

# **Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy**

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## **2020/21 Annual Service Plan Report**

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## Minister's Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2020/21 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the Ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in the *2020/21 – 2022/23 Service Plan* created in February 2020. I am accountable for those results as reported.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "G. Heyman".

Honourable George Heyman  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
July 29, 2021

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## Letter from the Minister

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and the Environmental Assessment Office 2020/21 Annual Service Plan Report. This year was focused on delivering the ministry's mandate while addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. I thank the dedicated staff of the public service and our many partners and stakeholders for their flexibility, creativity and support during this unusual time as we continued to protect our natural environment, work towards lasting and meaningful reconciliation and build a cleaner, stronger economy.

Throughout the pandemic, more people in British Columbia experienced the importance of connecting to nature in our provincial parks. BC Parks responded with improvements such as more camping spaces and better accessibility. Some of that work is being done by young people as part of StrongerBC: BC's Economic Recovery Plan. A youth employment program launched in the summer of 2020 and continuing this year has expanded job opportunities with BC Parks and the Conservation Officer Service, with a focus on diversity and inclusion. To support recreation businesses that were unable to operate during the pandemic, the ministry provided one year of fee forgiveness for park use permits under the *Park Act*.

Other economic recovery projects created additional jobs and contributed to a healthier environment. The Clean Coast, Clean Waters Initiative supported marine tourism operators hard hit by travel restrictions. They took part in a major shoreline cleanup that removed about 127 tonnes of plastic and other marine debris. The program, which continues in 2021, helped coastal communities, First Nations, and businesses, and was another step in protecting our vital marine ecosystems. StrongerBC also supported projects for watershed and ecosystem restoration, with more than one-third of the projects being led by or undertaken in partnership with Indigenous communities.

We continued action on climate change through CleanBC, which included coordinated actions across ministries in every sector. We released B.C.'s first official climate change accountability report in the legislature, set sectoral emissions targets and an interim target for 2025, and released the draft Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy for public comment to help B.C. prepare for climate impacts such as increased wildfires, drought and flooding. The CleanBC Plastics Action Plan promoted the circular economy of plastic, keeping more plastic waste out of landfills and supporting innovation in the use of recycled plastics. The ministry also approved bylaws of nine local governments to limit single-use items like plastic bags and straws.

CleanBC continues to build a cleaner, stronger economy by driving clean technology innovation and jobs and working towards a net-zero emissions future with business, industry, Indigenous partners and many others. By working together, we're building a more prosperous, balanced and sustainable future for everyone.



Honourable George Heyman  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
July 29, 2021

## Purpose of the Annual Service Plan Report

The Annual Service Plan Report 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 acquires, manages, and analyses data on water, land, air and living resources to provide a robust platform for natural resource decision making across the province. 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 through the Environmental Assessment Office. The ministry delivers services directly through staff based in regional offices across the province, as well as through partnerships and agreements with Indigenous peoples, local governments, the federal government, and stakeholder groups.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy delivers its mandate through several key pieces of environmental legislation including the *Environmental Management Act*, the *Integrated Pest Management Act*, the *Park Act*, the *Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act*, the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and the *Environmental Assessment Act*. Minister Heyman is also the Minister responsible for TransLink. A full list of ministry legislation can be found at [BC Laws](#).

## Strategic Direction

The strategic direction set by Government in 2017, and expanded upon in [Minister Heyman's 2017 Mandate Letter](#) shaped the goals, objectives, performance measures and financial plan outlined in the [2020/21 Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Service Plan](#) and the actual results reported on in this annual report.

The global COVID-19 pandemic resulted in many shifts in priorities, structures and operations across the public sector. Any changes to Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy goals, objectives, performance measures or financial plan to align with the strategic direction established by Government in late 2020 are presented in the 2021/22 Service Plan.

## Operating Environment

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy successfully responded to a number of unique events in fiscal year 2020/21. Like all of government, the ministry addressed the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which continued throughout fiscal year 2020/21. The ministry ensured all mission-critical responsibilities were prioritized and fully resourced, including support for the Ministry Operations Centre for the natural resource ministries (housed in the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development).

