

Ministry of Municipal Affairs

2022/23 Annual Service Plan Report

August 2023



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Published by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Municipal Affairs 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 black ink, reading "Anne Kang".

Honourable Anne Kang
Minister of Municipal Affairs
August 10, 2023

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Letter from the Minister

I'm pleased to present the Ministry of Municipal Affairs Annual Service Plan Report. Over the past year, my ministry has advanced our government's key priorities by putting people first, working towards lasting and meaningful reconciliation, and supporting equity and anti-racism. We are focused on creating attainable and affordable housing, supporting safer communities and improved health care, and creating a strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone.

As the Minister responsible for immigration, I hear every day how British Columbians are welcoming of those who are new to the province. Newcomers are a key part of our past, present, and future. As an immigrant myself, I know how important it is to have access to services and supports to help new arrivals thrive. That's why we increased annual funding for settlement services, from \$6 million to almost \$26 million, to empower temporary residents and naturalized citizens to find meaningful employment, access education and healthcare, and successfully integrate into their new communities.

With record numbers of people moving to B.C., local governments are working hard to support their growing communities, and the province is here to help. Through the \$1B Growing Communities Fund, the province provided a one-time boost to all 188 local governments to tackle their unique infrastructure and amenity needs. This funding will help local governments address B.C.'s housing crisis and build the kind of infrastructure that makes our communities vibrant and livable. The province also provided \$450M for 20 critical infrastructure projects as well as infrastructure funding to phase 1 of Metro Vancouver Regional District's Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade.

A vital part of vibrant communities is having library services readily available to everyone. From offering regular access to the internet to delivering programs for families, newcomers, job seekers, and seniors, libraries help people stay connected, access information, and continue their lifelong learning. This year, in addition to annual operating funding, we provided a historic investment in grants totaling \$45 million to B.C. public libraries and the organizations that help them deliver services. This gives libraries flexibility to address local priorities, including longer hours, bigger digital collections and better access to literacy and lifelong learning opportunities.

The achievements outlined in this Annual Service Plan Report demonstrate this Ministry's many efforts to meet key priorities during the year and our commitments to supporting the people of British Columbia.



Honourable Anne Kang
Minister of Municipal Affairs
August 10, 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's [2020 Mandate Letter](#) shaped the goals, objectives, performance measures, and financial plan outlined in the [Ministry of Municipal Affairs 2022/23 – 2024/25 Service Plan](#) and the actual results reported on in this annual report.

Purpose of the Ministry

The [Ministry of Municipal Affairs](#) helps make B.C. communities great places to live by taking leadership in supporting local governments, not-for-profit organizations and residents to build vibrant and healthy communities that are well governed, liveable, safe and diverse as well as economically, socially and environmentally resilient.

The Ministry supports newcomers to settle and integrate into the province, facilitates economic immigration to address B.C.'s labour market needs, and attracts international entrepreneurs.

The Ministry also oversees the University Endowment Lands and works with public library partners to sustain the public library system.

The effective delivery of the Ministry's mandate relies on key legislation, including: the [Community Charter](#), the [Vancouver Charter](#), the [Local Government Act](#), the [Municipal Aid Act](#), the [Municipal Finance Authority Act](#), part six of the [Gaming Control Act](#), the [Islands Trust Act](#), the [Provincial Immigration Programs Act](#), the [Ministry of International Business and Immigration Act](#), and the [Library Act](#).

Operating Environment

B.C.'s population is growing rapidly, and this growth is driven almost entirely by international migration. The federal government continues to set ambitious immigration targets for permanent residents while also issuing a record number of temporary work and study permits. In 2022, B.C. welcomed over 50,000 new permanent immigrants while the population of non-permanent residents in the province grew by nearly 100,000. High immigration levels are expected into the future and will shift B.C.'s population and demographic profile. This rapid population growth creates opportunities for the province to grow the labour force and offset an aging population, but also contributes to pressures on housing, infrastructure, and public services.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 led to the rapid establishment of the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel program, an accelerated temporary residence pathway for Ukrainians to enter Canada with their families and stay for up to three years. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs led a cross-government effort to welcome displaced Ukrainians and help them settle in the province. At the end of March 2023, B.C. had welcomed more than 14,000 displaced Ukrainians.

