries and public sector organizations have a role to play in supporting broad-based economic growth, developing poverty reduction strategies, and helping create good-paying jobs in every region of the province.

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<sup>1</sup> In July 2017, responsibility for the following program areas and Crown corporations was transferred to the Ministry of Attorney General: Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch; Liquor Control and Licensing Branch; Liquor Distribution Branch; British Columbia Lottery Corporation; and Insurance Corporation of British Columbia. The Crowns, agencies, boards, commissions and other tribunals for which the Attorney General is responsible are summarized in Appendix B.

<sup>2</sup> In July 2017, responsibility for Emergency Management BC was transferred to the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. As well as the responsibilities identified above, the ministry is responsible for a number of agencies and boards (see Appendix B) and the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia (see Appendix C).

Integrating with these priorities is government's commitment to true, lasting reconciliation with First Nations in British Columbia, as we move towards fully adopting and implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Beyond our work in supporting these commitments, the Attorney General has been tasked in his [mandate letter](#) to achieve the following specific objectives and performance targets:

- Introduce legislation to reform campaign finance laws to ban political contributions by corporations and unions, and set limits on individual contributions;
- Introduce legislation to hold a province-wide referendum on proportional representation in the fall of 2018;
- Introduce legislation to reform lobbying in British Columbia;
- Re-establish the Human Rights Commission;
- Increase the number of court sheriffs, expand the use of duty counsel, and increase staffing of the Court Services Branch to address court delays;
- Improve and support legal aid, including Indigenous<sup>3</sup> legal services, dispute resolution services for families, and expanded poverty law services to increase access to justice;
- Work with Indigenous leadership and communities to set targets and take action to reduce the number of Indigenous people involved in the justice and public safety sector and incarcerated; and
- Conduct a comprehensive operating review of the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia.

The Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General has been tasked in his [mandate letter](#) to achieve the following specific objectives and performance targets:

- Provide more support to police efforts to disrupt the supply chain and advocate for increasing penalties for drug dealers who knowingly distribute death-dealing drugs;
- Take action on gang and gun violence;
- Work in partnership to implement the Surrey Accord and provide the Surrey Wrap program with increased, stable and secure annual funding;
- Increase annual funding to support women who experience domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes;

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<sup>3</sup> The word Indigenous is intended to be inclusive of anyone who is Aboriginal, First Nations, Metis or Inuit.

- Work with Indigenous leadership and communities to set targets and take action to reduce the number of Indigenous people involved in the justice and public safety sector;
- Recognize culture for its role in rehabilitation and recovery, and provide culturally diverse and appropriate correctional programming, particularly for Indigenous offenders;
- Increase support for initiatives that are proven to prevent and reduce crime, and increase the use of restorative justice programs, and
- Lead the provincial government's planning for the safe implementation of legalized non-medical cannabis.

The Ministry of Attorney General and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General will continue to develop specific objectives and performance measures for inclusion in our 2018/19 – 2020/21 service plan, which will be released with *Budget 2018*.

## Resource Summary – Ministry of Attorney General

Core Business Area	2016/17 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2017/18 Estimates	2018/19 Plan	2019/20 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
<b>Justice Services</b>	110,297	113,154	114,016	114,087
<b>Prosecution Services</b>	126,598	127,889	131,021	131,021
<b>Court Services</b>	99,496	105,321	105,471	105,471
<b>Legal Services</b>	21,207	22,491	24,033	24,033
<b>Agencies, Boards, Commissions and other Tribunals</b>	23,394	23,550	23,774	23,774
<b>Liquor Control and Licensing</b>	1	1	1	1
<b>Gaming Policy and Enforcement</b>	19,055	19,146	19,220	19,220
<b>Executive and Support Services</b>	15,833	15,684	16,052	16,052
<b>Judiciary</b>	71,786	74,388	74,738	74,738
<i>Crown Proceeding Act</i>	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500
<b>Independent Investigations Office</b>	7,552	7,574	7,614	7,614
<b>Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>519,719</b>	<b>533,698</b>	<b>540,440</b>	<b>540,511</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>				
<b>Agencies, Boards, Commissions and other Tribunals</b>	10	10	10	10
<b>Liquor Control and Licensing</b>	318	187	187	187
<b>Executive and Support Services</b>	4,842	4,118	4,067	4,533
<b>Judiciary</b>	570	570	570	570
<b>Independent Investigations Office</b>	145	0	0	0
<b>Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account</b>	363	363	363	363
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,248</b>	<b>5,248</b>	<b>5,197</b>	<b>5,663</b>

