

Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport

2023/24
Annual Service Plan Report

August 2024



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Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport 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 "Lana Popham". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Honourable Lana Popham
Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
August 9, 2024

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Letter from the Minister

As Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, I am pleased to present the ministry's 2023/24 Annual Service Plan Report, summarizing our performance measures, key priorities, and achievements from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024.

British Columbia is a world-class destination and at this very moment, there are people all over the world planning a visit to our beautiful province to enjoy our incredible hospitality, arts and culture and sporting events.

In 2023, we made significant strides supporting the sustainable growth of the tourism sector, strengthening British Columbia's arts, culture, creative and sport sectors. These sectors are essential to the well-being of our society, and contribute to vibrant, resilient, innovative, and engaged communities.

The tourism, arts, culture, creative and sports sectors also faced several challenges this year: rising costs, inflation, affordable housing, climate-related events, staffing challenges, and labour disputes. These factors impacted travel plans, event attendance, and the ability of some businesses to continue their recovery from the pandemic and the impacts of extreme weather-related events.

In 2023, the tourism industry saw many signs of continued recovery. B.C. had a record number of cruise ships and passengers with more than 660 ships and over 2.4 million people. Hotels recorded an occupancy rate of 70.5 per cent in 2023, roughly equal to that of 2019 (70.8 per cent) and the Vancouver International Airport welcomed over 22.8 million passengers, up 32 per cent from 2022. We also supported fairs, festivals and events with an additional \$20 million in funding for 2023/24. This support means that over 1,000 events people love and celebrate can continue to entertain hundreds of thousands and boost local economies. A further \$15 million was provided to tourism businesses to support 31 tourism infrastructure projects across the province to enhance rural and urban visitor experiences and strengthen tourism destinations. Projects include trails, campgrounds, heritage sites, culture centres, signage, and accessibility. Indigenous Tourism BC also received support with \$6 million in funding to provide Indigenous-led and culturally focused training to Indigenous tourism workers and employers. Tourism businesses were assisted to better prepare for the impacts of climate change through \$3 million in funding for the BC Tourism Climate Resiliency Initiative via Destination BC.

The ministry continues to grow, strengthen and sustain B.C.'s arts, culture and creative sectors. Highlights include cultural infrastructure investments with the grand opening of the Chinese Canadian Museum on July 1, 2023, after many years of work and planning and an investment of more than \$48.5 million, along with launching the public engagement to inform the vision for a first of its kind Canadians of South Asian Heritages in B.C. museum. The Royal BC Museum continues to conduct a province-wide engagement on the reimagining of the museum, reaching over 6,000 British Columbians, while construction began on the Royal BC Museum Provincial Archives, Research and Collections (PARC) Campus in Colwood. The arts and creative sector through the BC Arts Council received record funding with a budget of \$39.9

million to support a diverse group of artists and arts organizations. This year we hosted BreakOut West 2023 in Kelowna and secured hosting of the 2025 JUNO Awards in Vancouver and the 2025 Canadian Country Music Association Awards in Kelowna!

Sports play a powerful role in contributing to the vibrancy of our communities and making a difference in people's lives. British Columbia is a recognized leader in sport participation, athlete excellence and event hosting. Each year we invest more than \$50 million to ensure everyone has equal opportunities to participate and enjoy the benefits of sport. This year we supported viaSport with \$7.8 million to establish a new, province-wide independent complaints process, ensuring athletes, coaches, and volunteers have access to an independent process to address complaints. We also invested \$4 million in the Rally Together program, supporting 228 projects across 125 communities. This boosted sport participation and volunteerism, benefiting over 62,000 people and introducing 29,315 new participants to volunteer and sport positions.

This is only a high-level overview of our success as a ministry and the work we continue to champion. Overall, it has been a positive year for our sectors, with significant funding provided to support the sustainable growth of our sectors. Flourishing tourism, arts, culture, and sport sectors are vital to every part of our province and benefit all British Columbians. We will continue to work together on these sectors and their key roles in BC's economy, culture, and quality of life because a strong economy and a healthy society go hand in hand.

Sincerely,



Honourable Lana Popham
Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
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 Popham's [2022 Mandate Letter](#) shaped the goals, objectives, performance measures, and financial plan outlined in the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport [2023/24 - 2025/26 Service Plan](#) and the actual results reported on in this annual report.

Purpose of the Ministry

The vision of the [Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport](#) (Ministry) is that people and communities across British Columbia are vibrant and thriving, with a diversity of opportunities that enrich well-being and support a strong, sustainable economy. The Ministry contributes to economic and social well-being and resiliency in communities by creating conditions for B.C.'s tourism, arts, culture, sport, creative and heritage sectors to thrive.

The Ministry oversees five Crown corporations: [Destination BC](#), the [BC Pavilion Corporation](#), the [Royal BC Museum](#), the [Knowledge Network](#), and the [BC Games Society](#). The Ministry also provides oversight to the [Office of the BC Athletic Commissioner](#).

In addition to holding oversight responsibilities for five Crowns, the Ministry works with [viaSport](#) to support quality, inclusive, and accessible sports across B.C. It also partners with the [BC Arts Council](#) to support cultural and artistic diversity in the province. Furthermore, the Ministry collaborates with [Creative BC](#) to grow the economic impact of B.C.'s creative sector, support sustainable employment, and showcase B.C.-owned creative content and production capabilities on a global scale.

Delivery of the Ministry's mandate is guided by key legislation, including the [Arts Council Act](#), the [Athletic Commissioner Act](#), the [Destination BC Corp. Act](#), the [BC Pavilion Corporation Act](#), the [Museum Act](#), the [Pacific National Exhibition Enabling and Validating Act](#), the [Knowledge Network Corporation Act](#), the [Hotel Guest Registration Act](#), the [Hotel Keepers Act](#), the [Pacific National Exhibition Incorporation Act](#), the [Tourism Act](#), the [Resort Timber Administration Act](#), and delegated authorities under the [Land Act](#), [Forest Act](#), and [Heritage Conservation Act](#).

