

**Ministry of Indigenous Relations and
Reconciliation**

**2023/24
Annual Service Plan Report**

August 2024



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Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation 2023/24 Annual Service Plan Report compares the Ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in the 2023/24 – 2025/26 Service Plan published in 2023. I am accountable for those results as reported.

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

Honourable Murray Rankin, K.C.
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
August 9, 2024

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Letter from the Minister

The provincial government carries out its work on the territories of more than 200 distinct First Nations, each with its own culture, traditions and history. With respect and gratitude, I want to acknowledge this. I also want to recognize the diversity of all Indigenous Peoples throughout B.C., including First Nations, Métis, Inuit and Indigenous people from other parts of the country who call this province home. Through the Ministry and in my role as Minister, we prioritize working alongside and in partnership with all Indigenous Peoples in B.C. to advance reconciliation and engaging with residents, organizations and local governments in the province as we do so.

We've taken significant action in 2023/2024 to support First Nation governments, communities and organizations, as laid out in the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) (Declaration Act) and [Action Plan](#). For example, we introduced and passed key legislation, including the [Haida Nation Recognition Act](#). This is a significant and important step – more than 20 years in the making – affirming the Haida Nation's self-determination, which is vital in moving reconciliation forward.

We also introduced Bill 13 - [Land Title and Property Law Amendment Act](#). These legislative changes reduce discriminatory and racist barriers that added time and cost to First Nations land registration with the B.C. land title office. With the changes, First Nations will be able to acquire, hold and dispose of land in their own names.

First Nations have told us the ability to connect to and benefit from land in their territories is critical to healthy communities, revitalizing culture and promoting economic growth. We completed several land transfer agreements with First Nations including Treaty 8 Nations, Snuneymuxw First Nation, Lake Babine Nation and Tsqéscen' First Nation. We provided \$5 million for land purchases to Tseshaht First Nation for a First Nation-led housing development to help address housing shortages and also advanced constructive agreements with several other First Nations in B.C.

As part of implementing the Declaration Act, the Ministry provided clarity for public servants on how the provincial government engages with distinct Indigenous Peoples in B.C. through the release of the [Distinctions Based Approach Primer](#), which outlines guidance on the provincial government's relations with First Nations, Métis and Inuit.

Additionally, we released the [2022-2023 Declaration Act Annual Report](#) which highlights progress made in implementing the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UN Declaration) and advancing reconciliation in our province. Thirty-two action items are complete or underway.

As part of implementing the UN Declaration, the Province and First Nations collaborated on important engagement to co-develop a new distinctions-based fiscal framework that supports the operation of First Nation governments. The initial engagement results were summarized in a ['What We Heard'](#) report, which reflects feedback from First Nations that can be applied to the

development of new fiscal tools and arrangements, including a new forestry revenue sharing model.

B.C. also continues to be committed to building a new fiscal relationship and framework with Modern Treaty Nations. A new land and resource funding model will ensure Modern Treaty Nations' governments are resourced to effectively collaborate with the Province in the management and stewardship of lands and resources.

As we continue with this important work to find solutions and build a stronger province for everyone, I wish to acknowledge with deep respect the leadership, time and expertise of Indigenous Peoples and their invaluable contributions. As well, I want to thank the dedicated public service employees in the Ministry who are determined to create a better future for all British Columbians. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Murray Rankin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Murray" and the last name "Rankin" clearly distinguishable.

Honourable Murray Rankin, K.C.
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
August 9, 2024

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 Rankin's 2022 Mandate Letter](#) shaped the goals, objectives, performance measures and financial plan outlined in the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation [2023/24 – 2025/26 Service Plan](#) and the actual results reported on in this annual report.

Purpose of the Ministry

The [Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation](#) (the Ministry) guides and helps coordinate the Province of British Columbia's efforts to achieve true and lasting reconciliation with [Indigenous Peoples](#)¹ by working in respectful partnerships that recognize inherent rights.

