

**Ministry of
Indigenous Relations
and Reconciliation**

**2022/23 – 2024/25
SERVICE PLAN**

February 2022



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Published by the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Minister's Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation 2022/23 – 2024/25 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 "Murray Rankin".

Honourable Murray Rankin
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
February 22, 2022

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Purpose of the Ministry

The [Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation](#) (the Ministry) guides and helps coordinate the Province of British Columbia's efforts to achieve true and lasting reconciliation with [Indigenous Peoples](#)¹ by working in respectful partnerships that recognize inherent rights.

Reconciliation is important to everyone as we work together to address historic wrongs through the lens of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada: Calls to Action. These efforts create a better province for all British Columbians.

As the first province in Canada to recognize Indigenous Peoples' human rights in law through the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) (Declaration Act), British Columbia is implementing the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UN Declaration) as our shared framework for reconciliation. The Ministry leads these efforts in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, working closely with other organizations across government.

The Declaration Act supports government in deepening relationships with Indigenous Peoples by requiring that provincial laws be aligned with the UN Declaration, providing new direction around shared decision making, and allowing flexibility for the Province to enter into agreements with a broad range of Indigenous governments.

The Ministry achieves its [reconciliation commitments](#) by prioritizing collaboration and engagement with Indigenous Peoples through trauma-informed and culturally safe practices. [Strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities](#)² 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](#) by collaboratively developing policy and practices, and negotiating and implementing [agreements, partnerships, and treaties](#). The Ministry's focus is to build lasting relationships with Indigenous Peoples by working toward flexible agreements that can evolve over time and developing collaborative approaches to policy making.

The Ministry engages with Indigenous governments, communities, and organizations, as well as 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.

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

In 2022/2023, the Government of British Columbia will continue its whole-of-government response to the COVID-19 pandemic with a focus on protecting the health, social and economic well-being of British Columbians. Building on our economic, environmental, and social strengths while looking to seize opportunities to improve outcomes for all British Columbians will be an important aspect of each ministry's work as we respond to COVID-19 and recover from devastating floods and wildfires. The policies, programs and projects developed over the course of this service plan period will align with the five foundational principles established by Government in 2020: putting people first; working toward lasting and meaningful reconciliation; supporting equity and anti-racism; ensuring a better future through fighting climate change and meeting our greenhouse gas reduction targets; and supporting a strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone.

This 2022/23 service plan outlines how the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation 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](#).

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 priorities. These efforts include sharing the benefits of economic development with Indigenous communities and increasing opportunities for the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the economy.

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

The Ministry works with Indigenous, provincial, and federal agencies and partners to advance opportunities that improve the health and wellness of Indigenous communities through community-focused initiatives.

Key Strategies

- Support First Nations-led investigations into former residential school sites and enhance health and wellness resources to address the trauma of residential school findings.
- Work with other ministries on initiatives that support First Nations and Indigenous partners to address the health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Partner with the BC Assembly of First Nations to promote Indigenous-led economic development opportunities.
- Work with the Minister’s Advisory Council on Indigenous Women and the First Peoples’ Cultural Council to advance solutions that support their respective mandates.
- Expand support to Aboriginal Friendship Centres and other urban Indigenous organizations that support Indigenous People living in urban areas B.C.

Performance Measure	2019/20 Baseline	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
1.1 Cumulative number of community ¹ well-being initiatives	16	22	24	28	32

Data source: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

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

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

Community well-being initiatives are reconciliation processes where Indigenous communities and the B.C. government work in partnership to identify and implement socio-cultural priorities. These partnerships invest in economic development, cultural revitalization, human resource capacity building, education, justice, health and family services, and institutional and infrastructure development.

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

The Ministry works with Indigenous Peoples to advance self-determination and governance building, supporting economic, social, and cultural initiatives aligned with the priorities of individual communities and transitioning delivery of public services to Indigenous governments.

Key Strategies

- Co-develop a new fiscal relationship in partnership with Indigenous Peoples and the Ministry of Finance.
- Work with partner ministries to advance CleanBC objectives, including collaborating with Indigenous communities and businesses to identify and implement new energy efficiency and clean economy opportunities and to help Indigenous communities adapt to and recover from the impacts of climate change.
- Make space for an increased role for Indigenous communities and organizations in delivering services to Indigenous Peoples.
- Collaborate with, align, and leverage opportunities with the federal government.
- Partner with First Nations on further opportunities for revenue sharing.

Performance Measure	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
1.2 Number of new opportunities ¹ for First Nations to participate in revenue sharing	2	4	4	4

Data source: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

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

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. Ensuring First Nations share in the wealth generated by economic opportunities helps support economic growth in First Nations 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 requiring collaboration with ministry partners and transparent engagement with all British Columbians.

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.

