

Ministry of
Aboriginal Relations
and Reconciliation

2009/10
Annual Service Plan Report



Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

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Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement



I am pleased to present the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation *2009/10 Annual Service Plan Report*, outlining achievements during the fiscal year ending March 31, 2010.

The report reflects our progress towards building a New Relationship with First nations and Aboriginal peoples. It outlines the ministry's ongoing efforts to help close the gaps in economic development, education, health care and housing that separate Aboriginal peoples from other British Columbians. Our focus on building respectful and constructive relationships with Aboriginal peoples is the foundation from which we can address these challenges together.

Over the past year, the treaty process has gained momentum with the implementation of the Tsawwassen Final Agreement and the initialling of the Yale Final Agreement. As well, work continues towards implementation of the Maa-nulth Final Agreement, which will take effect on April 1, 2011.

And while the negotiation of treaties, as the most comprehensive type of reconciliation agreement, remains a top priority, successes are being realized through other types of agreements that create the opportunity for comprehensive and lasting reconciliation.

The New Relationship gained traction with the signing of historic Reconciliation Protocols with the Haida Nation and with the Coastal First Nations. The Province also committed to restoring the name Haida Gwaii to the Queen Charlotte Islands, in recognition of the long history and deep connection of the Haida Nation to the archipelago.

The Province's first Strategic Engagement Agreement was signed with N̓anw̓akolas First Nations near Campbell River that will streamline consultation on natural resource decisions and provide increased certainty for investors.

An Economic Benefit Agreement was signed with three of the Treaty 8 First Nations in BC's north – Doig River First Nation, West Moberly First Nations and Prophet River First Nation – that will provide the First Nations with a share of the benefit flowing from development and provide for collaborative planning and management of Treaty 8 lands in the Northeast.

And together with BC Hydro, a final agreement was reached with the Tsay Keh Dene First Nation to redress historic damages inflicted over 40 years ago with the creation of the Bennett Dam and Williston reservoir. A similar agreement was reached with the Kwadacha First Nation in 2009/10.

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By pursuing recognition and reconciliation based on the needs, circumstances and desires of individual First Nations, tangible opportunities are being created for First Nations, for industry and ultimately for the province as a whole.


The Province is constantly seeking new and innovative solutions to closing the socio-economic gaps with Aboriginal people and will continue working across government on initiatives in education, housing, health, sport and other areas.

Forty-nine Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreements have been signed, and several Aboriginal gathering spaces have opened on campuses across the province. More than 170 housing units that serve Aboriginal people were opened, and over 600 Aboriginal people were housed through the Homeless Outreach Program and the Aboriginal Homeless Outreach Program.

The 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games provided opportunities to support economic development and build cultural pride for First Nation, Métis and Inuit communities. Through the efforts of the Four Host First Nations, the stories of Canada's Aboriginal people were shared with the world.

I am proud of the contribution by each member of the ministry to the realization of our goals. We are moving forward in the treaty process and working with our Aboriginal partners to improve social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal peoples. The progress we are making proves the strength of the New Relationship.

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation *2009/10 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the actual results to the expected results identified in the Ministry's *2009/10 – 2011/12 Service Plan Update*. I am accountable for those results as reported.



Honourable George Abbott
Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

June 18, 2010

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Highlights of the Year

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation has supported a number of significant efforts towards closing the socio-economic gaps that exist between Aboriginal people and other British Columbians and building respectful relationships with Aboriginal peoples, including concluding treaties and other lasting agreements.

The Province continues to fulfill the commitments of the *Transformative Change Accord* and the *Métis Nation Relationship Accord*. The ministry is responsible for reporting on progress under these important Accords. To this end, *New Relationships with Aboriginal People and Communities in BC* and *Measuring Outcomes* were web published. A useful resource to assist First Nations to increase their capacity to work with youth was also produced in 2009. “A *Resource Guide for the Engagement of Youth in Your Community*” was made widely available at the Gathering Our Voices youth conference in Vancouver in March, 2010.