Reconciliation is important to everyone as we work together to address historic wrongs through the path laid out by the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission \(TRC\) of Canada: Calls to Action](#). These efforts create a better province for all British Columbians.

As the first province in Canada to recognize and uphold Indigenous Peoples' human rights in law through the Declaration Act, British Columbia is implementing the UN Declaration as our shared framework for reconciliation.

The Declaration Act supports government in deepening relationships with Indigenous Peoples through an [Action Plan](#) that outlines actions to advance the UN Declaration's objectives, through the alignment of provincial laws with the UN Declaration, by enabling government to enter into agreements with a broader range of First Nations and other representative groups.

The Ministry furthers [reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples](#) by collaboratively developing policy and practices, and negotiating and implementing proactive, enduring [agreements, partnerships, and treaties based on recognition of rights](#) and a [distinctions-based approach](#). The Ministry's focus is to build lasting relationships with Indigenous Peoples through flexible agreements that can evolve over time and collaborative approaches to policy making.

At the heart of our work is relationships between people, communities, and governments, who all share a priority to build a good life in B.C. To develop and strengthen these relationships and provide important transparency in negotiations with First Nations and other partners, the

¹ The term "Indigenous" used throughout this document is inclusive of all peoples of Indigenous ancestry, including First Nations (status and non-status), Métis and Inuit.

Ministry conducts extensive engagement and information sharing with First Nation governments, communities, organizations, as well as federal, municipal and treaty partners, stakeholders, and the public. This happens through a variety of channels including direct engagement with local governments, interest groups, tenure/permit holders and landowners, public information meetings and open houses, presentations to different sector organizations, and appearances at community events.

[Reconciliation commitments](#) are achieved by prioritizing collaboration and engagement with Indigenous Peoples through anti-racist, trauma-informed and culturally safe practices. [Strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities](#)² and leveraging Indigenous knowledge and perspectives improves social and economic outcomes for Indigenous Peoples and all British Columbians.

The Ministry is also responsible for the [Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women](#), which provides advice to the B.C. government on how to improve the quality of life for Indigenous women in B.C., and the [First Peoples' Cultural Council](#) (FPCC), a provincial Crown corporation formed by the Government of British Columbia in 1990 to administer the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Program.

Operating Environment

Reconciliation is a provincial imperative in British Columbia, embedded in law, that represents a shared commitment to ensure that the province is a place where the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples are recognized, and First Nations, Métis and Inuit thrive. In this work, the Ministry is guided by the UN Declaration, the TRC of Canada's 94 Calls to Action, the [Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples](#), the British Columbia Treaty Commission Act and the BC Treaty process, Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+), and relevant case law.

Global pressures including a shifting economic forecast, ongoing climate-related emergencies as well as the threat of growing misinformation and disinformation that creates harms and spreads hate impacts every British Columbian.

We know that upholding the human rights of Indigenous Peoples is important for all communities and the vast majority of people in B.C. want to work together to create benefits for First Nations and all British Columbians.

These external conditions amplify the importance of working in partnership to advance reconciliation, address anti-Indigenous racism, and strengthen government-to-government relationships with First Nations across the province. Despite these challenges, and the disproportionate impacts on First Nations communities, Indigenous leaders continue to work collaboratively with the Ministry towards our shared reconciliation goals. They have

² The term "communities" means the diversity of Indigenous communities as defined by Indigenous Peoples and includes descriptions such as urban, rural, metropolitan, remote, land-based and reserve.

contributed their time and resources to ensure Indigenous knowledge and expertise are brought into this work, benefiting all British Columbians.

Together, we are building a province where Indigenous excellence, leadership, governance, and self-determination is recognized and respected.

As we approach this work, the Ministry is committed to a distinctions-based approach, which means working with First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples in a manner that distinguishes and respects the differences between the specific rights, interests, priorities and concerns of each. This commitment requires that the Government of B.C.'s relationship and engagement with First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples may include different approaches or actions and result in different outcomes.