Ministry of Attorney General  
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Core Business Area	2016/17 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2017/18 Estimates	2018/19 Plan	2019/20 Plan
<b>Other Financing Transactions (\$000)</b>				
<b>Receipts</b>	(2,900)	(2,900)	(2,900)	(2,900)
<b>Disbursements</b>	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,900
<b>Total Net Cash Source (Requirements)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<sup>1</sup> For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2016/17 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2017/18 *Estimates*.

\* Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

## Major Capital Projects

Major Capital Projects (over \$50 million)	Targeted Completion Date (Year)	Project Cost to June 30, 2017 (\$ millions)	Estimated Cost to Complete (\$ millions)	Approved Anticipated Total Capital Cost of Project (\$ millions)
<p><b>Abbotsford Courthouse</b></p> <p>Construction of a new 14 room courthouse in Abbotsford adds needed court capacity and supports the <a href="#">Lower Fraser Valley Regional Plan Court Capacity Expansion Project Final Report</a>.</p> <p>The project is to be delivered as a public-private partnership, with the private partner providing the design, construction, partial financing and facility maintenance for a 30-year period following construction. Construction is to begin in 2018 with facility operations beginning in 2020.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>The new courthouse will double the number of courtrooms available in the current facility and create over a thousand jobs during the course of construction.</p>	2020	2	155	157

<sup>1</sup> Note that the Ministry of Attorney General is the project lead for reporting purposes, while the project capital budget resides with the Ministry of Citizens' Services.

## Resource Summary – Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Core Business Area	2016/17 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2017/18 Estimates	2018/19 Plan	2019/20 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
<b>Corrections</b>	232,161	269,485	270,762	270,618
<b>Policing and Security</b>	356,850	401,036	389,358	389,285
<b>Victim Services and Crime Prevention</b>	40,387	40,818	41,709	41,756
<b>BC Coroners Service</b>	12,339	15,493	16,560	16,703
<b>RoadSafetyBC</b>	9,202	13,791	14,087	14,116
<b>Emergency Management BC</b>	15,397	15,462	15,550	15,550
<i>Emergency Program Act</i>	14,475	237,968 <sup>2</sup>	14,728	14,728
<b>Executive and Support Services</b>	17,223	18,791	19,250	19,251
<b>Statutory Services<sup>3</sup></b>	14,785	16,780	16,280	16,284
<b>Total</b>	<b>712,819</b>	<b>1,029,624</b>	<b>798,284</b>	<b>798,291</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>				
<b>Executive and Support Services</b>	16,342	4,903	13,137	12,017
<b>Total</b>	16,342	4,903	13,137	12,017
<b>Other Financing Transactions (\$000)</b>				
<b>Receipts</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>Disbursements</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Net Cash Source (Requirements)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<sup>1</sup> For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2016/17 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2017/18 *Estimates*.

<sup>2</sup> The *Emergency Program Act* 2017/18 estimate includes forecasted expenditures to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

<sup>3</sup> Statutory Services includes Civil Forfeiture Account, Corrections Work Program Account, Criminal Asset Management Fund, and Victim Surcharge Special Account.

\* Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

## Appendix A: Ministry Contact Information and Hyperlinks to Additional Information

### Ministers' Offices:

Honourable David Eby, QC  
Attorney General  
PO Box 9044 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2  
Phone: 250-387-1866  
Fax: 250-387-6411

Honourable Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
PO Box 9010 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2  
Phone: 250-356-2178  
Fax: 250-356-2142

**Media Enquiries:** 250-387-1753

### [Domestic Violence Helpline](#)

1-800-563-0808

Confidential; 24 hours/7 days; multiple languages

### [Families Change](#)

Age-appropriate information to help kids, teens and parents deal with a family break up. The website was produced by the Justice Education Society in collaboration with the Ministry of Attorney General.

### [Human Trafficking Helpline](#)

1-888-712-7974

Confidential; 24 hours/7 days; multiple languages

For assistance with human trafficking cases, including emergency services, and accessing shelter, interpretation and translation services.

