

**Ministry of
Social Development
and Poverty Reduction**

**2018/19
Annual Service Plan Report**



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Minister's Message and Accountability Statement



As the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, I am pleased to present the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction 2018/19 Annual Service Plan Report, which summarizes our performance and highlights achievements from the year ending March 31, 2019.

The Ministry continues to lead and coordinate a government-wide approach to reducing poverty. This past year the Ministry made significant progress, delivering on plans built in partnership with the people we seek to serve that aim to reduce inequality and create opportunity for British Columbians.

In March 2019, TogetherBC, B.C.'s first poverty reduction strategy was launched outlining B.C.'s commitment to reduce poverty and make life more affordable for British Columbians. It incorporated input from extensive consultation with people throughout the province who experience poverty daily. The investments and initiatives will help to make life more affordable for those struggling to get by, by increasing incomes and reducing costs. It also creates opportunities to help people break the cycle of poverty and build a more socially inclusive province.

The strategy includes a homelessness action plan. To support our efforts to reduce and prevent homelessness, the Ministry created the Office of Homelessness Coordination, which focuses on cross government responses to homelessness.

Re-Imagining Community Inclusion, a new 10-year vision for community living supports and services, rooted in the lived experience of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, was completed through engagement with families, advocates, service providers and their representatives. This is a roadmap forward, representing shared goals for improved services and increased social inclusion. The Ministry also continued with service delivery improvements focused on providing consistent and compassionate service to clients, including streamlined, flexible and accessible WorkBC Employment Services. WorkBC is now available in 103 locations throughout the province, offering expanded 24/7 access through Online Employment Services.

In total in 2018/2019, the Ministry invested over \$3.3 billion to support low-income British Columbians and people with disabilities and the services they rely on, as part of our commitment to making life more affordable, improving services and creating a strong, sustainable economy that benefits everyone.

The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction 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 black ink that reads "Shane Simpson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Honourable Shane Simpson
Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
June 28, 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 Social Development and Poverty Reduction ([SDPR](#)) focuses on reducing poverty, creating opportunities, and increasing inclusion. The purpose of the ministry is to provide strategic leadership and quality services that empower the broad range of British Columbians in need to share in the Province's prosperity, to participate fully in their community, and to reach their full potential.

SDPR is guided by four pieces of legislation: the [Employment and Assistance Act](#), the [Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act](#), the [Poverty Reduction Strategy Act](#), and the [Community Living Authority Act](#). The Minister is responsible for Community Living BC ([CLBC](#)) and also supports the Parliamentary Secretary for Poverty Reduction. The Ministry's key responsibilities include:

- Leading development and implementation of a cross-government, province-wide poverty-reduction strategy – [BC Poverty Reduction](#)
- Leading development and implementation of a homelessness action plan to reduce the homeless population through permanent housing and services – in partnership with provincial ministries and agencies, local governments, first responders and service providers.
- Providing income, disability and supplemental assistance for people in need
- Providing an integrated system of employment programs and services and supports to all British Columbians – [WorkBC](#)
- Working with community, business and government partners to increase accessibility, employment, independence and inclusion for individuals with disabilities (including the development of options for provincial accessibility legislation).
- Supporting community living services for adults with developmental disabilities and their families

Strategic Direction

The strategic direction set by Government in 2017/18 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 SDPR Service Plan:

Government Priorities	The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction Aligns with These Priorities By:
Making life more affordable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 1: Support better lives and increase social inclusion for British Columbians who live in poverty.
Delivering the services people count on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 2: British Columbians in need receive assistance they can count on. • Goal 3: British Columbians with disabilities achieve meaningful independence and inclusion in their communities.
A strong, sustainable economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 4: British Columbians in need are supported to participate in the economy and reach their full potential through employment.

Operating Environment

With 481,000 British Columbians living in poverty according to the Market Basket Measure¹, B.C. has the second highest poverty rate in the country.² This number includes 81,000 children in low-income families and about 54,000 seniors. Approximately 40% of people living in poverty are low-income, working adults. Single mothers as well as people who are Indigenous or have a disability are more than twice as likely to live in poverty. These figures are for 2017, reflecting the most current information available at the start of the 2018/19 service planning cycle.

