

**Ministry of
Attorney General
and Minister responsible
for Housing**

**2021/22 – 2023/24
SERVICE PLAN**

April 2021



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Minister's Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing 2021/22 – 2023/24 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 'D. Eby', written in a cursive style.

Honourable David Eby, QC
Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing
April 7th, 2021

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Purpose of the Ministry

The Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing works in partnership with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to advance a shared vision of a safe, secure, just and resilient British Columbia. The Ministry works to keep communities safe and provide certainty, proportionality and, above all, fairness when dealing with criminal, civil and family law matters and to protect people, especially those who are most vulnerable. The Ministry, while dealing with these matters, is focused on promoting confidence in the integrity of the sector and to ensure continued public participation and support.

The Ministry is responsible for legal services including sheriff and court administration services, legal aid, prosecution services, administrative tribunals, civil and family justice services, protection and promotion of human rights, and providing legal advice to Government. It is also responsible for providing British Columbians access to more affordable, safe and appropriate housing through policy and programs, technical codes and standards, and services for landlords and tenants, as well as promoting multi-culturalism and leading anti-racism initiatives through the Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives.¹

Strategic Direction

In 2021/22 British Columbians continue to face significant challenges as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The Government of British Columbia is continually evolving to meet the changing needs of people in this province. Government has identified five foundational principles that will inform each Ministry's work and contribute to COVID recovery: putting people first, lasting and meaningful reconciliation, equity and anti-racism, a better future through fighting climate change and meeting our greenhouse gas reduction commitments, and a strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone.

This 2021/22 service plan outlines how the Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing will support the government's priorities including the foundational principles listed above and selected action items identified in the November 2020 [Minister's Mandate Letter](#) and the [Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives' Mandate Letter](#).

¹ The Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing is also responsible for a number of agencies, boards, commissions and tribunals (see Appendix A).

Performance Planning²

Goal 1: The justice sector in British Columbia is fair

Fairness in the justice and public safety sector is bolstered by improving the public’s access to justice, including affordable, effective and lasting resolution to civil and family disputes, as well as criminal legal proceedings. A fair justice system protects the public, including the disadvantaged and victims of crime.

Objective 1.1: Increased access to justice

Key Strategies

- Continue to support the creation of an integrated network of independent community legal clinics to provide poverty law and other specialized services
- Continue to advance the Courthouse Capital Asset Management Plan, including courthouse replacement and renovations
- In response to changes brought about by COVID-19, complete a Justice Recovery Initiative to ensure continual operation of the justice system during and after the pandemic, enhance the delivery of justice services, and improve access to justice for British Columbians over the long term
- Enhance efforts to modernize the courts and justice system in alignment with the [Justice and Public Safety Sector Digital Strategy](#)
- In cooperation with our ministry partners, work to advance recommendations from the findings of the Cullen Commission and the German Report to fight money laundering

Performance Measure	2019/20 Baseline	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
1.1 Number of substantive client service activities provided	53,167	38,104	39,604	46,954	54,305

Data source: Family Justice Services Division (FJSD), Ministry of Attorney General.

Note: The activity level in 2020/21 had been impacted by COVID-19 restrictions and requirements and return to normal activity levels are projected to occur over the FY22 to FY24 period. The performance measure covers all FJSD substantive client service activities (such as interviews, assessment of issues and needs, mediation services, children in mediation services, and activities to produce reports for the court pursuant to s.211 of the *Family Law Act* such as home visits and observations of a child). This performance measure does not include administrative activities such as booking appointments, short phone calls, and written or email correspondence.

² A number of the Goals and Objectives in the 2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan have been changed from the previous year to reflect new accountabilities and priorities of the Ministry, including, but not limited to, housing, homelessness, multiculturalism, and anti-racism. New performance measures are in development for some of these objectives.

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

The Ministry delivers services that promote the timely and just resolution of family disputes arising from separation and divorce in a manner consistent with the best interests of children. The Ministry also provides assistance with other civil (non-family) issues. These services improve access to justice by providing parties with opportunities to resolve some or all of their issues before they engage in a court-based adversarial process. Activities include interviews to determine issues, assessment family circumstances and screening for violence, mediation services, children in mediation services, Parenting After Separation courses, self help resource room assistance and activities to produce reports for the court pursuant to s.211 of the *Family Law Act* such as home visits and observations of a child.

