

# **Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation**

## **2024/25 Annual Service Plan Report**

**August 2025**



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## Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation 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 stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, enclosed within a thin yellow rectangular border.

Honourable Spencer Chandra Herbert  
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation  
August 6, 2025

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## Letter from the Minister

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation works in partnership with Indigenous Peoples throughout B.C. to advance reconciliation and positively impact the lives of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people. The provincial government functions within the territories of more than 204 First Nations, each with distinct cultures, histories and knowledge systems. It also has significant relationships with Métis, Inuit and urban Indigenous people and organizations in B.C.

In 2024/2025, substantial accomplishments and milestones were reached in partnership with First Nation, Metis and Inuit Peoples. This work represents decades of effort and advocacy from many Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

For example, the Gaayhllxid • Gíhlagalgang “Rising Tide” Haida Title Lands Agreement, a negotiated agreement between the Haida Nation and B.C., was legislated in July 2024 through the Haida Nation Recognition Amendment Act. This first-of-its-kind agreement in Canada recognizes Haida’s Aboriginal title throughout Haida Gwaii.

In summer 2024, provincial, federal and First Nations’ chief negotiators marked the conclusions of decades-long treaty negotiations by initialling three treaties with the Kitselas, Kitsumkalum and K’ómoks First Nations. On March 8, 2025, in the first step of the ratification process, K’ómoks First Nation voted in favour of ratifying their treaty and self-government constitution.

In May 2024, the Lyackson First Nation and Cowichan Tribes signed an incremental treaty agreement with B.C., which will enable the return of culturally significant land. In June 2024, the T̓silhqot’in Nation, Canada and B.C. celebrated the 10-year T̓silhqot’in title anniversary with a five-year renewal of the Gwets’en Nilt’i Pathway Agreement, which was initially signed in August 2019.

The Ministry continued to meet its obligations for transparency and accountability with Indigenous Peoples and the public by releasing the 2023-2024 Declaration Act Annual Report. This report demonstrates progress made across the B.C. government to implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Sixty of 89 action items are underway or complete.

While there is much work ahead, it is important we take time to reflect on what we have accomplished together on this shared journey. These accomplishments not only have an impact today but will for generations to come.



Honourable Spencer Chandra Herbert  
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation  
August 6, 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 [Minister's 2022 Mandate Letter](#) shaped the goals, objectives, performance measures and financial plan outlined in the Ministry of [2024/25 – 2026/27 Service Plan](#) and the actual results reported on in this annual report.

## Purpose of the Ministry

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

governments, communities, organizations, as well as federal, municipal and treaty partners, interest holders, and the public. This happens through a variety of channels including direct engagement with local governments, interest groups, tenure/permit holders and landowners, public information meetings and open houses, presentations to different sector organizations, and appearances at community events. At times, these discussions occur through informal or formal arrangements such as through the *2024 MOU between the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation*. Negotiated agreements between First Nations or Indigenous Governing Bodies and the Ministry are posted on the ministry's web site.

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

The Ministry is also responsible for the [Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women](#), which provides advice to the B.C. government on how to improve the quality of life for Indigenous women in B.C., and the [First Peoples' Cultural Council](#) (FPCC), a provincial Crown corporation formed by the Government of British Columbia in 1990 to to protect, revitalize and enhance First Nations heritage, language, culture and arts.

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

## Operating Environment

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

Global pressures, including a shifting economic forecast and ongoing climate-related emergencies, affect every British Columbian. These external challenges are compounded by the possibility of tariffs from our southern neighbours that could harm both Canadians and Americans, and a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape marked by instability, rising hate, and global unrest. In this environment, it is more critical than ever to work in partnership to advance reconciliation and strengthen government-to-government relationships with First Nations and other Indigenous Peoples in B.C., so that we can face these challenges together. Despite significant challenges that disproportionately impact Indigenous Peoples and the ongoing trauma of revelations from former residential school sites, First Nations and other Indigenous peoples in B.C. continue to work collaboratively with the Ministry towards our shared reconciliation goals. They have contributed their time and resources to ensure Indigenous knowledge and expertise are brought into this work, benefiting all British Columbians.