The Ministry continued with service delivery improvements that focused on providing consistent and responsive service. The Ministry updated their public service commitment and service standards, which helps ensure that clients are served as quickly and efficiently as possible, through all of our service channels. To help support ministry clients that are not able to access services through the existing channels, the ministry created dedicated Community Integration Specialist positions. These new positions will also focus on connecting B.C.’s most vulnerable citizens with financial and housing assistance as well as connections to community resources. To support the Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Ministry created the Office of Homelessness Coordination which will be focused on cross government responses to homelessness.

WorkBC provides employment services to people at centres throughout the Province and online through WorkBC.ca. People can find local and provincial job listings, workshops, skills assessments and targeted programs that include training, work experience and wage subsidies. In 2018/19, the Ministry reprocured WorkBC Employment Services contracts which launched April 1, 2019. The federal government renewal of federal Labour Market Transfer Agreements (LMTA) came into effect April 1, 2018, including the Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA) which provides additional funding to help British Columbians prepare for, find, advance in, and keep good jobs.

¹ The Market Basket Measures (MBM) sets out the disposable income threshold required for a family of four to be able to purchase a basket of goods and services representing a modest, basic standard of living. This includes, for example, the costs of food, clothing, footwear, transportation, shelter and other basic expenses. The MBM is calculated for Vancouver, as well as four other community profiles in British Columbia: rural; population under 30,000; population from 30,000 – 99,999; and population from 100,000 to 499,999.

² Statistics Canada provincial and national [poverty statistics](#).

The Ministry continues to support CLBC in the development of initiatives and partnerships aimed at increasing community inclusion, accessibility and employment opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities. Engagement with families, advocates, service providers and their representatives is crucial to understanding CLBC service delivery issues and identifying responsive and sustainable service solutions. One example of engagement was the Re-Imagining Community Inclusion initiative which was established by the Minister to provide advice on a ten-year vision for community living supports and services, rooted in the lived experience of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The [Re-Imagining Community Inclusion](#) report was provided to the Minister at the end of March 2019 for consideration and moving forward on this shared vision.

Demographics and Economy

BC Employment and Assistance (BCEA) program caseloads are affected by demographic and economic factors. British Columbia's population aged 19 to 64 is expected to increase by 51,000 people (1.7 percent) by 2021. The number of potential BC Employment and Assistance clients increases as the population increases. The temporary assistance caseload, made up of individuals who are unemployed or underemployed, had been trending upward since mid-2018, largely linked to population growth.

At the same time, the population is getting older. The disability assistance caseload, made up of individuals who have a disability designation, has continued to grow as the result of longer life expectancies and an aging population.

British Columbia'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 BC's merchandise exports.

Report on Performance

Goal 1: Support better lives and increase social inclusion for British Columbians who live in poverty.

Objective 1.1: Develop a strategy to reduce poverty in British Columbia.

In March 2019, British Columbia launched [TogetherBC](#), the Province's first poverty reduction strategy. The strategy reflects B.C.'s commitment to reduce poverty and make life more affordable for British Columbians. It is guided by the extensive engagement undertaken with people across the Province, including those who experience poverty daily. *TogetherBC* sets a path to reduce the overall poverty rate by 25% and the child poverty rate by 50% by 2024. It includes policy initiatives and investments designed to lift people up, break the cycle of poverty and build a better B.C. for everyone.

Key Highlights:

- Both the overall poverty rate and the child poverty rate declined in 2017 compared to 2016, largely the result of federal initiatives to support families with children and seniors. These investments are essential for the federal government to achieve its poverty reduction targets and for meeting the provincial targets.
- The depth of poverty in 2017 was 65 percent, meaning that the average family living in poverty had an income that was 35 percent below the poverty line, an improvement over the 60 percent in 2016.
- Provincial investments, such as income and disability rate increases, and the child care improvements, will impact the 2018 poverty numbers, expected to be released in early 2020.

