

**Ministry of
Public Safety and
Solicitor General**

**2021/22
Annual Service Plan Report**



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Minister's Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 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 "Mike Farnworth". The signature is stylized and fluid, written over a white background.

Honourable Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
July 26, 2022

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Letter from the Minister

I am pleased to introduce this *2021/22 Annual Service Plan Report* for the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

Throughout 2021/22, British Columbians continued to face significant challenges resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. With a 16-month provincial state of emergency in effect until July 1, 2021, Emergency Management BC continued to coordinate the Province's response, working closely with the Provincial Health Officer and other ministries to support the health and well-being of British Columbians. This was done through implementing emergency orders as needed, including mask requirements in indoor settings, restrictions on gatherings, events and non-essential travel, and enforcement of quarantine orders.

While taking steps to keep British Columbians safe, the Province aimed to mitigate the economic effects of the pandemic, including impacts on the restaurant and hospitality industry. For example, in June 2021, we announced that the more than 2,000 temporary patios authorized to serve liquor could apply to become permanent under amended provincial liquor regulations.

British Columbians were also significantly impacted by extreme weather events in 2021. These included the summer heat dome, a wildfire season that was the third worst on record in the province, and severe flooding in the fall. These emergency events resulted in loss of life, severe damage, and transportation disruptions. Emergency Management BC coordinated immediate provincial responses during these events, including coordinating evacuations, and continues to provide supports to those who were displaced or otherwise affected.

In the spring of 2021, we learned of the discovery of unmarked burial sites located at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School, the former St. Joseph's Mission Residential School, and the former St. Eugene's Mission School. We recognize the tragic and heartbreaking devastation that the Canadian residential school system has inflicted upon so many, and our thoughts are with all those affected and in mourning.

The year also brought progress toward achieving our ministry's priorities, including:

- supporting implementation of the B.C. First Nations Justice Strategy and development of the Métis Justice Strategy;
- advancing strategies to end gender-based violence and violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people;
- partnering with First Nations to strengthen their emergency management capacity;
- investing in victim services and violence against women programs;
- working with police to address serious crime, including the distribution of toxic drugs, and gangs and guns;
- working to address systemic racism in policing;
- modernizing and streamlining liquor, non-medical cannabis, and gaming regulation; and
- continuing efforts to eliminate money laundering.

These and our many other significant accomplishments during 2021/22 are a testament to the dedication of ministry staff, the strength of our relationships with partners and stakeholders, and our commitment to the safety and well-being of all British Columbians.



Honourable Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
July 26, 2022

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 Public Safety and Solicitor General and the Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing work together as the justice and public safety sector to advance a shared vision of a safe, secure, just, and resilient British Columbia.

The mission of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General is to develop public safety policy and deliver associated services and programs, administer regulations for the liquor, non-medical cannabis, and gambling sectors, and lead the development and coordination of an effective emergency management system for the province.

The ministry is responsible for: policing and law enforcement superintendence; correctional services; crime prevention and reduction; anti-money laundering strategy; victim services; restorative justice; coroners services; civil forfeiture; liquor, non-medical cannabis and gambling regulation; problem gambling prevention and treatment services; road safety; criminal record checks; the protection order registry; private security industry regulation; and consumer protection.

The ministry also includes responsibility for [Emergency Management BC](#) (EMBC), which is supported by the [Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness](#). EMBC is the Province's lead coordinating agency for emergency management, through the four-pillar approach of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, as well as fire prevention and safety through the [Office of the Fire Commissioner](#). This work is done in collaboration with federal and local governments, Indigenous communities, industry, non-governmental organizations and volunteers.

The Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General is also responsible for a number of agencies and boards, including the [Insurance Corporation of British Columbia](#) (ICBC) (see Appendix A) and the [Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia](#) (see Appendix B).

Strategic Direction

The strategic direction set by government in 2020, Minister Mike Farnworth's [2020 mandate letter](#), and government's coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic shaped the goals, objectives, performance measures and financial plan outlined in the [Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan](#) and the actual results reported in this annual report.

Operating Environment

During 2021/22, the Province continued its whole-of-government response to the COVID-19 pandemic with a focus on protecting the health and social and economic well-being of British Columbians. The Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General continued to work closely with the [Provincial Health Officer](#) and other ministries to oversee the provincial state of emergency and, using the extraordinary powers under the *Emergency Program Act*, implemented emergency orders as needed. The 16-month state of emergency – by far the longest in the province’s history – concluded on July 1, 2021.

After two years of below-average wildfire activity, British Columbia faced a tremendously challenging 2021 season, made worse by the historic heat dome beginning in late June which brought record-breaking temperatures and led to [619 heat-related deaths](#).

At the height of the wildfire season, the number of active wildfires in B.C. was over 300. In response, a provincial state of emergency was declared on July 21, 2021, and stayed in effect until September 14, 2021. The wildfires triggered 181 evacuation orders and 304 evacuation alerts.

In November 2021, an atmospheric river brought an unprecedented amount of rain to the province, resulting in high water levels and landslides heavily impacting communities and highway infrastructure. Another provincial state of emergency was implemented from November 17 to December 28, 2021, to mitigate impacts on transportation networks and the movement of essential goods and supplies, and to support the provincewide response and recovery from the widespread damage.

