

# **Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation**

## **2026/27 – 2028/29 Service Plan**

**February 2026**



For more information on the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation contact:

PO BOX 9100  
STN PROV GOVT  
VICTORIA, BC  
V8W 9B1

1-800-880-1022

Or visit our website at  
<http://www.gov.bc.ca/irr>

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## Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation 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 in blue ink, appearing to read "SCH".

Honourable Spencer Chandra Herbert  
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation  
February 6, 2026

## Table of Contents

Minister's Accountability Statement .....	3
Strategic Direction.....	5
Purpose of the Ministry.....	5
Performance Planning .....	7
Financial Summary .....	9
Appendix A: Declaration Act Secretariat.....	10
Appendix B: Public Sector Organizations .....	12
Appendix C: Minister Mandate Letter.....	13

## 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 Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation will support the Government's priorities and selected action items identified in the Minister's most recent [Mandate Letter](#).

## Purpose of the Ministry

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

Reconciliation is important to everyone as we work together to address historic wrongs through the path laid out by the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission \(TRC\) of Canada: Calls to Action](#). These efforts create a better province for all.

As the first province in Canada to recognize and uphold Indigenous Peoples' human rights in law through the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) (Declaration Act), British

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<sup>1</sup> The term "Indigenous" used throughout this document is inclusive of all peoples of Indigenous ancestry, including First Nations (status and non-status), Métis and Inuit.

Columbia is implementing the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UN Declaration) as our shared framework for reconciliation.

The Declaration Act supports the B.C. government to deepen relationships with Indigenous Peoples through an [action plan](#) that outlines measures to advance the objectives of the UN Declaration. The alignment of provincial laws with the UN Declaration enables government to enter into shared decision-making agreements with a broad range of Indigenous governments.

The Ministry furthers [reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples](#) by collaboratively developing policy and practices, and negotiating and implementing proactive, enduring [agreements, partnerships, and treaties based on recognition of rights](#). The Ministry's focus is to build lasting relationships with Indigenous Peoples through flexible agreements that can evolve over time and collaborative approaches to policy making.

The Ministry engages with First Nations governments, communities, organizations, as well as treaty, federal, and municipal partners, stakeholders, and the public. While reconciliation is a whole-of-government responsibility, the Ministry provides guidance and leadership to other areas of government on establishing and enhancing relationships with Indigenous Peoples.

The Ministry works shoulder to shoulder with partners and communities to advance B.C.'s [Reconciliation commitments](#). [Systemic shifts to address the legacy of harms](#) are achieved by prioritizing collaboration and engagement with Indigenous Peoples through anti-racist, trauma-informed and culturally safe practices. [Strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities](#)<sup>2</sup> and incorporating Indigenous knowledge and perspectives improves social and economic outcomes for Indigenous Peoples and all British Columbians.

The Ministry is also responsible for the partnership and collaboration with the [Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women](#), which provides advice to the B.C. government on how to improve the quality of life for Indigenous women in B.C., and the [First Peoples' Cultural Council](#) (FPCC), a provincial Crown corporation formed by the Government of British Columbia in 1990 to administer the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Program.

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<sup>2</sup> The term "communities" means the diversity of Indigenous communities as defined by Indigenous Peoples and includes descriptions such as urban, rural, metropolitan, remote, land-based and reserve.

## Performance Planning

### Goal 1: Advance equitable social and economic outcomes of Indigenous Peoples

#### Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2019/20 Baseline	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target	2028/29 Target
[1a] Cumulative number of community well-being initiatives <sup>1</sup>	16	36	40	44	46

Data source: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

<sup>1</sup> The term community is inclusive of all First Nations, Métis, and urban Indigenous communities.

**Objective 1.1: Partner with Indigenous, provincial, and federal agencies to advance community-focused initiatives that improve the health, wellness, and overall quality of life of Indigenous Peoples**

**Objective 1.2: Support First Nation communities in advancing self determination and governance building**

#### Discussion of Changes

PM 1b has been removed as work is ongoing to develop a more appropriate performance measure. The Ministry has committed to reviewing its objective 1b performance measure. This work has not yet resulted in a measure that is ready for the current reporting year. The Ministry is currently developing and refining the upcoming performance measure and is working to prepare this measure for the 2027/28 cycle and will begin reporting on it as soon as is practicable.

## Goal 2: Work in partnership to achieve true and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

### Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2023/24 Baseline	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target	2028/29 Target
[2a] First Nations or Indigenous Governing Bodies that have reached <b>major milestones</b> in negotiations.					
Other Constructive Agreement Negotiations (Tripartite) <sup>1</sup>	19	20	22	22	22
Other Constructive Agreement Negotiations (Bilateral) <sup>2</sup>	30	24	26	28	28

Data source: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

<sup>1</sup>Includes tripartite Comprehensive Reconciliation Agreements (CRAs) and other constructive arrangements; excludes revenue sharing agreements as these are captured in the performance measure for Objective 1.2

<sup>2</sup>Includes bilateral Accommodation Tools, Economic Benefit Agreements, Settlement Agreements, G2G Agreements, and other constructive arrangements; excludes revenue sharing agreements as these are captured in the performance measure for Objective 1.2

Performance Measure	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target	2028/29 Target
[2b] First Nations within British Columbia exercising self-governance through treaty or other negotiated agreements. <sup>1</sup>	11	14	16	18

Data source: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

<sup>1</sup>This measure specifies the number of First Nations within British Columbia exercising self-government, either through a treaty or other negotiated agreement involving B.C. and a First Nation addressing governance, that enables the self-determined pursuit of cultural, social, economic, and other priorities of First Nations