Local governments continued to be challenged by inflation, labour, and supply chain markets in 2022/23, impacting affordability as labour markets and material shortages escalated costs. These pressures continued to drive up capital project costs. Continuing climate-driven events like the atmospheric rivers and drought conditions and their recovery impacts prioritized the need for resources to restore and rebuild local and provincial infrastructure. The effects on some communities have been long-lasting and the drawn-out nature of recovery has been impactful on the social fabric of several communities.

Over 1600 individuals were elected to local government in the October 2022 general local election. Almost half of the successful candidates were elected to a new role, and approximately 30 percent were new to holding an elected position. Local elections administration is shared responsibility across the sector requiring collaboration and cooperation to develop and deliver training and ensure elections participants are well informed and engaged.

Housing supply and affordability continues to be a priority in every community around the province. In December 2022, the Ministry of Housing was established to consolidate and organize policy resources around this issue, and responsibility for the Development Approvals Process Review was assigned to that ministry.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs received a refreshed mandate with the appointment of a new Minister in December 2022, which included support for the renewed Housing Strategy, responsibility for core local government land use regulation oversight, and to support growing communities with funding for infrastructure and community amenities like parks, recreation centres, public libraries, and childcare centres.

The not-for-profit sector is a key economic sector that is important to B.C.'s well-being and economic recovery. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs' Community Gaming Grants program supports a diverse range of not-for-profit organizations in areas such as arts, culture, health, sports, social services, environment, and public safety. Many not-for-profits continue to be impacted following the pandemic by increasing demands for services and programming and a loss of volunteers. At the same time, inflation and rising staffing costs add to the pressure while revenues, such as government funding, fundraising and donations have plateaued.

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 percent 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 totaled 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: Strong, sustainable, and well-governed communities

Objective 1.1: Further a governance system that considers local government and provincial interests and builds strong relationships for the benefit of all people.

Provincial and local governments have responsibilities that often overlap, interact and intersect. Governments at both levels are, therefore, most effective when policies and services are coordinated to meet the needs of communities, regions, and the province.

Key results

- Partnered with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) on the first in-person Convention since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Convention brings the Premier, Cabinet Ministers, and provincial staff together with local governments and First Nations that are members of the UBCM for over 730 meetings in a safe and productive opportunity to exchange of ideas and optimize cooperation and collaboration.
- Worked with municipality and Haida Nation to restore the name of Daajing Giids to the village formerly known as Queen Charlotte. The adoption of the ancestral Haida name for the village was an early step toward incorporating the Declaration Act principles in the naming of municipalities and regional districts.
- Worked with UBCM and Local Government Management Association on enhancing responsible conduct including implementing requirements to consider a code of conduct for municipal council and regional district boards, changes to the local government oath of office and a new responsible conduct educational module.
- Supported the administration of general local elections in over 200 local jurisdictions with education, advice and problem solving.

Summary of progress made in 2022/23

To advance the inclusive regional governance commitment in the Declaration Act action plan, the Ministry provided financial support to regional districts and First Nations for engagement on potential First Nations representation in regional government.

Towards the end of 2022, there were changes in local elected leadership and a shuffle in Cabinet. Efforts made to re-establish Minister Kang's connections with local elected officials have led to notable progress in strengthening relationships. Ministry staff continued to play a crucial role providing advice, problem solving, support and/or oversight for local government finance, operational and policy matters.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target	2022/23 Actual
1.1a Actively engage with UBCM local governments and UBCM First Nations members with ongoing meetings between elected officials and staff, including: number of formal meetings held annually between UBCM Executive and the Minister of Municipal Affairs ^{1,3}	14	4+	11
1.1b Actively engage with UBCM local governments and UBCM First Nations members with ongoing meetings between elected official and staff, including: number of meetings held annually between the Ministry, UBCM, individual local governments and UBCM First Nations members during UBCM Convention and throughout the year ^{2,3}	272	100+	316

Data source: Meeting schedules (calendar meeting invites) and agendas for Senior staff and Minister's meeting. Informal meetings with staff are not counted.

¹PM 1.1a targets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 were stated in the 2022/23 service plan as 4+ and 4+, respectively.

²PM 1.1b targets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 were stated in the 2022/23 service plan as 100+ and 100+, respectively.

³For forward-looking planning information, including current targets for 2023/24 – 2025/26, please see the latest service plan on the [BC Budget website](#).

