

Ministry of Attorney General

2025/26
Annual Service Plan Report

August 2026



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

Ministry of Attorney General

PO BOX 9044
STN PROV GOVT
VICTORIA, B.C.
V8W 9E2
1-800-663-7867

Or visit our website at

[Ministry of Attorney General](#)

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Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Attorney General's 2025/26 Annual Service Plan Report compares the Ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in the 2025/26 – 2027/28 Service Plan published in 2025. I am accountable for those results as reported.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized initials and a long horizontal stroke.

Honourable Niki Sharma, K.C.
Attorney General and Deputy Premier
July 16, 2026

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Letter from the Minister

It's my honour as Attorney General to present the 2025/26 Annual Service Plan Report, highlighting progress to improve B.C.'s justice system and better serve people across the province.

This past year, we continued prioritizing access to justice. We expanded the Early Resolution Process to all remaining Provincial Court family registries across the Lower Mainland, Sechelt, Powell River, and the Sea-to-Sky corridor, to help families resolve matters more quickly and with less conflict. We also continued modernizing technology and systems, including enhancing courts' virtual counter services, with more than 100,000 requests processed this year.

On criminal justice and public safety, we focused on advocating for long-needed Criminal Code reforms, resulting in landmark legislation addressing many of B.C.'s priorities being tabled in parliament. We also received the final report from Dr. Kim Stanton on how the justice system responds to intimate partner and sexual violence, and have already begun responding to its recommendations. We also strengthened safety measures, such as protections for access to schools and places of public worship.

Following the 2025 transfer of the Consumer Protection BC and Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) files to our ministry, we have improved how we support people in their everyday interactions with government. Measures taken to better protect consumers in B.C. include mandating clearer contracts and stronger cancellation rights, as well as implementing safeguards against high pressure sales tactics.

Throughout the year, we engaged with Indigenous and racialized communities to develop the inaugural Anti-Racism Action Plan. The ministry also continued funding the Racist Incident Helpline, which supported hundreds of people across the province, and community projects countering racism.

Our continued partnership with the BC First Nations Justice Council to implement the BC First Nations Justice Strategy included work on the pre-charge diversion program, expanding community-led prevention initiatives, and strengthening relationships with police and emergency partners.

I want to thank ministry staff and our community partners for their dedication and hard work. As always, there is more to do and I look forward to continuing to work with you all to make B.C.'s justice system more accessible, equitable and efficient for everyone.



Honourable Niki Sharma, K.C.
Attorney General and Deputy Premier
July 16, 2026

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 2024 and [Ministry of Attorney General's 2025 Mandate Letter](#) shaped the goals, objectives, performance measures and financial plan outlined in the [Ministry of Attorney General's 2025/26 – 2027/28 Service Plan](#) and the actual results reported on in this annual report.

Purpose of the Ministry

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

The ministry is responsible for sheriff and court administration services, legal aid, prosecution services, administrative tribunals, civil and family justice services, protection and promotion of human rights, providing legal advice to Government, and developing justice policy and justice law reform, such as enhanced consumer protection for British Columbians. In the summer of 2025, responsibility for the [Insurance Corporation of BC](#) (ICBC) and its policy and legislation were transferred from the Ministry of Finance (Crown Agencies Secretariat) to the Ministry of Attorney General.

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

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

Report on Performance: Goals, Objectives, and Results

The following goals, objectives and performance measures have been restated from the 2025/26 – 2027/28 service plan. For forward-looking planning information, including current and future performance targets, please see the [latest service plan](#).

Goal 1: The justice sector is fair and accessible

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

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

Key results

- Amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act were introduced to enable online renewal of driver's licences, BC Identification (BCID) and photo BC Service Cards.
- Amendments to the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act were passed to ensure consumers can more easily understand and exercise their contract rights, as well as protect against credit fraud, that will come into force in 2026 and 2027.
- The Construction Prompt Payment Act was passed to ensure businesses and workers are paid promptly for work done and materials provided for construction projects. Responsibility for the Act has been transferred to the Ministry of Infrastructure and will come into force in the future once regulations have been developed and an adjudication authority has been appointed.
- The [Early Resolution Process](#) for families wanting to resolve a family law matter expanded to include 8 new Provincial Court registries across the province.
- The ministry expanded [Access to Court Materials](#), providing authorized Counsel access to Provincial Court audio and materials for Criminal, Family and Youth matters.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

Taking on responsibility for [Consumer Protection BC](#) (CPBC) and the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) opened new opportunities for the ministry to develop initiatives that prioritize user experiences and advance modern approaches to government services. These areas have an “every day” nature and involve many people engaging in many transactions. CPBC and ICBC each bring years of reliable, modern and user-focused experience orientations to these areas. The ministry worked with ICBC to monitor the [Enhanced Care](#) model to ensure

it meets the needs of British Columbians, including through the Special Committee to Review Provisions of the Insurance (Vehicle) Act.

