

**Ministry of  
Jobs, Trade and  
Technology**

**2018/19 – 2020/21  
SERVICE PLAN**

**February 2018**



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Published by the Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology

## Minister Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology 2018/19 - 2020/21 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 "Bruce Ralston".

Honourable Bruce Ralston  
Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology  
February 2, 2018

## Minister of State Accountability Statement



I am the Minister of State for Trade and under the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act*, I am accountable for achieving in 2018/19 the results listed in Appendix B of this service plan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Chow".

Honourable George Chow  
Minister of State for Trade  
February 2, 2018

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## Purpose of the Ministry

The [Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology](#) works to make life more affordable for British Columbians by building a strong, sustainable, innovative economy that works for everyone.

The Ministry helps build a strong economy by:

- Attracting, supporting and retaining innovative companies that create good local jobs;
- Investing in infrastructure;
- Revitalizing traditional industries like forestry and mining by supporting technology-enabled innovation;
- Providing economic development tools, information resources and in-person training and workshops throughout B.C.;
- Celebrating community success and leveraging our stakeholder relationships;
- Connecting and facilitating relationships with industry, start-ups, businesses, local governments, post-secondary institutions, partner agencies and networks in B.C.;
- Leading development and implementation of comprehensive economic strategies, policies and programs to support economic growth and diversification across the province;
- Ensuring the availability of venture capital to help B.C. technology businesses grow;
- Promoting and facilitating Indigenous Peoples' participation in the economy;
- Attracting, welcoming and supporting newcomers so that they can find work at their skill level and contribute to our economy;
- Delivering programs and initiatives to support growth and export opportunities for our expanding small business sector;
- Ensuring a high quality and streamlined regulatory environment; and
- Advocating, protecting and advancing B.C.'s interests in trade negotiations and disputes.

This is also achieved by delivering services that expand exports across sectors; opening markets for B.C. goods and services in the United States, Europe and Asia; attracting strategic investments into all regions of the province, including rural communities; and developing and growing strategic relationships and international partnerships, including innovation agreements. The Ministry is committed to true, lasting reconciliation with Indigenous people, and brings the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission into the Ministry's culture.

The Ministry has an oversight role for the following Crown corporations: [Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd.](#), the [BC Immigrant Investment Fund](#), [BC Renaissance Capital Fund](#), the [BC Innovation Council](#) and the [Nechako-Kitimaat Development Fund Society](#). The Ministry also has legislative or oversight responsibility for a number of agencies, boards and commissions, including: [Small Business BC](#), the [Indigenous Business Investment Council](#), the [North Island-Coast Development Initiative Trust](#), the [Northern Development Initiative Trust](#), the [Premier's Technology Council](#), the [Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust](#) and the [Small Business Roundtable](#). For more information about the Ministry's many areas of responsibility and key initiatives, visit the [Ministry's website](#).

## Strategic Direction and Alignment with Government Priorities

Premier John Horgan’s July 18, 2017 [Mandate Letter](#) to the Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology included direction to advance the following priorities:

- Establish B.C. as a preferred location for new and emerging technologies by supporting venture capital investment in B.C. start-ups, taking measures to increase the growth of domestic B.C. tech companies and removing barriers to attracting and repatriating skilled workers.
- Ensure that the benefits of technology and innovation are felt around the province by working with rural and northern communities and equity-seeking groups to make strategic investments that support innovation and job growth.
- Establish an Emerging Economy Task Force and establish an Innovation Commission to advocate for the technology sector.
- Work with the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development to advocate for a fair deal for B.C. in softwood lumber negotiations with the United States, and to increase employment in the forestry and innovative wood manufacturing sectors.
- Work with the Ministry of Finance to cut the small-business tax rate and create a Small Business Task Force.
- Create a framework to promote local hiring on government projects.
- Work with the Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training to improve credential assessments and create a centre to coordinate and educate newcomers in their fields.
- Develop B.C.’s national and international trade relations.