Operating Environment

The tourism, arts, culture, creative and sport sectors continued to face a number of challenges in this reporting year. While each sector grapples with its own unique challenges, there are common factors that our sectors are facing which also continue to have impacts on all British Columbians. Factors such as housing supply and affordability are impacting the ability of sector businesses and non-profit organizations to attract and retain employees and volunteers and higher costs for facilities (maintaining existing and securing new) and other inflationary pressures are significantly affecting operating and capital costs across all sectors the Ministry works with.

The reality of increasing climate-related events is causing sector businesses and organizations to focus heavily on emergency management, making performances, festivals and events, especially in rural communities, more difficult to stage. This is also leading to hesitancy among audiences to attend events that are vulnerable to extreme weather, adding to already changing behaviors and preferences. The summer of 2023 saw travel order and road closures in key tourism regions due to severe wildfires and drought conditions that affected many businesses and events in the peak travel months from July through September.

The creative sector is facing a mix of economic conditions that are impacting the success of B.C.'s creative industries in different ways. 2023/24 was a difficult year for the motion picture industry as global production activity slowed due to shifting consumer behaviour and two lengthy labour disputes in the United States. This greatly impacted foreign filming activity in B.C., with a significant reduction in filming and job losses as a result. However, the Province continued to implement the updated [B.C. Film Location Policy](#), which helps to coordinate and improve permitting and licensing across Provincial agencies. This timely work aligned well with high-profile productions like HBO's *The Last of Us*, which began filming its second season in B.C. in early 2024.

The interactive digital media industry continued its long-term trajectory of high growth despite significant labour shortages. The music industry showed signs of pandemic recovery as audiences returned to large performance venues, while smaller and medium-sized venues, as well as festivals, continued to struggle with audience hesitation, labour shortages, and increasing operating costs. The book and magazine publishing industries also continued to face increasing operating costs (e.g. paper, distribution, and shipping), ongoing competition for advertising and difficulties competing for discoverability in a crowded digital environment.

Participation in sports offers extensive benefits, enhancing physical, mental, and social well-being for individuals of diverse ages and backgrounds. While participation levels are nearing those seen before the pandemic - enabling renewed connections among athletes, coaches, and fans - the sector faces ongoing difficulties. Volunteer involvement has not rebounded at the same pace as participant numbers, which is creating operational burdens for sports organizations that rely heavily on volunteer coaches, administrators, and board members.

Consistent with other sectors, financial challenges are also being experienced within the sport sector. Increasing costs for sports organizations are leading to higher registration fees for participants alongside rising expenses for travel and equipment. These cost increases disproportionately affect vulnerable and marginalized groups, deepening existing disparities in sport participation. Facility access also remains a pressing issue, compounded by workforce shortages that have forced reductions in available hours at municipal recreational centres and other facilities used by sport organizations. The limited availability of space creates accessibility challenges for community programs, provincial sports organizations, and private clubs. At the same time, the demographic shift towards an aging population is influencing the demand and design of sports programs, necessitating adaptations to meet these changing needs.

In the face of these challenges, there were some strong signs of recovery and resiliency in 2023. Arts and culture organizations have demonstrated considerable flexibility in the context of rapidly shifting economic and environmental factors and event planners continue to adapt to changing conditions. British Columbia continues to attract major events and has secured hosting for the 2025 JUNO Awards in Vancouver, the 2025 Canadian Country Music Association Awards in Kelowna and has committed to hosting significant sporting events like the 2024 Grey Cup, 2025 Invictus Games, and FIFA World Cup 2026. These events are a vital social and economic catalyst for the province and will help attract new visitors, demonstrate reconciliation in action, strengthen the tourism sector, and provide a boost to the economy.

Domestic travel in B.C. has bounced back to pre-pandemic levels. While the international visitor market continues to lag behind 2019, international visitation improved as people worldwide slowly regained confidence in travel safety and airlines re-established routes into the province. In 2023 British Columbia saw a record number of cruise ships and passengers with 660 ships and 2.4 million passengers visiting the province and hotel occupancy reaching 70.5 per cent, nearly equaling 2019 levels (70.8 per cent). Although many tourism businesses continue to struggle with COVID-19 pandemic-related debts, the number of B.C. tourism businesses remains relatively stable compared to 2019 and overnight visitation in 2023 increased by more than 47 per cent compared to 2022.

In an effort to alleviate financial pressures within the sport sector in the short-term, the Province allocated an additional \$10 million in one-time funding to viaSport, the BC Games Society, and the BC Seniors Games Society. This investment will help maintain affordability, as organizations will not have to pass some operational costs on to participants. The Ministry continues to work on strategies to address long-term financial sustainability.

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: British Columbia's tourism economy is resilient and growing sustainably.

Objective 1.1: Support the sustainable growth of the tourism sector.

The Ministry continued to support the sector under its [Strategic Framework for Tourism 2022-2024: A Plan for Recovery and Resiliency](#) to sustainably grow the value of the visitor economy, provide benefits for people and communities and opportunities to contribute to a cleaner future. British Columbia's tourism industry showed strong signs of recovery in 2023/24, aided by additional funding support from the Ministry, and implementation of projects funded in previous years. These investments enhanced and diversified amenities and boosted visitation to benefit people across the province socially and financially.

Key results

- Invested almost \$15 million to support 31 tourism infrastructure projects across the province to enhance rural and urban visitor experiences and strengthen tourism destinations. Projects include trails, campgrounds, heritage sites, culture centres, signage, and accessibility.
- Provided Destination BC with \$1.75 million to undertake two targeted marketing campaigns in coordination with local tourism associations to rebuild demand in key international markets as well as encourage fall and winter travel into the communities hardest hit by the summer 2023 wildfires.
- Supported the BC Restaurant and Foodservices Association with \$0.121 million to expand their popular Dine Around promotions in those communities.
- Provided \$3 million to Destination BC to support sustainability and climate resilience by launching the BC Tourism Climate Resiliency Initiative to help B.C.'s tourism businesses better prepare for the impacts of climate change.

