

# Ministry of Attorney General

## 2024/25 Annual Service Plan Report

August 2025



For more information on the Ministry of Attorney General, please contact us at:

**Ministry of Attorney General**

PO BOX 9044  
STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, B.C.  
V8W 9E2

1-800-663-7867

Or visit our website at

[Ministry of Attorney General](#)

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## Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Attorney General 2024/25 Annual Service Plan Report compares the Ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in the 2024/25 – 2026/27 Service Plan published in 2024. I am accountable for those results as reported.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Honourable Niki Sharma, K.C.  
Attorney General and Deputy Premier  
August 11, 2025

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## Letter from the Minister

It's an honour to serve as the Attorney General and to present the 2024/25 Annual Service Plan Report, which highlights the progress we've made to improve B.C.'s justice system and better serve more people across the province.

I am proud of the strides we've made, and I am grateful for the dedication of the team at the Ministry of Attorney General and our many community partners. Together, we are helping to build a stronger, more accessible, and more equitable justice system for everyone in British Columbia.

People are at the centre of the investments we are making and improving access to justice remains our focus. We continued working with the courts to upgrade courthouse infrastructure, expand virtual counter services, and increase online scheduling options. Vulnerable individuals are receiving greater support through new legal aid services for families, people leaving domestic violence and people undergoing involuntary mental health treatment.

Building on last year's momentum, the ministry continued to prioritize public safety by improving bail practices through the expansion of virtual bail and the Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII). We also enacted the [Safe Access to Schools Act](#) to help protect students and educators from disruptive or harmful behaviour near K-12 schools.

We advanced key reforms to enhance consumer protection, with new measures to tackle predatory sales practices and to promote transparency in consumer contracts. Additionally, we are developing a modernized legal professions framework that will help expand access to affordable legal services.

Our commitment to reconciliation remains strong. We're working in close partnership with the BC First Nations Justice Council and Métis Nation BC to advance Indigenous-led justice strategies. Today, B.C. is home to 15 Indigenous Justice Centres and one virtual centre offering free, culturally appropriate legal services to Indigenous Peoples.

We are also taking real action to address systemic racism and race-based hate. With the passage of the in 2024, work is now underway with Indigenous partners and the Provincial Committee on Anti-Racism to develop a comprehensive action plan by 2026. In its first year, the Racist Incident Helpline received over 800 calls, with approximately 94 per cent of callers reporting their needs were met, showing just how critical these supports are. In response, we invested \$1.2 million in annual funding for community organizations to expand services for those impacted by racism.

Looking ahead, the Ministry of Attorney General will continue to advance justice system modernization by enhancing access to services for British Columbians. We have more work to do, and we look forward to strengthening B.C.'s court system and improving access to timely, fair justice.



Honourable Niki Sharma, K.C.  
Attorney General and Deputy Premier  
August 11, 2025

## 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 [Ministry of Attorney General's 2022 Mandate Letter](#) and the [Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives 2022 Mandate Letter](#) shaped the goals, objectives, performance measures and financial plan outlined in the Ministry of Attorney General's [2024/25 – 2026/27 Service Plan](#) and the actual results reported on in this annual report.

## Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Attorney General and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General work together as the justice and public safety sector to advance a shared vision of a safe, secure, just, and resilient British Columbia. The ministry works to keep communities safe and provide certainty, proportionality and, above all, fairness when dealing with criminal, civil, and family law matters, while protecting people, especially those who are most vulnerable. The ministry, while dealing with these matters, is focused on promoting confidence in the integrity of the sector and ensuring continued public participation and support.

The ministry is responsible for sheriff and court administration services, legal aid, prosecution services, administrative tribunals, civil and family justice services, protection and promotion of human rights, providing legal advice to Government, and developing justice policy and justice reforms. Following completion of the interregnum period, the responsibility for consumer protection policy and legislation moved from the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General (PSSG) to the Ministry of Attorney General.

The ministry is also responsible for promoting multiculturalism and leading anti-racism initiatives through the Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives.

The Indigenous Justice Secretariat, housed in the Ministry of Attorney General, is a unique commitment between the Province and the BC First Nations Justice Council to cement their relationship and commitment to decreasing the overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples in the criminal justice system along 2 tracks of change: (1) Reform of the existing justice system; (2) Transformation through the rebuilding of Indigenous justice systems. The Indigenous Justice Secretariat also works closely with Métis Nation British Columbia on the advancement of the Métis Justice Strategy.

As of July 17, 2025, the ministry is responsible for the [Insurance Corporation of British Columbia](#) (ICBC).

## Operating Environment

Throughout 2024/25, the Ministry of Attorney General maintained its commitment to supporting and strengthening British Columbia's justice system. A significant difference for ministry operations from recent years was the 2024 Provincial Election. During the election period, the ministry maintained day-to-day operations but did not implement new initiatives.

The challenging economic climate continued to guide the work of the ministry and reinforce the need to focus on efficient, and effective processes. Technology is becoming an essential part of the structure of the justice system and it is increasingly important to stay focused on people who the system is meant to serve, and those who work within the system. Similarly, the policy and legislation that the Attorney General is responsible for must be maintained to respond to these changes and, where possible, improved to enhance access to justice and help our people and systems thrive. The ministry also recognizes that we must continue to focus on those who require more support from the justice system than others, and ensure that as we move forward, no one is left behind.

To work towards the goal of reducing the overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples, as accused, offenders, and victims in the justice system, the ministry continues to further its initiatives supporting culturally responsive and relevant policies, programs, and services that address the specific needs of Indigenous Peoples. Partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations are essential in improving Indigenous Peoples' experiences interacting with the justice and public safety sector. The ministry is committed to the importance of working with First Nations to revitalize their traditional laws and identify opportunities to increase legal pluralism.

