

Office of the Premier

2020/21 Annual Service Plan Report



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Minister's Accountability Statement



The *Office of the Premier 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 "John J. Horgan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Honourable John Horgan
Premier
August 3, 2021

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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 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 government. In addition, it supports the Cabinet decision-making process. As a central agency, the Office of the Premier facilitates effective policy coordination across the public service and ensures a strategic and corporate level approach is undertaken in 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 of the Premier:

- 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 be a top employer that maintains and enhances public trust, builds capacity, increases competitiveness, and manages for results.
- Provides support for the operations and decision-making processes of Cabinet and its committees.
- Works directly with the federal, provincial and territorial governments, with governments in other countries and with all ministries and Crown agencies to advance British Columbia's interests.

Strategic Direction

The strategic direction set by Government in 2017 shaped the goals, objectives, performance measures and financial plan outlined in the [2020/21 Office of the Premier 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 the Office of the Premier 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

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 per cent 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 per cent 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 per cent in 2020, while consumer prices increased by 0.8 per cent. 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: Establish government goals, commitments and strategic priorities

Objective 1.1: Establish government goals, commitments and strategic priorities

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

Key Highlights

- 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	2019/20 Actuals	2020/21 Target	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
1.1 Number of members of Deputy Ministers’ Council that are meeting performance expectations. ¹	27	27	32	27	27

Data source: Deputy Minister’s Office

¹Targets were changed in the [2021/22 Service Plan](#) to reflect a change in the number of Deputy Ministers

Discussion of Results

Deputy Ministers met regularly with the Deputy Minister to the Premier to discuss goals and issues within their ministries. 32 members of the Deputy Ministers’ Council met performance expectations.

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

Objective 2.1: Lead the Executive Council

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

Key Highlights

- Cabinet submissions focused on ensuring cross-government alignment with government’s priorities and objectives.
- 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	2019/20 Actuals	2020/21 Target	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
2.1 Cabinet receives timely advice on all key public policy recommendations and plans.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Data source: Cabinet Operations

Discussion of Results

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: Works directly with the federal, provincial and territorial governments, with governments in other countries and with all ministries and Crown agencies to ensure that external government relations advance British Columbia’s interests.

The Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat advances British Columbia’s priorities through leadership in intergovernmental partnerships and international relations.

Key Highlights

- Facilitated intensive cooperation and coordination among Canada’s Premiers and First Ministers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Negotiated the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Safe Restart Agreement, which provided B.C. with almost \$2 billion in federal funding to protect public health and safety and support the safe reopening of the economy in the midst of a pandemic.
- Worked closely with the federal government to ensure B.C.’s interests were conveyed, including advocating for B.C.’s shipbuilding industry.
- Worked closely with neighbouring U.S. jurisdictions to respond to challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and closure of the Canada-U.S. border, while protecting public health and preserving economic linkages.
- Advanced the development of an innovative and resilient economy through B.C.’s participation in the Pacific Coast Collaborative and the Pacific NorthWest Economic Regions (PNWER).
- Worked with international jurisdiction on donations of personal protective equipment at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic when B.C.’s supplies were low.
- Delivered B.C.’s international objectives by hosting 45 virtual meetings and briefings with foreign dignitaries and members of the Consular Corps. The virtual meetings focused on collaboration on COVID-19 response, enhanced trade, climate action, international education, clean technology, value-added wood products, agriculture and mineral exploration.
- Enhanced delivery of French-language services to members of B.C.’s francophone community in priority areas such as COVID-19 government response and community engagement, and in the areas of social services, early learning, justice, economic development, arts and culture, and communication.

Performance Measure(s)	2019/20 Actuals	2020/21 Target	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
3.1 Progress on key intergovernmental objectives.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Data source: Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat

Discussion of Results

The Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat (IGRS) provided timely advice and support to Premier and Cabinet in their engagement with federal government, provincial/territorial governments, and other heads of state and governments. IGRS participated in negotiations leading up to meetings, ensured B.C.’s interests were represented in agendas and created strategic alliances, as required, to advance priorities. IGRS has also significantly increased its activities regarding community and stakeholder relationships, particularly in the period of COVID-19.

Financial Summary

	Estimated	Other Authorizations ¹	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses (\$000)					
Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat	3,258		3,258	3,168	(90)
Cabinet Operations	1,788		1,788	1,896	108
Executive and Support Services	6,288		6,288	6,139	(149)
Premier's Office	3,600		3,600	3,800	200
Corporate Services	2,688		2,688	2,339	(349)
Sub-total	11,334	0	11,334	11,203	(131)
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual ²	0		0	0	0
Total	11,334	0	11,334	11,203	(131)
Ministry Capital Expenditures (\$000)					
By Core Business	1		1	0	(1)
Total	1	0	1	0	(1)
Capital Plan (\$000)					
By Core Business (and Purpose)	0		0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0
Other Financing Transactions (\$000)					
By Core Business (and Purpose)					
Receipts	(0)		(0)	(0)	(0)
Disbursements	0		0	0	0
Net Cash Requirements (Source)	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	(0)		(0)	(0)	(0)
Total Disbursements	0		0	0	0
Total Net Cash Requirements (Source)	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.