Due to feedback from local communities and First Nations, guidance from the Public Health Officer, and concerns about the inability to ensure social distancing in provincial parks, one of the immediate actions from the ministry was to plan and implement a closure of the entire BC Parks system. Most parks reopened in May/June 2020 but there are some parks that remain closed. The BC Parks system, once re-opened, experienced a significant increase in visitation as British Columbians sought safe spaces to exercise and recreate.

In early April 2020, the Province introduced COVID-19 border screening measures, unprecedented in Canada, to help ensure British Columbians returning home from international destinations had the support they need to manage self-isolation plans and keep B.C. communities safe. Many of the ministry's Conservation Officers were redeployed to the border to help process the more than 72,400 passengers who arrived at the Vancouver Airport or at 17 land border crossings into B.C. between April 10 - June 15, 2020, when the Province transitioned COVID-19 border screening to the federal government.

British Columbia's economy declined in 2020, as the negative impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic pushed economies all over the world into deep recessions. B.C.'s real GDP contraction of 3.8 percent was the fourth smallest among provinces (behind Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick). The decline in B.C.'s real GDP was almost entirely driven by service-producing industries, while goods-producing industries had modest declines. Output in the arts, entertainment and recreation, accommodation and food services and transportation were some of the main drivers of the decrease in the service sector. In B.C.'s goods-producing sector declines in manufacturing and natural resources were partially offset by increases in the construction sector. Employment in B.C. decreased by 6.6 percent in 2020. However, wages and salaries remained relatively stable compared to 2019 as low wage workers accounted for the majority of job losses. Retail trade increased by 1.3 percent in 2020, while consumer prices increased by 0.8 percent. Residential construction activity slowed but remained relatively strong, with housing starts declining in 2020 after experiencing all-time highs in 2019. In contrast, after declining for three consecutive years home sales reached record levels in late 2020. On the external front, global international trade experienced significant disruptions as the pandemic unfolded. B.C.'s international merchandise exports contracted in 2020 reflecting a combination of weaker global demand and lower commodity prices.

## **Report on Performance: Goals, Objectives, Measures and Targets**

### **Goal 1: Effective protection and conservation of the environment**

The ministry works to protect the environment by managing environmental risks to B.C.'s water, land, air and living resources. On the conservation side, the ministry works to assess, set priorities and determine actions for the conservation and recovery of plants, ecosystems and animals, which includes taking steps to bring in environmental mitigation and offsetting across the natural resource sector, as well as additional mechanisms to protect species at risk. Protection and conservation are supported by actions to continually improve the systems that govern natural resource decision making and the sustainable use of B.C.'s natural capital.

### **Objective 1.1: Clean and safe water, land and air**

#### **Key Highlights**

- The Clean Coast, Clean Waters Initiative, led by the Small Ship Tour Operators Association of B.C. in partnership with Indigenous nations and local communities, removed approximately 127 tonnes of plastic and other marine debris from the shorelines of B.C.'s central coast and Queen Charlotte Sound.
- The Organic Infrastructure Program, a partnership between the Province, the federal government, and local governments provided funding for two additional projects in 2020/21 to invest in new or expanded community organics processing infrastructure: one in the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District and one in partnership with Tla'amin Nation. In total, 16 projects are receiving funding under the program.
- In partnership with the State of Alaska and various Indigenous nations, completed a four-year collaborative effort to collect, summarize, and distribute water quality and related data on the Stikine, Taku, and Unuk transboundary watersheds.
- Launched several initiatives to inform the public of water and air quality data, including the Canada-BC Water Quality Monitoring Agreement website and interactive map, and the SMS air quality subscription service which broadcasts real-time, public health-related air quality advisories and smoky skies bulletins via text.
- The Environmental Emergency Program began developing regulations to address response time planning standards and Geographic Response Plan requirements for inter-provincial pipelines and railroads transporting hazardous materials. The development of these regulations will ensure transporters prepare for timely responses following a spill and resources are available to support immediate response.
- As part of a comprehensive approach to protect drinking water for British Columbians, the ministry developed new interim considerations for landfills wishing to begin accepting contaminated soils or increase the quantities of contaminated soils they currently accept.



