

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

2022/23

Annual Service Plan Report

August 2023



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Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 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 "Mike Farnworth". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Honourable Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
August 14, 2023

Table of Contents

Minister's Accountability Statement	3
Letter from the Minister	5
Purpose of the Annual Service Plan Report	7
Strategic Direction.....	7
Purpose of the Ministry.....	7
Operating Environment.....	8
Report on Performance: Goals, Objectives, and Results	10
Financial Report.....	27
Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations.....	29
Appendix B: The Organized Crime Agency of BC and Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – BC.....	31
Appendix C: Progress on Mandate Letter Priorities.....	32

Letter from the Minister

I am pleased to introduce this 2022/23 Annual Service Plan Report for the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

Throughout 2022/23, we took significant steps to improve public safety across British Columbia. As part of the Safer Communities Action Plan announced by the Province in November 2022, we undertook development of the Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative. There are currently 12 hubs comprised of police, dedicated prosecutors and probation officers addressing repeat violent offending in every region of the province. Each hub serves the communities within its region with the goals of strengthening enforcement to hold individuals accountable and leveraging services to create safe, healthy communities for everyone.

The Safer Communities Action Plan also includes measures to target the organized criminals responsible for the toxic and volatile illicit drug supply in B.C. These drugs continue to claim lives and cause significant health consequences and loss, and drive repeat offending by people with mental-health and addictions issues. The unexplained wealth order legislation developed in 2022/23 fulfills a key recommendation of the Cullen Commission of Inquiry into Money Laundering in British Columbia and provides a powerful tool in combating and deterring money laundering and organized crime.

We are advancing recommendations of the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act through the Policing and Public Safety Modernization Initiative. During 2022/23, engagement was undertaken with Indigenous leadership groups, police leaders and oversight bodies, and local governments to inform new policing and oversight legislation to ensure that the delivery of police services is fair, equitable and responsive to all British Columbians.

In November 2022, the Province announced \$230 million in funding over the next three years to enable the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to reach their full authorized strength and to fill vacancies in rural RCMP detachments, regional units, the BC Highway Patrol, and specialized units combatting major crime, the sexual exploitation of children, and money laundering.

Throughout 2022/23, the ministry continued work to reduce the number of Indigenous Peoples adversely involved in and impacted by the justice system. This included supporting implementation of the BC First Nations Justice Strategy and development of a Métis Justice Strategy. The ministry also partnered with Indigenous organizations and communities through BC Corrections with the goal of strengthening relationships and services to improve outcomes for Indigenous clients.

We remain committed to ending gender-based violence and implementing the provincially relevant Calls for Justice outlined in the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The Province continues to strengthen partnerships with Indigenous leadership and communities to address the systemic causes of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and members of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community.

In March 2023, the Province announced a \$150 million investment to upgrade B.C.'s 911 emergency communications system, which is aging and increasingly incompatible with evolving technologies. Next Generation 911 will be more accessible, improve public safety, and strengthen public confidence in the province's emergency services.

We are also working to increase public safety in B.C. by continuing to improve road safety through measures to combat high-risk driving behaviours; providing structure fire safety information targeted to areas that need it most; and informing evidence-based public safety legislation, policies, and programs through BC Coroners Service independent investigations.

We are working with Indigenous leadership and communities on non-medical cannabis interests and to advance a collaborative approach to cannabis-related governance and jurisdiction between the Province and First Nations.

The ministry continues to strengthen and streamline regulation of the liquor, cannabis, gaming, and private security sectors, and lead the development of consumer protection policy. These measures ensure that sound regulatory processes and enforcement practices are in place to protect the public while supporting and balancing business and community interests across the province.

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



Honourable Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
August 14, 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 of Public Safety and Solicitor General Mike Farnworth's 2020 [mandate letter](#) shaped the goals, objectives, performance measures, and financial plan outlined in the [Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2022/23 – 2024/25 Service Plan](#) and the actual results reported on in this annual report.

Purpose of the Ministry

The [Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General](#) (PSSG) and the [Ministry of Attorney General](#) (AG) work together as the justice and public safety sector to advance a shared vision of a safe, secure, just, and resilient British Columbia.

PSSG's mission is to develop public safety policy and deliver associated services and programs, and administer regulations for the liquor, non-medical cannabis, and gambling sectors.

The ministry is responsible for: [policing and law enforcement superintendence](#); [911 emergency communication services](#); [correctional services](#); [victim services](#); [crime prevention and reduction](#); [restorative justice](#); [civil forfeiture](#); [coroners' services](#); [liquor and non-medical cannabis regulation](#); [gambling regulation](#); [problem gambling prevention and treatment services](#); [road safety](#); [criminal record checks](#); the [protection order registry](#); [security industry regulation](#); [consumer protection](#); and [structure fire prevention and safety](#).¹

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), the [BC Liquor Distribution Branch](#) (LDB) (see Appendix A), and the [Organized Crime Agency of BC](#) within the [Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia](#) (see Appendix B).²

¹ Responsibility for the Province's anti-money laundering strategy moved to the [Ministry of Finance](#) (FIN) in October 2022. In December 2022, responsibility for [Emergency Management BC](#) moved to the new [Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness](#) (EMCR).

Operating Environment

Throughout 2022/23, PSSG continued to strengthen partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations. These partnerships are integral to advancing the priorities of the ministry, including reducing the overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples adversely involved in and impacted by the justice and public safety system; addressing gender-based violence, especially against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people, who are disproportionately affected; and supporting culturally relevant policies, programs and services.² This is consistent with government's commitment to true, lasting reconciliation, the [Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#), the B.C. [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) (DRIPA), and the [Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples](#).

The ministry remained committed to advancing its work through a [Gender-Based Analysis Plus](#) (GBA+) lens and in alignment with the [Diversity and Inclusion Strategy for the BC Public Service](#) to deliver policies, programs and services that are inclusive, intersectional, responsive, accessible, and culturally safe.

Communities throughout B.C. have been dealing with an increase in repeat offending – criminal activity from a small group of people who are disproportionately committing crimes in neighbourhoods – as well as unprovoked violent stranger attacks. The Province, in cooperation with the [BC Urban Mayors' Caucus](#), hired experts in mental health and policing, Dr. Amanda Butler and Doug LePard, to provide a rapid, independent analysis of the public safety challenges communities are facing and recommend evidence-based solutions. Their final report, [A Rapid Investigation into Repeat Offending and Random Stranger Violence in British Columbia](#), was released in October 2022. The report emphasizes the complexity of increased mental health and addictions challenges that have been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic and the overlapping challenges linked to unintended impacts of federal law changes and subsequent Supreme Court decisions. It highlights the need to continue building social and health care supports to address the underlying causes that can lead to a cycle of reoffending.

There continue to be challenges associated with vacancies within the Provincial Police Service. On November 23, 2022, the Province announced funding of \$230 million over the next three years to hire 277 Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) members to allow the RCMP to reach a full staffing level of 2,602 in B.C. As part of government's [Safer Communities Action Plan](#), the money is being used to fill vacancies in rural RCMP detachments, regional units, the [BC Highway Patrol](#), and specialized units combatting issues such as major crime, the sexual exploitation of children, and money laundering.