Throughout 2024/25, the ministry continued its efforts in responding to the complex and overlapping issues that relate to violent re-offending in the community through the Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII), first launched in May 2023. The BC Prosecution Service's (BCPS) 5 dedicated regional prosecution teams of 21 Crown Counsel and 21 professional staff continued to work with dedicated probation officers, police agencies, and Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction workers in cases involving prioritized individuals. BCPS maintains its ongoing involvement in this work through providing criminal legal advice and independent prosecution support to community representatives, police, and corrections personnel, while maintaining prosecutorial independence and an organizational commitment to addressing overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system.

The BCPS continues to proactively improve its approach to addressing hate crimes. Throughout the year, BCPS applied its updated Hate Crimes (HAT 1) policy, which defines hate crimes to include the new wilful promotion of antisemitism and conversion therapy offences, as well as any other Criminal Code offences motivated by bias, prejudice, or hate. The updated policy acknowledges that hate crime provisions have not historically been applied with equal vigor to all identifiable groups, particularly those subjected to hate because of their sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or Indigeneity. It guides prosecutors to consider whether a hate crime has been committed in any offence where the victim is a member of an identifiable group.

Systemic racism and hate continue to impact racialized communities and Indigenous Peoples in the province, highlighting the need to further advance policies and practices that promote fairness, safety, and inclusion. The ministry's Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Branch continued its ongoing work of responding to these significant challenges by developing tools that will assist in identifying and removing barriers in government policies, programs, and services. These tools will strengthen accountability of government for advancing racial equity. At a community level, the branch provides support for communities experiencing hate incidents. The ministry continues this critical work to support public confidence and ensure that government systems are designed to serve everyone with respect, dignity, and justice.

In early March 2025, in response to the ongoing tariff challenge that poses significant threats for the Province and Canada as a whole, Government introduced Bill 7, [the Economic Stabilization \(Tariff Response\) Act](#), in the House. The Act would allow government to very quickly drop interprovincial trade barriers; make directives relating to procurement of goods and services in the public sector, including the exclusion of US suppliers; and to potentially impose tolls fees or charges on non-Canadian commercial vehicles for the use of public infrastructure, all in aid of responding to the tariffs (and other actions taken) from the US administration as needed. As of March 31<sup>st</sup>, the Act proceeded through Committee stage, where it underwent several improvements based on input from key stakeholders and Members of the Legislative Assembly. Ministry staff also worked collaboratively with counterparts from across Canada to address the impacts of the US actions.

Other issues and trends continued to shape the priorities of the justice and public safety sector, and affect the ministry's delivery of these responsibilities, including:

- The ongoing need to improve access to justice;
- The illicit drug crisis and public health emergency;
- Mental health and addiction challenges necessitating increased resources and enhanced coordination of services;
- Violence against women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ community members – especially Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people;
- Gangs and gun violence;
- Increasing service delivery demands and costs;
- Court decisions impacting service delivery, including timeliness of service;
- Rapidly changing technology and increased demand for digitized services; and
- Constitutional and legislative requirements.



# Report on Performance: Goals, Objectives, and Results

The following goals, objectives and performance measures have been restated from the 2024/25 – 2026/27 service plan. For forward-looking planning information, including current targets for 2025/26 – 2026/27, please see the [Ministry of Attorney General 2025/26 – 2027/28 Service Plan](#).

## Goal 1: The justice sector is fair and accessible

### Objective 1.1: Enhance the user experience and modernize the justice system

In ensuring the justice system is fair and accessible, the ministry will continually look to improve the experience of British Columbians interfacing with the justice system through service-design and offerings that are a part of the delivery of justice.

#### Key results

- The ministry expanded the early resolution process to the Port Coquitlam Provincial Court Family Registry in November 2024.
- As of April 9, 2024, violation tickets can be disputed online using the [Ticket Information](#) portal, alongside existing methods.
- The [virtual counter](#) service, which provides the opportunity to speak with a court registry employee by video or phone, was expanded from 2 regions to the entire province.
- Informed through user-centred design approaches, the ministry further enhanced courthouse technology infrastructure and added more opportunities for online scheduling of matters.
- Amendments were made to the [Supreme Court Family Rules](#) to facilitate parties bringing and participating in Divorce Act proceedings in either official language as required by that Act.

#### Summary of progress made in 2024/25

With ministry investment in front-end services, the early resolution process expanded to Port Coquitlam in November 2024, after previously only being available in Victoria and Surrey. The early resolution process provides free services to families navigating Provincial Court Family Law Matters. Services include opportunities to address legal and non-legal needs, reduce conflict, receive information and referrals to legal advice and community organizations, screen for family violence, resolve disputes out of court through consensual dispute resolution, and support preparation for next steps, including court processes. In addition to providing direct benefits to those receiving early resolution services, the impact of the process increases the court's capacity to deal with other matters impacting the justice system and users more broadly.

The Ticket Information Portal allows people to update their dispute information (such as, change contact information, change their dispute type, add witnesses) and check the progress of their dispute online. This process increases access to justice for anyone who receives a ticket for charges under the [Motor Vehicle Act/Regulation](#) in B.C. by providing another way to start the dispute process. Access to justice has been increased, as evident by website usage increasing over 2,000 per cent since the launch of the dispute function and over 90 per cent of disputes being initiated online outside of regular court hours.

The ministry successfully implemented Bill C-78 legislation, amendments to the Divorce Act, that included provisions regarding official language rights for divorce proceedings be conducted in English or French, or both. These changes facilitate fairer and more equitable access to justice.

