

**Ministry of  
Jobs, Economic Recovery  
and Innovation**

**2022/23 – 2024/25  
SERVICE PLAN**

**February 2022**



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## Minister's Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation 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 black ink, appearing to be 'R. Kahlon', written in a cursive style.

Honourable Ravi Kahlon  
Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation  
February 4, 2022

## Minister of State's Accountability Statement



I am the Minister of State for Trade and Innovation and under the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act*, I am accountable for achieving the following results for 2022/23:

- a) promote the 2022 BC Export Awards;
- b) continue to consult with key stakeholders as ministry teams work towards developing a new B.C. Trade Diversification Strategy which should include new strategies to expand B.C.'s export opportunities;
- c) 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;
- d) continue to promote B.C. food and agriculture exports in collaboration with the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries;
- e) promote trade readiness programs across the province, including B.C.'s Export Navigator program to help more small businesses export their goods and services;
- f) continue to promote the benefits of free trade agreements to help B.C. businesses leverage new opportunities;
- g) continue to engage with industry stakeholders to identify sector-focused special projects that would support economic development, trade and innovation in sectors including aerospace and broader forest innovation;
- h) lead consultation to advance the Mass Timber Action Plan including engaging with the Mass Timber Advisory Council and industry stakeholders;
- i) support the development and implementation of a made-in-B.C. Shipbuilding Strategy through engagement of stakeholders and partners, including the B.C. Shipbuilding Advisory Committee; and
- j) submit to Cabinet a report on the results referred to in paragraphs (a) through (i) on or before March 31, 2023.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "George Chow". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Honourable George Chow  
Minister of State For Trade  
February 4, 2022

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## **Purpose of the Ministry**

The Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation is working to make life better for people by building an inclusive, sustainable, and innovative economy that works for all British Columbians.

The Ministry delivers programs and services that leverage British Columbia's natural advantages to drive clean and inclusive economic growth.

Its priorities include encouraging business start-up and growth through innovation and adoption of new technologies, supporting emerging opportunities in manufacturing, shipbuilding, life sciences and mass timber. In addition, the Ministry will build on British Columbia's competitive advantages through the development of an Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) strategy. The Ministry also promotes trade and investment, positioning B.C. as a global exporter of low-carbon goods and services.

The Ministry supports First Nations and Indigenous peoples, small businesses and communities with economic development activities, the revitalization of traditional industries, economic diversification, job creation and strategic investments to ensure everyone in British Columbia benefits from economic growth.

To that end, our government just released *Stronger BC: A plan for today, a vision for tomorrow* – British Columbia's guide to economic prosperity through inclusive and clean growth.

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

## **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 Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation 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](#).

## **Economic Statement**

B.C.'s economy has rebounded from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic that began in 2020, despite significant pandemic variant and climate-related events. A strong health response, high vaccination rates, increased infrastructure investments and supports for British Columbians struggling through the pandemic has helped the province rebound. While the recovery has broadened over the past year, it remains uneven with sectors like tourism, hospitality and live recreation events not fully recovered. The path of the ongoing economic recovery in B.C. and its trading partners remains highly uncertain. However, rebuild efforts from the November 2021 floods are expected to provide some support to economic activity in the province. The Economic Forecast Council (EFC) estimates that B.C. real GDP expanded by 5.1 per cent in 2021 and expects growth of 4.2 per cent in 2022 and 2.7 per cent in 2023. Meanwhile for Canada, the EFC projects national real GDP growth of 4.1 per cent in 2022 and 2.8 per cent in 2023, following an estimated gain of 4.7 per cent in 2021. As such, B.C.'s economic growth is expected to be broadly in line with the national average in the coming years. The pandemic has increased risks to B.C.'s economic outlook, such as the emergence of further variants of concern, inflationary supply chain disruptions, extended travel restrictions, and the continued impact of the slower recovery in some sectors of the B.C. economy. Further risks include ongoing uncertainty regarding global trade policies, and lower commodity prices.

## Performance Planning

**Goal 1: Capitalize on our strengths, including low-carbon and Environmental, Social and Governance advantages, to build a brand that attracts investment, accelerates exports and supports business growth in British Columbia**

**Objective 1.1: Assist B.C. businesses to compete globally taking advantage of trade opportunities in existing and new markets and attracting investment to create resiliency**

### Key Strategies

- Drive the development and implementation of B.C.’s Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) strategy, marketing and communications, in collaboration with other ministries and governments to demonstrate the quality and competitiveness of BC products and services in global markets.
- 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 Representatives globally.
- Identify new opportunities to diversify markets and leverage resources to build connections in new markets to highlight B.C. as a low-carbon supplier.
- Defend B.C.’s interests in trade actions and disputes to help protect B.C. businesses’ competitiveness and utilize negotiations to further open markets to support diversification.
- Develop and implement a Trade Diversification Strategy that will help B.C. businesses build connections in new markets, take advantage of trade agreements, increase exports, and highlight B.C. as a low carbon supplier.