In addition, the ministry has supported partner ministries to continue to make progress closing social and economic gaps in areas such as education, housing, health and economic development. Achievements include:

- expanding the number of spaces available for Aboriginal learners in post secondary and apprenticeship programs, increasing the number of Aboriginal education enhancement agreements, and signing an agreement that paves the way for First Nations to receive full per-pupil funding for eligible provincial students attending band-operated schools;
- connecting over 480 homeless Aboriginal people to housing and supports through the Aboriginal Housing Outreach Program and completing approximately 400 supportive housing units under the Provincial Homelessness Initiative, which benefits many homeless Aboriginal people;
- signing an historic Memorandum of Understanding with the Unified Aboriginal Youth Collective to promote the expression of youth perspectives into government policy and program development on issues that matter to Aboriginal youth and communities.
- opening the new Seniors’ Lytton Health Centre to improve acute care and community health services to better meet the needs of First Nations and other residents in the Lytton area;



Minister George Abbott and representatives from the Unified Aboriginal Youth Collective at the signing of the memorandum of understanding.

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- continuing to secure high-speed internet services for First Nations. Since 2008, \$40.8 M has been provided to facilitate broadband connectivity and capacity building for First Nations communities in BC;
- providing support to Métis Nation British Columbia for the purchase of a 25,000 square foot building on 13.5 acres of land which has allowed the expansion of programs and services and has paved the way for an abundance of economic development opportunities including industry partnerships and a culinary and catering program; and

Treaties and other lasting agreements are important tools for creating shared understandings on rights and interests and resolving conflicts. Several important milestones were reached this year. The Tsawwassen treaty took effect April 3, 2009. It is the first urban treaty in BC, and the first negotiated under the British Columbia Treaty Commission process. Also in April, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with each of the five Maa-nulth First Nations, transferring ownership over key parcels of treaty settlement land in advance of implementing their treaty. On June 18, 2009, the treaty was given Royal Assent by the federal government. The parties are now working toward achieving the agreed to April 1, 2011 effective date of this treaty.

British Columbia also made progress on other treaties. Yale First Nation, BC and Canada initialled a final agreement. Tla'amin (Sliammon) First Nation moved forward with the ratification of their Constitution. British Columbia is also in final agreement negotiations with In-SHUCK-ch and Yekooche First Nations.

Two momentous reconciliation agreements were signed later in December 2009. The historic reconciliation protocol with the Haida, Kunst'aa guu - Kunst'aayah, which means "the beginning" was signed by Premier Gordon Campbell and Guujaaw, President of the Haida Nation. This reconciliation protocol creates greater certainty in land use decisions through shared decision making, increased prosperity through economic development, and commitments to continue to work towards reconciliation. Among other things, \$3.2 million will be provided over five years to support implementation and government committed to restore the Aboriginal name of Haida Gwaii to the Queen Charlotte Islands.

The Province also signed the Coastal Reconciliation Protocol with First Nations from the Central and North Coast. This community-based agreement will increase economic and legal stability for resource and land use, establish a process for meaningful participation in decision making and create opportunities in the green economy. It includes funding for the Klemtu ferry terminal and \$3.2 million over five years to fund participation in a shared decision making process.



Minister Abbott joins Yale First Nation Chief Robert Hope and federal Chief Negotiator Bill Dymond to mark the initialling of the Yale First Nation Final Agreement.

The Tsay Keh Dene First Nation has finalized an agreement with BC and BC Hydro, which



Minister George Abbott and representatives of BC Hydro joined the Tsay Keh Dene First Nation in their community.

concludes issues over the development of the Williston Reservoir and the WAC Bennett Dam. The agreement provides the First Nation with funding which will be placed in an endowment fund. The First Nation will also receive one-time and annual payments in acknowledgement of the impact of the WAC Bennett Dam and Williston reservoir on the Tsay Keh Dene First Nation. Most of these payments will be placed in a trust which will direct funding to community and economic development opportunities.