Performance Measures	2015/16 Baseline	2019/20 Actuals	2020/21 Target	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
1.1a Per capita municipal solid waste disposal (kg per person) <sup>1</sup>	497	501 <sup>2</sup>	350	480 <sup>3</sup>	350 <sup>4</sup>	350 <sup>4</sup>
1.1b Percent of population covered by an organic waste disposal restriction <sup>2</sup>	64.3%	67%	75%	74%	75%	80%

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

<sup>1</sup> Kg per person data is based on the calendar year, so 2019/20 target is based on calendar year 2019, 2020/21 target is based on calendar year 2020, etc.

<sup>2</sup> In the 2019/2020 Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Annual Service Plan Report, 480 kg was reported as a forecast, and has been updated to 501 kg from the actual data reported.

<sup>3</sup> Figure for 2020/21 is estimated; actual result will be confirmed in November 2021 and published in the 2021/22 Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Annual Service Plan Report.

<sup>4</sup> The future targets for Performance Measure 1.1a were updated in the [2021/22-2023/24 Service Plan](#).

## Discussion of Results

The per capita disposal rate is an estimate of how many kilograms (kg) of solid waste, on average, each person sends to a landfill or other disposal site in a given calendar year. Over time, the ministry's goal is to see this measure decrease. Regional districts have reported their disposal data to the Province and the overall provincial disposal rate for 2019 is 501 kg/person, a decrease of 4 kg/person from the previous year (2018), but still above the target of 350 kg/person. Rationale for the higher than expected disposal rate has been suggested by regional districts to include strong economic activity (e.g., active real estate markets leading to continued increases in building demolition and renovation waste, and high tourism) in some regional districts.

While B.C. continues to progress in waste reduction and is a leader in Canada, the province is not on track to meet the target of 350 kg/person by 2020/21. New provincial initiatives have been introduced to decrease waste disposal rates including organics diversion infrastructure, food waste prevention, the Plastics Action Plan, and approval of updated extended producer responsibility program plans.

Organic waste represents approximately 40 percent of all waste currently sent for disposal. The calculations for organic waste disposal restrictions are based on municipalities with both food waste and yard waste restrictions for the residential and commercial sectors. This target is supported by both the Organics Infrastructure Program and CleanBC Organic Infrastructure and Collection Program, which will reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by diverting increased amounts of organic waste from material that is currently being sent to landfills. For 2020, 74 percent of the province was covered by organic waste disposal restrictions which was up from 67 percent in 2019.

## Objective 1.2: Healthy and diverse ecosystems, native species and habitats

### Key Highlights

- B.C. and Canada launched the development of a new bilateral Nature Agreement to strengthen conservation province-wide and explore new ways to protect and restore

habitat and strengthen ecosystem resilience to climate change. This included immediate action to support the recovery of the Spotted Owl with \$2 million in federal funding and identified joint projects to inform federal and provincial species at risk policy.

- Led the planning and management of programs to address priority invasive species, including feral pigs and zebra and quagga mussels. Aquatic Invasive Species inspectors with the Conservation Officer Service (COS) checked watercraft at inspection stations throughout the province to prevent invasive mussels from entering B.C. waterways. They also implemented an Early Detection Rapid Response Plan to mitigate the immediate risks of invasive mussels being unintentionally released through contaminated moss ball shipments associated with the pet and aquarium trade.
- Completed updates and publication of several State of Environment Indicators for B.C., including: Ground-Level Ozone, Fine Particulate Matter, Trends in Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Trends in Forest Tree Seed Use, Trends in Silviculture, Grizzly Bear Conservation Ranking, and Municipal Solid Waste Disposal.
- To protect ecologically sensitive areas, promote biodiversity and enhance recreation opportunities, over 40,588 hectares of land throughout B.C. were acquired as additions to the parks and protected areas system. This includes the new 5,306 hectare Tsaa Nuna Conservancy in the Peace Region, where Halfway River First Nation traditionally teaches youth about the natural environment, practices cultural and spiritual customs, and hunts and gathers food.
- To minimize the risk of human-wildlife conflicts, the COS worked with municipalities and partner agencies, such as WildSafeBC, to help deliver important messaging as well as the Bear Smart program - a major component of community-based proactive conflict reduction. In 2020/21, Conservation Officers spent more than 2,000 hours on attractant-related audits, patrols and investigations, resulting in 392 Dangerous Wildlife Protection Orders, 137 violation tickets and 405 written warnings.