Ensuring a sound and balanced governance system requires active communication and collaboration between the provincial and local governments, both individually and collectively through the UBCM on various issues and initiatives. While such interactions also occur informally, formal quarterly meetings between the Minister and the UBCM Executive continue to provide an important forum to identify priority topics and exchange perspectives. This offers the right balance between local government autonomy and provincial responsibilities on specific issues and initiatives.

The Ministry exceeded its communication targets for 2022/23. With shifting pandemic conditions and different emerging issues, the decline in meetings with UBCM Executive (21 percent) and increase in meetings between the Minister/Ministry, UBCM staff, local governments and UBCM First Nations members (27 percent) reflect the opportunity to resume travel to communities and new Ministers to meet with communities early in a mandate. The number of meetings vary each year depending on the issues and exceeded pre-pandemic norms for meetings with UBCM and with local governments.

Objective 1.2: Maintain local governments' financial sustainability so they can meet the service needs of their communities.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs supports local governments with their legislated financial responsibilities to promote the long-term sustainability of the local government system. This includes support for a system of joint borrowing that results in significant savings on interest costs, benefiting local governments of all sizes. The Ministry also recognizes the need to examine economic issues that currently impact local governments, and to consider the financial system in light of these issues.

Key results

- Established a working group of provincial and UBCM staff under a tri-partite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Ministry of Finance and UBCM to better understand the unique needs and challenges of local government finance. The working group updates the UBCM Presidents Committee and the Ministers of Finance and Municipal Affairs quarterly on progress under the 3-year workplan.
- Worked in partnership with the Municipal Finance Authority (MFA) to introduce the Diversified Multi-Asset Class Fund (DMAC) and approve development of a fossil-fuel free version. Local governments have long requested access to the potential for higher return from a broader range of products than the very conservative investments that legislation permits them to access.
- Delivered \$109.55 million in grant funding through the Small Community Grants, Regional District Grants and the Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing Program. These grants support professional administration to smaller and rural local governments throughout B.C. and provide targeted funding to municipalities with populations over 5,000 for community safety initiatives.
- Introduced legislative change, best practices and recommended policies for municipalities that will better notify property owners of the risks of tax sale and protect individuals with diminished capacity from loss of their home in response to recommendations in the BC Ombudsperson's report [A Bid For Fairness: How \\$10,000 in Property Tax Debt Led to a Vulnerable Person Losing Their Home.](#)

Summary of progress made in 2022/23

This fiscal year saw progress on long-standing projects that support local government financial sustainability and service provision. Improvements to investing options for local governments will enable increased revenue from unused funds, which will improve cash flow to local governments over the long term.

Similarly, work with UBCM and the Ministry of Finance will result in a better understanding of the revenue and cost pressures facing local governments and discuss potential approaches in light of these pressures. Improvements to the tax sale system seek to inform and protect property owners while helping to ensure that municipalities receive property taxes that enable the provision of services.

Local governments were assisted with ongoing grants for administration and public safety, coupled with the Growing Communities Fund to support infrastructure necessary for growing communities.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target	2022/23 Actual
1.2 Municipal Finance Authority's Credit Rating ¹	AAA	AAA	AAA

Data source: [Municipal Finance Authority](#) Ratings provided by the Moody's, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch rating agencies.

¹PM 1.2 targets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 were stated in the 2022/23 service plan as AAA and AAA, 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](#).

The Ministry works in partnership with the MFA to maintain a AAA credit rating, which results in low rates for borrowing by local governments, saving communities significant amounts in interest cost each year. The Ministry sets local government borrowing limits, reviews and approves loan authorization bylaws, monitors financial reporting requirements, and ensures local government financial data is available to the MFA and the broader public.

The stable outlook reflects MFA's long history of prudent management and governance practices, conservative risk appetite, and sophisticated asset-liability management. Ratings agencies expect the MFA will maintain strong access to capital markets through a diversified investor base and that its funding and liquidity position will stay strong over the next two years. The stable outlook also underscores the expectation that MFA will remain the exclusive lender of long-term debt to B.C. local governments and will retain its legislatively enshrined ability to levy a provincewide tax to replenish any potential draw on its debt reserve fund.

Objective 1.3: Support improvement of community and regional infrastructure and local government planning to further the environmental, economic and social health of communities.