To advance the government's broader mandate priority to fight racism and promote equity, the Ministry is implementing priority recommendations arising from an internal Anti-Racism and Equity Audit. The Ministry is working towards more inclusive hiring practices and retention, with a focus on Indigenous employees.

Report on Performance: Goals, Objectives, and Results

The following goals, objectives and performance measures have been restated from the 2023/24 – 2025/26 service plan. For forward-looking planning information, including current targets for 2024/25 – 2026/27, please see the latest service plan on the [BC Budget website](#).

Goal 1: Advance equitable social and economic outcomes of Indigenous Peoples

Objective 1.1: Partner on shared initiatives that improve the quality of life of Indigenous Peoples

The Ministry works with Indigenous, provincial, and federal agencies and partners to advance opportunities that improve the health and wellness of Indigenous communities through community-focused initiatives.

Key results

- Supported First Nations-led investigations at the sites of former Indian Residential Schools and Indian Hospitals in B.C. to enhance Indigenous-delivered mental health, wellness, and cultural supports for residential school and intergenerational survivors.
- Provided funding support to Williams Lake First Nation (WLFN) to purchase the former St. Joseph’s Mission Residential School site from private landowners. As owners, WLFN can act as stewards of this land to ensure that the site is permanently protected for investigative, commemorative and spiritual purposes.
- Following engagement with Indigenous partners, acknowledged National Day for Truth and Reconciliation as a statutory holiday with education and local events that provided meaningful ways to commemorate the history and legacy of residential schools.
- Provided funding support to Friendships Centres through the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres to deliver Indigenous-centred services and support cultural connections to address urban reconciliation priorities.
- Released a [“What We Heard”](#) report in March 2024 regarding proposed legislative amendments to the Property Law Act and the Land Title Act. The report details feedback from discussions about legislative amendments that provide administrative changes to the ways First Nations can own and register private land in B.C.

Summary of progress made in 2023/24

Supporting Indigenous Peoples in preserving their cultures, knowledge, and languages is crucial to quality of life. This includes particular focus on ensuring the rights of Indigenous women, youth, Elders, children, persons with disabilities, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ are upheld.

During the reporting period, work regarding Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) within the Ministry included education sessions on language, gender, and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and promoted IGBA+ (Indigenous Gender Based Analysis Plus) both within and outside government. The Ministry also participated in the development of sector specific training (both social and environmental) with the Gender Equity Office as they renew (GBA+) training for government.

The Ministry took significant steps to support First Nations language preservation, economic development, housing, and overall well-being. Within the reporting period, the Ministry allocated funds to support various initiatives, including establishing a community-based Hałtzaqvla language preservation and revitalization center for the Heiltsuk Nation, signing a reconciliation framework agreement with the Kwadacha Nation to enhance economic opportunities, provided funding to the Tseshaht First Nation to purchase prospective property for housing development, and offered additional funding for Sts'ailes' work on justice and economic development initiatives.

Additionally, the Ministry has established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Tla'amin Nation, committing to collaborative efforts regarding the future of tiskʷat which was once the primary settlement of the Tla'amin Nation and now the location of a former pulp and paper mill. The MOU focuses on three areas of collaboration – environmental stewardship, economic development and Tla'amin's long-term goal of site repossession. Recognizing the historical and ongoing social, cultural, and economic importance of the former mill site to the Tla'amin Nation, the MOU paves the way for mutual understanding and action.

In the complex and challenging work to support Indigenous communities investigating former Indian Residential Schools and Indian Hospital Sites in B.C., the Ministry continued to implement the BC Residential School Response Fund, and to engage with federal, provincial, and Indigenous partners to promote a coordinated, culturally safe, and trauma-informed response to site research and investigations.

