

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

2023/24 – 2025/26 Service Plan

Revised April 2023



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[Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General](#)

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Minister's Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2023/24 – 2025/26 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, appearing to read "Mike Farnworth".

Honourable Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
February 10, 2023

Table of Contents

Minister's Accountability Statement	3
Strategic Direction.....	5
Purpose of the Ministry.....	5
Operating Environment.....	6
Performance Planning	7
Financial Summary	20
Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations	22
Appendix B: Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia	23

Strategic Direction

In 2023/24, the Government of British Columbia will continue our work to make life better for people in B.C., improve the services we all rely on, and ensure a sustainable province for future generations. Government will focus on building a secure, clean, and fair economy, and a province where everyone can find a good home – whether in a rural area, in a city, or in an Indigenous community. B.C. will continue working toward true and meaningful reconciliation by supporting opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to be full partners in an inclusive and sustainable province. The policies, programs and projects developed over the course of this service plan period will focus on results that people can see and feel in four key areas: attainable and affordable housing, strengthened health care, safer communities, and a secure, clean, and fair economy that can withstand global economic headwinds.

This *2023/24 – 2025/26 Service Plan* outlines how the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General will support the government's priorities, including the foundational principles listed above and selected action items identified in the December 7, 2022, Minister's [Mandate Letter](#).

Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the Ministry of Attorney General work together as the justice and public safety sector to advance a shared vision of a safe, secure, just, and resilient British Columbia.

The mission of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General is to develop public safety policy and deliver associated services and programs, and to administer regulations for the liquor, non-medical cannabis, and gambling sectors.

The ministry is responsible for: policing and law enforcement superintendence; correctional services; victim services, crime prevention and reduction; restorative justice; civil forfeiture; coroners services; liquor, non-medical cannabis and gambling regulation; problem gambling prevention and treatment services; road safety; criminal record checks; the protection order registry; private security industry regulation; consumer protection; and fire prevention and safety through the [Office of the Fire Commissioner](#).¹

The Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General is also responsible for a number of agencies and boards, including the [Insurance Corporation of British Columbia](#) (ICBC), the [B.C. Liquor Distribution Branch](#) (LDB) (see Appendix A), and the [Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia](#) (see Appendix B).²

¹ Responsibility for the Province's anti-money laundering strategy moved to the Ministry of Finance in October, 2022, and in December, 2022, responsibility for Emergency Management BC moved to the new Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness.

² Responsibility for the LDB was transferred to the ministry from the Ministry of Finance.

Operating Environment

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General will continue to strengthen partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations. This includes the goals of aligning provincial laws with the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UNDRIP); reducing the overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples adversely involved in and impacted by the justice and public safety system; addressing gender-based violence, especially against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, who are disproportionately affected; and supporting culturally relevant policies, programs and services.³ This is consistent with government's commitment to true, lasting reconciliation, the [Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#), the [B.C. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#), and the [Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples](#).

The ministry is committed to advancing its work through a [Gender-Based Analysis Plus](#) (GBA+) lens and in alignment with the [Diversity and Inclusion Strategy for the BC Public Service](#) to deliver policies, programs and services that are inclusive, intersectional, responsive, accessible, and culturally safe.

Communities throughout B.C. have been dealing with an increase in repeat offending – criminal activity from a small group of people who are disproportionately committing crimes in neighbourhoods – as well as unprovoked violent stranger attacks. These issues are complex, with overlapping challenges linked to unintended impacts of federal law changes and subsequent Supreme Court decisions as well as increased mental health and addiction challenges that have been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. They highlight the need to continue building social and health care supports to address the underlying root causes that can lead to a cycle of offending.

There are continuing challenges associated with vacancies within the Provincial Police Service. On November 23, 2022, the Province announced funding of \$230 million over the next three years to hire 277 Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officers to allow the RCMP to reach a full staffing level of 2,602 officers in B.C. As part of government's [Safer Communities Action Plan](#), the money will be used to fill vacancies in rural RCMP detachments and regional units, as well as to hire more officers for specialized units combatting issues such as major crime, the sexual exploitation of children, and money laundering.

There is a need for public safety transformation, including policing modernization and improved coordination of services across government to better support people with mental-health and substance-use challenges, people leaving correctional centres, and people who are in crisis, at-risk or have experienced violence, trauma and/or significant loss.

