

**Office of the
Premier**

**2018/19
Annual Service Plan Report**



For more information on the Office of the Premier contact:

[PO BOX 9041 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC
V8W9E1

250-356-2206

Or visit our website at
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/office-of-the-premier>

Published by the Office of the Premier

Minister's Message and Accountability Statement



The Office of the Premier *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 "John J. Horgan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Honourable John Horgan
Premier
June 25, 2019

Table of Contents

Minister’s Message and Accountability Statement.....	3
Purpose of the Annual Service Plan Report.....	5
Purpose of the Ministry.....	5
Strategic Direction	5
Operating Environment.....	6
Report on Performance	7
Resource Summary	10

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 Premier serves as the President of the Executive Council (Cabinet) of the Government of British Columbia. The Office of the Premier assists the Premier in overseeing and leading the government. In addition, it supports the Cabinet decision-making process. As a central agency, the office facilitates effective policy coordination across the public service and ensures a strategic and corporate level approach is undertaken on the development and implementation of key priorities. The Premier is advised by the Deputy Minister to the Premier, Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Public Service on matters of public policy, and management and operational issues.

The Office:

- Articulates government's goals, commitments and priorities through ministry mandate letters, and works with ministries and Crown agencies to ensure communication of those goals, commitments and priorities and to track and monitor their implementation;
- Leads the public service and, with the Deputy Ministers' Council, commits to being a top employer that maintains and enhances public trust and confidence in our work, as set out in the new Corporate Plan *Where Ideas Work* <https://gww.gov.bc.ca/index.php> and reflected in the focus on innovation and integrity;
- Provides support for the operations and decision-making processes of Cabinet and its committees; and
- Works directly with the federal government and with all ministries and Crown agencies to ensure that relations with the federal, provincial, territorial and international governments advance British Columbia's interests.

Strategic Direction

The following table highlights the key goals, objectives or strategies that support the key priorities of Government identified in the 2018/19 Office of the Premier Service Plan:

Government Priorities	The Office of the Premier Aligns with These Priorities By:
Making life more affordable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued to implement key commitments, goals and strategic priorities for the Government of BC. • Led the Executive Council as it reviewed and implemented a range of affordability issues, such as removing interest from BC student loans, providing the BC Child Opportunity Benefit and the elimination of the Medical Service Plan premiums.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced initiatives such as new rules for live-event tickets sales and unfair payday loans, and extended the ferry fare freeze and discounts.
Delivering the services people count on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed and implemented strategies with a view of influencing other governments' decisions that affect British Columbia. Engagement and collaboration with provincial, territorial, and federal governments advanced a range of initiatives important to British Columbians, including: supporting early learning and childcare, improving access to health care, promoting public health and safety with respect to cannabis legislation and the opioid crisis.
A strong, sustainable economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiated new programs such as CleanBC and support for mass timber buildings. • Supported trade missions to Europe, China, South Korea and Japan, which strengthened social, cultural and economic relationships. The mission also expanded trade and investment opportunities for B.C. businesses and promoted the province's clean energy, natural resources, agrifoods, tourism and education sectors. • Actively engaged with U.S. national and state level decision makers, as well as U.S. industry, business and labour groups to advocate and defend B.C.'s interests related to trade actions on softwood lumber, steel and aluminum, and uncoated groundwood paper. • Continued efforts to advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, including the intention that BC will become the first province in Canada to legislate implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Operating Environment

The Economy

British Columbia's real GDP increased by 2.4 per cent in 2018 (according to preliminary GDP by industry data from Statistics Canada), compared to 2% nationally. Employment in BC grew by 1.1 per cent. Labour market conditions tightened further, with BC's unemployment rate falling from 5.1% in 2017 to 4.7% in 2018, which was again the lowest unemployment rate among Canadian provinces. Average weekly wages grew by 4.1% - the highest rate since 2008. The BC consumer price index in 2018 rose 2.7%, so this increase in average wages translated into an increase in real wages following two years of decline. 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 BC's merchandise exports.

Report on Performance

Goal 1: Establish government goals, commitments and strategic priorities

Objective 1.1: Establish government goals, commitments and strategic priorities

Provided a government-wide emphasis on creating a fairer and more inclusive society and developing opportunities for all British Columbians to have a better life.