The ministry invested in front-end services through significant expansion of the early resolution process to all remaining Provincial Court family registries across the Lower Mainland, Sechelt, Powell River and the Sea-to-Sky corridor. Through the early resolution process, families involved in Provincial Court family law matters can access free services designed to reduce conflict and support informed decision-making. Services include family violence screening, referrals to legal advice and community supports, out-of-court dispute resolution, and assistance preparing for future steps, including court processes. This approach improves outcomes for families while also increasing the court's ability to manage other justice system demands.¹

The ministry continued its work to advance the use of technology in the justice sector. This work is guided by the [Court Digital Transformation Strategy 2024-2029](#) (the Strategy) which aims to enhance access to justice. Through enhancing current digital services, the Strategy will address current fiscal challenges by developing self-serve applications, such as the [Family Law Act online forms service](#), while continuing to advance and modernize the justice system and meet user expectations. Providing an alternative to in person inquiries at physical court locations, the Virtual Counter received 1,591 calls, supporting access to justice province-wide. Through the enhancements to Access to Court Materials for verified Counsel, there have been a total of 106,528 Counsel requests. Of those, 86,035 were for Civil matters and 20,493 for Criminal matters. There are currently 2,965 verified Counsel users of Access to Court Materials.

The ministry continued to upgrade technology in courtrooms to ensure better participant experience and accessibility, and to enable virtual and hybrid appearances for counsel and parties. Currently, there are 374 courthouse videoconferencing units province-wide. To ensure technology is current and stable, these units undergo continuous refreshing and in this past fiscal year, 33 units were refreshed. Additionally, the ministry upgraded 100 sound mixers and replaced legacy microphones in courtrooms, improving audio quality and resulting in a better experience for court participants.

Objective 1.2: Increase access to justice

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

Key results

- Standardized bylaw adjudication scheduling guidelines were developed from feedback received from local governments and introduced in December 2025, ensuring hearings allow sufficient time for participation, evidence review and fair decision-making.

¹ The [Evaluation of the Early Resolution Process in the Surrey Registry](#) in January 2025 provides an overview of the significant benefits the Early Resolution Process facilitated in Surrey.

- Implemented changes to the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act that mandate clearer contracts, stronger cancellation rights and protections from high-pressure sales tactics.
- Amended the Intimate Images Protection Act and regulations, to increase the maximum amount of damages (to \$75,000) victims of non-consensual intimate images can seek through the online [Civil Resolution Tribunal](#).
- Provided funding for [Legal Aid BC](#) to raise the income limits for family legal aid, meaning more people with family law issues can qualify for free legal services.
- Brought into force amendments to the Mental Health Act that provide all involuntary patients under the Act a right to meet with an independent Rights Advisor through the [Independent Rights Advice Service](#).

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

The ministry increased access to justice in several domains of British Columbian life. Several justice and consumer-protection measures were advanced, including implementing changes to the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act to require clearer contracts, stronger cancellation rights, and safeguards against high-pressure sales tactics.

Amendments were introduced to the Intimate Images Protection Act, expanding the Civil Resolution Tribunal's authority and allowing victims of non-consensual intimate images to seek up to \$75,000 in damages.

Access to legal support and personal rights protections were also increased through the ongoing partnership between the ministry and Legal Aid BC, raising the income thresholds for family legal aid, allowing more people facing family law issues to qualify for free services. Additionally, involuntary patients now have a statutory right under the Mental Health Act to meet with an independent Rights Advisor through the Independent Rights Advice Service, strengthening oversight and ensuring patients understand their rights.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2019/20 Baseline	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Target	2025/26 Actual
[1a] Percentage of respondents who agreed that the Parenting After Separation program gave them a better understanding of the family justice system, including its relevant laws and services ^{1,2}	74%	92%	85%	92%
[1b] Percentage of respondents who agreed that the program gave them a better understanding of alternatives to court ^{1,2}	75%	91%	85%	92%
[1c] Percentage of respondents who agreed that the program gave them a better understanding of making decisions in the best interests of the children ^{1,2}	77%	92%	85%	91%

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

¹PM 1a, 1b, and 1c targets for 2026/27 and 2027/28 were stated in the 2025/26 service plan as 85%.

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

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

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

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

For 2025/26, results exceeded targets for all performance measures. Ninety-two per cent of respondents agreed that the Parenting After Separation program gave them a better understanding of the family justice system, including its relevant laws and services. Ninety-two per cent of respondents agreed the program gave them a better understanding of alternatives to court, and 91 per cent agreed the program gave them a better understanding of making decisions in the best interests of the children. Results for each performance measure remain consistent with the 2024/25 year.

Performance Measure	2019/20 Baseline	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Target	2025/26 Actual
[1d] Percentage of eFiled Court Documents ^{1,2,3,4}	35.7%	50.6%	51.7%	52.9%

Data source: Strategic Information and Business Applications, Court Services Branch. Updated on May 4, 2026.

¹ PM 1d targets for 2026/27 and 2027/28 were stated in the 2025/26 service plan as 53.2% and 54.7%, respectively.

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

³ Documents in scope are those that are eligible for electronic filing (eFile) through Court Services Online.

⁴ This dataset excludes Supreme Motor Vehicle and Provincial Family documents. Supreme Court Motor Vehicle documents filed are expected to decline after the implementation of ICBC Enhanced Care Coverage. Provincial Family documents will be included once the user base for Provincial Family eFiling expands.

