

**Ministry of Environment  
and the  
Environmental Assessment Office**

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**2016/17  
Annual Service Plan Report**

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## Minister's Message and Accountability Statement



I am pleased to present the *Ministry of Environment and the Environmental Assessment Office 2016/2017 Annual Service Plan Report*. This report was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*.

The Ministry's accomplishments over the past year have reinforced our reputation as a leader in environmental protection and conservation, while ensuring both continued economic growth and environmental sustainability.

Over the past year, the Ministry engaged in extensive consultation with First Nations, stakeholders and local communities to inform amendments to the *Environmental Management Act*. In May 2016, these amendments were passed to establish the legal foundation for B.C.'s new, world-leading spill preparedness and response regime. In addition to establishing a new [Deputy Minister Board](#) to oversee mining compliance and enforcement, new staffing and training opportunities were introduced to support the Ministry's compliance and enforcement efforts, strengthening environmental protection across the Province.

Ministry staff continued to engage in work related to threatened and invasive species. Significant progress was made on developing a comprehensive caribou recovery program designed to help reverse caribou population decline, ensuring the long-term survival of this iconic species in B.C. Furthermore, building on success in 2015/16, the Ministry increased B.C.'s protection against invasive mussels through expanding and strengthening the provincial [Invasive Mussel Defence Program](#).

The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) continued its work assessing major developments proposed in B.C. while striving to complete reviews effectively and efficiently. In 2016/17, the EAO referred a total of ten projects for decision, representing the highest number of referrals in the past seven years. The Office continued to pursue initiatives that promote transparency and predictability in its process including releasing a new version of the web-based [EAO Project Information & Collaboration system](#).

Lastly, the Ministry worked to develop enhanced conservation efforts, increased opportunities for public partnership and engagement, and campsite expansion plans for B.C. parks - demonstrating the Ministry's commitment to ensure that opportunities to enjoy our world class parks continue for years to come.

The *Ministry of Environment and the Environmental Assessment Office 2016/2017 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the Ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in the *2016/17 - 2018/19 Service Plan*. I am accountable for those results as reported.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Jordan Sturdy'.

*Honourable Jordan Sturdy  
Minister of Environment,  
June 19, 2017*

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## Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Environment is responsible for the protection, management and conservation of B.C.'s water, land, air and living resources. Its expertise in policy, science, research and analysis are central to supporting all its responsibilities. Ministry legislation, regulation and public outreach activities ensure a safe and healthy environment for British Columbians, sustainable economic development, and clear and predictable decisions for the public and business community. The Ministry strives to ensure that all British Columbians will continue to benefit from the effective and prudent management of natural resources, allowing future generations to enjoy a safe and healthy environment.

## Strategic Direction and Context

The Ministry of Environment continues to operate within fiscal constraints while delivering critical services to protect the environment, human health and public safety. The Province works in partnership with First Nations, federal and local governments, neighbouring jurisdictions, industry and citizens of British Columbia in order to collectively respond to a changing ecological and socio-economic climate.

The Ministry plays a key role in providing strategic science-based knowledge, policies and regulations that guide how activity can sustainably take place on the land base. This is reflected in B.C.'s implementation of the new *Water Sustainability Act*, development of the [Cumulative Effects Framework](#) and [Environmental Mitigation Policy](#), and continued improvements for conservation of species at risk and biodiversity. The Ministry provides the leadership and guidance necessary to strike a balance where both the environment and economy thrive.

The threat of aquatic invasive species, most notably quagga and zebra mussels, to B.C.'s aquatic ecosystems, salmon populations, hydro power stations and other infrastructure facilities continues to be a pressing concern for the Province. With a potential economic impact of \$43 million per year - in addition to a variety of ecological impacts - preventing the establishment of invasive mussels in B.C. waterways has been a provincial priority. Through the Province's [Invasive Mussel Defence Program](#), crews inspected a record of 24,500 watercraft for invasive quagga and zebra mussels in the 2016 boating season, helping B.C. to remain free of invasive mussels.

In 2016, B.C. worked with the federal, provincial and territorial governments to establish a Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change to meet Canada's commitments under the Paris Agreement, including national greenhouse gas targets. In August, the Ministry released the [Climate Leadership Plan](#) which outlined how the Province is working to meet long term climate goals.

B.C.'s iconic parks form the foundation of *Super, Natural British Columbia*. Park visitors bring significant economic benefit and development to surrounding communities, contributing to the provincial GDP every year. B.C.'s vast parks and protected areas system plays a fundamental role in protecting the Province's natural legacy in addition to providing exceptional outdoor recreation opportunities.

## Report on Performance

All Ministers, as members of the BC Executive Council (Provincial Cabinet), are provided letters from the Premier outlining their key responsibilities. The Minister of Environment's mandate letter can be reviewed on the [government website](#). A summary report on how the Ministry met its commitments in the July 30, 2015 letter can be found in Appendix D.

In addition to responding to the specific direction outlined in the mandate letter, this annual Service Plan Report illustrates the ways in which the Ministry supports the [Taxpayer Accountability Principles \(TAP\)](#), the Government's [Canada Starts Here: BC Jobs Plan](#) and the [Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan \(2014/15-2017/18\)](#).

## Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

### *Goal 1: Effective, long-term action on climate change*

#### **Objective 1.1: Maintain B.C.'s global leadership on climate change**

B.C. is a world leader in climate change preparedness and greenhouse gas emissions reductions. These efforts are contributing to B.C.'s growing green, clean technology economy.

#### **Strategies**

The Ministry leads these efforts by:

- Coordinating cross-government policy work that supports communities, families, businesses and local governments to save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Encouraging other jurisdictions to follow B.C.'s leadership in establishing effective policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Strengthening B.C.'s carbon neutral government performance with an increased emphasis on public sector greenhouse gas emissions reductions and investing in strategic carbon offsets
- Supporting competitiveness of B.C. business and industry through continued development of market mechanisms – such as the Carbon Tax – and ongoing work to align provincial regulatory programs

Reduction targets for B.C. are among the most ambitious in the world. To assess the success of its efforts, the Ministry reports on provincial greenhouse gas emissions on an annual basis and reports on progress to targets bi-annually.

