

# Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth

## 2024/25 Annual Service Plan Report

August 2025



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## Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth<sup>1</sup> 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, appearing to be 'R. Kahlon', written in a cursive style.

Honourable Ravi Kahlon  
Minister of Jobs and Economic Growth  
August 5, 2025

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<sup>1</sup> On July 17, 2025, the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation was renamed the Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth.

## Minister of State's Accountability Statement

The Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth 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. Under the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Act*, I am accountable for achievement of the following results for 2024/25:

- (a) promote the 2024 BC Export Awards;
- (b) continue to engage with key stakeholders as ministry teams implement the B.C. Trade Diversification Strategy, which includes B.C.'s Export Navigator program, to help more small businesses to export their goods and services and to develop new strategies to expand B.C.'s export opportunities;
- (c) continue to support Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd.'s efforts to actively maintain, create and diversify demand for B.C.'s manufactured wood products in key international markets;
- (d) continue to promote B.C. food and agricultural exports in collaboration with the Minister of Agriculture and Food;
- (e) continue to work with all ministries to ensure more regular interactions with the government of Canada on B.C.'s international trade and economic priorities, including increased opportunities for face-to-face meetings with staff and key ministers in Ottawa;
- (f) continue to promote the benefits of free trade and to work across ministries and with the government of Canada to ensure that British Columbia's interests are protected and advanced in trade negotiations and disputes, including supporting the Minister of Forests on softwood lumber negotiations with the United States;
- (g) continue to engage with industry stakeholders to identify sector-focused special projects that would support economic development, trade and innovation, including but not limited to special projects in relation to aerospace and broader forest innovation;
- (h) continue to build on relationships with B.C.'s neighbouring jurisdictions, including through the Pacific Coast Collaborative, the Pacific North West Economic Region and inter-provincial trade, to expand trade opportunities for B.C. businesses and support our shared efforts to reduce emissions;
- (i) continue to support the development and implementation of the B.C. Maritime Industries Strategy;
- (j) submit to Cabinet a report on the results referred to in paragraphs (a) to (i) on or before March 31, 2025.



Honourable Ravi Kahlon  
Minister of Jobs and Economic Growth  
August 5, 2025

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## Letter from the Minister

As the Minister of Jobs and Economic Growth, I am pleased to present the annual service plan report for the year 2024/25.

In an era of unprecedented economic threats, this report notes the significant commitments and efforts of this government to continue to protect and grow the provincial economy. We stood strong for B.C., working with communities, workers and businesses to continue to create good jobs and prosperity across the province.

This annual report focuses on government's efforts on expanding business opportunities, including in new markets. We worked to streamline and remove barriers for large industry and small and medium-sized businesses in local communities throughout our province to start, grow and scale their business in B.C.

Business owners told us about the challenges they face on multiple fronts so we launched our Ease of Doing Business review to gain input and work with business leaders to develop a set of performance measurements to help us address issues and improve competitiveness. We are committed to easier and faster interactions for businesses and government services, enhancing overall accessibility and convenience.

Diversifying trade and investment, securing supply chains, retaining customers and opening new markets have always been important, and became more urgent due to the unjustified tariffs imposed and threatened by the U.S. administration. As part of B.C.'s response, we worked with the federal government to ensure B.C. continues to deepen and expand our trade relationships with other countries.

In January 2025, we established a task force on trade and security for B.C. which brought together business, labour and Indigenous leadership. The task force is ensuring we're responding united as a province against the tariffs to strengthen our economy, expand our economic growth, and to make sure we move away from being so dependent on the U.S.

B.C. introduced legislation to ensure the Province can act quickly to break down interprovincial trade barriers such as differing licensing requirements, distribution laws, procurement policies, and transport regulations between provinces. The new legislation also prioritizes the purchase of Canadian goods. As one of the provinces with few exceptions to the rules of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement, B.C. has been a leader in reducing internal trade barriers even prior to the tariff threat. B.C. has also been advocating for a national mutual recognition agreement (MRA). An MRA would apply to thousands of goods sold or used in Canada, and will enable new opportunities for B.C. businesses who are ready to get their products onto store shelves across the country.

Through B.C.'s Trade Diversification Strategy, our province has been effectively diversifying our trade and will actively continue this work. We are creating new opportunities for trade and investment in key markets, while expanding in existing markets. As well, we are increasing the number and diversity of exporters in B.C. Our province has a network of over 50 trade and investment representatives in 14 key markets including the U.K., E.U. and Asia-Pacific. We have

been promoting B.C. as a supplier of low-carbon innovation and resources and we have seen increased interest in B.C. solutions.

To help more B.C. businesses become export ready, the Province encouraged local businesses through outreach sessions around our Export Navigator and Trade Accelerator Programs. Export Navigator provides access to free export advisory services and, since September 2024, these clients have also had access to the Export Navigator Technical Specialist pilot offering specialized expertise in areas such as cross-border legal, accounting, and logistics among other domains. Our Trade Accelerator program helps small- and medium-sized enterprises achieve their export goals by supporting them to develop a market entry strategy for a new market.

On the domestic front, people and communities have been impacted by downturns in the forest industry. That's why our government is supporting forestry workers, communities, industry and First Nations ensuring government initiatives consider and deliver economic growth and benefits for rural and urban communities. Programs like the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program and the B.C. Manufacturing Jobs Fund (BCMJJF) are making a difference. Through the BCMJJF, we are helping to reduce risk for companies who want to grow and innovate by supporting high-value manufacturing projects that create and protect good jobs and strengthen supply chains across our province.

B.C.'s Integrated Marketplace, delivered by our Crown agency, Innovate BC, provides platforms for local technology companies to develop and commercialize new innovations that address real-life business challenges. These pilots occur in real-world environments, and help secure our province as a low-carbon leader, while B.C. businesses expand and scale to new markets.

