

**Ministry of  
Indigenous Relations  
and Reconciliation**

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**2017/18  
Annual Service Plan Report**

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## Minister Accountability Statement

The *Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation 2017/18 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the Ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in the *2017/18 - 2019/20 Service Plan* created in September, 2017. I am accountable for those results as reported.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Fraser'.

Honourable Scott Fraser  
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation  
June 22, 2018

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## Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (the Ministry) leads the Province of British Columbia in efforts towards true and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples<sup>1</sup> in B.C. In collaboration with Indigenous peoples, the Ministry is developing a reconciliation vision that will guide the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration), the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada's Calls to Action, and the Tsilhqot'in Supreme Court Decision.

The Ministry works towards reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in B.C. through treaties, agreements, partnerships and other reconciliation initiatives. The Ministry seeks to support the opportunities and identified needs of Indigenous peoples. A key component of reconciliation involves enhancing relationships and respecting how Indigenous communities<sup>2</sup> choose to define themselves.

The Ministry is also responsible for the First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC), a provincial Crown corporation formed by the Government of British Columbia in 1990 to administer the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Program. British Columbia is the only province in Canada that has established a Crown corporation that leads First Nations heritage, language, culture and arts initiatives. For information about FPCC, visit their website at: [www.fpcc.ca](http://www.fpcc.ca).

## Strategic Direction

In September 2017, the government announced its priorities with three key commitments to British Columbians:

- To make life more affordable.
- To deliver the services people count on.
- To build a strong, sustainable, innovative economy that works for everyone.

Integrating with these priorities is government's commitment to true, lasting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in British Columbia, as the Province moves towards fully adopting and implementing the UN Declaration and the TRC Calls to Action.

The [2017 Confidence and Supply Agreement](#) between the B.C. Green Caucus and the B.C. New Democrat Caucus describes the adoption of the UN Declaration, the TRC Calls to Action, and the Tsilhqot'in decision as foundational to the caucuses' relationship. The Agreement commits to ensure the government reviews policies, programs and legislation to determine how to bring the UN Declaration into action in B.C.

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

<sup>2</sup> The term "communities" means the diversity of Indigenous communities as defined by Indigenous peoples and includes descriptions such as urban, rural, metropolitan, land-based and reserve. The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation works with all Indigenous peoples wherever they may live in British Columbia.

In the *2017/18 – 2019/20 Service Plan* the Ministry provided a series of objectives and performance targets from the [Minister's Mandate Letter](#) designed to further the key commitments of government.

As directed in the February 2018 [Speech from the Throne](#), the Ministry is responsible for leading the development of a cross-ministry framework to meet these commitments to transform reconciliation in B.C.

## **Operating Environment**

The B.C. Government's promise to achieve its reconciliation commitments in a manner that is both transformative and collaborative is in keeping with a core principle of the UN Declaration which calls for Indigenous peoples to be deeply and directly involved in all aspects of the development of any strategy, program, policy or legislation that may affect them. Such transformation will increase Indigenous collaboration in decision-making and promote constructive engagement with Indigenous communities, as well as federal, municipal and treaty partners.

It will take substantial and meaningful engagement to develop outcome-based and community-supported performance measures that appropriately express and reflect the reconciliation goals of government as well as Indigenous peoples. Future performance measures and objectives will change and be enhanced as a reflection of this engagement.

### **Indigenous Population and Languages in B.C.**

Indigenous peoples in B.C. are the most culturally and linguistically diverse in the country.

More than 270,000 people in B.C. identify as Indigenous, representing one in six Indigenous people in Canada. At more than 89,000, the Métis population living in B.C. is the fourth-largest in Canada.

Each Indigenous community has a unique history and experience and different ways of life, social organization, governance systems, and approaches to economic development.

British Columbia also has the greatest diversity of Indigenous languages in Canada, and represents 60% of all Indigenous languages, with 34 unique languages and more than 90 dialects; however, fewer than 6,000 people speak one of these Indigenous languages in B.C.

There are 203 First Nations in B.C. (of 600 in Canada), and approximately 50% of First Nations members live away from their home communities (off-reserve). The British Columbia Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) provides services to 78% of Indigenous peoples who live off-reserve and in urban settings.

### **UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

The [UN Declaration](#) was adopted by the United Nations in 2007 and contains 46 articles that seek to ensure that governments and organizations recognize and uphold the collective and individual rights of Indigenous peoples, including their rights to self-determination, to determine their political status and organization, to autonomy and self-government, and to their lands, territories and resources.

## Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

Approximately 150,000 Indigenous children were removed and separated from their families and communities to attend residential schools. While most of the 139 Indian Residential Schools in Canada ceased to operate by the mid-1970s, the last federally-run school closed in the late 1990s.

The TRC resulted from the 2006 Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, the largest class action settlement in Canadian history. The TRC's mandate is to inform all Canadians about what happened in Indian Residential Schools.

The TRC engaged and documented the truth of survivors, families, communities and anyone personally affected by the residential school experience. Out of this testimony, the TRC released [94 calls to action](#) and called on all levels of government in Canada to work together and show leadership to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of reconciliation.

## Supreme Court of Canada – Tsilhqot’in Decision

In 2014, the Supreme Court of Canada granted a declaration of Aboriginal title to a portion of Tsilhqot’in territory, which is about 1,700 square kilometres in the Cariboo-Chilcotin. This is the first time the courts have granted a declaration of Aboriginal title in Canada.