With climate change, we are experiencing rising intensity and frequency of natural disasters including floods, extreme heat, drought, and wildfires, and an increasing demand from communities and First Nations for emergency preparedness, response, and recovery support.

Toxic and illicit drugs claimed the lives of at least 2,265 British Columbians in 2021, according to preliminary data from the BC Coroners Service (BCCS).¹ Since the ongoing public health emergency into substance-use harms was first declared in 2016, more than 9,500 British Columbians have been lost to toxic drugs. In every year of this public health emergency, Indigenous Peoples have been overrepresented in toxic drug poisoning events and deaths.

Other issues and trends continued to shape the priorities of the ministry and affect the delivery of its responsibilities, including:

- Demand for police and public safety reform, including service delivery restructuring;
- Mental health and addiction challenges demanding increasing resources and enhanced coordination of services;
- The discovery of unmarked Indigenous graves at multiple former residential schools;
- Violence against women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people;²

¹ Preliminary data as of May 31, 2022.

² The acronym 2SLGBTQQIA+ refers to people who are Two Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and/or asexual.

- Gangs and gun violence;
- The Commission of Inquiry into Money Laundering;
- The impact of illicit cannabis production and sales on the legal and regulated non-medical cannabis sector;
- Increasing service delivery demands and costs throughout the justice and public safety sector;
- The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) collective agreement;
- Provincial Police Service resourcing challenges and demands;
- Court decisions impacting service delivery, including timeliness of service;
- Rapidly changing technology and increased demand for digitized services;
- Federal government commitments that impact the province;
- Constitutional and legislative requirements;
- External audits, reviews, and commissions of inquiry; and
- Ongoing collaborative planning activities to address the risk of catastrophic earthquakes along the coast of B.C.

Strengthening partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations continued to be a key ministry commitment throughout 2021/22, with the goals of aligning provincial laws with the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UNDRIP); reducing the overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples adversely involved in and impacted by the justice and public safety system; addressing violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people; and supporting culturally responsive and relevant policies, programs and services. This is consistent with government's commitment to true, lasting reconciliation and implementation of UNDRIP, the [Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#), the [B.C. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#), and the [Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples](#).

Report on Performance: Goals, Objectives, Measures and Targets

Goal 1: The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia protects people

A key role of British Columbia's justice and public safety sector is to protect people, especially those who are most vulnerable.

Objective 1.1: Improved outcomes for Indigenous Peoples across the justice and public safety sector through strengthened partnerships with Indigenous leadership and communities

Key Highlights

- In partnership with the Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing, the federal government and Indigenous communities, the ministry continued work with the [BC First Nations Justice Council](#) to advance the B.C. First Nations Justice Strategy and worked with the [Métis Nation BC Justice Council](#) to advance the Métis Justice Strategy for the province.
- Work continued to reduce the number of Indigenous Peoples adversely involved in and impacted by the justice system, including:
 - supporting the involvement of community-based Indigenous justice programs to participate in Gladue training for justice system professionals;
 - working with Indigenous organizations to develop new community-based justice programs;
 - helping to strengthen existing traditional Indigenous justice programs by increasing access to training to enhance capacity and retention; and
 - providing culturally diverse and appropriate programming and increasing the numbers of Elders and Knowledge Keepers that participate in community corrections and correctional center programming.
- The BCCS continued to provide comprehensive mortality data and analyses to the [First Nations Health Authority](#) (FNHA) and First Nation communities to inform community-based initiatives that reduce health and safety risks and support wellness and safe communities.
- The ministry continued working with Indigenous partners on non-medical cannabis economic development opportunities, including through the BC-First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) Cannabis Working Group, and negotiating government-to-government agreements with Indigenous Nations pursuant to section 119 of the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act*. During 2021/22, three First Nations entered into new or updated agreements which support their interests in the cannabis economy, while upholding the

public health and safety principles of federal and provincial cannabis laws and supporting UNDRIP article 5.³

- EMBC continued to partner with First Nation communities to advance disaster risk reduction, improve emergency management services and supports, and advance capacity building of First Nations within all pillars of emergency management by working with key organizations such as [Indigenous Services Canada](#) (ISC), the FNLC, the FNHA, the [First Nations Emergency Services Society](#) (FNESS), and through key initiatives identified in the [Tri-partite Emergency Management Services Memorandum of Understanding](#).

Performance Measure	2019/20 Baseline ¹	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Target ²	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
1.1a Total number of First Nation communities with a Letter of Intent to create a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to support the successful reintegration of Indigenous Peoples returning to their community and/or remaining connected to their community.	8	23	25	26	27	29

Data source: Results for this measure are derived from BC Corrections.

¹ The baseline, actuals and targets are cumulative and therefore represent the total number of First Nation communities with signed Letters of Intent to create an MOU, not the number of First Nations with Letters of Intent signed in a given fiscal year.

² The 2021/22 and subsequent year targets were developed for the *Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan* based on a forecast of 23 Letters of Intent for 2020/21.