In June 2024, B.C. was instrumental in securing the successful bid to bring Web Summit Vancouver to the province for the first of three years starting in May 2025. This provides opportunities for startups, researchers and innovator to expand their connections, meet global investors and industry, and connect with world-class management and talent. This event is a catalyst for dynamic growth in multiple sectors, and B.C. could be seeing the beginning of future giants sharing their technological advances to make life better for people here at home and globally.

Reinforcing B.C.'s position as a global hub for excellence in life sciences innovation and health-care outcomes, is B.C.'s partnership, established in July 2024, with Aspect Biosystems and the government of Canada. British Columbians will see Aspect establish clinical biomanufacturing capabilities, advance its made-in-B.C. technology platform and expand its pipeline of therapeutics, while creating hundreds of highly skilled jobs and more training and development opportunities.

In April 2024, B.C.'s contribution to Vitalus Nutrition's expanded state-of-the-art milk production plant ensured there would be more jobs in the agrifood sector in the Fraser Valley and will help meet growing demand for dairy products. The initiative reflects B.C.'s strong food and beverage sector that feeds people in the province and beyond, and government's commitment to position B.C. as a global and domestic leader in agritech and food security.

Technology and innovation are changing the economic landscape and ways of doing business across all sectors. We will continue to stand strong together, working to strengthen our economy and create good jobs and prosperity across B.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ravi Kahlon', written in a cursive style.

Honourable Ravi Kahlon  
Minister of Jobs and Economic Growth

August 5, 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 Brenda Bailey's [January 2024 Mandate Letter](#) shaped the goals, objectives, performance measures and financial plan outlined in the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation [2024/25 – 2026/27 Service Plan](#) and the actual results reported on in this annual report.

## Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth (the Ministry) is working to make life better for people by building an inclusive, sustainable, and innovative economy that works for all British Columbians.

The Ministry delivers programs and services that leverage British Columbia's (B.C.) natural advantages to drive clean and inclusive economic growth.

Its priorities include encouraging business start-up and growth through innovation and adoption of new technologies, supporting emerging opportunities in manufacturing, maritime industries, life sciences, artificial intelligence (AI), agritech, hydrogen, clean technology, and mass timber. The Ministry also promotes trade diversification and investment, positioning B.C. as a global exporter of quality goods and services.

The Ministry supports First Nations and Indigenous Peoples, small businesses and rural communities with economic development activities, the revitalization of traditional industries, economic diversification, job creation, exposure to export opportunities, and strategic investments to ensure everyone in B.C. benefits from economic growth.

To that end, our Government is implementing StrongerBC: A Plan for Today, a Vision for Tomorrow—British Columbia's guide to economic prosperity through inclusive and clean growth.

The Ministry has an oversight role for the [InBC Investment Corp.](#)

## Operating Environment

In 2024/25, B.C. faced unprecedented economic threats from a series of tariffs, threats of tariffs and other trade actions, most notably by key markets like the United States and China. While B.C. supports a strong TEAM Canada approach in the face of unprecedented and unjustified U.S. actions, Canada's retaliatory tariffs have had significant implications for British Columbians, as have China's retaliatory tariffs against Canada. The Province has continued to navigate global economic challenges such as the lingering economic effects of global inflation, and labour shortages across key industries. The impact of these challenges was felt across all regions of the province, making the Ministry's small business and regional economic development support critical as B.C. continues to respond and adapt.

While the current economic climate continues to be one of trade restrictions and protectionism, there are several ongoing trade agreement negotiations seeking to improve market access and opportunities for B.C. companies and workers, such as the Canada-Association of Southeast Asian Nations Free Trade Agreement negotiations.

Small businesses remain the cornerstone of the B.C. economy and continue to help create jobs, support families and strengthen the business climate. In 2023 – the most recent year for which data is available – there were a total of 534,400 businesses in B.C. Of these, 524,900 were small businesses with fewer than 50 employees.

Climate related emergencies (e.g., flooding, landslides, and forest fires) are becoming more frequent and severe throughout the province and are affecting economic activity and investments, transportation links, supply chains and food security.

## Economic Statement

After several years of strong growth, economic activity in British Columbia moderated in 2024 amid high interest rates, persistent price pressures, and ongoing global economic uncertainty. B.C.'s real GDP increased by 1.2 per cent in 2024 and ranked 8th (tied with Ontario) among the provinces following growth of 2.4 per cent in 2023. Last year, economic growth was driven by B.C.'s service-producing industries such as real estate, rental and leasing; health care and social assistance services; transportation and warehousing; public administration; and educational services. Output for goods-producing industries declined in 2024 due to lower construction and manufacturing activity, which was partly offset by growth in the mining, quarrying and oil and gas extraction; utilities; and agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sectors.

B.C.'s labour market continued to expand in 2024. Employment in B.C. increased by 66,100 jobs (+2.3 per cent), supported by high immigration, and wages and salaries rose by 6.3 per cent. B.C.'s unemployment rate averaged 5.6 per cent in 2024, up from 5.2 per cent in 2023 as strong population and labour force growth outpaced job gains. Elevated interest rates, rising construction costs, and ongoing labour shortages weighed on the construction sector last year. Housing starts totaled 45,828 units in 2024, down 9.2 per cent from the record high in 2023 but remained above the ten-year historical average. B.C. home sales increased by 2.1 per

cent and the average home sale price increased by 1.0 per cent compared to 2023. Price pressures in B.C. continued to broadly moderate last year, but shelter price growth remained elevated. Overall, B.C.'s inflation rate averaged 2.6 per cent in 2024, down from 3.9 per cent in 2023. Despite strong population growth, nominal retail sales increased by just 0.6 per cent in 2024, following a 0.1 per cent decline in 2023. On the trade front, weak global demand and lower commodity prices (primarily natural gas and coal prices) last year contributed to a 2.7 per cent decline in B.C.'s merchandise exports relative to 2023 despite increased exports to non-U.S. destinations including China, South Korea, and Australia.

