

Office of the Premier

2023/24
Annual Service Plan Report

August 2024



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Minister's Accountability Statement



The Office of the Premier 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 "David Eby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Honourable David Eby, KC
Premier
August 9, 2024

Table of Contents

Minister's Accountability Statement	3
Purpose of the Annual Service Plan Report	5
Strategic Direction.....	5
Purpose of the Office of the Premier.....	5
Operating Environment.....	6
Economic Statement	6
Report on Performance: Goals, Objectives, and Results	7
Financial Report.....	10

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 shaped the goals, objectives, performance measures and financial plan outlined in the [Office of the Premier 2023/24-2025/26 Service Plan](#) and the actual results reported on in this annual report.

Purpose of the Office of the Premier

The Premier serves as the President of the Executive Council (Cabinet) of the Government of British Columbia. The Office of the Premier assists the Premier in overseeing and leading government. In addition, it supports the Cabinet decision-making process. As a central agency, the Office facilitates effective policy coordination across the public service and ensures a strategic and corporate level approach is undertaken on the development and implementation of key priorities. The Premier is advised by the Deputy Minister to the Premier, Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Public Service on matters of public policy and management and operational issues. The Office of the Premier: Articulates government's goals, commitments, and priorities through ministry mandate letters, and works with ministries and Crown agencies to ensure communication of those goals, commitments, and priorities and to track and monitor their implementation.

- Leads the public service and, with the Deputy Ministers' Council, commits to be a top employer that maintains and enhances public trust, builds capacity, increases our competitiveness, and manages for results.
- Provides support for the operations and decision-making processes of Cabinet and its committees; and
- Works directly with the federal, provincial, and territorial governments in other countries and with all ministries and Crown agencies to ensure relations with the federal, provincial, territorial, and international governments advance British Columbia's interests.

Operating Environment

In 2023/24, British Columbians continued to face headwinds and uncertainties. Global inflation, high interest rates and rising prices for daily essentials stretched family budgets. With its resilient economy, B.C. is well-positioned to navigate these challenges, and the Province continued to build on this solid foundation and take strong action on issues that matter the most: supporting people with cost of living; helping people get into homes they can afford; and keeping communities safe and healthy.

B.C. also continued its critical work with First Nations, making advances towards reconciliation through agreements that create certainty, good jobs and build a better future for everyone. The importance of building a clean economy was underscored by increased climate emergencies, including the worst wildfire season on record in 2023. The Province continued to support response and recovery initiatives while investing in its strengths like clean energy and a skilled workforce. And it continues to focus on putting people at the heart of every choice by easing the pressures they feel in life and protecting the critical services and programs they count on.

Economic Statement

Following two years of strong recovery from the pandemic, economic growth in British Columbia moderated in 2023. After expanding by 3.9 per cent in 2022, B.C.'s real GDP increased by 1.6 per cent in 2023, the second highest growth rate among provinces (tied with Saskatchewan and Ontario) and outperforming the national average. Growth in B.C.'s real GDP was supported by service-producing industries such as real estate, rental and leasing; professional, scientific and technical services; transportation and warehousing; and healthcare. Despite steady growth in the construction and mining, quarrying and oil and gas extraction sectors, output for goods-producing industries decreased in 2023, partly due to lower manufacturing activity. While B.C.'s economy continued to expand in 2023, some sectors such as transportation and warehousing and accommodation and food services have yet to fully return to pre-pandemic levels.

B.C.'s labour market continued to grow in 2023, with employment growth of 1.6 per cent and wages and salaries increasing by 6.9 per cent. However, B.C.'s unemployment rate rose to 5.2 per cent in 2023 from 4.6 per cent in the previous year as the labour force, supported by record high immigration, grew faster than employment. High interest rates tempered consumer spending on goods in 2023 and nominal retail sales edged down 0.1 per cent. In 2023, price pressures in B.C. moderated among a broad number of goods and services but remained elevated. B.C.'s inflation rate averaged 3.9 per cent in 2023, down from 6.9 per cent in 2022. B.C. home construction activity strengthened in 2023. Housing starts totalled 50,490 units in 2023, the highest annual pace on record and up 8.1 per cent compared to the previous year. High interest rates continued to weigh on home sales activity last year. B.C. MLS home sales decreased by 9.2 per cent in 2023, while the MLS average home sale price was 2.6 per cent lower than 2022. On the external front, B.C.'s international merchandise exports declined by 13.5 per cent in 2023, due to weaker global demand and lower commodity prices compared to 2022.

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: Establish government goals, commitments, and strategic priorities

Objective 1.1: Establish government goals, commitments, and strategic priorities

Continue to ensure a government-wide focus on supporting and strengthening our pandemic-strained public health care system, responding to severe wildfire and weather events, advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, delivering attainable and affordable housing, safer communities, and building a sustainable, clean, secure, and fair economy.