**Performance Measure 1: Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions**

Performance Measure	2007/08 Baseline <sup>2</sup>	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Target <sup>4</sup>	2018/19 Target
Annual level of greenhouse gas emissions in British Columbia relative to 2007 levels <sup>1</sup>	66.3 mega-tonnes	62.7 mega-tonnes	18% reduction by 2016 (54.4 mega-tonnes)	DATA NOT AVAILABLE <sup>3</sup>	18% reduction by 2016 (54.4 mega-tonnes)	DATA NOT AVAILABLE <sup>3</sup>	33% reduction by 2020 (44.4 mega-tonnes)	33% reduction by 2020 (44.4 mega-tonnes)

**Data Source:** Ministry of Environment, [Climate Leadership Plan, British Columbia Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#).

<sup>1</sup> Targets shown in this table reflect the targets for 2016 and 2020 set under the [Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act](#).

<sup>2</sup> Data analyzed by calendar year, and updated from 2016/17 Service Plan to reflect most recent available information.

<sup>3</sup> Data for the 2015 calendar year will be available in summer 2017; data for the 2016 calendar year will be available in summer 2018.

<sup>4</sup> This performance measure has retired as of 2017/18.

**Discussion**

The *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act* establishes B.C.'s target of reducing annual greenhouse gas emissions by 33 per cent and 80 per cent by 2020 and 2050, respectively. Greenhouse gases are measured in units of tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. Emissions estimates are expected to differ slightly from actual report outs due to refined calculation methods. Data for 2015 was not available at publication, and will be published online on the [British Columbia Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#) website.

This performance measure retired in 2017/18 to align efforts with the national [Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change](#) and the provincial [Climate Leadership Plan](#).

**Objective 1.2: Effective management of the risks associated with a changing climate**

The Ministry leads efforts to improve the capacity of decision makers in managing risks associated with climate change in British Columbia.

**Strategies**

The Ministry leads efforts by:

- Evaluating the potential human and financial risk from climate change and identifying options to reduce risk to acceptable levels
- Collaborating with partners to develop and disseminate effective risk management approaches
- Reviewing, updating and implementing legislation, policies and programs to ensure B.C. is prepared for and resilient to the impacts of climate change

Government is working with stakeholders in climate sensitive sectors to assess risk and prioritize actions to successfully adapt to a changing climate.

**Performance Measure 2: Review core B.C. Government activities to determine if existing objectives can be met in a changing climate**

Performance Measure	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Completion of sector based policy, strategy, or operational reviews for climate sensitive business areas <sup>1</sup>	5	5	6	5	N/A <sup>2</sup>	N/A

**Data Source:** Ministry of Environment, manually compiled.

<sup>1</sup> Targets are cumulative.

<sup>2</sup> This performance measure has retired as of 2017/18.

**Discussion**

Government’s adaptation strategy recognizes the importance of working with stakeholders in climate sensitive sectors in order to assess risk and prioritize actions to reduce adverse impacts from climate change. In 2016/17, the Ministry of Environment worked with the Ministry of Health to support adaptation in the health care sector by developing a series of Health and Climate Change information sheets on preparation and adaptation for frontline health care, health care facilities, communities and public health. This work complements earlier initiatives such as climate change risk and opportunity assessments (agricultural sector, oil and gas sector), climate adaptation action plans (forestry sector) and climate change vulnerability assessments (highway infrastructure).

While the recent work on health and climate change represents progress, the Ministry does not feel it fully addresses the intent of the performance measure. This performance measure was designed to reach maturity in 2016/17, and is therefore retiring. However, additional work with the health care sector is planned for 2017/18.

**Goal 2: Clean and safe water, land and air**

**Objective 2.1: Enhanced protection and stewardship of water resources**

The Ministry develops innovative tools and strategies for water resource management through relationships with First Nations, local and federal government, industry and environmental groups. Strong science and policy inform resource management decisions, ensuring B.C.’s supply of clean, fresh water is sustainable and responsive to a changing climate and growing demands.

**Strategies**

The Ministry leads these efforts by:

- Providing leadership in the development of water strategies, policy, legislation and regulations to protect and manage the quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater
- Developing and implementing monitoring strategies for surface water, groundwater and aquatic ecosystem health
- Collaboratively developing transboundary water management agreements with neighbouring jurisdictions

In 2014 the *Water Sustainability Act* was passed to provide new tools for managing surface water and groundwater as a single resource. The Ministry is now leading the development of supporting policies and regulations.

**Objective 2.2: Enhanced protection and stewardship of our land**

The Ministry manages environmental pressures from development and waste generation through the prevention of toxins and waste entering the environment. It ensures minimal environmental impact where discharges to the environment are inevitable or hazardous materials are used.

**Strategies**

The Ministry leads these efforts by:

- Managing the authorization of discharges from human activities such as mining, landfills, sewage treatment, smelters and pellet plants
- Providing provincial leadership in municipal solid waste reduction through mandatory regional solid waste management plans and the promotion of organics recycling
- Performing ongoing oversight of mandatory product stewardship programs

The Ministry uses regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to achieve these strategies. Actions include updating the [Solid Waste Management Planning Guideline](#) and overseeing the implementation of the Recycling Regulation to strengthen waste management.

**Performance Measure 3: Municipal solid waste disposal**

Performance Measure	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Per capita municipal solid waste disposal (kg per person)	520	497	450	DATA NOT AVAILABLE <sup>1</sup>	425 <sup>2</sup>	400

**Data Source:** BC Waste Disposal Calculator and manually compiled regional district data.

<sup>1</sup> Per capita disposal rate data from regional districts for 2016 was not available at publication, and will be published in the 2017/18 Ministry of Environment and the Environmental Assessment Office Annual Service Plan Report.

<sup>2</sup> Targets have been revised from the 2015/16 - 2017/18 Ministry of Environment and the Environmental Assessment Office Annual Service Plan Report to reconcile projections to be based upon calendar year.

**Discussion**

Reported disposal rates include waste from the residential sector, institutional, commercial, and light industrial sources as well as waste from construction, demolition and renovation activities. The per capita disposal rate is an estimate of how many kilograms of solid waste one person sends to a landfill or other disposal site in a given year. The most recent data reported by regional districts to the BC Waste Disposal Calculator shows the 2015/16 provincial municipal solid waste disposal rate was 497 kilograms per person, down 72 kg per person since 2012/13.