Doig River, West Moberly and Prophet River First Nations signed five agreements with the Province to provide for collaborative planning and management of Treaty 8 lands including an Amended Economic Benefits Agreement, Government-to-Government Protocol Agreement, Parks Collaborative Management Agreement, Wildlife Collaborative Management Agreement and Strategic Land and Resource Planning Agreement.

The 2010 Olympic and Paralympic games met with great success, in no small part due to the participation and support of the Four Host First Nations: Lil'wat, Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh. As a result of their participation and support, the international community had the opportunity to experience First Nations, Métis and Inuit art, language, traditions, history and culture. The legacy of the games includes lands, capacity building, business development, skills enhancement and other cultural and economic development opportunities.



Minister Abbott speaks at torch relay celebrations on Haida Gwaii

Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation initiates and promotes innovative approaches to Aboriginal policy and is the Province's representative for all treaty negotiations. The ministry builds collaborative relationships with Aboriginal peoples based on respect and recognition to achieve reconciliation. It works actively towards a future where the Province has forged positive, enduring relationships with Aboriginal peoples, whose communities are healthy, prosperous, sustainable and self-determining.

The ministry provides strategic leadership and advice across government on the Province's relationship with Aboriginal peoples. This includes leading, coordinating and reporting out on the *Transformative Change Accord* and *Métis Nation Relationship Accord* on behalf of government. It is also government's lead on the New Relationship and works with First Nations to foster strong governments, social justice and economic self-sufficiency.

A key part of the Ministry's work is the negotiation of treaties and other lasting agreements. As more of these agreements are signed, the focus on implementing these agreements will continue to increase. The ministry also works with First Nations and Canada to improve treaty-making through the trilateral treaty revitalization process.

The ministry works with First Nations on priorities they have identified to build capacity, based on individual communities' assets and strengths. It champions community capacity development principles within government to increase effectiveness in working with Aboriginal peoples.

The ministry collaborates with First Nations and other Aboriginal peoples to meet mutual interests. It works with the federal government and other organizations to foster and enhance positive relationships with Aboriginal peoples. It promotes creative multi-sectoral work on Aboriginal initiatives, bringing together representatives from other ministries, Crown agencies, Aboriginal partners, other levels of governments, industry and non-governmental organizations.



Chief Gibby Jacob presented Minister George Abbott with a traditional drum at the 2009 Coast Salish Gathering held at the new Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre

Working with its partners, the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation makes appointments to a number of agencies, boards and commissions including the BC Treaty Commission; First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council; First Peoples' Advisory Committee; Native Economic Development Advisory Board and New Relationship Trust Board.

A list of statutes that fall under the responsibility of the ministry can be found at:
www.leg.bc.ca/procs/allacts/arr.htm

Strategic Context

Through a number of important decisions, the courts have reinforced that Aboriginal rights and title exist and that these rights must influence the way government operates. The Supreme Court of Canada has also stated that the ability of government to infringe those rights is constrained. Governments are obliged, by law, to justify infringements of Aboriginal and treaty rights as being required in the public interest and to minimize any potential infringement to the greatest extent possible.

Uncertainty over the nature and application of Aboriginal rights and title may detrimentally affect the provincial economy by discouraging investment. To maximize opportunities for economic development and job creation for all British Columbians, the ministry looks for ways to reconcile the rights and interests of First Nations with those of the Crown. Treaty negotiations are the ultimate path for resolution of these issues, but other agreements such as reconciliation agreements, strategic engagement agreements and economic and community development agreements also lead to reconciliation. The impetus for treaty negotiations in British Columbia is linked directly to constitutional, legal and economic considerations that must be addressed in order for British Columbia to prosper both socially and economically.

The past few years have witnessed unparalleled success in negotiating treaties and achieving final agreements. This success has led to a relatively new business area for the Province – agreement implementation. The growing number of agreements between British Columbia and First Nations requires the ministry to enlarge its focus on agreement implementation. This work requires all parties to build sufficient capacity and resourcing to meet agreement obligations effectively. The ministry is also working with partners to increase information sharing within government and facilitate the conclusion and implementation of agreements.