Performance Measure(s)	2016 Actuals	2017 Actuals	2018 Target	2019 Actuals	2020 Target
1.1a Incidence of total poverty in British Columbia	12%	10.3%	N/A	Progress towards 9% in 2024	Progress towards 9% in 2024
1.1b Incidence of child poverty in British Columbia	12%	9.8%	N/A	Progress towards 6% in 2024	Progress towards 6% in 2024

Data Source: Statistics Canada – “Low Income Statistics by Age, Sex and Economic Family” (11-10-0135001)

Discussion

Poverty in British Columbia has declined, as it has in most provinces in Canada. Most of the decline in the last few years can be attributed to federal investments to reduce poverty, including improvements to the Child Canada Benefit and Guaranteed Income Supplement. These initiatives are part of Canada’s commitment to reduce poverty in Canada and to achieve its poverty reduction targets of 20 percent by 2020, and 50 percent by 2030. British Columbia recognizes that these investments are essential for the province to achieve its poverty reduction targets. Despite these investments, and a strong economy, British Columbia continues to have high rates of poverty – the second highest rate of total poverty and the fifth highest rate of child poverty.

Provincial investments to reduce poverty, such as ChildCareBC, increases to the minimum wage and increases in income and disability assistance rates, will start to impact the poverty numbers starting in 2018. The Child Opportunity Benefit will start to impact poverty numbers in 2020.

Legislated targets and timelines to reduce the poverty rate were established in 2018/19 in the *Poverty Reduction Strategy Act*. The target is to reduce the overall poverty rate by 25 percent (to 9%) and the child poverty rate by 50 percent (to 6%) by 2024 compared to 2016 using the Market Basket Measure, Canada’s Official Poverty Line.

The specific targets and timelines are ambitious yet achievable, and will make a meaningful difference for people living in poverty in B.C. Achieving the targets will lift approximately 140,000

adults and 50,000 children out of poverty. A specific child poverty target was set because we know that addressing child poverty is critical to breaking the cycle of poverty in this province for generations to come.

Goal 2: British Columbians in need receive assistance they can count on.

Objective 2.1: Income and disability assistance is available for eligible British Columbians to assist with support and shelter costs.

Key Highlights:

- The Ministry updated its Service Commitments and Service Standards that focus on timeliness of service delivery for many key areas including phone wait times and PWD designation applications.
- Service delivery improvements focused on providing consistent and compassionate service. Some examples include: publicly posting monthly Call Wait Time Reports; having Wi-fi available in all Ministry Offices; implementing a “Duty to Accommodate” alert to support clients with accessing Ministry services; improving cheque issue processes to include a triage approach for quicker service; and, introducing a new Service Quality Program to improve client services, reduce errors, and streamline business processes.
- Community Integration Specialist positions were introduced to focus on connecting B.C.’s most vulnerable citizens with financial and housing assistance as well as connections to community resources.
- The Ministry created the Office of Homelessness Coordination which is focused on cross government responses to homelessness.
- The Ministry improved the crisis supplements available to people on income, disability or hardship assistance. The Crisis Food Supplement doubled from \$20 to \$40; and access to the Essential Utilities Crisis Supplement was improved so that clients no longer have to wait for a disconnection notice to receive support.

Performance Measure(s)	2016/17 Actuals	2017/18 Actuals	2018/19 Target	2018/19 Actuals	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
2.1a Number of clients registering for My Self-Serve	35,800	40,000	60,000	91,213	N/A	N/A

Data Source: Service Delivery Division, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

Note: All Fiscal 2018/2019 Actuals are higher than were initially expected due to the system and application process change further details in Discussion below.

Discussion

When the Ministry’s online portal, My Self-Serve (MySS), was implemented provincially to expand the online service delivery channel for Ministry clients, the initial performance measure reflected the total number of clients who chose to register to date. As clients are now required to register as part of their application process, the performance measure no longer provides clear indication of how the ministry meets Objective 2.1. Starting in 2019/20 the Ministry updated the performance measures and future targets to focus on the percentage of clients using MySS.

The ministry continues to leverage and integrate technology into its service delivery model, in order to provide modern, convenient, reliable and secure services.

Objective 2.2: Supplementary supports are available to meet the changing and individual needs of eligible British Columbians.

Key Highlights:

- The Ministry has focused on consistently improving the quality and timeliness of reconsideration decisions through initiatives that include training on the principles of administrative fairness and standardization of the decision-making process.
- The Ministry has implemented changes recommended by the Ombudsperson that include improvements to reconsideration request tracking and monitoring.