The Ministry is aligned with the Government’s key priorities:

Government Priorities	Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology Aligns with These Priorities By:
Making life more affordable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting current and emerging economic opportunities and investment attraction across B.C.’s diverse economy. (Objective 1.1)</li> <li>• Ensuring the benefits of a strong and growing economy are felt across the province. (Objective 1.3)</li> <li>• Enhancing investment attraction and economic opportunities within each of B.C.’s key sectors. (Objective 2.1)</li> </ul>
Delivering the services people count on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helping inform investment decisions throughout B.C. by providing access to geospatial data in the BC Economic Atlas web-mapping tool and other information on the britishcolumbia.ca website. (Strategy under Objective 2.1)</li> <li>• Engaging stakeholders and co-developing innovative economic development tools and resources, and raising awareness of new and existing economic development programs via multi-faceted outreach including workshops, webinars and the BC Economic Portal. (Strategy under Objective 1.3)</li> </ul>

<p>A strong, sustainable economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring the B.C. economy is prosperous, sustainable and shared. (Goal 1)</li> <li>• Providing small businesses with the supports and services they need to grow, innovate and create jobs. (Objective 5.1)</li> <li>• Leveraging foreign direct investment and maximizing the investment potential in each of British Columbia’s regions and communities. (Goal 2)</li> <li>• Supporting venture capital investments into B.C. technology companies. (Objective 2.2)</li> <li>• Ensuring British Columbia has the international workforce needed to support economic growth and innovation. (Goal 3)</li> </ul>
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## Strategic Context

The Economic Forecast Council (EFC) expects B.C.’s real GDP to grow by 2.5 per cent in 2018 and 2.2 per cent in 2019. Meanwhile for Canada, the EFC projects national real GDP growth of 2.2 per cent in 2018 and 1.8 per cent in 2019. As such, B.C.’s economic growth is expected to outperform Canada’s in the coming years. Downside risks to B.C.’s economic outlook include US trade policy uncertainty and ongoing economic challenges in Asia and Europe.

A number of additional factors are expected to affect the Ministry’s work during the 2018/19-2020/21 period. The most significant of these are:

- B.C.’s population is aging faster than other provinces, meaning we will increasingly rely on interprovincial and international migrants to support economic growth.
- Rural B.C. is experiencing slower economic activity than urban parts of the province, which is a challenge for sustainable, long-term growth.
- The pace of technological change is unprecedented, leading to new and transformational products and services that represent emerging opportunities as well as challenges for the Province.
- BC Labour Market Outlook predicts that B.C. will have over 900,000 job openings by 2027 and over one-quarter of those openings will need to be filled through immigration.
- The announcement by the federal government of a three-year national immigration levels plan includes incremental growth from 300,000 permanent resident admissions in 2017 to 340,000 in 2020. These are some of the highest immigration targets in Canadian history. The largest growth in the national levels plan is in the Provincial Nominee Programs (PNP), including the BC PNP, a pathway for permanent residence for in-demand workers and entrepreneurs.
- Continued global instability leading to increases in migration trends, with potential increases in refugees and asylum seekers coming to B.C. for protection and safety.
- Small business continues to drive job creation, productivity and economic growth. In 2016—the most recent year for which data is available—there were approximately 396,100 small businesses operating in B.C., representing about 98 per cent of all businesses in the province.
- Businesses and people will benefit from the Ministry’s work to improve services and reduce the regulatory burden, making it easier for people to interact with government and reducing the cost and time of doing business. These savings can be redirected by businesses towards their operations, creating jobs and supporting economic growth in the process. This is an important way to strengthen the competitiveness and attractiveness of B.C. as a preferred place to do business.

- The federal government continues to set the conditions for increased trade with Asian markets by building on Canada's free trade agreements with South Korea and by aggressively engaging with China, India, the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) and Pacific nations in trade related discussions.
- The use of advanced technologies in traditional resource industries such as mining, forestry and agrifood allows these sectors to maintain their long-term competitiveness. The Ministry will seek to ensure innovation impacts are felt in the traditional resource regions in rural and northern B.C.
- Protectionist international trade policies and globally-set commodity prices, which can hinder our access to external markets, may impact B.C. as a small, trade-dependent economy that relies on open markets to create economic opportunities and maintain competitive advantages for B.C. businesses, workers and investors.
- Access to venture capital is essential for technology companies to succeed in a competitive global marketplace. It remains critical for B.C. to increase the amount of available early and late stage capital needed to grow emerging technologies and keep industry leaders in B.C.
- Taking advantage of the Cascadia Innovation Corridor with Washington State to increase economic growth and innovation as one super region, especially in the technology sector, will increase our competitiveness and further strengthen the region's profile as a world-class technology centre that will attract highly skilled talent and good paying jobs to B.C.