## 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](#).

### Goal 1: Capitalize on our strengths, including low-carbon and Environmental, Social and Governance advantages, to build a brand that attracts investment, accelerates exports, and supports business growth in British Columbia

Objective 1.1: Assist B.C. businesses to compete globally, taking advantage of trade opportunities in existing and new markets, and attract investment to create resiliency

#### Key results

- Supported B.C. businesses to navigate their Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) journey, leverage their strengths and attract new markets and investors through the pilot ESG Centre of Excellence, including providing one-on-one ESG client advisory services, at no cost.
- Trade agreements were reached between Canada and Indonesia and Canada and Ecuador that as of March 31<sup>st</sup> were pending ratification.
- Launched mutual recognition negotiations to enable businesses to sell their goods and services across Canada.
- Delivered a multi-sector program of trade promotion and investment attraction activities to support B.C. exporters and communities in domestic and international markets, working with B.C.'s global Trade and Investment Representatives globally.

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

Strong progress was made in 2024/25 towards strengthening B.C.'s brand visibility, access to new customers and international trade relationships as a result of international efforts including 225 international trade shows, missions and events and two deputy ministerial missions to international markets. A new trade and investment presence was established in

Mexico to deliver strategic export and investment initiatives as part of the Trade Diversification Strategy, while expanding in existing markets. These efforts, in addition to a new Trade and Invest BC newsletter and marketing campaigns help B.C. businesses grow and attract investments and trade opportunities that can lead to capital inflows and economic growth in B.C.

Ongoing negotiations continued with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and domestic negotiations (financial services, and regulatory reconciliation negotiations focused on removing or streamlining regulatory requirements affecting trade between Canadian jurisdictions). These initiatives are all intended to further open markets, support diversification, and improve productivity and prosperity in B.C.'s interests were also represented in preparations, negotiations and conclusion of negotiations with Indonesia and Ecuador this year, resulting in agreements reached between Canada and Indonesia and Canada and Ecuador that are now proceeding to ratification.

Following cross-government work to identify regulatory requirements, mutual recognition negotiations were launched to support internal trade by removing regulatory barriers. These efforts, which B.C. has established itself as the Canadian leader on, will enable businesses to sell their goods and services across Canada without having to meet additional requirements from other provinces or the federal government. All provinces, territories and the federal government are now working to achieve mutual recognition of each others' goods, with the exception of food, traded across Canada. This work is intended to establish a world-leading open market and boost productivity in Canada.

B.C.'s trade interests were also represented in dealings with Global Affairs Canada and in the Provincial/Territorial Advisory Committee at the Standards Council of Canada. Ongoing engagement with other ministries, including the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, helps companies and industry associations overcome non-tariff barriers impacting their exports. The Ministry worked collaboratively with other ministries to assess the implications of a range of trade matters such as U.S. tariff threats, E.U. Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, E.U. Deforestation Regulation, Dairy Tariff Rate Quota challenges to Canada under the Canada-US-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, U.S. voluntary Country of Origin Labelling, and Softwood Lumber.

Progress on the provincial [Trade Diversification Strategy](#) was made, enabling more B.C. businesses to export and diversify markets. Nine dedicated Free Trade Agreement outreach sessions were delivered, increasing Free Trade Agreement awareness and literacy amongst businesses in communities across B.C. Work also continued to support trade and investment opportunities through the international network of trade and investment representatives in 14 markets around the globe. The ESG Centre of Excellence pilot, part of the Stronger BC Economic Plan, also supported B.C. businesses to navigate their ESG journey, leverage their strengths and attract new markets and investors with various supports including free one-on-one client advisory services.

## Objective 1.2: Support business growth and anchoring in B.C.

### Key results

- Supported Aspect Biosystem's tissue therapeutic project anchoring a large-scale life sciences facility in B.C., leveraging federal and private sector dollars and advancing B.C. innovation to improve disease treatment, while creating 220 highly skilled jobs.
- Supported the expansion of Vitalus Nutrition Inc.'s dairy processing plant in the Fraser Valley, leveraging federal and private sector dollars, allowing local producers to meet domestic demand for dairy products, while increasing exports of speciality products and creating 100 more permanent local jobs.
- In fiscal year 2024/25, 215 new businesses were accepted into the Export Navigator program.
- The Clean and Competitive Industrial Blueprint (Blueprint) was launched in April 2024 and highlights Government's actions to support industries and assure investors that B.C. is a competitive and strategic place to invest. The Blueprint emphasizes targeted investments in priority low-carbon and innovative economic sectors, where B.C. has competitive advantages, while supporting Indigenous-led economic development. In February 2025, Government announced that 18 resource projects are being expedited to ensure timely permitting approvals while maintaining regulatory and environmental standards. These projects have a combined worth of approximately \$20 billion and are expected to employ 8,000 people across the province.
- As of March 2025, the Ministry has cumulatively committed \$146 million to support growth and expansion of 132 manufacturing operators through the BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund (BCMJF), unlocking more than \$1 billion in total private and public investment, creating and protecting thousands of jobs, and promoting the development of made-in-B.C. products.

### Summary of progress made in 2024/25

Export Navigator has supported over 1,315 businesses across B.C. since 2016 with export advisory services. The program currently serves 491 active clients, half of which are from under-represented groups and 61 percent are from rural communities. In the past year alone, 215 new businesses joined the program. Furthermore, the Ministry launched a two-year Export Navigator Specialist Pilot Program in Fall 2024 that provides Export Navigator clients with free access to a network of specialized service providers.

The Trade Accelerator Program, backed by the Ministry and delivered through the World Trade Centre Vancouver, has helped over 585 businesses grow internationally since 2017. It has held 41 cohorts in seven cities, and among its graduates are 280 women-led, 103 youth-led, and 67 Indigenous-led companies. In this past year, 84 businesses completed the program, expanding into more than 44 countries.

## Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	2024/25 Actual
1.1 Number of trade and investment opportunities supported by the Ministry <sup>1</sup>	801	732	947

Data source: Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

<sup>1</sup>PM 1.1 targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 732 and 732, respectively.