Performance Measure(s)	Baseline	2016/17 Actuals	2017/18 Actuals	2018/19 Target	2018/19 Actuals	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
2.2a Percentage of ministry reconsideration decisions confirmed on appeal	90%	92%	94%	90%	88%	90%	90%

Data Source: Source for Baseline is the average of percentages reported in the Employment and Assistance Appeal Tribunal Annual Reports 2011/12-2015/16. Source for Actual is the Employment and Assistance Appeal Tribunal’s CITAR tracking system.

Discussion

The Ministry recognizes that assessing eligibility for assistance can be a complex and sensitive issue and that differences of opinion may arise. The reconsideration process has been established to provide a person with an opportunity to have an eligibility decision reconsidered and is a person’s last opportunity to submit new evidence. The Ministry acknowledges the importance of having an appeal system that is timely and recognizes people’s changing and individual needs and circumstances.

The reconsideration process carefully considers an individual’s particular circumstances and ensures that they receive a new decision which is fair and timely. While slightly fewer decisions were confirmed than the 90% target, the Ministry continues to focus on ensuring the needs of clients are met within the specified legislation.

The Ministry also acknowledges that in some cases people need extra time to obtain documents that support their reconsideration request. People may request an additional 10 business days to obtain those documents before their reconsideration request is adjudicated.

Goal 3: British Columbians with disabilities achieve meaningful independence and inclusion in their communities.

Objective 3.1: Support a comprehensive and integrated system of supports and services for persons with disabilities.

Key Highlights:

- The total amount of earned income exempted increased to \$135 million in 2018/19, an increase of \$20 million or 17 percent.
- 21.1 percent of all Persons with Disabilities cases reported income in at least one month in 2018/19, up slightly from 20.7 percent in 2017/18.
- Continued to implement the [Building a Better B.C. for People with Disabilities](#) action plan and to release progress updates annually, highlighting accessibility achievements made by government, municipalities, local and provincial disability organizations, businesses and individuals to improve the lives of people with disabilities and their families.

Performance Measure(s)	2016/17 Actuals	2017/18 Actuals	2018/19 Target	2018/19 Actuals	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
3.1a Total amount of exempted earnings received by Persons with Disabilities cases.	\$100 million	\$115 million	\$120 million	\$135 million	\$145 million	\$155 million

Data Source: Research Branch, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

Discussion

Since the introduction of the Annualized Earnings Exemption, the amount of income reported and exempted by Persons with Disabilities cases has increased each year. The exemption amounts were also increased in 2017 by \$2,400 for singles and single parents and \$4,800 per year for couples and families where both adults have the Persons with Disabilities designation. This has also contributed to the annual increases in total earnings exempted. The Annualized Earnings Exemption allows clients to keep more of their earnings in the months when they have higher earnings, rather than being penalized as under a monthly exemption. It especially benefits Persons with Disabilities who are only able to work sporadically, by allowing them to keep more of their earnings when they can work.

The targets have been increased since the 2018/19 Service Plan was released due to the impact from the Annualized Earnings Exemption increase on reported earnings and from exempted earnings being higher than predicted.

Goal 4: British Columbians in need are supported to participate in the economy and reach their full potential through employment.

Objective 4.1: Enhance the resilience of families in B.C. to achieve better lives and increasingly positive economic outcomes.

Key Highlights:

- Worked with the Presidents Group, a network of B.C. business leaders, to reduce barriers and increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- The percentage of British Columbians age 19 to 64 who can work but need temporary assistance continues to remain low at 1 percent, largely attributable to a strong labour market and employment supports.
- British Columbians who need to rely on assistance are staying on it longer, likely an indication they are facing more challenges finding employment.

Performance Measure(s)	2016/17 Actuals	2017/18 Actuals	2018/19 Target	2018/19 Actuals	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
4.1a Percentage of the B.C. population aged 19-64 who can work but need temporary assistance ³	1.1%	1.0%	1.1%	1.0%	1.1%	1.1%
4.1b Median number of months clients who can work are in need of temporary assistance ⁴	8.2	9.7	8.0	10 ^e	10.2	10.2

Data Source: ³ Research Branch, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. Note BC Stats regularly revises their population numbers including past population numbers. For consistency and accuracy, this measure is always reported using the most current population data. As a result, there may be changes in the measure from one plan to another due solely to changes in BC Stats population estimates.

⁴ Research Branch, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. Since median durations measure the number of months it takes for half of a cohort of people who can work to no longer need assistance, the measure looks forward in time.