In [Transforming Policing and Community Safety in British Columbia](#), which was released in April 2022, the [Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act](#) (Special Committee) highlighted the need for transformative change to policing and public safety in B.C. This includes policing

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

and oversight modernization and improved coordination of services across government to better support people with mental-health and substance-use challenges, people leaving correctional centres, and people who are in crisis, at risk or have experienced violence, trauma and/or significant loss.

British Columbians continue to suffer the tragic effects of a toxic and volatile drug supply in the province. At least 12,000 deaths have been caused by illicit drug toxicity since the public health emergency was first declared in April 2016, with at least 2,340 British Columbians losing their lives to unregulated toxic drugs in 2022. As [stated](#) by Lisa Lapointe, B.C.'s chief coroner, "British Columbians across the province are continuing to experience tremendous harm and loss as a result of the province's toxic illicit drug supply. Our province continues to lose an average of six lives every day, and many more people experience serious health consequences as a result of the unpredictable, unregulated drug supply. Death due to drug toxicity remains the leading cause of unnatural death in British Columbia and is second only to cancers in terms of potential years of life lost."

In every year of this public health emergency, Indigenous Peoples in B.C. have been disproportionately impacted. As [reported](#) by the [First Nations Health Authority](#) (FNHA), 2022 was the most devastating year to date for First Nations people, their families, friends and communities. There were 373 toxic drug-poisoning deaths among First Nations people, a 6.3 per cent increase compared to 2021. First Nations people died at 5.9 times the rate of other B.C. residents in 2022. The impact on First Nations women has been especially significant and they died at 11.2 times the rate of other female B.C. residents in 2022, an increase from the rate in 2021.³

There has been a trend of rising structure fire deaths across the province. Over the last five reporting years, there was a 207 per cent increase in fire-related deaths in B.C., according to the [annual statistical fire reports](#) of the [Office of the Fire Commissioner](#) (OFC).⁴ In 2022, there were 86 fire-related deaths and 212 fire-related injuries. People over the age of 65 were overrepresented in fire deaths. Only 45 per cent of reported residential structure fires involved residences that had a working smoke alarm.

Lastly, the rising frequency and intensity of natural disasters resulting from climate change continue to affect British Columbians and the ministry, as indicated by the frequent implementation of provincial states of emergency and emergency orders over recent years.

³ Further information on data sources and trends can be found [here](#).

⁴ There may be differences between OFC and BC Coroners Service (BCCS) fire fatality data due to definitions and criteria. The information presented here is based on preliminary OFC data on fire-related incidents and fatalities. The findings should be interpreted with caution as they do not take coroners' investigative findings into consideration. The OFC and BCCS are working to reconcile their data sets.

Report on Performance: Goals, Objectives, and Results

Goal 1: The justice and public safety sector protects people

Objective 1.1: Improved public safety for all British Columbians

A foundational role of the ministry is to advance strategies to improve public safety through a broad range of program areas, including: policing; crime prevention and reduction; support for integrated, community-based mental health and social services; road safety; fire prevention and safety; and other core functions such as corrections and coroners' services. Safe communities, along with positive public perceptions of safety, are central to the well-being of British Columbians.

Key results

- In November 2022, the Province launched the Safer Communities Action Plan, which includes the Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII) and the development of unexplained wealth order (UWO) legislation.
- The Province requested and [Health Canada](#) granted B.C. a subsection 56(1) exemption under the [Controlled Drugs and Substances Act](#) to decriminalize people who possess small amounts of certain drugs for personal use. From January 31, 2023, through January 31, 2026, adults (18 and older) in the province will not be subject to criminal charges if they possess a small quantity of drugs for personal use.⁵
- In March 2023, the [Law Foundation of British Columbia](#) was provided \$3 million in grant funding to expand and enhance [restorative justice \(RJ\) programs](#) with the support of the ministry.
- In November 2022, a new funding agreement was reached between the Province and ICBC through the [Traffic and Road Safety Law Enforcement Funding Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MOU) that will result in approximately \$100 million dollars over three years for enhanced targeted traffic enforcement, training, and public engagement.⁶

⁵ Drug possession in any amount continues to be a criminal offence on K-12 school grounds and at licensed childcare facilities. Further, decriminalization does not apply to youth 17 and younger. Youth found in possession of any quantity of illegal drugs are subject to the federal [Youth Criminal Justice Act](#), which offers them alternatives to criminal charges in some cases.

⁶ Of the approximately \$100 million over three years, \$80 million will be from ICBC and the remainder will be from federal top-up funding through the [Provincial Police Service Agreement](#).

- The operation of automated enforcement cameras at [140 high-risk intersections](#) across B.C. resulted in 42,618 tickets issued for speed violations and 74,771 for red light violations during the 2022 calendar year.
- During 2022/23, 10,153 90-day [Immediate Roadside Prohibitions](#) (IRPs) were issued, along with 4,208 IRP warnings and 1,429 Administrative Driving Prohibitions.
- The OFC partnered with [Statistics Canada](#) to create a [Community Fire Risk Reduction Dashboard](#) to help prevent structure fires, reduce injuries, and save lives.

Summary of progress made in 2022/23

Throughout 2022/23, the ministry took significant steps to improve public safety across the province.

The Safer Communities Action Plan includes immediate concrete steps at the provincial level to strengthen enforcement to keep those who commit repeat violent offences off B.C. streets and strengthen services to build safe, healthy communities for everyone. The new measures respond to a rise in repeat violent offending and increased mental health and addiction challenges in the province and focus on enforcement and intervention services. Each initiative is structured to improve coordination and collaboration between law enforcement, Indigenous community leaders, community service organizations, justice system actors, health providers, and people who are recovering from addiction and mental-health challenges to address the issues people are seeing in their communities.

Included in the plan is the development and implementation of [12 ReVOII hubs](#) in the province, made up of police, dedicated prosecutors, and probation officers, which focus on improving public safety by co-ordinating responses across the justice system and supporting better outcomes for offenders. During 2022/23, initial engagement with the [BC First Nations Justice Council](#) (BCFNJC) was undertaken; an Integrated Program Agreement was finalized to enable information sharing between justice, public safety, and community partners; and a ReVOII framework was developed for launching in early 2023/24.

The development of UWO legislation was undertaken in 2022/23 to help target the organized criminals responsible for a toxic drug supply that drives repeat violent offending by people with mental-health and addictions issues.⁷ UWOs require people to explain how they acquired their assets if there is suspicion of unlawful activity. They are a powerful tool to help government pierce common money-laundering techniques – such as hiding assets with family members or associates – and remove the benefits of organized crime. UWOs help the [Civil Forfeiture Office](#) build stronger cases against assets used in organized crime, drug trafficking and money laundering.