In August 2024, the ministry released a completed refresh of the BC [Court Digital Transformation Strategy](#). This strategy is a key component of the government's commitment to enhancing access to justice and creating safer communities. Building on a strong foundation of successful advancements and modernization in recent years, it outlines the continued efforts to improve services and accessibility for court participants. Guided by this strategy, the ministry has continued to make investments in key areas including virtual appearances. The proportion of appearances where at least one person attended virtually rose to 56 per cent and virtual counter services, which allow users to speak directly to court registry staff via video or phone, were expanded from 2 regions to the entire province in November 2024. The number of calls handled by a virtual counter operator (from April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025) was 680, providing greater access to justice for citizens. The number of virtual appearance video conferencing units has increased by 70 per cent since 2020. The ministry also launched a web-based Court Interpreter Scheduling Application to streamline the booking and invoicing process for court interpreters. Since the launch of this application in April 2024, there have been over 8,900 entries related to booking or cancelling an interpreter services.

The ministry continues to improve courthouse technology and connectivity. The past year saw a focus of installing WiFi in the remaining barrister lounges in the North and Interior and planned implementation of Software-Defined Wide Area Network (SD WAN)<sup>1</sup> services in a number of locations. Facility infrastructure and equipment improvements included:

- 10 sites that received increased network capacity and preventative maintenance activities to minimize potential downtime;
- Over a third of the witness testifying videoconference units in courthouses were refreshed;
- An additional 34 police detachments received videoconference equipment to facilitate virtual bail appearances, to reach a total of 82 units deployed throughout the province;
- 22 damage resistant phones were installed or replaced in sheriff cells or in correctional centres to increase counsel connectivity with in-custody clients; and

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<sup>1</sup> SD WAN is a virtual way to manage a network at a location. It links different network transport modes to optimize traffic flow, creating a more reliable network. It provides improved performance, more flexibility and is more cost-effective.

- 8 Supreme courtrooms received enhanced audio recording infrastructure and equipment to meet Bill C-78 legislative requirements.

## Objective 1.2: Increase access to justice

The ministry will continue to advance systemic regulatory and policy initiatives that serve to enhance the public's access to justice.

### Key results

- The [Legal Professions Act](#) was enacted in May 2024. The ministry advanced the legal professions regulatory modernization project by supporting the existing regulators and others as they transition towards a new streamlined regulatory framework, which, when implemented, will increase the public's access to, and choice among, legal service providers.
- The [Independent Rights Advice Service](#) was rolled out to all mental health facilities that are designated under the [Mental Health Act](#), increasing access to justice for people who are experiencing involuntary treatment.
- The ministry worked with [Legal Aid BC](#) to implement enhanced family law services for individuals experiencing family violence.
- The [Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act](#) was amended to modernize the law, strengthen consumer rights, protect people from unfair business practices, and promote transparency in consumer contracts.
- [Provincial Court \(Snuw'uy'ulhtst tu Quw'utsun Mustimuhw u' tu Shhw'a'luqwa'a' i' Smun'eem \[Laws of the Cowichan People for Families and Children\]\) Rules](#) came into force on August 1, 2024, allowing Cowichan Tribes to exercise its jurisdiction over child welfare cases that are heard in the BC Provincial Court.
- B.C. implemented treaty commitments from the Tsawwassen First Nation Final Agreement, Maa-nulth First Nations Final Agreement and Tla'amin Nation Final Agreement to recognize Treaty First Nation laws in the BC Provincial Court. On July 5, 2024, [Offence Act](#) amendments came into force clarifying that individuals served with violation tickets issued under a Treaty First Nation law can dispute those tickets in the Provincial Court.

### Summary of progress made in 2024/25

In 2024/25, the ministry completed or advanced several initiatives that will increase access to justice for people in many distinct contexts. This includes people that are seeking a legal service provider, people experiencing involuntary treatment under the Mental Health Act, consumers, individuals experiencing family violence, families, First Nations communities, and public sector employees.

The Independent Rights Advice Service is now available at all designated mental health facilities across B.C. The service employs specially trained Rights Advisors who meet with people who are experiencing involuntary treatment under the Mental Health Act to explain their legal rights and

support them in exercising these rights. In 2024/25, there were nearly 500 Rights Advice meetings.

Supported by \$29.1 million in funding over 3 years from the Province, Legal Aid BC implemented enhanced family law services for individuals experiencing family violence in fiscal 2024/25. These enhancements included the expansion of financial eligibility criteria, increased intake capacity to facilitate more timely access to family legal aid services, and the establishment of 2 new multidisciplinary, trauma-informed Family Law Centres in Surrey and Victoria.

Continuing the work from the previous year, the Ministry of Attorney General deepened policy and legal analysis towards the development of recommendations for the second phase of modernization of the [Family Law Act](#). This work built on initial stages of research and analysis and was informed by a diverse range of input and experiences.

The Province also completed the multi-phase expansion of the [Public Interest Disclosure Act](#) (PIDA) to cover the broader public sector, including tribunals, Crown corporations, public education, and post-secondary institutions. As B.C.'s whistleblower legislation, PIDA allows employees to report serious wrongdoing without fear of reprisals, promoting transparency and accountability. The PIDA ensures fair investigations and requires organizations and the Ombudsperson to report disclosures and investigation results annually. Now, more than 300,000 individuals have access to whistleblower protections, strengthening the integrity and accountability of public sector organizations in B.C.

## Performance measures and related discussion

Performance Measure	2019/20 Baseline	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	2024/25 Actual
[1a] Percentage of respondents who agreed that the Parenting After Separation program gave them a better understanding of the family justice system, including its relevant laws and services <sup>1</sup>	74%	93%	85%	92%
[1b] Percentage of respondents who agreed that the program gave them a better understanding of alternatives to court <sup>1</sup>	75%	93%	85%	91%
[1c] Percentage of respondents who agreed that the program gave them a better understanding of making decisions in the best interests of the children <sup>1</sup>	77%	93%	85%	92%

Data source: [Parenting After Separation](#) (English and Punjabi) and [Parenting After Separation for Indigenous Families](#). Participant evaluation surveys, conducted by Family Justice Services Division, with results compiled by Business Research and Diagnostics Group, Ministry of Attorney General

<sup>1</sup>PM 1a, 1b, and 1c targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 85%.