The ministry continues to explore new approaches to treaty with flexible, shorter term agreements, such as incremental treaty agreements, reconciliation agreements and economic and community development agreements that link First Nations to resource and economic development opportunities. These types of agreements may also stimulate faster economic growth by reducing the time and costs associated with decision processes.

Some First Nation communities note that progress under the New Relationship must be supported by appropriate community development to create meaningful change. The ministry works with First Nations and other partners to address community aspirations through better coordination and integration of effort and resources. This has included partnerships on community projects and social and economic agreements.

The economic downturn has put additional pressure on Aboriginal groups including Aboriginal business and not-for-profit organizations. The ministry continues to work with its Aboriginal partners to explore opportunities for further collaboration and to craft solutions jointly for moving forward during these challenging economic times.

Land and resource agencies within the BC Public Service are making strides toward increasing coordination and streamlining their activities. Much of this work is focused on coordinating



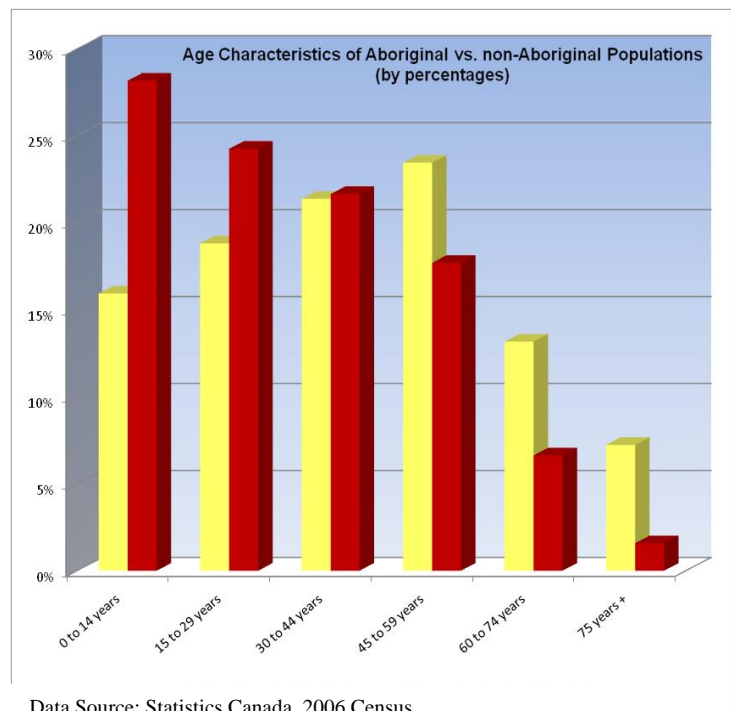
Minister Tours T'Sou-ke Solar Installation – July 17, 2009
T'Sou-ke Nation won a SolarBC award for leadership in clean energy as the 8th Solar Community in BC

consultation with First Nations. This process improves information sharing and allows government to work in an integrated fashion to better realize its public policy objectives.

Government's commitment to green energy initiatives and demonstrating leadership in climate action is reflected in the efforts the ministry is making to partner with First Nations in BC to confront the challenges of climate change and generate new economic opportunities.

The Aboriginal population in British Columbia is characterized by unique demographic qualities that will inform policy and program decisions in the coming years. British Columbia is home to over one-third of the more than 600 First Nations communities in Canada, comprising the most culturally and linguistically diverse groups of Aboriginal peoples in the country. There are nearly 200,000 people in British Columbia who identify themselves as First Nation, Métis, or Inuit. Between 2001 and 2006, the Aboriginal population in the province grew by 15 per cent. This is more than three times the growth rate of the non-Aboriginal population.

The fastest growing population demographic province-wide is Aboriginal youth. In fact, the median age of the Aboriginal population in British Columbia is approximately 12 years younger than the median age of the province's population overall. The stark differences between the population "pyramids" of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations necessitate a diverging policy focus and a disparate suite of programs and services. This demographic also compels the Province to engage Aboriginal youth to develop opportunities to address both their ambitions and their potential to make important contributions to productivity and labour market demands created by an aging population.



Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

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Another important demographic consideration is the increasing urbanization of Aboriginal peoples. In 2006, 60 per cent of the Aboriginal population in British Columbia lived in urban areas and only 26 per cent lived on reserves. Engaging with urban Aboriginal peoples requires special effort because their voices are diffused. There is no formal system or entity in place to facilitate dialogue between urban Aboriginal interests and government. Some of the challenges for the ministry include ensuring opportunities for discourse are available to urban Aboriginal peoples, understanding the distinct needs of an urban Aboriginal population, and supporting ministries and agencies to take appropriate steps so Aboriginal peoples across the demographic spectrum, whether residing on or off reserves, have access to services and economic opportunities at the same level as other British Columbians.

While increasing urbanization may represent the loss of “place” as a cultural touchstone, similarly, the decreasing numbers of First Nations individuals fluent in native languages signals the loss of an intrinsic expression of shared cultural heritage and affiliation. Language plays both practical and symbolic roles in maintaining and reinforcing cultural identity. A growing concern among First Nations people and the Province is the imminent extinction of many First Nations languages. British Columbia is home to 32 distinct First Nations languages, representing two-thirds of all the indigenous languages in Canada. Without action, many of these languages will disappear within a generation.

Finally, Métis make up 30 per cent of British Columbia’s Aboriginal population. The ministry continues to work in partnership with Métis Nation BC to achieve the goals of the *Métis Nation Relationship Accord*. Métis Nation BC, which represents 37 organized communities throughout the province, develops and implements social and economic programs and services that are culturally relevant and meet the needs of the Métis population in BC. In the past year, Métis Nation BC has also been actively involved in working collectively with other Aboriginal youth as signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Province which will encourage a stronger relationship between government and Aboriginal youth and provide a vehicle for including their voices in government policy and program development.



Minister George Abbott (back row 4th from left) was honoured with a traditional sash by Métis Nation BC.

Report on Performance

Performance Plan Summary Table

Goal 1: Improved social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal peoples For greater detail see pages 13 to 15	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
1.1 Progress on actions in the <i>Transformative Change Accord</i> and the <i>Métis Nation Relationship Accord</i> associated with closing the socio-economic gaps Progress on action items in the <i>Transformative Change Accord</i> and the <i>Métis Nation Relationship Accord</i>	Progress achieved in key areas	ACHIEVED
1.2 Development of culturally appropriate policies, programs and services Number of new provincial policies and initiatives that have been developed collaboratively with Aboriginal peoples and First Nations	20	20 ACHIEVED
Goal 2: Respectful and constructive relationships with Aboriginal peoples For greater detail see pages 15 to 17	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
2.1. Aboriginal peoples possess the capacity necessary to enable meaningful engagement with government. Number of new initiatives that build the capacity of First Nations and Aboriginal organizations to participate in government engagements	10	12 EXCEEDED
2.2 Increase positive awareness among British Columbians of the diversity and value of Aboriginal cultures % of people expressing positive awareness of the diversity and value of First Nations cultures	+1.5%	+2% EXCEEDED
Goal 3: Reconciliation of Aboriginal and treaty rights For greater detail see pages 17 to 20	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
3.1 Conclude agreements that lead to the reconciliation of Aboriginal and treaty rights Number of treaties and agreements that build incremental progress towards reconciliation	15	18 EXCEEDED
3.2 Increase Aboriginal peoples' access to economic opportunities Agreements and initiatives that provide economic opportunities to Aboriginal peoples	10	11 EXCEEDED

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation's goals, objectives, strategies and performance measures serve as the framework that defines what the Ministry intends to achieve during the life of its service plan, and the means for gauging and reporting on performance with respect to its stated goals and objectives.

Targets for the ministry's performance measures are generated by considering historical trends associated with the measures and determining reasonable performance expectations during the period covered by this service plan. The baselines for key performance indicators are predicated on available data from a variety of sources and the availability of complete data sets varies from key indicator to key indicator.