Another key response to the toxic drug crisis in British Columbia is [decriminalization](#), which is a significant step to end the shame and stigma that prevents people with substance-use

⁷ [Bill 21 – Civil Forfeiture Amendment Act, 2023](#) received Royal assent on May 11, 2023. The amendments are based on recommendations in the [final report](#) of the Cullen Commission of Inquiry into Money Laundering in British Columbia, which was released in June 2022.

challenges from reaching out for life-saving help.⁸ Criminalization drives people to use alone and given the increasingly toxic drug supply, using alone can be fatal. To prepare for decriminalization, which came into effect on January 31, 2023, the Province worked with police leaders to develop training resources and practical guidance – made available to over 9,000 front-line police officers – to assist them in helping to divert people away from the criminal justice system and toward the health and social services that they need.

While the decriminalization of people who possess certain illegal drugs for personal use is a critical step in B.C.'s fight against the toxic drug crisis, there is much more work to be done. The \$3 million provided to the Law Foundation of British Columbia in March 2023 supports expansion of RJ in the province. RJ is another tool to divert people from the criminal justice system. It seeks to repair the harm caused by crime and violence by addressing victims' needs, holding offenders meaningfully accountable for their actions, and engaging the community in the justice process. In this approach, crime is understood not only as breaking the law, but as a violation of people and relationships and a disruption of the peace in the community. The Province provides funding to support a number of community-based RJ programs across B.C. including [Community Accountability Programs](#) and [Indigenous Justice Programs](#).

Throughout 2022/23, the ministry continued work to improve road safety with a focus on [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. The funding agreement reached with ICBC in November 2022 will support B.C.'s Enhanced Traffic Enforcement Program (Etep). Etep is a partnership between RoadSafetyBC, ICBC, the RCMP's "E" Division, and independent municipal police. It provides tools, technology, and dedicated officers to target high-risk driving behaviours and other issues related to road safety.

Statistics Canada's Community Fire Risk Reduction Dashboard, developed in partnership with the OFC and launched in 2022/23, provides statistical and geographical information to help identify areas in communities at greatest risk of structure fires. This information is being used to provide fire safety information targeted to areas that need it most, helping to protect residents and firefighters, and reduce the social and financial impacts to communities resulting from those fires.

⁸ This aligns with action 4.12 in B.C.'s [DRIPA Action Plan](#).

Performance measure and related discussion

Performance Measure ^{1,2}	2020 Baseline	2021 Actual ³	2022 Target ⁴	2022 Actual ⁵
1.1a Violent crime rate ⁶	15.2	15.5	16.4	Not Available
1.1b Property crime rate ⁷	43.7	42.2	45.5	Not Available
1.1c Other crime rate ⁸	17.2	17.2	17.4	Not Available
1.1d Overall crime rate	76.1	74.9	79.4	Not Available

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

¹Police-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.

²Targets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 were reported in the ministry's 2022/23 – 2024/25 service plan as follows: 16.0 and 15.6 for violent crime rates; 44.4 and 43.3 for property crime rates; 17.0 and 16.6 for other crime rates; and 77.4 and 75.4 for overall crime rates.

³The 2021 actuals replace the forecasts reported in the ministry's 2022/23 – 2024/25 service plan based on updated data released by Statistics Canada and BC Stats. The forecasts included in the service plan were as follows: 16.8 for violent crime rates; 46.7 for property crime rates; 17.9 for other crime rates; and 81.4 for overall crime rates.

⁴The 2022 targets were developed for the ministry's 2022/23 – 2024/25 service plan and were calculated as a 2.5 per cent decrease each year, starting from the 2021 forecasts identified above. These forecasts were significantly higher than the actual results for 2021, in part due to uncertainty about the ongoing impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic as well as recent scoring rule changes would have on crime rates in B.C. As a result, the 2022 targets no longer represented a 2.5 per cent year-to-year decrease as was intended.

⁵Crime rates for 2022 were not available in time for publication of this annual report.

⁶Violent 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.

⁷Property 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.

⁸Non-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.

The ministry no longer includes police-reported crime rates as a service plan performance measure. As discussed by Dr. Amanda Butler and Doug LePard in *A Rapid Investigation into Repeat Offending and Random Stranger Violence in British Columbia*, crime rates do not provide insights into the relative seriousness of crimes reported by police. A better understanding of the meaning of crime trends can be gained by Statistics Canada's Crime Severity Index which tracks changes in the severity of police-reported crime by accounting for both the amount of crime reported by police in a jurisdiction and the relative seriousness of these crimes.

While government does not have the ability to control crime rates and crime severity, these metrics continue to be monitored by the ministry as high-level indicators of community safety.⁹ Detailed information on crime trends in B.C. can be found [here](#).

For more forward-looking planning information, please see the ministry's latest service plan on the [BC Budget website](#).

Objective 1.2: Improved outcomes for Indigenous Peoples across the justice and public safety sector through strengthened partnerships with Indigenous leadership and communities

Social and economic disparities persist in B.C. with disproportionate impacts on Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous Peoples continue to be overrepresented in the justice and public safety sector as both offenders and victims, while being underrepresented in positions of leadership, and face unique challenges to their physical, social, and economic well-being.

Key results

- BC Corrections (CORR) has established quarterly meetings with the BCFNJC to build relationships and support implementation of the [BC First Nations Justice Strategy](#).
- In January 2023, CORR signed an independent Letter of Intent (LOI) with [Huu-ay-aht First Nations](#) to develop a MOU to support the successful reintegration of members of their community upon their release from custody.
- In February 2023, [Williams Lake First Nation](#) signed a MOU with CORR based on a previously signed LOI to support their community members upon release.
- During 2022/23, CORR supported the [Indigenous Cultural Liaison and Indigenous Justice Programs](#) by providing cultural training for program facilitators and undertaking the development of a facilitator orientation program.
- Four government-to-government agreements pursuant to section 119 of the [Cannabis Control and Licensing Act](#) were reached in 2022/23 with [Lhtako Dené Nation](#), [Kispiox First Nation](#), [Shxwhá:y Village](#), and [Tsleil-Waututh Nation](#).

Summary of progress made in 2022/23

The BCFNJC continues to advance implementation of the BC First Nations Justice Strategy in partnership with the cross-ministry [Indigenous Justice Secretariat](#) (IJS).¹⁰ A key goal of strategy is to reduce the overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples in the justice system, and PSSG is a

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ The IJS was established in response to a commitment in the BC First Nations Justice Strategy and is housed within the AG.

key partner in achieving that goal. The ministry also continues to support [Métis Nation British Columbia](#) (MNBC) and the IJS in work towards endorsement of the Métis Justice Strategy.¹¹

Throughout 2022/23 the ministry continued work to reduce the number of Indigenous Peoples adversely involved in and impacted by the justice system. This includes partnering with Indigenous organizations to develop new community-based justice programs; helping to strengthen existing traditional Indigenous justice programs by increasing access to training and other resources; providing ongoing culturally diverse and appropriate community corrections and correctional centre programming; and increasing the numbers of Elders and Knowledge Keepers who participate.