The Ministry has an integrated program of investment attraction and export promotion activities in B.C., and in overseas markets to support growth and diversification in the province. This performance measure assesses how well the Ministry can attract, promote, and support B.C. trade and investment opportunities and is monitored by an internal tracking system.

Performance Measure	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	2024/25 Actual
1.2a Total small business venture capital leveraged through tax credit usage <sup>1,3</sup>	\$110M	\$95M	\$112M
1.2b Rural small business venture capital leveraged through tax credit usage <sup>2,4</sup>	\$15M	\$8.5M	\$13M

Data source: <sup>1</sup>Venture Capital Branch. The 30 % tax credit reduces the risk to B.C. investors of their investment in eligible B.C. businesses.

<sup>2</sup>Rural small business usage is a sub-component of the total small business venture capital tax credit usage detailed in 1.2a

<sup>3</sup>PM 1.2a targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as \$98M and \$105M, respectively.

<sup>4</sup>PM 1.2b targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as \$9M and \$9M, respectively.

The Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit Program provides investors with a 30 percent tax credit to help offset some of the risk of investing in B.C.'s small businesses. Businesses registered in the Tax Credit Program are typically start-up and early-stage businesses developing technologies or involved in small businesses manufacturing and processing.

In 2024/25 the total amount of investment raised under the Venture Capital Tax Credit Program was \$112 million, of which \$13 million was raised by rural businesses. These amounts exceeded the 2024/25 total investment target by \$17 million and exceeded the rural investment target by \$4.5 million. Approximately 225 businesses raised investment in 2024/25, of which 25 were rurally based businesses.

Rurally based life sciences businesses were particularly successful in raising investment, including businesses conducting research and development in therapies to treat inflammatory diseases, and the application of novel minerals in pharmaceutical grade therapies. Clean technology businesses continued to attract investment, with companies successfully raising investment for the development of cleaner fuels with reduced carbon intensity to meet emerging clean fuel standards.

Venture investment is volatile and reflects multiple factors, including the number and quality of investment opportunities available in any given year, prevailing economic conditions, and the fund-raising activities of specific businesses to meet their operational requirements.

## Goal 2: Accelerate the innovation economy to catalyze future opportunities in core and emerging sectors to support ongoing economic development in British Columbia

### Objective 2.1: Implement the Mass Timber Action Plan that will accelerate the growth of B.C.'s emerging innovative, inclusive, and sustainable economic sector

Mass timber is an emerging sector in B.C. with strong innovation potential in the areas of building design, product manufacturing, and construction technology. Ongoing implementation of the [Mass Timber Action Plan](#) directly supports sector growth

#### Key results

- Mass timber updates were made to the BC Building Code, enabling encapsulated mass timber construction up to 18 storeys for office and residential buildings; expanding encapsulated mass timber construction to new building types; and allowing for more exposed mass timber in buildings.
- The [Mass Timber Action Plan Progress Update](#) was released, reflecting the ongoing efforts made to meet increased demand for mass timber buildings by supporting growth in mass timber manufacturing and expanding mass timber training to create a skilled workforce.
- The fourth intake of the Mass Timber Demonstration Program (MTDP) was opened for applications, with funding available of up to \$500,000 per project.
- The Ministry co-hosted a dinner and discussion with the BC First Nations Forestry Council (BCFNFC) for 14 First Nations Chiefs and leaders to launch B.C.'s First Nations Mass Timber Engagement Strategy. In partnership with federal funders and BCFNFC, the Ministry also held five information sessions, attended by 26 First Nation participants, to discuss mass timber manufacturing opportunities.

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

Strong progress was made in advancing key mass timber initiatives in 2024/25. Mass timber updates to the BC Building Code provided expanded opportunities for mass timber construction, including new building types and greater heights than previously permitted, with new fire protection encapsulation requirements tailored to various building heights. New

markets for mass timber products were opened up and stimulated, as owners and developers can now build almost any type of building with mass timber.

The First Nations Mass Timber Engagement Strategy was announced, as the Ministry continues to grow B.C.'s mass timber sector's partnership with First Nations. This strategy aims to build reciprocal relationships, grow First Nations leadership in the mass timber ecosystem, and promote the use of local wood in culturally appropriate and energy-efficient buildings.

As of March 2025, the BCMJF committed up to \$39.8 million in support of eight B.C. mass timber manufacturers. This includes \$7 million for Mercer Mass Timber which is investing in its Okanagan Falls facilities to modernize and improve production efficiencies and manufacture a wider variety of mass timber products, and \$7.5 million for Spearhead Timberworks Inc. in Nelson which is constructing a new facility and diversifying its product offerings. The Mass Timber Action Plan Progress Update provided a reflection on accomplishments in B.C.'s mass timber sector, in addition to looking forward to future work needed to advance the sector. Initiatives such as the MTDP and BCMJF support mass timber development, by increasing the number of mass timber buildings, and facilitating factory expansions and new manufacturing lines for mass timber products. The mass timber sector is continuing to grow and strengthen, and B.C. is well-positioned to remain at the global forefront of this exciting construction sector transition.

**Objective 2.2: Grow sectors of emerging opportunity, including agritech, life sciences, manufacturing, maritime industries, and transformative technologies such as artificial intelligence and quantum computing, and position them as drivers of good jobs, revenues, and solutions to food security and climate change**

### **Key results**

- The new BC Biomanufacturing Training Facility opened in January 2025 to deliver hands-on biomanufacturing training in mock-up cleanroom environments to students and trainees from the B.C. life sciences industry. This project delivered under the BC Life Sciences and Biomanufacturing Strategy is a collaboration between the BC Institute of Technology and the Canadian Alliance for Skills and Training in Life Sciences (CASTL).
- The BC Knowledge Development Fund committed \$36 million in capital funding for research equipment and facilities at B.C. post-secondary institutions to support state-of-the-art research on emerging technologies, including in the life sciences, clean technologies, and information technologies.
- Supported the B.C. Centre for Agritech Innovation which leverages the triple-helix model (academia, industry and government) to initiate new industry and training projects aimed at helping agritech companies grow and scale in B.C.