Key results

- Set out the key goals, commitments, and strategic priorities of government.
- Assign responsibility for the delivery of these goals, commitments and priorities to ministries, central agencies and Crown corporations through mandate letters provided to Cabinet Ministers and/ or government organizations.
- Lead the Deputy Minister's Council.
- Supported by the Planning and Priorities Secretariat, determine the priority sequence for the implementation of government goals, commitments, and priorities, aligned with government's fiscal and delivery capacity.
- Monitor progress on implementing government's goals and priorities.

Summary of progress made in 2023/24

Deputy Ministers and Associate Deputy Ministers who sit on the Deputy Minister's Council, met regularly with the Deputy Minister to the Premier to discuss goals and issues within and between their Ministries. The Planning and Priorities Secretariat contributed to the coordination of this work. All 33 members of the Deputy Ministers' Council met performance expectations.

Performance measure and related discussion

Performance Measure	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	2023/24 Actual
1.1 Number of members of Deputy Ministers Council that are meeting performance expectations. ¹	33	33	33

Data source: Deputy Minister's Office

¹PM 1.1 targets for 2024/25 and 2025/26 were stated in the 2023/24 service plan as 33 and 33, respectively.

Goal 2: Provide guidance and direction for Government of British Columbia

Objective 2.1: Lead the Executive Council

Cabinet Operations supports the Deputy Minister to the Premier in setting out the framework for Cabinet and Cabinet Committee decision-making.

Key results

- Cabinet Submissions focused on ensuring cross-government alignment with government's priorities and objectives.
- Effective logistical support for the operations and decision-making process of Cabinet and its committees continues throughout the year.
- Cabinet and Cabinet Committee decision-making was accurately recorded.

Summary of progress made in 2022/23

Cabinet Committees and ministries provided prompt and effective advice enabling timely and well-informed cabinet decisions benefiting British Columbians.

Performance measure and related discussion

Performance Measure	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target	2022/23 Actual
2.1 Cabinet received timely advice on all key public policy recommendations and plans. ¹	100%	100%	100%

Data source: Cabinet Operations

¹PM 2.1 targets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 were stated in the 2022/23 service plan as 100% and 100%, respectively.

Goal 3: Foster Intergovernmental Relations

Objective 3.1: Create and cultivate a network of culturally respectful relationships with other government, diverse partners, and British Columbians to showcase and advance B.C.'s strategic interests.

Key results

- Hosted the 2023 annual Western Premiers' Conference as Chair and participated in 2023 summer and winter meetings of the Council of the Federation.
- Advocated for B.C.'s interests with the federal government by organizing a Premier-led delegation of B.C. Ministers to Ottawa in September 2023 and a Premier's mission to Ottawa in January 2024.
- Strengthened our partnership with international partners by organizing a Premier-led delegation of B.C. Ministers to Asia, including Japan, Korea, and Singapore, and by facilitating the signing of agreements to support B.C.'s relationships with these jurisdictions.
- Promoted B.C.'s interests via the presidency of the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region, including by advancing projects supportive of B.C.'s interests under PNWER Canada.
- Advanced B.C.'s international, cultural, economic, and social objectives by delivering 77 in-person meetings with foreign dignitaries and Canadian officials posted abroad. These included 37 meetings with Consuls General with jurisdiction including B.C.; 24 with Ambassadors or High Commissioners posted to Canada; 15 with foreign delegations and one with a Head of State, the President of Germany.
- Hosted the annual Ministers' Council on the Francophonie meeting as Provincial Chair which laid the groundwork for renewed federal/provincial/territorial collaboration in key priorities such immigration.
- Developed a French Language Policy to guide the provision of information and services to French speaking residents.

Summary of progress made in 2023/24

The Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat (IGRS) provided timely advice and support to the Premier and Cabinet in their engagement with the federal government, provincial/ territorial governments, and other heads of state and governments. IGRS participated in negotiations leading up to the Council of the Federation meetings, ensuring B.C.'s interests were represented in agendas and created strategic alliances, as required, to advance priorities.

Performance measure and related discussion

Performance Measure	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	2023/24 Actual
3.1 Progress on Key intergovernmental objectives ¹	100%	100%	100%

Data source: Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat

¹PM 3.1 targets for 2024/25 and 2025/26 were stated in the 2023/24 service plan as 100% and 100% respectively. For forward-looking planning information, including current targets for 2024/25 – 2026/27, please see the 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					
Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat	3,668	0,000	3,668	4,004	336
Cabinet Operations	2,193	0,000	2,193	2,151	(42)
Planning and Priorities Secretariat	1,689	0,000	1,689	1,432	(257)
Executive and Support Services					
Premier's Office	5,684	0,000	5,684	6,005	321
Deputy Minister's Office	2,811	0,000	2,811	2,080	(731)
Sub-total	16,045	0,000	16,045	15,672	(373)
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000
Total	16,045	0,000	16,045	15,672	(373)
Ministry Capital Expenditures					
Executive and Support Services					
Deputy Minister's Office	3	0,000	3	0,000	(3)
Total	3	0,000	3	0,000	(3)

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.