The BCCS provided comprehensive mortality data and analyses to the 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 interests, including work advanced through the [BC-FNLCC Cannabis Working Group](#) and by negotiating government-to-government agreements. In December 2022, the [B.C. Indigenous Cannabis Business Fund](#) (ICBF) was launched in partnership with the [BC Assembly of First Nations](#), the [First Nations Summit](#), and the federal government. The ICBF, administered by the [New Relationship Trust](#) and participating Aboriginal financial institutions, provides grants to First Nations and Indigenous entrepreneurs to participate in the regulated cannabis sector. The ministry also worked with the [First Nations Leadership Council](#) and other key Indigenous partners to advance a collaborative approach to cannabis-related governance and jurisdiction and initiated engagement with partners and interested First Nations in spring 2023.¹²

Performance measure and related discussion

Performance Measure	2020/21 Baseline	2021/22 Actual ²	2022/23 Target ³	2022/23 Actual
1.2 Total number of First Nation communities with a LOI to create a MOU to support the successful reintegration of Indigenous Peoples returning to their community and/or remaining connected to their community. ^{1,4}	22	26	29	26

Data source: Results for this measure are derived from CORR.

¹The baseline, actuals and targets are cumulative and therefore represent the total number of communities with signed LOIs, not the number of First Nations with LOIs signed in a given fiscal year.

²The 2021/22 actual replaces the forecast of 27 reported in the ministry's 2022/23 – 2024/25 service plan.

³The 2022/23 target was developed for the ministry's 2022/23 – 2024/25 service plan and represented a conservative estimate of two additional communities per year from the 27 forecasted for 2021/22.

¹¹ The BC First Nations Justice Strategy and the Métis Justice Strategy are included as actions 3.12 and 3.13. respectively in B.C.'s DRIPA Action Plan.

¹² This work is aligned with action 4.47 in B.C.'s DRIPA Action Plan.

⁴Targets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 were stated in the ministry's 2022/23 – 2024/25 service plan as 31 and 33 respectively. For more forward-looking planning information, including current targets for 2023/24 to 2025/26, please see the ministry's latest service plan on the [BC Budget website](#).

Throughout 2022/23, the ministry continued to work with Indigenous partners to develop LOIs and MOUs to support the successful reintegration of Indigenous Peoples returning to their community and/or remaining connected to their community. The MOUs for Supported Community Reintegration between First Nations and CORR strengthen relationships and communication, support community safety, and outline the process to work together to plan for release for those in custody and ensure coordination for supports for those transitioning to community supervision.

In 2022/23, the Huu-ay-aht First Nation signed an independent LOI with CORR and work is underway with the Nation to develop a MOU. This community had previously signed a LOI to enter into a multi-nation MOU; however, they have since chosen to move forward with their own. Therefore, the 2022/23 actual for the above performance measure remains 26. Although the 2022/23 target for this measure was not achieved, conversations with First Nations continue and CORR is currently engaging with many Nations on developing LOIs and MOUs.

Community connections build cultural identity and strengthen resilience, and CORR has signed MOUs and LOIs with First Nations across the province and continues to engage communities with the goal of strengthening relationships and services to improve outcomes for Indigenous clients.

Objective 1.3: Strengthened prevention, protection and support for victims of crime and marginalized and vulnerable women and children

Gender-based violence (GBV) happens in communities of every kind, urban and rural. It happens at work, at school and in the home. Indigenous women and girls, immigrants and newcomers, racialized people, 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, as well as those with disabilities, are especially targeted with violence.

Key results

- Funding of \$5.5 million was disbursed to the [BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres](#) (BCAAFC) in March 2023 for the [Path Forward Community Fund](#) to address Indigenous community safety and capacity building.
- In March 2023, \$9.7 million was provided in one-time grants to support 197 community projects and to fund police equipment and training through the [Civil Forfeiture Grant Program](#), with \$3.7 million collected from forfeited recoveries and \$6 million from provincial funding.
- In March 2023, \$2 million in grant funding was provided to the [WISH Drop-In Centre Society](#) (WISH), and \$500,000 each in grant funding was provided to the [PEERS Victoria Resource Society](#) (PEERS) and the [PACE Society](#) (PACE).

- In 2022/23, an additional 37 communities in B.C. received funding to establish [Situation Tables](#) to connect front-line workers from different health, safety, and social service sectors in order to identify and support vulnerable people.

Summary of progress made in 2022/23

Throughout 2022/23, the ministry took significant steps to end GBV and to better support vulnerable and marginalized people throughout British Columbia.

In June 2022, a [status report](#) was released for [A Path Forward: Priorities and Early Strategies for B.C.](#), highlighting progress towards honouring B.C.'s Path Forward early commitments a year after their release.¹³ As stated in the report, the top priority identified through extensive community engagement is the need for increased capacity so that Indigenous communities can create and implement their own culturally safe and appropriate solutions to the systemic issues resulting in violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

In response, the Province has granted \$10.84 million to date to the Path Forward Community Fund, managed by the BCAAFC. The fund is accessible through grants to First Nation communities, urban and off-reserve communities, Métis, Inuit citizens, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ communities to support them in creating and implementing their own solutions.

During 2022/23, the ministry continued to support the work of the [Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity](#) in developing an action plan to end GBV. In alignment with this work, \$9.7 million in funding was provided through the Civil Forfeiture Grant Program for one-time grants to 197 community projects. These projects are focused on: GBV; Indigenous healing; child and youth advocacy centres; domestic violence prevention and intervention programming; RJ; and crime prevention. Police equipment and training grants were also provided.

The \$2 million in grant funding provided to WISH will be used for their [Mobile Access Project \(MAP\) Van](#) program to provide services to street-based sex workers in Vancouver, a service which makes more than 1,400 connections with women and gender diverse people every month. The \$500,000 each in funding to PEERS and PACE will support increased outreach and access to services, supports, advocacy, drop-in services, and low barrier access to cultural and counselling supports for sex workers, who remain a vulnerable population.

The ministry continues to lead the development of the situation table model which supports the work of the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions (MMHA) as the model continues to be expanded across the province.¹⁴ Situation Tables (also known as Hubs) empower public safety, health, and social service agencies to identify vulnerable people and collaboratively and rapidly connect them to services before they experience a negative or traumatic event (for example, victimization, overdose, eviction, etc.). Because they proactively connect people to services, Situation Tables increase vulnerable peoples' use of services and reduce demand on emergency and police resources over the long term.

¹³ This work aligns with action 3.8 in B.C.'s [DRIPA Action Plan](#).

¹⁴ This work aligns with action 4.11 in B.C.'s [DRIPA Action Plan](#).

BCCS continues to conduct investigations into all deaths of women and children related to violence and criminal activity and provide key information to law enforcement investigators, and to conduct inquests and death review panels to highlight risks to marginalized and vulnerable populations and identify opportunities for greater protection and support.

Performance measure and related discussion

Performance Measure	2020/21 Baseline	2021/22 Actual ¹	2022/23 Target ²	2022/23 Actual ¹
1.3 Average number of days to adjudicate claims for financial assistance from victims and others impacted by violent crime. ^{1,3}	153	Not Available	120	Not Available

Data source: Results for this measure for prior years were derived from the Electronic Victim Information System.