Sustained partnerships are at the heart of work to improve quality of life. In collaboration with the federal government, First Peoples' Cultural Council, and the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation, the Province has committed to working together over the long term to advance the reclamation, revitalization and maintenance of First Nations languages, heritage and arts in this province. The Minister also appointed three new members to the Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women (MACIW) to advance solutions that support MACIW's respective mandate.

Objective 1.2: Support Indigenous communities in advancing self-determination and governance building

The Ministry works with Indigenous Peoples to advance self-determination and governance building, supporting economic, social, and cultural initiatives aligned with the priorities of individual communities and transitioning delivery of public services to First Nation governments.

Key results

- As part of implementing the UN Declaration, the Province and First Nations collaborated on engagement to co-develop a new distinctions-based fiscal framework that supports the operation of First Nation governments. The summary of this engagement was released in the April 2023 [‘What We Heard’](#) report.
- Delivered more than \$1.875 million in capacity and equity funding to 16 Indigenous communities during the fiscal year through the [First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund](#) to advance clean energy projects and a low carbon future for the province.
- In partnership with First Nations Leadership Council, hosted the 2023 B.C Cabinet and First Nations’ Leadership Gathering. The 2023 Gathering was the largest gathering to date with more than 1,000 delegates and 900 one-on-one meetings between First Nations and Provincial leadership, to address individual community priorities.

Summary of progress made in 2023/24

Advancement of this objective saw significant engagement with First Nations leadership in the reporting period over several priority areas.

The Ministry continued its government-to-government co-development engagement process with First Nations, focused on the overarching principles for a new fiscal framework and co-development of a new forestry revenue sharing model. The [‘What We Heard’](#) report highlights the significant time and effort that First Nations and the Province have invested in co-developing a new fiscal framework and summarizes the variety of perspectives and ideas raised by First Nations. It also underscores the complexity of the work and the transformational change required to achieve a principled new fiscal framework between the Crown and First Nations governments. Going forward, the report provides a foundation for identifying shared principles that reflect feedback from First Nations and applying them to the development of new fiscal tools and arrangements, including a new forestry revenue sharing model.

In the reporting period, Sumas First Nation (Semá:th) and the Province took a major step in their shared reconciliation journey through the purchase and acknowledgement of a sacred site. The Lightning Rock site holds deep cultural and spiritual significance, serving as a repository of traditions and narratives passed down through generations.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2019/20 Baseline	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	2023/24 Actual
1.1 Cumulative number of community ¹ well-being initiatives ²	16	24	28	29

Data source: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

¹ The term community is inclusive of all First Nations, Métis, and urban Indigenous communities.

²PM 1.1 targets for 2024/25 and 2025/26 were stated in the 2023/24 service plan as 32 and 36, respectively.

The Ministry exceeded its target for the reporting period. This work established five additional community well-being initiatives, bringing the cumulative total above the reporting year’s

target of twenty-nine. These partnerships invest in economic development, cultural revitalization, human capacity building, education, justice, health and family services, and institutional infrastructure development.

Work is underway to develop indicators that report on reconciliation outcomes associated with implementation of the Declaration Act Action Plan. As this work continues to evolve, the Ministry will seek out opportunities for alignment and to introduce performance measures in future Service Plans to support reporting on this objective.

Performance Measure	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	2023/24 Actual
1.2 Number of new opportunities ¹ for First Nations to participate in revenue sharing ²	16	4	5

Data source: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

¹This includes new revenue-sharing opportunities negotiated into particular agreements.

²PM 1.2]targets for 2024/25 and 2025/26 were stated in the 2023/24 service plan as 4 and 4, respectively.

The Ministry exceeded its target for the reporting period. This work established five new opportunities for First Nations to participate in revenue sharing. Sharing revenue with First Nations communities is an important reconciliation tool that supports implementation of the UN Declaration and the self-determined pursuit of economic, social, and community development. The number of new revenue sharing opportunities increased in 2022/23 due to significant changes in policy that concluded by fiscal year end.