Goal 1: Improved social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal peoples

The *Transformative Change Accord* and *Métis Nation Relationship Accord* set out goals for closing the significant differences that exist between Aboriginal people and other British Columbians on important social and economic indicators. These gaps developed over decades and will not be closed immediately. As a result, key performance indicators may see modest substantive reportable progress on an annual basis over the next three years; nonetheless the target is to close the gap by 2015.

Objective 1.1: Progress on actions in the *Transformative Change Accord* and the *Métis Nation Relationship Accord* associated with closing the socio-economic gaps

While other ministries and Crown agencies are directly responsible for action on key performance indicators, the Ministry plays a central role in supporting the development and implementation of action plans and providing critical information about progress on closing the gaps not only to the parties involved but also to the public. The *Transformative Change Accord* and *Métis Nation Relationship Accord* guide our work.

Strategies

- Under each priority area, we work with other ministries and Aboriginal partners.
- Support work by other ministries on closing the socio-economic gap such as: education, housing and infrastructure, health, economic development, child and family development, policing, administration of justice, corrections and safety initiatives.
- Facilitate and support collaboration among Aboriginal, Métis and First Nation organizations, all levels of government and the private sector on initiatives to close the socio-economic gaps.
- Monitor and report on activities and progress towards meeting the goals of the Transformative Change Accord and the Métis Nation Relationship Accord.
- Promote discussions on, and evaluation of, key performance indicators such as: high school completion rates; off-reserve Aboriginal households in core housing needs; life expectancy at birth; unemployment rates; and others.

Performance Results

Performance Measure 1: Closing the socio-economic gaps.

Performance Measure	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
Progress on action items in the <i>Transformative Change Accord</i> and the <i>Métis Nation Relationship Accord</i> .	Annual progress report	Plans in place	Progress achieved in key areas	Progress achieved in key areas (See page 13)

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation will gather performance indicator data from a variety of sources.

The following plans are already in place: *Transformative Change Accord* (2005), *Métis Nation Relationship Accord* (2006), *Housing Matters Strategy* (2006) and *First Nations Housing MOU* (2008), *Aboriginal Post Secondary Education Strategy* (2007), *Transformative Change Accord* First Nations Health Plan (2007), *Strong, Safe and Supported* (2008). Additionally a number of plans or strategies have been developed by Aboriginal leadership. Government works to support actions where possible. For example: First Nations Technology Plan (2006), First Nations Economic Development Plan (2008), and Unified Aboriginal Youth Collective Language, Culture and Education Action Plan.

Discussion of Results

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation has developed a comprehensive reporting framework resulting in two annual reports: *New Relationships with Aboriginal People and Communities in B.C.* and *Measuring Outcomes*. The former provides an annual report of key activities and strategies implemented across government to support progress in closing the socio-economic gaps. It also highlights current examples of how government actions are supporting positive change in the lives of Aboriginal individuals and communities. *Measuring Outcomes*, a companion document to *New Relationships with Aboriginal People and Communities in B.C.*, is a technical report that tracks progress over time in achieving societal level change in Aboriginal populations – it measures success in achieving desired outcomes. Both reports are closely aligned to plans (see "Data Sources") and reporting models developed by lead ministries, and use the best data sources available at this time.

Objective 1.2: Development of culturally appropriate policies, programs and services

Strategies

- Lead and/or support the negotiation and implementation of agreements that contribute to addressing socio-economic disparities.
- Support development of policies and initiatives in partnership with Aboriginal peoples.
- Support delivery of programs and services in partnership with Aboriginal peoples.

Performance Results

Performance Measure 2: Collaborative policy development

Performance Measure	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
Number of new provincial policies and initiatives that have been developed collaboratively with Aboriginal peoples and First Nations.	5	18	20	20 ACHIEVED (See page 13)

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and ministries participating in the implementation of *Transformative Change Accord* and the *Métis Nation Relationship Accord*.

Discussion of Results

The Province recognizes that full partnership with Aboriginal peoples is critical to closing the socio-economic gaps. Collaboration on provincial policies and initiatives helps to ensure culturally appropriate and meaningful responses to key priorities. For example, in 2009/10, the ministry worked with Yekooche First Nation on a tripartite agreement for community renewal through long term support of culturally appropriate programs and services. In addition, the ministry helped broker a protocol agreement between Yekooche and Bulkley-Nechako Regional District.