Discussion of Results

Supporting the successful reintegration of Indigenous Peoples returning to their community and/or remaining connected to their community contributes to the objective of improving outcomes for Indigenous Peoples across the justice and public safety sector. Community connections build cultural identity and strengthen resilience.

The MOUs for Supported Community Reintegration between First Nations and BC Corrections signify a commitment to work together and outline the process to support case management and release planning for those in custody to ensure the coordination of supports, especially when transitioning to community supervision.

BC Corrections has signed 26 Letters of Intent which have resulted in MOUs with nine First Nations since 2017. This process of Letters of Intent leading to MOUs formalizes the working relationships and processes that meet the visions of these communities. BC Corrections also

³ The Snuneymuxw First Nation entered an [agreement](#) with the Province in December 2021. Cowichan Tribe’s new [agreement](#) was entered in December 2021, replacing their 2020 interim agreement. Williams Lake First Nation entered an updated [agreement](#) in December 2021, replacing their 2020 agreement.

continues to engage with other communities throughout the province with the goal of strengthening relationships and services to improve outcomes for all First Nations clients.

Performance Measure	2019/20 Baseline	2020/21 Actual ¹	2021/22 Target ²	2021/22 Actual ³	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
1.1b Percentage of on-reserve First Nation communities participating on Indigenous Emergency Management Partnership Tables	43	44	60	Not Available	65	75

Data source: EMBC First Nations Coordination Unit

¹The 2020/21 actual has been corrected to 44 per cent from the 60 per cent incorrectly reported in the *Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2020/21 Annual Service Plan Report*. The 2020/21 Partnership Tables included participants from 90 of the 203 on-reserve First Nation communities in British Columbia identified by Indigenous Services Canada (note that this number does not include Treaty Nations).

²The 2021/22 and subsequent year targets were developed for the *Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan* based on a forecast of 55 per cent for 2020/21.

³An actual for 2021/22 is not available because in 2021/22, the Indigenous Emergency Management Partnerships Tables were held by the FNLC as part of the Virtual BC First Nations Emergency Management Forum and this information was not tracked.

Discussion of Results

Indigenous Emergency Management Partnership Tables were developed to provide a venue for Indigenous communities and organizations and provincial agencies to meet, share knowledge and provide guidance on emergency management issues and initiatives related to all phases of emergency management, including mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. Every Indigenous community in B.C. is invited to participate in the tables, along with support organizations including FNESS, FNHA, ISC, the BC Wildfire Service, the Canadian Red Cross and many other non-governmental, provincial, or federal partners as requested by the participating Indigenous communities.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the approach was shifted from a face-to-face Regional Emergency Management Partnership Table model to a virtual provincial gathering that was held by the FNLC in October 2021 as part of the [Virtual BC First Nations Emergency Management Forum](#). The FNLC will continue to host these forums in future years and EMBC will resume leadership of the Partnership Tables in the fall of 2022.

Objective 1.2: Strengthened prevention, protection and support for victims of crime, and marginalized and vulnerable women and children

Key Highlights

- On June 3, 2021, the ministry released [A Path Forward: Priorities and Early Strategies for BC](#) (the Path Forward) in conjunction with the release of the [2021 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ People National Action Plan: Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ People](#). The Path Forward reflects priorities identified in Indigenous-led dialogue sessions with survivors, family members and communities and sets a solid foundation with early

strategies and an investment of \$5.34 million in 2021/22 to develop and implement the [Path Forward Community Fund](#), to be managed by the [BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres](#).

- Throughout 2021/22, the ministry supported the [Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity](#) and worked with the Ministry of Finance’s Gender Equity Office to set a solid foundation for the development of the Gender Based Violence (GBV) Action Plan, leveraging research, expertise and advocacy from existing service providers and GBV survivors. Over 330 partners and stakeholders from across the province were invited to join virtual engagement sessions to collaboratively identify key priorities that will inform the development of the plan.
- The ministry continued to support programs that offer emotional support, information, referrals and practical assistance to victims of crime and trauma, by providing over \$42 million annually to over 400 [victim services and violence against women programs](#) across the province, including over 160 police- and community-based victim service programs, 239 Violence Against Women Counselling and Outreach programs, and 9 Domestic Violence Units.
- In establishing policing priorities, the ministry highlighted the need for police agencies to strengthen relationships with vulnerable persons and those who have historically felt not supported by police – in particular, Indigenous Peoples, women who are victims of violence, and people of colour.
- The [BCCS Special Investigations Unit](#) continued to conduct investigations into all deaths of women and children related to violence and criminal activity, providing key information to law enforcement investigators and informing the development of policy and legislation protecting and supporting victims of crime. Inquests and death review panels were also conducted to highlight risks to marginalized and vulnerable populations and identify opportunities for greater protection and support.
- The online, facilitated course component of the Trauma Informed Practice curriculum continues to be delivered to support understanding of and responsiveness to the impact of trauma on vulnerable victims and witnesses. 15 virtual sessions of the course were delivered in 2021/22, with over 220 learners enrolled. As of March 2022, enrolment had reached over 6500 and the associated webinar series and sector-specific videos had a combined total of over 2000 views.