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

### **Goal 1: The B.C. economy is prosperous, sustainable and shared**

B.C. is one of Canada's most economically diverse provinces, in terms of both industries that contribute to economic growth and a mix of export markets. Job creation goes hand in hand with maintaining healthy, vibrant communities, which in turn supports capacity to protect the environment, take action on climate change and ensure economic sustainability. This diversity and sustainability supports ongoing economic prosperity that is shared equally across all regions of the province and among all people.

#### **Objective 1.1: Support current and emerging economic opportunities and investment attraction across B.C.'s diverse economy**

A strong and resilient manufacturing sector propels investment and export growth for the economy, and supports the creation of good, well-paying jobs for British Columbians across the province. The Ministry will develop a coordinated manufacturing sector strategy for the province. The proposed strategy will link cross-government actions and initiatives to support manufacturing in B.C., with current and future efforts to support growth in the sector and expand export opportunities. A related performance measure is in development to track progress towards this Objective for inclusion in the 2019/20 Service Plan.

#### **Key Strategies:**

- Establish an Emerging Economy Task Force to address the changing nature of business and provide recommendations to inform the development of a provincial economic strategy.



- Work across ministries and with the B.C. chapter of the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters Association to further export opportunities for B.C. businesses.
- Implement strategic actions to support growth of B.C.'s manufacturing sector, in particular the aerospace and marine sub-sectors.
- Continue advocating, protecting and advancing B.C.'s interests in trade negotiations and disputes.
- Collaborate with industry via the BC Supplier Development Program pilot to assist B.C. companies in becoming more competitive and better able to participate in global value chains.
- Work with the federal government to leverage the national *Skills and Innovation Agenda* with provincial priorities.

**Objective 1.2: Position B.C. as a destination for developing and growing technology companies and for technology investment**

**Key Strategies:**

- Establish an Innovation Commissioner to advocate for the technology sector.
- Establish an Innovation Commission to support investment and business development in B.C.'s technology sector.
- Ensure the B.C. Knowledge Development Fund continues to enhance B.C.'s ability to attract and retain high-quality researchers and skilled technicians; and maximizes economic and social benefits of investing in research infrastructure in B.C.
- Work with British Columbia Innovation Council to further the growth and success of B.C.'s technology companies.
- Encourage the development, commercialization and adoption of technologies and processes that align with government priorities.
- Work with the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training to encourage universities and businesses to support entrepreneurship and the development of entrepreneurial talent.
- Continue to host an annual technology conference that: showcases B.C.'s vibrant technology industry; builds cross-sector opportunities for businesses; explores the latest ideas that will drive a competitive advantage for the province; and supports a diversified, export-oriented economy.
- Work with the federal government to pursue new and emerging economic opportunities, including adoption of clean technologies to fuel clean growth across the provincial economy.

**Objective 1.3: Ensure the benefits of a strong and growing economy are felt across the province**

**Key Strategies:**

- Work with rural and northern communities and equity-seeking groups to make strategic investments that support innovation and job growth.
- Engage stakeholders and co-develop innovative economic development tools and resources, and raise awareness of new and existing economic development programs via multi-faceted outreach including workshops, webinars and the BC Economic Portal.
- Work with the three regional trusts and Nechako-Kitimaat Development Fund Society in supporting technology and innovation programs and local economic development initiatives.

- Continue to foster partnerships between Indigenous peoples and industry to increase Indigenous participation in the economy, strengthen communities and increase economic diversification.
- Promote local economic benefits and the potential of technology and innovation through a Smart Communities initiative.

**Goal 2: Investment potential in each of British Columbia’s regions and communities is ready to be realized; and leverage foreign direct investment opportunities for maximum growth**

Investment is a key contributor to economic growth. The Ministry works to support communities and regions become investment-ready by assisting with economic development strategies and by attracting and facilitating investments across the province. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from overseas markets can also help contribute to shared prosperity across all regions of the province. The Ministry works to match new opportunities with local communities.