Objective 1.2: Improved outcomes for Indigenous people through strengthened partnerships with Indigenous leadership and communities

Key Strategies

- In partnership with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, the Federal Government and Indigenous communities, work with the BC First Nations Justice Council to advance the BC First Nations Justice Strategy and work with the Métis Nation BC Justice Council to develop, endorse and advance the Métis Justice Strategy
- Improve access to culturally appropriate justice services, including continuing to establish Indigenous Justice Centres across the province
- Reduce Indigenous over-representation in the criminal justice system through ongoing policy review and changes, educating employees, expansion of Indigenous courts and outreach and partnerships with Indigenous communities
- In partnership with the BC First Nations Justice Council, transition Gladue³ services from Legal Aid BC to an Indigenous entity
- Support Government to deliver the action plan required under the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* to build strong relationships based on recognition and implementation of the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples protected in Canada's constitution

³ Gladue reports provide judges with comprehensive information about Indigenous offender's circumstances as well as that of their community during sentencing and parole hearings.

Performance Measure: Number of Indigenous clients supported at Indigenous Justice Centres

This new performance measure is in development with baseline and target data to be reported in the 2022/23 Service Plan. In 2019/20 three Indigenous Justice Centres were established and opened in Prince George, Prince Rupert and Merritt. While each centre offers unique supports tailored to the local Indigenous community, individuals are able to access a number of services, including legal advice and representation for criminal and child protection matters; advocacy and support in dealing with agencies such as the police and Ministry of Children and Family Development; referrals to relevant agencies and services such as counselling or employment support; information towards better transitions from jail and integration into the community; and restorative justice options to better support and address the needs of those impacted by a crime.

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

This measure reflects Government's work with Indigenous leadership and communities to increase access to justice for Indigenous peoples through delivery of local and culturally relevant services. These centres are part of a broader First Nations Justice Strategy that was launched in March 2020. This strategy was created in consultation with First Nations communities throughout B.C and reflects their vision and priorities to transform B.C.'s justice system.

Goal 2: Safe, affordable and functional housing for all British Columbians

Ensuring British Columbians have access to safe, affordable, and functional housing is a key priority for the Ministry.

Objective 2.1: Reduce homelessness through permanent housing and services in partnership with provincial ministries, agencies and local governments

Key Strategies

- Take immediate action to support communities in responding to encampments by working closely with our partners to provide life and safety supports, outreach services, as well as shelter and housing
- Lead government's efforts to address homelessness by implementing a homelessness strategy
- Develop and implement a comprehensive permanent housing plan for people experiencing homelessness who are housed in temporary accommodations
- Support the work of the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions to provide an increased level of support – including more access to nurses and psychiatrists – for B.C.'s most vulnerable who need more intensive care for mental health and addictions than supportive housing provides

Performance Measure: Reduction in the percentage of people experiencing chronic homelessness

This new performance measure is in development as part of the Preventing & Reducing Homelessness Integrated Data Project.

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

These measures provide an indication of the extent to which the government’s actions have an impact on homelessness in the province. The most serious form of homelessness is chronic homelessness, defined as remaining homeless over a period of six months or more and/or experiencing homelessness three or more times over a year. While total numbers of people experiencing homelessness may rise and fall due to numerous factors, reducing the proportion of those who are chronically homeless is a priority.

Objective 2.2: Increased security of tenure and supply of affordable market rental, non-profit, co-op, student and supported housing and improved options for middle-income British Columbians to experience homeownership

Key Strategies

- Continue to implement the recommendations of the Rental Housing Task Force
- Deliver government's 10-year housing plan, Homes for B.C., and the affordable housing it’s bringing to tens of thousands of British Columbians, including working in partnership to create 114,000 affordable homes
- Deliver more affordable housing through [HousingHub](#) partnerships by providing additional low-interest loans; expanding partnerships with non-profit and co-op housing providers to acquire and preserve existing rental housing; and tasking the Hub with identifying new pathways to home ownership or other equity-building programs
- Support the work of the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation to bring the federal government to the table to match British Columbia’s funding to build much-needed housing for Indigenous peoples both on and off reserve

Performance Measure(s)	2018/19 Actual	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
2.2 Number of affordable and supportive housing units completed by BC Housing including affordable rental and social housing (including HousingHub)	4,180	3,500	4,500	3,000	3,000

Data source: BC Housing

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

These measures describe Government’s contribution towards creating and facilitating more affordable housing through provincial programs. Creating more affordable housing increases housing options for British Columbians who need it most.