Summary of progress made in 2023/24

British Columbia is a world-class destination, and tourism is one of our province's most dynamic industries. The Province continued to work with Destination BC and industry partners to meet ambitious goals for growth, sustainability and to support climate change adaptation and resilience. Destination BC led enhanced marketing efforts to bring back international tourists (driving demand) and key domestic marketing to rebound from the summer wildfire

impacts. The Ministry partnered with the sector and communities to invest in destination development and tourism infrastructure (creating supply) to improve tourism assets and experiences and build a resilient and competitive tourism sector.

Objective 1.2: Focus tourism-related policies and investments on creating healthy, inclusive societies.

The [Strategic Framework for Tourism 2022-2024](#) identifies tourism's power to boost the quality of life for people living in every corner of our province. It is important for the Ministry to undertake initiatives that generate tourism revenues and quality community enhancement opportunities for residents.

Key results

- Provided \$20 million to support the events sector and generate economic activity across the province. The funding supported over 1,100 fairs, arts, cultural, sport and community events.
- Launched the first of several new iconic travel routes (Rainforest to Rockies) under Destination BC's Invest in Iconics Strategy to align branding, marketing, and destination development efforts around iconic routes and places to better attract visitors to these areas throughout B.C.
- Supported Indigenous Tourism BC (ITBC) to develop and implement the Indigenous Tourism Training Initiative to provide Indigenous-led and culturally focused training and educational opportunities for Indigenous tourism workers and employers. The \$6 million in funding was provided in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction in fiscal 2022/23.
- Continued working across government and with the tourism industry to ensure the tourism sector is integrated into the provincial emergency management structure to support visitor safety, business resilience, and B.C.'s reputation as a safe and welcoming destination.
- Continued to partner with go2HR to support five Regional HR specialists to help with tourism workforce challenges.

Summary of progress made in 2023/24

Tourism is a driver of the economy, but it also increases the social wellbeing of communities and people in British Columbia. Supporting arts, culture and sporting events and festivals throughout the province encourages longer stays and increases seasonal and geographic visitor dispersion. These activities and experiences also support communities to be more vibrant and enjoyable places for residents to live.

Tourism supports reconciliation and provides economic benefits and opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to share their culture and stories the way they choose. The funding to the Indigenous Tourism Association of B.C. provided an opportunity to offer free training and tools to current and future Indigenous tourism workers in support of successful careers.

The anticipation of the upcoming 2025 Invictus Games and the 2026 FIFA World Cup continues to keep the world’s attention focused on B.C., offering opportunities to attract domestic and international tourists to the province.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	2023/24 Actual
1.1 B.C. tourism industry revenue ^{1,2}	18.5 billion	+60% ³	Available January 2025

Data source: BC Stats.

¹PM 1.1a targets for 2024/25 and 2025/26 were stated in the 2023/24 service plan as +10% and TBD, respectively.

²Tourism industry revenue data is provided by BC Stats on an annual basis, with a 2-year lag, and reflects a calendar year. Annually, typically in January, Destination BC develops an updated revenue forecast that is included in the Service Plan for the following fiscal year based on information provided from BC Stats. Data published prior to 2024 was recently updated by BC Stats and will not align with values published in the 2024/2025 Service Plan.

³The target for 2023/24 should be read as +10% over the previous year or +60 over the 2021/22 baseline of \$13,463M which represents the significant regrowth post-pandemic. The targets for 2024/25 and 2025/26 are +5% and +5% respectively. The 2022/23 Actual (\$18.5 billion) forms the basis of the 2023/24 forecast and revised future targets.

Tourism industry revenue measures the money received by businesses, individuals and governments due to tourism activities. Changes in tourism industry revenue reflect increases or decreases in visitor expenditures, which is an indicator of performance relative to Goal 1 and an indicator of all related objectives. Increases in tourism industry revenue reflect the growth of tourism, which is a key economic driver of B.C.’s economy.

Economic performance measures released by BC Stats for 2022 show that the tourism industry generated \$18.5 billion in revenue, an increase of +56.5 per cent over \$11.8 billion in 2021, but still had not recovered to pre-pandemic levels (-3.6 per cent compared to 2019).

Goal 2: Grow, strengthen and sustain British Columbia’s arts, culture and creative sectors.

Objective 2.1: Support arts and culture development in British Columbia so that the sector is vibrant, resilient, and recognized for its diversity and vitality.

Arts and culture organizations rely on support from patrons, donors, sponsors, and investments from all levels of government to make the sector vibrant, resilient, and recognized for its vital public value. The BC Arts Council is the province’s primary arts and culture funding agency.

Key results

- Delivered the second year of \$2.5 million in funding to 143 regional and equity-deserving organizations as part of the BC Arts Council’s multi-year capacity building Accelerate pilot program.

- Provided artists and practitioners who are Deaf or have a disability with \$0.105 million through formalized grant accessibility programs to access support throughout the BC Arts Council application process and in carrying out their projects.
- Provided \$1.725 million to First Peoples' Cultural Council to support the Indigenous Arts Program and \$0.25 million towards the Arts Vitality Research Project to document First Nations arts vitality across the province and better understand community needs.
- Announced the inaugural BC Arts Council Elder-in-Residence, created to recognize Indigenous perspectives and self-determination and to guide the Council's activities. The role supports the BC Arts Council's work towards equity and reconciliation and will provide mentoring opportunities for Indigenous Artists.
- Partnered with a group of Art Service Organizations to provide the Pathways pilot program, supporting arts, culture, and heritage organizations to integrate reconciliation, equity and access into their programs, governance, and operations.

Summary of progress made in 2023/24

To support vitality and diversity in arts and culture development in B.C., the Province delivered more than \$37.5 million through 1,787 grants to artists and arts and cultural organizations through the BC Arts Council programs and partnerships. BC Arts Council continued to implement its strategic plan, *Extending Foundations*. The Council also hosted two *Community Connections* engagement sessions to better understand the needs of the sector to support a renewed strategic vision.

Objective 2.2: Invest in cultural infrastructure.

