

**Ministry of
Environment and
Climate Change Strategy
and the
Environmental Assessment Office**

**2018/19
Annual Service Plan Report**



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Minister's Message and Accountability Statement



I am pleased to present the *Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and the Environmental Assessment Office 2018/19 Annual Service Plan Report*.

The ministry continued its work in 2018/19 to rebuild public trust in our oversight, policies and engagement, and we continued to take action to protect our environment now and for future generations. We are incredibly lucky to live in this extraordinary province, and we have a responsibility to make sure all we enjoy today is there for our children and grandchildren.

We took an important step on that journey with the release of the [CleanBC plan](#) on December 5, 2018. By making over \$902 million available for climate action initiatives, CleanBC puts us on a measurable path to meet our legislated climate targets while creating more jobs and economic opportunities for people, businesses and communities.

On November 5, 2018, we introduced legislation to revitalize the environmental assessment of major resource projects. The new *Environmental Assessment Act* will provide accountability, clear standards and pathways to project approvals for proponents; enhanced public and Indigenous engagement; the ability to more fully assess positive and adverse effects; and strengthened compliance and enforcement. In accordance with our commitment to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, we are advancing reconciliation through engagement with Indigenous nations at every step of the process.

We delivered a critical piece of our commitment to rebuild public trust in our oversight, policies and engagement when the *Professional Governance Act* received royal assent. The new *Act* ensures consistency and best practices in governance are applied to the work of regulated professionals, establishes an office of the superintendent of professional governance, and ensures transparency of recommendations and decision making, particularly in cases of real and perceived conflicts of interest.

Finally, 2018/19 represented progress in many other important areas, including making improvements to B.C.'s land-based spill response regime, defending the interests of British Columbians and the environment in our submission to the National Energy Board on the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project, and furthering work to prevent, reduce and recycle plastics to better protect B.C.'s marine and land environments.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy *2018/19 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in the *2018/19 – 2020/21 Service Plan* created in February 2018. I am accountable for those results as reported.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "G. Heyman". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
June 27, 2019

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Purpose of the Annual Service Plan Report

The Annual Service Plan Report (ASPR) is designed to meet the requirements of the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act* (BTAA), which sets out the legislative framework for planning, reporting and accountability for Government organizations. Under the BTAA, the Minister is required to report on the actual results of the ministry's performance related to the forecasted targets documented in the previous year's Service Plan.

Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is responsible for the protection, management and conservation of British Columbia's water, land, air and living resources. It administers the province's parks and protected areas; monitors and enforces compliance with environmental laws and regulations; manages discharges to the environment from human activities; and protects B.C.'s biodiversity, ecosystems, native species and natural habitats. It mitigates and manages the risks and consequences from climate change, including developing plans to meet carbon pollution reduction targets; responds to the impacts of climate change; and oversees provincial environmental assessment. The ministry delivers services directly through staff based in regional offices across the province, as well as through partnerships and agreements with stakeholder groups, local governments, Indigenous peoples and the federal government.

Strategic Direction

The strategic direction set by Government in 2017 and expanded upon in the [Minister's Mandate Letter](#) shaped the [2018/19 Service Plan](#) and the results reported in this ASPR.

The following table highlights the key goals, objectives or strategies that support the key priorities of Government identified in the 2018/19 Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Service Plan:

Government Priorities	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Aligns with These Priorities By:
Delivering the services people count on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy and diverse ecosystems, native species and habitats (Goal 2) • Effective management of environmental risks and threats to public safety (Objective 1.4) • Optimize outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities within parks and protected areas (Objective 3.4) • Effective management of the risks and consequences associated with a changing climate. (Climate Action Secretariat Objective 1.2)
A strong, sustainable economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable use of British Columbia’s natural capital (Goal 3) • Implement a comprehensive climate-action strategy that provides a pathway for B.C. to prosper economically while meeting carbon pollution reduction targets (Climate Action Secretariat Objective 1.1) • Timely and transparent Environmental Assessments (Environmental Assessment Office Objective 1.1) • Ensure the effectiveness of Environmental Assessments (Environmental Assessment Office Objective 1.2)

Operating Environment

During 2018/19, the ministry advanced a number of key priorities, including developing and publishing the [CleanBC](#) plan, supporting the passage of the *Professional Governance Act*, implementing the revitalized environmental assessment process, and continuing the development of Species-at-Risk legislation.

