

Ministry of Agriculture and Food

2022/23

Annual Service Plan Report

August 2023



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Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Agriculture and Food 2022/23 Annual Service Plan Report compares the Ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in the 2022/23 - 2024/25 Service Plan published in 2022. I am accountable for those results as reported.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pam Alexis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Honourable Pam Alexis
Minister of Agriculture and Food
August 11, 2023

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Letter from the Minister

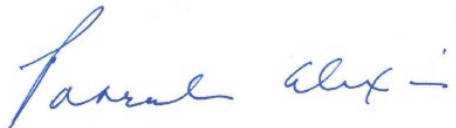
It is my pleasure to present the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's 2022/23 Annual Service Plan Report. Over the past year, our government has continued to make good progress on strengthening B.C.'s agriculture and food sector by supporting farmers, producers and processors and ensuring our communities have a stable, sustainable food supply.

B.C. is in a strong position to continue that upward trend and we are making historic investments that help our farmers and producers, even as they deal with more challenges such as avian influenza, rising input costs from global inflation and supply chain disruptions. These investments will also ensure British Columbians, whether they're from an Indigenous community, urban centre or rural area, have enhanced food security and are able to access delicious, healthy food that is grown, produced or processed locally.

I regularly hear from people that they want to buy and eat local products. Not only are you getting something fresh that's grown in your own provincial backyard, but you are also supporting in many cases your neighbour as well as boosting the local economy.

And we know, as with many facets of life, that our changing climate is going to have impacts on the agriculture and food sector. That is why our government has a strong Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy in place, and through this work and other ministry programs, we are making sure that B.C. farmers are prepared for extreme weather and climate emergencies.

We are making historic investments in the agriculture and food sector, and I am excited to see the results take shape in the near future. Our government will continue to support farmers, producers and processors with forward-looking priorities so we can ensure we are balancing the impacts of climate change, with a stronger bottom line for farmers and food security for British Columbians throughout the province.



Honourable Pam Alexis
Minister of Agriculture and Food
August 11, 2023

Purpose of the Annual Service Plan Report

This annual service plan report has been developed 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 stated in the service plan for the reported year.

Strategic Direction

The strategic direction set by Government in 2020 and Minister Popham's 2020 [Mandate Letter](#) shaped the goals, objectives, performance measures and financial plan outlined in the [Ministry of Agriculture and Food's 2022/23 - 2024/25 Service Plan](#) and the actual results reported on in this annual report.

Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food (the Ministry) is responsible for the production, marketing, processing and merchandising of agriculture and seafood products; the institution and carrying out of advisory, research, promotional, sustainability and adaptation, food safety and plant and animal health programs; projects and undertakings relating to agriculture and seafood; and the collection of information and preparation and dissemination of statistics relating to agriculture and seafood.

The Ministry is a key contributor to economic development and diversification across the Province and is a main contributor to rural economic development and province-wide job creation, particularly for small businesses. The agriculture, seafood and food and beverage sector creates economic and social benefits for Indigenous groups and other underrepresented groups, has the potential to attract provincial investment, and contributes to workforce development and skills training.

The legal and regulatory environment that guides the work of the Ministry includes 30 statutes which relate wholly or primarily to the Ministry. A [complete list of legislation for which the Ministry is responsible](#) for is available online.

Operating Environment

Building a resilient food system and increasing food security is of key importance to the Ministry. In 2022/23, the agriculture, food and beverage sector faced significant challenges such as extreme weather events. The Ministry, along with its partners, has responded to these challenges by taking meaningful actions and prioritizing budget and staffing resources, which has led to positive results over in the last fiscal year that are detailed in this report.

The Ministry took concrete action to support the sector in adapting and mitigating the effects of climate change. The Ministry invested in areas of regenerative agricultural research, practices, and technology, including standing up the Minister's Advisory Group on Regenerative Agriculture, and investments in Agritech to make substantial progress in the development a provincial framework for sustainable agriculture.

Climate-related disruptions have highlighted the importance of B.C.'s food supply-chain. Food is a huge part of B.C.'s economy, between those who grow and produce it, and those who get it to grocery stores, tens of thousands work in the agriculture business to put food on British Columbian's plates. Providing program and funding supports for local food systems, continues to be a Ministry priority.

In 2022/23, the Ministry continued to work on strategies to support B.C.'s goal in securing our food supply. Ministry staff supported B.C. farmers through various programs, including the Flood Mitigation program, production insurance to support producers in managing their risk of crop losses caused by weather (such as hail, spring frost, excessive rain, flooding and drought), and the AgriStability program, to help stabilize income by managing the risk of large income declines.