The Ministry and the provincial government remain committed to a distinctions-based approach, recognizing and respecting the unique rights, interests, priorities, and concerns of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples. This approach requires that our relationships and engagement with each group may involve different methods and produce varied outcomes, depending on their distinct needs and contexts.

Over the past year, British Columbia has continued to take a strong stance against hate crimes, racist remarks and hate speech—recognizing that such actions have no place in our province. These behaviours are deeply upsetting and harmful, and they hinder the progress we are making toward a more inclusive and respectful society. Communities across B.C. have come together to actively denounce racism and foster environments where everyone feels safe, respected, and valued. In alignment with the government's broader mandate to combat racism and promote equity, the Ministry is implementing recommendations from an internal anti-racism and equity review. Additionally, the Ministry will explore collaborating with the Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives to address and combat anti-Indigenous racism.



# 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 latest service plan on the [BC Budget website](#).

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

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

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

#### Key results

- Supported First Nations-led investigations at the sites of former Indian Residential Schools and Indian Hospitals in B.C. to enhance Indigenous-delivered mental health, wellness, and cultural supports for residential school and intergenerational survivors.
- Provided funding support to Friendships Centres through the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres to deliver Indigenous-centred services and support cultural connections to address urban reconciliation priorities.
- Supported the Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women (MACIW) in launching the 2024 Giving Voice program call for applicants, with \$1 million in funding dedicated to initiatives that address violence against Indigenous women and girls.
- Partnered with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations and the Ministry of Housing on the Attainable Housing Initiative at the Heather Lands, creating a pathway for thousands to become strata leasehold homeowners.
- Partnered with Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship and other provincial ministries and agencies for a cross-government approach to eliminate a discriminatory legal barrier to First Nations land registration through amendments to the Property Law Act and Land Title Act, enabling timely and cost-effective registration of fee-simple and other applicable land interests with the B.C. land title office.

## Summary of progress made in 2024/25

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

During the reporting period, the Ministry delivered Indigenous Gender Based Analysis Plus (IGBA+) workshops across government and supported policy development in partnership with Natural Resource Sector (NRS) ministries. The Ministry also worked with the Gender Equity Office to help update GBA+ training for government and remained an active member of the GBA+ Community of Practice.

In the complex and challenging work to support Indigenous communities investigating former Indian Residential Schools and Indian Hospital Sites in B.C., the Ministry continued to support and engage with federal, provincial, and Indigenous partners to promote a coordinated, culturally safe, and trauma-informed response to site research and investigations. During the reporting period, Williams Lake First Nation, the Province of British Columbia, and the RCMP signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to guide future investigations at the former St. Joseph's Mission Residential School site. The MOU will ensure that the proper tools and processes are in place, better equipping the investigation team to make informed decisions about whether or not to proceed with excavations.

As work continues to prioritize housing affordability on and off reserve, thousands of first-time home buyers will have the opportunity to purchase a home at an initial 40% below market value at the Heather Lands in Vancouver, made possible through an innovative financing initiative envisioned by xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) (MST) Nations delivered in partnership with the Province.

The Ministry took significant steps to support First Nations language preservation, economic development, housing, and overall well-being, and removed a major barrier to First Nation land registration. Changes to the Property Law Act and the Land Title Act eliminated a discriminatory and racist legal barrier that added time and cost to First Nations' land registration with the B.C. land title office. First Nations are now able to register their fee-simple land interests, as well as other applicable land interests, in the land title office accordingly.

The Ministry supported the coordination and input of First Nations involvement in responding to and recovering from natural disasters including wildfires, flooding and landslides. In particular, the Ministry led the development and implementation of the *Northern Secwepemc-BC Letter of Understanding* to support the direct involvement of Williams Lake and Esk'etemc First Nations in recovery from the Chilcotin River landslide on July 31, 2024.

Additionally, the Ministry delivered nearly \$2.5 million in grants to Skatin, Samahquam, and Xa'xtsa First Nations to improve road access to their remote communities in the Lillooet area through upgrades to forest service roads.