Data for 2016/17 will be published in 2018. The Ministry is working to align the data collection and compilation required to be able to report out on this performance measure for future Annual Service Plan Reports. The data suggests that B.C. is progressing toward the long-term target of 350 kilograms per person by 2020/21.

**Performance Measure 4: Organic waste disposal**

Performance Measure	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Per cent of population covered by an organic waste disposal restriction	66%	66%	68%	66%	70%	70%

**Data Source:** Manually compiled regional district data.

**Discussion**

Organic waste represents up to 40 per cent of all waste currently sent to landfills for disposal. In 2013/14, only five per cent of the population was covered by an organic waste disposal ban.

The rate of coverage across the province has increased dramatically since 2012. While coverage for 2016/2017 remained at 66 per cent, the Ministry is on track to meet the 2017/18 target. Many regional districts have indicated their intention to implement bans in the coming years and it is expected that future targets will be met.

**Objective 2.3: Enhanced protection and stewardship of our air**

In order to protect human health and the environment, the Ministry manages activities that influence air quality.

**Strategies**

The Ministry leads these efforts by:

- Establishing air quality objectives to inform decision making and support local airshed management initiatives
- Monitoring air quality to better understand the impacts from human activities and environmental events such as forest fires
- Regulating contaminated air emissions from industry and non-point sources such as wood stoves and open burning, as well as promoting clean technology standards for industrial air emissions
- Working with other governments to establish and implement national air quality management systems

As part of the Northeast Air Monitoring Program, an initiative that tracks potential impacts on air quality from the oil and gas industry, the Ministry operates air quality monitoring stations in the Peace region. Real time monitoring data, from these stations and others across the province, is shared with the public on [BCAirQuality.ca](http://BCAirQuality.ca), responding to growing public demand for air quality information.

**Objective 2.4: Effective management of environmental risks and threats to public safety**

Risks to living organisms, the environment and the economy can be caused by effluents, emissions, wastes, resource depletion or other living organisms. In the case of environmental emergencies and risks to public safety, the Ministry is prepared to respond swiftly and effectively.

### **Strategies**

The Ministry leads these efforts by:

- Completing the development of a comprehensive provincial spill response regime, including a province-wide preparedness and response organization with new legislative and regulatory requirements
- Establishing risk assessment frameworks to determine where action is most critical (e.g. managing remediation of high-risk contaminated sites)
- Preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species
- Proactively dealing with dangerous wildlife that pose a high risk of causing injury or death

The Province's first priority in managing environmental risk and public safety is prevention. For example, in the case of human wildlife conflict, the Ministry enforces laws regulating attractants in urban areas and delivers proactive public education in partnership with Wildsafe BC.

### ***Goal 3: Healthy and diverse native species and ecosystems***

#### **Objective 3.1: Stewardship and management of natural values on B.C.'s land base**

The Ministry plays a critical role in defining and delivering the conservation objectives that preserve biodiversity across the province. Its strategic and scientific expertise in the management and analysis of B.C.'s natural values influences the work carried out by partner ministries. Within the Ministry, the natural values in provincial parks and protected areas are managed through conservation plans.

### **Strategies**

The Ministry leads these efforts by:

- Defining the principles, scientific foundation, and policies for a provincial approach to conservation, including the Conservation Framework, First Nations agreements, the [Cumulative Effects Framework](#) and the [Environmental Mitigation Policy](#)
- Assessing and reporting on the state of conservation values and determining where action is most critical, at a provincial and regional scale
- Collaborating with First Nations and communities in protected area planning and management to preserve and care for natural and cultural assets
- Managing parks and protected areas for ecological representation, biodiversity and landscape connectivity

Data and information on species and ecosystems is used to assess and report on biodiversity values to British Columbians. The Province works closely with inter-jurisdictional colleagues to align conservation priorities, contributing to regional, national and international conservation objectives.

### **Objective 3.2: Conservation and enhancement of native species and ecosystems**

The Ministry works to assess, set priorities and determine actions for the conservation and recovery of plants, animals and ecosystems.

#### **Strategies**

The Ministry leads these efforts by:

- Securing and restoring native species and ecosystems through area and threat-based initiatives
- Setting objectives and leading strategic planning for biodiversity management, as well as implementing research programs to support conservation and inform decision-making
- Collaborating with the federal government, First Nations, stakeholders and partner ministries to develop and implement recovery strategies and action plans for species at risk
- Operating the Conservation Data Center to collect and disseminate status information on plants, animals and ecosystems in the province

The Ministry is determining new ways of establishing conservation priorities and achieving outcomes. Efforts and actions will target comprehensive approaches to increase resilience, maximize return on investment and benefit multiple species and ecosystems.

### ***Goal 4: Sustainable use of British Columbia's Natural Capital***

Natural capital is the province's stock of natural assets which include water, land, air and all living things.

#### **Objective 4.1: Inventory, monitoring, science and assessment for robust decision making**

The Ministry acquires, manages and analyzes data and information on water, land, air, species and ecosystems. Strong, solid information and science provide the platform for natural resource decision making across the province.

#### **Strategies**

The Ministry leads these efforts by:

- Ensuring that relevant monitoring and research is conducted and pertinent data is collected in order to support and solve resource management issues
- Incorporating the economic and social value of our natural capital into the development of policies and programs
- Continuing to advance the provision of data and information to the public and interested parties

The Ministry manages various environmental monitoring networks, such as air, groundwater and snow, in order to examine the state and trends of our environment. Information received from these networks and other programs is critical for tracking trends over time, interpreting connections between the environment, human wellbeing and the economy, and for measuring progress towards sustainability.

#### **Objective 4.2: Policies, standards and regulations that are clear, consistent and predictable**

Clear and consistent policies, standards and regulations increase certainty for economic development while ensuring the protection of human health and the environment. A predictable regulatory environment supports a positive investment climate.

### Strategies

The Ministry leads these efforts by:

- Incorporating world-leading approaches and best achievable technologies into environmental guidelines, policies and regulations
- Engaging with environmental groups, First Nations, industry and the public on the development of regulatory requirements and standards
- Ensuring the timely review of permit applications in support of business certainty and environmental protection

The Ministry routinely reviews its policies, regulations, fees and fines to ensure they include best available information, technology and practices.