The Ministry continues to support Indigenous communities with their food security, food sovereignty and economic development goals to support a self-sustaining food system that respects Indigenous People's rights and cultures.

Economic Statement

After rebounding rapidly in 2021, British Columbia's economy saw slower yet strong growth in 2022. B.C.'s real GDP growth of 3.6 per cent last year was the fourth highest among provinces (tied with Ontario) and grew at the same pace as the national average, following growth of 6.2 per cent in 2021. Growth in B.C.'s real GDP was mostly supported by service-producing industries such as transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food services, and professional, scientific and technical services. Goods-producing industries also experienced growth led by construction.

While B.C.'s recovery broadened in 2022, it remained uneven as sectors such as transportation and warehousing; accommodation and food services; and arts, entertainment and recreation have yet to fully recover to pre-pandemic levels. B.C.'s labour market continued to grow in 2022, with employment growth of 3.2 per cent and an average unemployment rate of 4.6 per cent, while wages and salaries increased by 10.8 per cent. Consumer spending on goods grew

slowly after a rapid expansion at the beginning of the recovery and nominal retail sales posted overall growth of 3.1 per cent. Last year, prices rose dramatically as strong demand for goods and services was met with lingering supply-chain challenges and high prices for global commodities following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

In 2022, B.C.'s inflation rate averaged 6.9 per cent, the fastest annual rate since 1982, and up from 2.8 per cent in 2021. B.C. housing starts totalled 46,721 units in 2022, down 1.9 per cent compared to the previous year. Despite the decline, housing starts in 2022 were the second highest on record. Home sales fell sharply in 2022 as they adjusted to higher mortgage rates not seen since 2008. B.C. MLS home sales decreased by 35.2 per cent in 2022 compared to 2021. Meanwhile the MLS average home sale price rose by 7.4 per cent in 2022 because of strength early in the year, despite monthly declines in 9 of the last 10 months of the year.

On the external front, B.C.'s international merchandise exports grew by 20.4 per cent, boosted by strong commodity prices in the first half of 2022.

Report on Performance: Goals, Objectives, and Results

Goal 1: Strengthen provincial food systems and B.C.'s food security

Objective 1.1: Improve living and working conditions for farm workers

Supporting BC producers and processors to meet their workforce needs and enhancing the health and safety of farm workers is key to strengthening the province's food systems. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of having a stable and healthy workforce to ensure food security for British Columbians. The Ministry will work towards ensuring and enforcing safe, healthy and comfortable living standards (particularly for inter-provincial and international workers residing in on-farm accommodations or workcamps) and ensure improved working conditions for all agricultural workers.

Key results

- Developed an Agriculture and Food Workforce Development Program which will be launched in Fiscal 2023-24 in partnership with, and with \$15M in funding, from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR). The purpose of this new program is to support B.C.'s agriculture and food sectors to improve recruitment and retention of domestic workers, support targeted skills and training, and to adopt improved human resources and management practices.
- The Ministry participated in the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group on Accommodations for TFWs which is working on the development of the comprehensive and achievable framework to improve the living conditions for TFWs in Canada.
- Supported the health and safety of farm workers through continued delivery of the B.C. Farm Worker Safe Isolation Program, a federally funded program that provided funding to cover the cost of the safe voluntary isolation of farm workers off-farm to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Summary of progress made in 2022/23

Over the course of fiscal 2022-2023 the labour programming at the Ministry underwent significant transition as the immediate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic decreased and associated pandemic public health orders impacting agriculture labour were removed. The temporary labour unit that formed to support workforce safety and to support the industry to meet their labour needs during the pandemic was concluded. The Ministry continued to deliver the B.C. Farm Worker Safe Isolation Program for a second year over fiscal 2022-23. This program continued to offer funding to cover the cost of the safe voluntary isolation of farm workers off-farm to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

In recognition of the ongoing labour shortages within agriculture and other sectors and ongoing issues related to the health and safety of farmworkers a permanent labour position was created in the Ministry. A key focus of the position moving forward will be to build on lessons learned during the pandemic and to work with industry and partner agencies to support solutions to pressing labour issues. The Ministry continues to collaborate with our federal partners at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada on the development of a National Agriculture Labour Strategy and with Employment and Social Development Canada on their initiative to address the most pressing health and safety concerns related to temporary foreign worker accommodations.