## Objective 1.2: Support First Nations communities in advancing self-determination and governance building

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

### Key results

- As part of implementing the UN Declaration, the Province and First Nations have begun important engagement to co-develop a new distinctions-based fiscal framework and new policy frameworks for resource revenue-sharing that supports the operation of First Nations governments.
- In partnership with First Nations Leadership Council, hosted the 2024 B.C Cabinet and First Nations' Leadership Gathering. The 2024 Gathering was the largest gathering to date with more than 1,300 delegates and 1,200 one-on-one meetings between First Nations and provincial leadership, to address individual community priorities.
- In collaboration with shíshálh Nation and Canada, the Province passed the *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2024*, updating six provincial laws to reflect the traditional and legal name "shíshálh Nation" in place of "Sechelt Indian Band." This aligns provincial legislation with Canada's 2022 amendment to the *shíshálh Nation Self-Government Act*, supporting self-governance, culture, and language through the formal recognition of Indigenous identity.

### Summary of progress made in 2024/25

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

The Ministry continued its government-to-government co-development engagement process with First Nations, focused on the overarching principles for a new fiscal framework and co-development of a new forestry revenue sharing model. The initial results of this engagement were summarized in a 'What We Heard' report published in April 2023. The breadth of the perspectives shared through the engagement process has demonstrated the complexity of the work and the need for more detailed policy consideration in key areas.

The report highlights the significant time and effort that First Nations and the Province have invested in co-developing a new fiscal framework and summarizes the variety of perspectives and ideas raised by First Nations. It also underscores the complexity of the work and the transformational change required to achieve a principled new fiscal framework between the Crown and First Nations governments. Going forward, the 'What We Heard' report provides a foundation for identifying shared principles that reflect feedback from First Nations and applying them to the development of new fiscal tools and arrangements which will support all governments in meeting the challenges of the current fiscal and economic context.. Additional details are available in the [2025 Declaration Action Plan Annual Report](#).

The Ministry and BC Modern Treaty Nations collaborated on new approaches for treaty implementation. Through a new co-developed funding model, Modern Treaty Nations will be better equipped to meet their obligations as governments to deliver services, create local partnerships and represent the interests of their citizens. This includes a new approach to property tax and assessment on Modern Treaty Nations' Treaty Lands and Nisga'a Lands and provide support in partnering with the Province on treaty activities related to co-management of land and resources in their territories.

During the reporting period, Sumas First Nation (Semá:th) and the Province took a major step in their shared reconciliation journey through the recognition and return of Lightning Rock, a 36-hectare sacred site of deep cultural and spiritual significance. After purchasing the land in 2023, the Province has now successfully returned to the Nation. The Lightning Rock site holds deep cultural and spiritual significance, serving as a repository of traditions and narratives passed down through generations. To enable this historic return, the Province and Semá:th signed a reconciliation agreement and a road agreement. Additionally, Snuneymuxw First Nation and the Province are advancing reconciliation through the return of 2.67 hectares of land—part of the historic sxwayxum village site. This marks a significant milestone in honouring treaty obligations and revitalizing Snuneymuxw's presence in the area.

### Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2019/20 Baseline	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	2024/25 Actual
[1a] Cumulative number of community <sup>1</sup> well-being initiatives <sup>2</sup>	16	29	32	33

Data source: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

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

<sup>2</sup> PMA targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 36 and 40, respectively.

The Ministry exceeded its target for the reporting period. This work established four additional community well-being initiatives, bringing the cumulative total above the reporting year's target of thirty-three. These partnerships invest in economic development, cultural revitalization, human capacity building, education, justice, health and family services, and institutional infrastructure development.

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

Performance Measure	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	2024/25 Actual
[1b] Number of new opportunities <sup>1</sup> for First Nations to participate in revenue sharing <sup>2</sup>	5	4	1

Data source: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

<sup>1</sup> This includes new revenue sharing opportunities negotiated into particular agreements. Renewals of existing revenue sharing agreements are not included.

<sup>2</sup> PM 1b targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 4 and 4, respectively.

The Ministry did not fulfill its target this year. This work established one new opportunity for First Nations to participate in revenue sharing. Sharing revenue with First Nations communities is an important reconciliation tool that supports implementation of the UN Declaration and the self-determined pursuit of economic, social, and community development. The number of new revenue sharing opportunities decreased in 2024/25 for the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation due to the transfer of the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund Program in 2024/25 to the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions. In addition, the Province has committed to co-developing and implementing new distinctions-based policy frameworks for resource revenue-sharing. The Province expects the baseline forecast for this performance measure (i.e., two opportunities per year) to continue until this work is completed and new models for revenue sharing are available. The Declaration Act Action Plan contemplates a five-year timeline for this work.