Performance Measure	2019/20 Baseline	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Target ¹	2021/22 Actual ²	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
2.1 Average number of days to adjudicate claims for financial assistance from victims and others impacted by violent crime.	154	140	120	Not Available	90	90

Data source: Results for this measure for 2020/21 and prior years were from the Electronic Victim Information System. Results for 2021/22, when they become available, and results for subsequent years will be from the new Client Operational Access System.

¹ The 2021/22 and subsequent year targets were developed for the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan based on a forecast of 150 days for 2020/21 and the implementation of a new case management system in 2021/22, which is anticipated to improve claim processing efficiencies.

² The Crime Victim Assistance Program transitioned to a new case management system and as reporting requirements for the system are still being developed, an actual for 2021/22 was not available in time for publication of this annual report.

Discussion of Results

This measure indicates the level of client service and system efficiency in administering the [Crime Victim Assistance Program](#) under the *Crime Victim Assistance Act*. The program assists victims, immediate family members and some witnesses in coping with the effects of violent crime by providing financial aid to help offset applicable expenses and assist in recovery, including funding for counselling and memorial services.

Objective 1.3: Improved public safety for all British Columbians

Key Highlights

- In mid-2021, the ministry formalized development of a police superintendence framework which will assist the Minister and the Director of Police Services in meeting their statutory obligations under the *Police Act* to ensure adequate and effective policing and law enforcement in British Columbia by providing a consistent and enhanced strategic approach to monitoring resources and issues.
- The ministry continued to provide oversight of the Provincial Police Force (PPF) to ensure the PPF and the federal government adhere to commitments in the *Provincial Policing Service Agreement*. Funding for 13 additional frontline positions was also added to the RCMP Provincial Police Service.
- The ministry continued to work with police to address serious crime, including cracking down on those who distribute toxic drugs, and making our streets safer from gangs and guns. Regulatory changes were put in place on January 14, 2022, in response to police-observed trends of tools being used by organized crime and drug traffickers to further violence and avoid law enforcement. Vehicles or other property containing radio jammers or aftermarket GPS trackers may now be considered instruments of unlawful activity and forfeited under the [Civil Forfeiture Act](#).⁴
- In March 2022, the ministry awarded \$3.5 million in Crime Prevention and Remediation Grant Program funding to support community-led projects that address domestic violence prevention and intervention; gender-based violence; human trafficking; sexual exploitation and sex worker safety; Indigenous healing; and projects that enhance capacity and improve the services of child and youth advocacy centres.
- The [BC Coroners Service Death Review Panel: A Review of Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths](#), released on March 9, 2022, revealed that the primary cause of over 6,000 deaths was the increasingly toxic and unpredictable illicit drug supply in the province. The report also illustrated that the current drug prohibition policy framework is forcing substance users to

⁴ Criminals use radio jammers, which are illegal under the federal *Radiocommunication Act*, to block police from using GPS to monitor them and to block radio communication by authorities. In addition, police have found that a growing number of traffickers use aftermarket GPS trackers to monitor rivals and subordinates, vehicles, and high-value contraband items such as guns and drugs.

access the unregulated market, leading to increased numbers of substance-related emergencies and deaths. The Review Panel identified three key areas to reduce illicit drug toxicity deaths – safer drug supply, coordinated provincial-driven strategies, and a comprehensive continuum of substance use care.

- EMBC committed to co-developing modernized emergency management legislation with Indigenous partners to support more effective management of emergencies in B.C. This process will integrate traditional practices and cultural uses of fire within wildfire prevention and land management practices; incorporate international best practices identified in the *United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction*; and adhere to the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the *Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples*.
- The ministry continued to implement the regulatory framework for non-medical cannabis, including licensing of retailers and retail sales to allow adults legal, controlled access to non-medical cannabis. The Community Safety Unit completed the following actions to disrupt the illegal supply chain and reduce the size of the illegal market:
 - managing 879 complaints regarding illegal cannabis operations;
 - disrupting 363 websites conducting illegal cannabis sales;
 - conducting 20 education inspections of illegal cannabis retailers, resulting in eight voluntary closures;
 - issuing 27 Notices of Administrative Monetary Penalties;
 - completing eight administrative hearings resulting in monetary penalties over \$800,000; and,
 - collecting approximately \$220,500 in administrative monetary penalties.
- The ministry continued work to improve road safety, with a focus on reducing high-risk driving behaviours (alcohol, drugs, speeding and distraction), increasing the efficacy of traffic enforcement, and ensuring that B.C.'s licensing system supports safe driving, including:
 - operating automated enforcement cameras at 140 high-risk intersections, which resulted in over 45,000 tickets issued for speed violations and 70,000 for red light violations during 2021/22;
 - working with partners across the road safety sector on targeted media and enforcement campaigns, including Distracted Driving, Drive Relative to Conditions, and CounterAttack; and
 - working with the Lil'wat First Nation and the Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police, which resulted in a local road safety strategy that focuses on sustainability, self-determination, and achieving safety outcomes sought by the local community.
- The ministry monitored changes in the marketplace to ensure consumer protection laws are responsive to modern business practices and meet the needs of British Columbians, while minimizing regulatory impacts to businesses. On July 1, 2021, a new [*Ticket Sales Act*](#) came into effect to protect consumers who purchase tickets to recreational, sporting and cultural events in B.C., by improving disclosure and refund requirements, and banning bots that buy large quantities of tickets for resale purposes.