A key focus over fiscal 2022-2023 was working with the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDRP) to secure funding for a new Agriculture and Food Workforce Program. The purpose of this new program is to support B.C.'s agriculture and food sectors to improve recruitment and retention of domestic workers, support targeted skills and training, and to adopt improved human resources and management practices. The program will be launched in fiscal 2023-24.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

The Ministry's initiatives on improving the living and working conditions for farmworkers underwent a transition over fiscal 2022/23 as major programs and services designed to support the federal and provincial COVID-19 public health protocols were completed. During the transition period the Ministry focused on assessing resourcing and programming needs coming out of the pandemic to address ongoing critical workforce needs of the sector.

Progress during this transition period was demonstrated through the creation and staffing of a permanent Manager of Labour Initiatives at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the establishment of a new partnership with Social Development and Poverty Reduction to establish a new Agriculture and Food Workforce Program. Performance indicators were established for the new program and the Manager of Labour Initiatives is developing measures to evaluate progress on the Ministry's goals to improve the living and working conditions for farm workers moving forward.

Objective 1.2: Ensure the provincial food system has the capacity to increase the availability of B.C. foods

In the Budget 2021, enhancing Grow BC, Feed BC and Buy BC programming was approved for \$3.4 million. This will drive economic recovery, grow jobs across the sector and beyond, increase the safety and availability of local food, and build the sustainability and reliability of the provincial food system. Integrated programs targeting improvement will be delivered via various methods including agreements and partnerships with other government bodies, industry associations, expert program delivery agents, local governments, education institutions, and public health. Some programs will be administered fully by Ministry staff.

Key results

- Further strengthened Feed BC partnerships with 20 post-secondary institutions and all six health authorities to support partners with new local purchasing relationships, local procurement, track local food expenditures and connect institutional demand to B.C. foods.
- Provided opportunity for 80 food and beverage companies to connect with public sector institution buyers through Feed BC business-to-business events.
- Continued ongoing support for the development and growth of the 14 food hubs in the BC Food Hub Network. These hubs provide access to shared-use processing facilities and support services to over 110 small to medium-sized food and beverage processing companies.
- Building the Buy BC brand through a range of activities including an ad campaign, consumer engagement, established brand ambassador, and participating in business-to-business events.
- Continued business development support to new entrants to agriculture, current agriculture businesses, and Indigenous food system initiatives through the delivery of Grow BC programs such as the Agri-Business Development Program, the Indigenous Agriculture Development Program, and the B.C. Land Matching Program.

Summary of progress made in 2022/23

A key focus of 2022/23 was laying the groundwork for significant government funding for school food programs announced in Budget 2023 (Feeding Futures), which includes bringing Feed BC to K-12 schools. Results will be reflected in the 2023/24 Service Plan report. Over the last year, Feed BC expanded its reach to facilitate new institutional value chains, expand market preparedness training for food processors and co-develop resources to support bringing more Indigenous foods to institutions. The Ministry funded the development of two new food hubs, Richmond and Summerland, in 2022/23.

The Buy BC programming continues to strengthen the branding to help BC consumers who choose local food products and are willing to pay the price premium for locally grown and produced agriculture, food, beverage, and seafood products. The Ministry also continues working with BC businesses to help leverage the Buy BC brand to generate demand for their products and engage on how the programming services can improve their ability to build domestic market capacity and resiliency. Further brand enhancement, regional consumer engagement and stronger partnerships with BC retailers will be a focus for 2023/24.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2019/20 Baseline	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target	2022/23 Actual
1.2a Number of government or other Feed BC partner facilities that have committed to a minimum 30% B.C. food expenditures within total annual food expenditures ^{1,2}	103	190	195	190
1.2b Number of Buy BC logo licensed products ³	809	3,167	2,300	3,945

¹Data source: Feed BC, Ministry of Agriculture and Food

²PM [1.2a] targets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 were stated in the 2022/23 service plan as 205 and 215, respectively. For forward-looking planning information, including current targets for 2023/24 – 2025/26, please see the latest service plan on the [BC Budget website](#).

³Data source: BC, Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Note: targets for this performance indicator started in 2020/21 and were revised in the current service plan.

In 2022/23, 190 Feed BC partner facilities in healthcare and post-secondary remained committed to a minimum of 30 per cent B.C. food expenditure within their total annual food expenditures. These Feed BC partner facilities will provide market opportunities for B.C. producers and processors and support increased provincial food supply and food system resilience. A key focus of 2022/23 was early development work on bringing Feed BC to K-12 and correctional facilities and exploring other potential partnerships. As a result of this priority focus, no new partners fully implemented Feed BC this year.