As described in the performance measure discussion section underneath Objective 1.1, the Ministry will be reviewing opportunities for alignment of Action Plan indicators as they become available to support reporting under this objective in future Service Plans.

Goal 2: Work in partnership to achieve true and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

Objective 2.1: Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Calls to Action, and the Tsilhqot’in Supreme Court decision.

All ministries are accountable for implementing Provincial reconciliation commitments. Supporting this, the Ministry works to develop cross-government tools and approaches that achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration through implementation of the Declaration Act, and other relevant legislation and case law.

Key results

- Provided support through the launch of the [Declaration Act Engagement Fund](#) which supports First Nations’ efforts to work with the Province to implement the Declaration

Act Action Plan and align provincial laws with the UN Declaration. The \$200-million fund is being administered by the Indigenous-led New Relationship Trust and is available over the next four years to support staffing, training, community-level meetings and other resources required to enhance government-to-government work.

- Released the [2022-2023 Declaration Act Annual Report](#) which highlights progress made in implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) and advancing reconciliation in B.C.
- As part of implementing the Declaration Act, provided clarity for public servants on how the provincial government engages with distinct Indigenous Peoples in B.C through the release of the [Distinctions Based Approach Primer](#), which outlines guidance on the provincial government's relations with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit.
- Supported the achievement of agreements under Section 7 of the Declaration Act to share statutory decision making such as the consent-based decision-making agreement with Tahltan Central Government and the shared decision-making agreement with Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC) under the Declaration Act.
- Advanced engagement with Tsilhqot'in National Government and Canada to negotiate an extension to the [Gwets'en Nilt'i Pathway Agreement](#) including funding and program activities across agencies to implement the various pillars.

Summary of progress made in 2023/24

The implementation of the UN Declaration continues to fundamentally shift how the Province develops and implements provincial laws, policies and practices in consultation and co-operation with Indigenous Peoples. This includes working with Indigenous Peoples to identify suitable tools, indicators and measures for monitoring, assessing and reporting progress on implementation of the Declaration Act.

In consultation and co-operation with Indigenous Peoples, the Ministry continues to work in coordination with other ministries to advance the historic Declaration Act Action Plan (released in March 2022) listing goals, objectives and 89 priority actions to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration in B.C.

The release of the Distinctions Based Approach Primer is assisting the Province in building an understanding of the legal basis for, and core elements of, a distinctions-based approach in all of the Province's relations with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit in B.C. A future companion document will provide guidance to public servants on the practical application of a distinctions-based approach. A proper understanding and application of a distinctions-based approach is necessary for the provincial government, and is important for public servants involved in decisions regarding the Province's relations with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit in British Columbia.

Objective 2.2: Negotiate and implement treaties and other constructive agreements with Indigenous Peoples.

The Ministry works with Indigenous Peoples and other ministry partners to establish treaties and other agreements that affirm self-determination and support new approaches to developing a framework for cooperation and co-existence of First Nation jurisdiction.

Key results

- In partnership with the Haida Nation, Canada and the province, signed the [Nang K'úula • Nang K'úulaas Recognition Agreement](#) and passed new provincial legislation, the [Haida Nation Recognition Act](#). The Ministry, along with the Council of the Haida Nation, also carried out extensive community and stakeholder engagement on the [Gaayhllxid • Gíihlagalgang "Rising Tide" Haida Title Lands Agreement](#).
- Continued community and stakeholder engagement to raise awareness about advanced treaty negotiations with K'ómoks First Nation, Kitselas First Nation, Kitsumkalum First Nation, and the Te'mexw Treaty Association. The summary of this engagement was released in a May 2023 ['What We Heard'](#) report on the K'ómoks Treaty, a February 2024 ['What We Heard'](#) report on the Kitselas Treaty and Kitsumkalum Treaty, and a May 2024 ['What We Heard'](#) report³ on the Te'mexw Treaty Association Treaty.
- Advanced constructive agreements with First Nations, including the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations and Lake Cowichan (Ts'uubaa-asatx) Incremental Treaty Agreement, and three separate interim agreements with the Ktunaxa Nation, Secwépemc Nation and Syilx Okanagan Nation.
- Furthered our relationships with historic treaty nations through Treaty Land Entitlement settlement agreements with Blueberry River First Nation, Doig River First Nation, Halfway River First Nation, Saulteau First Nation, and West Moberly First Nation under Treaty 8 to return lands that will support economic and business opportunities, and advanced negotiations with the W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council on a letter of understanding (LOU) to resolve key reconciliation priorities identified by W̱SÁNEĆ communities.
- Advanced cross sector negotiations with Secwepemc Communities through additional signatories for the Sku7pecans Journey Letter of Commitment and continued implementation of the Nlaka'mamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC) 's [Land and Resource Decision Making Agreement \(LRDMA\)](#).