British Columbians are continuing to suffer the tragic effects of a toxic and volatile drug supply in the province. Illicit drug toxicity is the leading cause of unnatural death in B.C. and is second

³ The acronym 2SLGBTQQIA+ refers to people who are Two Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and/or asexual.

only to cancers in terms of years of life lost. At least 11,171 British Columbians have been lost to illicit drugs since the public-health emergency into substance-related harms was first declared in April 2016 through December 31, 2022. In every year of this public health emergency, Indigenous Peoples have been overrepresented in toxic drug poisoning events and deaths. While the [decriminalization](#) of people who possess certain illegal drugs for personal use is a critical step in B.C.'s fight against the toxic drug crisis, there is much more work to be done.

The rising intensity and frequency of natural disasters resulting from climate change will continue to affect British Columbians and the ministry, as indicated by the frequent implementation of provincial states of emergency and emergency orders over recent years, along with the need for an efficient, coordinated response to emergency events.

Performance Planning

Goal 1: The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia protects people

A foundational role of British Columbia's justice and public safety sector is to protect people, especially those who are most vulnerable.

Objective 1.1: Improved public safety for all British Columbians

The ministry will continue to advance strategies to improve public safety through a broad range of program areas, including policing; crime prevention and reduction; support for integrated, community-based mental health and social services; road safety; fire prevention and safety; and other core functions such as corrections and coroners services. Safe communities, along with positive public perceptions of safety, are central to the well-being of British Columbians.

Key Strategies

- Utilize the Police Superintendence Framework to assist the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the Director of Police Services in meeting their statutory obligations under the *Police Act* to ensure adequate and effective policing and law enforcement in British Columbia.
- Continue to provide oversight of the Provincial Police Service (PPS) to ensure the PPS and the federal government adhere to commitments in the *Provincial Policing Service Agreement*.
- As part of the Province's *Safer Communities Action Plan*, take concrete steps to make communities safer, including:
 - establishing repeat violent offender co-ordinated response teams, made up of police, dedicated prosecutors and probation officers;

- expanding mental health crisis response teams into more communities so police can focus on crime, and people in crisis are met early on by health care workers and community members;
 - more integrated information sharing between justice and community partners to strengthen case management and expanding the use of technology to guide police in gathering and sharing information with doctors and nurses during mental health crisis situations; and
 - targeting the proceeds of crime, such as the houses, cars and luxury goods of high-level organized criminals who profit on misery by introducing “unexplained wealth order” legislation in spring 2023.
- Continue to work with police to address serious and organized crime, including targeting mid-level and high-level drug traffickers, and make communities across the province safer from gangs and guns through a variety of measures, such as:
 - implementation of the BC Organized Crime Strategy designed to enhance the Province’s oversight of coordinated efforts to combat organized crime and gang violence through the Organized Crime Agency of BC;
 - operation of the [BC Provincial Forensic Firearms Laboratory](#) to help police build intelligence on illegal firearms, including those used in gang-related shootings, and to help aid in prosecutions; and
 - the [Firearm Violence Prevention Act](#) which, when brought into force, will implement recommendations from the [Illegal Firearms Task Force](#) to regulate the purchase of imitation firearms and disrupt the illegal transportation and possession of firearms by giving police additional enforcement tools.
- Support initiatives that are proven to prevent and reduce crime and promote an integrated, cross-sector approach to increasing the use of [restorative justice](#) in B.C., including:
 - supporting community-based projects through the [Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Remediation Grant Program](#); and
 - implementing a Restorative Living Framework pilot in two correctional centres with the aim of providing guidance and structure on how to live restoratively in a correctional environment and supporting both staff and individuals in custody.
- Continue work to improve road safety, with a focus on reducing high-risk driving behaviours (alcohol, drugs, speeding and distraction), increasing the efficacy of traffic enforcement, and ensuring that B.C.’s licensing system supports safe driving.
- To support the Province’s commitment to a single standard of fire safety, continue work to reduce the number of fire-related injuries and deaths by using a [geospatial tool](#) to enable the targeting of resources on neighbourhoods at greatest risk of structure fires; conduct a focused community smoke alarm campaign; and increase the number of fire inspections.

Objective 1.2: Improved outcomes for Indigenous Peoples across the justice and public safety sector through strengthened partnerships with Indigenous leadership and communities

Social and economic disparities exist in B.C. with disproportionate impacts on Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous Peoples continue to be overrepresented in the justice and public safety sector as both offenders and victims, and underrepresented in positions of leadership, and face unique challenges to their physical, social, and economic well-being.