Apart from direct engagement with Aboriginal peoples, the ministry also facilitated relationships between ministries and Aboriginal organizations and was instrumental in supporting and encouraging initiatives in the areas of housing, cultural awareness, education and health.

Goal 2: Respectful and constructive relationships with Aboriginal peoples

Objective 2.1: Aboriginal peoples possess the capacity necessary to enable meaningful engagement with government

Strategies:

- Support and coordinate actions by ministries and Crown agencies related to the New Relationship.
- Support capacity development and governance enhancement for Aboriginal governments and organizations.
- Support Aboriginal language, culture and heritage initiatives.
- Support Aboriginal community and economic development.
- Coordinate and streamline consultation processes.

Performance Results

Performance Measure 3: Engagement capacity

Performance Measure	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
Number of new initiatives that build the capacity of First Nations and Aboriginal organizations to participate in government engagements.	N/A	10	10	12 EXCEEDED (See page 13)

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

Discussion of Results

First Nations and Aboriginal capacity is critical for meaningful engagement between governments. The ministry's performance measure for capacity is a way to keep capacity building at the forefront and includes work undertaken over the past year to assist communities to build relationships and networks to increase their capacity and access funding to support their priorities. In addition, given the demographic realities of the Aboriginal population in BC, the ministry developed "*A Resource Guide for the Engagement of Youth in Your Community*" – a useful resource to assist First Nations to increase their capacity to empower youth.

Objective 2.2: Increase positive awareness among British Columbians of the diversity and value of Aboriginal cultures

Strategies

- Build and facilitate partnerships with Aboriginal peoples.
- Support greater recognition of Aboriginal language, culture and heritage.
- Lead and support Aboriginal awareness initiatives within the public sector and British Columbia

Performance Results

Performance Measure 4: Positive awareness of First Nations cultures

Performance Measure	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
% of people expressing positive awareness of diversity and value of First Nations cultures.	26%	30% ¹	+1.5%	+2% EXCEEDED (See page 13)

Data Source: Survey conducted by BC Stats with participation by the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

¹ BC Stats asked two key questions of the public: "How aware are you of diverse First Nations cultures within BC?" and "First Nations have made a wide range of contributions to BC" -- What is your level of agreement?

Discussion of Results

BC Stats conducts a survey across the province to determine the degree of positive awareness of the diversity and value of First Nations' cultures. Positive awareness helps strengthen the foundation for building respectful relationships and creates wider support for the reconciliation of Aboriginal rights and title.



Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation joined His Honour Steven Point at Government House to celebrate the addition of five original works of art from respected Coast Salish artists, including Marianne Nicolson (right), to the permanent collection at Government House.

The Province has also embarked on a number of activities and initiatives to heighten awareness of the contemporary and historical importance of Aboriginal cultures in British Columbia, including support for officially renaming the area covered by the Georgia Basin-Puget Sound ecosystem the Salish Sea; restoring the Aboriginal name of Haida Gwaii; and, signing an agreement with the Che:k'tles7et'h' peoples to rename Brooks Peninsula Provincial Park to a dual name (Muqin/Brooks Peninsula Provincial Park) that celebrates the First Nations' connection with the history and culture of the park.

“The reclaimed power of naming among all of Canada’s aboriginal communities is now widely seen as long-overdue recognition of their long-standing presence throughout all parts of country and the injustice of replacing native place names with the English and French designations by European colonists.”

Randy Boswell, Canwest News Service
November 14, 2009

Objective 3.1: Conclude agreements that lead to the reconciliation of Aboriginal and treaty rights

Strategies

- Support agreements among First Nations, government and local governments.
- Lead and support the negotiation of agreements that contribute to reconciliation of Aboriginal and treaty rights.
- Negotiate treaty related measures, incremental treaty agreements and other agreements that lead to treaty.
- Lead and support the negotiations and implementation of treaties and other agreements.



