

**Ministry of  
Environment and  
Climate Change Strategy**

**2019/20 – 2021/22  
SERVICE PLAN**

**February 2019**



## Minister Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2019/20 - 2021/22 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  
February 4, 2019

## Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is responsible for the protection, management and conservation of British Columbia's water, land, air and living resources. It administers the province's parks and protected areas; monitors and enforces compliance with environmental laws and regulations; manages discharges to the environment from human activities; and protects B.C.'s biodiversity, ecosystems, native species and natural habitats. It mitigates and manages the risks and consequences from climate change, including developing plans to meet carbon pollution reduction targets; responds to the impacts of climate change; and oversees provincial environmental assessment. The ministry delivers services directly through staff based in regional offices across the province, as well as through partnerships and agreements with stakeholder groups, local governments, Indigenous peoples and the federal government.

## Strategic Direction

The Government of British Columbia is putting people at the heart of decision-making by working to make life more affordable, improve the services people count on, and build a strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone.

Over the past year, significant government investments in areas including housing, child care and the elimination of fees, such as Medical Service Premiums, have contributed to making life more affordable for British Columbians today and into the future. Ministries are engaged in ongoing work to improve the availability of services citizens rely on including those related to primary medical care, education and training, transportation, the opioid crisis and poverty.

A strong economy that works for all regions of B.C. is diversified, resilient and improves the standard of living for people across the province. With that in mind, government is focusing on sustainable economic growth that strengthens our natural resource sector, continues the development of the emerging economy, supports small business and uses innovation and technology to solve B.C. problems. A key priority in 2019/20 and beyond will be driving economic growth with cleaner energy

and fewer emissions. At the same time, ministries continue to build prudence into budgets and plan for challenges.

Underpinning the work of all ministries are two shared commitments: reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and consideration of how diverse groups of British Columbians may experience our policies, programs and initiatives. As part of these commitments, ministries are working to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action, and Gender-Based Analysis+ policy and budgeting.

In July 2017, each minister was given a formal mandate letter that identifies both government-wide and ministry-specific priorities for implementation.

This service plan outlines how the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy will support the government's priorities, including selected action items identified in the [Minister's Mandate Letter](#). Over the previous fiscal year, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy made progress on these priorities by:

- Continuing engagement on species at risk legislation, including Indigenous, stakeholder and citizen engagement, as well as drafting a discussion paper.
- Legislating new carbon pollution reduction targets for 2030 and 2040; working with the Minister of Finance to implement increases to the carbon tax; and developing a comprehensive CleanBC plan to support a robust emission reduction plan to meet targets and create economic growth.
- Passing the *Professional Governance Act* to modernize and strengthen the roles and expectations of qualified professionals in the province and the new *Environmental Assessment Act* to offer clear pathways to sustainable project approvals while delivering stronger environmental protections and pursuing reconciliation with B.C.'s Indigenous peoples.

The following performance plan outlines how the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy will continue to track progress on key mandate letter commitments and other emerging government priorities.

## Performance Planning

### Goal 1: Effective protection and conservation of the environment

The ministry works to protect the environment by managing environmental risks to B.C.'s water, land and air. On the conservation side, the ministry works to assess, set priorities and determine actions for the conservation and recovery of plants, ecosystems and animals, which includes establishing a B.C. legislative framework for species at risk. Protection and conservation are supported by actions to continually improve the systems that govern natural resource decision making and the sustainable use of B.C.'s natural capital.

#### Objective 1.1: Clean and safe water, land and air

##### Key Strategies:

- Continuing the development of a comprehensive provincial environmental emergency (spill response) framework, including new regulatory requirements.

- Preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species through the Mussel Defence Program and other initiatives.
- Providing provincial leadership in municipal solid waste reduction through mandatory regional solid waste management plans, promotion of organics recycling and initiatives for the prevention of food and plastic waste.
- Performing ongoing oversight of mandatory product stewardship programs.

Performance Measures	2015/16 Baseline	2018/19 Forecast	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
1.1a Per capita municipal solid waste disposal (kg per person) <sup>1</sup>	497	475	375	350	350
1.1b Per cent of population covered by an organic waste disposal restriction <sup>2</sup>	64.3%	70%	75%	75%	75%

<sup>1</sup> Data Source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, manually compiled. 2018/19 per capita forecast informed by 2017 calendar year data.

<sup>2</sup> Data Source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, manually compiled.