### Objective 2.1: Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action, and Relevant Case Law.

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

## Financial Summary

(\$000s)	2025/26	2026/27 Estimates	2027/28 Plan	2028/29 Plan
	Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>			
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Government to Government and Community Relations Division	18,160	16,987	16,987	16,987
Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and Legislation Division	14,805	13,887	13,753	13,753
Programs and Partnerships Division	29,229	28,172	27,941	27,941
Executive and Support Services	12,041	11,760	11,760	11,760
Treaty and Other Agreements	105,204	105,072	113,913	110,625
Declaration Act Secretariat	4,547	4,147	3,947	3,947
First Citizens Fund Special Account	2,046	2,209	2,209	2,209
<b>Total</b>	<b>186,032</b>	<b>182,234</b>	<b>190,510</b>	<b>187,222</b>
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>				
Executive and Support Services	3	3	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Other Financing Transactions</b>				
British Columbia First Nations Gaming Revenue Sharing Limited Partnership				
Disbursements	96,000	97,000	101,000	104,000
Receipts	(96,000)	(97,000)	(101,000)	(104,000)
Net Cash Requirements (Source)	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000
Land Transfers				
Disbursements	30,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Receipts	(0,000)	(0,000)	(0,000)	(0,000)
Net Cash Requirements (Source)	30,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>126,000</b>	<b>147,000</b>	<b>151,000</b>	<b>154,000</b>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>(96,000)</b>	<b>(97,000)</b>	<b>(101,000)</b>	<b>(104,000)</b>
<b>Total Net Cash Requirements (Source)</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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](#).

## Appendix A: Declaration Act Secretariat

### Purpose of the Organization

The [Declaration Act Secretariat](#) (DAS) is a central agency within the provincial government that works to coordinate and assist the cross-government effort to work in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples to implement the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act). This includes:

- Ensuring provincial legislation is consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) and is developed in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, as per section 3 of the Declaration Act. This work is known as the alignment of laws.
- Developing and implementing an action plan, in consultation and co-operation with Indigenous Peoples, to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration as per section 4 of the Declaration Act.
- Regular reporting to the legislature to monitor progress on the implementation of the action plan and the alignment of laws, through the tabling of an annual report, as per section 5 of the Declaration Act.
- Supporting the legislative implementation of sections 6 and 7 (agreements with Indigenous governing bodies).

### Strategic Direction

The Declaration Act was unanimously passed by the Legislative Assembly in 2019. The Act puts in place positive obligations for the Province:

- Requires B.C. to ensure laws are consistent with the UN Declaration (s. 3).
- Requires an action plan to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration and an annual report on that plan (s. 4 / 5).
- Provides a legislative mechanism for the Province to enter into agreements with Indigenous governing bodies (s. 6 / 7).

The Secretariat's core functions are to:

- develop processes and measures to guide the Province in implementation of the Declaration Act;
- assist ministries in advancing legislative initiatives in alignment with the UN Declaration and in meeting legislative alignment obligations;
- support ministries to implement the actions for which they are responsible in the action plan developed under section 4 of the Declaration Act;
- support ministries to report on action implementation and coordinate the development of the annual report; and
- provide guidance and advice to ministries on undertaking consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples;
- work with Indigenous Partners to inform government's legislative agenda and help set legislative priorities;
- serve in an interlocutor role for the Province and Indigenous partners.

Reporting directly to the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, but distinct from the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, the Secretariat remains at the forefront of providing guidance for legislative implementation and system-wide change leadership.

## Appendix B: Public Sector Organizations

As of February 2026, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation is responsible and accountable for the following:

### **BC Treaty Commission**<sup>3</sup>

The BC Treaty Commission is an independent body responsible for facilitating treaty negotiations among First Nations and the governments of Canada and British Columbia.

### **First Peoples' Cultural Council**

The First Peoples' Cultural Council is a First Nation-run Crown corporation that supports the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts, culture, and heritage in British Columbia.

### **Haida Gwaii Management Council**<sup>4</sup>

The Haida Gwaii Management Council is a strategic-level joint decision-making body for land and natural resource decisions on Haida Gwaii, as set out in the [Kunst'aa guu – Kunst'aayah Reconciliation Protocol](#).

### **Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women**

The Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women provides advice to the Government of British Columbia on how to improve the quality of life of Indigenous women across B.C.

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

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

## Appendix C: Minister Mandate Letter



July 17, 2025

Honourable Spencer Chandra Herbert  
Minister of Indigenous Relations  
and Reconciliation  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Chandra Herbert:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation 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 programs and initiatives to ensure programs remain relevant, are efficient, grow the economy, and deliver an improved quality of life for Indigenous peoples in the province. This is important in the context of current Provincial budget constraints and overall efficiency.
- Build partnerships that advance reconciliation in measurable ways and create tangible benefits for First Nations and all British Columbians, such as building more affordable housing, generating clean energy, creating good jobs and protecting our environment.
- Ensure that at the end of this term, people living in Indigenous communities in the province have seen an improvement in their quality of life through our government's interventions by prioritizing initiatives that make a meaningful difference in the lives of Indigenous peoples in this province.
- Continue work with First Nations partners, local governments and agencies to implement treaties and other agreements.
- Given the strains of conflict over boundaries, and the legal costs and uncertainty associated with unclear boundaries, work with First Nations partners to prioritize Action 1.1 of the Declaration Act Action Plan relating to overlap and boundary dispute resolution.

- Through the Declaration Act Secretariat, lead work with the Attorney General to ensure alignment of BC's laws with the rights of Indigenous peoples.
- Lead work to review and update the Declaration Act Action Plan by 2027, for the next five-year period.
- Work with the Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives on anti-Indigenous racism.
- In cooperation with the Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, continue to develop and implement approaches to accelerate agreed-upon land transfers that enhance First Nation community and economic development.

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