Performance Measures	2017/18 Baseline	2019/20 Actuals	2020/21 Target	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
1.2 Number of protected area complexes <sup>1</sup> with completed conservation assessments <sup>2,3</sup>	0	0	1	1	2	3

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

<sup>1</sup> Protected area complexes are clusters of protected areas larger than 2,700km<sup>2</sup> in size which are capable of maintaining populations of disturbance-sensitive mammals.

<sup>2</sup> Targets are cumulative.

<sup>3</sup> This performance measure was changed in the [2021/22-2023/24 Service Plan](#).

## Discussion of Results

The first conservation assessment for the Garibaldi complex was completed and released in 2020/21. Two more draft assessments for northern complexes are also near completion and are in the process of being finalized before release. All BC Parks conservation assessments are made available at [https://bcparks.ca/conservation/con\\_info.html](https://bcparks.ca/conservation/con_info.html).

Over the past three years, BC Parks' conservation assessment pilot has provided valuable learning for the organization, but assessments have taken considerably more time and resources to complete than initially expected. The ministry has decided to remove this performance measure regarding BC Parks conservation assessments, and over the next fiscal year will develop a new measure related to biodiversity. BC Parks will continue to conduct conservation assessments selectively, but has elected not to produce them at a rate consistent with a ministry performance measure.

### Objective 1.3: Sustainable use of British Columbia's natural capital

#### Key Highlights

- The ministry continues to prioritize follow-up inspections at sites where non-compliances have previously been identified. In 2020/21, 214 inspections were conducted specifically in response to previously issued warnings (compared to 149 in 2019/20). As well, 69 inspection reports were referred for an administrative penalty in 2020/21 (compared to 62 in 2019/20).
- Significant rise in recreation use during the pandemic despite a six-week parks closure, with over 280,000 camping reservations made through the Discover Camping reservation service, resulting in 11 percent growth over the previous year.
- Continued investment in new campsites, with 46 completed in 2020/21, resulting in 737 new campsites from 2017 to 2021.
- Continued support for the ICBC/BC Parks License Plate Program yielded close to \$5.7 million in 2020/21. Funding from the sale of more than 250,000 licence plates to date has supported over 275 projects since the program began in 2017, with over 89 projects in 2020/21 focusing on Indigenous partnerships, conservation, wildfire prevention, and community engagement and education.
- As part of ongoing efforts to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts and protect natural resources in traditional territories, the COS works collaboratively with Indigenous communities. As a part of this approach, the COS co-developed Enforcement Memoranda of Understanding with the Yunesit'in Government (Stone) and ?Esdilagh First Nation. The COS also delivered four introductory training sessions to First Nations Guardian programs, which resulted in 34 new Indigenous Guardians.

Performance Measure	2014/15 Baseline	2019/20 Actuals	2020/21 Target	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
1.3 Number of inspections conducted under the <i>Environmental Management Act</i> <sup>1</sup>	711	1168	2000	994	2000	2000

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

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

<sup>2</sup> The future targets for this performance measure were updated in the [2021/22-2023/24 Service Plan](#).

## Discussion of Results

While the ministry did not reach its performance target of 2,000 inspections under the *Environmental Management Act*, the ministry had a number of successes in compliance activities. The ministry responded to over 1,048 complaints under the regulatory framework of the *Environmental Management Act* and the *Integrated Pest Management Act*, with 92 percent responded to within one week. In addition to conducting inspections, the ministry issued 61 administrative penalties with a total value of \$692,800 and expects this amount to increase in 2021/22. Many factors influenced the number of inspections, including balancing resourcing (turn-over, attrition and staff supporting various emergencies), 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, complex sites and a predictable, fair and consistently applied escalating approach to non-compliances.

## Goal 2: A sustainable, resilient low-carbon economy

The ministry works to reduce carbon pollution while developing and implementing measures that will create clean and diverse economic growth.

### Objective 2.1: Implement a climate action strategy that provides a pathway for B.C. to prosper economically while significantly reducing our carbon pollution

#### Key Highlights

- Continued to implement CleanBC and developed new GHG mitigation policies to support StrongerBC: BC's Economic Recovery Plan.
- Committed carbon tax revenues of \$33 million to 19 new emission reduction projects (with industry and partners contributing an additional \$51 million) across the province through the CleanBC Industry Fund, reducing emissions and supporting clean development opportunities for industry.
- Released the 2020 Climate Change Accountability Report which is the first report required under the *Climate Change Accountability Act* (CCAA) and a key part of the government's accountability on climate action in the province.

