

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

2025/26 – 2027/28 Service Plan

March 2025



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Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2025/26 – 2027/28 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 that reads "Garry Begg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Honourable Garry Begg
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
March 4, 2025

Minister of State's Accountability Statement



I am the Minister of State for Community Safety and Integrated Services and under the Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act, I am accountable by [regulation](#) for achieving the expected results for the 2025/26 fiscal year, based on the following priorities in my mandate letter:

- Engage with police, business associations, downtown resident associations, public safety advocates, and other interested groups on initiatives to strengthen safety in the province's downtown core commercial areas. Focus on rural hub communities that act as services centres for outlying areas, as well as major urban centres that have faced public safety challenges;
- Gather information to ensure that services offered by the Province are consistent with those needed by police when engaging with people in crisis, especially those struggling with mental health, addiction, and brain injury who are contributing to public concerns about safety in downtown areas; and
- Work with the [Cabinet Committee on Community Safety](#) to ensure that initiatives identified by the committee are prioritized and delivered by the ministry as required.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Terry Yung'.

Honourable Terry Yung
Minister of State for Community Safety and Integrated Services
March 4, 2025

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Strategic Direction

In 2025/26, the Government of British Columbia will continue to prioritize delivering the services and infrastructure needed for people to build good lives in strong communities.

To support this objective, government will focus on growing the economy, responding to the threat of tariffs, creating good paying jobs, improving affordability, strengthening health care and education, and making communities safer.

Government will also continue deepening relationships with Indigenous Peoples while advancing implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan.

This 2025/26 – 2027/28 service plan outlines how the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General will support the government’s priorities and selected action items identified in the Minister’s January 2025 [mandate letter](#).

Purpose of the Ministry

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

PSSG’s mission is to develop public safety policy and legislation and deliver associated services and programs, and administer regulations for the liquor, cannabis, and gambling sectors.

The ministry is responsible for: [policing and law enforcement superintendence](#); [911 emergency communication services](#); [correctional services](#); [victim services](#); [crime prevention and reduction](#); [restorative justice](#); [civil forfeiture](#); [coroners’ services](#); [liquor and cannabis regulation](#); [gambling regulation](#); [problem gambling prevention and treatment services](#); [road safety](#); [criminal record checks](#); the [protection order registry](#); [security industry regulation](#); and [structure fire prevention and fire safety](#).¹

The Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General is also responsible for the [BC Liquor Distribution Branch](#) (LDB), the [Insurance Corporation of British Columbia](#) (ICBC), and Municipal Police Boards (see Appendix A), and the [Organized Crime Agency of BC](#) within the [Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia](#) (see Appendix B).

¹ On February 1, 2025, responsibility for consumer protection policy and legislation moved to the AG.

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; structure fire prevention and fire 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](#).
- Ensure safe and strong communities by:
 - Engaging with police, business associations, downtown resident associations, public safety advocates, and other interested groups on initiatives to strengthen safety in the province's commercial areas in larger urban and rural hub settings;
 - Working across ministries to provide services and interventions with people struggling with mental health, addiction, and brain injuries, including ensuring that provincial services are relevant and available to both responders and people in crisis; and,
 - Prioritizing the initiatives identified by the Cabinet Committee on Community Safety.
- Facilitate strong cooperation between police, Crown prosecutors, probation officials, and the federal government to reduce repeat, violent, and gang offences. This includes supporting B.C.'s 12 [Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative](#) hubs, which focus on addressing the specific public safety needs of the communities in which they are located along with the surrounding communities. These multi-agency hubs ensure that identified individuals are continuously monitored from investigation, charge

assessment, bail, trial or plea and sentencing, through to enhanced release planning and ongoing case management of community supervision orders.