### Performance Measure 5: Clean technology standards for industry

Performance Measure	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Number of environmental discharge tools (standards, guidelines or objectives) incorporating current best achievable technology practices	9	10	11	11	12	13

**Data Source:** Ministry of Environment, corresponding policy, guideline, code of practice, or regulation.

**Note:** Target figures are cumulative.

### Discussion

The Solid Fuel Burning Domestic Appliance Regulation was amended in September 2016 to ensure that wood burning appliances sold in B.C. meet strict new particulate matter emissions standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or meet similar standards published by the Canadian Standards Association. The regulation now includes emissions standards for outdoor wood boilers, previously exempt in B.C. and is based on current best achievable technology - resulting in a 70 per cent improvement over today's standards by the year 2020.

### Objective 4.3: Compliance with regulatory requirements

The Ministry conducts inspections of regulatory requirements and where necessary takes enforcement action commensurate with any non-compliance. Investigations are typically conducted where a more stringent response may be required such as court prosecution.

### Strategies

The Ministry leads these efforts by:

- Continually improving its regulatory oversight with an ongoing emphasis on inspections of higher risk sites
- Conducting investigations into environmental violations and implementing new enforcement tools such as administrative monetary penalties to address non-compliance
- Publicly naming companies and individuals subject to [enforcement action](#), as well as those with outstanding [environmental court fines](#)

Integrity in the regulatory regime established to protect human health, the environment and public safety is critical. Promotion of compliance, and achieving high rates of voluntary compliance, are top

priorities. Where necessary, however, the Ministry will take action to enforce requirements using a variety of enforcement tools.

**Performance Measure 6: Inspections (new)**

Performance Measure	2014/15 Baseline	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Number of inspections conducted under the <i>Environmental Management Act</i> <sup>1</sup>	711	803	765	1,457	780	796

**Data Source:** Ministry of Environment, manually compiled.

<sup>1</sup> Inspections (in office reviews and on site examinations) conducted under the act and associated regulations.

**Discussion**

Ministry staff conduct inspections in order to determine compliance with regulatory requirements. Performance measure targets for 2015/16 and 2016/17 were greatly exceeded due to increases in staffing and resources. As a result, subsequent inspection targets in the 2017/18 - 2019/20 Service Plan have been significantly augmented.

**Objective 4.4: Optimize outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities within parks and protected areas**

Strategic management of parks and protected areas enable British Columbians and others to connect with the province’s iconic landscapes in a sustainable and memorable way. The system covers over 14 million hectares of land with approximately two per cent in recreational facility development.

**Strategies**

The Ministry leads these efforts by:

- Providing new and diverse recreation, heritage and cultural visitor experiences in addition to traditional BC Parks services and offerings
- Growing and enhancing BC Parks as a pillar in B.C.’s tourism industry
- Fostering public engagement to connect citizens to the management of parks and protected areas

The Province is committed to increasing use and accessibility to parks and protected areas through facility development and infrastructure investment. Economically, provincial park visitors contribute \$279 million to the provincial GDP.

**Performance Measure 7: Park visitation**

Performance Measure	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Number of recorded park visits	21.4 million	23.9 million	22.3 million	24.9 million	22.6 million	22.9 million

**Data Source:** Ministry of Environment, BC Parks Attendance and Revenue System.

**Discussion**

The number of visitors to provincial parks is used to measure the contribution of parks to the government’s priorities of promoting healthy communities and creating a strong tourism sector. The 2016/17 target of 22.3 million park visits was exceeded by 2.6 million visitors. It was an excellent year for weather, which in part drove an increase in both camping and day use visits.

Actual park visitation for 2015/16 has been revised to include additional attendance data that was not previously reflected in the 2015/16 Service Plan Report.

Targets for 2017 through 2019 were adjusted upwards in the 2017/18 - 2019/20 Service Plan to better reflect recent trends in park visitation.

## **Financial Report**

### **Discussion of Results**

The Ministry's total expenses of \$147.56 million are a combination of the base budget, approval to access the Contingencies and New Programs Vote (Contingencies), and other authorizations.

The funding from Contingencies included:

- \$3.28 million for ongoing work relating to mining authorizations and compliance and enforcement;
- \$0.82 million for continued investigation into the Mount Polley mine breach;
- \$3.33 million for implementation of the Climate Leadership Plan and the *Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act*; and,
- \$0.95 million to address the Hullcar aquifer water quality.

The Ministry was approved to expend an additional \$1.23 million within the Park Enhancement Fund which was match by increased revenues within the fund.

## Financial Report Summary Table

	2016/17 Estimated	Other Authorizations <sup>1</sup>	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>					
Environmental Protection	8,560	4,230	12,790	12,907	(117)
Environmental Sustainability	20,503	0	20,503	19,747	756
BC Parks	31,158	0	31,158	31,199	(41)
Conservation Officer Services	15,284	823	16,107	17,021	(914)
Climate Action	17,526	3,332	20,858	20,975	(117)
Executive and Support Services	24,151	0	24,151	23,718	433
Park Enhancement Fund	1,800	1,239	3,039	3,039	0
Sustainable Environment Fund	18,935	0	18,935	18,935	0
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>137,917</b>	<b>9,624</b>	<b>147,541</b>	<b>147,541</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>137,917</b>	<b>9,624</b>	<b>147,541</b>	<b>147,559</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>					
Executive and Support Services	17,537	380	17,917	17,771	146
Park Enhancement Fund	400	0	400	100	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,937</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>18,317</b>	<b>17,871</b>	<b>446</b>

<b>Other Financing Transactions (\$000)</b>					
<b>Climate Action: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Offsets (Purchase)</b>					
Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Disbursements	13,000	0	13,000	13,000	0
<b>Net Cash Source (Requirements)</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Net Cash Source (Requirements)</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>0</b>

<sup>1</sup>“Other Authorizations” include supplementary estimates, statutory appropriations and contingencies. Amounts in this column are not related to the “estimated amount” under sections 5(1) and 6(1) of the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act* for ministerial accountability for operating expenses under the Act.