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

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

The percentage of in-scope documents that were eFiled increased by 1.3 per cent at the Provincial Court level and 2.7 per cent at the Supreme Court level from 2024/25 to 2025/26. Growth was driven primarily by increases in Provincial Small Claims, Supreme Enforcement/Legislated Statute, and Supreme Civil General filings. This resulted in an overall

increase of 2.3 per cent. In 2025/26, more than 53 per cent of Supreme Court in-scope documents and more than 31 per cent of Provincial Court in-scope documents were eFiled.

Goal 2: British Columbian communities are protected and resilient

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

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

Key results

- The Safe Access to Places of Public Worship Act was passed to protect people attending places of worship from disruptive and harmful behaviour, as was an extension of the Safe Access to Schools Act to protect students and staff at K-12 schools from disruptive protests and other harmful behaviour.
- The Vaping Product Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act was passed to hold companies accountable for the public harm they have caused through deceptive practices.
- Received the [Independent Review of British Columbia's Legal System's Treatment of Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence](#) and began cross-sectoral action.
- Continued to address specific repeat violent offending cases in the province through the Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII). An internal evaluation found clear evidence of reduced offending, stronger accountability and strengthened justice system responses for ReVOII individuals.
- Launched the [Chronic Property Offending Intervention Initiative \(C-POII\)](#) on a pilot basis in 3 communities. C-POII builds on ReVOII's early success as a similar initiative, and it's coordinated model aims to provide enhanced monitoring, enforcement and supports to identified chronic property crime offenders to address public safety concerns impacting communities.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

The Attorney General continued to advocate for meaningful federal reforms that put public safety first, including bail decisions that better reflect risk, stronger consequences for repeat and violent offenders, and better protections for victims of intimate-partner and gender-based violence. Many of the priorities B.C. has championed were included in proposed federal legislation including: stricter bail provisions in high-risk cases; expanded sentencing tools for serious repeat offences; emphasizing public safety by considering not only the seriousness but also the number of past offences when determining bail; a sharper focus on harms such as

strangulation, suffocation, and choking; and modernizing how Canadian law enforcement and national security agencies obtain digital information during criminal investigations.

The ministry received the Independent Review of British Columbia's Legal System's Treatment of Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence, prepared by Dr. Kim Stanton, which was commissioned by the ministry to guide cross-sectoral action regarding intimate partner violence in B.C. in the justice system. The ministry will continue to respond to Dr. Stanton's Final Report, with the most recent progress summarized in a [December 2025 update](#) from the ministry on actions taken.

The rising number of concerning incidents around schools and places of public worship created the need for "access zone" legislation to support safe access to these spaces. The measures are designed to protect K-12 students, school staff, and people attending places of worship from a range of disruptive and harmful behaviours. While government continues to uphold the right to freedom of expression, including peaceful protest, these time-limited statutes help to ensure that public spaces remain safe and accessible for those attending.

The ministry responded to the need for new safety measures to protect people when they are online, especially children and young adults. Amendments to the Intimate Images Protection Act substantially increased the amount of damages the Civil Resolution Tribunal can award to victims of non-consensual intimate image disclosure, while also improving the options for victims to see their cases resolved. The Attorney General continued to advocate for the need for federal measures—including standardized reporting requirements for platforms that detect threats or plans of violence—and for clear regulatory frameworks that promote responsible technological use while safeguarding fundamental rights. The Vaping Product Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act was introduced to provide structure for legal claims by Government against companies who cause public harm through misleading promotion of vaping products will accomplish multiple objectives, including streamlining the litigation process by facilitating aggregate claims to recover taxpayer dollars for health care costs, and disincentivizing behaviours that seek to harm British Columbians and download the costs of their wrongdoing to taxpayers.

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

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

Key results

- Worked to develop British Columbia's first Provincial Anti-Racism Action Plan, informed by advice of the Provincial Committee on Anti-Racism Action Plan, and consultation and cooperation with Indigenous partners, which will include concrete

actions, indicators, and targets to address Indigenous-specific racism and systemic racism affecting racialized communities.

- The [Racist Incident Helpline](#) received over 680 calls and made nearly 1700 referrals to support services such as mental health and counselling, legal supports and community resources.
- Construction began in October 2025 on a new monument in Victoria honouring Japanese Canadians who were displaced and interned during World War II. The park will feature a wall of names and is scheduled for completion in Fall 2026.
- Grants totalling \$300,000 were provided to 62 community projects across B.C. to counter racism, reduce racial inequity, and promote multiculturalism and inclusion.
- Continued support for Sons of Freedom Doukhobors including funds for health and wellbeing supports to heal under the Province's 2024 Doukhobor community apology.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

The Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Branch (MARB) advanced this objective through healing, redress initiatives, anti-racism policy, and community supports. Progress included supporting Sons of Freedom Doukhobors affected by historical harms, funding community projects that counter racism, and advancing work on the monument park honouring Japanese Canadians. MARB also served as the government lead for anti-racism coordination across government, including implementation of the [Anti-Racism Act](#) and developing British Columbia's first Provincial Anti-Racism Action Plan.