Community and regional infrastructure planned and built by local governments and the private and institutional development they approve influences communities for decades. Through these aspects of the built environment, local governments shape the environmental, social, and economic context for future growth and health.

Key results

- Distributed \$1B to all local governments for the Growing Communities Fund program. The Growing Communities Fund provides local governments with provincial funding to address the increasing need for infrastructure and amenities to serve population growth in a way that reflects each unique community.

- Contributed \$450M in 20 critical infrastructure projects¹ as well as infrastructure funding to phase 1 of Metro Vancouver Regional District's Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade, which is required to meet the Federal Wastewater System Regulations. Iona is one of five wastewater treatment plants that support communities in the most densely populated region of the province.
- Invested an historic \$45M in public library services through grants to public libraries, provincial programs and digital collections that enhance the ability of libraries to deliver social and economic supports communities need.
- Developed and announced the \$10M Complete Communities Program, administered by the UBCM on behalf of the province, to support local governments and modern Treaty Nations in undertaking assessments of their community completeness to identify current strengths, opportunities, and challenges and determine potential actions to increase their completeness.
- Provided 49 organizations with \$5.3M in Community Gaming Grants to matching local capital project contributions. The Capital Projects Grant program is designed to support community-identified needs and priorities. Its focus is on people – their needs, their development, and their involvement with the community. The Capital Project Grants sector supports inclusive projects that provide widespread benefit to a diverse range of community members.

Summary of progress made in 2022/23

In 2022/23 the Ministry of Municipal Affairs delivered over \$1B in new infrastructure funding for local governments and provided program and policy support on the Ministry of Housing's density and complete communities' initiatives. This support was critical to achieving the desired outcomes of the "Homes for People" plan that will deliver more homes people need in a shorter timeframe and build more environmentally sustainable, economically prosperous and socially vibrant communities throughout B.C.

¹ These projects will reduce key risks and support the continuation of core infrastructure services through the supply of clean drinking water, and effective treatment of wastewater; support growing populations, and enhance community resilience.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target	2022/23 Actual
1.3a Number of approved projects from local governments, Indigenous communities, and non-profits funded under the Northern Healthy Communities Fund. ¹	37	25	39
1.3b Number of approved projects from local governments and modern treaty First Nations funded under the Strengthening Communities' Services Program. ²	50	20	37

Data source: 1.3a Northern Development Initiative Trust (Deliver Agency) Program Tracking Documentation, Program Budget Allocation and LNG Canada/Coastal Gas Link Construction Schedule.

1.3b Strengthening Communities' Service Program Evaluation Committee approval of funding applications. Some applications are for projects that serve multiple, adjacent communities.

¹PM 1.3a targets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 were stated in the 2022/23 service plan as 20 and 15, 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](#).

²PM 1.3b targets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 were stated in the 2022/23 service plan as N/A and N/A, 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](#).

Northern Healthy Communities Fund project uptake increased considerably in the latter half of 2022/23 as the Northern Development Initiative Trust and Provincial staff worked to better promote the program and assist with applications where necessary. Continued housing pressures and instances of unsheltered homelessness has led to higher uptake than anticipated for the Strengthening Communities Services Program.

Goal 2: Communities in ongoing/continued economic recovery beyond COVID-19

Objective 2.1: Support the governance, financial, planning and infrastructure resiliency of communities impacted by extraordinary emergencies

Recognizing the broad impacts of the pandemic on communities, this objective focuses on the monitoring and support as local governments work to re-establish services, adjust financial plans, and ensure good governance. This also includes ministry supports to communities affected by natural events that significantly disrupt communities.

Key results

- Continued support for communities throughout the province through management of existing funding programs for infrastructure planning and construction.
- Continued to support recovery of the Village of Lytton following the 2021 wildfire with governance and rebuild of bylaws and financial information. In March 2023, supplemented existing funding supports with an additional \$4.4 million in direct funding was provided to Lytton for capital works related to the wastewater system and drinking water system rehabilitation and enhancements and archaeological related costs and \$2.1 million to support Lytton's operating costs in future years.
- Continued to work with public libraries and sector partners on the use of \$8M of COVID-19 Relief and Recovery grants provided in March 2022. Funds were awarded directly to B.C.'s 71 library systems and used for projects that ranged from increasing internet bandwidth and adapting library services to purchasing more digital collections and covering costs associated with delivering services in different ways.