- Made progress on aerospace, maritime and defence sector engagement to understand current issues and key market insights on challenges and opportunities for economic growth, innovation, infrastructure, and sector competitiveness.
- Connected aerospace, maritime, and defence companies with provincial programs and other resources to strengthen their competitiveness and support access to civil and defence opportunities in the aerospace sector.
- Continued to collaborate across government to support and advance artificial intelligence and technology innovation adoption across priority sectors, including initiatives with B.C. Wildfire, the Ministries of Citizen Services, Health, Energy and Climate Solutions; and Innovate BC.
- Three Economic Plan commitments were completed, with the first two being of continuous nature: investing in the development of clean energy and clean technology (with new initiatives such as the Centre for Innovation and Clean Energy); positioning B.C. to be a world leader on quantum computing (through the Quantum Algorithms Institute).
- The Integrated Marketplace (IM) continued to grow, increasing innovation and technology adoption by linking consortiums of industry partners with local innovation providers to implement, scale, and ultimately export B.C. technology solutions.
- The BCMJF is supporting manufacturers across the province to modernize and grow their operations. As of March 2025, the program has committed nearly \$146 million to 132 projects, with funding encouraging investment in foundational and emerging manufacturing sectors, including pH7 Technologies Inc. which received \$1.5 million to commercialize technology to extract and produce critical minerals, and Vancouver Dry Dock Company Ltd. which received \$1.6 million to expand its fabrication capacity to repair and construct ships. BCMJF funds committed to date are creating and protecting more than 4,700 jobs, strengthening supply chains, and improving productivity throughout B.C.

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

The Ministry implemented "Year-One" of B.C.'s Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Vancouver Airport Authority (YVR) to collaborate on shared priorities including three deliverables (Sustainable Aviation Fuels Study, Net Zero Airports Action Plan and Goods Movement Study) supported by provincial investment of \$875,000.

The IM announced a new testbed in July 2024, hosted by the Provincial Laboratory Medicine Services, to test digital tools and innovative solutions to support more rapid diagnostic services. The testbed received \$2.65 million to fund three projects that will help reshape how pathology services are delivered in B.C. The IM also announced an additional four projects, two at the Vancouver International Airport Testbed, one that spans both the Port of Vancouver and Port of Prince Rupert Testbeds and the final project at the Port of Prince Rupert. Additionally, a separate project to test zero and low-emission trucks at the Port of Prince Rupert was announced with support from Transport Canada. Projects eligible for funding under the IM

include technologies to increase productivity, decarbonisation of operations, and the promotion of health and safety.

Through the \$25 million BC Maritime Industries Infrastructure Modernization and Expansion (MIIME) Grant Program, three project intakes receiving 152 project applications and funding 41 projects since early 2024. MIIME supports co-invested projects to enable companies to increase provincial competitiveness, capacity and capability.

The Ministry continued implementation of the B.C. Maritime Industries Strategy including four integrated pathways and 17 priority actions to enhance co-ordination within maritime industries, grow market and infrastructure capacity, invest in workforce development, and to support clean fuels and technology innovation.

### Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2023 Actual	2024 Target	2024 Actual
2.1 Three-year rolling average of square meters of floor area in newly completed buildings which incorporate mass timber in one or more primary structural systems <sup>1,2,3,4</sup>	76,254	81,100	91,093

Data source: data collected by Scius Advisory Inc. for the Natural Resources Canada [The State of Mass Timber in Canada database](#).

<sup>1</sup>PM 2.1 targets for 2025 and 2026 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 87,600 and 94,600, respectively.

<sup>2</sup>Data is measured by calendar year, not fiscal year.

<sup>3</sup>Targets are based on trends in year over year growth in the 3-year rolling average, and industry information available about planned construction projects. Many projects change during the planning process, and annual targets may be updated if there is substantial industry change. Targets are also rounded up or down to the nearest hundred because they are estimates.

<sup>4</sup>Primary structural system means load bearing walls, roofs, floors, and vertical shafts for stairs/elevators.

The mass timber sector continues to be strong in B.C.; however, the effects of the pandemic and the run up of lumber prices in 2020 and 2021 had a significant cooling effect on mass timber building starts in those years. This caused the anticipated 2023 completions to be notably lower than the targets that were first established in the 2022/23 service plan. To compensate for the effect of 2023, a decision was made to reset the performance measure baseline in the 2024/25 Service Plan to the forecasted square meters of floor area in newly completed buildings in 2023. Targets were adjusted accordingly, and the annual target increase was also adjusted to 8 percent from 10 percent. Actual results for 2024 were stronger than expected.

## Goal 3: Support businesses and communities to create sustainable, family supporting jobs and inclusive growth that works for all British Columbians

Objective 3.1: Support B.C. communities, Indigenous and other underrepresented peoples to increase participation in established and emerging economic sectors

### Key results

- Continued to support the Youth in Manufacturing Initiative (YIMI), which provides youth with paid work placements with B.C. manufacturers. While youth can gain valuable work experience, exposure to potential employers and credit toward high school graduation, manufacturers also benefit by tapping into an underutilized stream of workforce.
- Delivered presentations to 286 businesses through nine events targeting underrepresented export groups, on how to leverage opportunities in Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) to support export growth, diversification, and investment attraction.
- The Securing Small Business Rebate (SSBR) program took its last applications on January 31, 2025. The two-year program was able to help offset vandalism costs for businesses in all regions of the province. The SSBR delivered a total of 1,318 rebates to businesses with a total value disbursed of \$1,361,375.

### Summary of progress made in 2024/25

The Ministry made progress towards making available a suite of resources including checklists, guides, templates, and educational materials to better equip entrepreneurs and small business owners with starting and growing their business.

### Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2020 Baseline	2023 Actual	2024 Target	2024 Actual
3.1 Support growth in the number of businesses with 10 or more employees	49,900	53,763	53,400	53,800

Data source: BC Stats using data supplied by Statistics Canada.