^e Estimated – final 2018/19 numbers will not be available until 2019/20.

Discussion

British Columbia’s economy continues to be strong, with three years of consecutive decline in the unemployment rate. British Columbia’s 4.7 percent unemployment rate in 2018/19 was the lowest since 2007/08. This strong labour market continues to benefit workers in the Province and reduces the percentage of the population that need to rely on income assistance. Despite the solid economy, the percentage of the population 19-64 that can work, but needs temporary assistance, has been relatively constant for the last few years. This indicate that those on assistance likely have barriers to employment.

Median durations measure the number of months it takes for half of new starting clients to leave assistance. Durations on assistance can rise if economic opportunities are limited or because new clients have more barriers to employment.

The median duration of employment obligated clients has risen over the last few years, despite a very strong labour market. This is because those that do need to apply for assistance are likely to be facing more barriers to employment. This increase in median durations is expected to continue, so the targets have been increased upwards.

Objective 4.2: Employment Program of BC clients achieve employment.

Key Highlights:

- Successfully completed procurement of the WorkBC Employment Services, formerly known as Employment Program of BC (EPBC), to provide streamlined, flexible and accessible services that focus on disadvantaged groups and achieving outcomes that make it easier for British Columbians to get and keep good paying jobs. The new program increased points of service within communities, from 84 locations to 103, and offers expanded 24/7 access through virtual Online Employment Services.
- Ministry staff through the WorkBC Employment Services program supported a seamless transition of services and financial supports to approximately 40,000 clients. The successful transition and implementation were attributed to a modern, easy to use website communication channel and the collaborative effort of ministry staff, and dedicated contractors in support of meeting the needs of unemployed British Columbians accessing WorkBC services.
- Close to \$11 million was invested across various Community Employer Partnership (CEP) funding streams in 2018/19, including over \$4.0 million in Job Creation Partnership (JCP) projects and \$4.7 million in Project Based Labour Market Training (PBLMT) projects. The Ministry signed 57 new CEP agreements in 2018/19. Approximately 413 job seekers benefited from work experience and employment training through CEP.
- Provided financial support to over 13,500 unemployed apprentices while they completed classroom apprenticeship training.
- Committed \$3 million in funding to provide access to assistive technology to help individuals with disabilities overcome work-related barriers and thrive in the workplace.

Performance Measure(s)	2016/17 Actuals	2017/18 Actuals	2018/19 Target	2018/19 Actuals	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target
4.2a Percentage of Employment Program of BC case-managed clients who achieve employment.	55%	61%	55%	55%	N/A	N/A

Data Source: Employment and Labour Market Services Division, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. Employment is defined as when a client attains a full-time job (30 or more hours/week) or a part-time job (when part-time employment is desired; less than 30 hours/week), or self-employment (business is implemented and considered operational), after the client has completed all EPBC services.

Discussion

WorkBC Employment Services provided supports and services to over 89,000 British Columbians to help them reach their full potential for better jobs and better lives. Over 70,500 people received personalized case management services, including over 30,000 people with disabilities, over 9,500 indigenous clients, and over 15,500 immigrants.

Enhancements to program practices in recent years continue to have a positive impact on the number of clients achieving employment. At the same time, due to the strong labour market and growing economy, the number of new clients accessing benefits and requiring case managed employment services has steadily declined in the recent years. The number of active clients in case management declined from just under 80,000 in fiscal year 2017/18 to just over 70,500 in 2018/19. Due to these lower active client volumes, the number of clients finding paid employment declined in 2018/19. Part of the employment percentage decline was also due to a significant number of inactive client files being closed in the final year of contracts. However, this drop is not indicative of services delivered in 2018/19 or results for clients.

The contracts for delivery of EPBC services expired on March 31, 2019, leading to the implementation of a new service model known as WorkBC Employment Services. The new, less prescriptive service model focuses on supporting clients in improving their life and employment situation over the long term by delivering client-centered programs, services and supports.

Beginning in 2019/20, the performance measure for WorkBC Employment Services (formerly known as Employment Program of BC) changed. The new measure captures the number of British Columbians who achieve employment after receiving case management through WorkBC Employment Services. This measure better reflects the new service model where the clients may continue receiving case management services after finding employment, until sustainable employment that meets their needs is achieved. The new performance measures and associated targets for 2019/20 and 2020/21 can be found in the [2019/20 – 2020/21 Service Plan](#).