<sup>2</sup> All information is presented in aggregate form to ensure respondent anonymity pursuant to provincial and federal legislation and research ethical guidelines. All data for this survey was collected and managed under PIA PSSG19023 and is consistent with the Tri Council Policy Statement on the Ethical Conduct of Research.

The Parenting After Separation programs are free online courses for B.C. parents and other family members who are dealing with separation or divorce and facing decisions about guardianship, parenting arrangements, contact, child support and spousal support. The courses assist parents to make informed decisions regarding separation that are in the best interests of their children. The courses also improve access to justice for participants by providing users with information about the justice system and alternatives to court. The online Parenting After Separation program was introduced in 2011 and revised in 2021. Online Parenting After Separation for Indigenous Families began in 2019, and in 2023 a Punjabi language version was released. The Provincial Court Family Rules require that parties to Family Law Matter applications complete a Parenting After Separation course before a family management conference with a judge can be scheduled. Most parents complete one of the courses as an early step in their provincial court matter.

These performance measures reflect how the Parenting After Separation courses facilitate user understanding of navigating the justice system. Parents who complete the online courses are invited to complete an anonymous online course evaluation form and results are compiled by the Business Research and Diagnostics Group of the Ministry of Attorney General.

The baseline and targets are based on historical results. These targets reflect the expectation that there will be some fluctuation in results from year to year, but results should not fall below the stated targets.

For 2024/25, results exceeded targets for all performance measures. 92 per cent of respondents agreed that the Parenting After Separation program gave them a better understanding of the family justice system, including its relevant laws and services. 91 per cent of respondents agreed the program gave them a better understanding of alternatives to court, and 92 per cent agreed the program gave them a better understanding of making decisions in the best interests of the children. Results for each performance measure remain fairly consistent with the 2023/24 year.

Performance Measure	2019/20 Baseline	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	2024/25 Actual
[1d] Percentage of eFiled Court Documents <sup>1,2, 3</sup>	35.7%	46.4%	46%	50.6%

Data source: Strategic Information and Business Applications, Court Services Branch.

<sup>1</sup>PM 1d targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 47.0% and 48.0%, respectively.

<sup>2</sup>Data are preliminary and subject to change – small fluctuations in previously reported totals and percentages are expected due to continuing improvements in data quality.

<sup>3</sup>Documents in scope are those that are eligible for electronic filing (eFile) through Court Services Online. Supreme Motor Vehicle, Probate, and Caveat classes and provincial Family class documents are excluded.

There are 90 court locations across the province, 43 of which are permanently staffed, while the other 47 are Circuit Courts. Court Services Branch and the 3 levels of Courts provide additional virtual mechanisms for users to interact with the Courts. This includes provisions for users to electronically file court documents through Court Services Online (CSO). The Percentage of eFiled

Court Documents metric reflects the proportion of documents that are eligible for electronic filing that are eFiled through CSO.

This performance measure demonstrates clear progress in the ministry's focus on modernizing processes or court forms to enhance user experience when interfacing with the justice system. An uptake in the use of eFiling demonstrates that citizens are utilizing alternative means offered by the ministry for advancing their court proceedings. The development or modernization of SmartForms, filing assistants, online applications, guided pathways, plain language, authentication methods, and document size capacity, have assisted in making court processes more accessible and navigable for British Columbians. The ministry recognizes, however, the role in-person filing will continue to play for some British Columbians, including those with different abilities, limited access to technology, or with the desire to access in-person services.

The percentage of in-scope documents that were eFiled have experienced increases across all court classes at both the Provincial and Supreme Court levels from FY 2023/24 to FY 2024/25. The original FY 2024/25 target was based on the historical (pre-2020) increasing trend in eFile percentage at the rate of 1 per cent per year. This target has been exceeded by 4.6 per cent in 2024/25 and future targets have been readjusted accordingly. However, a less dramatic rate of change is expected in future years as new business practices (post-2020 to 2022) become normalised. In FY 2024/25, more than 50 per cent of Supreme Court in-scope documents were eFiled and more than 30 percent of Provincial Court in-scope documents were eFiled.

## Goal 2: British Columbian communities are protected and resilient

### Objective 2.1: Improved community and public safety for all British Columbians

The ministry will contribute to a multi-faceted and cross-sectoral approach to protecting communities and individuals throughout the province. This will include addressing concerns about repeat violent offending, advancing legislation that protects vulnerable British Columbians, and implementing safe supports for family justice.

#### Key results

- The Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII), implemented in 2023/24, continues to address specific repeat violent offending cases in the province.
- The ministry worked collaboratively with internal and external partners to further improve and evaluate federally funded temporary pilot projects which support survivors of intimate partner violence who need to access the family justice system.
- The Safe Access to Schools Act was enacted on May 16, 2024. The Act creates access zones around K-12 schools, within which certain behaviour disruptive to school operations is prohibited. The zones are enforced by police, including by arrest and by injunction sought by the Attorney General. The Act will be repealed on July 1, 2026 or earlier.

- The ministry, via the Indigenous Justice Secretariat (IJS), is working collaboratively with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and several pilot First Nations to support the implementation of self-determined community safety plans. The results of these efforts may broadly inform pathways for improved First Nations' community safety across the province.