<sup>1</sup>PM 3.1 Targets for 2025 and 2026 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 53,800 and 54,200, respectively.

This performance measure was introduced in the 2021/22 Service Plan as businesses with more than 10 employees are shown to have a more stable workforce with higher compensation. The 2024 actuals were higher than forecasted likely due to the ongoing recovery of businesses from the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Objective 3.2: Strengthen regional economic development, support recovery, and build resilience to economic disruption

The Ministry is committed to providing enabling tools for Indigenous and non-Indigenous rural communities to attract investment and develop economic opportunities. On-the-ground support and targeted funding provide resources to assist communities in expanding their business communities, completing foundational economic planning, and furthering economic growth in alignment with local priorities. The Ministry also provides wholistic support to communities experiencing economic disruptions, due to loss of a major employer or natural disaster impacts, to support their transition and recovery.

#### Key results

- Assisted businesses to navigate the network of support programs available to them to address challenges created by global trade actions (e.g., tariffs) and Canada's response, and advocated to the federal government on their behalf.
- In its third year, the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP) continued to advance economic capacity, diversification, and resilience in Indigenous and non-Indigenous rural communities across the province. In 2024/25, the REDIP program funded 135 projects, distributing a total of \$43 million, including:
  - \$18.6 million in funding for 47 projects supporting Indigenous communities across the province.
  - \$2.7 million in funding for 29 economic capacity projects located in rural communities with a population of 2,500 or less.
- Through the Forest Worker and Community Supports suite of programs, the government continued to support forest workers and communities impacted by changes to the forestry sector. Results included:
  - \$10.9 million for 35 economic diversification and development projects in communities impacted by the downturn in forestry through the Forest Impact Transition (REDIP-FIT) stream of the REDIP program.
  - \$6 million in funding for 63 land-based projects in fiscal year 2024/25 to create employment opportunities for forestry contractors through the Forest Employment Program.
  - On-the-ground Community Transition Services and enhanced coordination of government supports for 11 hard-hit communities in the aftermath of mill closures and curtailments.
- Partnered with the Ministry of Emergency Management & Climate Readiness to establish processes and build relationships with partners to assist with economic recovery after disaster events.

- Coordinated and led a cross-government working group, which includes members from various ministries and BC Hydro, to support discussions between BC Hydro and Atlantic Power, a biomass energy facility in Williams Lake. The work of the cross-government working group enabled the delivery of a revised agreement between parties, the rescindment of Atlantic Power's notice of termination, and the preservation of the jobs and tax base that are important to Williams Lake.
- Provided \$0.933 million to the BC Assembly of First Nations to support the operations of the First Nations Centre of Excellence for Economic Development (FNCOE). A key focus of the FNCOE in 2024/25 was designing a new service delivery model to meet the evolving economic development needs of First Nations in B.C.
- BCMJF continued to prioritize projects located in regional, remote or forestry-impacted communities. As of March 31, 2025, 75 percent of funded projects were located in regional and rural communities, which has led to the creation and protection of over 3,700 regional jobs and supporting economic diversification in smaller communities. While open to all manufacturing sectors, BCMJF has a mandate to support transition in the forest sector to higher value products and, to date, \$97.3 million has been committed to 73 forest sector projects, leading to 3,500 forestry jobs being created and protected, many of which are in regional and rural B.C.

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

Through three intakes of REDIP, over \$142 million was invested in over 450 rural projects, with early evaluations showing strong progress in building local economic capacity, creating jobs, and supporting community-led development. Economic development funding takes time to see results, however in a recent evaluation of the projects from the first intake of funding highlighted how this funding is making a difference—83 percent of recipients reported improved internal capacity, 93 percent saw new employment opportunities, and 92 noted early signs of economic diversification. These positive trends are expected from the \$43 million in funding distributed in FY2024/25. These insights are also helping shape future funding strategies and ensure that REDIP continues to meet the needs of rural and Indigenous communities across B.C.

REDIP is the primary funder for Indigenous economic capacity building and the largest single source of non-market capital for First Nations economic development in B.C. REDIP plays a critical role in empowering Indigenous communities by providing essential funding and capital to drive sustainable economic growth and self-determination in B.C.

Forestry sector changes continue to affect rural workers, businesses, communities and other industries like tourism, healthcare, and transportation. The Ministry, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, and Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, delivered coordinated and targeted programs to help rural communities adapt, overcome barriers, and build resilient, diverse local economies. All 11 Community Transition in 2024/25 that received these services were successfully closed as the acute needs were met and the communities moved onto focus on their longer-term economic diversification goals.

A business advisory service was launched to continue the Province's commitment in delivering pathfinding supports. The service offers entrepreneurs and business owners access to free one-on-one consultations with advisors, access to resources designed to help businesses start, grow and thrive, and guidance on navigating government programs and funding opportunities.

### Objective 3.3: British Columbia's evolving regulatory framework supports effective service delivery as well as business and economic growth

In 2004, the Net Zero Increase (NZI) policy was established which committed the Government to not exceed a regulatory requirement count (RR Count) of 197,242, commonly referred to as the 2004 baseline. The NZI is an effective approach to regulatory accountability meant to ensure new and amended legislation and regulations do not result in unchecked regulatory growth and burden on citizens and their businesses.

Legislated by the *Regulatory Reporting Act*, Government must publicly report the RR Count annually, and to date B.C. has consistently maintained an RR count below the NZI baseline.

In addition to the NZI, the Government is focused on regulatory modernization through regular legislative and regulatory omnibus amendment packages which ensure B.C.'s laws reflect the evolving needs of British Columbians.

#### Key results

- As of March 31, 2025, there were 172,961 regulatory requirements, well below the 2004 baseline of 197, 242.
- B.C. placed fourth overall among Canadian jurisdictions in the 2024 Canadian Federation of Independent Business Red Tape Report Card.

