

**Ministry of
Environment and
Climate Change Strategy
and the
Environmental Assessment Office**

**2017/18 – 2019/20
SERVICE PLAN**

September 2017



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Climate Change Strategy contact:

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Minister Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and the Environmental Assessment Office 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 blue ink that reads "G. Heyman". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
August 30, 2017

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Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is responsible for the protection, management and conservation of B.C.'s water, land, air and living resources and for setting strategic direction for government's climate change agenda. Its expertise in policy, science, research and analysis are central to supporting all its responsibilities. Ministry legislation, regulations, and public outreach activities ensure a sustainable and prosperous environment for British Columbians.

Key Ministry functions include:

- Leading action on climate change
- Regulating discharges to the environment
- Proactively responding to environmental risks
- Conserving B.C.'s biodiversity including ecosystems, native species and natural habitats
- Managing the province's parks and protected areas
- Developing legislation, regulations and policies based on sound scientific knowledge and expertise
- Environmental monitoring, data management and reporting
- Monitoring and enforcing compliance with environmental laws and regulations

The Ministry strives to ensure that all British Columbians will continue to benefit from the effective and prudent management of natural resources, allowing future generations to enjoy a safe and healthy environment.

Purpose of the Environmental Assessment Office

The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) neutrally administers the environmental assessment (EA) process as defined in the [Environmental Assessment Act](#), which requires proposed major projects be assessed for potentially significant adverse environmental, social, economic, health and heritage effects. The EAO seeks to meaningfully engage the public and Aboriginal groups in the EA process and is responsible for overseeing compliance and enforcement of reviewable projects throughout the life of the project. Additional information regarding the EA process can be found on the [EAO website](#).

Ministry Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and the Environmental Assessment Office's goals are 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 our Ministry will work with 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.

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 Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy has been tasked in the [mandate letter](#) to achieve the following specific objectives and performance targets:

- Renew the Climate Leadership Team within the first 100 days of receiving our mandate;
- Implement a comprehensive climate-action strategy that provides a pathway for B.C. to prosper economically while meeting carbon pollution reduction targets, including setting a new legislated 2030 reduction target and establishing separate sectoral reduction targets and plans;
- Work with the Minister of Finance to implement an increase of the carbon tax by \$5 per tonne per year, beginning April 1, 2018 to meet the federal government's carbon-pricing mandate. Take measures to expand the carbon tax to fugitive emissions and to slash-pile burning;
- Revitalize the Environmental Assessment process and review the professional reliance model to ensure the legal rights of First Nations are respected, and the public's expectation of a strong, transparent process is met;
- Employ every tool available to defend B.C.'s interests in the face of the expansion of the Kinder Morgan pipeline, and the threat of a seven-fold increase in tanker traffic on our coast; and
- Enact an endangered species law and harmonize other laws to ensure they are all working towards the goal of protecting our beautiful province.

Our Ministry and Office will continue to develop specific objectives and performance measures for inclusion in our 2018/19 Service Plan, which will be released with *Budget 2018*.

Resource Summary: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy	2016/17 Restated Estimates ¹	2017/18 Estimates	2018/19 Plan	2019/20 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Environmental Protection	8,560	11,531	11,726	11,488
Environmental Sustainability	22,687	22,730	22,972	22,972
BC Parks ²	31,158	49,266	39,669	39,578
Conservation Office Service	15,284	15,476	15,676	15,676
Climate Action ³	17,526	16,535	14,645	12,845
Executive and Support Services	21,967	23,069	23,123	23,099
Sub-Total	117,182	138,607	127,811	125,658
Park Enhancement Fund ⁴	1,800	3,675	1,800	1,800
Sustainable Environment Fund	18,935	18,935	18,935	18,935
Total	137,917	161,217	148,546	146,393
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)				
Executive and Support Services ⁵	17,537	22,085	24,409	18,043
Park Enhancement Fund	400	400	400	400
Total	17,937	22,485	24,809	18,443
Other Financing Transactions (\$000)				
Climate Action Greenhouse Gas Emissions offsets				
Disbursements ⁶	13,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Net Cash (Requirements)	(13,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)
Total Disbursements	13,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Total Net Cash Source (Requirements)	(13,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)

Notes:

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2016/17 are consistent with the presentation of the 2017/18 Estimates.