### Linking Performance Measures to Objective:

- 1.1 Managing municipal solid waste minimizes environmental impacts by supporting sustainable land management practices, improved air and water quality, and greenhouse gas reductions. Diverting organic waste from landfills contributes to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and enables processing of organic matter into beneficial products such as nutrient-rich compost.

## Objective 1.2: Healthy and diverse ecosystems, native species and habitats

### Key Strategies:

- Establishing a B.C. legislative framework for species at risk.
- Setting objectives and leading strategic planning for biodiversity, conservation, species recovery and management, including in parks and protected areas.
- Delivering conflict reduction education, outreach, and programs such as Bear Smart Communities and WildSafeBC.
- Managing parks and protected areas for ecological representation; biodiversity; landscape connectivity; and increasing Indigenous cultural and interpretive presence.

Performance Measure	2017/18 Baseline	2018/19 Forecast	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
1.2 Number of protected area complexes <sup>1</sup> with completed conservation assessments <sup>2</sup>	0	1	2	3	4

<sup>1</sup> Protected area complexes are clusters of protected areas larger than 2,700km<sup>2</sup> in size which are capable of maintaining populations of disturbance-sensitive mammals.

<sup>2</sup> Data Source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, manually compiled. Targets are cumulative.

### Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

- 1.2 The health of B.C.'s protected areas system is measured by assessing a range of conservation values such the presence of invasive species, how vulnerable the park is to climate risks and

the effects of human activity. Conservation assessments are a pilot action as part of the ministry’s strategy to manage parks and protected areas for ecological representation, biodiversity and landscape connectivity.

### Objective 1.3: Sustainable use of British Columbia’s natural capital

#### Key Strategies:

- Continually improving regulatory oversight with an ongoing emphasis on inspections of higher risk sites, including mines and commercial sites.
- Optimize outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities within parks and protected areas.

Performance Measure	2014/15 Baseline	2018/19 Forecast	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
1.3 Number of inspections conducted under the <i>Environmental Management Act</i> <sup>1</sup>	711	1700	2000	2000	2000

<sup>1</sup> Data Source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, manually compiled. Inspections (in office reviews and on-site examinations) conducted under the Act and associated regulations.

#### Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

- 1.3 Ministry staff conduct inspections under the *Environmental Management Act* to determine compliance with regulatory requirements. Compliance inspections are integral to the ministry’s responsibility for environmental regulatory oversight.

### Goal 2: A sustainable, resilient low-carbon economy

The Ministry works to reduce carbon pollution while developing and implementing measures that will create economic growth and make life more affordable for families.

### Objective 2.1: Implement a climate action strategy that provides a pathway for B.C. to prosper economically while significantly reducing our carbon pollution

#### Key Strategies:

- Implementing actions under CleanBC to meet the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets legislated under the *Climate Change Accountability Act*.
- Implementing annual increases to the carbon tax until it reaches \$50 t/CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2021.
- Developing a low carbon industrial strategy with the Business Council of British Columbia.

Performance Measure	2018/19 Forecast	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
2.1 CleanBC <sup>1</sup> implementation <sup>2</sup>	Release CleanBC	Begin phased implementation of CleanBC (75% of 2030 target)	CleanBC fully implemented	Begin implementation of measures to achieve remaining 25% of 2030 target

<sup>1</sup> [CleanBC](#) is the Province's plan to reduce carbon pollution, use clean energy to create new opportunities across the province to power and strengthen B.C.'s economy.

<sup>2</sup> Data Source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, manually compiled

#### Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

2.1 Implementation of CleanBC will position the Province to prosper economically while meeting its carbon pollution reduction goals.

### Objective 2.2: Effective management of the risks and consequences associated with a changing climate

#### Key Strategies:

- Completing a Climate Risk Management Framework and assessment of the top 15 provincially significant climate risks.
- Releasing policy intentions on the development of a new provincial adaptation strategy for public feedback.
- Developing a provincial adaptation strategy for release in 2020, supporting a thriving and healthy province that is resilient in the face of a changing climate.

Performance Measure	2018/19 Forecast	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
2.2 B.C. Climate Risk Management Framework pillars <sup>1</sup> identified and in place. <sup>2</sup>	40%	80%	100%	N/A

<sup>1</sup> The pillars include: establish the context; assess risks; treat risks; monitor and review; and communicate and consult.

<sup>2</sup> Data Source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, manually compiled.

#### Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

2.2 This performance measure tracks progress in establishing a government-wide approach to climate risk management.

### Goal 3: Thorough, timely, transparent and impartial environmental assessments

The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) will implement a revitalized environmental assessment process that ensures the legal rights of Indigenous nations are respected and the public's expectation of a thorough, timely, transparent and impartial process is met. This includes collaborating with Indigenous nations in relation to reviewable projects, consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The new *Environmental Assessment Act (EAA)* will offer clear pathways to sustainable project approvals and will promote sustainability by protecting the environment and fostering a sound economy and the well-being of British Columbians and their communities.

### Objective 3.1: Implement the revitalized environmental assessment process

#### Key Strategies:

- Develop regulations, policies and guidance materials with input from Indigenous nations, industry and the public to support the implementation of the *EAA*.
- Support EAO staff with the tools and resources they need to support revitalization, the *EAA* and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Work with environmental assessment practitioners and engage with the public to support effective transition of environmental assessment practice in British Columbia.
- Coordinate across governments to ensure the EAO’s new practices and ongoing project work are informed by the activities of provincial and federal agencies (and vice versa).
- Negotiate government-to-government strategic agreements with the federal government and Indigenous peoples to support efficient environmental assessment processes within their territories.

Performance Measure	2018/19 Forecast	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
3.1 <i>Environmental Assessment Act 2018</i> and regulations are in force <sup>1</sup>	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A

<sup>1</sup> Data Source: EAO, manually compiled.

#### Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

- 3.1 The passage of regulations linked to environmental assessment revitalization is a key action in order to implement the new environmental assessment process. The performance measure for the EAO will develop as environmental assessment revitalization is implemented and new measures can be introduced.

## Resource Summary

Core Business Area	2018/19 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2019/20 Estimates <sup>7</sup>	2020/21 Plan	2021/22 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
Environmental Protection <sup>2</sup>	11,801	13,314	13,234	13,234
Environmental Sustainability	23,972	24,572	24,489	24,489
BC Parks	40,478	41,567	41,782	41,732
Conservation Officer Service	18,207	18,294	18,219	18,219
Climate Action	15,600	14,849	14,819	14,819
CleanBC Program for Industry <sup>3</sup>	N/A	55,352	55,260	55,260
Executive and Support Services <sup>4</sup>	23,947	24,786	24,847	24,847
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>134,005</b>	<b>192,734</b>	<b>192,650</b>	<b>192,600</b>
Park Enhancement Fund	9,800	9,800	9,800	9,800
Sustainable Environment Fund <sup>5</sup>	23,635	25,929	26,032	26,135
<b>Total</b>	<b>167,440</b>	<b>228,463</b>	<b>228,482</b>	<b>228,535</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>				
Executive and Support Services <sup>6</sup>	27,149	22,837	18,915	18,518
Park Enhancement Fund	400	400	400	400
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,549</b>	<b>23,237</b>	<b>19,315</b>	<b>18,918</b>
<b>Other Financing Transactions (\$000)</b>				
Climate Action Greenhouse Gas Emissions Offsets				
Disbursements	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Net Cash (Requirements)	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Total Net Cash Source (Requirements)</b>	<b>(10,000)</b>	<b>(10,000)</b>	<b>(10,000)</b>	<b>(10,000)</b>

<sup>1</sup> For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2018/19 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2019/20 Estimates.

<sup>2</sup> Environmental Protection increase due to funding for Cannabis Implementation and for Organics collection and processing infrastructure.

<sup>3</sup> New Core Business to carry out the CleanBC Program for Industry.

<sup>4</sup> Executive and Support Services increase in conjunction with Cannabis Implementation; Organics collection; and, CleanBC Program for Industry.



<sup>5</sup> Sustainable Environment Fund expenditures reflect new revenues that will be used to provide additional capacity to support authorizations, monitoring and assessment functions.

<sup>6</sup> Ministry Capital Expenditures, Executive and Support Services increase relates to funding for Parks Marine Vessels and Land acquisition programs.

<sup>7</sup> Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

## Resource Summary: Environmental Assessment Office

Core Business Area	2018/19 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2019/20 Estimates <sup>2</sup>	2020/21 Plan	2021/22 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
<b>Environmental Assessment Office</b>	11,902	14,531	14,931	15,442

<sup>1</sup> For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2018/19 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2019/20 Estimates.

<sup>2</sup> Increase of funding to implement the revitalized *Environmental Assessment Act*. Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

## **Appendix A: Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Tribunals**

[College of Applied Biology](#)