

**Ministry of
Indigenous Relations
and Reconciliation**

**2020/21 – 2022/23
SERVICE PLAN**

February 2020



Minister Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation 2020/21 - 2022/23 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 'S. Fraser'.

Honourable Scott Fraser
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
February 5, 2020

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Purpose of the Ministry

The [Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation](#) (the Ministry) guides and calibrates the Province of British Columbia's efforts to achieve true and lasting reconciliation with [Indigenous peoples](#)¹. The [Truth and Reconciliation Commission \(TRC\) of Canada: Calls to Action](#) confirms the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UN Declaration) as the framework for reconciliation in Canada.

British Columbia is the first province in Canada to recognize Indigenous peoples' human rights in B.C. law and to put the UN Declaration into action through the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#). This historic law sets a process to align provincial laws with the UN Declaration, provides new direction around shared decision making, and allows flexibility for the Province to enter into agreements with a broad range of Indigenous governments. The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation leads these efforts in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples and working closely with other organizations across government.

The Ministry will achieve its [reconciliation commitments](#) in a transformative and collaborative manner. [Strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities](#) and leveraging Indigenous knowledge and perspectives improves social and economic outcomes for Indigenous peoples and all British Columbians.

The Ministry furthers [reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in B.C.](#) by collaboratively developing related policy and practices, and negotiating and implementing [agreements, partnerships, and treaties](#). The Ministry's focus is to build lasting relationships with Indigenous peoples, working toward flexible agreements that can evolve over time, and developing collaborative approaches to policy making. This results in better engagement with Indigenous communities, treaty partners and federal and municipal governments.

The Ministry engages with Indigenous governments, communities², organizations, federal, municipal and treaty partners, stakeholders and the public. While reconciliation is a whole-of-government responsibility, the Ministry provides guidance and leadership to other areas of government on establishing and enhancing relationships with Indigenous peoples.

The Ministry is also responsible for the [Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women](#), which provides advice to government on how to improve the quality of life for Indigenous women in B.C., and the [First Peoples' Cultural Council \(FPCC\)](#), a provincial Crown corporation formed by the Government of British Columbia in 1990 to administer the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Program.

¹ The term "Indigenous" used throughout this document is intended to be inclusive of all peoples of Indigenous ancestry, including First Nations (status and non-status), Métis and Inuit.

² The term "communities" means the diversity of Indigenous communities as defined by Indigenous peoples and includes descriptions such as urban, rural, metropolitan, land-based and reserve.

Strategic Direction

The Government of British Columbia remains focused on its three strategic priorities: making life more affordable, delivering better services, and investing in a sustainable economy.

Ministries are actively working to provide quality, cost-effective services to British Columbia families and businesses. By adopting the Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens and Business and Economic Implications Framework to budgeting and policy development, Ministries will ensure that equity is reflected in budgets, policies and programs.

Additional key initiatives underpinning lasting prosperity in 2020/21 and beyond are the implementation of:

- A Framework for Improving British Columbians' Standard of Living which will provide the foundation for quality economic growth in our province and a pathway to a more inclusive and prosperous society,
- The *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, demonstrating support for true and lasting reconciliation, and
- The CleanBC plan, putting B.C. on the path to a cleaner, better future – with a low carbon economy that creates opportunities while protecting our clean air, land and water.

This 2020/21 service plan outlines how the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation will support the government's priorities, including selected action items identified in the July 2017 Minister's [Mandate Letter](#). Over the previous fiscal year, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation made progress on these priorities by:

- Enshrining the human rights of Indigenous peoples in provincial law and establishing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation in British Columbia through the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.
- Transferring approximately \$195-million in provincial gaming revenue to the B.C. First Nations Gaming Revenue Sharing Limited Partnership, representing the first two years of stable, long-term funding for First Nations communities in B.C. to support community priorities through increased governance capacity and strengthened program and service delivery.
- Partnering with Indigenous leadership and the federal government to develop the [Recognition and Reconciliation of Rights Policy for Treaty Negotiations in British Columbia](#) to renew treaty-making in B.C., with a focus on lasting government-to-government relationships that recognize the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples and can grow and change over time.
- Coordinating the cross-government implementation of the [Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples](#).
- In partnership with the First Nations Leadership Council, co-hosting British Columbia's largest-ever gathering of provincial and First Nations leaders at the [2019 B.C. Cabinet and First Nations Leaders' Gathering](#).
- Supporting the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General in delivering engagements with Indigenous leadership and communities to inform strategies and initiatives that address systemic causes of violence against Indigenous women and girls in B.C.
- Allocating \$385,000 to fund urban Indigenous reconciliation projects, including providing the Union of British Columbia Municipalities with \$110,000 to fund the [Urban Communities Partnering for Reconciliation](#) initiative.