**Objective 2.1: Enhance investment attraction and economic opportunities within each of B.C.’s key sectors**

**Key Strategies:**

- Develop B.C.’s business brand image and international reputation by pursuing strategic opportunities in target markets and key sectors to promote British Columbia as a preferred place to invest and do business.
- Work strategically with international investors to help them identify, understand and realize high value investment opportunities in B.C. and connect them with B.C. businesses and communities—including municipalities, regional districts and First Nations.
- Capitalize on B.C.’s international Trade and Investment Representative (TIR) presence in B.C., Asia, Europe and USA, and the supports offered by the Major Investment Office to work with investors (both domestic and international) to facilitate positive investment decisions by identifying potential obstacles to investment, developing strategies and delivering timely solutions for clients considering B.C. as an investment location.
- Provide investors with services tailored to their individual requirements by helping them to navigate permitting and regulatory processes of various levels of government and engage with Indigenous communities, resulting in a positive business experience which advances investment decisions.
- Help inform investment decisions throughout B.C. by providing access to geospatial data in the BC Economic Atlas web-mapping tool and other information on the britishcolumbia.ca website.
- Increase B.C.’s TIR network in the United States in an effort to better promote B.C. and facilitate more FDI and corporate/venture capital investment within B.C.’s fast growing technology sectors.
- Encourage retention and reinvestment from companies that have previously invested in B.C. by regularly engaging clients to understand their needs and work to resolve their investment challenges.

- Through the Major Investments Office, work with and assist major investors in taking significant projects from idea to completion by bringing proponents, various levels of government and Indigenous communities together.

Performance Measures	2017/18 Forecast	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
2.1a Amount of foreign direct investment supported by the Ministry <sup>1</sup>	\$1.2 Billion	\$1.25 Billion	\$1.25 Billion	\$1.25 Billion
2.1b Number of offices established in B.C. by foreign organizations assisted by the Ministry <sup>2</sup>	25	25	25	25

<sup>1</sup> Data Source: Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology internal performance tracking system.

<sup>2</sup> Data Source: Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology internal performance metrics tracking system. International offices must occupy a physical space such as a storefront to be counted.

### Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:

- 2.1a This measure is an indication of the effectiveness of the Ministry’s facilitation efforts to attract foreign investment to B.C. The performance measure includes investment deals facilitated by trade and investment representatives in market as well as ministry staff.
- 2.1b Attracting foreign offices to B.C. creates direct and indirect economic benefits and sector growth, including new jobs; increased contributions to the tax base; higher demand for business services such as accounting, legal, advertising and real estate leasing; and greater national and international awareness of the fact that B.C. is one of the most competitive business jurisdictions in North America. Moreover, businesses are more likely to reinvest in a location once they have an established office location, and these investments often create proportionately more jobs.

### Discussion:

Foreign investment helps B.C. grow its industries, create and safeguard jobs and secure a position of strength in the global economy. B.C. has fostered a highly competitive and open investment climate, and has included strong investment provisions in trade agreements to show investors that B.C. is a desirable and secure place to do business. The target for investment has been increased to reflect the growth of B.C.’s trade and investment network in the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) and U.S. west coast regions.

Foreign office attraction helps strengthen B.C.’s sectors by creating industry clusters that attract other complementary businesses. As new offices locate to B.C., other companies that are a part of or are looking to enter the supply chain will locate nearby. Finally, the growth of knowledge economy clusters helps to grow an increasingly skilled workforce that leads to higher paying jobs and greater productivity.

**Objective 2.2: Support venture capital investments into B.C. technology companies**

**Key Strategies:**

- Continue to promote and deliver the Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit program to help B.C.’s start-up technology and manufacturing businesses access venture capital investment
- Support the BC Tech Fund and BC Renaissance Capital Fund manager in making venture capital available to B.C. start-ups across the province.
- Help to develop a stronger venture capital ecosystem in B.C.

Performance Measures	2017/18 Forecast	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
2.2 Total value of venture capital investments raised under B.C.’s Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit Program	\$80M	\$84M	\$86M	\$87M

<sup>1</sup> Data Source: Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology.

**Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:**

2.2 This measure is an indication of how B.C.’s technology and manufacturing businesses leverage the Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit program to successfully raise venture investment.

**Discussion:**

Venture capital is essential in helping B.C.’s companies develop technologies, commercialize ideas and grow their operations. Small businesses use the tax credit program to increase the amount of venture capital invested in their ideas and operations. The targets reflect the total amount of investment raised by B.C. small businesses on an annual basis, and does not reflect the value of the tax credits issued.