### **Summary of progress made in 2024/25**

ReVOII was launched in May 2023, consisting of a multi-agency case management program designed to prioritize public safety in cases involving repeat violent offending, through coordination and enhanced information sharing. Since launch, over 500 individuals have been prioritized into the program. Dedicated BCPS prosecutors and professional staff are assigned to manage active prosecutions of prioritized individuals, and coordinate and collaborate with justice partners from Corrections, police and the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, in connecting individuals with necessary resources and supports. BCPS continues to be engaged in intra-governmental discussions aimed at identifying the supports and resources required to address the needs of many prioritized individuals. In completing this work, BCPS maintains prosecutorial independence. It also continues to maintain its commitment to addressing overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system by ensuring that its decisions made in cases involving ReVOII prioritized individuals are done so in accordance with the law, BCPS policy, and the BCPS Indigenous Justice Strategy.

The ministry led federally funded pilot projects which support survivors of intimate partner violence who need to access the family justice system. This included having family court support workers assist survivors with safety planning, their legal and non-legal needs, including accompanying people to court and helping them navigate the process, as well as assisting survivors in accessing and understanding their information related to court matters. Programs are operating in 3 rural and remote locations, as well as in the Indigenous Justice Centres in Prince George and Nanaimo.

The IJS led First Nations' Community Safety Pilot Project is in its early stages. The work involves engaging in meaningful discourse with First Nations' leadership, building trust, and ensuring long-term cooperation to accomplish practical and culturally relevant community safety outcomes. This initiative takes a collaborative cross-ministerial approach to promoting safety and security in First Nation communities and will advance efforts to deliver results under the BC First Nations Justice Strategy.

### **Objective 2.2: Address systemic racism and support Indigenous and other racialized communities to respond to public incidents of racism and hate**

Advancing equity and social justice is the cornerstone of new strategies to combat racism, reduce systemic barriers, and build understanding and respect for one another across British Columbia's diverse society.

## Key results

- The Anti-Racism Act was passed on May 9, 2024. The Act will enable government to address systemic racism, including gaps in government programs and services.
- The [Racist Incident Helpline](#) was launched in May 2024. The Helpline received over 800 calls and facilitated more than 1,855 referrals to culturally safe, trauma-informed supports, demonstrating the urgent and ongoing need for such a service in B.C.
- The ministry advanced redress for historical wrongs through public recognition initiatives, including the Japanese Canadian Monument Park Project and the Sons of Freedom Doukhobor Apology, supporting healing and reconciliation. These efforts were informed by ongoing engagement with the affected communities and included funding for projects and legacy initiatives that promote education, cultural recognition and social justice.
- The [Resilience BC Anti-Racism Network](#) supported 35 community-based projects, while the Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Grants funded an additional 60, together delivering 95 community-based projects that focused on anti-racism education, response training, and public awareness campaigns across the province.

## Summary of progress made in 2024/25

With the passing of the Anti-Racism Act in May 2024, the ministry stood up its first ever Provincial Committee on Anti-Racism (PCAR). PCAR is made up of 11 racialized British Columbians from all over B.C. with the distinct role of informing the Province's implementation of the Anti-Racism Act. The ministry is also continuing to consult and cooperate with Indigenous partners on the implementation of the Anti-Racism Act, ensuring their voices are centered on addressing Indigenous-specific racism.

The ministry also launched another integral tool to respond to incidents of racism in May 2024, through the Racist Incident Helpline. From launch to fiscal year end, the Helpline has received over 800 calls and facilitated more than 1,855 referrals to culturally safe, trauma-informed supports. Data collected through the Helpline informs responsive policy and program development, helping the ministry address emerging trends and better support impacted communities.

## Performance measure and related discussion

Performance Measure	2017/18 Baseline	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	2024/25 Actual
[2a] Number of B.C. communities engaged in projects that build intercultural trust and understanding, and reduce racism and systemic barriers <sup>1</sup>	45	98	50	95

Data source: Internally compiled data from the BC Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Grants Program, and the Resilience BC Anti-Racism Network.

<sup>1</sup>PM 2a targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 50.



This performance measure highlights provincial support for collaborative initiatives led by communities impacted by racism. These community-led engagements build intercultural trust and understanding, combat racism, and promote diversity and inclusion across B.C. This is a core component of supporting Indigenous and racialized communities throughout the province.

In 2024/2025, the ministry supported 95 communities through the Resilience BC Anti-Racism network and Multiculturalism Grant recipients, surpassing the target of 50. The focus this year was on deeper, long-term community engagement. The increase from the original target of 50 communities reflects strong demand from communities for anti-racism resources and support, as well as the growing visibility and credibility of the Resilience BC Network, and promotion of the Multiculturalism Grants as provincial platforms for local action against racism and hate.

## Goal 3: The justice sector is safe and responsive to Indigenous Peoples

### Objective 3.1: Facilitate self-determination and restoration of traditional Indigenous justice systems in partnership with Indigenous leadership and communities

Government has made commitments to reconciliation through the Declaration Act Action Plan and annual reporting processes. The ministry's actions in that plan aim to make the justice system safer and more responsive to Indigenous Peoples. This includes advancing the [BC First Nations Justice Strategy](#) which aims to reduce the overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples in the justice system and restore and revitalize First Nations legal institutions. Further, advancing the [Métis Justice Strategy](#) will make the justice system safer and more culturally relevant for Métis people in B.C.

#### Key results

- In collaboration with Métis Nation BC (MNBC), the Métis Justice Strategy was endorsed by the Province in June 2024. The Indigenous Justice Secretariat and MNBC will be working with Provincial partners to develop an implementation plan ahead of proceeding with implementation efforts.
- In partnership with the BC First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC), the ministry opened 6 new physical [Indigenous Justice Centres](#) (IJs) in FY 2024/25. IJs provide culturally appropriate information, advice, support and representation directly to Indigenous people at the community level. This brings the total number of physical Indigenous Justice Centres in the province to 15, complemented by a Virtual Indigenous Justice Centre, and achieves the vision of Strategy 4 of the First Nations Justice Strategy.
- The Indigenous Justice Secretariat supported BCFNJC in provincial engagement sessions on their Indigenous Women's Justice Plan starting in summer 2024 and attended BCFNJC's Legal Aid Transition Workshop in July 2024. The Province further supported BCFNJC to conduct Indigenous youth engagement to assist in informing their Indigenous Youth Justice and Prevention Plan.