- Establishing an agreement with the B.C. Assembly of First Nations to provide \$2.24-million to support the [Sustainable Economic Development and Fiscal Relations Strategy](#) to move forward on initiatives that focus on: economic reconciliation and governance, engagement and collaboration with the Province and industry, tools and data for that support First Nations business leaders, and the development of a First Nations economic development secretariat.

The following performance plan outlines how the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation will continue to track progress on key mandate letter commitments and other emerging government priorities.

Performance Planning

Goal 1: Advance equitable social and economic outcomes of Indigenous peoples.

The Ministry is committed to advancing social and economic outcomes in Indigenous communities in comprehensive and holistic ways that are determined by and organized around each community's goals and requirements.

Objective 1.1: Partner on shared initiatives that improve the quality of life of Indigenous peoples.

Key Strategies:

- Continue to collaborate with and support other ministries and partners to improve the health and wellness of Indigenous communities through initiatives that address social and economic factors.
- Work with Indigenous communities around the province to support delivery of culturally appropriate services and programs, including the protection and revitalization of Indigenous cultures and languages.
- Share the benefits of economic development with Indigenous communities and increase opportunities for the participation of Indigenous peoples in the economy.
- Partner with the BC Assembly of First Nations and Métis Nation BC to promote Indigenous-led economic development opportunities.
- Support the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to engage with Indigenous communities and leadership, including the development of strategies and initiatives that respond to the The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and address systemic causes of violence against Indigenous women and girls in B.C.

Performance Measure	2018/19 Baseline	2019/20 Forecast	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
1.1 Cumulative number of community ¹ well-being initiatives ²	12	16	20	24	30

¹The term *community* is inclusive of all First Nations, Métis and urban Indigenous communities

²Data Source: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

Community well-being initiatives are community-based, socio-cultural reconciliation processes where Indigenous communities and the B.C. government work in partnership to identify priorities and implementation measures to advance self-determining, thriving Indigenous communities. These partnership models take a comprehensive, holistic approach to investments in Indigenous communities to integrate social and economic priorities.

Objective 1.2: Support Indigenous communities in advancing self-determination and governance building.

Key Strategies:

- Partner with First Nations on opportunities for revenue sharing.
- Support capacity development in Indigenous governments and organizations, including Indigenous public services.
- Support an increased role of Indigenous communities and organizations in delivering services to Indigenous peoples.
- Collaborate with, align and leverage associated opportunities with the federal government.
- Work with the Ministries of Environment and Climate Change Strategy; Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness; and Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources to support CleanBC objectives, including collaborating with Indigenous communities and businesses to identify and implement new clean economy opportunities and to help Indigenous communities adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Performance Measure(s)	2018/19 Baseline	2019/20 Forecast	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
1.2 Number of new opportunities ¹ for First Nations to participate in revenue sharing. ²	11*	9	4	4	4

¹This includes new revenue-sharing opportunities negotiated into particular agreements.

²Data Source: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

*Actuals have increased over reported values in the 2018/19 Annual Service Plan Report as the measure retroactively includes revenue sharing agreements established through the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund during the reported period.

Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

Sharing revenue with First Nations communities is an important reconciliation tool that supports implementation of the UN Declaration and the self-determined pursuit of economic, social, and community development. Like all governments, First Nations require sources of revenue to support capacity and service delivery. First Nations sharing in the wealth generated by economic opportunities supports economic growth and positive outcomes in their communities and for all British Columbians.

Goal 2: Work in partnership to achieve true and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

True and lasting reconciliation is a cross-government priority and requires collaboration with ministry partners, and transparent engagement with all British Columbians. The Ministry is committed to establishing partnerships and forums that enable meaningful participation of all those seeking to understand and advance reconciliation.

Objective 2.1: Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Calls to Action, and the Tsilhqot’in Supreme Court decision.

Key Strategies:

- Work in partnership with Indigenous peoples to jointly develop an Action Plan that establishes a framework for reconciliation and to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration, including alignment with provincial law and policy.
- Support government ministries and agencies to integrate reconciliation into their operations, including cross-government implementation of the [Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia’s Relationship with Indigenous Peoples](#).
- Support and engage the public, key partners and other stakeholders to build understanding and partnerships that advance reconciliation.
- Pursue opportunities to align with the federal government.

Performance Measure	2019/20 Baseline	2020/21 Target
2.1 Delivery of planning commitments and reporting obligations related to the <i>Declaration Act</i> ¹	-	1

¹Data Source: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

The development of an action plan in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples and regular reporting will provide a transparent and accountable path forward on reconciliation in the province. Through the development of this action plan, clear objectives and associated outcomes will be jointly identified to indicate progress made towards reconciliation.