Investments in cultural infrastructure are critical to support the arts and culture sector and to develop and sustain B.C.'s creative economy. The Ministry is committed to investing in cultural infrastructure with several mandate commitments:

- Continue to support the Arts Infrastructure Program to help communities build new cultural spaces and renovate existing ones.
- Work with the Royal BC Museum to engage in a robust consultation with First Nations, British Columbians, and other stakeholders to inform the next steps in the Museum's future.
- With support from the Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives, work in consultation with affected communities to advance emerging museum programs and proposals, including the Chinese Canadian Museum, Canadians of South Asian Heritages B.C. museum, and advancing a provincial Filipino cultural centre.

Key results

- The BC Art Council Arts Infrastructure Program supported 67 non-profit arts and culture sector infrastructure projects with \$4.025 million in grants.
- The Royal BC Museum has been conducting province-wide engagement, reaching over 6,000 B.C. residents, and hosting more than 100 events. The Museum has engaged with

First Nations, Indigenous Peoples, LGBTQ communities, partner museums, and other groups across the Province to solicit feedback on the future of the Museum.

- The Chinese Canadian Museum officially opened on July 1, 2023, after many years of planning, and a Provincial investment of more than \$48.5 million.
- Work to advance the establishment of a Canadians of South Asian Heritages B.C. museum included establishing a Ministerial Advisory to guide the community engagement and preliminary planning. In October 2023, the Province launched an engagement website and survey inviting input from all British Columbians. To further assist communities in providing input on the Museum's future, the Province established a grant program to enable community led dialogues.
- The Vancouver Art Gallery launched the construction of its new facility with a ground awakening ceremony in September 2023, after a Provincial investment of \$100 million.

Summary of progress made in 2023/24

Multiple projects, related to mandate commitments and supported by Provincial infrastructure investments, saw significant milestones in 2023/24, including the opening of the Chinese Canadian Museum, the launch of public engagement to inform the vision for the new and first of its kind Canadians of South Asian Heritages B.C. museum, significant progress on the construction of the Royal BC Museum Provincial Archives, Research and Collections (PARC) Campus in Colwood, continued support for the BC Arts Council's Arts Infrastructure Program, and a ground awakening at the site of the new Vancouver Art Gallery facility.

Objective 2.3: Support the economic recovery and resiliency of B.C.'s creative sector.

The Ministry targets policy and investments to leverage opportunities in the motion picture, music, book and magazine publishing, and interactive digital media industries. These efforts result in expanding global market reach, increasing regional activity, and generate high-paying employment opportunities.

Key results

- Worked with Creative BC to consult industry, design future programs, and administer \$2.45 million of the Ministry's historic \$42 million investment in the creative sector from 2022/23.
- Implemented the B.C. Film Location Policy across government through the Filming in BC Engagement Group and welcomed high-profile international productions to B.C. like HBO's *The Last of Us*, which began filming its second season in B.C. in early 2024.
- Delivered \$6.1 million in Amplify BC funding through Creative BC to support B.C.'s music industry.

- Hosted BreakOut West 2023 in Kelowna and confirmed B.C. as the host province for the 2025 JUNO Awards in Vancouver and 2025 Canadian Country Music Association Awards in Kelowna.
- Invested an additional \$0.5 million through Creative BC to support B.C. book publishers to meet their most pressing operational needs to remain competitive.

Summary of progress made in 2023/24

The Province worked closely with the creative sector in 2023/24 to support economic recovery in the face of a mixed operating environment. Creative BC began rolling out financial support from the Province's historic \$42 million investment in the sector from 2022/23, with creators and organizations in the motion picture and publishing industries receiving \$2.45 million of this funding in 2023/24. Creative BC partnered with the Knowledge Network on the Stories (Un)told initiative and held consultations to support program design for upcoming domestic motion picture, interactive digital media, and music industry funding. The Province also provided an additional \$0.5 million through Creative BC to support B.C. book publishers' long-term stability and worked closely with Books BC and MagsBC to identify key priorities for funding.

The Province continued to implement the B.C. Film Location Policy in 2023/24, particularly as motion picture production activity picked up following the conclusion of the dual writers/actors strikes in the United States. The Ministry led a cross-government working group to coordinate and improve permitting and licensing approvals across all provincial agencies; B.C. is proud to be hosting several high-profile international productions in early 2024, including HBO's *The Last of Us* and Disney's *Tron: Ares*. The Ministry also worked with Creative BC to start looking at an equitable funding model to support the regional film commissions, while also ensuring an effective use of funds.

Following the successful hosting of *Breakout West 2023* in Kelowna, the Ministry is providing \$2 million through Creative BC to bring the 2025 JUNO Awards to Vancouver, with regional events spread across the province, and \$0.5 million in a partnership between the Ministry and Creative BC to bring the 2025 Canadian Country Music Association Awards to Kelowna. These marquee music events are raising the public profile and recognition of music artists in B.C. The Province also supported the music industry by administering \$6.1 million in Amplify funding in 2023/24 through Creative BC programs for artists, live music presenters, venues, festivals, and industry development projects. Through investments and policy implementation, the Ministry is advancing the Province's objective of supporting the economic recovery and resiliency of B.C.'s creative sector.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	2023/24 Actual
2.1a Number of BC Arts Council grants awarded ¹	2,041 ³	1,700	1,787 ⁴
2.1b Number of artists and arts organizations supported by the BC Arts Council ²	1,031	1,000	1,050 ⁴

Data source: Grants Management System.

¹PM 2.1a targets for 2024/25 and 2025/26 were stated in the 2023/24 service plan as 1,700 and 1,700, respectively.

²PM 2.1b targets for 2024/25 and 2025/26 were stated in the 2023/24 service plan as 1,000 and 1,000, respectively.

³FY2022-23 provided 1723 grants through BC Arts Council programs and 318 grants distributed through partnerships.

⁴In 2023/24, \$37.5 million in grants was distributed from BC Arts Council base budget. This provided 1,787 grants in total, of which 345 were delivered through partner organizations. Of the grants delivered directly from the BC Arts Council, there were 478 individual artist recipients and 572 organizational recipients (including collectives), for a total of 1,050 unique recipients. In 2022/23 there was an additional \$34.525 M provided in one-time funding, allowing BCAC to distribute more grants in the previous year.