Key Strategies

- Continue to move forward on the public safety related [Calls to Action](#) of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, implement the B.C. [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) as it relates to public safety, and fulfill designated commitments in the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan](#).
- In partnership with the Ministry of Attorney General, the federal government and Indigenous communities, continue work with the [BC First Nations Justice Council](#) to advance the [B.C. First Nations Justice Strategy](#) and work with [Métis Nation BC](#) to develop, endorse and advance the Métis Justice Strategy. These initiatives are Indigenous-led and require ongoing collaboration with Indigenous partners.
- Work with Indigenous leadership and communities to take action to reduce the number of Indigenous Peoples adversely involved in and impacted by the justice system, including recognizing culture for its role in prevention, rehabilitation and recovery and providing culturally relevant programming in communities and correctional centres.
- Provide comprehensive BC Coroners Service mortality data and analyses to the [First Nations Health Authority](#) and First Nation communities to inform community-based initiatives that reduce health and safety risks and support wellness. Work with First Nations in investigating suspected remains on the sites of former residential schools and hospitals.
- Continue to negotiate agreements with Indigenous Nations pursuant to Section 119 of the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act*, and work with Indigenous partners to advance a collaborative approach to cannabis-related governance and jurisdiction.

Objective 1.3: Strengthened prevention, protection and support for victims of crime, and marginalized and vulnerable women and children

Gender-based violence (GBV) happens in communities of every kind, urban and rural. It happens at work, at school and in the home. Indigenous women and girls, immigrants and newcomers, racialized people, 2SLGBTQIA+ people, as well as those with disabilities, are especially targeted with violence.

Key Strategies

- Continue work to implement the [Path Forward: Priorities and Early Strategies for B.C.](#) and the [Calls for Justice](#) of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Collaboratively develop and implement community-driven activities to end violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.
- Continue to deliver the Trauma Informed Practice curriculum to support understanding of and responsiveness to the impact of trauma on vulnerable victims and witnesses.
- Support the [Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity](#) and continue working with the Ministry of Finance's Gender Equity Office to develop a GBV Action Plan, informed by research and experience from service providers and GBV survivors.
- Support the continuum of [victim services and violence against women programs](#) across B.C. and domestic violence prevention and intervention measures, such as Domestic Violence Units, Interagency Case Assessment Teams, domestic violence programming in BC Corrections, and the [Protection Order Registry](#).
- Conduct [BC Coroners Service \(BCCS\) Special Investigations Unit](#) investigations into all deaths of women and children related to violence and criminal activity; provide key information to law enforcement investigators; inform the development of policy and legislation protecting and supporting victims of crime; conduct inquests and death review panels to highlight risks to marginalized and vulnerable populations; and identify opportunities for greater protection and support.

Discussion

The strategies highlighted above will need to be advanced in partnership with Indigenous organizations and communities, and through collaboration with other ministries and sector stakeholders. The ministry will monitor implementation progress on these strategies through project milestones, deliverables, and/or metrics, as appropriate. Examples of areas that will be tracked and evaluated include:

Objective 1.1: Improved public safety for all British Columbians

- Police strength and vacancy rates, which directly impact the ability to keep communities safe.
- The total amount of grant funding for communities through the Civil Forfeiture Grant Program, along with the number of projects funded.
- Rates of traffic fatalities and serious injuries involving high-risk driving behaviours, as identified in the performance measures section below.

Objective 1.2: Improved outcomes for Indigenous Peoples across the justice and public safety sector through strengthened partnerships with Indigenous leadership and communities

- Steps taken to develop new Indigenous justice programs, improve existing traditional justice programs, and strengthen culturally appropriate programming in community corrections and correctional centers.

- Continued progress in entering agreements pursuant to Section 119 of the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act* and developments related to advancing a collaborative approach to cannabis-related governance and jurisdiction.

Objective 1.3: Strengthen prevention, protection and support for victims of crime, and marginalized and vulnerable women and children

- Milestones in the development and implementation of initiatives to end violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people, and the development of a GBV Action Plan.
- The amount of annual funding provided to programs that offer emotional support, information, referrals, and practical assistance to victims of crime and trauma.
- Delivery of the Trauma Informed Practice curriculum.

Performance Measures

In previous years, the ministry included police-reported crime rates as a performance measure under the objective of improved public safety for all British Columbians; however, it is no longer included here. As discussed by Dr. Amanda Butler and Doug LePard in their September 2022 report, [A Rapid Investigation into Repeat Offending and Random Stranger Violence in British Columbia](#), crime rates do not provide insights into the relative seriousness of crimes reported by police. A better understanding of the meaning of crime trends can be gained by Statistics Canada's Crime Severity Index which tracks changes in the severity of police-reported crime by accounting for both the amount of crime reported by police in a jurisdiction and the relative seriousness of these crimes.