Goal 2: Position B.C. as a leader in regenerative agriculture practices and agritech

Objective 2.1: Support the development of the agritech sector and promote regenerative agriculture practices

Take steps to support regenerative agriculture practices which seek continuous improvement of ecosystems and the agritech sector that is applying innovation and technology to agriculture and food production. Regenerative agricultural practices create healthy ecosystems that are self-renewing and resilient. Development of the agritech sector will support the creation of high-tech jobs, introduce new farm technologies, reduce reliance on manual labour and increase the productivity and profitability of farming businesses.

Key results

- With support from government's Clean BC Roadmap to 2030, the Ministry was able to ramp up direct funding for farmers and ranchers to adopt beneficial management practices that incorporate regenerative and sustainable agricultural practices.
- The [Minister's Advisory Group on Regenerative Agriculture and Agritech \(AGRAA\)](#) met throughout 2022/23. The Advisory Group process was expanded in Fall 2023 to engage more broadly through the BC Agricultural Council and Indigenous food security champions, resulting in the [B.C. Sustainable Agriculture Strategic Framework](#), endorsed by Minister Alexis at the Pacific Agriculture Show on January 26, 2023. A final report of the Advisory Group's activities and recommendations is expected in 2023/24.
- The Ministry developed partnerships with private industry, academic, non-government organizations, and other levels of government to advance agritech development, including:
 - The BC Centre for Agritech Innovation, led by Simon Fraser University, in partnership with the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development, and Innovation and the Pacific Economic Development Canada.
 - The BC-Netherlands Action Plan, a partnership with the Netherlands and the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation.
 - The Ministry partnered with Telus's Strategic Investment Fund to direct \$665,000 towards research on opportunities for the agritech sector in BC.

Summary of progress made in 2022/23

On agritech, the Ministry focused on completing funding projects through the Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program and the Ramp-Up Pilot Program. This funding stimulates growth and development of new technologies that will enhance agriculture and food processing sectors and support agritech businesses to expand and grow, while ensuring British Columbians' world-class sustainability, quality and safety standards continue. The Ministry also contributed to these goals with research and relationship development.

To support the adoption of regenerative agriculture practices the Ministry has worked internally and with external partners to understand, communicate, and incorporate practices into government programming such as knowledge transfer and extension services offered by the ministry and through a conference on regenerative agriculture at the Pacific Agricultural Show in January 2023.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2019/20 Baseline	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target	2022/23 Actual
2.1a Number of B.C.-based agritech company growth opportunities supported through Ministry programming	33	42	42	48
2.1b Number of Beneficial Management Practice projects completed by farmers, supporting regenerative agriculture practices and technologies	225	211	260	525

Data source: [type data source here]

¹ Performance measure 2.1a was not carried forward in the latest service plan. For more details on forward-looking planning information, including the performance measure and current targets for 2023/24 – 2025/26, please see the latest service plan on the [BC Budget website](#).

² PM [2.1b] targets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 were stated in the 2022/23 service plan as 270 for both years. For forward-looking planning information, including current targets for 2023/24 – 2025/26, please see the latest service plan on the [BC Budget website](#).

³ The baseline is the two-year average (2018/19 to 2019/20) associated with the baseline funding of the program

Goal 3: Support sustainable aquaculture sectors

Objective 3.1: Support safe, sustainable increase of B.C. seafood processing capacity

To support increasing B.C.'s seafood economies, the Ministry will explore economic programs for safe, sustainable development using a dedicated funding package to support processing infrastructure and other cost-shared programs.

Key results

- Completed assessment of current seafood processing industry capacity and competitiveness
- Supported Centre for Seafood Innovation business accelerator program to help emerging seafood businesses scale up new product and process ideas
- Contributed to Department of Fisheries and Oceans Clean Technology Adoption Program to support upgrades to equipment and new lines for seafood processors
- Continued to provide advice and promotional assistance to the Dock+ (Port Alberni) and The Centre for Seafood Innovation (Vancouver Island University, Deep Bay Marine Field Station, Bowser) Food Hubs, to support their work with local seafood producers and processors.

- Increased seafood organization participation of the Buy BC logo licensee program; 43 new seafood organizations joined the program, including 34 processors and 10 associations/councils.