¹ Actuals for 2021/22 and 2022/23 are not available. The Crime Victim Assistance program (CVAP) transitioned to a new information technology system (COAST) in January 2022 with an initial priority on improving case management and reducing reliance on paper processes. Specific reporting capabilities in COAST continue to be developed.

² The target for 2022/23 was based on the 2021/22 forecast of 155.

³ Targets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 were reported in the ministry's 2023/24 – 2024/25 service plan as 110 and 90 respectively.

The ministry no longer includes timeliness of CVAP claim adjudication as a service plan performance measure. In prior years, this measure was used as an indicator of the level of client service and system efficiency in administering [CVAP](#) 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. Timeliness remains an important priority for service delivery under the program and will continue to be monitored when the data is once again available.

For more forward-looking planning information, please see the ministry's latest service plan on the [BC Budget website](#).

Goal 2: The justice and public safety sector is fair

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

Fairness in the justice and public safety sector requires sound regulatory measures that protect public safety and interests while minimizing regulatory impacts on businesses and restrictions on civil liberties. In regulating the liquor, non-medical cannabis, and gambling sectors, and overseeing ICBC and consumer protection policy, the ministry works to support and balance business and community interests. This is done through policy development and by ensuring compliance with regulatory frameworks to reduce related threats to public safety and well-being through public education and enforcement actions.

Key results

- On April 11, 2022, [changes](#) were implemented to allow health authorities administering managed alcohol programs (MAPs) to obtain liquor more easily, ensuring health authorities can deliver health services more effectively to British Columbians.¹⁵
- [New legislation](#) came into force on May 1, 2022, to regulate lenders of high-cost credit products to better protect financially vulnerable British Columbians.¹⁶ Companies that offer high-cost credit products, such as installment loans and lines of credit with more than 32 per cent interest, now require annual licensing and regulation by [Consumer Protection BC](#) (CPBC).
- In spring 2022, government conducted a public survey on consumer experiences to better understand consumer issues in the modern marketplace. This was followed by two stakeholder consultations on potential amendments to requirements for consumer contracts and credit-related products and services.
- Since June 24, 2022, [licensed cannabis retail stores](#) (CRS) are allowed to transfer limited amounts of product between their stores without first obtaining an exemption from the [Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch](#) (LCRB) and, as of July 8, 2022, CRS in B.C. can deliver non-medical cannabis to consumers through common carriers such as Canada Post and delivery-service providers.
- On November 3, 2022, the new [Gaming Control Act](#) received Royal Assent and will come into force through regulation, strengthening and modernizing the regulatory framework for gambling in B.C.
- On November 30, 2022, applications opened through LCRB's [liquor and cannabis licensing portal](#) for a new cannabis Producer Retail Store (PRS) licence that allows eligible federally licensed cannabis producers to sell non-medical cannabis products from stores located at their cultivation site.
- In December 2022, ICBC filed an [application](#) with the [British Columbia Utilities Commission](#) (BCUC) for no increase to basic insurance rates for the next two years which, if approved, will mark five years of no increases to basic insurance rates.
- On March 10, 2023, government announced a second and final extension to temporary expanded service area (TESA) authorizations until December 31, 2024, to allow owners of restaurants, bars, breweries, and wineries more time to make their outdoor seating areas permanent.¹⁷

¹⁵ MAPs are a harm reduction strategy that dispense doses of liquor to individuals most vulnerable to experiencing severe harms, including death, related to their alcohol use.

¹⁶ This legislation was part of the 2019 amendments to the [Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act](#).

¹⁷ Businesses wanting to make their TESA authorization permanent must apply through the liquor and cannabis licensing portal and permanent approval of all expanded service areas must meet all local bylaws and requirements (e.g., related to parking, building codes, and the use of public land).

Summary of progress made in 2022/23

Throughout 2022/23, the ministry continued to promote sound regulatory measures to protect the interests and safety of British Columbians while supporting businesses across the province.

Since federal legalization of non-medical cannabis, the ministry has continued to seek ways to support the cannabis industry in B.C. while providing safe and accessible options for British Columbians who choose to consume cannabis. A public engagement about cannabis consumption spaces was conducted in spring 2022 to help inform decisions about whether to permit these spaces and how they could be regulated. The [results](#) of the engagement were released in January 2023.

The expanded cannabis delivery options implemented in 2022/23 provide more economic opportunities for retailers, build equality within the market, and support requests from the private licensed industry to align with the publicly run, online retail sales platform operated by the LDB. Expanded delivery options also give consumers more reason to buy their product from a legal source, thereby supporting legal retailers to compete against the illicit market. The 2021 BC Cannabis Use Survey [report](#), released in August 2022, highlighted that most people who use cannabis in B.C. are doing so responsibly and there are decreases in consumers buying from illicit sources. Choosing legal sources also protects consumers from the concerning levels of pesticides in illicit cannabis products, as reported in [Chemical Analysis of Illicit Cannabis](#) released in July 2022.

The new PRS cannabis retail licence, available to all eligible federal standard cultivators, micro-cultivators, and nursery licence holders as of November 30, 2022, was created as part of the Province's commitment to enable farm-to-gate cannabis sales in B.C. It is intended to support the development of a robust, diverse, and sustainable legal cannabis economy that is inclusive of Indigenous and rural communities. The launch of the PRS licence followed the May 2022 opening of the first farm-to-gate facility in B.C., in Williams Lake, which was a result of the government-to-government agreement between the Province and Williams Lake First Nation.

The TESA program was implemented in May 2020 as a measure to help the food and beverage sector through difficult times during the COVID-19 pandemic. TESAs have enabled thousands of liquor-licensed businesses to create new or expanded outdoor seating spaces, such as patios and sampling areas, and give customers more space to gather. The March 2023 extension of TESA authorizations to December 31, 2024, reflects government's ongoing commitment to supporting a full recovery of the hospitality sector in B.C.

The new Gaming Control Act addresses weaknesses in B.C.'s regulatory framework that hindered an effective response to the proliferation of money laundering through Lower Mainland casinos. The new Act strengthens the gaming regulator's role by providing the general manager with authority to set and enforce requirements for gaming registrants, licensees, and the [BC Lottery Corporation](#) (BCLC). The legislation includes new provisions to address money laundering in gaming facilities by creating statutory requirements for the completion of source of funds declarations and accompanying enforcement provisions.

Overall, the Act has been modernized and provides greater clarity and transparency for the public and for the companies, people, and organizations operating the gaming sector.

CPBC's oversight of the new high-cost lending regulation which came into force on May 1, 2022, will help ensure that businesses understand and comply with the new licensing and regulation requirements, and that consumers are protected and can make informed choices when using high-cost alternative financial services. The changes also establish new transparency requirements and borrower protections. Rules prohibit certain fees, set requirements for credit agreements, and establish borrower rights and remedies. A new [Consumer Financial Education Fund](#), which also came into effect May 1, 2022, is being used to enhance consumer financial education and awareness throughout B.C.