- Support efforts to create new and enhance existing [Situation Tables](#) to help front line staff to identify vulnerable people and collaboratively and rapidly connect them to services before they experience negative or traumatic events.
- Work to increase the proportion of sentenced individuals under BC Corrections' supervision, either in-custody or in the community, who are referred to cognitive-behavioural and/or skills-based programming to help them make meaningful, positive, and lasting changes in their lives and contribute to [reducing reoffending](#).
- 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:
 - Continued 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;
 - Measures to combat illegal firearms, such as regulation of the purchase of imitation firearms and disruption of the illegal transportation and possession of firearms through enforcement of the [Firearm Violence Prevention Act](#) when it is brought into force, and operation of the [BC Provincial Forensic Firearms Laboratory](#) to help police build intelligence on illegal firearms and aid in prosecutions; and
 - Using all measures available (criminal, civil and administrative) to disrupt and dismantle organized crime and making it less profitable.
- Continue to support initiatives that are proven to prevent and reduce crime and promote an integrated, cross-sector approach to the use of [restorative justice](#) in B.C., including supporting community-based projects through the [Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Remediation Grant Program](#).
- Support the Minister of State for Community Safety and Integrated Services in advancing enforcement initiatives related to organized shoplifting and the protection of retail workers.
- Continue work to improve road safety, with a focus on reducing high-risk driving behaviours, increasing the efficacy of traffic enforcement, and ensuring that B.C.'s licensing system supports safe driving.
- Work in collaboration with other ministries and levels of government to prevent structure fires, reduce the number of structure fire-related injuries and deaths, and enhance structure firefighting training throughout the province through:
 - applying the [Fire Safety Act](#) through an enhanced system of fire inspections and effective enforcement that incentivizes owner compliance with fire-safety legislation;
 - use of the [Community Fire Risk Reduction Dashboard](#), a geospatial tool developed in partnership by Statistics Canada and the Office of the Fire Commissioner to

enable the targeting of fire prevention resources within neighbourhoods at greatest risk of structure fires; and

- advancing fire safety education to provide people with information and tools to take precautions against fire, reduce fire hazards and respond effectively when fires do occur.

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 persist 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, while being underrepresented in positions of leadership, and face unique challenges to their physical, social, and economic well-being.

Key Strategies

- Continue to implement the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) (DRIPA) as it relates to public safety and work toward fulfilling designated commitments in the associated Action Plan.²
- In partnership with the AG, 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, in partnership with the AG, work with [Métis Nation BC](#) to develop a detailed implementation plan to advance the [Métis Justice Strategy](#). These strategies are Indigenous-led and require ongoing collaboration with Indigenous partners.
- Continue to 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 healing, reducing re-offending, and supporting community reintegration, and providing culturally relevant programming in communities and correctional centres.
- Continue to 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, and continue to engage with First Nations in investigating suspected human remains on the sites of former residential schools and hospitals.
- Continue to support Indigenous participation in the regulated cannabis sector through 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.

² The [Declaration Act Action Plan](#), released in March 2022, includes collectively identified goals and outcomes that form the long-term vision for implementing the [UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) in B.C. It also identifies 89 priority actions, which are tangible steps to advance this work. PSSG is identified as the lead ministry for actions 3.08, 3.11, 4.11 and 4.47.

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, transgender, gender diverse people and others in the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community, as well as people with disabilities, are especially targeted with violence.³

Key Strategies

- Continue work to implement [A 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 and support the development of community-driven activities to end violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.
- Support the [Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity](#) and continue working with the Ministry of Finance's [Gender Equity Office](#) to implement [Safe and Supported: British Columbia's Gender-Based Violence Action Plan](#) (GBV Action Plan).
- Provide victims of non-consensual disclosure of intimate images with support through the confidential [Intimate Images Protection Service](#).
- Continue to 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.
- Continue to conduct [coroners' investigations](#) of 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.

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

Performance Measures

Performance Measures	2023 Baselines ¹	2024 Forecasts ²	2025 Targets ³	2026 Targets	2027 Targets
[1 a] Violent Crime Severity Index (CSI) for B.C. ⁴	96.89	101.91	99.87	97.87	95.91
[1 b] Non-violent CSI for B.C. ⁵	107.88	108.61	106.43	104.30	102.22

Data source: [Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics](#) (CCJCSS). Each index has been standardized at 100 for the base year of 2006. Results are reported by calendar year.

¹ 2023 is the most recent year for which results are available. The 2023 baseline figure for B.C.'s Violent CSI is lower than the national Violent CSI for the same year, which is 99.45. However, B.C.'s baseline for the Non-violent CSI is higher than the national Non-violent CSI which is 73.54.

² The forecasts were calculated based on linear trends from 2020 onwards. It is anticipated that actual results will be available in August 2025.

³ The ministry is targeting reductions in crime severity over time and the 2025 and subsequent year targets are based on projections of two per cent year-to-year decreases from the 2024 forecasts.

⁴ The Violent CSI is based on the total volume of police-reported violent federal statute offences and measures the relative severity of violent crime.

⁵ The Non-violent CSI is based on the total volume of police-reported federal statute offences not considered violent in nature and measures the relative severity of non-violent crime.

Discussion

The CSI is a measure developed by Statistics Canada for measuring police-reported crime in Canada. The CSI is an improved indicator of trends in crime compared to police-reported crime rates as it considers both the volume and severity of crime. The CSI accounts for changes in the level of severity of crime from year to year in comparison to other crimes. The overall CSI for any given year can be separated into the Violent CSI and the Non-violent CSI as reported in the table above.