While government does not have the ability to directly affect crime rates and crime severity, these metrics will continue to be monitored as high-level indicators of community safety.⁴ Detailed information on crime trends in B.C. can be found [here](#).

Past service plans for the ministry also included a measure of the timeliness of financial assistance claim adjudication for victims and others impacted by violent crime as an indicator of client service and system efficiency in administering the Crime Victim Assistance Program (CVAP). In 2021/22, CVAP transitioned to a new case management system and reporting processes are still being developed. As such, baseline, and other data to forecast and track this measure are not available at this time. Time to receive assistance continues to be an important measure for the ministry and will be monitored when this information is once again available.

⁴ Many factors influence police-reported crime rates, including changes to scoring rules, demographic changes, neighbourhood conditions, social and economic factors, public reporting practices, technological advancements, legislative amendments, local police service priorities, and social perceptions and attitudes toward certain crimes.

Performance Measure	2016-2020 Baseline ²	2021 Actual ³	2022 Forecast ⁴	2023 Target ⁵	2024 Target	2025 Target
[1a] Number, per 100,000 population, of fatalities and serious injuries resulting from a motor vehicle crash where alcohol, drugs, speeding and/or distraction were suspected to be a factor ¹	28.6	24.9	26.5	23.8	22.8	21.8

Data source: Data on the number of traffic fatalities for the 2016-2020 baseline and the 2021 actual are from the Traffic Accident System (TAS) maintained by ICBC, TAS Q2 2022. Population estimates and projections are from BC Stats and are as of July 1 each year. Results are reported by calendar year rather than fiscal year. All numbers have been rounded to the closest tenth.

¹ Police attend most crashes occurring on a public road that result in serious injuries or fatalities. At the scene of such crashes, police record on an accident report form the factors they believe influenced the crash and assess whether victims have serious or fatal injuries. Serious injuries are assessed by the officer and may differ from hospitalization counts. A fatality or serious injury with more than one of the high-risk driving contributing factors (alcohol, drugs, speeding and/or distraction) will be counted once for each incidence reported.

² The baseline is the average rate from 2016 through 2020, as 2020 was artificially low due to decreased traffic volumes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

³ Results for 2021 were not included in the baseline as the data has not yet settled for that year or been fully approved.

⁴ The 2022 forecast rate is based on the most recent data available, extrapolated from January to October RCMP Fatal Victims data, and the average of 2017-2021 seriously injured victim actuals. It is to be considered preliminary until the data have settled and been fully approved.

⁵ The 2023 and subsequent year targets are based on annual reductions of three per cent from the 2022 forecast, taking into account population projections.

Discussion

This performance measure is an indicator of success in protecting the public from high-risk driving behaviours (alcohol, drugs, speeding and distraction).

High-risk driving behaviours are the leading cause of traffic fatalities and serious injuries in B.C. and the ministry operates [high-risk driver programs](#) to combat these behaviours to improve road safety across the province.

Performance Measure	2021/22 Baseline	2022/23 Forecast	2023/24 Target ²	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target
[1b] Total number of First Nation communities with a Letter of Intent to create a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to support the successful reintegration of Indigenous Peoples returning to their community and/or remaining connected to their community. ¹	26	28	30	32	34

Data source: Results for this measure are derived from BC Corrections.

¹ The baseline, forecast and targets are cumulative and therefore represent the total number of First Nation communities with signed Letters of Intent, not the number of First Nations with Letters of Intent signed in a given fiscal year.

² The targets represent a conservative estimate of two additional communities per year, starting from the 2022/23 forecast.

Discussion

Supporting the successful reintegration of Indigenous Peoples returning to their community and/or remaining connected to their community following incarceration contributes to the objective of improving outcomes for Indigenous Peoples across the justice and public safety sector. Community connections build cultural identity and strengthen resilience.

The MOUs for Supported Community Reintegration between First Nations and BC Corrections signify a commitment to work together and outline the process to support case management and release planning for those in custody to ensure the coordination of supports, especially when transitioning to community supervision.

BC Corrections has signed MOUs and Letters of Intent with First Nations across the province and continues to engage communities with the goal of strengthening relationships and services to improve outcomes for Indigenous clients.

Goal 2: The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia is fair

Fairness in the justice and public safety sector requires sound regulatory measures that protect public safety and interests while minimizing regulatory impacts on businesses and restrictions on civil liberties.