### [Office of the Fire Commissioner](#)

1-888-988-9488

24 hours/7days

### [Problem Gambling Hotline](#)

1-888-795-6111

24 hours/7days; multiple languages

Information about, or referrals to, free problem gambling education and support services.

### [#SaySomething](#)

Social media site; multiple languages

Resources for domestic violence victims, perpetrators, service providers and the family members, friends and bystanders who want to help.

### [VictimLink BC](#)

Call at 1-800-563-0808; Text at 604-836-6381; Email at [VictimLinkBC@bc211.ca](mailto:VictimLinkBC@bc211.ca)

Confidential; 24 hours/7 days; multiple languages

Provides help and information for victims of family and sexual violence, and all other crimes.

## **Ministry of Attorney General**

### Office of the Deputy Attorney General

- 250-356-0149

### BC Prosecution Service

- 250-387-3840

### [Court Services Branch](#)

- 250-356-1550

### [Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch](#)

- 250-387-5311

### [Justice Services Branch](#)

- 250-356-6582
  - [Child Protection Mediation](#)
  - [Dispute Resolution Office](#)
  - [Family Justice Centres](#)
  - [Family Maintenance Enforcement Program](#)
  - [Investigation and Standards Office](#)
  - [Justice Access Centres](#)

### Legal Services Branch

- 250-356-8467

### [Liquor Control and Licensing Branch](#)

- 1-866-209-2111

### [Liquor Distribution Branch](#)

- 604-252-3000

## **Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

Office of the Deputy Solicitor General

- 250-356-0149

Office of the Deputy Minister, Emergency Management BC

- 250-356-9400

### [BC Coroners Service](#)

### [Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch](#)

- 604-660-5199
  - [Civil Forfeiture Office](#)
  - [Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons](#)
  - [Victim Services](#)

### [Corrections Branch](#)

- 250-387-5059

### [Policing and Security Branch](#)

- 250-387-1100

### [RoadSafetyBC](#)

- 250-387-7747

### [Office of the Fire Commissioner](#)

- 1-888-988-9488

## Appendix B: Crown Corporations, Agencies, Boards, Commissions and other Tribunals

### Ministry of Attorney General

#### [Attorney General's BC Supreme Court Rules Committee](#)

The Attorney General's BC Supreme Court Rules Committee assists the Attorney General in making recommendations to the Lieutenant Governor in Council respecting changes to the written rules governing the conduct of litigation in the Supreme Court of British Columbia. The Committee actively pursues opportunities to simplify the language and procedures in the rules to make them more accessible to the public while seeking opportunity to enhance access to justice through the rules.

#### [BC Ferry Commission](#)

The BC Ferry Commission is a quasi-judicial regulatory agency operating under the *Coastal Ferry Act*. The Commission regulates the ferry operator, British Columbia Ferry Services Inc. (BC Ferries) on 25 saltwater routes and is independent of the government and BC Ferries. The primary responsibility of the Commissioner is to regulate ferry fares. The Commissioner sets a price cap on the average level of fares which BC Ferries can charge, the goal of which is to balance the interests of ferry users with the interests of taxpayers while protecting the financial sustainability of the ferry operator. Other key tasks include: monitoring adherence to the terms of the Coastal Ferry Services Contract; approval of major capital expenditures; regulating unfair competitive advantage; and the approval and monitoring of BC Ferries' customer complaints process.

#### [BC Human Rights Tribunal](#)

The BC Human Rights Tribunal is responsible for accepting, screening, mediating and adjudicating complaints under the *Human Rights Code*. It provides parties the opportunity to resolve complaints through mediation; complaints that are not resolved through mediation proceed to a hearing before the Tribunal. The Tribunal is accountable to the legislature through the Attorney General and functions independently of government on all matters related to adjudication of complaints. Orders of the Tribunal are enforceable in the British Columbia Supreme Court.

#### [BC Lottery Corporation](#)

The BC Lottery Corporation (BCLC) is a crown corporation governed by the *Gaming Control Act*. Its mandate is to conduct, manage and operate lottery, casino, commercial bingo and internet gambling in a socially responsible way for the benefit of British Columbians. BCLC is regulated by the Gaming Policy Enforcement Branch, Ministry of Attorney General, which is responsible for regulating all gaming in the province, including horse racing and charitable gaming. BCLC also adheres to the federal financial regulator, FINTRAC, in its anti-money laundering practices.