Summary of progress made in 2023/24

In partnership with the Haida Nation and Canada, the Province entered the Nang K'úula • Nang K'úulaas Recognition Agreement, which recognizes the Haida Nation as the holder of Haida Title and Rights, and the Council of the Haida Nation as the governing body of the Haida

³ Community and stakeholder engagement for the May 2024 'What We Heard Report' on Te'mexw Treaty Association Treaty was conducted in 2023/24 fiscal year.

Nation and accompanying the Haida Nation Recognition Act. Continued progress included extensive community and stakeholder engagement on the draft Gaayhllixid • Gíihlagalgang “Rising Tide” Haida Title Lands Agreement with a wide range of groups, including local governments, residents, businesses and Haida citizens in early 2024. This included six individual and group meetings with local governments (Daajing Giids, Masset, Port Clements and North Coast Regional District); three town halls, attended by approximately 200 Haida Gwaii residents; two open letters mailed to more than 2,200 households on Haida Gwaii; meetings with 15 provincial business and industry groups and eight external legal experts; and direct engagement with the public.

Work continued with the Alliance of Modern BC Treaty Nations on the [Shared Priorities Framework](#), advancing Treaty implementation in the province. This framework is designed to increase trust between government and Treaty Nations with three shared priorities: establish fiscal arrangements to fulfil Treaty Rights and obligations, establish meaningful participation of Modern Treaty Nations in B.C.’s legislative and policy initiatives, and establish organizational and policy changes in the BC Public Service to advance a whole-of-government approach to Treaty implementation.

In the reporting period, the Ministry continued to advance historic treaties within the province. In April 2023, Blueberry River First Nation, Doig River First Nation, Halfway River First Nation, Saulneau First Nation, and West Moberly First Nation, alongside provincial and federal government representatives, announced settlement agreements of the Nations’ Treaty Land Entitlements claims. The settlements resolve long-standing claims that these First Nations did not receive all the lands owed to them under Treaty 8. Honouring Treaty and legal obligations to First Nations and working collaboratively to renew relationships are fundamental to addressing historic wrongs and advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

Continued progress also occurred between the Province and WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council with the signing of an LOU. The specific areas for discussion under the signed LOU include: Douglas Treaty Rights recognition and implementation; acquisition of lands; education; wildlife harvesting; revenue sharing; engagement with BC Ferries, the Royal BC Museum and others; and local government relations. This work includes seeking to clarify shared understanding of the Douglas Treaties and how to move forward together. The LOU also provides an opportunity to have discussions with the federal government to collaboratively explore options for a tripartite reconciliation agreement.