Objective 2.1: Regulatory systems that promote public safety and interests, and fair and efficient business practices

In regulating the liquor, non-medical cannabis, and gambling sectors, and overseeing ICBC and consumer protection policy, the ministry works to support and balance business and community interests. This is done through policy development and by ensuring compliance

with regulatory frameworks to reduce related threats to public safety and well-being through public education and enforcement actions.

Key Strategies

- Support the continued growth and development of the regulated cannabis sector while disrupting the illicit cannabis supply chain and removing illicit product from the market.
- Continue to modernize and streamline liquor and non-medical cannabis regulation, compliance and enforcement practices that balance public safety and public interests. Facilitate improved service delivery by moving more services to the online [Liquor and Cannabis Licensing Portal](#) and improving the accessibility of public materials, such as the terms and conditions of each class of licence.
- In collaboration with the LDB, continue to work with the Business Technical Advisory Panel to improve liquor policy and regulation.
- Bring the *Gaming Control Act* into force with completion of the Gaming Control Regulation and implement an independent office and a standards-based regulatory model to enhance the effectiveness of the gambling regulatory framework in B.C.
- Review consumer protection laws to ensure that they are responsive to modern business practices and meet the needs of British Columbians, while minimizing regulatory impacts to businesses.
- Work with ICBC to:
 - monitor the Enhanced Care model to ensure it meets the needs of British Columbians by continuing to deliver affordable auto insurance and provide improved care and recovery benefits for people who are injured in a crash in Canada or the United States, regardless of fault; and
 - improve the claims experience for people, particularly pedestrians and cyclists, who are injured in a crash.

Discussion

The ministry will monitor implementation progress on these strategies through project milestones, deliverables, and/or metrics, as appropriate. Examples of areas where progress will be tracked and evaluated include:

- Steps taken to support the legal, non-medical cannabis sector.
- Milestones in modernizing and streamlining liquor and non-medical cannabis regulation, compliance, and enforcement practices.
- Milestones in implementing an independent gambling control office.

Performance Measures

Performance Measures	2021/22 Baseline ²	2022/23 Forecast ³	2023/24 Target ⁴	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target
[2a] Percentage of Food Primary liquor licences granted within four months of application	60	77	77	77	77
[2b] Percentage of Manufacturer liquor licences granted within six months of application	71	83	83	83	83
[2c] Percentage of Liquor Primary licences granted within 12 months of application ¹	68	81	81	81	81
[2d] Percentage of Cannabis Retail Store applications granted within 13 months of application ¹	69	75	75	75	75

Data source: The case management system of the ministry's Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB).

¹ The processing times for Liquor Primary licences and Cannabis Retail Store licences can be impacted and made longer because they involve local government processes that are outside the ministry's control.

² The 2021/22 baselines for liquor applications are somewhat misrepresentative of the true baselines because 2021/22 was the first year these applications were processed in LCRB's new case management system.

³ The forecasts for 2022/23 are based on the actuals for 2022/23 to November 30, 2022, less 33 per cent (i.e., the proportion of time remaining in the fiscal year) of the difference between the 2021/22 baselines and the 2022/23 actuals to date.

⁴ The 2023/24 and subsequent year targets will be updated as the actuals are realized for the 2022/23 fiscal year. The 2022/23 actuals will be more reliable estimates as liquor application processing in the new case management system will have been well established. Cannabis targets may see further improvement in 2023/24 as the few remaining 12+ month files are closed.

Discussion

LCRB tracks the percentage of licences granted within established service standards for key licence classes as an indicator of the timeliness of service delivery. Licensing liquor and cannabis establishments efficiently allows licensees to operate in the legal industry sooner, which ensures that products are sold safely to the public while contributing positively to British Columbia's economy.

The targets represent efforts to maintain the established service standards from year-to-year. Forecasted improvements in fiscal 2022/23 are likely due to increasing familiarity with LCRB's new case management system and updated internal service delivery standards for new applications. LCRB will continue to explore opportunities for process improvements, including evaluating and potentially amending existing requirements prescribed in the Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation that may no longer add value to the oversight of licensees.

Goal 3: The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia is sustainable

The justice and public safety sector must be innovative, adaptive, well-managed, and efficient to remain sustainable.

Objective 3.1: Strengthened sustainability of the justice and public safety sector to deliver accessible and effective programs and services

The ministry works to ensure that appropriate resource levels are sustained to facilitate the successful delivery of core public safety services, with resources and decision making oriented to optimize public safety benefits to British Columbians.