Performance Measures ¹	2019 Baseline ²	2020 Actual ³	2021 Target ⁴	2021 Actual ⁵	2022 Target	2023 Target
1.3a Violent crime rate ⁶	15.7	15.2	14.4	Not Available	14.1	13.7
1.3b Property crime rate ⁷	53.0	43.7	50.3	Not Available	49.0	47.8
1.3c Other crime rate ⁸	17.7	17.2	16.3	Not Available	15.9	15.5
1.3d Overall crime rate	86.4	76.1	81.0	Not Available	79.0	77.0

Data source: Criminal incident counts are obtained through the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey administered by Statistics Canada’s Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, and population estimates are obtained through BC Stats.

¹ Police-reported crime rates (*Criminal Code* offences per 1,000 persons). Crime rates are based on all police-reported violent crime, property crime, and other *Criminal Code* offences, but do not include traffic, drug, or other federal-statute violations. Results are reported by calendar year.

² The 2019 baselines have been updated since publication of the *Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Service Plan 2021/22 – 2023/24* based on updated Statistics Canada and BC Stats data.

³ The 2020 actuals replace the forecasts reported in the *Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Service Plan 2021/22 – 2023/24* based on updated data released by Statistics Canada and BC Stats.

⁴ The 2021 and subsequent year targets were developed for the *Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan* and were calculated as a 2.5 per cent decrease each year, starting from the forecasts for 2020.

⁵ Crime rates for 2021 were not available in time for publication of this annual report.

⁶ Violent crimes include the offences of homicide, attempted murder, sexual and non-sexual assault, sexual offences against children, abduction, forcible confinement or kidnapping, firearms, robbery, criminal harassment, extortion, uttering threats, indecent or harassing communications, and other violent offences.

⁷ Property crimes include the offences of breaking and entering, theft, motor vehicle theft, possession of stolen property, trafficking in stolen goods, fraud, mischief, identity theft, identity fraud, arson, and other property offences.

⁸ Non-traffic *Criminal Code* offences that are not violent or property-related are classified as “other” crimes, which include offences related to counterfeiting, offensive weapons, child pornography, disturbing the peace, the administration of justice, and other “other” offences.

Discussion of Results

Many factors influence police-reported crime rates, including changes to scoring rules, demographic changes, neighbourhood conditions, social and economic factors, public reporting practices, technological advancements, legislative amendments, local police service priorities, and social perceptions and attitudes toward certain crimes.

While government does not control crime rates, crime prevention and reduction are a priority of the ministry, and these rates are tracked as an indicator of progress toward the objective of improved public safety for all British Columbians. Crime rates are better indicators of long-term trends in crime than are the actual numbers of offences because the rates account for population differences.

Goal 2: The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia is fair

Fairness in the justice and public safety sector requires sound regulatory measures that protect public safety and interests while minimizing regulatory impact on businesses.

Objective 2.1: Regulatory systems that promote public safety and interests, and fair and efficient business practices

Key Highlights

- In May 2021, the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) launched [Enhanced Care](#), B.C.'s new, more affordable auto insurance model which provides improved care and recovery benefits to any British Columbian injured in a crash in Canada or the United States, regardless of fault. The new model reduced premiums by an average of approximately \$490 or 28 per cent while increasing the care available for people who are injured in accidents.
- In the summer of 2021, ICBC issued a second COVID-19 rebate, returning approximately \$350 million in additional rebates to 2.94 million customers. This built on the first COVID-19 rebate of \$600 million in 2020 for a total of \$950 million returned to ICBC customers.
- Michael Skinner, former lawyer and adjudicator, was appointed as ICBC's new fairness officer, effective July 12, 2021. The fairness officer is independent of the corporation and will work to ensure that ICBC's policies, actions and practices are fair and to improve transparency and accountability.
- The ministry supported the legal, non-medical cannabis sector, including:
 - implementing strategies to facilitate Indigenous and small-scale producer market entry, such as the Indigenous shelf-space program to showcase Indigenous cannabis products;
 - enhancing legal cannabis market competitiveness by, for example, allowing licensed cannabis retailers to deliver non-medical cannabis products directly to consumers starting July 15, 2021; and
 - launching Buy Legal, a public education ad campaign encouraging people to buy cannabis from provincially authorized cannabis retail stores that offer regulated and tested products.
- Work continued to modernize and streamline liquor and non-medical cannabis regulation, compliance and enforcement practices that balance public safety and public interests and facilitate improved services by continuing to move more services to the online [Liquor and Cannabis Licensing Portal](#).
- In collaboration with the Liquor Distribution Branch and the Ministry of Finance, the ministry continued to act on the Business Technical Advisory Panel recommendations, while also supporting restaurant and hospitality business recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic, including:
 - extending the provision for temporary expanded service areas (patios) to March 31, 2023, to allow more time for licensees to apply for permanent authorization;

- permanently extending hours of liquor service for Licensee Retail Stores, Wine Stores, Specialty Wine Stores, Rural Licensee Retail Stores and Manufacturer Onsite Stores;
- authorizing liquor primary and food primary establishments to sell single-serving drinks containing liquor for offsite consumption with the purchase of a meal; and
- extending to June 30, 2022, the temporary authorization for liquor manufacturers to deliver liquor products directly to retail customers from their registered off-site storage facility in addition to their on-site stores.
- The ministry consulted with 10 major stakeholder groups, including the BC Lottery Corporation, gambling facility operators, suppliers, the First Nations Gaming Commission, the charitable gambling sector, and the horse racing sector, on changes to the Gaming Control Regulation in line with amendments to the *Gaming Control Act*.