#### [British Columbia Review Board](#)

The British Columbia Review Board conducts hearings to review and assess the mental condition and level of threat to the public posed by mentally disordered accused persons for the purpose of

determining whether they should be absolutely or conditionally discharged, or detained in a designated place of custody.

### [British Columbia Utilities Commission](#)

The British Columbia Utilities Commission operates under the *Utilities Commission Act*, regulating utilities to ensure customers receive safe, reliable and non-discriminatory energy services at fair rates, and that shareholders of those utilities are afforded a reasonable opportunity to earn a fair return on their invested capital.

### [Building Code Appeal Board](#)

Under the *Building Act (Part 4, sections 19-21)*, the Building Code Appeal Board resolves disputes regarding the *British Columbia Building Code* on whether a matter conforms to a building regulation. The *British Columbia Building Code* establishes minimum standards for residential and commercial building construction.

### [Civil Resolution Tribunal](#)

The Civil Resolution Tribunal (CRT) is responsible for providing online, facilitation and adjudication services under the *Civil Resolution Tribunal Act*. It provides parties with the opportunity to resolve complaints through online self-help information and tools, through facilitation services delivered mainly by tribunal staff, and through adjudications delivered by tribunal members. The CRT is accountable to the legislature through the Attorney General and functions independently of government on all matters related to adjudication of complaints. Orders of the CRT are enforceable in British Columbia's Provincial Court and Supreme Court.

### [Community Care and Assisted Living Appeal Board](#)

The Community Care and Assisted Living Appeal Board was created under the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* to hear and decide appeals from licensing, registration and certification decisions about community care facilities, assisted living residences, and early childhood educators.

### [Employment Standards Tribunal](#)

The Employment Standards Tribunal was established under the *Employment Standards Act* with a mandate to conduct appeals of Determinations issued by the Director of Employment Standards and may also reconsider any order or decision it makes.

### [Environmental Appeal Board](#)

The Environmental Appeal Board resolves disputes related to decisions made by government officials on environmental issues. These decisions include water licences, contaminated site remediation orders, pesticide permits and the cancellation of hunting licences, among other things. The Environmental Appeal Board plays a role in ensuring the protection and wise use of the environment by providing a quasi-judicial access point for the public and industry to appeal certain government decisions.

### [Financial Services Tribunal](#)

The Financial Services Tribunal hears appeals from individuals and institutions who want to contest enforcement decisions made by the Insurance Council of British Columbia, the Real Estate Council of British Columbia, the Superintendent of Real Estate, the Superintendent of Pensions, the Registrar of Mortgage Brokers, and the Superintendent of Financial Institutions. It provides an avenue of appeal for those who believe that they have been wrongly limited or denied the ability to work in one of the regulated occupations to which an appeal lies to the tribunal. The Financial Services Tribunal has jurisdiction to hear appeals under the following statutes: *Financial Institutions Act*, *Credit Union Incorporation Act*, *Mortgage Brokers Act*, *Real Estate Services Act*, *Pension Benefits Standards Act* and *Real Estate Development Marketing Act*.

### [Forest Appeals Commission](#)

The Forest Appeals Commission resolves disputes related to decisions made by government officials on forests and the environment under the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* and continued under the *Forest and Range Practices Act*.

### [Health Professions Review Board](#)

The Health Professions Review Board was created under the *Health Professions Act* to provide an independent review of certain decisions made by the self-governing colleges of designated health professions regarding the registration of their members and the timeliness and disposition of complaints made against their registrants.

### [Hospital Appeal Board](#)

The Hospital Appeal Board was created under the *Hospital Act* to provide medical practitioners with an avenue of appeal from hospital board of management decisions affecting hospital privileges.

### [Independent Investigations Office of BC](#)

The Independent Investigations Office was established to conduct civilian-based investigations of police officer involved incidents of death or serious harm. The office is under the direction of the Chief Civilian Director, a position for which one cannot have ever served as a police officer.

### [Industry Training Appeal Board](#)

The Industry Training Appeal Board hears appeals under section 10 of the *Industry Training Authority Act*. The Board's fundamental purpose is to provide a specialized independent, accessible and cost-effective forum for the hearing of appeals from decisions of the Industry Training Authority regarding trainees and industry training credentials.