The development of the Provincial Anti-Racism Action Plan (Action Plan) included work across ministries, consultation and cooperation with Indigenous partners, engagement with racialized communities, and advice from the Provincial Committee on Anti-Racism (PCAR) on actions addressing systemic racism affecting racialized communities. PCAR's advice informed the racialized communities stream of the Action Plan by providing advice on proposed actions, indicators, and areas for further work. While significant progress was made in 2025/26, some work continued beyond year-end, including finalization of the Action Plan for release in 2026 and planning to support implementation of its actions.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2017/18 Baseline	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Target	2025/26 Actual
[2a] Number of B.C. communities engaged in projects that build intercultural trust and understanding, and reduce racism and systemic barriers ¹	45	95	50	55

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

¹PM 2a targets for 2026/27 and 2027/28 were stated in the 2025/26 service plan as 50.

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

In 2025/26, the ministry continued to advance its commitment to combating racism and building intercultural understanding across B.C., exceeding the performance measure target. Building on the strong community engagement results of the previous year, a key focus in 2025/26 was the evaluation and renewal of the [Resilience BC Anti-Racism Network](#). This evaluation provided an opportunity to reflect on program effectiveness and to redesign the network model to better serve communities across the province over the long term.

As a result of the evaluation, the program has been restructured with two regional hubs, one in the north and one in the south, anchoring a network of 40 spoke communities. This redesigned model is intended to strengthen regional coordination, improve resource sharing, and enable more sustainable, community-rooted anti-racism work.

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

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

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

Key results

- Opened the Chilliwack Indigenous court, the tenth Indigenous sentencing court in B.C., in December 2025.
- As part of Strategy 1 of the BC First Nations Justice Strategy, the BC First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC) opened the Indigenous Diversion Centre in Prince George in July 2025 with funding from Public Safety Canada.

- The BCFNJC and the Province co-developed an annual Joint Implementation Plan to guide the collaborative implementation of the BC First Nations Justice Strategy. Of the 85 initiatives identified for 2025/26, 84% were completed.
- The Indigenous Justice Secretariat and Métis Nation BC undertook engagement within the broader Provincial Government regarding the implementation of the Métis Justice Strategy. The engagements are being used to co-develop an implementation plan that will support the advancement of the Métis Justice Strategy over the coming years.
- Collaborated with BCFNJC to implement a new Gladue service delivery model, ensuring everyone in B.C. who needs a Gladue product receives one.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

The Province continued to work closely with BCFNJC on the implementation of the BC First Nations Justice Strategy with numerous advancements occurring over the 2025/26 fiscal year. Following the opening of the [Indigenous Diversion Centre](#) in Prince George, BCFNJC and the Prince George RCMP signed a Letter of Agreement in October 2025 that outlines the organizations' working relationship and the RCMP's role as referring partner to the pre-charge diversion program. The Indigenous Diversion Centre offers post-release and pre-charge diversion programs to Indigenous peoples.

The Province advanced Indigenous community safety and justice through targeted, system-level actions, including expanding community-led prevention programming and strengthening relationships with police and emergency partners through initiatives grounded in cultural humility and collaboration. The Province also established cross-ministry and justice-sector working groups to address systemic barriers and support integration with the provincial justice system, including the development of workflows to recognize and enforce First Nations laws. In parallel, the Province continues to advance a provincial prosecution pathway for treaty-based laws, supported by dedicated resources and sustained collaboration with justice partners, demonstrating measurable progress toward community-driven, operational Indigenous justice outcomes.

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

While Indigenous claims can be pursued through litigation, negotiated resolution is generally the preferred path to advancing reconciliation and addressing the complex interests at stake. The core objectives are to prioritize and promote resolution, innovation, and negotiated settlement, in efforts to reduce the potential for litigation.

Key results

- Through workshops on the Directives and case-specific Directives application, Legal Services Branch (LSB) counsel has become increasingly knowledgeable about all aspects of the Directives and are adept in their implementation in all litigation matters.

- Considered and applied the Directives in all new and ongoing litigation matters and inform legal instructions in every matter, including throughout the litigation process, pleadings, procedural issues, court submissions, and inter-party communications.
- Promoted and supported negotiated outcomes in the context of active litigation. Legal counsel continued to engage proactively with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and with client ministries, in accordance with the Directives, to explore various ways to promote reconciliation in responses to litigation and to pursue avenues for resolution of all or part of potential or filed legal proceedings, including opportunities to avoid, narrow and expedite litigation.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

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

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2020/21 Baseline	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Target	2025/26 Actual
[3a] Number of cases from Indigenous clients supported at Indigenous Justice Centres ^{1,2,3}	254	919	1340	1672
[3b] Number of Indigenous clients served by Indigenous Justice Centres ^{1,2,3}	N/A	692	1140	1410

Data source: BC First Nations Justice Council

¹PM 3a targets for 2026/27 and 2027/28 were stated in the 2025/26 service plan as 1500.

²PM 3b targets for 2026/27 and 2027/28 were stated in the 2025/26 service plan as 1275.

³In the 2024/25 Annual Service Plan Report, the 2020/21 Baseline fields for 3a and 3b were misprinted. The fields above are correct.