<sup>2</sup>The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual of \$0.018 million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

## **Appendix A - Contact Information and Hyperlinks**

### **Ministry of Environment Contact Information**

#### **Headquarters**

Victoria

Telephone: 250 387-9955

Fax: 250 387-8897

Website: [www.gov.bc.ca/env/](http://www.gov.bc.ca/env/)

Additional contact information can be found at [www.gov.bc.ca/env/contacts.html](http://www.gov.bc.ca/env/contacts.html)

#### **Regional Offices**

##### **Coast Region**

###### **West Coast**

*Nanaimo Office:*

Telephone: 250 751-3100

Fax: 250 751-3103

Website: [www.env.gov.bc.ca/van-island/](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/van-island/)

Other offices: Black Creek, Duncan, Goldstream Park, Queen Charlotte City, Parksville, Port Alberni, Port Hardy, Ucluelet

###### **South Coast**

*Surrey Office:*

Telephone: 604 582-5200

Fax: 604 930-7119

Website: [www.env.gov.bc.ca/lower-mainland/](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/lower-mainland/)

Other offices: Brackendale (Squamish), Cultus Lake, Maple Ridge, North Vancouver, Sechelt, Powell River

## **Southern Interior Region**

### **Cariboo/Thompson**

*Kamloops Office:*

Telephone: 250 371-6200

Fax: 250 828-4000

Website: [www.env.gov.bc.ca/thompson/](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/thompson/)

*Williams Lake Office:*

Telephone: 250 398-4530

Fax: 250 398-4214

Website: [www.env.gov.bc.ca/cariboo/](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cariboo/)

Other offices: Clearwater, Lillooet, Merritt, Kelowna, Oliver, Princeton, Vernon, 100 Mile House, Quesnel

### **Kootenay/Okanagan**

*Nelson Office:*

Telephone: 250 354-6333

Fax: 250 354-6332

Website: [www.env.gov.bc.ca/kootenay/](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/kootenay/)

Other offices: Castlegar, Creston/West Creston, Fernie, Grand Forks, Invermere, Golden, Revelstoke

*Penticton Office:*

Telephone: 250 490-8200

Fax: 250 490-2231

Website: [www.env.gov.bc.ca/okanagan/](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/okanagan/)

*Cranbrook Office:*

Telephone: 250 489-8540

Fax: 250 489-8506

## **Northern Region**

### **Skeena**

*Smithers Office:*

Telephone: 250 847-7260

Fax: 250 847-7591

Website: [www.env.gov.bc.ca/skeena/](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/skeena/)

Other offices: Atlin, Burns Lake, Dease Lake, Terrace/Lakelse Lake

### **Omineca**

*Environmental Protection Division  
Conservation Officer Service  
Prince George Office:*  
Telephone: 250 565-6135  
Fax: 250 565-6629

*Environmental Sustainability  
Parks and Protected Areas Division  
Prince George Office:*  
Telephone: 250 565-6135  
Fax: 250 565-6940

Website: [www.env.gov.bc.ca/omineca/](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/omineca/)

Other offices: Vanderhoof, Mackenzie, Mount Robson, Fort St. James

### **Peace**

*Fort St. John Office:*  
Telephone: 250 787-3411  
Fax: 250 787-3490

*Water Stewardship Division:*  
Phone: 250 565-6135  
Fax: 250 565-6629

Website: [www.env.gov.bc.ca/peace/](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/peace/)

Other offices: Chetwynd/Moberly Lake Park, Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson/Liard Hot Springs

### **Report all Poachers and Polluters**

Telephone: Dial Toll-Free 1-877-952-7277

Website: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/rapp/form.htm>

## **Environmental Assessment Office Contact Information**

836 Yates Street  
PO Box 9426 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria B.C. V8W 9V1

Email: [eaoinfo@gov.bc.ca](mailto:eaoinfo@gov.bc.ca)

Website: [www.eao.gov.bc.ca](http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca)

Additional contact information can be found at [http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca/contact\\_us.html](http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca/contact_us.html)

## **Appendix B - List of Crowns, Agencies, Boards and Commissions**

No applicable crowns, agencies, boards, or commissions.

## Appendix C - Significant Independent or Semi-Independent Offices or Operating Segments (Environmental Assessment Office)

### Purpose of the Environmental Assessment Office

The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) neutrally administers the process of assessing proposed major projects for potentially significant adverse environmental, social, economic, health and heritage effects. The EAO seeks to meaningfully engage the public and Aboriginal groups in the environmental assessment process and is responsible for overseeing compliance and enforcement of reviewable projects throughout the life of the project.

### Strategic Direction and Context

#### Enhancing Transparency and Predictability

The EAO continued to successfully deliver on its statutory mandate within its fiscal framework while simultaneously pursuing initiatives to promote transparency and predictability in the environmental assessment (EA) process. In February 2017, the EAO released a preliminary version of a new and improved web-based [EAO Project Information & Collaboration system](#) that makes it faster and easier to find important information, access key documents, and send in comments from the public during [comment periods](#). This new system will serve as the starting point for further enhancements to the EA process in B.C. In addition to releasing [new guidance](#) on the assessment process, the EAO also focussed on increasing its collaborations with Aboriginal groups to improve the EA process and durability of decisions.

#### Coordination with the Federal Government

Since the introduction of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act 2012* (CEAA 2012), the principle of one project - one assessment remains an important strategic objective. Approximately 37 per cent of all projects undergoing a federal EA are in B.C.; and over 56 per cent of proposed projects that required an EA under the B.C. *Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act) also require an EA under CEAA 2012.

Substitution is an important tool to address duplication between the provincial and federal processes, and to reduce administrative and resourcing barriers to both public and Aboriginal participation in environmental assessments. Where substitution is approved by the federal Minister of the Environment, the provincial process is substituted for the federal one, while two separate decisions (provincial and federal) arise from one, the provincial EA process. The EAO continued to successfully implement substitution with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency over the past year. One project, Kemess Underground Mine Project, was successfully delivered through substitution, and two substituted projects entered the application review phase this year.

An expert panel appointed by the Government of Canada to review the federal EA process undertook and completed its work at the end of the fiscal year. Given its strong strategic interest, the Office made [submissions to the expert panel](#) in December 2016.