Performance Measure(s)	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
1.1 Number of trade and investment opportunities supported by the Ministry	605	665	732	732

Data source: Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

### Linking Performance Measure to Objective

The Ministry has an integrated program of investment attraction and export promotion activities in B.C., and in overseas markets to support growth and diversification in the province. Established in 2019/20, this performance measure follows how well the Ministry is able to attract and promote British Columbia trade and investment opportunities and is monitored by an internal tracking system.



## Discussion

The target for 2024/25 will remain stable given the global uncertainty presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and to reflect our steady recovery. Subsequent targets will be dependent on ongoing client and stakeholder feedback and development of a new trade diversification strategy.

### Objective 1.2: Support business growth and anchoring in B.C.

#### Key Strategies

- Work with InBC Investment Corporation to help high potential businesses grow and deliver economic, environmental, and social returns for the province.
- Work with interested parties to leverage investment programming, such as the Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit program.
- Assist investors in taking significant projects from idea to completion, and bring proponents, various levels of government, Indigenous communities and other stakeholders together to advance investment decisions, seek matching opportunities and lead and coordinate cross-government corporate initiatives
- Ensure businesses that are not yet export-ready are supported to become exporters through Export Navigator and trade readiness programs, building capacity for international markets and attracting investment into their regions.

Performance Measure(s)	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
1.2a Total small business venture capital leveraged through tax credit usage <sup>1</sup>	\$130M	\$89M	\$90M	\$95M
1.2b Rural small business venture capital leveraged through tax credit usage <sup>2</sup>	\$8.6M	\$8M	\$8.5M	\$8.5M

Data source:

<sup>1</sup>Investment Capital Branch. The 30% tax credit reduces risk to B.C. investors of their investment into eligible B.C. businesses.

<sup>2</sup>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

Business scale up is often reliant on access to capital. By supporting businesses throughout B.C. to access this needed capital the Ministry helps establish the province as a preferred location to do business, encourages job creation and provides a catalyst for sectoral growth – an investment in businesses that encourages them to grow and stay in B.C. The investment dollars available for venture capital can be influenced by several external market factors, therefore, original targets are being carried forward. Preliminary forecasts for 2021/22 indicate the previous targets are likely to be exceeded. Any changes will be reported in the Annual Service Plan Report. Access to investment capital in British Columbia will be further enhanced by the establishment of the [InBC Investment Corp.](#) Strategic Investment Fund.

**Goal 2: Accelerate the innovation economy to catalyze future opportunities in core and emerging sectors to support ongoing recovery in British Columbia**

**Objective 2.1 Launch and implement the Mass Timber Action Plan that will accelerate the growth of a new innovative, inclusive, and sustainable economic sector in B.C.**

- Increase real-world experience and learning from new mass timber hybrid buildings through Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd. Mass Timber Demonstration Program and publicly funded buildings.
- Leverage new CleanBC focus on low-carbon building materials to expand market adoption of climate friendly mass timber.
- Support innovation within the building regulatory system to remove technical barriers to mass timber construction.

Performance Measure	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
2.1 Three year rolling average <sup>1</sup> of square meters of floor area in newly completed buildings which incorporate mass timber in one or more primary structural systems <sup>2</sup>	77,038 <sup>3</sup>	84,741	93,216	102,537

Data source: Forestry Innovation Investment/Sciuss Advisory Inc.

<sup>1</sup>Three year rolling accounts for normal year to year variations in building construction starts

<sup>2</sup>Primary structural system means load bearing walls, roofs, floors, and vertical shafts for stairs/elevators

**Linking Performance Measure to Objective**

The increasing number of square meters of floor area is an indicator of the overall growth of the mass timber sector. It demonstrates the rising demand for this innovative building material which in-turn sends strong market signals to mass timber manufacturers and the various goods and service providers within the emerging broader sector.

**Discussion**

Mass timber is a relatively new sector with vast potential to add value to our forest resource, modernize the way we construct buildings, and reduce the carbon footprint of our building materials. The significant export potential associated with the mass timber products and associated services is in addition to the domestic consumption tracked in this performance measure. Opportunities for enhanced data collection and measurement will emerge as the sector matures and transitions from niche to mainstream.