The 2018 wildfires closed 42 parks and had impacts felt throughout the province. BC Parks operators incurred considerable losses from camping reservation cancellations due to wildfires, poor air quality and park closures. Some BC Parks facilities are still closed, pending rehabilitation. Based on assessments completed to date, both front country and back country areas incurred wildfire damages to trails, structures and forests surrounding campgrounds. BC Parks has incurred the costs of restoration work; additional work is still undergoing assessment and is expected to result in further costs.

B.C.’s real GDP increased by 2.4 per cent in 2018 (according to preliminary GDP by industry data from Statistics Canada), the third strongest growth among provinces. Employment in B.C. grew by 1.1 per cent, a slower pace compared to previous years. Labour market conditions tightened further, while growth in wages and salaries remained strong. Domestic spending slowed somewhat, reflected by slower growth in retail sales and further moderation in housing activity, particularly home sales. Residential construction was strong with housing starts well above the historical average. Meanwhile, foreign demand overseas helped to support solid growth overall in B.C.’s merchandise exports.

Report on Performance for Core Environment Functions

Goals, Objectives, Measures and Targets

Goal 1: Clean and safe water, land and air

Objective 1.1: Enhanced protection and stewardship of water resources

The ministry develops innovative tools, strategies and partnerships to advance water resource management through relationships with First Nation, local and federal governments; industry and environmental organizations; universities and colleges; and professional associations. Sound science and policy inform land use planning, resource management decisions and activities on the land base to ensure B.C.'s supply of clean, fresh water is sustainable and responsive to a changing climate and growing demands.

Key Highlights:

- In November 2018, the ministry released the [Hullcar \(Clcahl\) Aquifer Response Plan](#). The plan provides a roadmap for improving drinking water management in the Hullcar aquifer area. A key element of the plan is the way the Province oversees agricultural waste management in B.C. as a component of drinking water protection, in particular where protections of shallow aquifers as sources of drinking water are needed.
- In 2018/19, the ministry worked collaboratively with numerous Indigenous communities to develop water quality objectives for priority water bodies, expand water monitoring networks, address water management issues, and implement bilateral water management agreements.
- In 2018/19, the ministry worked closely with Indigenous and United States government partners to advance efforts to address selenium issues in the transboundary Koochanusa Reservoir.

Objective 1.2: 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.

Performance Measures	2016/17 Actuals	2017/18 Actuals	2018/19 Target	2018/19 Actuals ³	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
1.1a Per capita municipal solid waste disposal (kg per person) ¹	472	506	425	475	375	350
1.1b Per cent of population covered by an organic waste disposal restriction ²	66%	66%	75%	70%	75%	75%

¹ **Data Source:** Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, manually compiled.

² **Data Source:** Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, manually compiled.

³ Figures for 2018/19 are estimates; actual results will be confirmed in November 2019 and published in the *2019/20 Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Annual Service Plan Report*.

Discussion

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. In 2017/18, the totals were greater than the previous year for the first time since tracking began in 2012; this increase is believed to be due to strong economic activity (e.g. strong real estate markets and high tourism) in some regional districts. Going forward, new provincial initiatives to decrease waste disposal rates are expected to be more resistant to economic cycles; those initiatives include organics diversion, food waste prevention, and extended producer responsibility programs. B.C. continues to progress toward the target of 350 kilograms per person by 2020/21.

Organic waste represents up to 40% of all waste currently sent for disposal. In 2018/19, the province achieved its 2019/20 target of 75% of the population covered by an organic waste disposal restriction, a year ahead of schedule. This target is reinforced by the Organics Infrastructure Program, which supports local government projects to build organics processing facilities across the province.