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

The 2023/24 Better Regulations for British Columbians (BR4BC) Annual Report was released on June 31, 2024. A legislated requirement of *the Regulatory Reporting Act*, the report highlighted specific actions Government took to deliver more homes to people, strengthen health care, work towards meaningful reconciliation, foster innovation, and remove barriers and increase accessibility.

**Performance measure(s) and related discussion**

<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>2022/23 Baseline</b>	<b>2023/24 Actual</b>	<b>2024/25 Target</b>	<b>2024/25 Actual</b>
3.2a Annual percentage of rural economic development grant funding spent <sup>1</sup>	100%	100%	100%	100%
3.2b Annual percentage of funding provided to Indigenous applicants <sup>2</sup>	46%	43%	48%	43%
3.2c Annual percentage of funding provided to increase capacity in smaller communities <sup>3</sup>	8.5%	7%	10%	6%

Data source: Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

<sup>1</sup>The performance measure indicates REDIP funding distributed by the province. Targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 100% and 100%, respectively.

<sup>2</sup>The performance measure relates to Indigenous applicants to REDIP, including Indigenous communities, Indigenous Development Corporations and Indigenous-led not-for-profit organizations. Targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 49% and 50%, respectively.

<sup>3</sup>The performance measure based on successful applications to REDIP's Economic Capacity Stream, which may include small rural communities with populations of 2,500 or less and all Indigenous communities and organizations outside of Metro Vancouver and the Capital Regional District. Targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 11% and 12%, respectively.

REDIP is one of the primary tools utilized to achieve the key strategies identified for Objective 3.2, including community transition, economic recovery, economic development and capacity development.

In addition to the existing performance measure on the percent of rural economic development funding spent (Performance Measure 3.2a), two new performance measures were added for 2024/25 that highlight the accessibility of the grant funding (Performance Measure 3.2 a & b). The new performance measures demonstrate the Ministry's progress in supporting Indigenous communities and communities with less capacity, recognizing that reconciliation and capacity building are key to equitable economic success across the province.

Late in 2024/25, the REDIP program provided an additional \$10 million in grant funding, for a total of \$43 million in 2024/25. The REDIP program met the target for Performance Measure 3.2a, showing the overall successful delivery of the program and full allocation of program funding in 2024/25.

The REDIP program did not meet Performance Measure 3.2b (Annual percentage of funding provided to Indigenous applicants) and 3.2c (Annual percentage of funding provided to increase capacity in smaller communities). While the program made progress towards the target funding for Indigenous applicant's, further work is required to support Indigenous applicants in accessing funding through the program. Outreach and relationship building by program and regional staff has been and continues to be a key support for Indigenous applicants in increasing the percentage of funding provided to Indigeous applicants. In addition, REDIP is currently enhancing its capacity stream to support to better serve Indigenous and rural communities, so they are in a position to apply for larger grants. The

additional \$10 million in funding was directed towards projects in the Economic Diversification (REDIP-ED) stream, supporting an increased investment in economic infrastructure and programming projects. As a result, the total percentage provided to projects in the Economic Capacity (REDIP-EC) stream was lessened and fell short of the target in Performance Measure 3.2c.

## Financial Report

### Financial Summary

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations <sup>1</sup> (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
<b>Operating Expenses</b>					
Trade and Industry Development	29,739	3,114	32,853	31,637	(1,216)
Small Business and Economic Development	35,890	74,375	110,265	108,705	(1,560)
Investment and Sustainable Economy	13,936	19,805	33,741	36,966	3,225
Transfers to Crown Corporations and Agencies	26,499	7,010	33,509	33,509	0
Executive and Support Services	9,214	125	9,339	8,979	(360)
Northern Development Fund	500	0	500	385	(115)
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>115,778</b>	<b>104,429</b>	<b>220,207</b>	<b>220,181</b>	<b>(26)</b>
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual <sup>2</sup>	0	0	0	(935)	(935)
<b>Total</b>	<b>115,778</b>	<b>104,429</b>	<b>220,207</b>	<b>219,246</b>	<b>(961)</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>

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

<sup>2</sup> The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual of \$935 million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

## Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations

As of August 13, 2025, the Minister of Jobs and Economic Growth is responsible and accountable for the following organizations:

### [Economic Trust of the Southern Interior](#)

The Economic Trust of the Southern Interior develops programs prioritized by and for the regions and delivers government (both federal and provincial) programs.

### [InBC Investment Corp.](#)

InBC is a public fund that contributes to investment capital in B.C. through investing in opportunities where there is both measurable social impact and financial outcome.

### [Island Coastal Economic Trust](#)

The Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) develops programs prioritized by and for the region and delivers government (both federal and provincial) programs.

### [Nechako-Kitamaat Development Fund Society](#)

The Nechako-Kitamaat Development Fun Society supports sustainable economic activity through programs and projects that meet each community's goals in northern communities affected by the Kitimat-Kemano project and by the creation of the Nechako Reservoir.

### [Northern Development Initiative Trust](#)

The Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) develops programs prioritized by and for the regions and delivers government (both federal and provincial) programs.

### [Small Business Roundtable](#)

The Small Business Roundtable supports targeted outreach and engagement, providing insight on issues and opportunities facing the sector and government priorities and policies.

## Appendix B: Progress on Mandate Letter Priorities

The following is a summary of progress made on priorities as stated in Minister Brenda Bailey's 2024 Mandate Letter.