**Goal 3: British Columbia has the international workforce needed to support economic growth and innovation**

**Objective 3.1: Attract skilled workers and entrepreneurs from around the world to invest, work and develop their ideas in B.C.**

**Key Strategies:**

- Leverage the BC Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP) to attract and retain economic immigrants with the skills to meet specific labour market needs, and entrepreneurs to increase innovation, job-creation and investment in the province.
- Continue the BC PNP technology pilot to help the technology sector attract and retain the talent it needs to be sustained and grow.
- Work with the federal government to enhance the responsiveness of national immigration programs to B.C.’s labour market and economic needs.

- Advocate for B.C.’s annual PNP allocation levels to reflect labour market demand and for federal Express Entry policies to be responsive to B.C.’s emerging economy and the skilled workforce needs of the future.
- Support investment attraction by facilitating accelerated work permits for key corporate staff.
- Provide immigration system guidance to corporations in priority industries.
- Continue to work with jurisdictions across Canada to break down barriers with respect to the mobility of skilled labour across provincial borders.

**Objective 3.2: Support successful integration for all newcomers and help them maximize their economic and social participation**

**Key Strategies:**

- Provide settlement and integration services to support newcomers who are not eligible to receive federal settlement services, including reducing barriers for refugees and asylum seekers and ensuring temporary foreign workers are aware of their workplace rights.
- Support skilled immigrants to be successful in gaining and maintaining employment through the Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants Program.
- Create a Centre for Newcomers and invest in improvements to foreign qualifications recognition and credential assessment processes to help newcomers find employment in their field of training.
- Work collaboratively with the federal government, local governments and other ministries to maximize the impact of available services for newcomers.

Performance Measure	2017/18 Forecast	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
3.1 Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) allocations used by B.C. <sup>1</sup>	100%	100%	100%	100%
3.2 Percentage of Career Paths clients employed in their field upon program completion <sup>2</sup>	70% estimated baseline	70%	70%	70%

<sup>1</sup> Data Source: Workforce, Immigration and Major Investments Division, Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology. This measure includes principal applicants selected under the Entrepreneur, Skills Immigration and Express Entry BC categories. The measure is calculated on a calendar year basis. For example, the 2017 forecast is based on the period from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Data Source: Workforce Immigration and Major Investments Division, Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology. This measure includes clients in all streams of the Career Paths program and is calculated on a fiscal year basis. As the program launched in 2017, the 2017/18 forecast is a targeted baseline that will be used to establish targets for future years.

**Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:**

- 3.1 The British Columbia PNP (BC PNP) is the only tool available to the province to directly select economic immigrants that meet B.C.-specific labour market needs. B.C. is maximizing its immigration levers to attract international skilled workers and entrepreneurs and to facilitate their successful integration.

- 3.2 Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants program was designed to help skilled newcomers find employment that fully uses their pre-arrival skills, experience and education. The percentage of clients who successfully find employment in their field is a good indicator both of program quality and also the measure to which newcomers are integrating economically.

**Discussion:**

The BC PNP offers an immigration pathway for qualified skilled workers and experienced entrepreneurs who can contribute economic benefits to the province. While the PNP is a provincially administered program, the federal government sets the annual number of nominations available to each province and is responsible for issuing permanent resident visas. The Ministry's goal is to utilize 100 per cent of this federal allotment each year (6,250 in 2018), including the expected allocation through PNP's Express Entry British Columbia categories.

Career Paths is an employment and skills upgrading program for internationally trained professionals. It is jointly funded by the Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology (\$3.5 million) and the federal Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (\$2.0 million). In 2017/18, Career Paths will support over 1,000 clients gain Canadian work experience, licensure and employment. Although Career Paths clients represent a small percentage of the overall immigrant workforce, it is the best direct performance measure to evaluate the impact of provincial investments in immigrant employment efforts.

**Goal 4: International trade opportunities will contribute to B.C.'s shared prosperity throughout the province**

This goal supports B.C. businesses and industry in the creation of long-term jobs and economic growth in the province by increasing export opportunities for B.C.'s goods and services. The Ministry works to build and strengthen trade relationships, eliminate barriers to trade and advance B.C.'s competitive advantages in the global economy.