As described in the performance measure discussion section underneath Performance Measure 1a, the Ministry will be reviewing opportunities for alignment of Action Plan indicators as they become available to support reporting under this objective in future Service Plans.

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

### **Objective 2.1: Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action, and Relevant Case Law. .**

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

#### **Key results**

- Released the 2023-2024 Declaration Act Annual Report which highlights progress made in implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) and advancing reconciliation in B.C.
- Renewed the [Gwets'en Nilt'i Pathway Agreement \(GNPA\)](#) for five years, marking the 10-year anniversary of Tsilhqot'in title recognition and reaffirming the commitment of the Tsilhqot'in Nation, Canada, and B.C. to continued progress and collaboration.
- As part of implementing the Declaration Act, provided clarity to public service employees on how the provincial government engages with distinct Indigenous Peoples through supporting the implementation of a distinctions-based approach, including presentations across several ministries, one-on-one ministry support,

drop-in learning sessions, and early engagement with Indigenous partners on further distinctions-based approach guidance.

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

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

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

The Distinctions Based Approach Primer, released in 2023, continues to assist the Province in building an understanding of the legal basis for, and core elements of, a distinctions-based approach in all of the Province's relations with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit in B.C. A future companion document will provide guidance to public servants on the practical application of a distinctions-based approach. A proper understanding and application of a distinctions-based approach is necessary for the provincial government, and is important for public servants involved in decisions regarding the Province's relations with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit in British Columbia.

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

The Ministry works with First Nations and other ministries, agencies, governments and partners to establish treaties and other agreements that affirm self-determination and support new approaches to developing a framework for cooperation and co-existence of First Nation jurisdiction.

### **Key results**

- The [Gaayhllxid • Gíihlagalgang "Rising Tide" Haida Title Lands Agreement](#), a first-of-its-kind negotiated agreement between the Haida Nation and B.C., was legislated through the Haida Nation Recognition Amendment Act, 2024. The agreement recognizes Haida's Aboriginal title throughout Haida Gwaii and provides for a staged transition to Haida jurisdiction, while also protecting and maintaining private property rights and existing government services and infrastructure in Haida Gwaii.
- Advanced constructive agreements with First Nations, including Lyackson First Nation and Cowichan Tribes Incremental Treaty Agreement and the signing of the joint statement *FE,ITKEN,IST I SLEWÁL,NONET SCÁ,Í*, meaning "Moving Forward and Speaking the Truth and Peace of Mind at Last," between Canada, the Province and the Tsartlip and Tseycum First Nations.

- Following decades of negotiations, marked a major milestone in the modern treaty process with the initialing of the Kitselas Treaty, Kitsumkalum Treaty, and K'ómoks Treaty by Chief Negotiators from Canada, B.C. and the First Nations between June and July 2024, signaling the conclusion of substantive negotiations.
- Advanced treaty negotiations with K'ómoks, Kitselas, Kitsumkalum, and the Te'mexw Treaty Association through continued community and stakeholder engagement, highlighted by K'ómoks First Nation's successful ratification vote in March 2025, following the initialing of the K'ómoks Treaty in July 2024 and completion of legal and technical reviews in November 2024—marking a significant step toward final treaty ratification by all parties.
- Advanced cross sector negotiations with shíshálh Nation and the Province to reaffirm their shared commitment to long-term reconciliation by renewing the [Foundation Agreement](#) to strengthen economic, cultural and environmental initiatives.

### Summary of progress made in 2024/25

In partnership with the Haida Nation and Canada, the Province entered into the [Gaayhlxid • Gíihlagalgang "Rising Tide" Haida Title Lands Agreement](#), effective July 5, 2024. This historic agreement, supported by legislation formally recognizes the Haida Nation's Aboriginal title across all of Haida Gwaii and lays groundwork for government-to-government collaboration. It enables the Haida Nation and the Province to jointly determine how their respective laws will guide land and resource decisions, while strengthening shared decision-making processes such as the Solutions Table and the Haida Gwaii Management Council.