These performance measures were developed during the 2021/22 fiscal year and were first included in the 2022/23 Service Plan. The baseline was established on 3 Indigenous Justice Centres opened in Merritt, Prince George, and Prince Rupert. Six centres opened in 2023/24: Chilliwack, Kelowna, Nanaimo, Surrey, Vancouver and Victoria. The number of clients served in 2023/24 did not grow significantly throughout the year, which resulted in a change to BCFNJC's eligibility criteria for Indigenous Justice Centre services. As of March 1, 2024, services became available to individuals who are otherwise eligible for Legal Aid services, which previously was

not the case. Six centres opened in late 2024/25: Burns Lake-Hazelton, Cranbrook, Fort St. John, Kamloops, Port Hardy, and Williams Lake. 2025/26 was the first full fiscal year that the full complement of Indigenous Justice Centres has been operational. As staffing continues to stabilize and relationships with local First Nations and communities grow, it is expected that the level of cases and clients served at Indigenous Justice Centres in future fiscal years should be comparable to 2025/26.

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

Financial Report

Discussion of Results

The Estimates operating expense budget of the ministry for 2025/26 was \$900.044 million prior to a mid-year reorganization.

The ministry received a budget increase of \$22.928 million compared to the 2024/25 fiscal plan for improved access to justice including increased capacity at the B.C. Supreme Court and enhanced security at the Vancouver Provincial Court at 222 Main Street in Vancouver and continued expansion of virtual bail.

The Public Accounts shows Other Authorizations of \$181.683 million to provide for costs mostly related to providing Courts' Services, Prosecution Services, and Crown Proceedings Act settlements.

The ministry's actual expenditures were \$1,081.727M million, prior to the adjustment for Prior Year's Accruals. Spending is within the revised budget target including Other Authorizations.

Capital spending was \$7.342 million for: Specialized Equipment, Office Furniture & Equipment, Vehicles, and Information Systems.

Financial Summary

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations ¹ (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
Operating Expenses					
Justice Services	206,454	9,373	215,827	206,503	(9,324)
Indigenous Justice Secretariat	20,333	24	20,357	19,688	(669)
Prosecution Services	214,826	18,359	233,185	239,907	6,722
Court Services	161,211	9,423	170,634	184,903	14,269
Legal Services	43,284	132,022	175,306	178,363	3,057
Agencies, Boards, Commissions and other Tribunals	55,099	2,466	57,565	58,547	982
Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism	6,628	49	6,677	6,024	(653)
Executive and Support Services	42,419	(19,842)	22,577	8,192	(14,385)
Sub-total: Ministry Operations	750,254	151,873	902,127	902,127	0
Judiciary	112,638	5,071	117,709	117,709	0
Crown Proceeding Act	24,500	22,631	47,131	47,131	0
Independent Investigations Office	12,652	1,474	14,126	14,126	0
Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT) Operating Account	12,452	1,072	13,524	13,524	0
Transfer from General Account to PGT Operating Account	(12,452)	(1,072)	(13,524)	(13,524)	0
Crown Agencies Secretariat- <i>Transferred from Finance</i>	0	523	523	523	0
Public Inquiry Act		111	111	111	0
Sub-total	900,044	181,683	1,081,727	1,081,727	0
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual ²	0	0	0	(1,210)	(1,210)
Total	900,044	181,683	1,081,727	1,080,517	(1,210)
Ministry Capital Expenditures					
Justice Services	0	0	0	44	44
Prosecution Services	0	0	0	89	89
Court Services	0	0	0	3,920	3,920
Executive and Support Services	8,758	(275)0	8,483	2,272	(6,211)

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations ¹ (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
Judiciary	770	0	770	499	(271)
Independent Investigations Office	0	0	0	311	311
Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account	363	0	363	205	(158)
Total	9,891	0	9,616	7,342	(2,274)

¹ "Other Authorizations" include Supplementary Estimates, Statutory Appropriations, Contingencies and Government Reorganizations. Supplementary Estimates and Government Reorganization amounts in this column are included in the "estimated amount" under sections 5(1) and 6(1) of the Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act for ministerial accountability for operating expenses under the Act.

² The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual of (\$1.210) million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

*Capital spending includes \$0.275M for Justin Betterment as part of AG actual costs but the budget was moved to CSBC as part of re-org.

Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations

As of July 16, 2026, the Ministry of Attorney General is responsible and accountable for the following organizations (although many operate wholly independently from government):

[British Columbia Ferry Commission](#)

- An independent regulator guided by the Coastal Ferry Act, responsible for overseeing BC's coastal ferry operators, including setting fare caps, approving capital expenditures, conducting performance reviews, encouraging innovation, while maintaining safe and reliable services.

[BC Family Maintenance Agency](#)

- A provincial Crown agency that helps children and families get the court ordered or agreed upon support they are entitled to

[BC Human Rights Tribunal](#)

- An independent quasi-judicial tribunal established under the BC Human Rights Code, responsible for accepting, screening, mediating, and adjudicating human rights complaints.

[British Columbia Review Board](#)

- An independent tribunal under the Criminal Code that holds hearings to make and review orders for any accused where a court found the individual not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder or unfit to stand trial.