**Objective 4.1: Open and expand priority markets for B.C. goods and services**

**Key Strategies:**

- Reduce barriers to trade and investment by advancing B.C.'s priorities in international and domestic trade negotiations, and reduce or eliminate protectionist measures in other jurisdictions through engagement and, where necessary, more formal means.
- Provide B.C. businesses with programing aimed at streamlining access to export programs and services to help them expand beyond B.C.'s borders.
- Leverage the province's overseas Trade and Investment Representative network to facilitate business-to-business opportunities.
- Capitalize on opportunities including trade shows and missions, and offering targeted in-market assistance to help businesses achieve their business growth goals.
- Work with the Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture to ensure that British Columbia's tourism sector is represented on trade missions.

- Work with the Minister of Agriculture to promote B.C. food and agricultural exports, especially to growing markets in the Asia Pacific.
- Work with the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, and with B.C.'s forest industry to expand efforts to market innovative manufactured wood products to world markets.

Performance Measure	2017/18 Forecast	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
4.1 Number of substantial trade deals supported by the Ministry <sup>1</sup>	135 agreements with a value in excess of \$375M	150 agreements with a value in excess of \$375M <sup>2</sup>	160 agreements with a value in excess of \$400M	160 agreements with a value in excess of \$400M

<sup>1</sup> Data Source: Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology internal data.

<sup>2</sup> As new Trade and Investment Representative offices are opened in priority markets, the initial focus can be on completing a higher number of smaller value export deals to open the market for B.C. businesses, with the intention that the value of deals will increase over time as the market becomes more mature for B.C. exports.

### Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:

- 4.1 This measure focuses on export agreements that involve the sale of goods and services to clients outside of B.C. These agreements show the economic value that government assistance provides exporters.

### Discussion:

Expanding the sale of goods and services to new markets is critical to growing B.C. businesses and keeping them here. Export agreements take the form of international purchases of B.C. goods and services, and represent an agreement between two distinct business entities. The Ministry supports and facilitates international export agreements by connecting B.C. businesses and institutions to qualified international prospects; supporting key international trade events; organizing and supporting inbound and outbound missions to target markets; providing information necessary to conclude agreements; assisting parties to work with all levels of government in B.C., Canada and internationally; and providing other services tailored to the needs of the parties. Examples of agreements facilitated by the Ministry may be found on our website.

## **Goal 5: A growing small business sector that contributes to a strong, sustainable provincial economy**

### **Objective 5.1: Provide small businesses with the supports and services they need to grow, innovate and create jobs**

#### **Key Strategies:**

- Partner with organizations across the province to deliver the necessary tools and resources to help businesses at all stages of their growth.

- Continue to make it easier to do business in B.C. by expanding the Mobile Business Licence Program, working with local governments to streamline and simplify the licensing process.
- Continue to maintain and enhance BizPaL in collaboration with federal, provincial and territorial partners, providing entrepreneurs with quick access to the regulatory information they need to start and grow their business.
- Increase awareness of the availability of small business tools and resources among business owners, local governments and Indigenous communities.
- Work with Small Business BC to deliver the Open for Business Awards aligned with the Small Business BC Awards.
- Work to implement actions and agreements that increase the ability of small businesses to export their products to new markets.

Performance Measures	2017/18 Forecast	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
5.1 Number of local governments in British Columbia participating in an inter-municipal or mobile business licence agreements <sup>1</sup>	89	90	92	94

<sup>1</sup>Data Source: Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology. There are currently 15 agreements in the province with 89 participating communities. Program expansion may include the establishment of additional agreements, inclusion of additional partners and/or consolidation of existing agreements, making it easier for businesses to operate across jurisdictional boundaries.

### Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:

- 5.1 This measure is an indication of the effectiveness of the Ministry’s efforts to encourage local governments to implement streamlining initiatives which make it easier to do business in the province.

### Discussion:

An inter-municipal or mobile business licence allows mobile businesses such as builders, plumbers and electricians to operate in multiple municipalities and regional districts with a single licence. This significantly reduces administrative burden for local governments and reduces the regulatory burden associated with the traditional licensing process, lowering costs for business owners. The Ministry oversees the Mobile Business Licence program, encouraging local governments to adopt this approach and assisting municipal partners with implementation.