Following the provincial agreement, federal negotiations concluded with the signing of the *Big Tide (Low Water)* Haida Title Lands Agreement in February 2025 between the Haida Nation and Canada. Collaboration with local governments remains a priority through the Protocol Table, with efforts focused on aligning decision-making structures to reflect the recognition of Haida title. The Province continues to coordinate efforts across ministries, recognizing the vital role of local governments in implementing these agreements. To support this work, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation has hired a dedicated staff to lead local government and interest holder engagement on Haida Gwaii.

During the reporting period, Lyackson First Nation, Cowichan Tribes, and the Province marked an important reconciliation milestone with the return of culturally significant land in the Cowichan River valley to two Quw'utsun Nation member communities. Through an Incremental Treaty Agreement (ITA), the Province is transferring a recently acquired parcel of private land back to the Nations. As part of this agreement, Lyackson First Nation and Cowichan Tribes have signed an inter-community memorandum of understanding to jointly hold the land in partnership until a formal plan is developed to divide it into equal, separate parcels.

In partnership with the Tsartlip and Tseycum First Nations and Canada, B.C. signed the ʔE,ITK̓EN,IST I S̓L̓EWÁL,NON̓ET S̓C̓Á,Í, a joint statement that's name translates to 'Moving Forward and Speaking the Truth and Peace of Mind at Last'. The Joint Statement is the first

time Canada and the Province have formally recognized that the WSÁNEĆ Nation – which includes but is not limited to the Tsartlip and Tseycum First Nations – is the beneficiary of and successor to the North Saanich and South Saanich Treaties of 1852.

Additionally, the Province and shíshálh Nation renewed the [Foundation Agreement](#), affirming shíshálh Nation's inherent rights and title while committing to continued support for land transfers, cultural and language revitalization, economic development, and other initiatives. The renewal includes commitments relating to economic development, environmental and cultural restoration and initiatives, funds for water infrastructure, monitoring programs, and ecological studies. The Agreement also paves the way for future land transfers, shared decision-making, and further collaboration on economic and cultural goals.

Work continued with Blueberry River First Nations to heal land and balance industry interests. The Province and Blueberry River First Nations are moving forward with implementation of the Gundy High Value 1 Plan, consistent with the Blueberry Implementation Agreement, to protect treaty rights, support restoration and land protection measures, and create more certainty for everyone in northeastern B.C. who relies on resource industry jobs to support their lives and families.

Continued progress also occurred between the Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative (CFN) and the Province by renewing their commitment to work together through a reconciliation agreement. CFN signatory nations to the agreement include Wuikinuxv, Heiltsuk, Kitsoo Xai'xais, Nuxalk, Gitga'at, Metlakatla, Old Massett, Skidegate and Council of the Haida Nation. The Province contributed \$1.6 million annually for implementation funding for four years to help facilitate government-to-government forums between B.C. and the alliance of First Nations as they work together to address shared goals related to integrated land, marine stewardship and economic revitalization in the north Pacific coast bioregion, as well as shared challenges like climate impacts and food security.

## Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	2024/25 Actual
[2a] First Nations or Indigenous Governing Bodies that have reached <b>major milestones</b> in negotiations. <sup>1</sup>			
Other Constructive Agreement Negotiations (Tripartite) <sup>2</sup>	10	20	11
Other Constructive Agreement Negotiations (Bilateral) <sup>3</sup>	27	25	38

Data source: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

<sup>1</sup>PM 2a targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 20, and 22 respectively for Tripartite and 24, and 26 for Bilateral.

<sup>2</sup>Includes tripartite Comprehensive Reconciliation Agreements (CRAs) and other constructive arrangements; excludes revenue sharing agreements as these are captured in the performance measure for Objective 1.2.

<sup>3</sup>Includes bilateral Accommodation Tools, Economic Benefit Agreements, Settlement Agreements, G2G Agreements, and other constructive arrangements.



In 2024/25, the Ministry did not meet its target for reaching milestones in tripartite negotiations with First Nations or Indigenous Governing Bodies, however, the Ministry exceeded its target in bilateral negotiations.

These variations are reflective of the progress that can be made in a bilateral environment compared to the increased complexity inherent in trilateral negotiations. The provincial and federal elections in 2024/25 also limited the ability to hold tripartite negotiations.

In general, it is not unexpected to deviate from anticipated targets for this performance measure given challenges in predicting negotiation milestones in any given year in consideration of the nature of the negotiations process, external factors and changing priorities.