Goal 3: The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia is sustainable

The justice and public safety sector must be innovative, adaptive, well-managed and efficient to remain sustainable.

Objective 3.1: Strengthened sustainability of the justice and public safety sector to deliver accessible and effective programs and services

Key Highlights

- EMBC developed and has begun implementing a multi-year action plan in response to a 2021 internal audit on the cross-government business continuity program, and supported ministries to develop their own action plans.
- EMBC has been working to modernize the Province's [Emergency Support Services](#), including the development of an [Evacuee Registration and Assistance](#) (ERA) tool and direct payments (e-transfers), to better meet the immediate needs of evacuees, including food, shelter, and clothing. Training for communities on the use of the ERA tool is ongoing and EMBC has observed success among early adopting communities.
- Electronic traffic ticketing continued to be implemented, including online fine payment and near real-time data-sharing. This allows police to spend more time on targeted enforcement activities and enables more efficient information sharing between agencies to make B.C.'s roads safer. All dedicated traffic officers in the 12 independent municipal agencies, the Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police Service, the RCMP highway patrol, and Integrated Road Safety Units are now using eTicketing.
- The ministry began modernization of B.C.'s driver medical fitness process. Key changes will deliver service improvements, including an online medical practitioners' self-service tool, a simplified process for completing and submitting documentation, and shorter processing times. This will reduce backlogs and enable faster removal of unsafe drivers from the province's roads.
- Implementation of the justice and public safety sector's digital strategy was advanced to unify digital transformation efforts and coordinate investments in data, technology and resources to optimize how programs and services are delivered.

- Evidence-based workforce planning continued with a focus on leadership development and succession management, as manager and supervisor roles are the primary connection between the strategic goals of the ministry and the people who work towards accomplishing them.

Goal 4: The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia has the public's confidence

Citizens must have confidence in the integrity and effectiveness of the justice and public safety sector for it to function effectively and to ensure continued public participation and support.

Objective 4.1: Increased public confidence in the justice and public safety sector

Key Highlights

- During 2021/22, the ministry undertook preliminary policy work in advance of the [report of the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act](#). The committee was appointed to undertake a broad inquiry on policing and public safety in B.C., including reforms related to oversight, transparency, governance, structure, service delivery, standards, funding, training and education; examine the role of police with respect to complex social issues; examine the scope of systemic racism within B.C.'s police agencies; and ensure consistency of a modernized *Police Act* with UNDRIP.
- The ministry also advanced work to address systemic racism in policing, including:
 - reviewing existing police training and procedures related to 'wellness checks';
 - working alongside the [Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism](#) to bring forward recommendations to address systemic racism;
 - establishing [BC Provincial Policing Standards](#) to promote unbiased policing;
 - providing Simon Fraser University and the University of the Fraser Valley with a research grant through [Shift BC](#) to assess national and global best practices of extra-judicial strategies to combat hate incidents;
 - partnering with the Federation of Asian-Canadian Lawyers to make hate incident police reporting available [online](#) and translated into multiple languages to reduce barriers to reporting; and
 - supporting Canada's first provincial-level [Integrated Hate Crime Team](#), which provides consultative expertise and guidance to police in B.C. investigating hate crimes and to the BC Prosecution Service in bringing related charges forward and prosecuting them.
- Work continued toward eliminating money laundering in B.C. in the following sectors: gambling and horse racing; real estate; financial institutions and money services, including unregulated entities and persons who provide banking-like services; and corporate, in relation to the use of shell companies. During 2021/22, the ministry worked cooperatively with the [Commission of Inquiry into Money Laundering in British Columbia](#) by providing documents when requested and expert witness testimony.
- EMBC supported the recovery of individuals and communities impacted by the 2021 wildfires and floods with a continuum of services from disaster response to recovery,

including Emergency Support Services and the Disaster Financial Assistance program, and through partnerships with agencies such as FNESS and the Canadian Red Cross.

- In collaboration with federal partners, First Nations, and local governments, the ministry led pre-Exercise Coastal Response 2023 activities that focused on exercise development and identifying participant learning objectives. Exercise Coastal Response 2023 will be B.C.’s second major earthquake response exercise.
- Initiated in response to requests from individuals, communities, and government following recent emergencies, EMBC has been collaborating since February 2022 with several partners, including the [BC Wildfire Service](#) and [River Forecast Centre](#), to ensure [Broadcast Intrusive Alerts](#) were operational for flood and wildfire hazards this spring and summer. Broadcast Intrusive Alerting is a tool that can protect public safety and ensure that B.C. is better able to respond during emergencies.
- The Province, led by Ministry of Health, is exploring the benefits of implementing a Silver Alert program through which the public would be notified of a missing person with Alzheimer’s Disease, dementia or other cognitive impairment. EMBC public alerting experts are participating in these discussions, providing technical expertise and information sharing from other jurisdictions.

