

# Office of the Premier

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## 2021/22 Annual Service Plan Report

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## Minister's Accountability Statement



The *Office of the Premier 2021/22 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the Ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in the *2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan* created in April 2021. 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  
July 22, 2022

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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 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 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 our competitiveness, and manages for results.
- Provides support for the operations and decision-making processes of Cabinet and its committees; and
- Works directly with the federal, provincial, and territorial governments in other countries 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 strategic direction set by Government in 2020, and government's coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic shaped the goals, objectives, performance measures and financial plan outlined in the [Office of the Premier 2021/22 - 2023/24 Service Plan](#) and the actual results reported on in this annual report.

## Operating Environment

In 2021/22 British Columbians continued to face significant challenges because of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The Government of British Columbia continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of the people in this province. Government had identified five foundational principles that will inform each ministry's work and contribution to COVID recovery: Putting people first, lasting, and meaningful reconciliation, equity and anti-racism, a better future through fighting climate change and meeting our greenhouse gas reduction commitments, and a strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, government's priority was making sure British Columbians were safe and had access to the critical services and supports they rely on. This will continue to be the priority until the pandemic is over. Government is also supporting ongoing response and recovery initiatives in communities impacted by weather events in 2021. The fiscal stimulus proposed in *Budget 2020* guided government's actions in its response to the pandemic and other weather-related emergencies.

British Columbia's economic recovery strengthened in 2021. B.C.'s real GDP growth of 6.2 per cent was the second highest among provinces (behind Prince Edward Island), following a contraction of 3.4 per cent in 2020. Growth in B.C.'s real GDP was mostly driven by service-producing industries such as real estate, rental and leasing, healthcare and social assistance, and professional, scientific, and technical services. Goods-producing industries also experienced growth with gains in most sectors, led by mining, quarrying and oil and gas extraction. While B.C.'s recovery broadened in 2021, it remained uneven as sectors such as accommodation and food services, and arts, entertainment and recreation have yet to fully recover to pre-pandemic levels. B.C.'s labour market strengthened in 2021, with employment growth of 6.6 per cent while wages and salaries increased by 11.3 per cent. Consumer spending on goods remained at elevated levels and nominal retail sales posted overall growth of 12.6 per cent. Meanwhile, inflation grew throughout the year and increased by 2.8 per cent on an annual basis, largely due to supply-chain disruptions, resilient demand for goods and services, and high energy prices. Residential construction activity reached a record high in 2021, with housing starts increasing by 25.6 per cent. At the same time, home sales also reached a record high in 2021 while the average home sale price saw double-digit increases. On the external front, B.C.'s international merchandise exports grew by 36.0 per cent, reflecting a combination of the recovery in global demand and higher commodity prices amid impacts from the B.C. floods and landslides in November 2021.

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

### Goal 1: Establish government goals, commitments, and strategic priorities

#### Objective 1: Establish government goals, commitments, and strategic priorities

Provide a government -wide focus on fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, providing better health care, delivering affordability and security, and investing in good jobs and livelihoods including in a clean energy future.

#### 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.
- With the support of the Planning and Priorities Secretariat, the Premier's Office determined the priority sequence for the implementation of government goals, commitments, and priorities aligned with the government's fiscal and delivery capacity.

Performance Measure(s)	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actuals	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
1.1 Number of members of Deputy Ministers' Council that are meeting performance expectations	32	32	32	32	32

Data source: Deputy Minister's Office

#### 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 continues throughout the year.

- Cabinet and cabinet committee decision-making was accurately recorded.

Performance Measure(s)	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actuals	2022/23 Target	2023/24 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: Work 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

- Established with the federal government a joint committee on Disaster Response and Climate Resilience to coordinate response and recovery efforts following the devastating weather events of the past year. The federal government has confirmed \$5 billion in funding for flooding and wildfire recovery. Additional federal supports were also set aside for farmers who experienced severe drought.
- As Chair of the Council of the Federation, led intensive cooperation and coordination among Canada's Premiers on important aspects of pandemic response and recovery, and a united call from Premiers for a long-term, sustainable increase to health care funding that would allow greater access to health services.
- Deepened cooperation with Washington State via collaboration on key priorities, including developing a joint response to flooding related to the Nooksack River; signing of an agreement to ensure the preservation and protection of the natural and cultural resources as well as recreational opportunities within the Silverdaisy area of the Skagit watershed in January 2022; and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in November 2021 with both Washington and Oregon reaffirming a shared commitment to developing a sustainable Cascadia Innovation Corridor, and establishing ultra-high-speed transportation as a regional priority.



- Advancing B.C.'s climate action trade diversification goals through international collaboration, B.C. signed a Declaration of Intent with the State of North Rhine-Westphalia in Germany in October 2021; B.C.'s first agreement with a subnational government in Europe.
- Advanced B.C.'s international, cultural, economic, and social objectives by delivering 68 virtual meetings and in-person meetings with foreign dignitaries and Canadian officials posted abroad. These included 46 meetings with Consuls General; 16 with Ambassadors or High Commissioners posted to Canada; and six with delegations.
- Enhanced delivery of French-language services to members of B.C.'s francophone community in priority sectors such as social services, early learning, justice, economic development, arts and culture, and communication.

Performance Measure(s)	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actuals	2022/23 Target	2023/24 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 the 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.

## Financial Summary

	Estimated	Other Authorizations <sup>1</sup>	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>					
Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat	3,478	0	3,478	3,422	(56)
Cabinet Operations	2,097	0	2,097	1,746	(351)
Planning and Priorities Secretariat	1,605	0	1,605	1,396	(209)
Executive and Support Services	7,498	0	7,498	6,748	(750)
Premier's Office	4,810	0	4,810	4,283	(527)
Corporate Services	2,688	0	2,688	2,465	(223)
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>14,678</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14,678</b>	<b>13,312</b>	<b>(1,366)</b>
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,678</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14,678</b>	<b>13,312</b>	<b>(1,366)</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>					
Executive and Support Services	1	0	1	0	(1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(1)</b>
<b>Capital Plan (\$000)</b>					
By Core Business (and Purpose)	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Other Financing Transactions (\$000)</b>					
By Core Business (and Purpose)	0	0	0	0	0
Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Disbursements	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Net Cash Requirements (Source)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Net Cash Requirements (Source)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</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.