Summary of progress made in 2022/23

The ministry has monitored funding provided to specific projects to assist with community resilience and recovery following the pandemic, of which 50 were completed. Advice and assistance were provided to local governments, such as the Village of Lytton, that required ongoing support following impacts from a natural event.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target	2022/23 Actual
2.1a Number of approved Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program, Community Economic Resilience stream (CERIP-CER) projects that attain completion of community recovery-targeted infrastructure within program timeframe ¹	13	37	32
2.1b Number of approved Federal/Provincial Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure (CVRIS) projects that attain completion of community recovery-targeted infrastructure within program timeframe ²	2	67	18

Data source: Program applications and approvals

¹PM 2.1a targets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 were stated in the 2022/23 service plan as N/A and N/A, 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](#).

¹PM 2.1b targets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 were stated in the 2022/23 service plan as 10 and N/A, 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](#).

Accelerated funding programs were designed to enhance community resilience and respond to the impacts of the pandemic. These programs had short approval and completion timelines that are essential to help communities recover economically from COVID-19 impacts. Each project represents a community that is being supported in recovery. COVID-19 resilience programs deliver funding to local governments, Indigenous governments, and not-for-profit organizations.

For CERIP-CER, it was anticipated that 37 projects would be completed in 2022/23 by March 31, 2023 (and a further 13 in 2023/24). Thirty-two projects were completed, with 18 remaining projects that will be completed in 2023/24. These projects require additional time to complete. This is primarily attributable to the impacts of flooding and wildfire, a shortened construction season, and material and supply availability.

For CVRIS, it was anticipated that 67 projects would be completed in 2022/23 by March 31, 2023. Eighteen projects were completed, with most projects anticipated to complete by March 31, 2024. During the pandemic, construction market conditions including cost escalation, supply chain disruptions and labour availability created significant project delays. The Ministry mitigated these impacts by helping proponents with scope changes to projects and advocating for extensions with Canada, the provincial granting partner. The program timeline was extended by Canada to support additional time for projects to complete.

Goal 3: Communities are vibrant, inclusive, and enriched by the contributions of newcomers

Objective 3.1: International talent helps to address B.C.'s skills needs and support sustainable economic development in communities across the province

Key results

- Nominated 7,000 individuals for permanent residency in 2022 through the BC Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP) to support the needs of B.C.'s economy.
- Implemented changes to the BC PNP to prioritize workers in healthcare, childcare, animal health and workers outside of Metro Vancouver, which achieved the following results:
 - 74 percent increase in healthcare workers (from 172 to 300)
 - 374 percent increase in early childhood educators (from 90 to 427)

- Implemented a target of 30 percent of nominees residing outside Metro Vancouver by 2025 as part of an effort to continue to support growth, development and diversity of talent to regional areas of B.C., particularly in priority sectors.

Summary of progress made in 2022/23

Rapid population growth in B.C., primarily fueled by international immigration, will have a major impact on the future of B.C.'s labour market, economy and service provision. Efforts to enhance the BC PNP so that it is robust, nimble and can respond to changing circumstances and economic needs throughout the province are ongoing.

In 2022, ministry staff worked closely with the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills and several other ministries to determine B.C.'s immigration needs and support economic and social outcomes for B.C. Ministry staff subsequently worked to further refine the list of BC PNP priority areas in response to B.C.'s labour needs. In 2022, changes were made to the BC PNP Skills Immigration stream to further focus on priority sectors, including health, care economy occupations (e.g., early childhood educators), and animal health occupations (e.g., veterinarians, particularly in regional areas).

The BC PNP has also been developing new relationships and working collaboratively with regional communities to increase economic immigration to regions outside of Metro Vancouver and to ensure alignment with regional economic development priorities.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure		2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target	2022/23 Actual
3.1 Percentage of BC PNP applications processed within service standard commitment ¹	3.1a - Skills applications: 3 months	72%	80%	81.44%
	3.1b - Entrepreneur Regional Pilot applications: 4 months ²	14%	80%	91.7%

Data source: Internal Ministry of Municipal Affairs tracking

¹PM 3.1 and PM 3.1a targets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 were stated in the 2022/23 service plan as 80% and 80%, respectively.

²PM 3.1b targets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 were stated in the 2022/23 service plan as 80% and 80%, 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](#).