### Objective 5.2: Ensure the views of small business are considered in policy and program decisions, continuing to strengthen the sector

Performance measures will be established following the consultations and associated recommendations flowing from the Small Business Task Force.

### Key Strategies:

- Create a Small Business Task Force as a special initiative of the Small Business Roundtable to advise government on how to strengthen the small business sector, creating additional jobs in B.C.



- Work with the B.C. Small Business Roundtable through its quarterly meetings, regional consultations and annual report to government to identify actions and implement recommendations in support of small business growth.
- Support youth and Indigenous entrepreneurship initiatives in concert with the Small Business Task Force and Roundtable.

### Objective 5.3: Streamline access to services for all citizens

#### Key Strategies:

- Maintain government's commitment to a net zero increase in regulatory requirements until 2019.
- Continue to support ministries across government to implement the regulatory reform policy early in the regulatory management process, to ensure the impact of new, or changes to existing requirements is identified and minimized.
- Partner with ministries to implement service streamlining projects, to address pressures communicated by stakeholders through public engagements and other channels.
- As part of the Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table, work with the federal and provincial governments to identify and address regulatory barriers to internal trade.
- Introduce regulatory changes that streamline access to services and eliminate unnecessary requirements on Red Tape Reduction Day.
- Partner with the Canadian Federation of Independent Business for Red Tape Awareness Week, to highlight government efforts to reduce the regulatory burden for businesses in B.C.
- Produce an annual report outlining government's progress in regulatory and service reform.

Performance Measure	2004 Baseline	2017/18 Forecast	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
5.3 Zero net increase to the count of regulatory requirements across government since 2004 <sup>1</sup>	197,242	0 net Increase <sup>2</sup>	0 net increase <sup>2</sup>	0 net increase <sup>2</sup>	N/A <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Data Source: Small Business and Regulatory and Service Improvement Division, Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology.

<sup>2</sup> From the 2004 baseline. Results available in June 2018.

<sup>3</sup> Commitment to the regulatory requirements cap has been made until 2019. A target beyond 2019 has not yet been determined.

#### Linking Performance Measures to Objectives:

- 5.3 The regulatory requirements count approximates the aggregate regulatory burden on citizens, businesses and government in British Columbia. It counts all of the actions or steps that citizens, businesses or government must take, or information that must be provided to access services, carry out business, or meet legal responsibilities under provincial legislation, regulation, policy, or forms. The Net Zero Increase commitment functions as a cap on the total number of regulatory requirements, encouraging ministries to offset new requirements by streamlining or eliminating outdated ones.

**Discussion:**

The Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology continues to partner with ministries across government to create regulatory and service frameworks that advance socioeconomic objectives, protect public health, safety and the environment while at the same time improving British Columbians' experiences of government. Through the Regulatory Impact Checklist and Count Form, which must accompany any new, or changes to existing legislation and regulation, government systematically weighs the impact of any new requirements on the stakeholders they will impact. Through service streamlining projects, which are delivered in collaboration with other ministries, barriers to accessing government services are addressed.

## Resource Summary

Core Business Area	2017/18 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2018/19 Estimates	2019/20 Plan	2020/21 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
<b>International Business Development</b>	21,296	21,857	21,886	21,886
<b>Technology, Innovation and Economic Development</b>	20,317 <sup>2</sup>	11,210	10,444	10,444
<b>Workforce, Immigration and Major Investments</b>	11,868	17,640 <sup>3</sup>	17,660	17,660
<b>Integrated Data Office</b>	8,640	8,726	8,771	8,771
<b>International Strategy and Competitiveness</b>	8,743	8,780	8,801	8,801
<b>Small Business, Regulatory and Service Improvement</b>	3,096	3,133	3,152	3,152
<b>Transfers to Crown Corporations and Agencies</b>	40,640 <sup>4</sup>	27,640	27,640	27,640
<b>Executive and Support Services</b>	5,723	5,783	5,815	5,815
<b>Northern Development Fund Special Account</b>	500	500	500	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>120,823</b>	<b>105,269</b>	<b>104,669</b>	<b>104,669</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>				
<b>Executive and Support Services</b>	1	1	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

<sup>1</sup> For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2017/18 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2018/19 Estimates.