Performance Measure	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	2024/25 Actual
[2b] First Nations within British Columbia exercising self-governance. <sup>1,2</sup>	10	10	10

Data source: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

<sup>1</sup> Indigenous peoples practiced their own forms of government for thousands of years before the arrival of settlers in what is today British Columbia. "Self-governance" in this measure refers to the number of First Nations within B.C. exercising self-government through a treaty or other negotiated agreement addressing governance that enables the self-determined pursuit of cultural, social, economic, and other priorities of First Nations..

<sup>2</sup>PM 1.2 targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 11 and 14, respectively.

The Ministry maintained its target for this performance measure in 2024/25. Ten First Nations exercise self-governance in the Province through modern treaties or other arrangements that enable the self-determined pursuit of cultural, social, economic and other priorities of First Nations in BC. The Ministry is expected to demonstrate moderate growth in this performance measure in 2025/26 and 2026/27.

# Financial Report

## Financial Summary

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations <sup>1</sup> (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
<b>Operating Expenses</b>					
Negotiations and Regional Operations Division	17,897	976	18,873	19,325	452
Strategic Partnership and Initiative Division	24,763	654	25,417	25,104	(314)
Reconciliation Transformation and Strategies Division	3,558	63	3,621	4,051	430
Executive and Support Services	12,784	38	12,822	12,254	(568)
Treaty and Other Agreements Funding	94,704	137,411	232,115	232,115	0
Declaration Act Secretariat	4,567	0	4,567	3,342	(1,225)
First Citizens Fund	1,823	0	1,823	1,789	(34)
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>160,096</b>	<b>139,142</b>	<b>299,238</b>	<b>297,979</b>	<b>(1,259)</b>
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual <sup>2</sup>	0,000	0,000	0,000	(180)	(180)
<b>Total</b>	<b>160,096</b>	<b>139,142</b>	<b>299,238</b>	<b>297,800</b>	<b>(1,439)</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures</b>					
Executive and Support Services	3	0	3	0	(3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(3)</b>
<b>Other Financing Transactions</b>					
Treaty and Other Agreements Funding (Loans, Investments and Other Requirements)					
Receipts	(0,000)	(0,000)	(0,000)	(0,000)	(0,000)
Disbursements	43,867	0,000	43,867	28,207	(15,660)
Net Cash Requirements (Source)	43,867	0,000	43,867	28,207	(15,660)
Treaty and Other Agreements Funding (Revenue Collected For, and Transferred to, Other Entities)					
Receipts	(100,000)	(0,000)	(100,000)	(99,610)	390

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations <sup>1</sup> (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
Disbursements	100,000	0,000	100,000	99,610	(390)
Net Cash Requirements (Source)	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000
<b>Summary</b>					
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>(100,000)</b>	<b>(0,000)</b>	<b>(100,000)</b>	<b>(99,610)</b>	<b>390</b>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>143,867</b>	<b>0,000</b>	<b>143,867</b>	<b>127,817</b>	<b>(16,050)</b>
<b>Total Net Cash Requirements (Source)</b>	<b>43,867</b>	<b>0,000</b>	<b>43,867</b>	<b>28,207</b>	<b>(15,660)</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 \$0.180 million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

## Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations

As of August 6, 2025, the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation is responsible and accountable for the following:

### **[BC Treaty Commission](#)**<sup>3</sup>

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

### **[First Peoples' Cultural Council](#)**

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

### **[Haida Gwaii Management Council](#)**<sup>4</sup>

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

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

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

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<sup>3</sup> With reference to the BC Treaty Commission, responsibility and accountability is limited and defined through [the Treaty Commission Act](#).

<sup>4</sup> With reference to the Haida Gwaii Management Council, responsibility and accountability is limited and defined through the [Kunst'aa guu – Kunst'aayah Reconciliation Protocol](#).

## Appendix B: Declaration Act Secretariat

### Purpose of the Declaration Act Secretariat

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

#### *Measures to align laws with the Declaration*

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

The Secretariat’s core functions are to:

- develop processes and measures to support alignment of laws;
- assist ministries in advancing legislative initiatives in alignment with the UN Declaration and in meeting legislative alignment obligations;
- provide guidance to ministries on undertaking consultation and cooperation;
- work with Indigenous Partners to inform government’s legislative agenda and help set legislative priorities; and
- serve in an interlocutor role for the Province and Indigenous partners.