## Report on Performance

In 2016/17, the EAO considered ten applications for Environmental Assessment Certificates (EAC) as well as other decisions under the Act representing the highest number of referrals in the past seven years. All ten of those projects were granted EACs. Three of these decisions were projects that were assessed under the aegis of the EAO's [Equivalency Agreement with the National Energy Board](#), including the Trans Mountain Expansion Project. Four exemptions from certificate requirements were granted and 18 amendments to existing EACs were completed.

Table 1: Assessments completed in the fiscal year of 2016/17

Project Name	Sector	EA Type <sup>1</sup>	Certificate Date	Potential Capital Investment (\$M) <sup>2</sup>
Northeast British Columbia Expansion Project	Energy-Petroleum & Natural Gas	Provincial Only	August 9, 2016	210
Eagle Mountain – Woodfibre Gas Pipeline Project	Energy-Petroleum & Natural Gas	Provincial Only	August 9, 2016	350
Baldy Ridge Extension Project	Mines	Provincial Only	September 19, 2016	1,600
Giscome Quarry and Lime Plant Project	Mines	Provincial Only	December 14, 2016	105
Trans Mountain Expansion Project	Energy-Petroleum & Natural Gas	Equivalent - NEB <sup>3</sup>	January 10, 2017	5,400
North Montney Mainline Pipeline Project	Energy-Petroleum & Natural Gas	Equivalent - NEB	January 18, 2017	1,500
Garibaldi at Squamish Project	Tourist Destination Resorts	Provincial Only	January 26, 2016	2,900
George Massey Tunnel Replacement Project	Transportation	Provincial Only	February 8, 2017	3,500
Towerbirch Expansion	Energy-Petroleum & Natural Gas	Equivalent - NEB	February 23, 2017	470
Kemess Underground Mine	Mines	Substituted <sup>4</sup>	March 15, 2017	683

In addition, EAO granted an exemption from certificate requirements to five projects and amended the certificates of 22 certified projects (see table 2).

<sup>1</sup> In some cases, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency reviews proposed projects that are also undergoing review by the Environmental Assessment Office.

<sup>2</sup> Capital investment figures are provided by the Proponent.

<sup>3</sup> The National Energy Board has the primary responsibility for ensuring the project is developed, constructed and operated in a manner that is safe and secure, and protects people, property and the environment. A provincial decision is made after considering the assessment undertaken by the National Energy Board and its proposed conditions.

<sup>4</sup> Substitution means that the Environmental Assessment Office conducts a single process that meets all federal and provincial requirements.

Table 2: Exemptions granted and amendments completed in the fiscal year of 2016/17.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Transaction</b>	<b>Date</b>
Mt. Polley Copper-Gold Mine Project	Mines	Amendment	May 2016
Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Project	Energy-Petroleum & Natural Gas	Amendment	May 2016
Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Project	Energy-Petroleum & Natural Gas	Amendment (#2 same day)	May 2016
Chemainus Wells Water Supply Project	Water Management	Amendment	July 2016
Ruby Creek Molybdenum Project	Mines	Amendment	July 2016
LNG Canada Export Terminal Project	Energy-Petroleum & Natural Gas	Amendment	August 2016
Brucejack Gold Mine Project	Mines	Amendment	August 2016
Red Chris Porphyry Copper- Gold Mine Project	Mines	Amendment	August 2016
Tsawwassen Eelgrass Project	Water Management	Exemption Order	September 2016
Point Grey Tidal Marsh Project	Water Management	Exemption Order	September 2016
South Arm Jetty Tidal Marsh Project	Water Management	Exemption Order	September 2016
McMillan Island Erosion Project	Water Management	Exemption Order	September 2016
James White Park Wells Project	Water Management	Amendment	October 2016
Vancouver Airport Fuel Delivery Project	Energy-Petroleum & Natural Gas	Amendment	October 2016
Narrows Inlet Hydro Project	Energy-Electricity	Amendment	October 2016
Brucejack Gold Mine Project	Mines	Amendment	November 2016
Brule Mine Project	Mines	Amendment	December 2016
Wolverine Coal Mine Project	Mines	Amendment	December 2016
Willow Creek Project	Mines	Amendment	December 2016
Hermann Mine Project	Mines	Amendment	December 2016
Narrows Inlet Hydro Project	Energy-Electricity	Amendment	February 2017
Brucejack Gold Mine Project	Mines	Amendment	March 2017

## Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

### *Goal 1: Conducting timely and efficient Environmental Assessments*

#### **Objective 1.1: Build upon a strong legislative framework**

British Columbia has had environmental assessment legislation with a dedicated office since 1995. The Environmental Assessment Office neutrally administers a legally defined process that is predictable, transparent, timely, procedurally fair, and holds all proponents accountable.

#### **Strategies**

Key strategies for this objective:

- Appropriately scoping project reviews and instituting a project management discipline in environmental assessments to adhere to the legislated 180-day application review period
- Collaborating with other provincial agencies to improve service to clients, reducing overlap and duplication with other federal and provincial regulators
- Identifying policy and practice options to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the environmental assessment review process
- Service modernization, including an enhanced web presence and electronic collaboration tools

#### *Performance Measure 1: Application reviews in the B.C. environmental assessment process are completed within 180-days*

<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>2014/15 Actual</b>	<b>2015/16 Actual</b>	<b>2016/17 Target</b>	<b>2016/17 Actual</b>	<b>2017/18 Target</b>	<b>2018/19 Target</b>
B.C. process only	100%	86%	100%	90%	100%	100%
Joint B.C./Canada Process	100%	100%	100%	90%	100%	100%

**Data Source:** Environmental Assessment Office Staff, manually compiled.

#### **Discussion**

The legislative timelines in the Act include a 180-day limit for the Office to review applications for EACs. This timeline offers certainty and supports timely planning for the public, government, First Nations, proponents, and other potentially affected parties. Once a proponent's project application is accepted for review, the Office strives to complete the EA within the 180-day time limit. However, the 180-day period may be suspended or extended for various reasons, including allowing additional time for proponents to gather necessary information required for the assessment. Should the project be suspended, it 'stops the clock' on the 180-day review. If the project is extended, time is added to the 180-day timeline.