Objective 1.3: Enhanced protection and stewardship of our air

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

Key Highlights:

- The Province expanded its Provincial Wood Stove Exchange Program to help people trade old woodstoves for cleaner-burning models such as gas, propane, pellet-heating electric models. Approximately \$300,000 went to 15 B.C. communities in 2018/19.
- In 2018/19, the ministry completed [air zone reports for 2014-2016](#). Air zone reports compare air quality levels in broad reporting areas (called “air zones”) to Canadian ambient air quality standards over a three-year period.

Performance Measure	2016/17 Actuals	2017/18 Actuals	2018/19 Target	2018/19 Actuals	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
1.3a Fine particulate matter avoided by changing out old wood-burning appliances	22.2 tonnes	20.9 tonnes	27.5 tonnes	21.6 tonnes	28 tonnes	28.5 tonnes

Data Source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, manually compiled. Figures are annual.

Discussion

The Provincial Wood Stove Exchange Program provides communities with funding to change out old, smoky wood stoves for cleaner heating options including heat pumps, gas or pellet stoves and cleaner burning wood stoves. Since 2008, over 8200 wood burning stoves have been replaced through 31 programs offered in the province involving 21 regional districts and over 45 municipal partners. Each exchange results in reduction of future emissions of particulate matter pollution. Program funds were released to participating communities too late in the year to reach 2018/19 targets.

Objective 1.4: Effective management of environmental risks and threats to public safety

The health of B.C.'s ecosystems, native species, and the public can be put at risk by effluents, emissions, wastes, resource depletion and other living organisms. To manage and mitigate that risk, the ministry manages waste discharges to the environment, oversees the remediation of high risk contaminated sites, responds to oil spills, and sets regulations for waste disposal. In the case of environmental emergencies and risks to public safety, the ministry is prepared to respond swiftly and effectively.

Performance Measure	2016/17 Actuals	2017/18 Actuals	2018/19 Target	2018/19 Actuals	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
1.4a Number of B.C. mines profiled on the BC Mine Information Site	15	22	25	28	30	35

Data Source: Manually compiled by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, and the Environmental Assessment Office. Targets are cumulative.

Discussion

To drive government's commitments to transparency and openness, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, and the Environmental Assessment Office created a performance measure that tracks the number of mines profiled on the BC Mine Information site, which was launched in February 2017. The website currently profiles all producing metal and coal mines in the province, including their status, authorizations and compliance oversight. It will continue to be expanded in the future to include mines that are in care and maintenance, under construction and closed.

Goal 2: Healthy and diverse ecosystems, native species and habitats

Objective 2.1: Stewardship, conservation and management of B.C.'s natural values

The ministry plays a critical role in defining and delivering conservation objectives across the province. Its strategic and scientific expertise in the management and analysis of B.C.'s natural values influence the work carried out by partner ministries. The ministry works to assess, set priorities and determine actions for the conservation and recovery of plants, animals and ecosystems. Within provincial parks and protected areas, natural values are managed through management plans.

Key Highlights:

- In May 2018, the ministry announced dedicated, significant annual funding for B.C.'s Invasive Mussel Defence Program, to help protect the province's waterways from the environmental, economic and social impacts of the spread of zebra and quagga mussels.
- Consultation on policy development for Species-at-Risk legislation took place throughout 2018. The planned legislation will establish a clear process for protecting species at risk, meet obligations under the Canada-British Columbia Agreement on Species at Risk, and provide increased certainty for those operating on B.C.'s land base.
- Thanks to recovery efforts led by partnerships between a number of organizations, including the Marmot Recovery Foundation, the provincial government, zoos and landowners, the population of Vancouver Island marmots in Strathcona Provincial Park was estimated as of August 2018 to be between 40 and 50 – up from zero nine years ago.