- On March 8, 2025, K'omoks First Nation members ratified a new treaty with the Province of B.C. and Canada, including new provisions relating to the administration of justice and enforcement of Nation laws. These provisions were codeveloped by ministry staff and K'omoks representatives, along with other Nations in the process of negotiating treaties.
- In partnership with PSSG, the ministry through the Indigenous Justice Secretariat established a cross-ministry Assistant Deputy Minister First Nations' Community Safety Committee that will focus on coordinating government's response to requests from First Nations related to community safety planning and enforcement of First Nations' laws.

### **Summary of progress made in 2024/25**

The Ministry of Attorney General is working in partnership with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to instill a collaborative cross-ministerial process for promoting safety and security in Indigenous communities across the province. Led by the Indigenous Justice Secretariat, work is underway to operationalize a cross-ministry table of Assistant Deputy Ministers that will facilitate responses to long-standing First Nations community safety and enforcement of laws requests. To ensure prioritization of these efforts, this committee will report directly to the newly established Cabinet Committee on Community Safety. This initiative will advance efforts to deliver results under Track 2 of the BC First Nations Justice Strategy, supporting the development of First Nations' justice systems and institutions consistent with the UN Declaration, and in particular reflecting the right of self-determination and the inherent right for self-government.

Through partnership with the BCFNJC, the ministry continues to advance the BC First Nations Justice Strategy, which aims to reform the current justice system to be safer and more responsive to First Nations people and to restore First Nations legal traditions and justice systems. This work has included policy development for the eventual transition of Indigenous Legal Aid services to the BCFNJC, participation in the development of their Indigenous Women's Justice Plan which was released in April 2024, and funding to support the provision of Gladue services in the province.

In partnership with the BCFNJC, the ministry opened 6 new physical Indigenous Justice Centres in FY 2024/25 in Kamloops, Williams Lake, Cranbrook, Port Hardy, Fort St. John, and a shared location serving the communities of Burns Lake and Hazelton. This brings the total number of physical Indigenous Justice Centres in the province to 15, along with a Virtual Indigenous Justice Centre. Indigenous Justice Centres address systemic barriers faced by Indigenous Peoples in the justice system by offering culturally appropriate legal advice, representation, wrap around services, and referrals to external local support services, directly to Indigenous people at the community level.

### **Objective 3.2: Advance reconciliation through use of the Directives on Civil Litigation involving Indigenous Peoples**

While Indigenous claims can be pursued through litigation, negotiation is a preferable way of reconciling the complex and competing interests at stake. The core objectives are to prioritize

and promote resolution, innovation, and negotiated settlements, in efforts to reduce the potential for litigation.

## Key results

- Through workshops on the Directives and case specific Directives application, Legal Services Branch (LSB) counsel have become increasingly knowledgeable about all aspects of the Directives and are adept in their implementation in all litigation matters.
- The Directives are considered and applied in all new and ongoing litigation matters and inform legal instructions in every matter. They are applied throughout the litigation process, including pleadings, procedural issues, court submissions, and inter-party communications.
- LSB counsel regularly promote and support negotiated outcomes in the context of active litigation. Legal counsel are engaging proactively with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and with client ministries, in accordance with the Directives, to explore various ways to promote reconciliation in responses to litigation and to pursue avenues for resolution of all or part of potential or filed legal proceedings, including opportunities to avoid, narrow and expedite litigation.

## Summary of progress made in 2024/25

Legal Services Branch counsel continue to focus on the core objectives of the Directives, which are to prioritize and promote resolution, innovation, and negotiated settlement, in efforts to reduce the potential for litigation. The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation has been engaged in all active litigation with the aim of identifying potential avenues for negotiation. Within the Ministry of Attorney General and with client ministries, counsel have discussed the potential detrimental impacts of litigation on the objective of reconciliation and have sought to identify collaborative approaches to resolve all or part of the potential or newly filed legal proceedings. Counsel have supported negotiations towards resolving claims in multiple cases. Where litigation remains active, the Directives have informed instructions at each stage of the litigation.

## Performance measures and related discussion

Performance Measure	2020/21 Baseline	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	2024/25 Actual
[3a] Number of cases from Indigenous clients supported at Indigenous Justice Centres <sup>1,2</sup>	N/A	315	720	919
[3b] Number of Indigenous clients served by Indigenous Justice Centres <sup>1,2</sup>	254	281	600	692

Data source: BC First Nations Justice Council

<sup>1</sup>PM 3a targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 1000.

<sup>2</sup>PM 3b targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 820.

These performance measures were developed during the 2021/22 fiscal year and were first included in the 2022/23 Service Plan. The baseline was established on 3 Indigenous Justice Centres opened in Merritt, Prince George, and Prince Rupert. 6 centres opened in 2023/24: Chilliwack, Kelowna, Nanaimo, Surrey, Vancouver and Victoria. The number of clients served in 2023/24 did not grow significantly throughout the year, which resulted in a change to BCFNJC's eligibility criteria for Indigenous Justice Centre services. As of March 1, 2024, services are now available to individuals who are otherwise eligible for Legal Aid services, which previously was not the case. 6 centres opened in late 2024/25: Burns Lake-Hazelton, Cranbrook, Fort St. John, Kamloops, Port Hardy, and Williams Lake. Now that all 15 physical centres are opened, operational and close to fully staffed an increased number of cases and clients were served in 2024/25.