The number of grants awarded this year was lower than in 2022/23. This is due to the one-time investment of \$34.525 million from the Province in 2022/23, which provided 128 additional Arts Infrastructure Program grants (maximum \$250,000) and 337 Resilience Supplements (ranging from \$1,193 to \$1.58 million). The Resilience Supplements were distributed as targeted grants to organizations receiving operating assistance across the province. In addition, the Arts Impact Grant program was offered in 2022/23, providing 147 grants, but did not run in 2023/24 (it was pushed out to early in 2024/25, opening on January 10, 2024), further contributing to a lower number of grants in 2023/24 than the year before.

This is the final year for the number of BC Arts Council grants and unique recipients metric. These performance measures have provided an indication of the volume of grants and recipients and provided a general gauge of the scope and reach of funding, but do not speak directly to the diversity and vitality described in Objective 2.1.

To further support the final year of Extending Foundations and the implementation of the BC Arts Council's upcoming new strategic vision, expected in 2025, performance measures have been restated in the 2024/25 – 2026/27 Service Plan to focus on the distribution of grants and the diversity of recipients, including Indigenous arts and culture, equity, and access, to highlight the impact of this investment.

Performance Measure	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	2023/24 Actual
2.2 Number of organizations supported for capital infrastructure projects ¹	143 ²	87+	77 ³

Data Source: BC Arts Council and Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport.

¹ PM 2.2 targets for 2024/25 and 2025/26 were stated in the 2023/24 service plan as 87+ and 87+, respectively.

² Breakdown of 143:

- 136 - Arts Infrastructure Program
- 6 - additional organizations: Royal BC Museum (collections and research building project/ now PARC Campus), Chinese Canadian Museum, Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver, Vancouver Chinatown Foundation,

Mabuhay House Society, and North Van Arts. Note that the Vancouver Art Gallery and Eastside Arts Society received both an Arts Infrastructure Program grant and direct funding.

- 1 - Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. This figure was updated for FY 2022/23 to reflect an ongoing agreement not accounted for previously.

³ Breakdown of 77:

- 67 - Arts Infrastructure Program
- 7 - projects funded in prior fiscal years with ongoing agreement terms and/ or requirements in 2023/24: Royal BC Museum PARC Campus, Chinese Canadian Museum, Jewish Community Center of Greater Vancouver, Vancouver Chinatown Foundation, Mabuhay House Society, Vancouver Art Gallery, and the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria.
- 3 - new funding for 3 additional organizations was supported to advance capital infrastructure projects: Cultural Land Trust, Vancouver Island Visual Arts Society, BC Museums Association.

In 2023/24, fewer organizations received capital infrastructure funding than the previous year. The Arts Infrastructure Program (AIP) received an additional \$4.525 million in one-time funding, more than doubling its annual budget, in 2022/23. Another factor contributing to fewer organizations receiving funding was a greater focus for AIP on higher value, more substantial investments to support greater economic and organizational impact. With a return to the \$4 million base budget, 67 organizations received funding including: 13 for planning and consulting, 22 for capital improvements and 32 for specialized equipment. Out of the 67 funded organizations, 12 organizations received \$0.075 million or greater (and up to \$0.25 million) in infrastructure funding, equivalent to 62 per cent of the overall program budget. Based on these factors and current budgets to support overall cultural infrastructure, the actuals reported for this performance measure are expected to continue, which may require adjustments to targets in the next Service Plan.

Performance Measure	2021/22 Baseline	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	2023/24 Actual
2.3 Value of annual economic contribution across B.C. creative sector ¹	\$6.36 billion Total GDP ²	\$6.7 billion Total GDP ³	Maintain or improve	Pending ⁴

Data Source: Internally compiled statistics from Creative BC's Creative Industries Economic Results Assessment (CIERA).

¹PM 2.3a targets for 2024/25 and 2025/26 were stated in the 2023/24 service plan as Maintain or improve and Maintain or improve, respectively.

²The number reported in the 2023/24 Service Plan was \$5.4 billion Total GDP. CIERA is updated on an annual basis due to annual refinements to federal public data sets from Statistics Canada. These refinements have been applied to 2021/22 baseline data to ensure historical consistency and comparability.

³CIERA data for the most current year is always an estimate. Actuals for 2022 will be published by Creative BC in Fall 2024.

⁴CIERA 2023 data will be published by Creative BC in Fall 2024.

The 2022 actual for PM 2.3 was significantly higher than the 2021/22 actual reported in the 2023/24 Service Plan (\$5.4 billion) and the revised 2021/22 baseline stated above (\$6.36 billion). This is due to stronger growth and pandemic recovery than anticipated, particularly in the gaming and music industries. According to CIERA, in 2022 B.C.'s creative sector outperformed pre-pandemic (2019) levels.

While 2023 data is not yet available, early indications show the sector may not meet the Ministry's target of maintaining or improving on 2022 levels. This is due to a global reduction in motion picture production activity and lengthy labour disputes in the United States that reduced the number of foreign productions filming in B.C. in 2023.

Goal 3: Ensure accessible, safe and inclusive sport opportunities for all British Columbians.

Objective 3.1: Collaborate with communities and partners to reduce barriers to inclusivity in sport and increase participation.

Provincial and multi-sport organizations such as Basketball BC, BC Wheelchair Sports Association, Special Olympics BC and the B.C. Seniors Games Society offers residents and visitors the opportunity to play, learn, and compete in sport. In its funding agreements with provincial sport organizations, viaSport requires inclusive sport programming that encourages participation from a diverse range of participants.