CSIs use weights which assign higher values to more serious crimes and lower values to less serious high-volume crimes based on actual sentences handed down by the courts in all provinces and territories. A jurisdiction with a higher proportion of more serious crimes will have a higher CSI value while a jurisdiction with a higher proportion of less serious crimes will have a lower CSI value. The CSI is standardized to a base value of 100 for Canada in 2006. In 2006, B.C.'s CSI was 139.79, meaning crime severity in B.C. was significantly higher than the national baseline. By 2023, B.C.'s CSI had decreased to 104.11, indicating a notable improvement in crime severity over time, even though it remains above the 2023 national CSI level (80.5).

The CSI is not intended to be used or interpreted in isolation and is not a universal indicator of community crime and safety. It should always be considered within a broad community context, such as how many people live in the area, demographics, employment opportunities and wages, level of remoteness and service availability, among other factors. The CSI gives us a different view of crime and allows us to answer questions that were not easily answerable previously, such as: Is police reported crime in Canada more serious than it was last year? Has police reported crime become more serious over time? And, is police reported crime in my jurisdiction more or less serious than in another jurisdiction?

The 2024 forecasts reported above are estimates based on projected trends using data from 2020 onwards to better reflect recent patterns, rather than including pre-pandemic years like 2019, which saw different crime levels. The 2024 forecast is higher than the 2023 actual due to crime trends observed between 2020 and 2023. Procedural changes implemented in 2019 led to a general increase in crime levels,⁴ followed by significant shifts in crime patterns due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Crime Rates and CSI have been trending toward resuming pre-pandemic levels, contributing to the anticipated increase in 2024. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted crime patterns and historical trends through changes in public behaviour, criminal behaviour and policing practices.

While trends in crime rates and crime severity are influenced by factors outside of government’s control, they are tracked by the ministry as a high-level indicator of community safety and are helpful in informing where attention needs to be directed.⁵

Performance Measure		2023/24 Baselines	2024/25 Forecasts ¹	2025/26 Targets ²	2026/27 Targets	2027/28 Targets
[1c] Percentage of the sentenced BC Corrections population, rated as moderate/high risk to reoffend ³ , who have been referred to at least one cognitive behavioural and/or skills-based program. ⁴	Indigenous ⁵	24.5	22.0	23.0	24.0	25.0
	Non-Indigenous	23.8	23.0	24.0	25.0	26.0

Data source: Results for this measure are derived from BC Corrections’ case management system.

¹ The 2024/25 forecasts were estimated using 2024/25 year-to-date data and trends from the same period in 2023/24.

² The ministry is working to increase program referral rates and the 2025/26 and subsequent year targets are based on a conservative estimated trajectory of one per cent growth per year. Due to the multitude of factors influencing program referrals, as discussed below, growth in this indicator is not expected to be linear.

⁴ In 2018, Statistics Canada updated the definition of “founded” incidents to improve the tracking of offences with complex characteristics and to address broader inconsistencies in how crime statistics were reported in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey. Previously, a case was considered “founded” only if there was evidence that a crime had occurred. Under the new definition, an incident is founded unless there is credible evidence that it did not occur. This shift means that cases with insufficient evidence to confirm or refute an offence are now counted as founded. Police agencies across BC implemented these scoring rule changes in January 2019 which may have affected BC’s crime data for 2019.

⁵ There are many factors that influence police-reported crime statistics. First, an incident must come to the attention of police. The willingness of individuals to report criminal incidents to police has a considerable impact on the number of crimes recorded by police. Second, differences between individual police services, such as available resources or departmental priorities, policies, and procedures, can also affect police-reported crime trends. Third, and more broadly, social and economic factors can influence the volume of police-reported crime, including changes in age demographics, economic conditions, neighbourhood characteristics, the emergence of new technologies, and attitudes toward crime.

³ Sentenced individuals rated as moderate/high risk on the Community Risk Needs Assessment, or moderate/high need on the Inmate Needs Assessment were considered for this metric, as per the [risk-need-responsivity principles](#); interventions for low risk/need clients should be kept to a minimum.

⁴ Rates reflect the percentage of Indigenous and non-Indigenous sentenced individuals, who are rated as moderate or high risk/need, who are referred to BC Corrections' programs (core programs and/or Essential Skills for Success) in the year specified and the prior fiscal year. A two-year window was selected as BC Corrections supervises individuals sentenced to two years less a day; referrals are typically made at the outset of one's sentence while developing a case management plan, and the two-year timeframe was therefore selected to ensure all referrals were included.