Key Strategies

- Oversee the RCMP's implementation of enhanced funding to bring the Provincial Police Service back to its full authorized strength of 2,602 members, providing police with the resources they need to address public safety concerns and support adequate and effective levels of policing across B.C.
- Continue to enhance and support digital roadside tools for police through electronic ticketing (eTicketing), digitization of roadside forms, and enhanced and automated enforcement across B.C. These tools and supports help to intervene more quickly with dangerous drivers while allowing police to spend more time on other enforcement activities and enable more efficient information sharing between agencies.
- Continue work to modernize B.C.'s [Driver Fitness Program](#) to reduce backlogs and enable faster removal of unsafe drivers from the province's roads.
- Advance implementation of the [Justice and Public Safety Sector Digital Strategy](#) to unify digital transformation efforts and coordinate investments in data, technology, and resources to optimize how programs and services are delivered.
- Continue to strengthen evidence-based workforce planning with a focus on leadership development and succession management, as manager and supervisor roles are the primary connection between the strategic goals of the ministry and the people who work towards accomplishing them.

Discussion

The ministry will monitor implementation progress on these strategies through project milestones, deliverables, and/or metrics, as appropriate. Examples of areas where progress will be tracked and evaluated include:

- RCMP hirings and vacancies.
- Milestones in modernizing the Driver Fitness Program and resulting reductions in backlogs.
- Milestones in implementation of the sector's digital strategy.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2021/22 Baseline ¹	2022/23 Forecast	2023/24 Target ²	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target
[3a] Percentage of traffic violation tickets issued through eTicketing	56	65	75	80	90

Data source: The eTicket adoption dashboard.

¹ The 2021/22 baseline is from the November 2021 calculation in Figure 3 on the Provincial Statistics tab, in the eTicket Adoption Dashboard.

² The 2023/24 and 2024/25 targets are based on five per cent year-to-year increases, with a ten per cent increase targeted for 2025/26.

Discussion

Through the eTicketing process, police officers scan drivers' licence information into an online ticket template that auto-populates offence details, ensuring accuracy while saving time. The vehicle-mounted equipment then rapidly shares this information with justice and public safety sector partners like ICBC, eliminating the need to mail tickets to these partners and for them to re-enter the details.

eTicketing allows police officers to leverage technology with a process that is more efficient, facilitating faster identification of drivers and enforcement against unsafe driving behaviours and allowing police officers more time for additional enforcement activities.

Goal 4: The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia has the public's confidence

British Columbians must have confidence in the integrity and effectiveness of the justice and public safety sector for it to function effectively and to ensure continued public participation and support.

Objective 4.1: Increased public confidence in the justice and public safety sector

This objective is linked to the three previous goals. For the public to have confidence in the justice and public safety sector, the sector must protect people, be fair, and be sustainable.

Public confidence in the police is of particular importance. How police are viewed affects the public's willingness to report crimes, to cooperate with police to aid investigations, to contact the police if victimized, and to abide by laws and police orders. Positive perceptions of police among citizens are a critical aspect of public safety and contribute to lower levels of crime.

Key Strategies

- Develop and implement comprehensive policing reforms to address systemic biases and racism, including updating the *Police Act*, [Provincial Policing Standards](#), and mandatory training requirements; strengthening board governance; enhancing independent oversight; clarifying the roles and responsibilities of police officers in the context of complex social issues such as mental health, addictions, and homelessness; and contributing to the modernization of the federal [First Nations Policing Program](#).
- Continue to support the Province's response to the drug toxicity public health emergency by providing comprehensive aggregate mortality data and coroners' reports to the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, key partners and the public, and continue to explore the factors resulting in all unexpected and unnatural deaths in the province with the goal of identifying and addressing public safety risks.
- Informed by the [Commission of Inquiry into Money Laundering in British Columbia](#), continue work toward eliminating money laundering in B.C. through a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach. This includes exploring the development of a dedicated law enforcement unit, strengthening and expanding civil forfeiture, and ensuring appropriate policies and police training are implemented for law enforcement.

Discussion

The ministry will monitor implementation progress on these strategies through project milestones, deliverables, and/or metrics, as appropriate. Examples of areas where progress will be tracked and evaluated include:

- Milestones in developing and implementing comprehensive policing reforms.
- Milestones in the public safety response to recommendations to address money laundering.

Performance Measures

In previous years, the ministry included a service plan performance measure on the percentage of British Columbians who have confidence in the police. While it remains an important indicator, the ministry is no longer using it for service plan purposes because of the infrequency of data availability. Based on Statistics Canada's General Social Surveys, results are usually available only every five to seven years. The ministry will, however, continue to monitor trends in public confidence in police as that information becomes available. Additionally, the ministry is exploring other potential performance measures as indicators of public confidence in the justice and public safety sector.