In May and June 2022, the Province conducted an online public survey to help identify gaps in B.C.'s consumer protection laws and understand any effects they have on British Columbians. Input was sought on a wide range of consumer purchasing experiences with the goals of modernizing laws for the digital economy, protecting more vulnerable consumers, supporting economic growth, and ensuring that consumer protection laws can be enforced effectively. The survey results were summarized in a [What We Heard](#) report, released in August 2022. Stakeholder consultations were held in late 2022 and early 2023 with consumer groups, business organizations, and other groups, including seniors, to gather information on potential amendments to requirements for consumer contracts and credit-related products and services.

The ministry continues to monitor ICBC's [Enhanced Care](#) coverage model to ensure that it meets the needs of British Columbians. With ICBC's introduction of Enhanced Care in 2021, auto insurance rates in B.C. went from some of the most expensive in Canada to being among the most affordable, which is a key priority of government. If the BCUC approves ICBC's December 2022 application for no increase in basic insurance rates, British Columbians will continue to benefit from stable and more affordable basic auto insurance rates through March 2025.

Goal 3: The justice and public safety sector is sustainable

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

The justice and public safety sector must be innovative, adaptive, well-managed, and efficient to remain sustainable. The ministry works to ensure that appropriate resource levels are sustained to facilitate the successful delivery of core public safety services, with resources and decision making oriented to optimize public safety benefits to British Columbians.

Key results

- In 2022/23, 70 per cent of traffic violation tickets were issued through electronic ticketing (eTicketing).
- The ministry continued to advance the multi-year initiative to modernize and enhance the way citizens access security screening and security licensing through work to develop a new online service for eight security programs.¹⁸
- As part of the continued implementation of the [Justice and Public Safety Digital Strategy](#), a new secure logon capability was developed for sector partners.
- In June 2022, 121 positions within PSSG were identified as succession priority positions through the Succession Management Program.
- In June 2022, 43 PSSG employees successfully completed the first edition of the Leadership Development Program developed for the justice and public safety sector, and a second cohort of 25 employees began the program in January 2023.

Summary of progress made in 2022/23

Throughout 2022/23, the ministry continued to advance work to strengthen the sustainability of the justice and public safety sector to best serve British Columbians.

The ministry continued to enhance and support digital roadside tools for police through eTicketing, digitization of roadside forms, and enhanced and automated enforcement across the province. Through the eTicketing process, police officers scan drivers' licence information into an online ticket template that auto-populates offence details, ensuring accuracy while saving time. The vehicle-mounted equipment then rapidly shares this information with sector partners such as ICBC, eliminating the need to mail tickets to these partners and for them to re-enter the details. ETicketing allows police officers to leverage technology with a process that is more efficient, facilitating faster identification of drivers and enforcement against unsafe driving behaviours and allowing police officers more time for additional enforcement activities.

In alignment with government's digital framework direction, the ministry continued work to modernize its security programs to improve access and processing times for security screening and security licensing applications. Improved timeliness will allow people to start employment and volunteer opportunities sooner through faster security clearances; provide businesses with timely access to clearance results; and reduce public safety risks through faster identification of applicants who may represent a risk and require additional assessment. The enhanced technology will also reduce processing errors and, therefore, potential public safety risks.

Released in 2019, the Justice and Public Safety Digital Strategy was developed to unify digital transformation efforts and coordinate investments in data, technology, and resources to optimize how sector programs and services are delivered. As part of its ongoing

¹⁸ Services include processing criminal record checks for individuals working with vulnerable populations, administering licences for security guards and businesses, and performing security screening for the provincial public service and other public bodies.

implementation, a new capability for reusing existing digital identities was developed to provide a wider range of login options for sector participants. The initial rollout of this capability in 2022/23 included police and lawyers and allows for more efficient and secure information sharing to support public safety.

Throughout 2022/23, the ministry continued to strengthen evidence-based workforce planning with a focus on succession management and leadership development. Through the Succession Management Program, succession priority positions were identified as essential to building organizational capacity and ensuring the continuity of key functions required for program and service delivery. Key professional development activities for these positions include coaching skills, mentoring, knowledge transfer, and leadership development.

The Leadership Development Program was established for the justice and public safety sector to support succession management and build leadership capacity within the sector. The voluntary 18-month program includes competency assessments, group learning, experiential learning, and formal learning through [B.C. Public Service Agency](#) professional development courses, the [House of Indigenous Learning](#), and the [Harvard Manage Mentor](#).

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

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

British Columbians 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. Public confidence in the police is of particular importance. How police are viewed 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. A positive perception of police among citizens is a critical aspect of public safety and contributes to lower levels of crime.

This objective is also linked to the three previous goals. For the public to have confidence in the justice and public safety sector, the sector must protect people, be fair, and be sustainable.

Key results

- In October 2022, the Province approved advancement of the Policing and Public Safety Modernization Initiative, which includes responding to the Special Committee's recommendations and modernizing the [Police Act](#).
- In November 2022, the Province announced as part of the Safer Communities Action Plan, an investment of \$230 million over three years in core police funding that will sustain and strengthen enforcement and crime prevention capacity by enabling the staffing of existing vacancies within the Provincial Police Service throughout B.C.

- In February 2023, new training for police board members was launched to provide the tools for strong and effective independent oversight of municipal police agencies in their communities.
- In March 2023, the Province announced a \$150 million investment to upgrade B.C.'s 911 emergency communications system to Next Generation 911 (NG911), which will improve public safety and public confidence in emergency services.
- In 2022/23, BCCS took significant steps to increase the timeliness of coroners' investigations by increasing the total number of investigating coroners and transitioning to a new functional model.

Summary of progress made in 2022/23

Significant steps were taken in 2022/23 that are anticipated to increase public confidence in the justice and public safety sector.

The [report](#) of the Special Committee was released in April 2022. The Special Committee's recommendations to reform policing and public safety in B.C. are based on extensive analysis and input and reflect today's challenges, including addressing systemic racism, and mental health and addictions first response. They echo government's belief that everyone deserves equal treatment by the police, but this has not always been the case for many Indigenous, Black and racialized communities. Public trust requires that the delivery of police services is fair, equitable and responsive to all British Columbians.¹⁹

In March 2023, the Public Safety Transformation Team was established within the ministry to oversee implementation of the Safer Communities Action Plan and the recommendations of the Special Committee. As part of the Policing and Public Safety Modernization Initiative, engagement on policy development was undertaken to inform new policing and oversight legislation. Engagement partners include Indigenous leadership groups, police leaders and oversight bodies, and local governments.

Through the \$230 million in core police funding over three years, the Province is tackling key public safety issues, including:

- Facilitating the RCMP to fill long-standing vacancies in rural and remote police detachments in communities of less than 5,000 people;
- Allowing the RCMP as the Provincial Police Service to reach their fully authorized strength of 2,602 members;
- Enabling the hiring of members in provincial specialized units, such as the major crimes section, the sexual exploitation of children unit, and the BC Highway Patrol. These units serve rural and urban communities throughout B.C. and can help alleviate some of the work of municipal police services, freeing them up to focus on other crime; and

¹⁹ This is aligned with action 3.11 in B.C.'s DRIPA Action Plan.