Summary of progress made in 2022/23

In 2022/2023 the Ministry explored economic programs for safe, sustainable development using a dedicated funding package to support processing infrastructure and other cost-shared programs. The Ministry provided \$1.3 million in funds to support BC seafood processors and producers to acquire new technology to improve productivity, innovate and reduce costs. This included funding from BC Salmon Recovery and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF), Fisheries and Aquaculture Clean Technology Adoption Program (FACTAP), and base funding. This funding supported seafood processors' ability to increase productivity, acquisition of new processing and cold storage equipment, acquire business acumen to develop new and innovative products and to review the seafood processing sector to assess gaps and needs for future sector development planning. The Ministry also supported the seafood processing sector access to export market through international tradeshow, in partnership with the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development, and Innovation.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

The first year for this objective was 2021/2022. The Ministry supported number of seafood processing businesses or organizations supported through Ministry programs, with baseline data reported for 2022/23. The Ministry supported 72 companies through technology adoption funding, traceability, market readiness training, business development and market development programs. Targets for future years will be subject to future programming and are estimated at consistent levels over the next few years.

Financial Report

Financial Summary

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations ¹ (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
Operating Expenses					
Science, Policy and Inspection	19,086	12,000	31,086	30,043	-1,043
Agriculture Resources	61,433	175,301	236,734	235,552	-1,182
BC Farm Industry Review Board	1,378		1,378	1,764	386
Executive and Support Services	6,923	250	7,173	9,012	1,839
Agricultural Land Commission	5,001		5,001	4,893	-108
Production Insurance Special Account (net)	13,200	-1,974	11,226	11,226	
Sub-total	107,021	185,577	292,598	292,490	-108
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual ²	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000
Total	107,021	185,577	292,598	292,490	-108
Ministry Capital Expenditures					
Executive and Support Services	1,229	0,000	1,229	910	-319
Total	1,229	0,000	1,229	910	-319

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.

Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations

As of March 31, 2023, the Minister of Agriculture and Food is responsible and accountable for the following organizations:

[Agricultural Land Commission](#)

The Provincial Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) is the independent administrative tribunal dedicated to preserving agricultural land and encouraging farming in B.C. The ALC is responsible for administering the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), a provincial land use zone where agriculture is the primary land use taking place on the limited agricultural land base.

[British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board](#)

The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board (the Board) is an independent administrative tribunal that operates at arm's-length from government. As the regulatory tribunal responsible for the general supervision of B.C. regulated marketing boards and commissions, the Board provides oversight, policy direction and decisions to ensure orderly marketing and to protect the public interest. In its adjudicative capacities, the Board provides a less formal system than the court for resolving disputes in a timely and cost-effective way.

[BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission](#)

[BC Chicken Marketing Board](#)

[BC Cranberry Marketing Commission](#)

[BC Egg Marketing Board](#)

[BC Hog Marketing Commission](#)

[BC Milk Marketing Board](#)

[BC Turkey Marketing Board](#)

[BC Vegetable Marketing Commission](#)

Appendix B: Progress on Mandate Letter Priorities

The following is a summary of progress made on priorities as stated in Minister Lana Popham's 2020 Mandate Letter.

2020 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2023
<p>In the context of COVID-19, improve food security and the safety of workers by continuing to improve conditions for temporary foreign workers and temporary domestic workers in farming communities, with support from the Minister of Labour.</p>	<p><u>Temporary Foreign Workers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial quarantine program • Province funding hotel, food services, health screening, wellness walks, laundry, interpretation and translation services and other necessary supports for TFW 14-day quarantine period. <p>Additional info:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2021, approximately 9300 TFWs arrived with about 100 COVID cases detected while workers were in the quarantine program. • Of the 5,000 TFWs who arrived between April 13 and December 31st, 2020, 64 COVID-19 positive cases were detected, and all recovered while under the care and supervision of the quarantine program. • B.C. also established protocols, provided guidelines, and continue to conduct inspections at on-farm accommodations and work sites before workers arrive. • In total, over 600 farms and over 900 farm sites (some farms have more than one site), were inspected and received workers in 2021. <p>Domestic Workers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Province provided funding for safe campgrounds, on-farm sanitation and PPE and education around COVID-19 protocols for domestic workers