Performance Measure	2016/17 Actuals	2017/18 Actuals	2018/19 Target	2018/19 Actuals	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
2.1a Number of protected area complexes with status report completed	N/A	N/A	1	1	3	5

Data Source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, manually compiled. Targets are cumulative.

Discussion

In 2018/19, the first conservation assessment was completed for the Garibaldi Complex, which included completion of a management effectiveness evaluation and an assessment of conservation values and threats. The Garibaldi Complex consists of four protected areas: Mkwil'ts Conservancy, Golden Ears, Pinecone Burke, and Garibaldi Provincial Parks. A summary of the results will be published to the BC Parks website.

Goal 3: Endurable and sustainable use of British Columbia's natural capital

Natural capital is B.C.'s stock of natural assets, including water, land, air and all living things.

Objective 3.1: Inventory, monitoring, science and assessment support 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.

Key Highlights:

- A new air quality monitoring station was added in Cranbrook to monitor ozone, nitrogen oxide, nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter, as well as wind speed and direction.

Objective 3.2: Policies, standards and regulations that are clear, consistent, predictable, science-based and effective

Clear and consistent policies, standards and regulations ensure the protection of human health and the environment while increasing certainty for economic development. A predictable regulatory environment helps support a strong, sustainable economy, and consistent environmental outcomes. The ministry routinely reviews its policies, regulations, fees and fines to ensure they include best available information, technology and practices.

Key Highlights:

- An intentions paper was posted in September 2018 proposing [changes to the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation](#) to support the processing of organic waste. The proposed changes are expected to reduce the burden on landfills and give transparency and clarity to British Columbians who are affected by composting and land used for this purpose.

Performance Measure	2016/17 Actuals	2017/18 Actuals	2018/19 Target	2018/19 Actuals	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
3.2a Number of new standards, guidelines or objectives incorporating best achievable technology practices that reduce discharges to the environment	11	12	13	13	14	15

Data Source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, corresponding policy, guideline, code of practice, or regulation. Targets are cumulative.

Discussion

On February 28, 2019, a new regulation for agricultural environmental management replaced the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation. The new regulation protects water quality by setting proactive

and progressive rules for agricultural operations, allows for improved compliance and enforcement activities, and makes it easier for farmers to establish environmentally sound practices.

Objective 3.3: 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.

Key Highlights:

- In 2018/19, twenty new conservation officers were added to respond to complaints, educate the public, prevent human-wildlife conflicts and protect B.C.'s natural resources.
- The ?Esdilagh First Nation signed a memorandum of understanding with the B.C. Conservation Officer Service to promote the sustainability of wildlife within its traditional territory.
- The Xenigwet First Nation signed a memorandum of understanding with the B.C. Conservation Officer Service to promote collaboration on the management, protection and stewardship of natural resources, fish and wildlife in its traditional territory according to Xenigwet First Nation, provincial and federal laws.

Performance Measure	2016/17 Actuals	2017/18 Actuals	2018/19 Target	2018/19 Actuals	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
3.3a Number of inspections conducted under the <i>Environmental Management Act</i>	1,457	1,512	2,000	1,353	2,000	2,000

Data Source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, manually compiled. Inspections (in office reviews and on-site examinations) conducted under the *Act* and associated regulations.

Discussion

While the ministry fell short of its performance target of 2000 inspections under the *Environmental Management Act*, the ministry had a number of successes when it comes to compliance activities. The ministry responded to over 1900 complaints with 83% responded to within one week. In addition to issuing Inspection Reports, the ministry issued \$154,150 in administrative penalties, and expects this amount to more than double in 2019/20.

Many factors influenced the number of inspections, including resourcing (turn-over, attrition and staff supporting wildfires) as well as the nature or significance of non-compliances. The ministry continues to maintain a strong focus on continuous improvement through a risk-based approach. This is evidenced by the various methods the ministry takes to achieve higher rates of compliance including compliance promotion, a focus on complaint responsiveness, increased compliance activities on high-risk sites and an escalating consistent approach to non-compliances.