## The Economy

British Columbia’s real GDP increased by 3.9 per cent in 2017 (according to preliminary GDP by industry data from Statistics Canada), the second strongest growth among provinces. Employment in B.C. grew by 3.7 per cent in 2017, its fastest annual pace since 1994. Consumer spending was strong for a fourth consecutive year as retail sales were supported by strong employment growth, increased tourism, high consumer confidence and relatively low interest rates. B.C.’s housing market saw elevated levels of construction activity in 2017, with the highest number of annual housing starts in data going back to 1955. B.C. manufacturing shipments and exports expanded in 2017 as goods exports to both the U.S. and the rest of the world increased.

## Report on Performance

The following table reports on the objectives and performance targets provided in the *2017/18 – 2019/20 Service Plan* along with the Ministry’s achievements.

Objective	Actions Taken Up to March 31, 2018
Work collaboratively and respectfully with First Nations to establish a clear, cross-government vision of reconciliation to guide the implementation of the UN Declaration, the TRC Calls to Action, and the Tsilhqot’in Supreme Court decision.	Undertaken internal planning towards the development of a cross-ministry framework to meet the government’s commitments, and substantial internal engagement with ministries’ executive and staff to increase understanding of and efforts towards implementing the UN

	Declaration, TRC Calls to Action and Tsilhqot' in decision. Developed plans to launch the <a href="#">draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples</a> (the draft principles) <sup>3</sup> which guide members of the BC Public Service to work in partnership with Indigenous peoples to jointly design and implement approaches to renew relationships.
In partnership with First Nations, transform the treaty process so it respects case law and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.	Building on proposals in the May 2016 <a href="#">Multilateral Engagement Report on treaty negotiations</a> , engaged with B.C. treaty partners to begin identifying transformation priorities for changes to mandates and process to ensure treaties reflect case law and the UN Declaration. Worked with treaty tables to create flexibility to support government-to-government relationships that will evolve over time. Partnered with Canada to launch rights recognition dialogue. This engagement reflects the guidance provided to the BC Public Service in the draft principles that treaties must inform constructive partnerships, based on the recognition of rights, that support full and timely treaty implementation.
Support Indigenous communities seeking to revitalize connections to their languages.	Budget 2018 identified \$50-million for the First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) to help revitalize Indigenous languages in British Columbia. Investing in languages aligns with the TRC's Calls to Action and the UN Declaration, which recognize that knowing and being able to speak one's language is a human right.
Provide reliable, dedicated funding and support for Friendship Centres.	Committed Budget 2018 funding of an additional \$6.45 million over the next three years to support the 25 Aboriginal friendship centres in B.C. This includes \$100,000 more per year to support the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres' operations.
With the Minister of Finance, negotiate with First Nations leadership and communities around expanding opportunities for their share	Collaborated with the Ministry of Finance to establish a working group with the First Nations Gaming Commission to discuss the design of

<sup>3</sup> The government of B.C. released the Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples to the BC Public Service on May 22, 2018. The draft principles are now being implemented.



of B.C.'s gaming industry.	revenue sharing arrangements and engagement with Indigenous communities.
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As committed to in the *2017/18 – 2019/20 Service Plan* tabled in September 2017, the Ministry released fully developed objectives and performance measures in the Ministry's *2018/19 – 2020/21 Service Plan*, tabled in February 2018.

## Financial Report

### Financial Summary Table

	Estimated	Other Authorizations <sup>1</sup>	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance <sup>3</sup>
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>					
<b>Negotiations and Regional Operations</b>	14,184	1,097	15,281	13,364	(1,917)
<b>Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives</b>	21,360	52,000	73,360	71,155	(2,205)
<b>Executive and Support Services</b>	5,346	0,000	5,346	9,468	4,122
<b>Treaty and Other Agreements Funding</b>	41,002	104,479	145,481	145,481	0,000
<b>First Citizens Fund</b>	1,850	0,000	1,850	1,846	(4)
<b>First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund</b>	7,222	0,000	7,222	6,327	(895)
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>90,964</b>	<b>157,576</b>	<b>248,540</b>	<b>247,641</b>	<b>(899)</b>
<b>Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual<sup>2</sup></b>	0,000	0,000	0,000	(553)	(553)
<b>Total</b>	<b>90,964</b>	<b>157,576</b>	<b>248,540</b>	<b>247,088</b>	<b>(1,452)</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>					
<b>Executive and Support Services</b>	5,341	9,260	14,601	10,660	(3,941)
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,341</b>	<b>9,260</b>	<b>14,601</b>	<b>10,660</b>	<b>(3,941)</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 \$0.553 million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

<sup>3</sup> "Variance represents "Actual" minus "Total Estimated". If the Actual is greater than the Total Estimates, the Variance will be displayed as a positive number.

## Appendix A: Ministry Contact Information and Hyperlinks

### Contact Information

Physical Address:  
2957 Jutland Road  
Victoria, BC V8T 5J9

Telephone: 1-800-880-1022  
E-mail: [irrinfo@gov.bc.ca](mailto:irrinfo@gov.bc.ca)  
URL: [www.gov.bc.ca/irr](http://www.gov.bc.ca/irr)

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 9100  
STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC V8W 9B1

### Hyperlinks to Additional Information

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples  
[http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS\\_en.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf)

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada – Calls to Action  
[http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls\\_to\\_Action\\_English2.pdf](http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf)

Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia’s Relationship with Indigenous Peoples  
[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/careers/about-the-bc-public-service/diversity-inclusion-respect/draft\\_principles.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/careers/about-the-bc-public-service/diversity-inclusion-respect/draft_principles.pdf)

First Peoples’ Cultural Council  
[www.fpcc.ca](http://www.fpcc.ca)

BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres  
<http://www.bcaafc.com/>

BC Treaty Commission  
[www.bctreaty.net/index.php](http://www.bctreaty.net/index.php)

Métis Nation Relationship Accord II  
<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/aboriginal-people/new-relationship/m-tis-nation-relationship-accord>

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

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