- As required by the CCAA, the Province established a new economy-wide interim greenhouse gas emission reduction target for 2025 of a 16 percent reduction from 2007 levels and 2030 sectoral emission reduction targets for four sectors:
  - 33-38 percent for oil and gas
  - 38-43 percent for industry
  - 59-64 percent for buildings and communities
  - 27-32 percent for transportation.

Performance Measure	2018/19 Baseline	2019/20 Actuals	2020/21 Target	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
2.1 <a href="#">CleanBC</a> implementation <sup>1</sup>	Release CleanBC	Began phased implementation of CleanBC (75% of 2030 target)	For the remaining 25% of 2030 target – begin/continue to implement policies modelled to achieve 30% of target	Continued implementation of CleanBC measures. Initial work on plan to achieve remaining reductions required for 2030 target	For the remaining 25% of 2030 target – begin/continue to implement policies modelled to achieve 50% of target <sup>2</sup>	For the remaining 25% of 2030 target – begin/continue to implement policies modelled to achieve 60% of target <sup>2</sup>

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

<sup>1</sup> CleanBC is the Province's plan to reduce carbon pollution and use clean energy to create new opportunities across the province to power and strengthen B.C.'s economy.

<sup>2</sup> The future targets for this performance measure were updated in the [2021/22-2023/24 Service Plan](#).

## Discussion of Results

The pandemic created immediate operational impacts and caused longer-term uncertainty that necessarily led the ministry to delay development and implementation of new climate policies to achieve its legislated targets. As a result, the ministry did not fully meet the target of implementing policies modelled to achieve 30 percent of the remaining required reductions to reach the 2030 target.

Additionally, based on the data in the 2020 [Climate Change Accountability Report](#), and current assumptions and forecasts, there is actually a gap of 28-44 percent to achieve the 2030 targets. This means more actions than originally planned will be needed to achieve the 2030 targets. The ministry is still committed to achieving the 2030 targets, and this year will create a roadmap to meet them.

## Objective 2.2: Effective management of the risks and consequences associated with a changing climate

### Key Highlights

- Completed engagement sessions with Indigenous nations, communities and organizations, non-government organizations, academia, local governments, youth, industry, and labour organizations on the draft Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy (CPAS).

- Collaborated across government and with the Indigenous Climate Adaptation Technical Working Group to develop the language, proposed actions and guiding principles for the draft CPAS.
- Completed a preliminary pilot project with Metro Vancouver related to assessing risk and understanding impacts of climate on service delivery.
- Supported the First Peoples' Cultural Council to complete three pilot projects to assess the impacts of climate change on Indigenous cultural heritage and provide advice to government on including Indigenous values and perspectives in climate risk assessment.

Performance Measures	2019/20 Actuals	2020/21 Target	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
2.2 Provincial Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy developed and implemented	N/A	CPAS 100% developed	CPAS 75% developed	30% of the Provincial Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy implemented <sup>1</sup>	50% of the Provincial Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy implemented <sup>1</sup>

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

<sup>1</sup> The future targets for this performance measure were updated in the [2021/22-2023/24 Service Plan](#).

## Discussion of Results

The development and public release of the CPAS was delayed due to the disruptions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The [CPAS Phase 1](#) was released in June 2021. Further engagement, analysis and pilot studies on CPAS implementation will be completed throughout 2021/22. The CPAS Phase 2 is targeted for release in Spring 2022.

### **Goal 3: Thorough, timely, transparent and impartial environmental assessments**

The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) has implemented a revitalized environmental assessment process that ensures the legal rights of Indigenous nations are respected and the public's expectation of a thorough, timely, transparent and impartial process are met. This includes collaborating with Indigenous nations in relation to reviewable projects, consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The new *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) offers clear pathways to sustainable project approvals and promotes sustainability by protecting the environment and fostering a sound economy and the well-being of British Columbians and their communities.