Objective 3.4: Optimize outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities within parks and protected areas

The Province is building on its world-renowned provincial parks system to enable British Columbians and others to connect with B.C.'s iconic landscapes in a sustainable and memorable way.

Key Highlights:

- During the summer of 2018, the BC Parks Student Ranger program provided 48 young adults with skills and knowledge that can be applied towards future employment in the fields of conservation, recreation and community engagement. This included new jobs for Indigenous youth – 30% of student rangers identified as Indigenous. Additionally, BC Parks developed the Community Engagement and Education Program to connect children and families to nature, promote volunteering, and reach K-12 students across the province.
- In 2018/19, BC Parks continued to support provincial reconciliation commitments to build long-term government-to-government relations using pre- and post-treaty approaches, linking its actions to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action, as well as its vision document, roadmap and Indigenous Relations Guidebook for Parks staff.
- In 2018/19, BC Parks continued to engage, innovate, and promote respect and recognition-based relationships with Indigenous peoples through many approaches, led primarily by its dedicated Indigenous Relations Section. It provided tools, training, information and funding to support effective engagement and partnerships with Indigenous communities, as well as the development of related policies such as Aboriginal rights in Parks, accommodation, fee use, parks as treaty land interests, direct awards, park renaming and interpretive signage, and Collaborative Management Agreements. In 2018/19 BC Parks also began to explore new concepts in shared decision-making and co-management models, Guardian program support and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas models including the start of discussions with the Coastal First Nations on the proposed conversion of several areas in the Great Bear Rainforest.
- In April 2018, BC Parks announced \$240,000 in funding to support volunteer projects to enhance park services and protect the conservation and heritage values of B.C.'s natural spaces.
- Over 190 hectares of ecologically sensitive land throughout B.C. were acquired as new parks or as additions to existing provincial parks, and an additional 107 hectares were added to existing parks through amendments to the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*. A total of 431 new campsites were added throughout the province.

Performance Measure	2016/17 Actuals	2017/18 Actuals	2018/19 Target	2018/19 Actuals	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
3.4a Number of new campsites, recreation sites and trails built towards 2021/22 goal	378	809	1,229	1,403	1,743	1,868

Data Source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, manually compiled. Targets are cumulative. Targets revised from 2018/19 service plan.

Discussion

The campsite expansion program aims to add over 1,900 new campsites, recreation sites and trails by 2021/22 in a joint effort between the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. In 2018/19, 594 new campsites were constructed, including 65 sites at Golden Ears Park, 30 sites at Martha Creek Park, and 21 sites at Bear Creek Park.

Report on Performance for the Climate Action Secretariat

Purpose of the Climate Action Secretariat

The Climate Action Secretariat (CAS) coordinates government's efforts to reduce B.C.'s contribution to greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with legislated targets; and prepare for, and adapt to, the expected changes in our natural and built environment as a result of climate change. CAS also administers the *Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act* and the *Climate Change Accountability Act*.

Goals, Objectives, Measures and Targets

Goal 1: A sustainable, resilient low-carbon economy

Objective 1.1: Implement a climate-action strategy that provides a pathway for B.C. to prosper economically while significantly reducing our carbon pollution

The Secretariat coordinates effective climate action strategies to support clean growth and transition B.C. to a sustainable, low-carbon future.

Key Highlights:

- CleanBC was released on December 5, 2018 to reduce carbon pollution while using clean energy to create new jobs and opportunities across the province, and to strengthen B.C.'s economy. CleanBC describes specific greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions and models

the pathway that will get the province to 75 per cent to legislated 2030 GHG targets. It also identifies the sectors where we expect further work to result in achieving the remaining 25 per cent.