Due to challenges associated with data collection in this nascent sector, the performance measure from last year has been discontinued. One of the Actions in the Mass Timber Action Plan is to improve data collection as this emerging sector develops. Until more data is available, m2 of floor area as a performance measure for 2022/23 represents the best performance measure to

indicate industry growth. In future, as more data on this industry becomes available, this performance measure can be further refined.

**Objective 2.2: Grow sectors of emerging opportunity including agritech, life sciences, manufacturing and transformative technologies like artificial intelligence and position them as drivers of good jobs and revenues**

**Key Strategies**

- Develop a B.C. Life Sciences and Biomanufacturing Strategy that will cement B.C.’s position in the global supply chain with the focus on biotech research, talent development, clean growth and commercialization to generate sustainable, innovative, value-added economic activity and well-paying jobs in B.C.
- Continue to help advance the commercialization efforts of B.C.’s quantum computing and applied artificial intelligence clusters.
- Develop an Industrial and Manufacturing Strategy that will help create a strong platform for industry to accelerate towards Industry 4.0 and manufacture, improve and distribute their products using innovation and technology.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, coordinate and implement targeted initiatives to support and grow B.C.’s thriving agritech sector.
- Develop and implement a B.C. Shipbuilding Strategy that will support sustainable and innovative shipbuilding, ship repair and related marine industries in B.C.
- In collaboration with industry partners, establish Integrated Marketplaces that allow innovative companies to access domestic markets and efficiently scale up operations.

Performance Measure	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
2.2 Develop strategies to leverage emerging economic opportunities in BC	N/A	Develop strategies in multiple key emerging sectors	TBD	TBD

Data source: Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation.

**Linking Performance Measure to Objective**

As outlined in Stronger BC: A plan for today, a vision for tomorrow, the Ministry is developing strategies to enhance B.C.’s access to emerging economic opportunities in several key sectors. Once strategies are ready for implementation, a new performance measure will be established to track progress against this objective.

**Discussion**

Fostering innovation and building talent in British Columbia will facilitate the creation of future jobs and position B.C. as a leader in an innovation driven economy. Enabling growth in these emerging sectors is an important component of our path forward.

**Goal 3: Support businesses and communities to create sustainable, family supporting jobs and inclusive growth that works for all British Columbians**

**Objective 3.1: Support B.C. communities, First Nations, Indigenous and other underrepresented peoples to increase participation in established and emerging economic sectors**

**Key Strategies**

- Develop and implement the Small Business Diversity and Inclusion Strategy
- Establish a long-term dialogue and commit to improving economic well-being for First Nations and Indigenous peoples and commit to taking action to ensure their full participation in all aspects of British Columbia’s economy.
- Continue to coordinate and support Indigenous economic development activities through the Indigenous Economic Development Joint Office in collaboration with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.
- Continue to provide small businesses as well as Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities throughout the province with the tools and resources to support economic development efforts, including outreach initiatives, webinars, workshops, digital training, and toolkits.
- Build on the success of StrongerBC programming such as the Launch Online Grant Program, Digital Marketing Bootcamps and the Innovator Skills Initiative, to continue to increase underrepresented groups participation in the digital economy.
- Support the StrongerBC Young Leader’s Council as it provides ideas to Government on topics that matter to young people in BC

Performance Measure(s)	2020 Baseline	2021 Forecast	2022 Target	2023 Target	2024 Target
3.1 Support growth in the number of businesses with 10 or more employees	49,900	50,750	51,600	52,500	53,400

Data source: BC Stats using data supplied by Statistics Canada. Please note that the total number reflects the calendar year and final business counts for 2021 will be released in March 2022.

**Linking Performance Measure to Objective**

Businesses with more than 10 employees are shown to have higher salaries and a more stable workforce and to generate more economic activity domestically and internationally. B.C. is a leader in entrepreneurship and has an abundance of small start-up companies. Supporting these companies to grow to become economic anchors in communities builds resilient and diverse regional economies. With this growth comes investment in research and development, supply chain development and the ability to export to domestic, national and global markets – all of which will result in good-paying jobs for British Columbians.

**Discussion**

The Ministry established this new performance measure in fiscal year 2020/21. As the Ministry continues to develop and refine its work in this area, a new performance measure may be developed that better aligns with *Stronger BC: A Plan for Today, A Vision for Tomorrow* and this objective.