First-Ever Strategic Engagement Agreement
 Minister George Abbott and Gwa'sala 'Nakwaxda'xw Chief Paddy Walkus sign the historic Strategic Engagement Agreement while Mamalilikulla-Qwe'QwaSot'Em Chief Harold Sewid, Dallas Smith, president of the Nanwakolas Council and Minister of Forests and Range Pat Bell look on.

Performance Results

Performance Measure 5: Treaties and agreements

Performance Measure	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
Number of treaties and agreements that build incremental progress towards reconciliation.	9	14	15	18 EXCEEDED (See page 13)

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and other ministries and Crown agencies as appropriate (i.e., includes treaty and non-treaty process agreements).

Discussion of Results

While final treaty agreements are the Province's preferred means of reconciling Aboriginal rights and title with the sovereignty of the Crown, other types of agreements can also contribute to reconciliation, for example, incremental treaty agreements that provide beneficial results in the short term which can be built on over time towards final treaties. In 2009/10, the Province successfully concluded reconciliation protocols with the Haida Nation and with Coastal First Nations, as well as a range of other agreements including collaborative management agreements, strategic land and resources planning agreements, protocol agreements, economic benefits agreements, and treaty related measures, which are a type of interim measure directly tied to treaty topics under negotiation.

Objective 3.2: Increase Aboriginal peoples' access to economic opportunities.

Providing more access to economic opportunities results in economic benefits for all British Columbians. Aboriginal participation in business ventures and resource development contributes to British Columbia's prosperity.

Strategies

- Champion access to business venture and economic development opportunities through resource development agreements, benefit agreements and other strategic agreements.
- Facilitate access to training and skills development as well as support systems associated with economic development.
- Support employment initiatives in the private and public sectors.
- Support First Nations' access to land and resource tenures.

Performance Results

Performance Measure 6: Economic development opportunities

Performance Measure	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
Agreements and initiatives that provide economic opportunities to Aboriginal peoples	5	6	10	11 EXCEEDED (See page 13)

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and other ministries and Crown agencies as appropriate (i.e., includes agreements that provide revenues, economic benefits and jobs to Aboriginal people).

Discussion of Results

The ministry partnered with First Nations and Aboriginal organizations, providing funding to create and stimulate economic opportunities. The ministry also continued to support the Aboriginal BEST entrepreneurship training program and a variety of business development initiatives through First Citizens Fund programs such as the Business Loan Program, Business Advisory Centres, and Business Support Officers.

Report on Resources

Resource Summary Table

	Estimated	Other Authorizations ¹	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses (\$000)					
Negotiations	53,984	16,588	70,572	71,316	744
Aboriginal Relations ²	8,381	0,000	6,177	7,975	1,798
Executive and Support Services	6,885	0,000	6,885	6,177	(708)
Total	69,250	16,588	83,634	85,468	1,834
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)					
Executive and Support Services	30	0,000	30	8	(22)
Other Financing Transactions (\$000)					
Negotiations – Nisga'a cash payments - deferrals	1,750	0,000	1,750	1,750	0,000

¹ Other Authorizations consist of Contingency access primarily to fund Maa-nulth settlement costs and payments relating to the Treaty 8 Economic Benefits Agreement

² Aboriginal Relations includes First Citizens Fund Special

Ministry Contact Information

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Victoria BC V8W 9B1

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E-mail: ABRInfo@gov.bc.ca

URL: www.gov.bc.ca/arr

Hyperlinks to Additional Information

BC Treaty Commission

www.bctreaty.net/index.php

First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council

www.fphlcc.ca/

Métis Nation Relationship Accord

www.gov.bc.ca/arr/social/down/arr_metis_accord.pdf

Native Economic Development Advisory Board

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/economic/fcf/nedab.html>

New Relationship

www.gov.bc.ca/arr/newrelationship/down/new_relationship.pdf

New Relationship Trust

www.newrelationshiptrust.ca/

Transformative Change Accord

www.gov.bc.ca/arr/social/down/transformative_change_accord.pdf