Key results

- Invested \$4 million in the Rally Together program, supporting 228 projects across 125 communities. This boosted sport participation and volunteerism, directly benefiting over 62,000 individuals and introducing 29,315 new participants to volunteer and sport positions.
- Invested \$0.15 million to support nine projects through the Team Up grant, enhancing participation among youth including Indigenous peoples, newcomers, persons with disabilities, socioeconomically disadvantaged individuals, girls and women.
- Fostered positive sport cultures across the province through PlaySafe BC, a program delivered by viaSport that provides tools, trainings, and resources such as the Flag Tool for Sport, bystander intervention training, and conflict resolution guidelines. PlaySafe BC also delivered a social media campaign that was seen by more than 1.6 million people.
- Allocated \$7.8 million to viaSport to establish a new, province-wide independent complaints mechanism, ensuring that athletes, coaches, and volunteers have access to an independent process to address complaints. This will help establish and maintain an environment free from harassment and abuse.
- Continued annual investment in the Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity & Recreation Council (I•SPARC). This includes the Resilient, Inspire, Strength and Engage (RISE) program, which provided 571 individual grants and 20 organizational grants to support children and youth in and from government care to participation in sport, physical activity, recreation, and cultural programs.

Summary of progress made in 2023/24

In addition to strategic investments made in support of Team Up, Rally Together, and Play Safe BC, the Ministry maintained its partnership with the sport sector and local communities to advance the accessibility, safety, and inclusivity of sports. By providing ongoing support for initiatives like KidSport, the BC Sport Participation Program, the Afterschool Sport and Arts Initiative (ASSAI), the RISE program, the BC Seniors Games Society and support for I•SPARC,

the Ministry supported diverse communities, including youth, seniors, Indigenous peoples, and persons with disabilities, ensuring broader sport participation across the province.

In sport safety, the Ministry completed foundational work to establish an independent complaint process that will enhance the integrity of sport environments, further ensuring that sports remain accessible and inclusive for all athletes, coaches, and volunteers. Work included partnering with viaSport to conduct engagements and host surveys to understand sport sector needs and challenges, delivering a Safe Sport summit, and working across the provincial government in addition to across jurisdictions to determine the governance model that would ensure independence and effectiveness.

While sports organizations are struggling with volunteer shortages and rising operational costs, families are facing similar pressures. Because sports can be seen as discretionary, sport-related costs are one of the first expenses to be impacted when household budgets tighten. In response to these challenges, the Ministry allocated an additional \$10 million in year-end funding to help offset the operational cost increases that organizations might otherwise have to pass on to participants.

Objective 3.2: Provide opportunities for athletes, coaches and officials to develop and compete in communities across the province.

The Province strives for system excellence in sport by supporting programs and services for athletes, coaches, officials, practitioners, and leaders through enhanced coordination and communication across sport organizations.

Key results

- Helped over 500 athletes, coaches, Elders and mission staff represent their communities at the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) by supporting Team BC. Team BC secured 159 total medals across 14 sports, earning the team second place in overall team standings.
- Supported 349 Team BC participants who represented the province in the 2023 Canada Winter Games and, through support for the BC Seniors Games Society, helped 2,417 seniors participate in the 55+ BC Games 2023 in Abbotsford.
- Delivered the Lhtako Quesnel 2024 BC Winter Games, marking a historic milestone as the first Games to be held in partnership with Indigenous partners. Held on the Lhtako Dene Traditional Territory from February 22–25, 2024, this event highlighted a commitment to inclusivity and celebration of youth sports.
- Launched the world's first fully immersive digital Indigenous sport gallery at the BC Sports Hall of Fame. This not only celebrates the rich history and achievements of Indigenous athletes but also enhances accessibility and educational opportunities.
- Recognized Volleyball BC as the recipient of the 3rd annual Delivering on Diversity Award, underscoring the impact of initiatives that foster inclusivity and diversity within sports.

Summary of progress made in 2023/24

The Ministry's strategic investments in provincial and multi-sport organizations, initiatives, and events have been successful in creating pathways for British Columbians to reach their highest potential in sports. By supporting entities such as the BC Games, the Canadian Sport Institute Pacific, and I•SPARC, the Province has fostered an environment that nurtures talent, promotes inclusivity, and celebrates achievements.

Volleyball BC implemented a range of initiatives which included a Sitting Volleyball pilot program for individuals with a disability as well as the delivery of nine Introduction to Volleyball programs for new Canadians. These efforts not only increased participation from underrepresented groups but also set a strong example for other organizations to follow.

Objective 3.3: Contribute to tourism, economic, social and sport development growth through investing in sport events in communities across the province.

Sport event hosting supports tourism, economic, social and sport development. The Province's investment in these events helps to ensure that communities, athletes and sports fans throughout the province are able to realize the benefits associated with sport event hosting.

Key results

- Invested in 123 sporting events, including provincial and national championships, across 39 communities through Hosting BC programs. This not only fostered local sport development, but also contributed to the economic development of these areas.
- Supported seven significant sport events including the 2024 World Para Biathlon & Para Nordic World Cup, and the 2025 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships through the Major Sport Event Hosting program. These opportunities are expected to bring substantial social and economic benefits to the hosting communities.
- Engaged in operational and strategic planning for upcoming marquee sport events including Grey Cup 2024, Invictus Games 2025 and FIFA World Cup 2026, including developing plans for activities to maximize the benefits of hosting.

Summary of progress made in 2023/24

The Ministry's strategic approach to sport event hosting continues to foster economic growth, community development, and enhanced opportunities for athletes, setting a strong foundation for future successes in the sport sector.

In 2023/24, the Ministry supported 130 events with an investment of \$1 million. This has helped communities develop skills in organizing events at various levels, preparing them for future larger-scale events, and enabling athletes to compete and develop close to home.

The community of Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc and the City of Kamloops collaborated, along with all bid partners, to develop a bid to host the 2027 North American Indigenous Games. The bid highlighted the region's strength in terms of location, infrastructure, and culture. The Province

provided a strong commitment of support for the bid; however, it was ultimately not successful. Despite not being selected to host, the bid process included significant and meaningful relationship building with Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc and the City of Kamloops, laying a strong foundation for future sport initiatives.