Discussion

This measure identifies the number of affordable and supportive housing units completed and ready for occupancy by residents, including units created through Building BC and HousingHub programs. Targets are based on the completion of new units created through acquisition or new construction. The targets for completed units are the funded units that represent incremental progress toward building affordable housing. The intermittent nature of construction projects results in variable targets between fiscal years. Following the restart of HousingHub following Budget 2021, the units completed target will be revised in the 2022/23 Service Plan to reflect the ramp up of HousingHub projects.

Objective 2.3: Enhanced safety, occupant health and accessibility, and sustainability of the built environment

Key Strategies

- Enable installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in more strata and apartments
- Lead work on the next iteration of the BC Building Code, including changes that will make new buildings more accessible for all people
- Require new buildings and retrofits to be more energy efficient and support local governments to set consistent carbon pollution performance standards for new buildings

Performance Measure(s)	2019/20 Baseline	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
2.3a CleanBC: Number of local governments referencing the Energy Step Code in bylaws and policies ¹	38	41	59	To be reset following 2022 BC Building Code release	To be reset following 2022 BC Building Code release

Data source: Ministry of Attorney General and the Minister Responsible for Housing in cooperation with the Energy Step Code Council and member local governments representing the Union of BC Municipalities and the Planning Institute of British Columbia.

¹ Excludes City of Vancouver, as it is not regulated under the *Building Act*.

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

The construction of more energy efficient buildings in communities help meet climate action commitments and enhance sustainability of the built environment.

Goal 3: B.C.’s communities and institutions are free from racism

Advancing equity and social justice is the cornerstone of new strategies to combat racism, reduce systemic barriers, and build understanding and respect for one another across British Columbia’s diverse society.

Objective 3.1: Champion anti-racism across government, address systemic discrimination, and support communities to respond to public incidents of racism and hate

Key Strategies

- Undertake stakeholder consultation to inform the introduction of a new Anti-Racism Act that better serves everyone in BC
- Work to reduce systemic discrimination and pave the way for race-based data collection essential to modernizing sectors like policing, health care and education
- Engage communities through the [Resilience BC Anti-Racism Network](#) and related initiatives to provide them with information, supports and training they need to respond to, and prevent future incidents of, racism
- Honour the Japanese-Canadian community by providing lasting recognition of historical wrongs

Performance Measure(s)	2017/18 Baseline	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
3.1 Number of B.C. communities engaged in projects that build intercultural trust and understanding and reduce racism and systemic barriers	45	57	50	50	50

Data source: Internally compiled data from the BC Multiculturalism Grants Program and the Resilience BC Anti-Racism Network.

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

This measure reflects provincial support for community-led engagements that proactively work to build intercultural trust and understanding, combat racism and promote diversity and inclusion in B.C. communities.

Discussion

This measure was previously included in the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture Service Plan. The number of B.C. communities (57) forecasted to be engaged in 2020/21 is expected to exceed the previously committed target of 45 communities due in part to higher interest in community funding as the result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. While the 2020/21 year may be an outlier, targets for outer years have been updated from 45 in the previous Service Plan to 50 to reflect increased anticipated engagement in these projects.