2024 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2025
Continue to deliver the StrongerBC Economic Plan to build an inclusive, sustainable, and innovative economy that works for people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The implementation of the Economic Plan is on-track with an economy-wide impact. As of March 31, 2025, 37 out of the 70 actions outlined in the Plan are complete and 32 are underway.</li> <li>To further support businesses and attract investments, Government is prioritizing ease-of-doing business, diversifying trade, and helping businesses expand into new global markets.</li> <li>Government is also accelerating permitting for major energy and natural resource projects, creating new jobs across the province while maintaining high environmental standards.</li> </ul>
Make B.C. a global destination for investment in clean industries by leveraging federal investments, taking steps to attract more new companies, and supporting B.C.-based clean business start-ups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnered with federal government programs, like the Strategic Innovation Fund, to support growth and expansion of B.C.-based companies like AbCellera, a biotech company that analyses natural immune systems to find antibodies that can be developed into therapeutics to prevent and treat disease. Aspect Biosystems, is a biotech company specializing in 3D bio-printed tissue therapeutics. They have developed a tissue therapeutic platform to create implantable tissues that replace missing or damaged organ functions.</li> </ul>

2024 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2025
<p>Continue to drive innovation in biotechnology, low carbon technology, and climate solutions and identify opportunities for communities across the province.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued the implementation of the Life Sciences and Biomanufacturing Strategy, which has resulted in the opening of the B.C. Biomanufacturing Training Facility in January 2025, in partnership with BC Institute for Technology and Canadian Alliance for Skills and Training in Life Sciences, and \$32 million funding through the BC Knowledge Development Fund towards four research projects at the Canada's immuno-Engineering and Biomanufacturing Hub to support worldclass science.</li> </ul>

2024 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2025
<p>Continue to support advancement of clean industry in alignment with our CleanBC and StrongerBC plans, and continue to provide support for industries in transition.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued to support and grow a sustainable, innovation-driven economy through supporting people and businesses to transition to clean-energy solutions.</li> <li>Released a Summer 2024 update to Clean and Competitive: A Blueprint for B.C.'s Industrial Future which focuses on new investment, creating jobs, and seizing opportunities in clean energy and sustainable industries.</li> <li>Continued supporting industrial sectors to promote clean and inclusive growth to foster economic resilience, in alignment with StrongerBC.</li> <li>As of March 2025, committed \$146 million to support growth and expansion of 132 manufacturing operators through the BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund, unlocking more than \$1 billion in total private and public investment, creating and protecting thousands of jobs, and promoting the development of made-in-B.C. products. This includes dozens of projects and thousands of jobs in the forest sector supporting transition to higher value wood production.</li> <li>Continued to advance economic capacity, diversification, and resilience in Indigenous and non-Indigenous rural communities across the province through the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program, providing \$43 million across 135 projects. This includes the Forest Impact Transition stream.</li> </ul>

2024 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2025
<p>With support from the Minister of State for Trade, launch and implement the Trade Diversification Strategy that will diversify our trading partners to hedge against global uncertainty and position B.C. businesses on the global stage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported 225 international trade shows, missions and events and led two deputy ministerial missions to international markets, including to Taiwan in April of 2024 for the official opening of BC's Trade and Investment office in Taipei as part of the Trade Diversification Strategy.</li> <li>Established B.C.'s trade and investment presence in Mexico, to deliver strategic export and investment initiatives in this important market, expanding BC's global trade and investment reach in 14 international markets.</li> <li>215 new businesses were accepted into the Export Navigator program which provides enhanced advisory services to businesses throughout the province that are seeking to export. In Fall 2024, Ministry launched a two-year Export Navigator Specialist Pilot Program that provides Export Navigator clients with free access to a network of specialized service providers to assist with market access and exporting.</li> <li>84 businesses completed the Trade Accelerator Program, backed by the Ministry and delivered through the World Trade Centre Vancouver, expanding into more than 44 countries.</li> <li>Assisted 175 underrepresented BC companies in 24/25 with a range of supports to help assess and progress their international trade and investment efforts.<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> Underrepresented B.C. companies include B.C. Indigenous organizations and communities, as well as B.C. underrepresented businesses, including those led by Black people, women, and people of color. These businesses must self-identify, voluntarily provide this information, and be aware it is stored and used for reporting.

2024 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2025
<p>Continue working with local governments to identify and preserve land suitable for supporting sustainable industrial activity and economic benefits in rural and urban communities throughout the province.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established the Industrial Land Office to implement Minister Diana Gibson's 2025 mandate letter commitment: Make sure BC's economy has the space to grow by creating an inventory of existing industrial lands, carrying out a land-use needs assessment and a strategy for protecting and growing the industrial land base.</li> </ul>

2024 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2025
<p>With support from the Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development, work with rural communities to strengthen regional economic development and to build economic resilience in hard-hit forest sector communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The BCMJF prioritizes projects that support economic resilience in regional and Indigenous communities. TAs of March 31, 2025, 75 percent of projects funded through BCMJF are located in communities outside of Metro Vancouver and the Capital Regional District, totalling over \$97.7M in Provincial investment.</li> <li>• The Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program supports projects that promote capacity, economic diversification, and infrastructure development. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Through its three intakes (FY 2022-23 to FY 2024-25), REDIP contributed up to \$142M for more than 453 projects. Including \$32.6 million in dedicated funding, supports economic recovery and diversification in affected forest-dependent communities.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Community Transition (CT) services offer effective support for workers, businesses and communities experiencing significant job loss. In 2024/25, the CT team assisted 11 communities and 18 communities since 2021/22. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ In total, the CT tables have supported close to 3,500 impacted workers from the forestry, mining, and agriculture sectors.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Forest Employment Program prioritized forest impacted areas to reduce job losses in communities. Since 2022/23, funding was allocated to 240 land-based projects and created 1191 short-term jobs.</li> </ul>

2024 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2025
<p>Support the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills to deliver the Future Ready Skills plan so British Columbians have the skills they need for the jobs of the future and to support B.C. employers impacted by global labour shortages.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Province is funding the Canadian Tech Talent Accelerator program in B.C. This funding will provide training for over 1,800 job seekers across B.C. equipping them with essential digital skills for careers in tech while focusing on emerging fields like cybersecurity and generative AI.</li> <li>• The Province is also funding the next iteration of the Digital Skills Bootcamp, focused on offering new opportunities for participants across B.C. to effectively use Customer Relationship Management (CRM) systems. The CRM Horizons Bootcamp has achieved over 70% representation of people from equity-seeking groups among participants since launching and more than 70% of participants are based in rural or remote areas of the province.</li> </ul>