**Objective 3.2: Strengthen regional economic development, support recovery and build resilience to economic disruption**

**Key Strategies**

- Support B.C. forestry workers, families and contractors impacted by economic disruption events such as mill closures and curtailments and the COVID-19 pandemic, through leading on-the-ground community transition services.
- Provide coordinated and comprehensive supports for workers, communities and First Nations to offset economic impacts that may follow from new restrictions on harvesting old growth forests.
- Create short-term employment opportunities for contractors and their employees, and mitigate job losses through the implementation of the [Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure](#) and [Forest Employment Programs](#).
- Together with the three Regional Economic Trusts, implement the Rural Business and Community Recovery Initiative to assist businesses and communities.
- Implement a targeted rural resident attraction pilot that will assist communities in building on their local or regional assets and economic opportunities in order to attract and retain residents across B.C.
- Lead and strengthen cross-government programs, services, and investments to support regional worker and community resiliency, and realize new economic opportunities.

Performance Measure(s)	2020/21 Baseline	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
3.2 Percent of rural development grant funding spent	100%	100%	100%	TBD	TBD

Data source: Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

**Linking Performance Measure to Objective**

This new performance measure tracks the amount of grant funding spent to support community economies in B.C. This funding supports infrastructure and economic development, directly contributing to short-term economic recovery and job creation. In the long-term, these projects support economic diversification, helping to strengthen regional economies and increase resiliency to economic disruptions.

**Discussion**

Regional economic recovery depends on many factors including community capacity, the structure and condition of the local economy, and access to resources. Communities and organizations need funding to implement initiatives to create the foundations for long-term economic development. For example, building better economic infrastructure, innovative and sustainable sector development, advancing economic diversification, and strengthening climate resilience.

**Objective 3.3: British Columbia’s evolving regulatory framework supports effective service delivery as well as business and economic growth**

**Key Strategies**

- Maintain the commitment to a zero-net increase in regulatory requirements (from the baseline set in 2004) until 2022.
- Report on cross-government progress on regulatory modernization and service improvements on an annual basis.
- Continue to use an annual process of bundling small regulatory changes to enhance service delivery and support ongoing maintenance of B.C.’s regulatory framework.
- Continue efforts to identify and address outdated language related to inclusion, accessibility and modern service delivery.

Performance Measure(s)	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
3.3 Number of regulatory requirements compared to the 2004 baseline of 197,242 <sup>1</sup>	0 net Increase <sup>1</sup>	0 net Increase	0 net Increase	0 net Increase

Data source: Economic & Regulatory Analysis Branch, Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

<sup>1</sup>From the baseline regulatory requirements set in 2004.

**Linking Performance Measure to Objective**

The regulatory requirements count is a long-standing proxy for the overall regulatory burden in British Columbia. Through the zero-net increase commitment, the B.C. government commits to maintaining the overall number of regulatory requirements nested in provincial statutes, regulations, and associated policies and forms below the baseline set in 2004.

**Discussion**

Conducting regulatory impact analysis and tracking requirements encourages ministries to maintain streamlined and current regulatory frameworks, and to avoid creating requirements that may impact the development and growth of businesses of all sizes – especially small businesses. Modern and streamlined regulations, policies and service delivery promote economic growth and innovation in B.C.

## Financial Summary

Core Business Area	2021/22 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2022/23 Estimates	2023/24 Plan	2024/25 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
Trade and Industry Development	25,903	28,379	28,379	28,379
Small Business and Economic Development	7,454	7,454	7,454	7,454
Investment and Innovation	12,063	13,029	13,129	13,129
Regional Development	27,391	27,391	27,391	27,391
Transfers to Crown Corporations and Agencies	25,640	25,640	25,640	25,640
Executive and Support Services	8,020	8,533	8,550	8,550
Northern Development Fund	500	500	500	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>106,971</b>	<b>110,926</b>	<b>111,043</b>	<b>111,043</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>				
Executive and Support Services	1	3	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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, the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation is responsible and accountable for the following:

[Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd.](#)

[InBC Investment Corporation](#)

BC Renaissance Capital Fund Ltd.

[Innovate BC](#)

[Indigenous Business and Investment Council](#)

[Island Coastal Economic Trust](#)

[Nechako-Kitamaat Development Fund Society](#)

[Northern Development Initiative Trust](#)

Premier's Chinese Canadian Community Advisory Committee

[Small Business BC](#)

[Small Business Roundtable](#)

[Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust](#)

[Stronger BC Young Leader's Council](#)