[British Columbia Utilities Commission](#)

- An independent provincial regulatory agency that oversees energy utilities, ICBC basic auto insurance rates, common carrier pipelines, the reliability of the electrical transmission grid, and fuel price transparency to ensure safe, reliable energy, and basic auto insurance at fair rates.

[Building Code Appeal Board](#)

- A Board that resolves disputes between an individual builder, designer, or developer and a local government building official, on whether a specific building design, construction method or technology complies with provincial building regulations, primarily the BC Building Code and the BC Plumbing Code, under the Building Act.

[Civil Resolution Tribunal](#)

- An online tribunal, which provides accessible, cost-effective dispute resolution services for strata, small claims (up to \$5,000), minor vehicle injuries, intimate images, societies and cooperatives and related matters through negotiation, facilitation, and adjudication.

[Consumer Protection BC](#)

- The provincial regulator responsible for licensing and inspecting certain sectors, enforcing consumer protection laws, investigating complaints, educating businesses and consumers, and ensuring marketplace fairness and safety in British Columbia.

[Community Care and Assisted Living Appeal Board](#)

- A tribunal under the Community Care and Assisted Living Act that hears appeals related to licensing, registration, and certification decisions for community care facilities, assisted living residences, and early childhood educators.

[Employment Standards Tribunal](#)

- An independent administrative tribunal that hears appeals of determinations made by the Director of Employment Standards under the Employment Standards Act and the Temporary Foreign Worker Protection Act in British Columbia.

[Energy Resource Appeal Tribunal](#)

- An appellate tribunal with the role of considering and deciding appeals from certain decisions made by the British Columbia Energy Regulator.

[Environmental Appeal Board](#)

- An independent tribunal under the Environmental Management Act that hears appeals of certain decisions made under nine provincial statutes and their associated regulations, relating to environmental issues and the use or stewardship of natural resources.

[Financial Services Tribunal](#)

- Established under the Financial Institutions Act, the tribunal has the authority to hear and decide appeals of enforcement decisions made by the Insurance Council of British Columbia, the Superintendent of Real Estate, the Superintendent of Pensions, the Registrar of Mortgage Brokers, and the Superintendent of Financial Institutions.

[Forest Appeals Commission](#)

- An independent tribunal under the Forest and Range Practices Act that decides appeals of certain decisions under five provincial statutes and their associated regulations, related to forests and environmental issues.

[Health Professions Review Board](#)

- A tribunal established under the Health Professions Act, which on application, reviews certain decisions of colleges' registration and inquiry committees to ensure they are transparent, objective, impartial, and fair.

[Hospital Appeal Board](#)

- An independent quasi-judicial tribunal under the Hospital Act that provides medical practitioners with an avenue of appeal from hospital board of management decisions affecting hospital privileges.

[Independent Investigations Office of BC](#)

- A civilian-led police oversight agency responsible for conducting investigations into incidents of death or serious harm that may have been the result of the actions or inactions of officers or detention guards, whether on or off duty.

[Insurance Corporation of British Columbia](#)

- A provincial Crown corporation that operates the auto insurance system for all British Columbians, including issuing driver's licences, vehicle insurance coverage, and claims support.

[Investigation and Standards Office](#)

- A body that provides independent oversight to BC Corrections, including investigating complaints, critical incident reviews, and conducting inspections about the conduct of correctional staff, compliance of facilities, and treatment of inmates.

[Judicial Council of the Provincial Court of BC](#)

- An independent body responsible for improving the quality of services provided by the judicial officers of the Provincial Court, including recommending candidates for appointment.

[Labour Relations Board](#)

- An independent tribunal that has authority under the Labour Relations Code to decide applications and provide mediation services on matters related to employment and labour relations in unionized workplaces.

[Law Society of BC](#)

- An independent regulatory body that protects the public by setting and enforcing standards of professional and ethical conduct for lawyers.

[Legal Aid BC](#)

- A provincial Crown Corporation that provides free legal information, advice, and representation to help eligible low-income individuals to address many family law issues, child protection matters, criminal charges, immigration and refugee matters, and mental health or prison law issues.

[Legal Professions BC²](#)

- An independent regulatory body established under the Legal Professions Act, 2024, that will regulate lawyers, notaries, regulated paralegals and other regulated legal professions that may be designated. The transition from the existing regulatory bodies to LPBC is guided by a Transitional Board, Transitional Indigenous Council, Advisory Committee and other stakeholders.

[Mental Health Review Board](#)

- An independent tribunal established under the Mental Health Act that conducts review hearings for patients admitted by physicians and detained involuntarily in provincial health facilities in a manner consistent with the principles of fundamental justice and section 7 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

[Notaries Public Board of Examiners](#)

- This board consults with and provides advice to the Society of Notaries Public regarding the examination required to become a notary public. The Board administers the exam and reports the results to the Society. See [section 3 of the regulation](#).

[Passenger Transportation Board](#)

- An independent tribunal that licences and regulates taxis, ride-hail, limousines, shuttles, and inter-city buses in British Columbia.

[Property Assessment Appeal Board](#)

- A quasi-judicial tribunal established under the Assessment Act, the second level of appeal for most property assessments in B.C., following the Property Assessment Review Panels.

[Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia](#)

- A provincial agency that protects the legal and financial interests of children under the age of 19, and the legal, financial, personal and health care interests of adults who need help with decision making and administers estates of deceased and missing persons.

² Legal Professions BC is expected to become operational as an independent regulatory body by January 1, 2028 or earlier if feasible.

[Safety Standards Appeal Board](#)

- An independent adjudicative tribunal that hears appeals brought under the Safety Standards Act, the Homeowner Protection Act, and the Building Act.

[Skilled Trades BC Appeal Board](#)

- An independent quasi-judicial administrative tribunal that hears appeals under section 45 of the Skilled Trades BC Act, related to decisions from Skilled Trades BC regarding trainees and industry training credentials.

[Society of Notaries Public of BC](#)

- An independent regulatory body that regulates notaries public in the public interest by setting standards and investigating complaints.

[Surface Rights Board](#)

- A Board that assists in resolving disputes between landowners and companies that require access to private land to explore for, develop, or produce Crown-owned subsurface resources such as oil, gas, coal, minerals and geothermal.

[Vehicle Sales Authority of BC](#)

- An independent, non-profit regulatory agency delegated by the provincial government to license and regulate motor vehicle dealerships and salespeople, enforce the Motor Dealer Act and related consumer protection laws, and support fair, informed vehicle transactions through education, complaint investigation, and dispute resolution.

Appendix B: Progress on Mandate Letter Priorities

The following is a summary of progress made on priorities as stated in the Attorney General's 2025 Mandate Letter.

2025 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2026
In order to protect key services that British Columbians rely on, work with the Minister of Finance to review all existing Ministry of Attorney General programs and initiatives to ensure programs remain relevant, are efficient and speed up court and tribunal processes, including judgment enforcement. This is important in the context of current Provincial budget constraints and overall efficiency.	In progress – The ministry has implemented enhanced expenditure management controls consistent with direction provided by the Ministry of Finance in February 2025 and expenditure management proposals as directed by the Minister of Finance in July 2025.
Ensure strong and safe communities for everyone across the province by aggressively pushing the federal government for continuing legal reform and cooperation with the province that will ensure violent and prolific offenders remain in custody after arrest.	In progress – British Columbia has led the country in calling for federal reforms that put public safety first. The Province is encouraged that the federal government has listened to what B.C. has advocated for. British Columbia has been clear about the need for reforms that put public safety first, including bail decisions that better reflect risk, stronger consequences for repeat and violent offenders, and better protections for victims of intimate-partner violence. The new measures included in federal bills C-14 and C-16 to amend the Criminal Code and other federal statutes are a promising step toward keeping people safe and holding perpetrators accountable.
Use effective engagement with key stakeholders and aggressive innovation in relation to technology, rules and citizen-oriented processes to improve access to justice and reduce costs, increase speed and deliver independent and impartial justice and dispute resolution.	In progress - See key results and summary of progress within Goal 1.

2025 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2026
Work with Indigenous communities and leadership consistent with the BC First Nations Justice Strategy and Métis Justice Strategy to reduce Indigenous overrepresentation in the justice system and promote safety and security in Indigenous communities across the province.	• In progress - See key results and summary of progress within Objective 3.1.
Support the work of the Declaration Act Secretariat to align BC laws with the rights of Indigenous peoples.	• In progress – The ministry continues to enhance and strengthen its work in this area, through applying a reconciliation lens to all of our work, and in particular to the development of policy and the province’s legislation. With responsibility for over 150 statutes, all projects are analyzed in the context of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, ensuring appropriate steps are taken to align with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Some examples include working with Nations directly to identify barriers to the enforcement of their laws and to identify ways that B.C. law can support the enforcement of Nation laws. The ministry also works with the federal government on national efforts to implement the UN Declaration. • The ministry continues to keep representative bodies like the First Nations Leadership Council, Alliance of Modern Treaty Nations, Métis Nation BC, and other partners updated with our engagements and will continue to communicate with them as we move into the legislative process.

Protect British Columbians from unfair healthcare costs and ensure accountability for wrongdoers by identifying opportunities to recover expenses.	• In Progress - The Ministry has undertaken several initiatives to hold wrongdoers accountable: 1. TOBACCO • B.C. has reached a historic resolution of the tobacco litigation with an agreement by the Tobacco companies to pay at least \$3.69 billion dollars comprised of an upfront payment of approximately \$941.7m with the balance paid in subsequent annual payments over approximately 28 years 2. OPIOIDS • BC has successfully defeated a constitutional challenge to the Opioids Damages and Healthcare Costs Recovery Act (ORA) with the Supreme Court of Canada finding the innovative approach of a “multi-crown class proceeding” is an appropriate and constitutionally valid response to a widespread, border crossing epidemic such as the Opioids crisis. • BC was successful in having the BCSC certify the proposed Opioids Class Action as a Class Action and BC was appointed the Representative Plaintiff of all federal, provincial and territorial governments. There have been 16 appeals of this certification decision filed, and we are actively seeking to case manage them and are now awaiting the BCCA’s decision on the Appeals. • The Opioids Trial is scheduled to commence in February 2028. 3. VAPING • In December 2025, government passed the <i>Vaping Product Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act</i> (VPRA), which provides a litigation-based mechanism for government to recover health care costs and public health-related expenditures related to vaping from wrongdoers; specifically, from manufacturers, wholesalers, and related consultants.
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2025 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2026
	- Immediately after Royal Assent, the Province commenced an action against vaping manufacturer JUUL. The outcome of this lawsuit is expected to be realized in the coming months and years. 4. FOREVER CHEMICALS A) B.C. has commenced a proposed multi-crown class proceeding for the harms caused by “forever chemicals”. - The Province remains committed to holding multinationals accountable when they prioritize profit over people and to continue working on all fronts to prevent future harm. One such area is the harm caused by per - and polyfluoroalkyl substances (also known as “PFAS” and “forever chemicals”). 5. HCCRA CLAIMS - The Health Care Costs Recovery Act team at LSB continues to pursue wrongdoers for the health care costs they cause B.C., recovering several million dollars annually. 6. CROSS BORDER HARMS - The LSB team continues to engage with co-counsel in the United States to obtain information on other possible claims and corporate wrongdoing that may lead to healthcare costs in B.C. - The LSB team continues to engage in outreach with USA State Attorneys General to seek to develop relationships with an eye towards more collaborative action against corporate wrongdoers who create or are engaged in “cross border harms” that result in health care costs to B.C.