² BC Parks increase from 2016/17 is related to new investments in the provincial parks system.

³ Climate Action decreases of \$1.8 million each year related to scheduled industry program development payments.

⁴ Park Enhancement Fund expenditures increase in 2017/18 resulted from increased revenues.

⁵ Ministry Capital Expenditures, Executive and Support Services increase related to expansion of campsites within BC Parks.

⁶ Other Financing Transactions decrease of \$3.0 million commencing in 2017/18 resulted from a scheduled reduction of contractual obligations to purchase Greenhouse Gas Emissions offset for inventory.

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

Resource Summary: The Environmental Assessment Office

Environmental Assessment Office	2016/17 Restated Estimates ¹	2017/18 Estimates	2018/19 Plan	2019/20 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Environmental Assessment Office	11,828	11,870	11,882	11,773

Notes:

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2016/17 are consistent with the presentation of the 2017/18 *Estimates*.

Appendix A: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Contact Information

Headquarters

Victoria Office

Telephone: 250 387-9886

Fax: 250 387-6003

Website: www.gov.bc.ca/env/

Additional contact information can be found at www.gov.bc.ca/env/contacts.html

Regional Offices

Coast Region

West Coast

Nanaimo Office:

Telephone: 250 751-3100

Fax: 250 751-3103

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/van-island/

Other offices: Black Creek, Duncan, Goldstream Park, Queen Charlotte City, Parksville, Port Alberni, Port Hardy, Ucluelet

South Coast

Surrey Office:

Telephone: 604 582-5200

Fax: 604 930-7119

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/lower-mainland/

Other offices: Brackendale (Squamish), Cultus Lake, Maple Ridge, North Vancouver, Sechelt, Powell River

Southern Interior Region

Cariboo/Thompson

Kamloops Office:

Telephone: 250 371-6200

Fax: 250 828-4000

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/thompson/

Williams Lake Office:

Telephone: 250 398-4530

Fax: 250 398-4214

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/cariboo/

Other offices: Clearwater, Lillooet, Merritt, Kelowna, Oliver, Princeton, Vernon, 100 Mile House, Quesnel

Kootenay/Okanagan

Nelson Office:

Telephone: 250 354-6333

Fax: 250 354-6332

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/kootenay/

Other offices: Castlegar, Creston/West Creston, Fernie, Grand Forks, Invermere, Golden, Revelstoke

Penticton Office:

Telephone: 250 490-8200

Fax: 250 490-2231

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/okanagan/

Cranbrook Office:

Telephone: 250 489-8540

Fax: 250 489-8506

Northern Region

Skeena

Smithers Office:

Telephone: 250 847-7260

Fax: 250 847-7591

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/skeena/

Other offices: Atlin, Burns Lake, Dease Lake, Terrace/Lakelse Lake

Omineca

Environmental Protection Division

Conservation Officer Service

Prince George Office:

Telephone: 250 565-6135

Fax: 250 565-6629

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/omineca/

Other offices: Vanderhoof, Mackenzie, Mount Robson, Fort St. James

Environmental Sustainability

Parks and Protected Areas Division

Prince George Office:

Telephone: 250 565-6135

Fax: 250 565-6940

Peace

Fort St. John Office:

Telephone: 250 787-3411

Fax: 250 787-3490

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/peace/

Other offices: Chetwynd/Moberly Lake Park, Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson/Liard Hot Springs

Water Stewardship Division:

Phone: 250 565-6135

Fax: 250 565-6629

Report all Poachers and Polluters

Telephone: Dial Toll-Free 1-877-952-7277

Website: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/rapp/form.htm>

Appendix B: Environment Assessment Office Contact Information

Victoria Office

836 Yates Street

PO Box 9426 Stn Prov Govt

Victoria B.C. V8W 9V1

Email: eaoinfo@gov.bc.ca

Website: www.eao.gov.bc.ca

Additional contact information can be found at http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca/contact_us.html