Performance Measures	2013 Baseline	2019 Actual ²	2021/22 Target ³	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
4.1a Percentage of British Columbians who have confidence in the justice system and the courts ¹	51	Not Available	> 2020 Actual	Not Available	> 2020 Actual	> 2020 Actual
4.1b Percentage of British Columbians who have confidence in the police ¹	74	89	> 2020 Actual	Not Available	> 2020 Actual	> 2020 Actual

Data source: The 2013 baselines for measures 4.1a and 4.1b are from Statistics Canada’s 2013 [General Social Survey \(GSS\) on Social Identity](#). A 2019 actual for measure 4.1a is not available, while the 2019 actual for 4.1b is from Statistics Canada’s 2019 [GSS on Canadians’ Safety](#).

¹Includes those respondents who stated they had a great deal of confidence in the police or some confidence. In the results from the 2013 GSS, responses of “don’t know/not stated” were excluded from the calculation of percentages; however, in the 2019 GSS, they were included in the calculations. Comparing the results of the two surveys should therefore be undertaken with some caution. In addition, in 2019, the GSS on Victimization offered, for the first time, the ability for respondents to complete the survey online – in addition to the option of responding to a telephone survey – and changes in survey methodology can affect the comparability of data over time.

² 2019 is the most recent year for which an actual for measure 4.1b is available, as results from the 2020 GSS on Social Identity have not yet been released.

³ The 2021/22 and subsequent year targets were established for the *Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Service Plan 2021/22 – 2023/24* based on the assumption that 2020 results for these performance measures would be available through the [2020 GSS on Social Identity](#); however, as stated above, they are not yet available.

Discussion of Results

Public confidence in police is of particular interest to the ministry as the police rely on active public support and cooperation to carry out their duties. How they view the police affects the public’s willingness to report crimes, to cooperate with police to aid investigations, to contact the police if victimized, and to abide by laws and police orders. Positive perceptions of police among citizens are a critical aspect of public safety and contribute to lower levels of crime.

Financial Report

Discussion of Results

The Estimates operating expense budget of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General in 2021/22 was \$900.9 million. The ministry's budget increased by \$29.8 million compared to the restated 2020/21 fiscal plan primarily as a result of budget lifts for: Community Corrections Accommodation Strategy, Core Policing, the First Nation Policing Program, Gang Suppression Action Plan, Cariboo-Chilcotin RCMP Unit, RCMP Support Staff Collective Bargaining, Community Social Services Recruitment and Retention Allocation, Post-Mortem Diagnostic Suites, and the Drugs and Driving Initiative.

The Public Accounts shows Other Authorizations of \$622.2 million, including \$158.8 million in Contingencies Vote access primarily for: Crime Victim Assistance Program entitlements, Cannabis Operations, BC Coroners Service caseloads, Corrections' staffing, RCMP court-ordered injunction, RoadSafetyBC Initiatives, Resilience Infrastructure (EMBC), and Pandemic Response and Economic Recovery.

\$463.7 million was also expended under the statutory appropriation primarily for the *Emergency Program Act* and reflects cost relating to pandemic response, emergency mitigation, preparedness and response to wildfire and flooding disasters.

Including the Other Authorizations, the ministry's total Estimated Budget was \$1,523.1 million compared to actual expenditures of \$1,522.4 million, prior to the adjustment for prior year's accruals.

Financial Summary

	Estimated	Other Authorizations ¹	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses (\$000)					
Corrections	262,742	25,054	287,796	286,769	(1,027)
Policing and Security	417,498	22,307	439,805	440,554	749
Victim Services and Crime Prevention	63,715	62,356	126,071	126,341	270
BC Coroners Service	17,569	3,492	21,061	21,624	563
RoadSafetyBC	18,311	11,695	30,006	28,143	(1,863)
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation	1	7,050	7,051	7,410	359
Gaming Policy and Enforcement	19,539	3,868	23,407	23,407	0
Emergency Management BC	30,899	3,904	34,803	34,923	120
Executive and Support Services	19,339	545	19,884	20,713	829
<i>Emergency Program Act</i>	36,420	482,311	518,731	518,731	0
Statutory Services ²	14,825	(325)	14,500	13,835	(665)
Sub-total	900,858	622,257	1,523,115	1,522,450	(665)
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual ³				(317)	(317)
Total	900,858	622,257	1,523,115	1,522,133	(982)
Ministry Capital Expenditures (\$000)					
By Core Business					
Corrections	1,062	1,229	2,291	2,289	(2)
BC Coroners Service	35		35	55	20
Emergency Management BC	550	43	593	477	(116)
Executive and Support Services	895	73	968	156	(812)
Total	2,542	1,345	3,887	2,977	(910)

¹“Other Authorizations” include Supplementary Estimates, Statutory Appropriations and Contingencies. Amounts in this column are not related to the “estimated amount” under sections 5(1) and 6(1) of the Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act for ministerial accountability for operating expenses under the Act.