⁵ Indigenous includes individuals who self-identify as Aboriginal, First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and/or Native.

Discussion

Individuals who have been sentenced to custody or are under community supervision, and who are rated as moderate or high risk to reoffend, may be referred to one or more of BC Corrections' programs to help them make positive changes in their lives. These include: [cognitive behavioural programs](#), and skills-based programming that targets living skills and employability skills. These referrals link individuals to the programs that will help to address their needs.

Referral, enrollment, and completion rates for these programs are dependent on a multitude of factors, including a sufficiently sized cohort to run a given program, sufficient time remaining on an individual's sentence to complete the program, client motivation to participate in the program, and appropriate staffing levels to deliver it.

The marginal downward trend forecasted for 2024/25 reflects the above noted factors, in addition to ongoing challenges with the recruitment and retention of correctional staff, and fewer individuals identified as suitable for programming due to the increasing complexity of clients under supervision. BC Corrections has taken action to address staffing challenges and is committed to monitoring program referral rates to ensure continued emphasis is placed on helping individuals gain new skills and improve their thinking, behaviour, and interactions with others.

It is important to note that in addition to programs delivered by BC Correction's staff, individuals are also referred to external programs offered by community agencies. Further, probation officers routinely provide cognitive-behaviourally based services one-on-one with clients that wouldn't be reflected in the results for this performance measure. As such, these rates only reflect one component of BC Corrections' services to clients.

Performance Measure	2019 – 2023 Baseline ¹	2024 Forecast ²	2025 Target ³	2026 Target	2027 Target
[1d] 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 ⁴	31.7	29.4	28.7	27.2	25.9

Data source: Data on the number of traffic fatalities for the 2019-2023 baseline is from the Traffic Accident System (TAS) maintained by ICBC. 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 The baseline is the average rate from 2019 through 2023. The 2020 rate was artificially low due to decreased traffic volumes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Results for 2024 were not included in the baseline as the data has not yet settled for that year or been fully approved.

² The 2024 forecast is based on the most recent data available, extrapolated from TAS data.

³ The 2025 and subsequent year targets are based on annual reductions of three per cent from the 2024 forecast, considering population projections.

⁴ Police attend most crashes occurring on a public road that result in serious injuries or fatalities. At the scene of such crashes, police record 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.

Discussion

This performance measure is an indicator of success in protecting the public from high-risk driving behaviours (alcohol, drugs, speeding and distraction), which are the leading cause of traffic fatalities and serious injuries in B.C. The ministry operates high-risk driver programs to combat these behaviours and contribute to improved road safety across the province.

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, cannabis, and gambling sectors and overseeing ICBC, the ministry works to support and balance business and community interests. This is done through policy development and implementation 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 streamline liquor and cannabis regulation, compliance and enforcement practices and facilitate improved service delivery, incorporating a risk-based approach.
- Enhance the effectiveness of the gambling regulatory framework by completing work to bring the new [Gaming Control Act](#) into force through regulation and implementing an independent office.
- Identify opportunities to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of cannabis, liquor, and gambling enforcement through the alignment of regulatory authorities, consistent

training, and opportunities for coordination and collaboration between regulatory agencies.

- Work with ICBC to monitor the [Enhanced Care](#) model to ensure it continues to meet the needs of British Columbians by providing improved care and recovery benefits for people who are injured in a crash and delivering affordable auto insurance.

Performance Measures

Performance Measures	2023/24 Baselines	2024/25 Forecasts ¹	2025/26 Targets ²	2026/27 Targets	2027/28 Targets
[2a] Percentage of Food Primary liquor licences granted within four months of application	78	53 ³	78	80	82
[2b] Percentage of Manufacturer liquor licences granted within six months of application	91	67 ³	83	85	87
[2c] Percentage of Liquor Primary licences granted within six months of application ⁴	58	68	69	71	73
[2d] Percentage of Cannabis Retail Store applications granted within 13 months of application ⁴	67	64	67	69	71

Data source: Data for these measures is from the case management system of the ministry's Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB).

¹ The 2024/25 forecasts were based on current 2024/25 year-to-date data.

² The 2025/26 and subsequent year targets represent efforts to achieve year-to-year improvements in the timeliness of application processing through the LCRB.

³ Food Primary and Manufacturer liquor licence application timelines were negatively impacted in 2024/25 as staff shifted focus to other application types. Over 1,000 permanent changes to a licensee and transfer applications were processed, bringing timelines for those application types closer to service standards. Initiatives were introduced in the third quarter (Q3) of 2024/25 to improve timelines across a range of application types and to address challenges with incomplete applications, as outlined in the discussion below. Immediate improvements in processing timeliness have been realized and are anticipated to continue into future reporting periods.