- Creating a strong foundation to address anti-money laundering recommendations from the Cullen Commission.²⁰

The new [BC Police Board Training Program](#) is the first of its kind in Canada and will support the strong governance and oversight that is crucial to maintaining public confidence in policing. Policing is becoming increasingly complex, and people expect modernized services that reflect their communities' current and future needs. Police board members require specific skills and knowledge to fulfil their legislated roles and responsibilities. The training courses in the program align with recommendations of the Special Committee, which highlight the need for comprehensive police board training.

[E-Comm](#), which handles 99 per cent of the 911 call volume in the province, is leading implementation of NG911 in most B.C. municipalities to upgrade the current 911 system which is aging and increasingly incompatible with evolving technologies. NG911 will make the 911 system more accessible for people who choose to communicate confidentially with emergency services, and by allowing people to use different text media to interact with operators. In addition, the technology's capacity to provide real-time accounts of domestic violence and other emergencies and unfolding events will help dispatchers to improve emergency responses.

Through its impartial and independent investigations, BCCS supports public confidence in the justice and public safety sector by providing information about individual deaths and aggregated data reporting to inform evidence-based public safety legislation, policies, and programs.

Under the [Coroners Act](#), the BCCS is mandated to investigate all sudden and unexpected, unexplained, or unattended deaths in the province, including:

- deaths which appear to be the result of violence, injury, or self-harm;
- deaths in which the cause of death is unexplained;
- deaths that do not meet the above criteria but where the deceased person has not been under the care of a physician;
- all deaths which occur in provincial correctional facilities, federal penitentiaries, or other facilities where a person is involuntarily detained, such as those committed to a facility under the [Mental Health Act](#); and
- all deaths of children under the age of 19 years.²¹

While the timelines for each coroner investigation are unique and can be impacted by a variety of internal and external factors, BCCS has taken steps to increase the timeliness of investigations by increasing the total number of investigating coroners, and transitioning to a

²⁰ An overview of the structure of police services in B.C. is available [here](#).

²¹ In 2022/23, 13,733 deaths were reported to the BCCS; of these, 6,884 – or approximately 50 per cent – met at least one of these criteria and proceeded to an investigation.

functional model that allows coroners to specialize in certain types of investigations and will further reduce completion timelines.

Performance measures and related discussion

Performance Measure	2013 Baseline	2019 Actual ²	2020 Actual ³	2022/23 Target	2022/23 Actual
4.1 Percentage of British Columbians who have confidence in the police. ¹	74	89	Not Available	> 2020 Actual	Not Available

Data source: Results for the 2013 baseline are from the 2013 Statistics Canada General Social Survey (GSS) on Social Identity. Results for the 2019 actual are from the 2019 GSS on Victimization. Established in 1985, Statistics Canada’s GSS program was designed as a series of independent, annual, cross-sectional surveys, each covering one topic in depth every five to seven years.

¹Includes those respondents who stated they had a great deal of confidence or some confidence. Responses of “don’t know/not stated” are excluded from the calculation of percentages.

² An actual for 2019 is being reported as it is the most recent data currently available.

³ An actual for 2020 is not yet available from the 2020 GSS on Social Identity. As 2020 results were not available at the time of the release of the ministry’s 2022/23 – 2024/25 service plan, the targets for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 were established as an increase from the not-yet-released 2020 rate.

The ministry no longer includes the percentage of British Columbians who have confidence in the police as a service plan performance measure because of the infrequency of data availability. The ministry will continue to monitor trends in public confidence in police as that information becomes available as it remains an important indicator.

For more forward-looking planning information, please see the ministry’s latest service plan on the [BC Budget website](#).

Financial Report

Financial Summary

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations ¹ (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
Operating Expenses					
Corrections	261,661	3,620	265,281	274,691	9,410
Policing and Security	479,204	164,406	643,610	644,344	734
Victim Services and Crime Prevention	66,236	20,302	86,538	79,552	(6,986)
BC Coroners Service	21,459	2,018	23,477	23,535	58
RoadSafetyBC	27,810	7,211	35,021	32,181	(2,840)
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation	1	6,655	6,656	6,656	-
Gaming Policy and Enforcement	19,564	-	19,564	19,620	56
Cannabis, Consumer Protection and Corporate Policy	3,538	3,500	7,038	7,467	429
Emergency Management BC ²	44,591	(37,122)	7,469	7,469	-
Executive and Support Services	18,188	804	18,992	18,131	(861)
Emergency Program Act ²	436,420	(436,420)	-	-	-
Statutory Services ³	15,054	(378)	14,676	13,872	(804)
Sub-total	1,393,726	(265,405)	1,128,321	1,127,518	(804)
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual ⁴	-	-	-	(6,066)	(6,066)
Total	1,393,726	(265,405)	1,128,321	1,121,452	(6,870)
Ministry Capital Expenditures					
Corrections	1,062	174	1,236	1,471	235
BC Coroners Service	47	63	110	122	12
Emergency Management BC	1,209	(465)	744	147	(597)
Policing and Security	-	199	199	199	-
Executive and Support Services	1,346	(30)	1,316	468	(848)
Total	3,664	(59)	3,605	2,407	(1,198)

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 Effective December 7, 2022, Emergency Management BC and the Emergency Program Act transferred from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to the new Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, with the exception of the Office of the Fire Commissioner.

³ Statutory Services includes Civil Forfeiture Account, Corrections Work Program Account, Criminal Asset Management Fund, and Victim Surcharge Special Account.

⁴ The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual of [\$6.066] million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

Capital Expenditures

Major Capital Projects (over \$50 million in total)	Targeted Year of Completion	Project Cost to March 31, 2023 (\$m)	Estimated Cost to Complete (\$m)	Anticipated Total Cost (\$m)
Nanaimo Correctional Centre Replacement Project	2024	101	80	181

Objective: 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.

Costs: NCC Replacement Project costs increased from \$167 million to \$181 million due to higher construction costs.

Benefits:

- 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](#).
- 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).

Risks:

- Discovery of unanticipated geotechnical conditions or artifacts during demolition of the existing centre in phase two of the project.
- Materials availability and inflation placing upward schedule and pricing pressure on the contractor, subtrades, and contract commitments.
- Scarcity of skilled trades and labour negatively impacting project progress.

Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations

As of August 14, 2023, the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General is responsible and accountable for the following organizations.

BC Liquor Distribution Branch

In British Columbia, the LDB is one of two branches of government that provide oversight for the beverage alcohol and non-medical cannabis industries; the other is the LCRB within PSSG. The LDB is responsible for the wholesale distribution and retail sale of beverage alcohol and non-medical cannabis.