Of the ten project applications that were referred to ministers for decision during the 2016/17 fiscal year, the reviews of three projects were suspended: Giscome Quarry and Lime Plant, Eagle Mountain – Woodfibre Gas Pipeline and Kemess Underground Mine. Once the suspension was lifted for Giscome and Eagle Mountain, the project review resumed and the assessment of those projects were completed within the 180-day time limit.

The Act also allows for the extension of prescribed time limits. In 2016/17, the review of the Kemess Underground Mine Project was granted an extension to accommodate a third public comment period

on the draft Assessment Report and draft Conditions. In total, the application review took a total of 224 days to complete.

**Objective 1.2: Ensure the effectiveness of environmental assessments**

Continuously improving effectiveness and efficiency is key to maintaining the integrity of B.C.’s environmental assessment process.

**Strategies**

Two key strategies for this objective including ongoing implementation of:

- A quality assurance program that ensures continuous improvement of the environmental assessment process
- A compliance and enforcement program to ensure projects comply with certificate requirements

**Performance Measure 2: Compliance inspections completed on certified projects**

Performance Measure	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Number of compliance inspections completed on certified projects.	25	25	35	27	29

**Data Source:** Environmental Assessment Office, manually compiled.

EAO Compliance and Enforcement (C&E) Officers work closely with other agencies to ensure effective coordination of oversight of EA certificate and permitting requirements. Through the Natural Resource Sector Aboriginal Liaison Program and EAO’s Aboriginal Liaison Framework, EAO provides opportunities for Aboriginal groups to collaborate in compliance oversight, which may include opportunities for training, participation in inspections and input into compliance priorities.

EAO C&E undertakes various compliance oversight activities, including field inspections, administrative inspections, reviews of complaints and investigations. These activities and targeted outreach with EA projects are key for promoting compliance. In cases of non-compliance, EAO C&E determines the appropriate enforcement, which may include warnings, orders to cease, orders to remedy, compliance agreements and other measures consistent with [EAO C&E Policy](#). In order to continuously improve EA certificates, lessons learned from compliance oversight are considered when developing requirements for newly proposed projects.

In 2016/17, the target of 25 inspections was surpassed by completing 35 inspections. While EAO C&E conducts annual inspection planning to achieve the service plan target, frequently additional inspections are required to address complaints or to follow up on non-compliances observed during previous inspections. EAO C&E is committed to both proactive and reactive inspections to ensure certificate holders adhere to EA certificate requirements. In addition, EAO C&E prioritizes oversight of significant projects such as the Site C Clean Energy Project that began construction in 2016/17. EAO C&E conducted six multi-day inspections on Site C in 2016/17.

	<b>Name of Project</b>	<b>Date of Inspection</b>
1	Site C Clean Energy	April 2016
2	Northwest Transmission Line (NTL)	May 2016 and June 2016
3	Greenville-Kincolith Rd	June 2016
4	Kitsault Mine	May 2016
5	Galore Creek Copper-Gold-Silver	June 2016
6	Upper Lillooet Hydro	June 2016
7	Meikle Wind Energy	June 2016
8	Site C Clean Energy	June 2016
9	Roman Coal Mine	June 2016
10	Quality Wind	June 2016
11	Tumbler Ridge	June 2016
12	Kemess South Mine	June 2016
13	Galore Creek Copper-Gold-Silver	July 2016
14	Upper Lillooet Hydro	July 2016
15	Brucejack Gold Mine	July 2016
16	Red Chris Mine	July 2016
17	Kitsault Mine	July 2016
18	Vancouver Airport Fuel Delivery (VAFD)	July 2016
19	Pacific Trail Pipeline (PTP)	August 2016
20	Site C Clean Energy	August 2016 and September 2016
21	Upper Toba Valley Hydroelectric Project (Jimmie Creek)	September 2016
22	Mt. Milligan Copper-Gold	October 2016
23	LNG Canada	November 2016
24	Brucejack Gold Mine	November 2016
25	Line Creek Phase II	November 2016
26	Fording River Swift	November 2016
27	Big Silver Creek Waterpower	November 2016
28	Tretheway Creek Waterpower	November 2016
29	Site C Clean Energy	November 2016 and December 2016
30	Progress Energy	January 2017
31	Site C Clean Energy	January 2017
32	Evergreen Line Rapid Transit	March 2017
33	Port Mann Highway 1	March 2017
34	Vancouver Airport Fuel Delivery (VAFD)	March 2017
35	Site C Clean Energy	March 2017

**Financial Report Summary Table**

	<b>2016/17 Estimated</b>	<b>Other Authorizations</b>	<b>Total Estimated</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>					
Environmental Assessment Office	11,828	0	11,828	11,655	173
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>11,828</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,828</b>	<b>11,655</b>	<b>173</b>
<b>Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,828</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,828</b>	<b>11,655</b>	<b>173</b>

## Appendix D – Minister’s Mandate and Actions Summary

In the Premier’s July 2015 Mandate Letter to the Minister, the Minister of Environment received direction on strategic priorities for the 2016/17 fiscal year. These priorities and the Ministry’s resulting actions are summarized below:

Mandate Letter Direction	Ministry’s Action
1. Balance your ministerial budget in order to control spending and achieve an overall balanced budget for the province of British Columbia.	The Ministry of Environment’s budget was balanced for the 2016/17 budget year.
2. Work with Emergency Management British Columbia and federal government agencies to review and make recommendations to Cabinet ways to improve oil spill safety and response following the Simushir power failure on the North Coast and Marathassa bunker fuel spill in English Bay.	<p>The Canadian Coast Guard completed an “After Action Report” for both the MV Simushir incident and English Bay spill; both reports include several recommendations. Additionally, internal provincial government de-briefs for both Simushir and Marathassa incidents were completed and included recommendations to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve internal communications;</li> <li>• Address deficiencies in membership, training and funding of the provincial spill incident management team; and</li> <li>• Develop a geographic response plan, places of refuge and other related tools to improve marine spills response.</li> </ul> <p>Furthermore, the Province participated in a range of related initiatives, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A tripartite working group with Coastal First Nations and Transport Canada;</li> <li>• Piloting a Coast Guard’s Area Response Plan in the south coast; and</li> <li>• Developing a sub-area spill response plan for Metro Vancouver through a post Marathassa incident workshop with involved agencies.</li> </ul> <p>Significant progress has been made on the development and implementation of the Province’s new spill response regime, outlined in item seven.</p>
3. Work with the members of the Climate Leadership Team and develop options for Cabinet on how to move forward with our new Climate Leadership Plan, the B.C. government’s next generation of climate policy leadership.	The Ministry worked with Climate Leadership Team members to facilitate development of recommendations for government. Recommendations were released on November 27, 2015, and the BC Climate Leadership Plan (CLP) was released on August 18, 2016. As of March 31 2017, 12 of the 21 climate actions listed in the CLP have been announced. The Ministry also led and coordinated B.C.’s activities related to the Pan Canadian Framework