The BC PNP is the province's only direct immigration selection tool to identify and facilitate the arrival of international workers and entrepreneurs and plays a key role in labour market and economic development needs. In this performance measure, processing refers to the decisions (approval or refusal) made on a BC PNP file at the application stage. Eighty percent is considered a reasonable target for a service standard commitment given that a certain percentage of files will take longer to process for reasons such as missing application materials, case complexity, and delays related to international travel.

The percentage of applications being processed within service standards increased in 2022-23 for a variety of reasons. During the 2021-22 fiscal year, the operational disruption of COVID was still being keenly felt, especially in Entrepreneur Immigration (EI), which had accumulated a significant application backlog. By FY 2022-23, this backlog was fully addressed. In addition, a variety of policy changes, process improvements, and new staff training practices introduced in 2022 generally improved the quality of the applications as well as processing efficiency.

Objective 3.2: Provide grants and services to help communities thrive and to support newcomers to settle and integrate.

This objective focuses on delivering supports and offering resources that build community capacity while helping newcomers to successfully transition to life in BC.

Key results

- Doubled funding for the BC Settlement and Integration Services program from \$6M/year to \$12M/year to meet continued service demand.
- Provided \$1M in funding for regional coordination and community organizing through the Refugee Readiness Fund that helps ensure communities are ready to welcome and respond to the needs of people arriving from Afghanistan and Ukraine.
- Over 1,400 new clients enrolled in the Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants program, which helps newcomers find jobs that match their experience and background.
- Community Gaming Grants provided over \$1.2M to 18 not-for-profit organizations that deliver programming to help communities thrive and to support newcomers to settle and integrate.

Summary of progress made in 2022/23

In the face of growing newcomer arrivals, the Ministry doubled the funding of the BC Settlement and Integration Services program to support increasing numbers of temporary residents and naturalized Canadian citizens residing in the province. This funding increase also meant that organizations were able to provide important settlement supports to newly arrived Ukrainians fleeing the war.

The Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants program continued to play a vital role in supporting skilled immigrants to use their skills, training, and qualifications to work in B.C. In response to labour market pressures and changing client needs, program eligibility was expanded in late 2022/23. These changes will allow a wider range of newcomers to access supports and increase the number of clients benefiting from the program.

The Ministry played a key role in coordination across government to support the arrival of Ukrainians displaced by war. As well, the Ministry worked with the federal government, settlement service providers and cultural organizations to ensure that there was a coordinated

approach to information sharing, referrals and supports for displaced Ukrainians and resettled refugees such as Afghans. This included working closely with organizations funded through the Refugee Readiness Fund.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target	2022/23 Actual
3.2 Percentage of Career Paths Clients employed in their field upon program completion ¹	68%	70%	74%

Data source: Internal Ministry of Municipal Affairs tracking

¹PM 3.2 targets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 were stated in the 2022/23 service plan as 70% and 70%, 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](#).

The Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants program provides wraparound supports to help skilled newcomers access financial support for language and skills upgrading, career planning and coaching and more to assist with pathways to employment that meet their pre-arrival skills and experience. The tight labour market demand and increased cost of living continued to push clients to seek work immediately instead of engaging with the program's wrap around supports. Despite this, the program was still able to intake over 1,400 clients and there continues to be strong outcomes for clients who are enrolled in the program, with 74% of clients able to find work in the pre-arrival field.

Financial Report

Financial Summary

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations ¹ (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
Operating Expenses					
Local Government	220,500	1,652,613	1,873,113	1,873,577	464
Immigration Services and Strategic Planning	19,128	11,352	30,480	30,322	-158
Executive and Support Services	7,917	-32	7,885	7,579	-306
Ministry Sub-total	247,545	1,663,933	1,911,478	1,911,478	0
Special Account					
University Endowment Lands Administration Account	12,269	0	12,269	10,996	-1,273
Special Account Sub-total	12,269	0	12,269	10,996	-1,273
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual ²	0	0	0	-588	-588
Total	259,814	1,663,933	1,923,747	1,921,886	-1,861
Ministry Capital Expenditures					
Executive and Support Services	69	0	69	67	-2
University Endowment Lands Capital	2,285	0	2,285	1,452	-833
Total	2,354	0	2,354	1,519	-835

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 The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual of \$0.588 million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