### [Insurance Corporation of British Columbia](#)

The Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) is a provincial Crown corporation mandated by the *Insurance Corporation Act*, the *Insurance (Vehicle) Act* and the *Motor Vehicle Act* to provide universal compulsory auto insurance (basic insurance) to drivers in B.C., with rates regulated by the British Columbia Utilities Commission. Similar to other vehicle owners across Canada, motorists in B.C. are required by law to purchase a minimum level of basic vehicle insurance. In addition to

providing basic vehicle insurance, ICBC offers various optional vehicle insurance coverages, including extended third-party liability, collision, and comprehensive and vehicle storage.

### [Investigation and Standards Office](#)

The Investigation and Standards Office is an independent body of the Ministry of Attorney General. Its responsibilities include: investigating complaints made by inmates at provincial correctional centres and probationers supervised in the community; reviewing inmate disciplinary appeals; inspecting facilities and processes used by court services; and participating in critical incident reviews conducted by BC Corrections, or as determined by the director.

### [Judicial Council of British Columbia](#)

The *Provincial Court Act* establishes the Judicial Council, a body of nine people with responsibility for improving the quality of services provided by the judicial officers of the Provincial Court. Its main functions are to advise the government on the appointment of Provincial Court judges and judicial justices and, when necessary, undertake inquiries into their conduct. Its duties under the *Provincial Court Act* include: screening candidates applying for appointment as judges and judicial justices, and retired judges' applications for reappointment; conducting inquiries regarding the conduct of judges and judicial justices; considering proposals for improving the Court's judicial services; continuing the education of judicial officers; preparing and revising, in consultation with the judicial officers, a Code of Ethics for the judiciary; and reporting to the Attorney General on matters which the Attorney General considers necessary.

### [Labour Relations Board](#)

The Labour Relations Board has a mandate to mediate and adjudicate employment and labour relations matters related to unionized workplaces. The *Labour Relations Code* establishes the Board and governs all aspects of collective bargaining amongst the provincially-regulated employers and employees. This includes the acquisition of collective bargaining rights, the process of collective bargaining, the settlement and regulation of disputes in both the public and private sectors, and the regulation of the representation of persons by their bargaining agents.

### [Legal Services Society](#)

The Legal Services Society provides legal aid in British Columbia as set out in the *Legal Services Society Act*. Services include legal information and advice to, and representation of, people with low incomes. The provincial government provides most of the society's funding, but the Legal Services Society remains independent of government. The society reports its activities to government through the Attorney General and determines the range of services it will provide within the framework of a memorandum of understanding negotiated with the Attorney General every three years.

### [Liquor Distribution Branch](#)

The Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB) is one of two branches of government responsible for the beverage alcohol industry in British Columbia. The *Liquor Distribution Act* gives the LDB the sole right to purchase beverage alcohol both within B.C. and from outside the province, in accordance with the federal *Importation of Intoxicating Liquors Act*. As the sole buyer and re-seller of liquor in the province's mixed public-private model, the LDB is one of the largest liquor purchasers in the world.

### [Mental Health Review Board](#)

The Mental Health Review Board was created under the *Mental Health Act* to conduct hearings to review and decide whether persons certified /detained at any mental health facility in B.C. should continue to be certified /detained based on criteria in the Act. The Board's function is to ensure that patients who are certified by physicians and detained involuntarily in provincial mental health facilities have access to an objective and timely review process.

### [Notaries Public Board of Examiners](#)

B.C. Notaries provide non-contentious legal services to the public. The purpose of the Notaries Public Board of Examiners is to conduct and mark the statutory examinations of all applicants for enrolment as members of the Society of Notaries Public of British Columbia.

### [Oil and Gas Appeal Tribunal](#)

The Oil and Gas Appeal Tribunal hears appeals from decisions of the Oil and Gas Commission which include certain orders, declarations, findings of contravention, administrative penalties and permitting decisions in relation to an 'oil and gas activity' such as geophysical exploration, the construction or operation of a pipeline, road construction, and the production, gathering, processing, storage or disposal of petroleum, natural gas or both.