Looking ahead, the Province remains committed to working with partners to host significant events like the Grey Cup 2024, Invictus Games 2025, and FIFA World Cup 2026. These events are expected to bring economic and tourism benefits across the province.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	2023/24 Actual
3.1 Number of children, from population groups typically under-represented in sport, reached through targeted sport programs ¹	30,300	32,000	32,011

Data source: The total number of children reached through programs delivered by the Indigenous, Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council (ISPARC), KidSport BC, and the After School Sport and Arts Initiative (ASSAI) administered by the Ministry.

¹PM 3.1 targets for 2024/25 and 2025/26 were stated in the 2023/24 service plan as 34,000 and 36,000, respectively.

In 2023/24, the Ministry continued to track how well targeted programs reached children and youth from groups that are often underrepresented in sports. This measure does not include those participating in general sports programs, but does include those participating in I•SPARC, KidSport BC, and the ASSAI administered by the Ministry.

Participation data from these groups is collected through reports from local and provincial sports organizations. I•SPARC reported that 8,646 people participated in their community sport development programs, which include youth camps, provincial camps, championships, and the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships. Participation from ASSAI includes participants from the female high school program. Participation from KidSport includes children who received financial assistance with sport registration fees and equipment costs. Tracking these programs reflects how we are supporting sports that are inclusive.

Performance Measure	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	2023/24 Actual
3.3 Number of communities that host sport events ¹	40 ²	45	40

Data source: Major Events Program and Hosting BC.

¹PM 3.3 targets for 2024/25 and 2025/26 were stated in the 2023/24 service plan as 45 and 45, respectively.

²In the 2022/23 annual service plan report the number of communities served was misstated as 44. When drafting the 2024 service plan, this error was corrected.

Monitoring sport events across the province not only aligns with the event hosting objective of the [Pathways to Sport – Strategic Framework for Sport in B.C. 2020-2025](#), but also significantly enhances the social and economic wellbeing of communities throughout B.C. These events

bring substantial benefits, including boosting local economies and strengthening community engagement.

While the actual number of communities that hosted an event was lower in 2023/24 than the Service Plan target, it is worth noting that the Ministry reached all eight BC Games Zones during the Hosting BC intake, spreading support across the province. In addition, because some communities host more than one event, the total number of events will exceed the number of host communities reported.

The Major Events Program and Hosting BC remain the primary funding programs driving this progress. These initiatives continue to stimulate sport development, community engagement, tourism, and economic growth across various regions in B.C., ensuring that the benefits of sport event hosting are widely distributed.

Financial Report

Financial Summary

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations ¹ (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
Operating Expenses					
Tourism Sector Strategy	25,189	33,670	58,859	59,665	806
Arts and Culture	38,561	1,438	39,999	40,237	238
Sport and Creative Sector	26,648	17,514	44,162	43,847	(315)
Transfer to Crown Corporations and Agencies	83,714	17,155	100,869	101,558	689
Executive and Support Services	2,117	1,123	3,240	1,820	(1,420)
Sub-total	176,229	70,900	247,129	247,127	(2)
Special Account					
BC Arts and Culture Endowment Special Account	4,230	0	4,230	3,795	(435)
Physical Fitness and Amateur Sport Fund	1,200	0	1,200	850	(350)
Sub-total	5,430	0	5,430	4,645	(785)
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual ²	0	0	0	(27)	(27)
Total	181,659	70,900	252,559	251,745	(814)
Ministry Capital Expenditures					
Executive and Support Services	3	0	3	2	(1)
Total	3	0	3	2	(1)
Capital Plan					
B.C. Pavilion Corporation Capital Fund	10,000	0	10,000	10,000	0
Royal B.C Museum Provincial Archives & Research Campus Project	78,758	0	78,758	43,363	(35,395)
Total	88,758	0	88,758	53,363	(35,395)
Other Financing Transactions					
Tourism Development Disbursements	600	0	600	33	(567)

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations ¹ (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
Total	600	0	600	33	(567)

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

² The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual of \$0.027 million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations

As of August 9, 2024, the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport is responsible and accountable for the following organizations:

[BC Arts Council](#)

The BC Arts Council (BCAC) was created in 1995 as an agency of the province of British Columbia under the *Arts Council Act*. The BCAC nurtures and supports arts and cultural activity in communities across British Columbia.

[BC Games Society](#)

The BC Games Society is the organization responsible for setting the ongoing policy and direction of the BC Winter and BC Summer Games and supporting Team BC at the Canada Games.

[BC Pavilion Corporation](#)

BC Pavilion Corporation (PavCo) is a Provincial Crown Corporation. PavCo owns and operates two world-class public facilities located in downtown Vancouver: BC Place and the Vancouver Convention Centre.

[Creative BC](#)

Creative BC is an independent society created and supported by the provincial government to sustain and help grow British Columbia's creative industries.

[Destination British Columbia](#)

Destination BC is a provincially funded, industry-led Crown corporation that supports a strong and competitive future for BC's tourism industry.

[Knowledge Network Corporation](#)

Knowledge Network provides programs that educate, challenge and inspire. The organization also supports independent B.C. filmmakers through commissioning and pre-licensing of new programs.

[Royal British Columbia Museum](#)

The Royal BC Museum Corporation is a Crown corporation established under the *Museum Act* with a mandate to secure, receive and preserve specimens, artifacts and archival and other materials that illustrate the natural or human history of B.C.

[Medal of Good Citizenship Committee](#)

The BC Medal of Good Citizenship celebrates British Columbians who have acted in a particularly generous, kind or selfless manner for the common good without expectation of reward.

Appendix B: Progress on Mandate Letter Priorities

The following is a summary of progress made on priorities as stated in Minister Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport's [2022 Mandate Letter](#).