Appendix A: Progress on Mandate Letter Priorities

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

Minister Josie Osborne 2020 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2023
Work with UBCM and local government elected leaders to support their communities through the COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status: Completed. • Completed 40 Ministerial Orders to provide legislative exemptions that allowed individual local governments to run safer elections for voters and election staff. • Completed a Ministerial Regulation (under new Bill 10 amendments), to enable over six local governments to conduct safer by-elections or assent votes (expired March 31, 2022). • Provided advice and published guidance materials on best practices during COVID, including: Open Meetings and Electronic Meetings; Electronic Meetings and Public Hearings; Conducting By-Elections and Assent Voting; Compliance and Enforcement Support under Order M314; Improvement Districts (Holding AGMs, Elections, and Electronic Meetings); and Adapting to the New Electronic Meetings Framework.
Improve local communities' ability to respond to the COVID-19 crisis by launching the new Strengthening Community Fund to enable local governments to apply for funding to help them tackle street disorder, cleanliness, and public safety, and improve their ability to respond to challenges posed to businesses and neighbourhoods by homelessness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status Underway. • On the Province's behalf, UBCM is administering the \$100M Strengthening Communities' Services funding program to help B.C. communities address the impacts of homelessness and strengthen community health and safety. • The program's first intake saw more than \$76M invested in 64 communities. This funding supports initiatives such as outreach, mental

	<p>health supports, and expanded temporary shelters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2022, the program's second intake saw approximately \$21M invested in 46 communities. Successful applicants were announced on August 24, 2022. This news release includes a backgrounder listing most of the project recipients.
Work with cabinet colleagues to redouble our government's efforts to streamline foreign credential assessments processed by various regulatory bodies and health related colleges to make sure immigrants can more easily strengthen their language skills and access job opportunities in their field of training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status: N/A In December 2022, responsibility for the foreign credential recognition portfolio transferred to the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills.
With support from the Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing, work to bring down the cost of housing for people by streamlining and modernizing development permitting and approvals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status: Underway. Substantive policy and program work are underway in four key streams: streamlining, development finance, Official Community Plans and zoning, public hearings and input. Early actions include: funding of 43 local government initiatives, many of which are underway, to increase development approval efficiencies through the \$15M Local Government Development Approvals Program; Fall 2021 legislation to (1) remove requirements for public hearings for zoning bylaws that are consistent with the OCP, and (2) delegate some land-use decision-making authority to staff.
Work with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to support economic recovery in communities across BC by continuing to build important infrastructure projects, including through StrongerBC and the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status: Underway - projects being monitored. Completed – Intakes and full allocation for Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) for the following streams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community, Culture & Recreation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rural and Northern Communities ○ COVID-19 Infrastructure Resilience ○ Environmental Quality ○ CleanBC Communities Fund
<p>Work with the Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship and Minister responsible for Fisheries, to support the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, on the Integrated Transportation and Development Strategy to ensure greater alignment between transportation and land-use planning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status: Underway. • The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) and cross-ministry partners have developed an integrated planning approach to better align transportation and land use planning in British Columbia. • Planning Together BC is an integrated planning framework that seeks to align transportation and land use planning for smart and coordinated growth in British Columbia. • MOTI with support from the Ministries of Housing and Municipal Affairs, completed the Transit-Oriented Development strategy to advance complete communities along transit corridors to help achieve housing and affordability goals.
<p>Support the work of the Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing and the Minister of Finance to continue work to provide relief for commercial tenants with triple-net leases who are paying high property taxes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status: Underway. • The Ministry of Municipal Affairs is participating in cross ministry oversight and contributes to policy oversight as required, assisting the work of the Ministry of Finance as it undertakes consultation and develops options for approaches to address the issue of high taxes for commercial tenants under triple net leases.
<p>Support the work of the Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness, including those living in encampments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status: Underway. • The Ministry of Municipal Affairs is participating in regular Cross-Ministry homelessness initiatives (including Cross-Ministry Encampment Coordination Calls, the Homelessness Strategy Coordinating Committee, and

	the Vulnerable Population Working Group).
Support the work of the Minister of Finance to establish Property Assessed Clean Energy financing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status: On hold • The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation is the lead Ministry for confirming Cabinet direction. • Request for Direction drafted. Timeline for consideration is TBD and project is currently on hold. • Once direction is provided MUNI and FIN will collaborate on the Request for Legislation for the necessary enabling legislation to support PACE.