Achievements:

- Government continued to deliver on its key goals, commitments and strategic priorities;
- The Deputy Minister to the Premier led the Deputy Ministers Council, ensuring consistent information for senior leadership;
- Working with all Ministers and Ministries, government stayed within its fiscal strategy while delivering existing and new priorities.

Performance Measure	2017/18 Actuals	2018/19 Actuals	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
1.1 Performance targets in place for Deputy Ministers	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

¹Data Source: Office of the Premier

Discussion

Deputy Ministers met regularly with the Deputy Minister to the Premier to discuss goals and issues within their ministries.

Goal 2: Provide guidance and direction for the Government of British Columbia

Objective 2.1: Lead the Executive Council

Cabinet Operations supported the Deputy Minister to the Premier in setting out the framework for Cabinet and Cabinet Committee decision-making.

Achievements:

- Cabinet submissions focused on ensuring cross-government alignment with government's key objectives of making life more affordable, delivering the services people count on and building a strong and sustainable economy that works for everyone.
- Effective logistical support for the operations and decision-making process of Cabinet and its Committees continued throughout the year.
- Cabinet and Cabinet Committee decision-making was accurately recorded.

Performance Measure	2017/18 Actuals	2018/19 Forecast	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
2.1 Cabinet receives timely advice on all key public policy recommendations and plans	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

Cabinet committees and ministries provided prompt and effective advice enabling timely and well-informed Cabinet decisions benefiting British Columbians.

Goal 3: Foster intergovernmental relations

Objective 3.1: Build strong and productive relationships with the Government of Canada, other provinces and territories, and key international partners

The Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat (IGRS) advances British Columbia's priorities through leadership in intergovernmental partnerships and international relations.

Achievements:

- Worked closely with the federal government to ensure BC's interests were conveyed during negotiations of the Canada-United States-Mexico agreement (CUSMA), providing important stability for businesses and our economy.
- Enhanced delivery of French language services to members of BC's Francophone community, through the continued partnership with community organizations and the federal government, in priority areas such as health care, early learning, justice, immigration and settlement, tourism and culture.
- Strengthened partnerships with other provinces through bilateral and multilateral co-operation at the Council of the Federation and the Western Premiers' Conference.
- Delivered BC's international objectives, highlighting BC as a destination for trade and investment, tourism, education and immigration, by hosting briefings and visits with foreign dignitaries and officials, and members of the Consular Corps.
- Advanced the development of an innovative and resilient economy through BC's participation in the Pacific Coast Collaborative and the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER).
- Strengthened partnership with Washington State, committing to jointly act on climate change, increase connectivity and transportation links, and grow mutually beneficial trade across the Cascadia Innovation Corridor.
- In addition to intergovernmental relations, IGRS planned, coordinated and conducted government ceremonies, and managed the Order of BC and Medal of Good Citizenship.

	Performance Measure	2017/18 Actuals	2018/19 Actuals	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
3.1	Progress on key intergovernmental objectives	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

Cabinet was informed on a regular basis of upcoming intergovernmental meetings and initiatives, including comprehensive strategic advice on engaging the federal and other governments.

Resource Summary

	2018/19 Estimated	Other Authorizations ¹	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses (\$000)					
Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat	3,083	0	3,083	3,033	(50)
Executive and Support Services²	8,222	227	8,449	8,499	50
Sub-Total	11,305	227	11,532	11,532	0
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual	0	0	0	0	0
Total	11,305	227	11,532	11,532	0
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)					
By Core Business	1	0	1	0	(1)
Total	1	0	1	0	(1)
Capital Plan² (\$000)					
By Core Business (and Purpose)	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0
Other Financing Transactions (\$000)⁴					
By Core Business (and Purpose)	0	0	0	0	0
Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Disbursements	0	0	0	0	0
Net Cash Source (Requirements)	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Total Disbursements	0	0	0	0	0
Total Net Cash Source (Requirements)	0	0	0	0	0

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 Additional funding from the Contingencies Vote was approved to fund costs associated with operating requirements related to cross government priorities.