Performance Measure	2021/22 Baseline ²	2022/23 Forecast ³	2023/24 Target ⁴	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target
[4a] Median time, in months, to conclude coroner investigations ¹	13	13	11	9	7

Data source: BCCS

¹ The time from when the BCCS is notified of a death until the investigation is closed, after which the coroner's report is distributed.

² The baseline is an estimate based on the median number of months to complete a coroner investigation in the 2020/21 fiscal year.

³ The forecast is based on the actuals for 2019/20 and anticipated improvements in case closure timeliness due to increased staffing levels.

⁴ The 2023/24 and subsequent year targets were established based on historical actuals and anticipated additional staffing hires.

Discussion

Through its impartial and independent investigations, the BCCS supports public confidence in the justice and public safety sector by providing information about individual deaths and aggregated data reporting to inform evidence-based public safety legislation, policies, and programs.

Under the *Coroners Act*, the BCCS is mandated to investigate all sudden and unexpected, unexplained, or unattended deaths in the province, including:

- deaths which appear to be the result of violence, injury, or self-harm;
- deaths in which the cause of death is unexplained;
- deaths that do not meet the above criteria but where the deceased person has not been under the care of a physician;
- all deaths which occur in provincial correctional facilities, federal penitentiaries, or other facilities where a person is involuntarily detained, such as those committed to a facility under the *Mental Health Act*; and
- all deaths of children under the age of 19 years.⁵

At the conclusion of each investigation, a coroner's report is completed that confirms the identity of the decedent and how, where, when and by what means the death occurred. These reports determine the facts surrounding the death, do not determine fault or blame and, where appropriate, may include recommendations aimed at preventing future similar deaths. Every investigation is unique, and individual timelines for completion can be impacted by the complexity of the case, parallel investigations by other agencies; case loads; and other factors.

⁵ In 2021/22, 14,152 deaths were reported to the BCCS; of those, 7,651 – or approximately 54 per cent – met at least one of these criteria and proceeded to an investigation.

Financial Summary

Core Business	2022/23 Restated Estimates ¹	2023/24 Estimates	2024/25 Plan	2025/26 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Corrections	260,070	296,131	300,467	300,467
Policing and Security	479,217	534,024	534,398	533,923
Victim Services and Crime Prevention	66,239	78,374	78,614	78,644
BC Coroners Service	21,464	22,696	22,733	22,733
RoadSafetyBC	27,814	29,244	29,494	29,494
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation	1	7,616	7,719	7,719
Gaming Policy and Enforcement	19,567	20,445	20,554	20,554
Cannabis, Consumer Protection and Corporate Policy	3,538	3,712	3,736	3,736
Office of the Fire Commissioner ²	2,719	3,173	3,200	3,200
Executive and Support Services	17,002	17,604	17,700	17,700
Statutory Services ³	15,055	15,194	15,222	15,222
Total	912,686	1,028,213	1,033,837	1,033,392
Capital Expenditures (\$000)				
Corrections	1,062	1,062	1,062	1,062
BC Coroners Service	47	12	12	12
Office of the Fire Commissioner	744	-	-	-
Executive and Support Services	1,316	1,514	952	952
Total	3,169	2,588	2,026	2,026

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2022/23 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2023/24 Estimates.

² Office of the Fire Commissioner was established as a new core business area in the 2023/24 Estimates. The *Emergency Program Act* and Emergency Management BC, except for the Office of the Fire Commissioner, were transferred from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General effective December 7, 2022.

³ Statutory Services includes Civil Forfeiture Account, Corrections Work Program Account, Criminal Asset Management Fund, and Victim Surcharge Special Account.

* 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 in total)	Targeted Year of Completion	Project Cost to Dec 31, 2022 (\$m)	Estimated Cost to Complete (\$m)	Approved Anticipated Total Cost (\$m)
Nanaimo Correctional Centre Replacement Project	2024	74	107	181
<p>The Nanaimo Correctional Centre (NCC) Replacement Project will replace the current aging and outdated 190-cell correctional centre located in Nanaimo, B.C. The new centre is being constructed on the existing site while the current centre remains operational, after which the existing centre will be deconstructed. The new NCC will be a 202-cell, multi-security level facility, including a 12-cell unit for short-term accommodation of women from Vancouver Island.</p> <p>The new centre will better support staff and enhance the NCC's unique, effective programs, including the Guthrie Therapeutic Community and vocational and educational programs delivered in partnership with Vancouver Island University.</p> <p>NCC Replacement Project costs increased from \$167 million to \$181 million due to higher construction costs. The project is expected to bring major regional economic benefits, including approximately 1,000 jobs during construction (650 direct and 275 indirect jobs, plus nearly 100 additional jobs associated with spending by workers).</p>				

Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations

The Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General is responsible and accountable for the following organizations:

[Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia](#)

See Appendix B

[Consumer Protection BC](#)

Consumer Protection BC is responsible for administering British Columbia's consumer protection laws, namely the *Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act*, the *Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act*, the *Ticket Sales Act*, and the *Motion Picture Act*, along with a variety of associated consumer protection regulations. It is a not-for-profit corporation that protects consumers and promotes a fair marketplace in the province.

[Insurance Corporation of British Columbia](#)

ICBC's mandate is to provide universal compulsory (basic) automobile insurance for all British Columbia motorists and compete with private insurance companies to offer various Optional vehicle insurance coverages. ICBC also provides non-insurance services on behalf of the provincial government, including driver licensing, vehicle registration and licensing, and fines collection. ICBC's board has the power and authority given to it by the *Insurance Corporation Act* and, subject to the Act, it manages and supervises the affairs and business of ICBC.

[Liquor Distribution Branch](#)

LDB is one of two branches of government responsible for the wholesale distribution and retail sale of beverage alcohol and non-medical cannabis.⁶ The *Liquor Distribution Act* gives LDB the sole right to purchase beverage alcohol both within B.C. and from outside the province, in accordance with the federal *Importation of Intoxicating Liquors Act*. The *Cannabis Distribution Act* establishes a government wholesale cannabis distribution model, public cannabis retail stores, and an online government sales channel. LDB's mission is to be a responsible wholesaler and retailer of liquor and cannabis that contributes funds to vital B.C. public services.

[Municipal Police Boards](#)

Independent municipal police departments are overseen by appointed police boards made up of civilian members of the community. The role of police boards is to provide general governance, oversight, and direction to the department, in accordance with relevant legislation and in response to community needs.

[Organized Crime Agency of British Columbia](#)

See Appendix B.

⁶ While it is not a Crown corporation, LDB is required to comply within the requirements of a Crown agency in relation to its financial reporting, service plan and mandate letter.

Vehicle Sales Authority of British Columbia

The Vehicle Sales Authority of British Columbia is an administrative authority delegated by the Province to administer and enforce the *Motor Dealer Act* and its regulations, the *Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act* as it relates to the sale of motor vehicles, and other related statutes.

Appendix B: Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia

In 1999, the [Organized Crime Agency of British Columbia](#) (OCABC) was created as an independent Designated Policing and Law Enforcement Unit under the *Provincial Police Act*. In 2004, the [Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia](#) (CFSEU-BC) was developed in consultation with the provincial government as an initiative to integrate the OCABC, the municipal police departments and the RCMP. The Board of Governance for the OCABC also acts as the Board of Governance for the CFSEU-BC.

In 2022, as part of the implementation of the BC Organized Crime Strategy, the ministry took steps to enhance the board's strategic oversight including appointing civilian members who are community leaders in the areas of finance and governance. In addition to the two civilian members, the board is currently comprised of the Chief Constable of the Vancouver Police Department; the Chief Constable of the Victoria Police Department; the Deputy Commissioner Pacific Region and Commanding Officer "E" Division RCMP; the Assistant Commissioner of the "E" Division RCMP, the Deputy Director of the Policing and Security Branch of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, and the Executive Director of the Serious and Organized Crime Division of the Policing and Security Branch. The Director of Police Services sits as an ex officio member of the board.

The board determines the strategic direction of the CFSEU-BC and ensures its operational priorities are aligned with the policing priorities for British Columbia. The CFSEU-BC operates under the RCMP policies and procedures.

The Chief Officer in charge of the CFSEU-BC leads an executive team comprised of civilian members in addition to regular RCMP and municipal officers seconded from across the province. The CFSEU-BC Gang Enforcement Unit, Investigation Teams, and the Joint Illegal Gaming Investigation Team are just a few of the teams that fall under the responsibility of the CFSEU-BC. Offices for the CFSEU-BC are located in the Lower Mainland, Prince George, Kelowna and Victoria.

The mission of the CFSEU-BC is to facilitate the disruption and suppression of organized crime that affects British Columbians. Its mandate is to investigate, prosecute, disrupt and suppress criminal organizations, consistent with local, regional, national and international priorities. The CFSEU-BC also supports other agencies by assisting in organized crime and major crime investigations.