British Columbia has also signed a new cooperation agreement with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, setting out the administrative framework that supports jurisdictions working together to achieve “one project; one assessment” and ensuring that projects requiring both federal and provincial assessments are conducted as efficiently as possible. Federal and provincial ministers will continue to make independent decisions on whether to issue an Environmental Assessment Certificate.

#### **Objective 3.1: Implement the revitalized environmental assessment process**

##### **Key Highlights**

- Began environmental assessments (EAs) under the new EAA for five projects. Completed a number of other processes under the new EAA including project notifications, amendment assessments and environmental assessment certificate extensions.
- Developed outreach and engagement products to support the EAA, including a new User Guide, improvements to the EAO Project Information Centre, a Reviewable Projects Regulation Interpretation Guide, a video about EAO and EAs, updated Frequently Asked Questions related to the EAA, and revised web content.
- Developed an extensive learning and development curriculum for all EA participants to introduce the new EAA and process, which included an interactive webinar session on the EAA via a YouTube broadcast, attended by over 400 participants.
- Convened a bilateral committee between the EAO and the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada to oversee implementation of the cooperation agreement and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of cooperative projects. Provided strategic support to three projects undergoing cooperative assessments by British Columbia and Canada.
- Began negotiations with a number of Indigenous nations across a range of opportunities to create efficient EA processes that support reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in British Columbia and meet the individual needs of the Nations. For example, British Columbia and Lake Babine Nation began co-developing a Collaboration Agreement under Section 41 of the EAA.

Performance Measure	2019/20 Actuals	2020/21 Target	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
3.1 <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> phased implementation	N/A <sup>1</sup>	<b>Phase 2</b> Regulations and/or policies that enhance functionality of the act	<b>Phase 2</b> Regulations and/or policies that enhance functionality of the act	<b>Phase 3</b> Regulations and/or policies that complete functionality of the act <sup>2</sup>	Conduct interim review of revitalized EA process <sup>2</sup>

Data source: Environmental Assessment Office, manually compiled.

<sup>1</sup>The performance measure for 2019/20 did not relate to phased implementation of the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

<sup>2</sup>The future targets for this performance measure were updated in the [2021/22-2023/24 Service Plan](#).

## Discussion of Results

Phase 2 regulations were passed ahead of schedule in March 2020, which was previously reported. Several new policies and guidance documents were completed and posted publicly on the EAO's website in 2020 and 2021. These were essential to continue the implementation of the revitalized EA process. Numerous projects have been completed or are undergoing processes under the new EAA.



## Financial Report

### Discussion of Results

While continuing to deliver programs to support environmental protection and sustainability, as well as services provided by BC Parks and the Conservation Officer Service, the ministry also developed and supported new programs and projects as part of the StrongerBC: BC's Economic Recovery Plan.

Programs totalling \$64.6M were funded by accessing the Pandemic Response and Economic Recovery contingencies vote. These programs included the following:

- \$27M to help conserve and restore watersheds through an economic recovery stimulus program of more than 40 projects province-wide that includes women and youth—many of which were led by, or undertaken in partnership with Indigenous communities.
- \$14.8M to support economic recovery and the results of the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan engagement by providing jobs for removing plastics, illegally dumped debris, and derelict vessels from coastlines.
- \$10M to deliver more than 65 species and ecosystem conservation and restoration projects proposed by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development that cover both terrestrial and aquatic environments.
- \$5M to stimulate manufacturing across the plastics supply chain and increase local processing capacity while increasing the use of recycled plastics in manufacturing.
- \$1.8M to provide employment to under-represented youth groups in the province within the BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service in support of workforce diversity.
- \$6M to support the operationalization of the Public Health Officer's directives in relation to physical distancing and safe use of public spaces by park operators.

The ministry also contributed \$337.9M from Federal and Provincial Pandemic support funding in support of the TransLink Safe Restart program to ensure the people of the Lower Mainland have access to important transit when they need it, but also that fares will be kept affordable.

The ministry continued to work with industry and others across the province to reduce pollution, improve efficiency and adopt new technologies while staying globally competitive through the CleanBC Program for Industry which required \$48.7M of contingency funding this year.

The ministry also required \$1.7M in contingency funding for Organics Infrastructure Program as part of its participation in the Pan-Canadian Low Carbon Economy Fund Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change to meet emissions reduction targets, grow the economy, and build resilience to a changing climate.