<sup>2</sup> Reflects a one-time investment of \$10 million in the North Island-Coast Development Initiative Trust in 2017/18 to support economic development of the Vancouver Island/Coast Region

<sup>3</sup> Includes \$5.7 million to provide additional settlement and integration support for newcomers, including the creation of a Centre for Newcomers.

<sup>4</sup> Includes additional one time funding in 2017/18 provided to the BC Innovation Council of \$13.5 million for the BC Tech Co-op Grants Program and the BC Innovation Skills Initiative.

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

## **Appendix A: Ministry Contact Information**

### **Minister's Office**

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Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology  
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### **Minister of State for Trade's Office**

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### **Parliamentary Secretary for Technology**

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### **Deputy Minister's Office**

Fazil Mihlar  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology  
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To learn more about the numerous programs and services provided by the Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology, please visit our website at [www.gov.bc.ca/JTT](http://www.gov.bc.ca/JTT).

To find a specific person or program in the Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology, you can use the [B.C. Government Directory](#).

## **Appendix B: Minister of State for Trade Mandate Letter**

Ministry-specific accountabilities (excerpt from the [Mandate Letter](#)):

- Work across ministries and with the federal government to ensure British Columbia's interests are protected and advanced in trade negotiations and disputes.
- Work across ministries and with the B.C. chapter of the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters Association to further export opportunities for B.C. businesses.
- Work with the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development to advocate for a fair deal for B.C. in softwood lumber negotiations with the United States.
- Work with the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, and with B.C.'s forest industry to expand efforts to market innovative manufactured wood products to world markets.
- Work with the Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture to ensure that British Columbia's tourism sector is represented on trade missions.
- Work with the Minister of Agriculture to advance B.C. food and agricultural exports, especially to growing markets in the Asia Pacific.
- Work with the Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training to develop a multi-year growth strategy for expanding exports in the manufacturing sector.

## Appendix C: Nechako-Kitamaat Development Fund Society

### Organizational Overview

The Nechako-Kitamaat Development Fund Society (NKDFS) was incorporated on August 18, 1999 to support sustainable economic activity in northern communities affected by the Kemano Completion Project and by the creation of the Nechako Reservoir. The Government of British Columbia provides NKDFS with \$500,000 annually from the Northern Development Fund, a 50-50 cost-sharing partnership fund created by the Province and Rio Tinto.

NKDFS spends the income from its long-term investments on programs and projects that meet each community's goals for economic development and community stability. For more information on the Nechako-Kitamaat Development Fund Society, visit the website at [www.nkdf.org](http://www.nkdf.org).

### Corporate Governance

The Nechako-Kitamaat Development Fund Society's Board of Directors includes:

- Greg Goodwin (Ministry Representative)
- Jamie Neilson
- Mike Robertson
- Wayne Salewski (Chair)

Biographical information is located at: [nkdf.org/about/board-members](http://nkdf.org/about/board-members).

### Goals and Strategies

The *BC-Alcan Northern Development Fund Act* defines the purpose of the fund as follows:

- 1) The purpose of the fund is to promote sustainable economic development in Northwestern British Columbia.
- 2) Without limiting subsection (1), the fund may be used for the following:
  - a) Supporting investment in new or existing businesses;
  - b) Creating new employment or stabilizing existing employment;
  - c) Supporting other goals that are consistent with subsection (1) and that the Minister considers desirable.

The Nechako-Kitamaat Development Fund Society will focus on the following primary areas—Capacity Building; Planning; Business Development; Recreational-Social; Community Infrastructure; and Tourism—and adopt the following strategies:

- 1) To fund projects that address impacts most important to the communities.
- 2) To review applications expeditiously.
- 3) To give priority to projects that maximize economic benefits.
- 4) To canvass communities and organizations to solicit feedback and determine the effectiveness of NKDF programs and potential new initiatives.
- 5) To explore ways to target funding toward more diverse, collaborative and regional projects.

- 6) To explore options to increase capital for NKDF programs.
- 7) To implement a tool to measure the success of the programs.

**Summary Financial Outlook**

<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>2016/17 Actual</b>	<b>2017/18 Forecast</b>	<b>2018/19 Budget</b>	<b>2019/20 Budget</b>	<b>2020/21 Budget</b>
Transfers from British Columbia Investment Management Corporation	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000