All ministries are accountable for implementing Provincial reconciliation commitments. Supporting this, the Ministry works to develop cross-government tools and approaches that achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration and implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

Key Strategies

- Support government ministries and agencies to integrate reconciliation into their policy and operations, including cross-government implementation of the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) and the [Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia’s Relationship with Indigenous Peoples](#).
- Work in partnership with Indigenous Peoples, in line with government agencies, to implement the Action Plan required under the Declaration Act.
- Work with ministry partners to support efforts to engage with Indigenous Peoples to advance reconciliation initiatives within their respective ministry mandates, including alignment of provincial policy and legislation with the Declaration Act.
- Establish a Secretariat to assist government to achieve its alignment of laws obligations under the Declaration Act.
- Ensure that the diversity of Indigenous voices are brought into government planning, processes, policies, and practices.

Performance Measure	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
2.1 Delivery of reporting obligations related to the Declaration Act	1	1	1	1

Data source: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

The Declaration Act requires government to work in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples to align provincial laws with the UN Declaration, develop and implement an action plan to meet the objectives of the UN Declaration, and deliver an annual report that details progress to implement the Declaration Act. Through delivery of its reporting commitments, the Ministry outlines on an annual basis measures taken towards implementing the Action Plan and alignment of laws.

The Ministry will be reviewing opportunities to develop a performance measure in line with the Declaration Act for future reporting years. This effort will include reviewing potential measures aligned with the action plan and supportive or complementary to the function and role of the Secretariat, as identified in the Minister's Mandate Letter.

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

The Ministry works with Indigenous Peoples and other ministry partners to establish treaties and other agreements that affirm self-determination and support new approaches to developing a framework for cooperation and co-existence of Indigenous jurisdiction.

Key Strategies

- In partnership with Indigenous Peoples, develop new approaches to negotiations to move from short-term, transactional arrangements to long-term agreements that recognize and support reconciliation, self-determination, and economic independence.
- Develop a whole-of-government approach to recognize and enter into decision-making agreements with Indigenous governing bodies as outlined in the Declaration Act.
- Engage with partner agencies and the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations to identify implementation priorities and develop new approaches that improve treaty relations in British Columbia.
- Develop a cross-sector approach to strengthen and promote collaborative negotiation and agreement processes that advance reconciliation objectives in partnership with Indigenous Peoples.

Discussion

The Ministry had committed to reviewing its performance measure under this objective in the [2021/22 Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Service Plan](#). This work has not yet resulted in a measure that is ready for the current reporting year.

The Ministry is considering additional opportunities for consultation to develop and refine the upcoming performance measure and is working to prepare this measure for the 2023/24 reporting cycle and will begin reporting on it as soon as is practicable.

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation will continue to report on outcomes of the work committed to under this objective in the Annual Service Plan Report.

Financial Summary

Core Business Area	2021/22 Restated Estimates ¹	2022/23 Estimates	2023/24 Plan	2024/25 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Negotiations and Regional Operations Division	15,341	15,341	15,341	15,341
Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives Division	18,337	18,439	18,441	18,443
Reconciliation Transformation and Strategies Division	3,260	3,260	3,260	3,260
Executive and Support Services	12,498	12,775	12,791	12,791
Treaty and Other Agreements	117,063	115,629	130,760	123,057
Declaration Act Secretariat	0,000	3,213	4,394	4,441
First Citizens Fund	1,642	1,686	1,672	1,664
First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund	9,268	7,576	7,170	7,295
Total	177,409	177,919	193,829	186,292
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)				
Executive and Support Services	1	3	3	3
Total	1	3	3	3
Other Financing Transactions (\$000)				
British Columbia First Nations Gaming Revenue Sharing Limited Partnership Receipts	(58,059)	(101,000)	(109,000)	(110,000)
British Columbia First Nations Gaming Revenue Sharing Limited Partnership Disbursements	58,059	101,000	109,000	110,000
Land Transfers Disbursements	32,570	34,260	18,574	22,945
Total Receipts	(58,059)	(101,000)	(109,000)	(110,000)
Total Disbursements	90,629	135,260	127,574	132,945
Total Net Cash Requirements (Source)	32,570	34,260	18,574	22,945

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2021/22 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2022/23 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

As of February 22, 2022, the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation is responsible and accountable for the following:

BC Treaty Commission³

[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 Council⁴

The Haida Gwaii Management Council 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. through collaborating with government to guide implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action that affect women. The Council also supports the inclusion of Indigenous Gender-Based Analysis+ across government and is working to support the development of B.C.'s Action Plan to end gender-based violence.

³ With reference to the BC Treaty Commission, responsibility and accountability is limited and defined through [the Treaty Commission Act](#).

⁴ With reference to the Haida Gwaii Management Council, responsibility and accountability is limited and defined through the [Kunst'aa guu – Kunst'aayah Reconciliation Protocol](#).