Each physical centre offers unique supports tailored to, and developed with, the local community. Individuals are able to access a number of services from each centre, including legal advice and representation for criminal and child protection matters; advocacy and support in dealing with agencies such as the police and Ministry of Children and Family Development; wrap around services, referrals to relevant external agencies and services such as counselling or employment support; information towards better transitions from custody and integration into the community; and restorative justice options to better support and address the needs of those impacted by a crime. This measure reflects government's work with Indigenous leadership and communities to increase access to justice for Indigenous Peoples through delivery of local and culturally relevant services with a focus on healing.

## Financial Report

### Discussion of Results

The Estimates operating expense budget of the ministry for 2024/25 was \$876.923 million prior to mid-year reorganization. The ministry received a budget increase of \$103.082 million compared to the 2023/24 fiscal plan for the following initiatives: Anti Racism Legislation and Helpline, BC Human Rights Tribunal, Court Services Contractual and Caseload, Digital Evidence Management Project support, Early Resolution Model, Independent Investigations Office, Intimate Images Protection Act implementation, Family Legal Aid Expansion, Legal Services Branch Pressures, Public Safety Programs at Nanaimo Correctional Centre, Office of Legislative Counsel, Port Coquitlam Courthouse Supreme Court Registry, Public Guardian and Trustee for Bill 38 and reclassification costs, Shared Recovery Mandate, including the 2022 Judicial Compensation Commission recommendations, and prior year decisions.

The Public Accounts shows Other Authorizations of (\$61.142) million and includes:

- Digital Evidence Storage, Repeat Offending Program Implementation, Shared Recovery Mandate, Court Services Pressures, Doukhobor Apology and Recognition Package, Sheriff Retention and Recruitment Incentive, Family Legal Aid Services, Major Cases, Independent Investigations Office Operating Pressures, Mental Health Act Rights Advice, Judiciary Operating Pressures, Virtual Bail Hearing Expansion, Amortization, Long Term Disability for Judges, Triennial Review of Remuneration Guidelines for Appointees –

Treasury Board Directive 1/24-Shared Recovery Mandate wage increases, Port Coquitlam Courthouse Renovations, Vaisakhi Festival support and the in-year transfer of Consumer Protection from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and Budget transfer to Ministry of Housing.

Including the Other Authorizations, the ministry's total estimated budget was \$938.065 million compared to actual expenditures of \$913.024 million, prior to the adjustment for Prior Year's Accruals.

For BBMAA reporting purposes, the ministry's revised budget is \$876.892 million compared to the adjusted actuals of \$813.602 million. Spending is within the revised budget target.

Capital spending was \$8.787 million for: Specialized Equipment, Office Furniture & Equipment, Vehicles, and Information Systems.

## Financial Summary

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations <sup>1</sup> (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
<b>Operating Expenses</b>					
Justice Services	197,467	8,521	205,988	203,178	(2,810)
Indigenous Justice Secretariat	22,363	0	22,363	14,438	(7,925)
Prosecution Services	212,499	11,764	224,263	230,697	6,434
Court Services	156,067	14,806	170,873	184,766	13,894
Legal Services	40,682	2,602	43,284	44,931	1,647
Agencies, Boards, Commissions and other Tribunals	52,506	1,091	53,597	54,862	1,265
Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism	6,804	5,148	11,952	11,554	(398)
Executive and Support Services	40,936	12,041	52,977	40,871	(12,106)
<b>Sub-total: Ministry Operations</b>	<b>729,324</b>	<b>55,973</b>	<b>785,297</b>	<b>785,297</b>	<b>0</b>
Judiciary	110,671	3,473	114,144	114,144	0
Crown Proceeding Act	24,500	0	24,500	0	(24,500)
Independent Investigations Office	12,428	1,463	13,891	13,891	0
Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT) Operating Account	12,394	0	12,394	11,853	(541)
Transfer from General account to PGT Operating Account	(12,394)	0	(12,394)	(12,394)	0

## Ministry of Attorney General

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations <sup>1</sup> (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
Cannabis, Consumer Protection and Corporate Policy-S (Transfer from Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General) L10430 Consumer Protection	0	233	233	233	0
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>876,923</b>	<b>61,142</b>	<b>938,065</b>	<b>913,024</b>	<b>(25,041)</b>
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual <sup>2</sup>	0	0	0	(38,823)	(38,823)
<b>Total</b>	<b>876,923</b>	<b>61,142</b>	<b>938,065</b>	<b>874,201</b>	<b>(63,864)</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures</b>					
Prosecution Services	0	0	0	51	51
Court Services	0	10	0	3,011	3,011
Legal Services	0	0	0	8	8
Agencies, Boards, Commissions, and other Tribunals	10	0	10	0	(10)
Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism	0	0	0	2	2
Executive and Support Services	8,925	0	8,925	4,021	(4,904)
Judiciary	819	0	1,348	578	529
Independent Investigations Office	0	0	0	306	306
Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account	363	0	363	39	(324)
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,117</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,221</b>	<b>8,786</b>	<b>(1,331)</b>

<sup>1</sup> "Other Authorizations" include Supplementary Estimates, Statutory Appropriations, Contingencies and Government Reorganization.