Financial Report

Discussion of Results

For 2018/19, the Ministry met the financial targets set out by the Ministry of Finance. The majority of the Ministry's budget supported Income Assistance which totalled \$2.3 billion in 2018/19, in the following four categories:

- \$393 million for Temporary Assistance;
- \$1.38 billion for Disability Assistance;
- \$405 million for supplementary assistance which includes supplements for low income seniors, medical supplies and equipment, and dental and optical care; and
- \$144 million for program management.

Funding for Employment Programs is mostly provided by the federal government through the Labour Market Development Agreement. Federal contributions in 2018/19 totaled \$325 million while the Province spent \$26 million for employment programs and services. Funding of over \$1 billion was provided for services to adults with developmental disabilities, delivered through the Ministry's service delivery crown agency, Community Living BC and the Ministry program 'Services to Adults with Developmental Disabilities.' In line with government's goal of prudent fiscal management, expenditures for Executive and Support Services were limited to \$13.1 million. Of this, \$1.7 million was spent towards the government supported Basic Income Pilot.

Resource Summary

	Estimated	Other Authorizations	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance ¹
Operating Expenses (\$000)					
Income Assistance²	2,318,986		2,318,986	2,321,067	2,081
Employment³	29,029		29,029	25,576	-3,453
Community Living Services⁴	1,001,261		1,001,261	1,002,198	937
Employment and Assistance Appeal Tribunal	1,800		1,800	1,417	-383
Executive and Support Services	12,651		12,651	13,058	407
Sub-Total	3,363,727	0,000	3,363,727	3,363,316	-411
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual				-718	-718
Total	0,000	0,000	0,000	-718	-718
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)					
Executive and Support Services⁵	1,549		1,549	372	-1,177
Total	1,549	0,000	1,549	372	-1,177

1. Variance represents "Actual" minus "Total Estimated". If "Actual" is greater than "Total Estimated" the variance will be positive.
2. Variance in Income Assistance is due to caseload related pressures.
3. Reflects BC Employment Program costs, net of federal recoveries. Total spend was \$351 million, which included \$26 million provincial and \$325 million recovered federally.
4. Includes direct transfers to Community Living British Columbia (CLBC) and the Ministry's program 'Services to Adults with Developmental Disabilities' (\$4 million).
5. Capital expenditures to support the Employment Program of BC renewal were re-profiled to 2020/21.

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

[Community Living BC](#)

Community Living British Columbia (CLBC) is a crown agency that funds supports and services that meet the disability-related needs of two groups of eligible individuals and their families in British Columbia:

- Adults with a diagnosis of developmental disability. Criteria include age of onset, intellectual functioning and adaptive behaviour.
- Adults who have a diagnosis of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder or autism spectrum disorder (also known as pervasive developmental disorder) and significant limitations in adaptive functioning.

[Employment and Assistance Appeal Tribunal](#)

The Employment and Assistance Appeal Tribunal is an administrative tribunal established under the authority of the [Employment and Assistance Act](#) to provide clients with an efficient and transparent appeal process that is independent from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. The Tribunal hears appeals from decisions made by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction to refuse, reduce or discontinue certain benefits or supplements. The Tribunal also hears appeals from decisions made by the Ministry of Children and Family Development that refuse, reduce or discontinue a subsidy under the [Child Care Subsidy Act](#).

[Poverty Reduction Advisory Committee](#)

The [Poverty Reduction Strategy Act](#) was unanimously passed into law on November 8, 2018. The legislation includes targets and timelines to reduce the overall poverty rate in British Columbia by twenty-five percent and the child poverty rate by fifty percent by 2024. The Act mandates the Minister to establish an advisory committee to advise the Minister on matters relating to poverty reduction and prevention. The Poverty Reduction Advisory Committee will advise the Minister on matters relating to poverty reduction and prevention. This includes providing the Minister with comments to be included in the annual report released by government on actions taken to implement B.C.'s Poverty Reduction Strategy. The committee will also advise on future poverty reduction consultations to ensure consultations are informed by the experiences of persons living in poverty and uphold the commitment to Indigenous peoples.