	<p>on Clean Growth and Climate Change, which was signed at the First Ministers' meeting on December 9, 2016.</p>
<p>4. With Premier's Office, prepare for and position British Columbia to make a meaningful contribution prior to attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP 21 in Paris this winter.</p>	<p>The Province continues to actively participate in the World Bank's Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition, as well, the Ministry attended World Bank/International Monetary Fund events in 2015/16 to globally advance carbon pricing. Furthermore, B.C. re-joined <a href="#">the Climate Group</a> in 2015 and actively participated in a federal/provincial/territorial Working Group on International Climate Change to advance climate leadership, impact and policy innovation at sub-national levels.</p> <p>In Paris at COP 21, B.C. was represented at a number of panel talks, including global carbon pricing, carbon neutrality, and subnational and local government leadership discussions. While there, B.C. met with numerous officials and jurisdictions including United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki Moon. The Minister also signed agreements on behalf of the Province of British Columbia.</p> <p>In November 2016, B.C. attended COP 22 in Marrakesh, Morocco and was honoured as an international climate leader for its revenue-neutral carbon tax, receiving a Momentum for Change award from the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change.</p>
<p>5. Working the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, undertake an analysis of the impact of lower snow packs and retreating glaciers on the forests of British Columbia and make recommendations to Cabinet on strategies to protect our forests from any impacts of climate change.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment (ENV), undertook an analysis in fiscal year 2015/16 to examine the impact of receding glaciers and decreasing snow packs on B.C. forests. From this, strategies and action plans have been developed to help address the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>A presentation of findings, along with a summary of strategies and proposed actions, was presented to the Cabinet Working Group on Climate Leadership in March 2016.</p> <p>Work towards implementing many of these strategies is now underway to address the impacts of receding glaciers and snow packs. As well, in alignment with the Province's Climate Leadership Plan, and FLNRO's Climate Change Strategy, work on the broader impacts of climate change continues. This includes the implementation of the <i>Water Sustainability Act</i>, and</p>

	investments in the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative.
6. Work with the Ministry of Energy and Mines and Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to provide options to Cabinet on a wildlife access corridor in southeast British Columbia.	<p>Initial discussions between ministries and key industry players to outline the interests and opportunity for collaboration have taken place and a government team has been assembled to frame out a strategy.</p> <p>Work on this initiative was suspended in February 2016 due to timing issues and concerns expressed by involved First Nations and stakeholders.</p>
7. Complete land-based heavy oil spill response studies and consultations and make recommendations to Cabinet on how to ensure our spill response regime requirements are consistent with the Premier's Five Conditions for Heavy Oil Consideration.	<p>During the 2016/2017 fiscal year, the Ministry conducted a number of engagement activities to inform regulatory development and implementation of the Province's new spill response regime (the Regime). This included the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In April 2016, a third intentions paper was released, outlining the regulatory intent for new spill preparedness, response, and recovery regulations. First Nations and stakeholders were given the opportunity to provide written feedback and an Engage BC webpage was developed to allow the public to provide feedback. The Ministry received 58 written submissions in response to the intentions paper and 25 comments from the public on the Engage BC website.</li> <li>• On April 20 – 21, 2016, a symposium was held in Richmond, B.C. to provide an opportunity for First Nations and stakeholders to learn more about the Regime and to provide input on the development process. The symposium was attended by 275 people, including all major stakeholder groups and many First Nations.</li> <li>• During May 2016, seven regional workshops were held around the province to start discussions with First Nation communities about the development of the Regime and opportunities for First Nations to play a greater role in spill preparedness, response and recovery. Workshops were held in Fort St. John, Kamloops, Prince George, Nanaimo, Prince Rupert, Richmond and Vancouver. These workshops were attended by 49 First Nations, six First Nation organizations and five tribal council organizations.</li> <li>• Three technical working groups were formed to receive feedback on the development of requirements for defining regulated persons, determining spill contingency plans and</li> </ul>

	<p>developing spill response times. Approximately 60 people participated in these technical working groups which were held between July and September 2016.</p> <p>In January 2017, the ministry released a document outlining policy intentions for new regulations to support the phase 1 launch of the Regime.</p>
<p>8. Monitor the progress and participate in the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion environmental review conducted by the federal National Energy Board.</p>	<p>In January 2017, the Ministers of Natural Gas Development and Environment issued an Environmental Assessment Certification (EAC) for the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline. The decision was made after considering a review led by the National Energy Board (NEB) and additional information gathered by the Environmental Assessment Office, including Aboriginal consultation. The EAC includes 37 legally-binding conditions that must be met in addition to, and designed to supplement, the 157 conditions required by the NEB.</p>
<p>9. Work with Parliamentary Secretary Jordan Sturdy and his Roundtable on the Environment and Economy to promote environmentally responsible economic development in British Columbia.</p>	<p>The Roundtable on the Environment and Economy held four meetings on February 24, June 7, October 12, 2016, and January 26, 2017. The topics of discussion included B.C.'s Climate Leadership Team and the Pan Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, B.C. Jobs Plan 2016, and Southern Mountain Caribou Protection and Recovery.</p> <p>The October 12 meeting included a field trip to Squamish, with the purpose to provide the Roundtable members with an illustrative example in B.C. where the environment and the economy work together and thrive. The tour included visits to key sites that follow a green economy model: the Carbon Engineering pilot plant, the Britannia Mine and the Sea-To-Sky Gondola.</p>