

**Ministry of
Jobs, Trade and
Technology**

**2019/20 – 2021/22
SERVICE PLAN**

February 2019



Minister Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology 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 black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Ralston".

Honourable Bruce Ralston
Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology
January 29, 2019

Minister of State Accountability Statement



I am the Minister of State for Jobs, Trade and Technology, and under the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act*, I am accountable for achieving the following results for 2019/20:

- a) Promote the 2019 BC Export Awards;
- b) Continue to participate in B.C. trade-related events including those organized by the Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters that aim to increase export opportunities for B.C. businesses;
- c) Promote the benefits of free trade agreements to help B.C. businesses leverage new opportunities;
- d) Continue to support Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd.'s efforts to actively maintain, create and diversify demand for B.C.'s manufactured wood products in key international markets;
- e) Continue to work collaboratively with the Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture to ensure ongoing representation of B.C.'s tourism industry on international trade missions;
- f) Continue to promote B.C. food and agricultural exports in collaboration with the Minister of Agriculture;
- g) Continue to participate in opportunities for expanding exports in the manufacturing sector;
- h) Submit to Cabinet a report on the results referred to in paragraphs (a) through (g) on or before March 31, 2020.

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

Honourable George Chow
Minister of State for Jobs, Trade and Technology
January 29, 2019

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 contributes to building a strong economy that works for everyone by delivering programs and services that encourage business start-up and growth, facilitate investment and promote innovation and adoption of new technologies throughout the province.

The Ministry also supports Indigenous peoples and communities in economic development activity, revitalization of traditional industries, fostering economic diversification, creating jobs, cultivating the workforce and facilitating immigration and accessing open markets and export opportunities while protecting the interests of British Columbia in trade negotiations and disputes.

The Ministry has an oversight role for the following Crown corporations: [Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd.](#), the [BC Immigrant Investment Fund](#), [BC Renaissance Capital Fund](#) and [Innovate BC](#).

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 Jobs, Trade and Technology 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 Jobs, Trade and Technology made progress on these priorities by:

- Increasing funding for services to newcomers to help them get their credentials recognized and allow them to contribute their maximum social and economic potential to our province.
- Establishing the Small Business Task Force to provide recommendations in 2019 to fully understand, through the voice of entrepreneurs and business owners, how government can continue to improve B.C.'s small business climate and continue to help the sector thrive.
- Completing a review of the Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit program to support venture capital investments in B.C. start-ups that help them scale up and ensure the benefits of technology and innovation are felt in all B.C. communities.
- Establishing an Emerging Economy Task Force and Innovation Commission.

The following performance plan outlines how the Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology will continue to track progress on key mandate letter commitments and other emerging government priorities.

Performance Planning

Goal 1: B.C. businesses are supported to start-up, scale up, grow and stay in B.C.

Ensuring supports are in place for B.C. businesses contributes to establishing B.C. as a preferred location for many industries including new and emerging technologies and sectors.

Objective 1.1: Provide supports in communities across B.C. to help businesses succeed and prosper

Key Strategies:

- Expand partnerships with all levels of government to provide small businesses throughout the province with the supports and services they need to grow, innovate and create jobs.
- Continue to increase and enhance awareness of the availability of small business tools and resources among business owners, local governments and Indigenous communities.
- Align funding programs to help scale up businesses in key sectors where B.C. is globally competitive.
- Collaborate with federal, provincial and municipal organizations to ensure a coordinated approach to supporting regional programming, innovation and the adoption of new technology in traditional industries.
- Implement modernizations related to the Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit Program.
- Implement a plan responding to the recommendations of the Small Business Task Force.

Performance Measure	2018/19 Forecast	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
1.1a Total small business venture capital tax credit usage ¹	\$93M	\$86M	\$87M	\$88M
1.1b Rural small business venture capital tax credit usage ²	\$8M	\$9M	\$9.5M	\$10M

¹ Data Source: Investment Capital Branch. The 30% tax credit de-risks investments by B.C. investors into eligible B.C. businesses.