⁴ 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.

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.⁶ Efficient and timely

⁶ The established service standards are informed by average processing times and incorporate consideration of the factors that can affect those averages, such as local government processes and the actions of applicants. Average processing times may be skewed by a small number of outliers where processing times were significantly extended through factors not in the

licensing of liquor and cannabis establishments 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.

In addition to impacts of local government on LCRB processes, application timelines are impacted by application completeness. Incomplete applications are held for processing while applicants obtain required documentation. A growing trend of incomplete application submissions has been noted in 2024/25, impacting LCRB's capacity to process applications within service standards.

In Q3 of 2024/25, two key initiatives were assessed to reduce incomplete applications and simplify requirements using a risk-based approach. The first initiative streamlined the corporate documents private corporations need to submit. The second introduced an early review process to quickly identify incomplete applications and notify applicants.

Together, these changes helped food primary applications return to baseline processing times in Q3. Full implementation is planned for Q1 of 2025/26, which is expected to resolve the performance issues projected for 2024/25. Additional improvements in processing times are anticipated in the following years as more enhancements are introduced.

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 continues efforts 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 continued implementation of core police funding to bring the PPS to its full authorized strength of 2,602 members, providing police with the resources they need to address public safety concerns and ensuring adequate and effective levels of policing across B.C.
- Continue to implement the PSSG and AG Workforce Plan 2023 – 2026 with a focus on evidence-based practices for recruitment, retention, succession management, and leadership and supervisory development, to ensure the ministries continue to have the talent required to deliver on their strategic goals and objectives.

control of the LCRB. The established service standards serve as goalposts for licence applicants with what may be expected regarding processing times.

- Continue to enhance and support digital roadside tools for police through the increased adoption of electronic ticketing (eTicketing), digitization of roadside forms, and automated road safety enforcement across B.C.
- Continue work to improve B.C.'s [Driver Medical Fitness Program](#) to reduce backlogs and enable faster removal of unsafe drivers from the province's roads.
- Advance the multi-year initiative to streamline the way people in British Columbia access security and screening licensing processes through online services.⁷
- Continue to advance the multi-year 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.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2023/24 Baseline ¹	2024/25 Forecast ²	2025/26 Target ³	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target
[3] Percentage of traffic violation tickets issued through eTicketing	77	80	82	85	87

Data source: Results for this measure are derived from the eTicket Adoption Dashboard.

¹The 2023/24 baseline is from data in the eTicket Adoption Dashboard.

²The 2024/25 forecast is based on the anticipated rate of adoption of the system and completion of the project.

³The 2025/26 and subsequent year targets are based on ongoing training and adoption of the system throughout the province. It is anticipated that by 2027/28, the maximum rate for eTicketing will have been achieved as all police cars that enforce traffic will have adopted the system. Reasons for continuing to issue paper tickets from officers will include issuing tickets from police boats, by officers on foot, and in situations where an officer determines that a paper ticket is more effective.

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. This information is valuable to understanding where enforcement efforts are required.

Through eTicketing, police officers can leverage technology with a process that is more efficient, facilitating faster identification of drivers and enforcement against unsafe driving behaviours and freeing up officer time for additional enforcement activities.

⁷ Services include processing criminal record checks for individuals working with vulnerable populations, administering licences for security guards and businesses, and performing security screening for the provincial public service and other public bodies.

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, it 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 investigations, to contact the police if victimized, and to abide by laws and police orders. A positive perception of police among British Columbians is a critical aspect of public safety and contributes to lower levels of crime.

Key Strategies

- Advance regulations to implement amendments made to the Police Act in April 2024, which focus on improvements to municipal police governance, oversight, and police superintendence.
- Analyze the extensive and diverse input provided by partners and interested parties in the comprehensive consultation and engagement processes undertaken from 2023 through 2024, and apply this analysis to define, prioritize, and begin developing the next stage of policing and public safety policy reforms referenced in the 2022 [report](#) of the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act.
- Advance upgrading B.C.'s 911 emergency communications system to Next Generation 911 (NG911) to strengthen emergency services throughout the province, and respond to the recommendations, once released, of the independent review of [E-Comm](#) on financial, governance and operational performance [announced](#) by the Province in December 2024.
- Work proactively with the federal, provincial and territorial governments to ensure British Columbia is a strong partner in supporting border security along B.C.'s coast and along all land borders with American states.
- 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 Health, key partners, and the public.
- Continue to explore the factors resulting in all unexpected and unnatural deaths in B.C. with the goal of identifying and addressing public safety risks, through:

- Conducting independent and impartial coroners’ investigations, inquests and death review panels into unexpected deaths, including deaths caused by unregulated drug toxicity;
- Collecting data and conducting statistical analyses regarding deaths to allow for collaboration with partner agencies that informs and advances injury and death prevention, and promotes evidence-based public health policies; and
- Reviewing the deaths of all children age 18 and under to better understand how and why children die, and use those findings to improve the health, safety and well-being of all children in B.C.
- Informed by the [Commission of Inquiry into Money Laundering in British Columbia](#), continue work toward eliminating money laundering in the province through a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach. This includes exploring the development of a dedicated law enforcement unit; strengthening and expanding [civil forfeiture processes](#), including the use of Unexplained Wealth Orders; and ensuring appropriate policies and police training are implemented for law enforcement.

Performance Measures

Performance Measures	2022 Baselines ¹	2024 Forecasts ²	2025 Targets ³	2026 Targets	2027 Targets
[4a]. Percentage of British Columbians who have “complete confidence” or “a lot of confidence” in the RCMP ⁴	45.0	45.0	46.0	47.0	48.0
[4b]. Percentage of British Columbians who have “complete confidence” or “a lot of confidence” in their local municipal police (or local RCMP detachment)	50.0	50.0	51.0	52.0	53.0

Data source: The [Angus Reid Institute](#) conducts a biennial series of surveys assessing Canadians’ experiences with and opinions of the justice system, with responses disaggregated by province broken down to the provincial level members of the [Angus Reid Forum](#).

¹ 2022 is the most recent year for which results are currently available. In the 2022 Angus Reid survey, there were 577 survey participants from B.C. More detailed results from the 2022 survey are available [here](#).

² The 2024 forecasts are based on the possible scenario that the rates remain unchanged from 2022.

³ The 2025 and subsequent year targets are based on targeted annual increases of one per cent.

⁴ The RCMP is British Columbia’s provincial police force. An overview of the structure of police services in British Columbia is available [here](#).

Discussion

The ministry is tracking public confidence in police as an indicator of public confidence in the justice and public safety sector.

For any police department to be effective in serving and safeguarding the public, promoting public confidence is critical. Public confidence is a precursor to peoples’ willingness to call upon the police when needed, to freely share information with police, and to maintain a cooperative and trust-based relationship with police in their community.

Performance Measure	2023/24 Baseline¹	2024/25 Forecast²	2025/26 Target³	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target
[4c] Median time, in months, to conclude coroner investigations ⁴	10	10	9	8	7

Data source: Results for this measure are from the BCCS.

¹ The baseline is an estimate and is subject to change as coroner investigations are concluded and the data is revised.

² The 2024/25 forecast is subject to change. It is based on the 2023/24 actuals to date, with 70 per cent of cases concluded. Planned changes to work processes and training, as well as fiscal pressures, could impact the 2024/25 result.

³ The 2025/26 and subsequent year targets were established based on historical actuals and anticipated case closure improvements.

⁴ The time from the date the BCCS is notified of a death until the investigation is closed, after which the coroner’s report is distributed. This includes cases that were opened during the relevant fiscal year.

Discussion

Through its impartial and independent investigations, the BCCS supports public safety and 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.

In 2023/24, 13,896 deaths were reported to the BCCS. Of those, 7,086 – or approximately 51 per cent – met at least one of the above criteria and proceeded to an investigation, representing an increase of 202 investigations from those commencing in 2022/23.⁸

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 their death occurred. These reports determine the facts surrounding the death, do not determine fault or blame

⁸ In 2022/23, 13,746 deaths were reported to the BCCS; of those, 6,884 – or approximately 50 per cent – proceeded to an investigation.

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.

Financial Summary

(\$000s)	2024/25 Restated Estimates ¹	2025/26 Estimates	2026/27 Plan	2027/28 Plan
Operating Expenses				
Corrections	316,804	325,252	326,009	326,009
Policing and Security	541,647	577,082	577,251	576,697
Community Safety and Victim Services	88,310	93,914	93,914	93,914
BC Coroners Service	29,284	31,373	31,765	31,765
RoadSafetyBC	36,440	36,492	36,542	36,542
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation	8,275	8,390	8,390	8,390
Gaming Policy and Enforcement	21,461	22,211	22,509	22,509
Cannabis and Corporate Policy	3,597	3,642	3,642	3,642
Office of the Fire Commissioner	3,261	4,378	4,836	4,764
Executive and Support Services	18,827	19,226	19,226	19,226
Statutory Services ²	15,222	15,222	15,222	15,222
Total	1,083,128	1,137,182	1,139,306	1,138,680
Capital Expenditures				
Corrections	1,062	3,262	3,262	3,262
BC Coroners Service	12	12	12	12
Office of the Fire Commissioner	36	475	290	0
Executive and Support Services	1,887	952	952	952
Total	2,997	4,701	4,516	4,226

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2024/25 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2025/26 Estimates.