2020 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2023
	<p>travelling to Okanagan from other provinces in each of the last two years.</p> <p>Additional info:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A COVID-19 Awareness for Fruit Pickers in B.C. course, developed by AgSafe BC, was required for workers to stay at designated campsites and/or pick fruit. • There were no documented COVID outbreaks at these campgrounds.
<p>Expand the Grow BC, Feed BC and Buy BC programs to encourage greater food security and local business growth.</p>	<p><u>Feed BC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented in all health authorities. • Implemented in 20 of B.C.'s 25 post-secondary institutions: <p>Additional info:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2018-19, the first year of Feed BC, over 27% of the food served by health authorities was B.C. food, defined as a final product produced and/or processed within the geographic borders of B.C. • In 2019-20, this increased to over 30% representing a \$3.5 million increase in B.C. food expenditures. • Post-secondary institutions have committed to a minimum 30% B.C. food. Okanagan College is already at 38% locally sourced produce, meat and dairy. <p><u>Buy BC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buy BC Partnership Program - \$2 million annually. • Program allows B.C. companies to use free Buy BC logo and supports

2020 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2023
	<p>industry-led marketing campaigns which can help increase domestic sales.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 3500 products now use Buy BC logo. • 242 industry-led marketing projects have been funded since 2018; this includes the 69 active projects for the 2021-22 funding cycle. • Partnered with Thrifty Foods, Safeway and now Save-On Foods to promote B.C. products in-store in over 40 communities. • Distributed 8,700 Buy BC signs to Thrifty Foods and Safeway stores to increase visibility and sales of BC products. • Buy BC e-commerce program - \$550,000 one-time funding in 2020 as part of COVID-19 response. • Program helped farmers and food and beverage processors pivot their sales model so they could develop and market online sales. <p>Farmers Markets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnering with the BC Association of Farmers Markets to help them pivot to an online model. • Over 70 farmers markets launched an online virtual store in 2020 generating over \$2.5 million in sales with an additional \$1.4 million in 2021. • BC Farmers Market Nutrition Coupon program helped 4,914 households (14,104 recipients) across 86 communities in 2021.

2020 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2023
	<p><u>Grow BC</u></p> <p>BC Land Matching Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program has supported 262 farmland matches between new farmers and landholders bringing over 10,200 acres of B.C. farmland into production. <p>Additional info:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apart from Quebec, B.C. is the only province or territory to support regional land matching services. <p>Small Farm Business Acceleration Pilot Program (part of Stronger BC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided funding to small and new farmers for business plan coaching, as well as cost-shared funding for commercial farm infrastructure and equipment, to increase productivity and sales.
<p>Drawing on the recommendations of the Food Security Task Force, take steps to make BC a leader in food security and the emerging agri-tech sector, helping B.C. companies that are bringing innovation to agriculture grow, hire more workers and position our province as an agri-tech leader, while protecting farmland in the ALR.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program provided \$2.8M in cost-shared funding for 32 innovation projects. Ramp-Up Pilot Program supported 16 early-stage agritech entrepreneurs through mentorship, coaching and market validation training. BC Centre for Agritech Innovation and JEDI working group. BC-Netherlands Action Plan and JEDI working group.
<p>With support from the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation, lead work to develop a new Regenerative Agricultural Network, which will create jobs for workers, opportunities for farmers and greater food security by bringing together natural systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the Ministers' Advisory Group on Regenerative Agriculture and Agritech and further engagements with the B.C. Agricultural Council and Indigenous food security champions. Regional networks and on-farm hands-on learning focused on regenerative

2020 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2023
<p>of production with agri-technologies that enhance production.</p>	<p>agriculture through the Knowledge and Technology Transfer Program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry-sponsored Regenerative Agriculture and the Agritech/Innovation Day and Regenerative Agriculture Growers' Short Course at the Pacific Agriculture Show.
<p>Support the work of the Minister of Education to help make sure students are properly fed for learning, working with school districts to create more local school meal programs based on district data and priorities, by integrating Feed BC into this plan so that districts can include locally grown food.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed BC and K-12 School Food Mandate • The B.C. government is investing \$214 million for school districts to create or expand food programs in schools. • Feed BC will build on local food work already underway in B.C.'s K-12 sector to support schools to use more B.C. food and grow local food literacy and partnerships based on school needs. • Resources to integrate Feed BC into school food programs will become available over the 2023-24 school year.

2020 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2023
<p>Support the work of the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction to increase food security for people in need by expanding our supports to food banks and developing program partnerships with food producers, grocery stores and not-for-profits to develop discounted food market, food recovery and food redistribution programs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic investment in food security with over \$200 million in support from Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. • Some of the related SDPR initiatives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical Food Security Infrastructure funding to improve food security infrastructure across the province. • Food Banks BC funding to support food access programming, crisis response, and work towards long term food security outcomes. • United Way BC funding to support expansion of regional community food hub programming, including new hubs in Northern BC and Southern Vancouver Island, and support coordination of effective community food access responses through an advisory committee.