Through three separate interim agreements, the Ktunaxa Nation, Secwépemc Nation and Syilx Okanagan Nation are each receiving five per cent of the revenue generated through the sale of Canada's share of downstream power benefits under the Columbia River Treaty. The interim agreements will share this revenue over four years. In addition, the Tlowitsis, We Wai Kai, Wei Wai Kum and K’ómoks First Nations, and Western Forest Products Inc. (Western) have reached an agreement for the Nations to acquire a 34 per cent interest from Western in a newly formed limited partnership for \$35.9 million. The Province helped facilitate the partnership through Incremental Treaty Agreements with the Nations. Other progress over the reporting period included the Province and Ts’uubaa-asatx First Nation signing an Incremental Treaty

Agreement that will transfer territorial lands back to Cowichan Lake and help boost the Nation's economic activities.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

The performance measures underneath Objective 2.1 and Objective 2.2 were removed from the [2023/24 Service Plan](#) and will no longer be used for reporting underneath these objectives. Methodology used for a new performance measure has now been finalized and reported out in the [2024/25 Service Plan](#). Further comprehensive reporting will be reported on in the 2024/25 Annual Service Plan Report.

Financial Report

Financial Summary

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations ¹ (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
Operating Expenses					
Negotiations and Regional Operations Division	16,465	2,065	18,530	18,735	205
Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives Division	25,147	7,167	32,314	31,721	(593)
Reconciliation Transformation and Strategies Division	3,419	85	3,504	3,764	260
Executive and Support Services	12,881	549	13,430	13,557	127
Treaty and Other Agreements Funding	116,159	175,497	291,656	291,656	0
Declaration Act Secretariat	4,431	0	4,431	3,475	(956)
First Citizens Fund	1,716	0	1,716	1,715	(1)
First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund	8,044	0	8,044	7,679	(365)
Sub-total	188,262	185,362	373,624	372,302	(1,322)
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual ²	0,000	0,000	0,000	(1,221)	(1,221)
Total	188,262	185,362	373,624	371,081	(2,543)
Ministry Capital Expenditures					
Executive and Support Services	3	0	3	1	(2)
Total	3	0	3	1	(2)
Other Financing Transactions					
Treaty and Other Agreements Funding (Loans, Investments and Other Requirements)					
Receipts	(0,000)	(0,000)	(0,000)	(0,000)	(0,000)
Disbursements	39,800	0,000	39,800	19,601	(20,199)
Net Cash Requirements (Source)	39,800	0,000	39,800	19,601	(20,199)

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations ¹ (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
Treaty and Other Agreements Funding (Revenue Collected For, and Transferred to, Other Entities)					
Receipts	(110,000)	(0,000)	(110,000)	(107,519)	2,481
Disbursements	110,000	0,000	110,000	107,519	(2,481)
Net Cash Requirements (Source)	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000
Summary					
Total Receipts	(110,000)	(0,000)	(110,000)	(107,519)	2,481
Total Disbursements	149,800	0,000	149,800	127,120	(22,680)
Total Net Cash Requirements (Source)	39,800	0,000	39,800	19,600	(20,199)

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 \$1.221 million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations

As of March 31, 2024, the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation is responsible and accountable for the following:

[BC Treaty Commission](#)⁴

The BC Treaty Commission is an independent body responsible for facilitating treaty negotiations among First Nations and the governments of Canada and British Columbia.

[First Peoples' Cultural Council](#)

The First Peoples' Cultural Council is a First Nation-run Crown corporation that supports the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts, culture, and heritage in British Columbia.

[Haida Gwaii Management Council](#)⁵

The Haida Gwaii Management Council is a strategic-level joint decision-making body for land and natural resource decisions on Haida Gwaii, as set out in the [Kunst'aa guu – Kunst'aayah Reconciliation Protocol](#).

[Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women](#)

The Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women provides advice to the Government of British Columbia on how to improve the quality of life of Indigenous women across B.C.

⁴ With reference to the BC Treaty Commission, responsibility and accountability is limited and defined through [the Treaty Commission Act](#).

⁵ With reference to the Haida Gwaii Management Council, responsibility and accountability is limited and defined through the [Kunst'aa guu – Kunst'aayah Reconciliation Protocol](#).