Performance Measures	2016/17 Actuals	2017/18 Actuals	2018/19 Target	2018/19 Actuals	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
1.1a Annual level of greenhouse gas emissions in B.C. relative to 2007 levels ¹	63.7 Mt CO ₂ e	64.5 Mt CO ₂ e	N/A	Data Not Available	40% below 2007 levels by 2030	40% below 2007 levels by 2030
1.1b Develop a 2030 GHG reduction target for B.C. of 40% below 2007 levels and sectoral targets for transportation, buildings and industry ²	N/A	N/A	2030 and 2040 targets set in legislation	2030 and 2040 targets set in legislation	N/A	N/A

¹ **Data Source:** B.C. GHG emissions as reported in Progress to Targets or Provincial Inventory.

² **Data Source:** Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, manually compiled.

Discussion

In 2012, the Province met its interim target of a six per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 2007 levels. However, since 2012, overall GHG emissions have increased, including increases in three of the last five years. Government has set a new 2030 target of 40% and a 2040 target of 60% below 2007 levels with a new climate-action strategy and parameters for provincial climate and economic policy development.

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

The Secretariat leads efforts to improve the awareness; understanding; and management of the risk within and to B.C. from a changing climate.

Performance Measure	2016/17 Actuals	2017/18 Actuals	2018/19 Target	2018/19 Actuals	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
1.2a B.C. Climate Risk Management Framework pillars identified and in place	N/A	N/A	40%	40%	80%	100%

Data Source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, manually compiled.

Discussion

The Climate Action Secretariat completed a preliminary strategic climate risk assessment for BC in 2018/19. A climate risk assessment framework was developed in 2018 based on standard provincial risk assessment methodology, which included five elements: establish the context, assess risks, treat risks, monitor and review, and communicate and consult. The framework was applied to assess fifteen climate risks that are significant at the provincial scale. Work is ongoing to develop strategies to treat

the risks identified. Future work will adapt the framework to be applied at sub-provincial scales (e.g., ministry, program, region) and develop guidance to support use of the framework in iterative risk assessments at the ministry- and program-level.

Report on Performance for the Environmental Assessment Office

Purpose of the Environmental Assessment Office

The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) neutrally administers the environmental assessment process as defined in the [Environmental Assessment Act](#), which requires proposed major projects to be assessed for potentially significant adverse environmental, social, economic, health and heritage effects. The EAO seeks to meaningfully engage the public and Indigenous groups in the environmental assessment process and is responsible for overseeing compliance and enforcement of reviewable projects throughout the life of the project. Additional information regarding the environmental assessment process can be found on the [EAO website](#).

Goals, Objectives, Measures and Targets

Goal 1: Conducting effective, transparent and timely environmental assessments

Objective 1.1: Timely and transparent environmental assessments

B.C. has had environmental assessment legislation and an associated office dedicated to its implementation since 1995. The EAO neutrally administers a legally defined process that is predictable, transparent, timely, and procedurally fair and holds all participants accountable.

Key Highlights:

- Beginning in February 2018, the ministry undertook a revitalization process involving extensive engagement with industry, Indigenous nations, non-government organizations (including environmental groups), academics, local governments, stakeholders and the public. The new legislation was received Royal Assent on November 27, 2018.
- The revitalized environmental assessment process includes several features that are expected to increase the timeliness and transparency of environmental assessments, including statutory timelines where none existed previously.
- The EAO successfully launched a new version of the web tool for project tracking and collaboration, with updates to the user interface, navigation tools, materials and features such as clear timeline tracking.

Performance Measure	2016/17 Actuals	2017/18 Actuals	2018/19 Target	2018/19 Actuals	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
1.1a EA application reviews completed within 180 days:						
B.C. process only	90%	100%	100%	0% ¹	100%	100%
Joint B.C./Canada Process	90%	0% ¹	100%	100%	100%	100%

Data Source: EAO, manually compiled.

¹ One applicable project.

Discussion

The legislative timelines in the *Environmental Assessment Act* include a 180-day limit for the EAO to review applications for environmental assessment certificates. The reviews of the two projects referred to ministers for decision during the 2017/18 and 2018/19 fiscal years were granted extensions and as a result exceeded the 180-day review period.

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.