² Rural small business usage is a sub-component of the Total small business venture capital tax credit usage detailed in 1.1a.

Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

Capital is a critical input in helping businesses scale up. By supporting businesses across B.C. to access the capital needed to grow and stay in B.C., the Ministry helps establish the province as a preferred location to do business, encourages job creation and provides a catalyst for sectoral growth. This measure is continued and based on original targets developed in 2017/18. The investment dollars available for venture capital can be influenced by a several external market factors. Therefore, original targets are being carried forward. Current tracking for 2018/19 indicates the previous target is likely to be exceeded.

Objective 1.2: Businesses and communities can access the international talent they need to support business expansion and community resilience

Key Strategies:

- Work with the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training to assess the labour market needs of B.C.’s industries and regions.
- Align immigration programs and priorities to those most urgently in need of talent.
- Deliver provincially funded programs for immigrants and refugees to accelerate their contribution to B.C.’s social and economic well-being.
- Align the Provincial Nominee Program to key priority sectors and regional needs.

Performance Measure	2018/19 Forecast	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
1.2 Percentage of Career Paths clients employed in their field upon program completion ¹	70%	70%	70%	70%

¹ Data Source: Internal Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology tracking

Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

The [Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants](#) program assists skilled immigrants and refugees in B.C. find work that utilizes their pre-arrival skills, education and experience. As a result, the program helps to maximize the human capital benefits of immigration and address the province’s labour needs, which in turn improves economic growth in the province and raises the standard of living for all British Columbians. The Career Paths program was launched in January 2017. Participants typically remain active in the program for up to 22 months. Therefore, to date, a relatively small number of clients have fully completed the program. As early results only reflect a small number of clients, the target is being maintained at 70 per cent at this time. As the program develops, future adjustments to targets may occur.

Objective 1.3: Reduce the cumulative impact of government policy decisions on businesses and the economy to encourage business growth

Key Strategies:

- Implement a framework to evaluate the potential business and economic impacts of government’s policy decisions.
- Maintain a net zero increase to government’s regulatory requirements.
- Maintain the regulatory reform policy including the small business lens, to support ministries in identifying and mitigating negative impacts of any new or amendments to legislation, regulation and policies and forms on small business.

Performance Measure	2004 Baseline	2018/19 Forecast	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
1.3 Number of regulatory requirements ¹	197, 242	Below 2004 baseline	0 net Increase ²	0 net Increase ²	0 net Increase ²

¹ Data Source: Sector and Regulatory Competitiveness Branch, Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology.

² From the 2004 baseline. Results are available annually in June.

Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

The regulatory requirements count is a long-standing proxy for the overall regulatory burden in British Columbia. Maintaining a clear view to this measure will encourage the maintenance of a streamlined regulatory framework for citizens and businesses. Future work on a framework to understand and aggregate the cumulative impact of government policy decisions on businesses and the economy is underway and will inform future performance measures.

Goal 2: Encourage trade diversification and facilitate investment opportunities that benefit all British Columbians

Ensuring B.C. is well positioned to take advantage of domestic and international trade development opportunities helps to deliver broad based economic benefit throughout the province.

Objective 2.1: Assist B.C. businesses to take advantage of trade opportunities in existing and new markets, and support communities to attract investment to create resiliency

Key Strategies:

- Lead an ongoing multi-sector program of trade promotion and investment attraction activities to support B.C. exporters and communities in domestic and international markets, working with B.C.'s Trade and Investment Representative (TIR) offices globally.
- Support inbound and outbound missions and events to showcase B.C.'s trade and investment opportunities in priority sectors.
- Ensure businesses that are not yet export-ready are supported to grow into new markets and attract investment into their regions.

Performance Measure	2018/19 Forecast	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
2.1 Number of trade and investment opportunities supported by the Ministry ¹	Establish a baseline	TBD	TBD	TBD

¹ Data Source: Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology internal performance tracking system

Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

This new performance measure is under development. The measure will gauge the success of the Ministry in supporting business opportunities for B.C. companies to export their products or services, and for communities to attract investment. Ministry staff will work with client, stakeholder and Trade and Investment representatives to establish a baseline which will inform the development of future targets.