Financial Summary

Core Business Area	2020/21 Restated Estimates ¹	2021/22 Estimates	2022/23 Plan	2023/24 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Justice Services	150,110	159,644	162,523	164,513
Prosecution Services	146,429	159,595	162,613	162,613
Court Services	120,948	129,131	132,011	132,011
Legal Services	27,314	32,174	32,174	32,174
Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Other Tribunals	35,679	43,864	43,871	43,871
Multiculturalism and Anti- Racism	1,916	1,916	1,916	1,916
Executive and Support Services	24,298	28,577	29,078	28,902
Judiciary	83,572	89,547	91,891	91,740
<i>Crown Proceeding Act</i>	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500
Independent Investigations Office	9,075	9,093	9,093	9,093
Housing	506,843	576,465	608,053	633,212
Housing Endowment Fund special account	12,884	12,884	12,884	12,884
Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account	0	0	0	0
<i>Public Inquiry Act</i>	10,136	5,111	0	0
Total	1,153,704	1,272,501	1,310,607	1,337,429
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)				
Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Other Tribunals	10	10	10	10
Executive and Support Services	5,740	10,005	6,846	6,496
Judiciary	920	3,970	2,460	770
Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account	363	363	363	363
Total	7,033	14,348	9,679	7,639

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2020/21 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2021/22 Estimates.

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

Capital Expenditures

Major Capital Projects (over \$50 million)	Targeted Year of Completion	Project Cost to Dec 31, 2020 (\$m)	Estimated Cost to Complete (\$m)	Approved Anticipated Total Cost (\$m)
Stanley New Fountain Hotel	2022	25	44	69
Through the Affordable Rental Housing (ARH) program, this five-storey, 142-unit mixed-use building, located at 23-51 W. Cordova Street in Vancouver, is developed under a three-party agreement between the Provincial Rental Housing Corporation, Westbank Corp. and non-profit organization, PHS Community Services Society. This innovative partnership will replace old, poorly functioning buildings with new social and market rental housing in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. The ARH program establishes housing for people who have a low-to-moderate income but may not be eligible for subsidized housing, providing access to rents equal to, or lower than, average rates in the private-market.				
6585 Sussex Avenue Housing Development	2021	30	45	75
Located in the Metrotown neighbourhood of Burnaby, this 14-storey, 125-unit Affordable Rental Housing (ARH) development provides housing for low to moderate income households who may not be eligible for subsidized housing. The ARH program provides access to rents equal to, or lower than, average rates in the private-market. A total of 25 units will be accessible and adaptable for people with disabilities. The project is being developed by 6511 Sussex Heights Developments Ltd. (Thind Properties) in partnership with the operator and non-profit organization, The New Vista Society.				
Clark & 1st Avenue Housing Development	2024	4	105	109
This 10-storey, 97-unit, mixed-use, Affordable Rental Housing (ARH) building is being developed by BC Housing Management Commission, in partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health and the City of Vancouver. It will serve low-to moderate-income households, and include a social enterprise space for local residents, focusing on Indigenous healing and wellness through employment and alignment with culturally informed treatment. The ARH program establishes housing for people who may not be eligible for subsidized housing but fall within the low-to-moderate income threshold, providing access to rents equal to, or lower than, average rates in the private-market. The building will be operated by S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Affordable Housing Society. Vancouver Coastal Health will also operate a Withdrawal Management Centre and 20 short-term transitional housing units, with The City of Vancouver operating a Commercial Retail Unit focusing on Indigenous healing and wellness through employment.				

Appendix A: Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Tribunals

As of April 2021, the Ministry of Attorney General and the Minister Responsible for Housing is responsible and accountable for the following:

- Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC
- Association of BC Forest Professionals
- British Columbia Ferry Commission
- BC Family Maintenance Agency
- BC Housing Management Commission
- BC Human Rights Tribunal
- British Columbia Institute of Agrologists
- British Columbia Review Board
- British Columbia Utilities Commission
- British Columbia Safety Authority (Technical Safety BC)
- Building Code Appeal Board
- Building Officials Association of British Columbia
- Civil Resolution Tribunal
- College of Applied Biology
- Community Care and Assisted Living Appeal Board
- Employment Standards Tribunal
- Engineers and Geoscientists BC
- Environmental Appeal Board
- Financial Services Tribunal
- Forest Appeals Commission
- Health Professions Review Board
- Hospital Appeal Board
- Independent Investigations Office of BC
- Industry Training Appeal Board
- Investigation and Standards Office
- Judicial Council of the Provincial Court of BC
- Labour Relations Board
- Legal Aid BC
- Mental Health Review Board
- Notaries Public Foundation and Board of Examiners
- Oil and Gas Appeal Tribunal
- Property Assessment Appeal Board
- Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia
- Safety Standards Appeal Board
- Surface Rights Board
- Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal