

Ministry of Environment and Parks

2026/27 – 2028/29 Service Plan

February 2026



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Published by the Ministry of Environment and Parks

Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Environment and Parks 2026/27 – 2028/29 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 of Tamara Davidson in black ink, enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Honourable Tamara Davidson
Minister of Environment and Parks
February 2, 2026

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Strategic Direction

In 2026/27, the Government of British Columbia will prioritize support for people by taking action to make life better for everyone.

Despite a challenging fiscal environment due to global uncertainty, trade relationship reordering, and low resource prices, over the past year Government made significant progress on efforts to reduce costs for British Columbians, hire more doctors and nurses, and build more homes, hospitals and schools, faster. Government will continue to advance these key priorities even as tariffs, trade policies, and instability outside of the province's borders continue to put pressure on the province's finances.

Ongoing fiscal pressure means all parts of Government must continue to do their part to maximize efficiencies and make sure every dollar counts.

To respond to these extraordinary times, Government will focus on expanding trade and investment both within Canada and abroad and delivering major projects that offer good jobs and opportunities for people and communities. This focus on economic growth and prosperity is critical to delivering the revenue needed to provide services and infrastructure.

Good relationships and mutually beneficial partnerships with First Nations are critical to building a better future for everyone in British Columbia. Government will continue working diligently to implement the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan. Through collaboration and open dialogue, we aim to foster trust, stability and certainty for all.

This 2026/27 service plan outlines how the Ministry of Environment and Parks will support the Government's priorities and selected action items identified in the Minister's most recent [Mandate Letter](#).

Purpose of the Ministry

Under the [Ministry of Environment Act](#), the Ministry of Environment and Parks has responsibilities for the protection, management, and conservation of British Columbia's water, land, air, and living resources. Other ministries in the natural resource sector also have responsibilities in these areas in accordance with their own legislation and mandates. The ministry delivers its mandate through several other key pieces of legislation including the Environmental Management Act, the Integrated Pest Management Act, the Park Act, the Protected Areas of British Columbia Act, and the Environmental Assessment Act. A full list of provincial legislation can be found at [BC Laws](#).

The ministry administers the province's parks and protected areas, and recreation sites and trails; monitors and enforces compliance with environmental laws and regulations; manages discharge to the environment from human activities; and protects B.C.'s biodiversity, ecosystems, native species, and natural habitats in parks and protected areas. It acquires, manages, and analyzes environmental and climate data to provide a robust platform for decision-making across the province. It administers the provincial environmental assessment

process through the [Environmental Assessment Office](#). The ministry delivers services directly through staff, based in regional offices across the province, as well as through partnerships and agreements with First Nations, local governments, the federal government, and stakeholder groups.

Performance Planning

Goal 1: Effective protection of the environment

Performance Measure

Performance Measure	2021/22 Baseline	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target	2028/29 Target
1.1 Per capita municipal solid waste disposal (kg per person) ¹	506	470	460	450	440

Data source: Ministry of Environment and Parks, manually compiled.

¹ Kg per person data is based on the calendar year. The 2026/27 target is based on calendar year 2026, 2027/28 target is based on calendar year 2027, etc.

Objective 1.1: Strong environmental regulation, compliance, and enforcement

Objective 1.2: Advance circular economy and clean communities

Goal 2: Sound management of protected areas system, recreation site and trail networks

Objective 2.1: Provide high-quality responsible recreation experiences through sound management of the protected areas system, recreation sites and trail networks.

Objective 2.2: Protect and steward the natural environment and advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

Discussion of changes

The ministry is finalizing a new performance measure this year for Goal 2, as a follow up to the refreshed service plan structure introduced last year. The performance measure will track the overall global satisfaction score from the BC Parks annual visitor satisfaction survey, which monitors the effectiveness of services provided in provincial park campgrounds and day-use areas. The survey's methodology, data analysis and reporting approaches are currently being evaluated and updated. The first survey with this updated methodology is expected to be conducted in mid-2026. Data from that survey will be reported in the 2026/27 Annual Service Plan Report and will establish the baseline and targets for this performance measure.

Goal 3: Protect the environment and support a sound economy and the well-being of B.C. communities and First Nations through environmental assessments

Performance Measure

Performance Measure	2023/24 Baseline	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target	2028/29 Target
3.1 Legislative Timeline Compliance Rate ^{1,2} – Percentage of legislated timelines met within the environmental assessment processes, excluding proponent requested delays. ^{1,2}	91%	73%	90%	90%	90%

Data source: EPIC.track

¹ In accordance with the Interpretation Act, if a legislated timeline falls on a weekend or statutory holiday, it is deemed to be met if completed on the next business day.

² The Minister's decision is excluded from this KPI, as it falls outside the scope of action of the EAO.

Objective 3.1: Deliver predictable, timely, and effective environmental assessments according to the Act

Objective 3.2: Ensure approved projects are built and maintained in compliance with their certificate

Financial Summary

(\$000s)	2025/26 Restated Estimates ¹	2026/27 Estimates	2027/28 Plan	2028/29 Plan
Operating Expenses				
Environmental Protection	30,556	30,547	30,379	30,238
Conservation and Recreation Division	98,936	93,018	93,019	93,019
Executive and Support Services	25,863	25,775	25,775	25,775
Sub-Total	155,355	149,340	149,173	149,032
Park Enhancement Fund	13,033	19,300	19,300	19,300
Sustainable Environment Fund	28,690	28,690	28,690	28,690
Total	197,078	197,330	197,163	197,022
Capital Expenditures				
Executive and Support Services	32,556	32,794	32,794	31,594
Park Enhancement Fund	400	400	400	400
Total	32,956	33,194	33,194	31,994

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2025/26 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2026/27 Estimates.

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

Financial Summary: Environmental Assessment Office

(\$000s)	2025/26 Restated Estimates ¹	2026/27 Estimates	2027/28 Plan	2028/29 Plan
Operating Expenses				
Environmental Assessment Office	16,781	16,781	15,763	15,763
Total	16,781	16,781	15,763	15,763

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2025/26 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2026/27 Estimates.

Appendix A: Minister Mandate Letter



January 16, 2025

Honourable Tamara Davidson
Minister of Environment and Parks
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Davidson:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Environment and Parks 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.

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- **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 Environment and Parks programs and initiatives to ensure programs remain relevant, are efficient, grow the economy, and help keep costs low for British Columbians. This is important in the context of current Provincial budget constraints.
- Find ways to increase access for families to British Columbia's parks in a cost-efficient manner.
- Work across ministries and with Indigenous leadership and business leaders to support work to recognize Indigenous rights and title, protect our precious environment for future generations, and support predictable and sustainable economic growth in our province to benefit all British Columbians.
- Direct the Environmental Assessment Office to work with key permitting ministries to develop specific measures that will expedite authorizations and permitting for major projects. Bring proposed measures forward for Cabinet review within six months.
- Support BC's energy transition and climate targets by directing the Environmental Assessment Office to proceed with the exemption of wind power from *Environmental Assessment Act* provisions. Further, exempt other relevant classes of projects from environmental assessment where the assessment is duplicative, delays projects with environmental advantages, or offers only limited value while impeding projects that will benefit the province as a whole.

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.

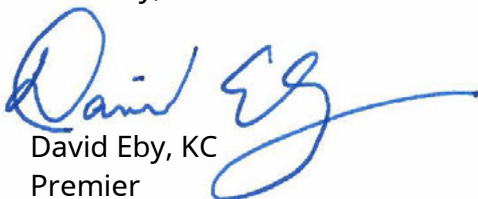
We have an obligation to protect and defend British Columbians, as well as seize opportunities, in these uncertain times.

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