The [Liquor Distribution Act](#) gives the LDB the sole right to purchase beverage alcohol both within B.C. and from outside the province, in accordance with the federal [Importation of Intoxicating Liquors Act](#). The LCRB licenses private liquor stores, restaurants, pubs, and manufacturers and enforces regulations under the [Liquor Control and Licensing Act](#).

The [Cannabis Distribution Act](#) establishes a government wholesale distribution model for non-medical cannabis, public cannabis retail stores, and a publicly run e-commerce retail channel. The LCRB licenses private cannabis stores and enforces some aspects of the regulations under the [Cannabis Control and Licensing Act](#).

Consumer Protection BC

CPBC 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 Columbian 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. ICBC's board has the power and authority given to it by the [Insurance Corporation Act](#) and, subject to the Act, 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 these police boards is to provide general governance, oversight, and direction to the department, in accordance with relevant legislation and in response to community needs.

[Organized Crime Agency of British Columbia](#)

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

See Appendix B.

Appendix B: The Organized Crime Agency of BC and Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – BC

Purpose of the Organization

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 mission of the CFSEU-BC is to facilitate the disruption and suppression of organized crime that affects British Columbians. Its mandate is to investigate, support the prosecution of, 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.

Governance Overview

The Board of Governance for the OCABC also acts as the Board of Governance for the CFSEU – BC.

In 2022/23, as part of the implementation of the BC Organized Crime Strategy, the ministry took steps to enhance the board's strategic oversight, including appointing civilian members who are community leaders in the areas of finance and governance. In addition to the two civilian members, the board is currently comprised of the Chief Constable of the Vancouver Police Department; the Chief Constable of the Victoria Police Department; the Deputy Commissioner Pacific Region and Commanding Officer "E" Division RCMP; the Assistant Commissioners of the "E" Division RCMP; and the Deputy Director of Police Services and the Associate Director of Police Services of PSSG's Policing and Security Branch. 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.

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.

Appendix C: Progress on Mandate Letter Priorities

The following is a summary of progress made on priorities as stated in Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General Mike Farnworth's 2020 mandate letter.

2020 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2023
<p>Working closely with the Provincial Health Officer and your cabinet colleagues, continue to oversee the COVID-19 state of emergency and implement emergency orders as needed to support the health and well-being of British Columbians.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsibility moved to EMCR in December 2022.
<p>Help B.C. restaurants and hospitality businesses through COVID-19 and beyond by delivering a temporary cap on food delivery app fees and making permanent urgent actions our government took in the spring: authorizing the expansion of service areas, allowing restaurants and pubs to purchase alcohol at wholesale cost, and allowing liquor delivery with takeout.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed (see Objective 2.1) Canada's first permanent cap on fees charged to restaurants by food delivery companies came into effect in B.C. in January 2023. In March 2023, a final extension of TESA authorizations was extended to December 31, 2024. Changes to allow for wholesale liquor pricing for the hospitality industry were made permanent in February 2021. Since October 2021, B.C.'s liquor-primary and food-primary liquor licensees are permitted to package and sell unmixed drinks for takeout or delivery with the purchase of a meal.
<p>Deliver a fair deal to B.C. drivers by providing COVID-19 premium rebates from any surplus ICBC delivers during the pandemic.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed COVID-19 rebates were issued to ICBC customers in spring and summer 2021.
<p>Make car insurance more affordable by continuing to move ICBC to a new enhanced care model, reducing premiums by an average of 20 percent while increasing the care available for people who are seriously injured in accidents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed (see Objective 2.1) Enhanced Care was launched in May 2021.

2020 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2023
Establish an ICBC Fairness Officer to improve transparency and accountability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed ICBC's Fairness Officer was appointed effective July 12, 2021.
Work with police to address serious crime in B.C. communities, including cracking down on those who distribute toxic drugs on the streets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In progress (see Objective 1.1) The Safer Communities Action Plan was launched in November 2022 and included the development of UWO legislation, which received Royal Assent in May 2023.
Make our streets safer from gangs and guns by introducing legislation to improve information sharing for law enforcement agencies, regulate imitation firearms, strengthen regulation of shooting ranges and close regulatory gaps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In progress The Firearm Violence Prevention Act (FVPA) received Royal Assent in March 2021. Work is currently underway to develop accompanying regulations. Once complete, both the FVPA and its regulations will be brought into force.
Increase support for initiatives that are proven to prevent and reduce crime and increase the use of RJ programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In progress (see Objective 1.1) In March 2023, the Law Foundation of British Columbia was provided \$3 million in grant funding to expand and enhance RJ programs with the support of the ministry.
With support from your cabinet colleagues, continue to work to implement the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In progress (see Objective 1.3) In June 2022, a status report was released for A Path Forward: Priorities and Early Strategies for B.C. The Province has granted \$10.84 million to date to the Path Forward Community fund, managed by the BCAAFC.

2020 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2023
<p>Take concrete steps to evaluate the recommendations of the Special Committee and, with the assistance of the Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives, bring forward recommendations to address systemic racism, create dedicated hate crime units within local police forces, and review training and procedures related to wellness checks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In progress (see Objective 4.1) • The Public Safety Transformation Team was established to oversee implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee and engagement on policy development is underway.
<p>Work with the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and the Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing to fast track the move toward decriminalization by working with police chiefs to push Ottawa to decriminalize simple possession of small amounts of illicit drugs for personal use. In the absence of prompt federal action, develop a made-in-B.C. solution that will help save lives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed (see Objective 1.1) • Through a subsection 56(1) exemption under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, from January 31, 2023, through January 31, 2026, adults in B.C. will not be subject to criminal charges if they possess a small quantity of drugs for personal use.
<p>Support the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions to invest in community-based mental health and social services so there are more trained front-line workers to help people in crisis, and free up police to focus on more serious crimes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In progress (see Objective 1.3) • The ministry continues to support MMHA to invest in community-based mental health and social services, and continues to lead the expansion of the Situation Table model across B.C.
<p>Work with the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and interested municipalities to expand the successful Situation Table model that connects front-line workers from different health, safety, and social service sectors to identify and help vulnerable people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In progress (see Objective 1.3) • The ministry continues to lead the development of the Situation Table model which supports the work of MMHA.
<p>Provide support to FIN in providing effective governance and oversight of the BCLC.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In progress (see Objective 2.1) • The new Gaming Control Act received Royal Assent on November 3, 2022, and will come into force through regulation, strengthening and modernizing the regulatory framework for gambling in B.C.

2020 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2023
<p>Support the work of the Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity to develop an action plan to end GBV, including minimum standards for sexual assault response, more training for police, crown council and justices, and core funding for sexual assault centres.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In progress (see Objective 1.3) • The ministry continues to support the work of the Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity in developing an action plan to end GBV.
<p>Support the work of the Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors' Services and Long-Term Care to work with community groups and the B.C. Seniors Advocate to develop a made-in-B.C. Silver Alert system to help assist first responders in locating missing seniors, particularly those with dementia and Alzheimer's disease.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibility moved to EMCR in December 2022.