² Statutory Services includes Civil Forfeiture Account, Corrections Work Program Account, Criminal Asset Management Fund, and Victim Surcharge Special Account.

³ The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual of \$0.317 million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

Capital Expenditures

Major Capital Projects (over \$50 million)	Year of Completion	Project Cost to March 31, 2022 (\$m)	Estimated Cost to Complete (\$m)	Anticipated Total Cost (\$m)
Nanaimo Correctional Centre Replacement	2024	37	130	167
<p>The Nanaimo Correctional Centre (NCC) Replacement Project will replace the current aging and outdated 190-cell correctional centre located in Nanaimo, B.C. The new centre is being constructed on the existing site while the current centre remains operational, after which the existing centre will be deconstructed. The new NCC will be a 202-cell, multi-security level facility, including a 12-cell unit for short-term accommodation of women from Vancouver Island.</p> <p>The new centre will better support staff and enhance the NCC's unique, effective programs, including the Guthrie Therapeutic Community and vocational and educational programs delivered in partnership with Vancouver Island University.</p> <p>Government approved \$167 million in total capital funding for this project, \$155 million of which is the value of the design-build agreement for the facility's construction. The project is expected to bring major regional economic benefits, including approximately 1,000 jobs during construction (650 direct and 275 indirect jobs, plus nearly 100 additional jobs associated with spending by workers).</p>				

Appendix A: Agencies and Boards

As of July 26, 2022, the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General is responsible and accountable for the following agencies and boards.

[Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia](#)

See Appendix B.

[Consumer Protection BC](#)

Consumer Protection BC is responsible for administering British Columbia's consumer protection laws, namely the *Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act*, the *Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act*, the *Ticket Sales Act*, and the *Motion Picture Act*, along with a variety of associated consumer protection regulations. It is a not-for-profit corporation that protects consumers and promotes a fair marketplace in the province.

[Insurance Corporation of British Columbia](#)

ICBC's mandate is to provide universal compulsory (basic) automobile insurance for all British Columbia motorists and compete with private insurance companies to offer various Optional vehicle insurance coverages. ICBC also provides non-insurance services on behalf of the provincial government, including driver licensing, vehicle registration and licensing, and fines collection. The Board has the power and authority given to it by the *Insurance Corporation Act* and subject to the Act, it manages and supervises the affairs and business of ICBC.

[Municipal Police Boards](#)

Independent municipal police departments are overseen by appointed police boards made up of civilian members of the community. The role of police boards is to provide general direction to the department, in accordance with relevant legislation and in response to community needs.

[Organized Crime Agency of British Columbia](#)

See Appendix B.

[Vehicle Sales Authority of British Columbia](#)

The Vehicle Sales Authority of British Columbia is an administrative authority delegated by the provincial government to administer and enforce the *Motor Dealer Act* and its regulations, the *Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act* as it relates to the sale of motor vehicles, and other related statutes.

Appendix B: Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia

In 1999, the [Organized Crime Agency of British Columbia](#) (OCABC) was created as an independent Designated Policing and Law Enforcement Unit under the *Provincial Police Act*.

In 2004, the [Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia](#) (CFSEU-BC) was developed in consultation with the provincial government as an initiative to integrate the OCABC, the municipal police departments and the RCMP. The Board of Governance for the OCABC also acts as the Board of Governance for the CFSEU-BC.

The board is currently comprised of the Chief Constable of the Vancouver Police Department; the Chief Superintendent and Southeast District Commander RCMP; the Chief Constable of the BC Transit Authority Police Service; the Chief Constable of the Victoria Police Department; the Deputy Commissioner Pacific Region and Commanding Officer “E” Division RCMP; the Executive Director of the Serious and Organized Crime Division within the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General; and the Deputy Solicitor General. The Director of Police Services sits as an ex officio member of the board.

The board determines the strategic direction of the CFSEU-BC and ensures its operational priorities are aligned with the policing priorities for British Columbia. The CFSEU-BC operates under the RCMP policies and procedures. Board members do not receive any remuneration. The Province has been working collaboratively with the RCMP and municipal policing partners to update the board, including its membership, to enhance its strategic oversight as part of the British Columbia Organized Crime Strategy.

The Chief Officer in charge of the CFSEU-BC leads an executive team comprised of civilian members in addition to regular RCMP and municipal officers seconded from across the province. The CFSEU-BC Gang Enforcement Unit, Investigation Teams, and the Joint Illegal Gaming Investigation Team are just a few of the teams that fall under the responsibility of the CFSEU-BC. Offices for the CFSEU-BC are located in the Lower Mainland, Prince George, Kelowna and Victoria.

The mission of the CFSEU-BC is to facilitate the disruption and suppression of organized crime that affects British Columbians. Its mandate is to investigate, prosecute, disrupt and suppress criminal organizations, consistent with local, regional, national and international priorities. The CFSEU-BC also supports other agencies by assisting in organized crime and major crime investigations.