2022 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2024
<p>Continue to work with the tourism and hospitality sectors in rural and urban communities to ensure sustained recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>Status: Ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$20 million in 2023/24 for 1,100 events, building on the \$60 million from 2021 to 2023 to support 1,852 fairs, festivals, and events in 184 communities. • Invested \$20 million in Science World in April 2023 to support priority infrastructure improvements to the building, including repairs to the dome and new electrical energy efficiencies. • Launched a new iconic travel route – Rainforest to Rockies – under Destination BC’s Invest in Iconics Strategy. • \$15 million in 2023/24 in Destination Development grants to support the development of tourism infrastructure, assets, and experiences, building on the \$45 million invested in 2022-23. • Ongoing partnership with go2HR to have five regional human resource specialists to help with tourism workforce challenges. • Launched the B.C. Tourism Climate Resiliency Initiative in 2023/24 to develop climate preparedness and adaptation strategies for people in B.C.’s tourism sector. • The Major Events Municipal Regional District Tax (MRDT) for B.C. municipalities provides time-limited support for events such as FIFA World Cup 2026. • Provided Destination BC with \$1.2 million to undertake a marketing campaign in coordination with local tourism associations to encourage fall and winter travel into the communities hardest hit by the summer 2023 wildfires. • Provided \$0.121 million to the BC Restaurant and Foodservices Association for the expansion of the popular Dine Around campaign in 2023 to support wildfire recovery.

2022 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2024
<p>Continue to support the Arts Infrastructure Program to help communities build new cultural spaces and renovate existing ones.</p>	<p>Status: Ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In FY2023/24 BC Arts Council delivered 67 Arts Infrastructure program grants, totalling \$4 million, with grants ranging from \$0.003 million to \$0.25 million. • Additional investments were made to three other arts organizations to advance infrastructure projects, with an additional investment of \$0.632 million in fiscal year 2023-24. This includes \$0.5 million contributed to further assist communities in organizing inclusive and robust input on advancing a future Canadians of South Asian Heritages B.C. Museum. • The Vancouver Art Gallery began construction of its new facility with a ground awakening ceremony in September 2023, after a Provincial investment of \$100 million.

2022 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2024
<p>Maintain work with B.C. host cities and organizers of upcoming marquee events – Grey Cup in 2024, Invictus Games in 2025 and FIFA world cup in 2026 – to ensure they provide positive benefits for businesses, communities, and the tourism sector.</p>	<p>Status: Ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3.5 million commitment (\$1 million in 2023/24, \$2.5 million in 2024/25) for the six-day Grey Cup Fan Festival and to support legacy initiatives that will benefit amateur sport development, the tourism sector and local communities. • \$15 million commitment (\$1 million in 2022/23, \$1.5 million in 2023/24, \$12.5 million 2024/25), plus additional assistance, to support hosting the Invictus Games 2025 to drive economic and tourism benefits and build legacies in reconciliation, sport, accessibility, and mental health. • Since June 2022 when Vancouver was selected as an official host city for the FIFA world cup in 2026, all involved entities have been working collaboratively to review FIFA’s hosting requirements and develop plans to deliver a successful event. • The Province is also working closely with federal and municipal event partners to maximize the long-term economic benefits of hosting this event. • In January 2023, the Province, at the request of the City of Vancouver, introduced a modest temporary increase to the Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) on short-term accommodations to help cover the city’s hosting costs. • FIFA governance committees have been established at the provincial and national levels to support collective planning and aligned decision-making.
<p>Work with First Nations to secure the bid for the 2027 North America Indigenous Games.</p>	<p>Status: Complete</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community of Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc and the City of Kamloops collaborated, along with all bid partners, to develop a bid that highlighted the region’s strength in location, infrastructure, and culture. • The Province provided a strong commitment of support for the bid; however, it was ultimately not successful in securing it.

2022 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2024
<p>Continue to promote rural and Indigenous tourism opportunities, taking advantage of B.C.'s unparalleled natural areas.</p>	<p>Status: Ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided approximately \$1.5 million in 2023/24 through Destination BC for Indigenous Tourism BC (ITBC) to develop, support, and promote Indigenous tourism throughout the province. • Supported Indigenous Tourism BC (ITBC) to develop and implement Indigenous-led and culturally focused training and educational opportunities for Indigenous tourism workers and employers (\$6 million in funding provided in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction in fiscal 2022/23).
<p>Continue the development and implementation of heritage policy and programs related to geographical naming, heritage conservation capacity building, historic places recognition, fossil management, and the stewardship of physical heritage resources.</p>	<p>Status: Ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amended the <i>Provincial Symbols and Honours Act</i> in October 2023 to make the Elasmosaur an official Provincial fossil emblem. • Continued to support the provincial heritage properties (Barkerville, Fort Steele, Kilby Historic Site, Hat Creek Ranch, Emily Carr House, Point Ellice House, Yale Historic Site) by providing \$4.38 million in annual operational funding and over \$1.3 million in major project funding for tourism, public access and to conserve heritage values. • Confirming future operators for Point Ellice House in Victoria, Yale Historic Site in Yale, Kilby Historic Site near Harrison, Carr House in Victoria and Hat Creek Ranch near Cache Creek.
<p>Work with the Royal BC Museum to engage in a robust consultation with First Nations, British Columbians, and other stakeholders to inform next steps in the Museum's future.</p>	<p>Status: In progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Royal BC Museum conducted province-wide engagement, reaching over 6,000 B.C. residents, and hosting more than 100 events. The Museum engaged with First Nations, Indigenous Peoples, LGBTQ communities, partner museums, and other groups across B.C. to inform future plans for the Museum.

2022 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2024
<p>With support from the Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives, work in consultation with affected communities to advance emerging museum programs and proposals including the Chinese Canadian museum, a South Asian museum, and a provincial Filipino cultural centre.</p>	<p>Status: In progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chinese Canadian Museum officially opened on July 1, 2023, after many years of work, and investment Provincial investment of more than \$48.5 million. • The Province advanced work on a Canadians of South Asian Heritages in B.C. museum, supported by a Ministerial Advisory. In October 2023, the Province launched a provincial engagement website and survey that invites input from all British Columbians on a vision for the museum. To support communities in hosting inclusive and robust dialogue sessions to inform the vision for a few museum focussed on Canadians of South Asian Heritages in B.C., the Province established a \$0.5 million for a grant program. • Building on \$0.25 million provided to Mabuhay House Society for capacity building to support engagement and preliminary planning for a provincial Filipino cultural centre, the Province held three community organization leaders roundtables to advance the project and inform future engagement in 2023/24.