2025 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2026
Work with the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General to ensure safe access for British Columbians of all religious backgrounds to their places of worship.	• Complete: In March 2026, the Province introduced the Safe Access to Places of Public Worship Act, new legislation that creates access zones around places of public worship where certain disruptive behaviours are prohibited. The legislation reflects the Province's ongoing commitment to community safety and complements additional measures the government is taking to protect public spaces.
Make it easier for communities and families to follow preferred funeral and cremation practices by ensuring that relevant laws are modernized and responsive to cultural communities and their faiths and traditions.	• In progress – the ministry continues to conduct research and analysis to modernize the Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act.
Work with the Cabinet Committee on Community Safety to ensure that initiatives identified by the committee are prioritized and delivered by your ministry as required.	• In progress - Following the establishment of the Cabinet Committee on Community Safety in January 2025, the Attorney General and various ministry program areas have been actively participating in the fulfillment of the Committee's mandate. • The Committee's mandate centres on promoting a cross-government approach to improve community safety by addressing crime and disorder, while strengthening supports for people facing complex challenges such as mental health, addiction, brain injury, and homelessness.

2025 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2026
With support from the Parliamentary Secretary on Gender Equity, continue work to ensure that the justice system is responsive to the needs of survivors of gender-based violence.	• In progress – The ministry received the Independent Review of British Columbia’s Legal System’s Treatment of Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence by Dr. Kim Stanton to guide cross-sectoral action. The ministry continues to respond to Dr. Stanton's Final Report, with the most recent progress summarized in a December 2025 update from the ministry. • In progress – The ministry continues to work cross-sector to address gender-based violence through participation in the gender-based violence action plan, leading changes to the Family Law Act that are improving responses to family violence and leading the work responding to the Stanton Report.
With support from your Parliamentary Secretary, lead work on anti-racism initiatives.	• In progress – The ministry continues to work cross-sector to address systemic racism and implement the Anti-Racism Act, while engaging with Indigenous and racialized communities affected by racism through grant funding, direct support services, and policy reviews. See Objective 2.2 for further information.
Work with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community to fight the rise in discrimination and related hate crimes.	• In Progress - The ministry through the Racist Incident Helpline has funded two community organizations – Sher Vancouver LGBTQ Friends Society and QMUNITY, to support programs and services for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Support services may be legal or mental health support for individuals and communities calling the Helpline and seeking relevant support.
Continue work to strengthen consumer protection in BC.	• In progress – The ministry is working to complete amendments to regulations associated with Bill 28, which amended provisions of the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act related to credit and credit related products.

2025 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2026
Work with ICBC to ensure a comprehensive and independent review of the enhanced care model is conducted with the twin goals of delivering affordable rates for British Columbians and high-quality services and rehabilitation for those injured in collisions.	• Complete – The Special Committee to Review Provisions of the Insurance (Vehicle) Act was established on February 19, 2026. • In progress – The ministry will participate, along with ICBC, in the Special Committee's process to support a comprehensive and evidence-based review, including providing any technical, background, legislative history, or other information the Special Committee may require.
Ensure British Columbians have effective tools to fight all types of racism, discrimination, and hate crimes through civil and criminal laws and processes.	• In progress – British Columbia has been working with federal, provincial, and territorial partners to address the concerning rise in hate crimes across Canada. We were encouraged by the announcement of federal Bill C-9, the <i>Combating Hate Act</i> in September 2025. The federal Bill includes amendments to protect access to religious and cultural institutions, counters the promotion of hatred, supports effective investigations and prosecutions of hate crimes, and denounces crimes motivated by hatred.
Work across ministries to ensure we are responsive to the issues identified through the Anti Racism Data Act efforts established under the last government and support the Minister to implement the Anti-Racism Act.	• In progress – The ministry continues to work cross-sector to address systemic racism and implement the Anti-Racism Act while engaging with Indigenous and racialized communities affected by racism through the drafting and implementation of the Provincial Anti-Racism Action Plan.