² 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, 2024 (\$m)	Estimated Cost to Complete (\$m)	Anticipated Total Cost (\$m)
Nanaimo Correctional Centre Replacement Project	2024	176	5	181
<p>Objective: 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>Costs: NCC Replacement Project costs remain at the increased amount of \$181 million due to higher construction costs.</p> <p>Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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>Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable 				

Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations

As of March 4, 2025, the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General is responsible and accountable for the following organizations:

[BC Liquor Distribution Branch](#)

The LDB is one of two branches of government that provide oversight for the beverage alcohol and cannabis industries; the other is the LCRB. The LDB is responsible for the wholesale distribution and retail sale of beverage alcohol and cannabis.

The [Liquor Distribution Act](#) gives the 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 distribution model for cannabis, public cannabis retail stores, and a publicly run e-commerce retail channel.

[Insurance Corporation of British Columbia](#)

ICBC's mandate is to provide universal compulsory (basic) automobile insurance for all British Columbian 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, manages and supervises the affairs and business of ICBC.

[Municipal Police Boards](#)

Independent municipal police departments are overseen by appointed police boards made up of civilian members of the community. The role of these 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 and Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia](#)

See Appendix B

Appendix B: The Organized Crime Agency of BC and Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – BC

Purpose of the Organization

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.

In 2024, CFSEU-BC concluded its first three-year strategic plan, setting out its mission to facilitate the disruption and suppression of organized crime that poses the highest public safety risk to British Columbians. Its mandate is to investigate, support the prosecution of, 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.

Governance Overview

The Board of Governance for the OCABC also acts as the Board of Governance for the CFSEU – BC.

The board is currently comprised of two civilian members who are community leaders in the areas of finance and governance, 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 Commissioners of the “E” Division RCMP; and the Associate Director of Police Services of PSSG’s 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.

Appendix C: Minister Mandate Letter



January 16, 2025

Honourable Garry Begg
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Begg:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General at a critical time for our province. Serving as a member of the executive council is a privilege and responsibility which I am confident you will fulfill with integrity and a commitment to the people of our province.

British Columbians have trusted us with a mandate to deliver for them in ways that make a tangible difference in their daily lives. They expect us to listen and learn from people of different perspectives – and work together to make things better for everyone.

Specifically, we will tackle the challenges people worry about at the kitchen table:

- **Grow the economy by creating good jobs across British Columbia.** We will collaborate with businesses, workers, and communities to attract investments in both new and traditional sectors as well as emerging sectors of the economy. This approach will bring certainty for business, security for workers, and generate the wealth needed to support the essential services British Columbians rely on.
- **Reduce costs for families** including by helping people access homes they can afford through support for first-time homebuyers, increasing the supply of rental housing stock, and stronger measures to crack down on housing speculation.

.../2

- **Strengthen health care** by expanding access to family doctors and recruiting and training more health professionals, ensuring that every British Columbian can access the care they need, no matter where they live. We will also increase access to addictions treatment and provide help for people whose struggles require intensive supports.
- **Make our neighbourhoods and communities safer** by working with law enforcement and social agencies to address street disorder, crack down on organized crime, and do all we can to ensure repeat offenders stay behind bars.

Our commitment to take action on climate change remains foundational and will be key to a healthy and prosperous BC for future generations.

Underlying all this work is our partnership with Indigenous peoples. Advancing reconciliation, implementing the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and working in partnership with First Nations rights-holders to advance shared interests is the responsibility of every Minister.

Over this mandate I expect you to prioritize making progress on the following:

- In order to protect key services that British Columbians rely on, work with the Minister of Finance to review all existing Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General programs and initiatives to ensure our programs remain relevant, are efficient, ensure safe and strong communities, grow the economy, and help keep British Columbians safe. This is important in the context of current Provincial budget constraints and the priorities of communities in the province.
- Facilitate strong cooperation between police, Crown prosecutors, probation officials, and the federal government to reduce repeat, violent, and gang offences. To this end, strengthen targeted policing and offender management, including continuing anti-gang programs, and work with the Attorney General to strengthen case management capacity.
- Continue to work with the federal government to respond to identified issues with federal criminal law that prevent keeping prolific and repeat violent offenders in custody.
- Ensure safe and strong communities by working with colleagues across ministries to support efforts to provide services and proactively intervene with individuals struggling with mental health, addiction, and brain injuries. In particular, work with the Minister of State for Community Safety and Integrated Services and other partners to ensure that provincial services are relevant and available to support police officers engaging in frontline responses to people in crisis, or who have identified individuals who present a risk to themselves or the public.

- Spearhead policy work to use civil and administrative processes to target organized criminals in British Columbia by expediting seizing assets and denying access to government privileges, including licences or permits.
- Work proactively with federal colleagues and provincial and territorial counterparts to ensure British Columbia is a strong partner in supporting border security along our coast and along all land borders with American states.
- Coordinate provincial regulatory enforcement agency and police authorities, including gaming, liquor, cannabis, tobacco, and transit, to ensure efficiency, consistent authorities, and training, and to improve coordination to ensure public safety, prompt and effective regulatory response, and strong communities.
- Support the Minister of State for Community Safety and Integrated Services in accessing dedicated funding for enforcement initiatives related to organized shoplifting and the protection of retail workers.
- Work with the Cabinet Committee on Community Safety to ensure that initiatives identified by the committee are prioritized and delivered by your ministry as required.
- Work with ICBC to ensure a comprehensive and independent review of the enhanced care model is conducted with the twin goals of delivering affordable rates for British Columbians and high-quality services and rehabilitation for those injured in collisions.
- Make it easier for communities and families to follow preferred funeral and cremation practices by ensuring that relevant laws are modernized and responsive to cultural communities and their faiths and traditions.
- Modernize British Columbia's liquor licensing and enforcement system to focus enforcement on high-risk and repeat non-compliant businesses, and to expedite and simplify permits. Use examples like Ontario to inform program design.
- Work with the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport and the Minister of Agriculture and Food to grow our economy by supporting food and beverage producers, farmers, restaurants, and the tourism sector with flexible liquor, land use, and cannabis regulations in relation to the development of innovative tourism products and unique experiences.
- With support from the Minister of Transportation and Transit, take steps to ensure safety and efficiency across our public transportation system through partnerships with TransLink, BC Transit, and local governments to permit the use of technology in relation to enforcement of public transportation safety for everyone.

As you are aware, we have established an accord with the BC Green Caucus that supports our shared commitment to ensuring stable governance focused on delivering progress and tangible outcomes for British Columbians. The commitments in that accord complement the direction in these mandate letters.

As a Cabinet, we will uphold the highest standards of ethics, collaboration, and good conduct in service of the public, and as a Minister of the Crown, you are expected to review, understand, and act according to the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act*. You will establish a collaborative working relationship with your Deputy Minister and the public servants under their direction, who provide the professional, non-partisan advice that is fundamental to delivering on our government's priorities. Your Minister's Office must meet the highest standards for integrity and provide a respectful, rewarding environment for all staff.

The work we have ahead takes place in a profoundly challenging geopolitical environment. Close friends and neighbours to our south are contemplating imposing draconian tariffs on our products that would hurt both Americans and Canadians. Our allies internationally face governmental instability. Hate and racism are on the rise around the world. Artificial intelligence breakthroughs with unclear implications and astonishing potential are announced daily. Global inflation, snarled supply chains, and war are threatening global economic growth and prosperity as well as the transition to a low-carbon economy.

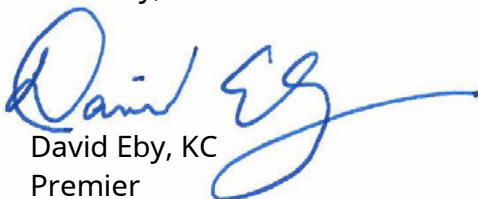
We have an obligation to protect and defend British Columbians, as well as seize opportunities, in these uncertain times.

The good news is that we have everything we need to succeed, and we will succeed. British Columbia's people – our workers, entrepreneurs, business leaders, artists, and innovators – are among the most talented in the world. We are home to world-class educational institutions and public services. Our natural beauty is unmatched, we have internationally envied resources, and we are one of the most diverse places on the planet. Your job is to help us leverage these advantages in perilous times.

Use this mandate letter to guide your work, and do not be afraid to challenge assumptions, or be innovative, bold and aggressive in achieving the goals set out for you and your Ministry by the people of this province.

Thank you for joining me in the work ahead.

Sincerely,



David Eby, KC
Premier