Objective 2.2: Negotiate and implement treaties and other constructive agreements with Indigenous peoples.

Key Strategies:

- Implement the [Recognition and Reconciliation of Rights Policy for Treaty Negotiations in British Columbia](#) to enable new and innovative approaches to developing treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements that are based on the recognition and continuation of Indigenous rights and title.
- In partnership with First Nations, transform the treaty process so it respects new case law and the UN Declaration, and take deliberate and measured steps that support incremental approaches to treaty-making.
- Collaborate with the federal government and other orders of government to pursue new approaches and models that support the co-existence and exercise of the jurisdiction of Indigenous governments.
- Work the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development to modernize land-use planning and sustainably manage B.C.’s ecosystems, rivers, watersheds, forests and old growth.
- Make space for new approaches to negotiations and associated dispute resolution to incorporate Indigenous models of interaction and resolution.

Performance Measure	2018/19 Baseline	2019/20 Forecast	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
2.2 Number of agreements demonstrating transformed approach to treaty-making and other constructive arrangements ¹	5	7	9	11	13

¹Data Source: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

A transformed approach to treaty-making includes incremental agreements that support the negotiated reconciliation of Aboriginal rights and title interests, whether inside or outside the formal BC Treaty Commission Process. These agreements include: final agreement, agreement-in-principle, incremental treaty agreement, core treaty agreement, Stage 5 agreement or other constructive arrangements that seek to reconcile Aboriginal rights and title interests.

Objective 2.3: Increase British Columbians' understanding of reconciliation through transparent and cooperative engagement.

Key Strategies:

- Advance transparent and meaningful engagements with local governments, stakeholders, key partners and the public to increase awareness and knowledge of reconciliation in British Columbia.
- Conduct research to establish replicable baseline awareness measurements surrounding reconciliation among British Columbians.
- Work in partnership with First Nations and others to develop a comprehensive, multi-year plan to increase awareness and knowledge of reconciliation.

Performance Measure	2020/21 Baseline	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
2.3 Percentage increase over baseline awareness of reconciliation among British Columbians	-	3%	5%

¹Data Source: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

The Ministry is working to establish quantifiable measures that identify the level of awareness surrounding reconciliation among British Columbians. These measures will assist the government and reconciliation partners to increase overall awareness through addressing any gaps identified. This increased awareness will, in turn, support ongoing work by all partners to build a shared understanding and support efforts towards achieving lasting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in the province.

Resource Summary

Core Business Area	2019/20 Restated Budget ¹	2020/21 Estimate	2021/22 Plan	2022/23 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Negotiations & Regional Operations Division	13,438	13,254	13,462	13,462
Strategic Partnerships & Initiatives Division	23,377	22,830	23,019	23,019
Reconciliation Transformation & Strategies Division	1,952	1,974	2,007	2,007
Executive & Support Services	9,396	9,066	8,971	8,971
Treaty & Other Agreements Funding	49,729	39,442	50,744	50,752
First Citizens Fund	2,000	1,905	1,807	1,807
First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund	7,889	8,201	7,808	7,773
Total	107,781	96,672	107,818	107,791
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)				
Executive & Support Services	3,901	1	1	1
Total	3,901	1	1	1
Other Financing Transactions (\$000)				
Treaty & Other Agreements Receipts	0,000	0,000	(95,550)	(98,140)
Treaty & Other Agreements Disbursements	0,000	15,000	95,550	98,140
Net Cash Requirement (Source)	0,000	15,000	0,000	0,000
Total Receipts	0,000	0,000	(95,550)	(98,140)
Total Disbursements	0,000	15,000	95,550	98,140
Total Net Cash Requirement (Source)	0,000	15,000	0,000	0,000

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2019/20 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2020/21 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 Treaty Commission](#)

The BC Treaty Commission is an independent body responsible for facilitating treaty negotiations among First Nations and the governments of Canada and British Columbia.

[First Peoples' Cultural Council](#)

The First Peoples' Cultural Council is a First Nation-run Crown corporation that supports the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts, culture and heritage in British Columbia.

[Haida Gwaii Management Council](#)

The Haida Gwaii Management Council (HGMC) is a strategic-level joint decision-making body for land and natural resource decisions on Haida Gwaii, as set out in the [Kunst'aa guu – Kunst'aayah Reconciliation Protocol](#).

[Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women](#)

The Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women provides advice to the Government of British Columbia on how to improve the quality of life of Indigenous women across B.C.