In addition, an aggregate \$1.2M access to contingency was required to maintain agreements with Recycle BC and News Media Canada to ensure compliance with the Recycling Regulation and to address service gaps in “blue box” collection in communities across the province.

In keeping with the Deputy Minister's January 2020 certification that the response to an incident on northern Vancouver Island was eligible for funding under Section 88 of the *Environmental Management Act*, \$10.9M of spill clean up costs were eligible for statutory authority above the ministry appropriation.

## Financial Summary

	Estimated	Other Authorizations <sup>1</sup>	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>					
Environmental Protection	12,935	33,728	46,663	44,454	(2,209)
Environmental Sustainability	22,669	37,000	59,669	59,664	(5)
BC Parks	40,682	6,981	47,663	46,176	(1,487)
Conservation Officer Services	19,014	815	19,829	22,322	2,493
Climate Action	12,883	-	12,883	12,039	(844)
Clean BC	55,365	48,744	104,109	104,109	0
Executive and Support Services	24,584	337,900	362,484	364,535	2,051
Park Enhancement Fund	9,000	-	9,000	7,199	(1,801)
Sustainable Environment Fund	26,032	1,069	27,101	27,101	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>223,164</b>	<b>466,237</b>	<b>689,401</b>	<b>687,599</b>	<b>(1,802)</b>
Environmental Assessment Office	14,712	-	14,712	13,055	(1,657)
Information, Innovation, Technology	6,770	-	6,770	6,766	(4)
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>21,482</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21,482</b>	<b>19,821</b>	<b>(1,661)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>244,646</b>	<b>466,237</b>	<b>710,883</b>	<b>707,420</b>	<b>(3,463)</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (\$000)</b>					
Executive and Support Services	24,521	11,280	35,801	35,801	-
Park Enhancement Fund	400	-	400	280	(120)
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,921</b>	<b>11,280</b>	<b>36,201</b>	<b>36,081</b>	<b>(120)</b>
<b>Other Financing Transactions (\$000)</b>					
<b>Climate Action: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Offsets (Purchase)</b>					
Receipts	-	-	-	-	-
Disbursements	10,000	-	10,000	10,000	-
<b>Total Net Cash Requirements (Source)</b>	<b>(10,000)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(10,000)</b>	<b>(10,000)</b>	<b>-</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.

## Appendix A: Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Tribunals

As of August 9, 2021, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is responsible and accountable for the following:

- [Climate Solutions and Clean Growth Advisory Council](#)

The Climate Solutions and Clean Growth Advisory Council (the Council) was created in October 2017. The Council provides strategic advice to government on climate action and clean economic growth. It includes members from First Nations, environmental organizations, industry, academia, youth, labour and local government. The Council supports a steady and committed approach to climate action that drives down emissions, increases economic opportunities and improves community resilience.

- [TransLink](#)

TransLink, officially recognized as the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority, delivers a wide range of services and programs to meet the transportation needs of 2.5 million people in Metro Vancouver. These include bus, SeaBus, SkyTrain, Canada Line, West Coast Express, and HandyDART services. TransLink also funds a dedicated Transit Police force, operates and maintains five of the region's bridges, and, in conjunction with local governments, shares responsibility for the Major Road Network, as well as walking and cycling infrastructure. Minister Heyman is the Minister responsible for TransLink.

- [Mackenzie River Basin Board](#)

The Mackenzie River Basin Board was created in 1997 by the Transboundary Waters Master Agreement (the Agreement) between the Government of Canada, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon and Northwest Territories. The Mackenzie River Basin Board was established to implement the Agreement. The board has 13 members, three representing the federal government and ten representing the provinces and territories. One member from each of the provinces and territories represents an Indigenous perspective.

According to the Agreement, the Board's key responsibilities are to:

- Provide a forum for communication, coordination, information exchange, notification and consultation among all six jurisdictions and the public,
- Recommend uniform objectives or guidelines for the quality and quantity of the water resources,
- Encourage consistent monitoring programs,
- Monitor the progress of implementing the bilateral water management agreements between neighbouring jurisdictions,
- Submit a report on the state of the aquatic ecosystem every five years to the federal, provincial and territorial Ministers, and
- Carry out studies and investigations, as required.