### [Property Assessment Appeal Board](#)

The Property Assessment Appeal Board was established under the *Assessment Act* and is the second level of appeal following the Property Assessment Review Panels. The most common issues in assessment appeals deal with a property's market value, fairness compared to the assessments of other similar properties, property classification and exemptions from taxation.

### [Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia](#)

The Public Guardian and Trustee is a corporation sole established under the *Public Guardian and Trustee Act* with a unique statutory role to protect the interests of British Columbians who lack legal capacity to protect their own interests. The mandate of the Public Guardian and Trustee is to: protect the legal and financial interests of children under the age of 19; protect the legal, financial, personal and health care interests of adults who require assistance in decision making; and administer the estates of deceased and missing persons.

### [Safety Standards Appeal Board](#)

The Safety Standards Appeal Board was created under section 43 of the *Safety Standards Act*. The Board hears appeals of decisions made under the *Safety Standards Act* by provincial safety officers and safety managers. The Board also hears appeals of decisions made by the Registrar of the Homeowner Protection Office under the *Homeowner Protection Act*.

### [Surface Rights Board](#)

The Surface Rights Board was established under the *Petroleum and Natural Gas Act (PNGA)*. Under the *PNGA*, the *Mining Right of Way Act*, the *Mineral Tenure Act*, the *Geothermal Resources Act*, and

the *Coal Act*, the Board has jurisdiction to resolve disputes between landowners and companies that require access to private land to explore for, develop, or produce Crown-owned subsurface resources such as oil, gas, coal, minerals and geothermal.

## **Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

### [Consumer Protection BC](#)

Consumer Protection BC was established in 2004 under the *Business Practices and Consumer Protection Authority Act* and, as delegated by the provincial government, is responsible for administering British Columbia's consumer protection laws – namely the *Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act*, the *Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act*, and the *Motion Picture Act* – along with a variety of associated consumer protection regulations. It is a not-for-profit corporation that protects consumers and encourages a fair marketplace in the province.

### [Police Boards](#)

Under the *Police Act* in British Columbia, municipal police departments are overseen by an appointed police board consisting of civilian members of the community. Police boards act as the conduit between the community and the police. They set the priorities, goals and objectives for the department and are responsible for developing the annual department budget.

### [Vehicle Sales Authority of British Columbia](#)

The Vehicle Sales Authority of British Columbia is an administrative authority delegated by the provincial government to administer and enforce the *Motor Dealer Act* and its regulations, as well as the *Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act* as it relates to the sale of motor vehicles. Founded in 2004 and formerly named the Motor Dealer Council of BC, the agency became one of the first examples of government's new approach for administering public policy through a delegated administrative authority.

## **Appendix C: Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia**

In 1999, the Organized Crime Agency of British Columbia (OCABC) was created as an independent Designated Policing and Law Enforcement Unit under the *Provincial Police Act*.

In 2004, the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit-British Columbia (CFSEU-BC) was developed in consultation with the provincial government as an initiative to integrate the OCABC, the municipal police departments, and the RCMP. The Board of Governance for the OCABC also acts as the Board of Governance for the CFSEU-BC. The Board is comprised of: the Deputy Commissioner Pacific Region and Commanding Officer “E” Division RCMP; the President of the BC Association of Chiefs of Police; the President of the BC Association of Municipal Chiefs of Police; and the Chief Constable of the Vancouver Police Department. The Board determines the strategic direction of the CFSEU-BC and ensures its operational priorities are aligned with the policing priorities for British Columbia. The CFSEU-BC operates under the RCMP policies and procedures. Board members do not receive any remuneration.

The Chief Officer in charge of the CFSEU-BC leads an executive team comprised of civilian members in addition to regular RCMP and Municipal officers seconded from across the province. The CFSEU-BC Gang Enforcement Unit, Investigation Teams, and the Joint Illegal Gaming Investigation Team are just a few of the teams that fall under the responsibility of the CFSEU-BC. Offices for the CFSEU-BC are located in the Lower Mainland, Prince George, Kelowna, and Victoria.

The mission of the CFSEU-BC is to facilitate the disruption and suppression of organized crime that affects British Columbians. Its mandate is to investigate, prosecute, disrupt, and suppress criminal organizations, consistent with local, regional, national, and international priorities. The CFSEU-BC also supports other agencies by assisting in organized crime and major crime investigations. More information can be found at: [www.cfseu.bc.ca](http://www.cfseu.bc.ca).