<sup>2</sup> The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual of \$38.823 million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

## Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations

As of August 11, 2025 the Ministry of Attorney General is responsible and accountable for the following organizations:

- [Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC](#)
- [Association of BC Forest Professionals](#)
- [British Columbia Ferry Commission](#)
- [BC Family Maintenance Agency](#)
- [BC Human Rights Tribunal](#)
- [British Columbia Institute of Agrologists](#)
- [British Columbia Review Board](#)
- [British Columbia Utilities Commission](#)
- [Building Code Appeal Board](#)
- [Civil Resolution Tribunal](#)
- [College of Applied Biology](#)
- [Community Care and Assisted Living Appeal Board](#)
- [Employment Standards Tribunal](#)
- [Energy Resource Appeal Tribunal](#)
- [Engineers and Geoscientists BC](#)
- [Environmental Appeal Board](#)
- [Financial Services Tribunal](#)
- [Forest Appeals Commission](#)
- [Health Professions Review Board](#)
- [Hospital Appeal Board](#)
- [Independent Investigations Office of BC](#)
- [Insurance Corporation of British Columbia](#)
- [Investigation and Standards Office](#)
- [Judicial Council of the Provincial Court of BC](#)
- [Labour Relations Board](#)
- [Legal Aid BC](#)
- [Mental Health Review Board](#)

- [Notaries Public Board of Examiners](#)
- [Passenger Transportation Board](#)
- [Property Assessment Appeal Board](#)
- [Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia](#)
- [Safety Standards Appeal Board](#)
- [Skilled Trades BC Appeal Board](#)
- [Surface Rights Board](#)
- [Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal](#)



## Appendix B: Progress on Mandate Letter Priorities

The following is a summary of progress made on priorities as stated in the Attorney General's 2022 Mandate Letter.

2022 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2025
<p>Continue to work with the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Indigenous communities and the BC First Nations Justice Council to advance the First Nations Justice Strategy.</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> – The BC First Nations Justice Strategy contains 25 strategies. There has been significant progress on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Complete</b> - Strategy 4: Establishing a Network of Indigenous Justice Centres (IJC): 15 physical and 1 virtual IJC are now operating in the province.</li> <li>• Strategy 5: Indigenous Legal Aid Services: BCFNJC and the ministry conducted engagements through 2023/2024 which continued into 2024/2025 regarding the transition of Indigenous Legal Aid Services.</li> <li>• <b>Complete</b> - Strategy 6: Implement a Gladue Strategy supported by a First Nations controlled Gladue implementation agency: BCFNJC continues to provide Gladue services for the Province, while implementing operational efficiencies to meet demand.</li> <li>• <b>Complete</b> - Strategy 9: Implementing the Indigenous Justice Secretariat (IJS): The IJS was created on March 6, 2023.</li> <li>• Strategy 10: Developing an Indigenous Youth Justice and Prevention Plan. Engagement was conducted with Indigenous youth to inform the future Indigenous Youth Justice and Prevention Plan.</li> <li>• <b>Complete</b> - Strategy 11: Developing an Indigenous Women's Justice Plan: BCFNJC released the Indigenous Women's Justice</li> </ul>

2022 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2025
	<p>Plan in April 2024. Work is underway to implement actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategy 16: Establish an Annual Justice Summit on First Nations Issues: The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual BC First Nations Justice Forum was held on April 8-10, 2024.</li> </ul>
Continue to move forward to support the judiciary in the modernization of B.C.'s courts and legal processes to make it easier for the public to navigate our justice system and to better support victims and families.	<b>In progress</b> - Please refer to the content within Goal 1 of this Annual Service Plan Report for an overview of ministry accomplishments on modernizing the justice system.
Work with community partners, including B.C.'s Human Rights Commissioner, to develop and pass an Anti-Racism Act to better serve everyone in B.C.	<p><b>Complete</b> – MARB led the development of the Anti-Racism Act, informed by community input and the B.C. Human Rights Commissioner.</p> <p>The legislation received Royal Assent on May 16, 2024.</p>
In collaboration with the Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity, take steps to address non-consensual disclosure of intimate images.	<p><b>Complete</b> – The Intimate Images Protection Act came into force January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024. In partnership with PSSG, the ministry now has a program where people who have had their intimate images or videos shared without consent have new supports to get those images off the internet, stop their distribution, and seek monetary compensation. These services will help people who have had their intimate images shared without their consent quickly access self-help tools to assess their legal options, get information on their rights, and be connected to support.</p>
Support the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the work of the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions to build safe and healthy communities through implementation.	<p><b>In progress</b> – BCPS executive representatives are engaged in an executive level working group and through ReVOII, the BCPS assists in advancing the implementation of the Safer Communities Action Plan. For more information, please see Objective 2.1 of this report.</p>

2022 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2025
<p>Support all ministries to deliver initiatives listed in the Action Plan required by the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, to keep building strong relations based on recognition and implementation of the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples protected in Canada's constitution.</p>	<p><b>Complete</b> – Action 2.3: In April 2022, the ministry released the Directives on Civil Litigation Involving Indigenous Peoples to guide the Province's legal counsel in court cases involving Indigenous people. Since their release, counsel have become increasingly knowledgeable in all aspects of the Directives and counsel are regularly encouraging and supporting negotiated outcomes in active litigation.</p> <p><b>Complete</b> – Action 3.06: The, the Anti-Racism Act received Royal Assent on May 16, 2024. With this legislation, government will take action on systemic racism uncovered through race-based data collection and the lived experiences of Indigenous and racialized communities.</p> <p><b>In progress</b> – Action 3.10: The ministry is working with public safety oversight bodies and complaint processes to implement improvements to those systems. Public reporting on this action will occur as part of the 2025/26 Declaration Act Action Plan Annual Report.</p> <p><b>In progress</b> – Action 3.12: Prioritize implementation of the First Nations Justice Strategy. The BC First Nations Justice Strategy was signed on March 6, 2020, and an implementation workplan was approved by Cabinet in July 2021. This fiscal year there has been significant progress made on the Strategy. See above for an overview of specific progress.</p> <p><b>In progress</b> – Action 3.13: Prioritize endorsement and implementation of the Métis Justice Strategy. The Métis Justice Strategy was endorsed by the Province in June 2024. MNBC and the Province are jointly developing an implementation plan to guide implementation of the strategy.</p>