### Governance Structure

Reporting directly to the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (IRR), the Secretariat is a central agency, distinct from the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. The DAS operates as a central agency to create clear lines of accountability to political decision-makers, and to position the Secretariat as an entity with the capacity and influence to be effective in supporting the implementation of section 3 of the Declaration Act across all Ministries.

#### *Key Results*

- In 2024/25, the Province continued to support the development, introduction and passing of legislation consistent with the requirements of Section 3. The Secretariat’s contribution spans formal input and advice on consultation and cooperation with Indigenous partners, informal troubleshooting, review of materials and issues resolution.
- The Secretariat also continued their work on formalizing guidance to help guide all BC Public Service employees in the undertaking of consultation and cooperation to support the application of the Interim Approach.

## Financial Summary

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations <sup>1</sup> (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
<b>Operating Expenses</b>					
Declaration Act Secretariat	4,567	0,000	4,567	3,342	(1,225)
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>4,567</b>	<b>0,000</b>	<b>4,567</b>	<b>3,342</b>	<b>(1,225)</b>
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,567</b>	<b>0,000</b>	<b>4,567</b>	<b>3,342</b>	<b>(1,225)</b>
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>					
Declaration Act Secretariat	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>0,000</b>	<b>0,000</b>	<b>0,000</b>	<b>0,000</b>	<b>0,000</b>

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

## Appendix C: Progress on Mandate Letter Priorities

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

2022 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2025
Lead work across ministries to implement the Declaration Act Action Plan in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, including reporting annually on progress.	<p>In progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action Plan was delivered on March 30, 2022. The Province continues to implement the Action Plan.</li> <li>The <a href="#">2022-2023 Declaration Act Annual Report</a> was released on June 28, 2024.</li> </ul>
Through the new Declaration Act Secretariat, continue to ensure new legislation and policies are consistent with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.	<p>In progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established the Declaration Act Secretariat on April 1, 2022 to coordinate a whole-of-government approach to alignment of provincial laws, policies, and practices with the UN Declaration.</li> <li>Continued progress on this priority is highlighted in <a href="#">Appendix B</a>.</li> </ul>
Continue to improve our government's relationships with Indigenous Peoples by moving from short-term transactional arrangements to long-term agreements that recognize and support reconciliation, shared decision-making, self-determination, and economic independence, including advancing work to co-develop the new distinctions-based fiscal relationship with Indigenous Peoples.	<p>In progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued progress on this priority is highlighted in <a href="#">Objective 1.1</a>, <a href="#">Objective 1.2</a>, <a href="#">Objective 2.1</a> and <a href="#">Objective 2.2</a>.</li> </ul>
In collaboration with First Nations and with support from the Minister of Housing, lead work to bring the federal government to the table to match our funding to build much-needed housing for Indigenous Peoples both on and off reserve.	<p>In progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued progress on this priority is highlighted in <a href="#">Objective 1.1</a>.</li> </ul>

2022 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2025
Propose steps to continue increasing the capacity of all ministries to advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.	<p>In progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued progress on this priority is highlighted in <a href="#">Objective 1.1</a>, <a href="#">Objective 1.2</a>, <a href="#">Objective 2.1</a> and <a href="#">Objective 2.2</a>.</li> </ul>
Support ministries to implement agreements under Sections 6 and 7 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act that enable shared statutory decision-making authority, and advance the recognition of First Nations self-determination and Indigenous laws.	<p>In progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued progress on this priority is highlighted in <a href="#">Objective 1.1</a>, <a href="#">Objective 1.2</a>, <a href="#">Objective 2.1</a> and <a href="#">Objective 2.2</a>.</li> </ul>
Support the Public Service Agency to increase recruitment and retention of Indigenous Peoples in the public service.	<p>In progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry is implementing an action plan arising from an internal Anti-Racism and Equity Audit. As this internal work is advanced, the Ministry and the Public Service Agency will work in partnership to develop more inclusive hiring practices and retention with an emphasis on Indigenous employees.</li> </ul>