Key Highlights:

- In order to improve the effectiveness of the environmental enforcement process, the EAO implemented an enhanced approach to environmental assessment certificate condition development via the Certificate Development Team, which functions to assist with the drafting of certificate requirements that are clear, measurable and enforceable.
- The EAO continued to put a strong emphasis on interagency coordination in the conduct of compliance oversight. The Major Projects Coordination Committee, chaired by the EAO, assisted partner compliance and enforcement agencies in developing a strong understanding of our respective roles and responsibilities and facilitated direct coordination between senior and operational compliance and enforcement staff at the EAO, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, Ministry of Environment, the Oil and Gas Commission and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

Performance Measures	2016/17 Actuals	2017/18 Actuals	2018/19 Target	2018/19 Actuals	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
1.2a Number of compliance inspections completed on certified projects ¹	35	41	36	69	38	40
1.2b Number of mines profiled on the BC Mine Information Site ²	15	22	25	28	30	35

¹ **Data Source:** EAO, manually compiled.

² **Data Source:** Manually compiled by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, and the Environmental Assessment Office. Targets are cumulative.

Discussion

The EAO continued to improve compliance and enforcement through 2018/19 and significantly exceeded targets for site inspections. The identification and implementation of efficiencies contributed to this success. These included a structured approach to inspection planning, implementation and tracking, adherence to internal service standards, and the addition of officer and analyst positions.

To drive government’s commitments to transparency and openness, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, and the Environmental Assessment Office created a performance measure that tracks the number of mines profiled on the BC Mine Information site, which was launched in February 2017. The website currently profiles all producing metal and coal mines in the province, including their status, authorizations and compliance oversight. It will continue to be expanded in the future to include mines that are in care and maintenance, under construction and closed.

Financial Report

Financial Report Summary Table – Ministry Operations

	2018/19 Estimated	Other Authorizations ¹	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses (\$000)					
Environmental Protection	11,801	615	12,416	12,465	49
Environmental Sustainability	23,972	0	23,972	21,810	(2,162)
BC Parks	40,478	9,912	50,390	50,806	416
Conservation Officer Services	18,207	0	18,207	21,397	3,190
Climate Action	15,600	1,510	17,110	17,333	223
Executive and Support Services	23,891	0	23,891	22,175	(1,716)
Park Enhancement Fund	9,800		9,800	6,922	(2,878)
Sustainable Environment Fund	23,635		23,635	23,635	0
Sub-Total	167,384	12,037	179,421	176,543	(2,878)
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual²	0	0	0	(393)	(393)
Total	167,384	12,037	179,421	176,150	(3,271)
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)					
Executive and Support Services	27,149	11,700	38,849	35,102	(3,747)
Park Enhancement Fund	400	0	400	43	(357)
Total	27,549	11,700	39,249	35,145	(4,104)

¹ “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.

² The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual of \$0.393 million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

Financial Report Summary Table – Environmental Assessment Office

	2018/19 Estimated	Other Authorizations	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses (\$000)					
Environmental Assessment Office	11,902	144	12,046	12,046	0
Sub-Total	11,902	144	12,046	12,046	0
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual	0	0	0	0	0
Total	11,902	144	12,046	12,046	0

Discussion of Results

Funding in 2018/19 was provided in support of capital spending and initiatives, including the continuation of campsite expansion and hiring of new conservation officers. The Conservation Officer Service operated the mussel defence program and sustained its activity levels to keep invasive zebra and quagga mussels out of the province’s fresh water systems and water infrastructure. Projects within the Park Enhancement Fund were funded in part by revenues from the BC Parks-branded license plate program.

The contingencies and new program vote provided funding for land conservation grants; management of legalized cannabis; and, the development of the CleanBC plan, including development of the CleanBC Program for Industry. The Ministry received capital contingencies to fund land acquisition for new protected areas. Capital expenditures for campsite expansion and park improvements were hampered by the impacts of the 2018 wind storms and illegal encampment.

Appendix A: List of Crowns, Agencies, Boards and Commissions

[College of Applied Biology](#)