Goal 3: Deliver programs in B.C. communities that increase participation in the economy and help raise the standard of living

Delivering programs that build capacity and increase participation in emerging economic sectors throughout the province ensures that the benefits of economic growth are enjoyed by all British Columbians.

Objective 3.1: Support B.C. communities and Indigenous peoples to increase participation in established and emerging economic sectors

Key Strategies:

- Engage with communities, Indigenous peoples and stakeholders across B.C. to identify resources and investment opportunities suitable for matching with investors and execute focused programs to strategically attract investments targeted to these opportunities.
- Employ targeted initiatives to enhance attraction and retention of newcomers in communities throughout British Columbia.
- Continue to develop a Genuine Progress Indicator system for British Columbia to help measure improvements in the standard of living.
- Coordinate Indigenous economic development activities including secretariat support to the Indigenous Business and Investment Council.
- Support the Emerging Economy Task Force and the Innovation Commissioner.
- Launch a comprehensive and consolidated outreach initiative, with particular focus on underrepresented export groups, Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and regional participation to ensure the economic benefits of trade agreements are widespread and well understood throughout B.C.

Performance Measure	2018/19 Forecast	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
3.1 Number of Economic Development sessions held in regional centres and Indigenous communities that raise awareness of government programs and help B.C. communities and businesses take advantage of existing opportunities ¹	N/A	18	19	20

¹ Data Source: Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology

Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

Stakeholder consultations on economic development have identified an opportunity to increase access to multiple provincial programs and services through enhanced outreach and community engagement. The Ministry is therefore developing a comprehensive suite of outreach services to grow awareness of government programs and to increase successful uptake of existing opportunities by citizens, businesses and communities. Ensuring B.C. companies, communities and Indigenous peoples are receiving the support they need, are satisfied with the trade services provided by the Ministry and that communities are ‘investment ready’ and properly equipped to address investment enquiries will increase capacity within the business community to take advantage of trade agreements and participate in emerging economic sectors. In addition, the Ministry will be specifically targeting efforts to grow the competitiveness of B.C. industries by helping to facilitate the adoption of innovation and technology.

This is a new performance measure for the Ministry. The initial target for 2019/20 is based on a commitment to provide two outreach sessions in each region per year. Subsequent targets will be developed based on the success of the first year of enhanced outreach and ongoing stakeholder feedback.

Resource Summary

Core Business Area	2018/19 Restated Estimates ¹	2019/20 Estimates	2020/21 Plan	2021/22 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
International Trade	28,450	28,674	28,623	28,623
Small Business, Jobs and Workforce	22,300	22,791	22,715	22,715
Investment, Innovation and Technology	9,701	9,048	9,024	9,024
Transfers to Crown Corporations and Agencies	27,640	27,640	27,640	27,640
Executive and Support Services	8,580	8,780	8,740	8,740
Northern Development Fund	500	500	500	500
Total	97,171	97,433	97,242	97,242
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)				
Executive and Support Services	1	1	1	1
Total	1	1	1	1

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

* 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

[BC-Alberta Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement](#)

[BC Immigrant Investment Fund Ltd.](#)

[BC Renaissance Capital Fund Ltd.](#)

[British Columbia Trade and Invest Ltd.](#)

[Emerging Economy Task Force](#)

[Forestry Innovation Investment Council](#)

[Innovate BC](#)

[Indigenous Business and Investment Council](#)

[Nechako-Kitamaat Development Fund Society](#)

[New West Partnership Trade Agreement](#)

[North Island-Coast Development Initiative Trust](#)

[Northern Development Initiative Trust](#)

[Premier's Chinese Canadian Community Advisory Committee](#)

[Small Business BC](#)

[Small Business Roundtable](#)

[Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust](#)