Appendix B: Declaration Act Secretariat

Purpose of the Declaration Act Secretariat

The Declaration Act Secretariat (DAS) is a central agency within the provincial government that works to coordinate and assist the cross-government effort to work in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples to align provincial laws with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration) as per section 3 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act).

Measures to align laws with the Declaration

“In consultation and cooperation with the Indigenous peoples in British Columbia, the government must take all measures necessary to ensure the laws of British Columbia are consistent with the Declaration.”

Governance Structure

Reporting directly to the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (IRR), the Secretariat is a central agency, distinct from the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. The Secretariat guides and assists ministries in meeting the alignment of laws obligations, collaborates within government on changes to government’s legislative and policy processes, and helps establish government’s legislative priorities related to alignment of laws.

The Secretariat’s core functions are to:

- provide guidance on consultation and cooperation and consistency of laws;
- develop processes and measures to support alignment of laws;
- inform government’s legislative agenda; and,
- serve in an interlocutor role.

Key Results

- In 2023/24, the Province continued to support the development, introduction and passing of legislation consistent with the requirements of Section 3. The Secretariat’s contribution spans formal input and advice on consultation and cooperation with Indigenous partners, informal troubleshooting, review of materials and issues resolution. Below are some examples of key legislation passed that advanced the implementation of the UN Declaration and developed in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples:
 - Bill 5 Child, Family and Community Services Amendment Act (March 2024)
 - Bill 31 Emergency and Disaster Management Act (November 2023)
 - Bill 40 School Amendment Act (November 2023)

Financial Summary

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations ¹ (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
Operating Expenses					
Declaration Act Secretariat	4,431	0,000	4,431	3,475	(956)
Sub-total	4,431	0,000	4,431	3,475	(956)
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000
Total	4,431	0,000	4,431	3,475	(956)
Capital Expenditures					
Declaration Act Secretariat	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000
Total	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000

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

Appendix C: Progress on Mandate Letter Priorities

The following is a summary of progress made on priorities as stated in Minister’s 2022 Murray Rankin’s Mandate Letter.

2022 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2024
<p>Lead work across ministries to implement the Declaration Act Action Plan in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, including reporting annually on progress.</p>	<p>In progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Plan was delivered on March 30, 2022. The Province continues to implement the Action Plan. The 2022-2023 Declaration Act Annual Report was released on June 30, 2023.
<p>Through the new Declaration Act Secretariat, continue to ensure new legislation and policies are consistent with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.</p>	<p>In progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established the Declaration Act Secretariat on April 1, 2022 to coordinate a whole-of-government approach to alignment of provincial laws, policies, and practices with the UN Declaration. Continued progress on this priority is highlighted in Appendix B.
<p>Continue to improve our government’s relationships with Indigenous Peoples by moving from short-term transactional arrangements to long-term agreements that recognize and support reconciliation, shared decision-making, self-determination, and economic independence, including advancing work to co-develop the new distinctions-based fiscal relationship with Indigenous Peoples.</p>	<p>In progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued progress on this priority is highlighted in Objective 1.1, Objective 1.2, Objective 2.1 and Objective 2.2.
<p>Propose steps to continue increasing the capacity of all ministries to advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.</p>	<p>In progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued progress on this priority is highlighted in Objective 1.1, Objective 1.2, Objective 2.1 and Objective 2.2.

2022 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2024
<p>Support ministries to implement agreements under Sections 6 and 7 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act that enable shared statutory decision-making authority, and advance the recognition of First Nations self-determination and Indigenous laws.</p>	<p>In progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued progress on this priority is highlighted in Objective 1.1, Objective 1.2, Objective 2.1 and Objective 2.2
<p>Support the Public Service Agency to increase recruitment and retention of Indigenous Peoples in the public service.</p>	<p>In progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry is implementing an action plan arising from an internal Anti-Racism and Equity Audit. As this internal work is advanced, the Ministry and the Public Service Agency will work in partnership to develop more inclusive hiring practices and retention with an emphasis on Indigenous employees.